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## Homebrew Night

Sorry for the lack of pictures, but we had an excellent Home brew night this year. There were only 2 entries, as some of our regulars were no-shows.

The first place winner was Tony, KD8BBK, who submitted his homebrew 4:1 current balun.

For his prize, Tony took home a grab bag of tools that every homebrewer needs.

Second place went to Don, K8OMO, who submitted a Doppler Radio Direction Finder in the name of Larry, AA8NV (SK) Larry's family was in attendance. Larry had begun the Doppler unit a year ago, but was sadly unable complete it before his death. He, & OMO did a good job, though, since it was responsible for a couple 1st & 2nd place finishes in the Cuyahoga Falls fox hunts.

## AARC Sweepstakes Party / Chili Cook-off

Well, as it turned out, the weather was great for the first annual AARC chili cook-off/sweepstakes party. While the attendance could have been better, it appears that a good time was had by everyone in attendance.

There was even a birthday celebration for Rick, KC8SUI. I never thought to ask him how old he was.

The FT-1000 performed admirably, but truth be told, everyone was having too much fun enjoying each others company to operate. The final tally was 6 QSO's in the ARRL Sweepstakes. Yes,

I said 6 QSO's. But, oh what fun those QSOs were!

I'm not sure what we'll do next year. If we have another chili cook-off, perhaps we'll move it to some ones QTH, and save the club \$50. We'll likely decide it in the fall, of next year.

While it's too soon to predict, this editor predicts that the AARC will firmly hold on to their last place position! We thank everyone who contributed to this years event.

Look for pictures elsewhere in the newsletter.

### Meeting Announcement

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at the Alliance Community Hospital, in the Cafe conference room. Our meetings begin at 7:30 PM

This months speaker is E. mike McCardel, KC8YLD.

Before the meeting, you're invited to join us at 6pm for dinner.

This month, we'll be meeting in the Hospital Cafeteria

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John Myers, KD8MQ  
(See above)

## Rambling

By John, KD8MQ

Hi everyone, welcome to the December issue of the Zero Beat. Even discounting the 5 pages of swap & shop (Thanks OMO!), this is one big issue. The reason could be that KD8MQ, caught up in a caffeine induced frenzy stayed up all weekend, writing. Or. . . Perhaps that there is just that much Amateur Radio Related news to report this month.

OK, nix the caffeine theory. I managed to get out among the living last weekend. So, it must be that there's a lot happening! I think that's great! Keep it coming.

The progress on the homefront continues in dribs & drabs. The Ham shack is still in the planning stages. I'd be one happy camper to be on the air on Straight Key Night. Will I make it? Tune in next month to see!

We're still putting stuff away; the basement has started leaking, and the rental house caught fire. I can't wait to see what December has in store.

### ***This months board Meeting***

will be in the cafeteria at the hospital. Boy, I can anticipate you turning up your noses as you read this, but come on, give it a chance. I have eaten at the hospital cafeteria, and have found the food to be top notch.

Everyone likes a change once in a while, right? We decided to mix it up a bit, and try a different

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Meetings

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club meets on the Second Wednesday of each month. Check the meeting announcement on page 1, for the location. Talk-in is on 145.37 ®. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM. Visitors are always welcome.

## Nets

Thursday is our "net night," with the following nets held:

### Ten meters

CW @ 8PM on 28.400 MHz  
SSB @ 8:30PM on 28.400 MHz

### 2 meters

9 PM on 145.37 MHz

The Homeland security Net meets on the last Tuesday of the month, at 8:00 PM, on 147.51 simplex

## Internet

**Web:** [www.w8lky.org](http://www.w8lky.org)

**E-mail:** [W8lky@w8lky.org](mailto:W8lky@w8lky.org)

**We are also on Facebook!**

## Newsletter Information

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You can submit material to the Zero Beat via e-mail to [kd8mq1@gmail.com](mailto:kd8mq1@gmail.com)

## November Minutes

November 9, 2011

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held on November 9, 2011 at 7:30 PM in conference room 1A of the Alliance Community Hospital with club President John Myers (KD8MQ) presiding. The pledge of allegiance was recited followed by introductions. There were 13 members present along with Miriam Sanor, Mary Maendel and guests Judy & Alexis Beaver, Justin & Jodie Moulin, Jessie & Dana Evans and Dave Van Derkar.

President John announced birthdays for the month which included Ben (KD8KMQ), George (K3GP), Cheryl Whitaker, Rich (WB8TPG) and Rick (KC8SUI).

Secretary Don (AB8KV) gave the Secretary's report which this month consisted of noting that the minutes from last month's meeting were in the current newsletter. The report was approved on a motion by Tom (KD8JRK) and seconded by Tony (KD8BBK).

The Treasurer's report was then given by Treasurer Mary Ann (KB8IVS) and was approved on a motion by Smitty (KC8TJQ) and seconded by Frank (WA8WHP).

### **Committee reports/old business:**

•ARES & nets: Don (K8OMO) noted that a majority of the ARES group sup-

ported the Stomp the Grapes half-marathon which was well attended. He also noted that the end of the month HS net involved an attempt to use a simplex repeater for the distance station in Lisbon, which introduced some problems hearing other stations with some participants doubling with themselves. Don added that the net is now covering six counties.

•John noted that Terry, the organizer of the half-marathon, was very appreciative of the communications provided by the hams.

•John reported that the instructional part of the licensing class for the five students in attendance has wrapped up with the VE session scheduled for the following week. One of the students who passes his test will win an HT donated by Andy (AC8JR). General classes will start in January, on the second Tuesday. The text will probably be the ARRL General class license manual. Additional information will be available at the next meeting.

•John announced that per discussions at the last meeting, the sweepstakes party and chili cook-off will be held indoors at the Sebring campground meeting hall. The date is November 19 starting at 4:00 PM. John then asked for approval to spend the \$50 for the reservation. Approval

was given by voice vote on a motion by Tom and seconded by Frank.

•John reminded the club that this meeting was homebrew night, with two entrants.

•John then announced that for the December meeting the ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator will be speaking about what every amateur club should be doing.

•In January, Frank (W8Ezt) will be presenting a program on station grounding. The meeting in January will be on the first Wednesday (January 4) to accommodate Frank's schedule.

•John added that he needed some input for planning programs for future meetings.

•John reminded the club that this meeting was the deadline for turning in Ham-of-the-Year ballots to Tony.

•John then asked Don (K8OMO) to address the club about the donated equipment mentioned at earlier meetings. Don stated that he had an InfoTech system, which is a stand-alone teletype/CW computer system which works in tandem with an HF radio. Butch Lebold in conjunction with another ham volunteered to check out the system since they were familiar with it. Don mentioned that he had also received some equipment from the local fire department, most of which was not readily use-

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Minutes—cont.

(Continued from page 3)

ful. Don added that most of the estate sale equipment he had been taking care of had been sold at the Massillon hamfest.

### **New business:**

•John informed the club that the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club's most recent charter with ARRL is coming up in March. He suggested that perhaps having a banquet sometime in that time frame would be a good idea. He solicited input for a place to have it, awards, presentations, etc. It was suggested that the club might host a special event station in conjunction with the anniversary event. John asked that the club ponder the idea with further discussion to take place at the December meeting.

•John reminded everyone that the Christmas banquet

is coming up on December 10 at Pancho's at 6:00 PM. John asked for suggestions for awards or other presentations, other than the Ham-of-the-Year award.

With nothing further, the business meeting was closed at 8:10 PM.

After the break, homebrew night was held. Don (K8OMO) showed a Doppler unit he had completed, construction of which had been started by Larry Beaver (AA8NV—SK). Tony showed a 4:1 current balun he had built for an off-center fed dipole. After the presentations, the members voted the winner as being Tony, who received a head magnifier, tweezers, cable ties and shrink tubing as prizes.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Don (AB8KV), Secretary.

## What a Difference a Couple Inches Make

For a temporary shack/office desk, I chose a folding table which my Dad made. It was sturdy enough for my equipment, but I hated typing at it. More often than not, I'd wind up leaning back in my shack chair, typing on my laptop, instead.

Once I realized that there was a problem, I did some internet research on standard desk heights. I learned that the standard height for a desk is around 28"-30". My desk was 29½", but adding a piece of glass, and the height of the keyboard, I was at more like 31".

So, I set up a table that was a tad shorter; 29½" including glass, and keyboard, to be exact. The difference is like night & day. I am now able to spend many comfortable hours in front of the computer without fatigue.

So, as usual, you're asking what this has to do with Ham Radio. Perhaps nothing; perhaps a lot. Isn't being able to handle long periods in front of the rig one requirement of a good operating desk?

So, watch that desk height; it can make a big difference in your operating comfort.

## OSSBN Changes Frequency

Ohio Section Traffic Manager Dave Maynard, WA3EZN advises that the 8th Region SSB Net now operates on the frequency of 7235 kHz (+/- QRM), due to propagation. This frequency change affects both the 12:30pm and 4:30pm (local time) sessions.

## Three New Hams!

Thanks to the club licensing classes, we now have the following new hams to present:

- Joe Sukosd, jr, KD8RFX
- Dave Van Derkar, KD8RFY
- Mary Maendel, KD8RFZ

When you hear them on the air, please make sure to give them a hearty welcome to Amateur Radio!

## Rambling—cont.

place each month for the board meeting. Last month was at Jaliscos Mexican Restaurant. So, where will we be in January? I don't know. We'll likely decide at the December meeting. Keep watching, boys & girls!

### **How I got into Ham Radio**

This series continues this month. Thank you for your response to this! I'm finally out of material, so I'm printing mine this month. But, I intend to keep printing all new submissions. If you haven't sent in yours, it isn't too late. Just send us your story of how you became interested in Ham Radio.

### **A new Question**

OK the "Perfect Ham Radio Day" garnered no responses, so let's table that one for a few months. Here's a new assignment:

Show us your shack!

Just send me a picture of your shack, preferably with you at the controls. Include a paragraph or two of description, if you'd like.

### **AARC Christmas Party**

is coming up on December 10<sup>th</sup>

### **AARC General classes**

are coming up beginning Tuesday, January 10th. Look. More information is to your right. ———>

### **The Last Word**

That's all I have for this month. I hope to see you at the next meeting. 73, de John, KD8MQ

## The Last Fox Hunt

The 2011 direction-finding season is now over for our intrepid fox hunters. The last hunt was held Nov. 2. As you can see we had a large group show up for the occasion.

FOX HUNT 11-2-11 I was hiding behind the Stow Munroe Falls School bus garage off of Newcomer road on the Summit/Portage County line, with KA8BNS & WD8CVH.

6:50 N8PXW & KD8FTS

6:53 K8DPF & W8EZT

7:15 K8RJM & N8RKA

7:18 KD8MQ & K8OMO

We went to the Fire House Grille (formerly Luna's) on Kent Rd.

It was good to have Eddie, KD8FTS join us. He has been knee-deep in business concerns and unable to make any of the previous hunts. It's looking better for next year for him joining us on a regular basis.

Did you realize that John KD8MQ changed the day of the Alliance Radio

Club meetings, which involved a change of their by-laws, so that he and Don K8OMO would be able to hunt? That is really dedicated fox hunting! We are so glad they did that.

Next year daylight savings starts on Sunday, March 11, 2012. That means that our first hunt of 2012 will be on Wednesday, March 21. We can only hope that we won't be in the middle of a typical late March snow storm!

You have from now until next March to build a Doppler or repair your existing one. Of course, a Yagi held out the window works well, too, if you don't mind a cold/wet/sunburned arm.

Thank you, all who participated this year. Spread the word about the fun we are having. We may just pick up a few more regulars next season. It was fun for me. I will spend time this winter looking for good hides for next year.

Your fox, Gay, WB8VNO

## General Classes To Begin

The Alliance ARC General Classes will begin on January 10th. This 10 week course. Will go through the ARRL General Class License Manual.

We'll be holding the classes in the library at Marlington High School. Class

time is 7—9 PM.

Books at discount will be available before the class. Contact John, KD8MQ for more details (contact info is on pg2).

If you've been wanting to upgrade, now's your chance!

## AARC Chili Cookoff Pictures



Esther prepares to give Frank, WA8WHP his just deserts



Sue ponders which chili was best, while Miriam attempt to sway her vote



Mary, KD8RFZ wondering when John is ever going to make a contact.

## Ham Licenses Hit All Time High!

A story at Foxnews.com begins with the words Iphone, beware?

The story, titled "Radio Days Are Back: Ham Radio Licenses at an All-Time High", appears in the scitech section of the website, and tells of the record number of amateur licenses on the books.

After last month, the FCC logged 700,314 Ham licenses on the books. Granted, not all of those are active. But, a good portion of them are! Something else to consider is that those numbers may not include the results of licensing classes which are being held nation wide. Therefore, the numbers will likely go higher.

According to Allen, W1AGP, who is the PR Director for the ARRL, we've had a yearly growth of 20,000—25,000 for the last 5 years.

So, is Ham Radio Dying? Heck No! I believe we are staging a major comeback. Our best days are ahead.

The story goes on to note that the ham dealers are reaping the rewards of the increase in the number of licensees. AES, in Las Vegas is mentioned.

The entire story, and video can be accessed at: <http://tinyurl.com/bsnh6qh> .

## W8ILC Gets Severson Award

He has been active in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service as long as the Section Manager has been alive, and for that Ron Moorefield, W8ILC of Kettering, Ohio has become the Eighteenth recipient of the Allan Severson, AB8P Memorial Award.

The award was presented to Ron during a meeting of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association in Kettering, Ohio on Friday, November 3rd. Ohio Section Manager Frank J. Piper, KI8GW, who made the presentation before a packed house, noted that the award was not only given to Ron for his resume of work, but how Ron carried out his tasks with integrity.

Moorefield was Emergency Coordinator for the Greene/Montgomery county areas from 1963 to 1985. In 1985, Ron was appointed District Emergency Coordinator for Ohio ARES® District 3, and held that same appointment until his announced retirement effective October 1st of this year. Ron still plans to be an effective ARES volunteer in his local group. Ron is also an active liaison in the Ohio VOAD program, and works with the Dayton Hamvention® team as well.

The Allan Severson, AB8P, Memorial Award is bestowed on an amateur radio operator in the Ohio Section

who has demonstrated a continuing dedication to the advancement of amateur radio and to the Ohio Section.

The award had been established in 1992 and was named "Ohio Ham of the Year" until 1999. That year it was renamed after Allen, of Lakewood, Ohio, who had become a silent key in 1997. The award winners listed here are all hams who, like Allan Severson, have dedicated themselves to the advancement of the American Radio Relay League in Ohio.

Although AB8P had served the Section as Section Manager and went on to a distinguished career as Great Lakes Division Director on the ARRL National Board of Directors, the annual award announcement only mentions one sentence about him which is part of every memorial award certificate. That sentence quickly demonstrates the reason for the renaming of this award. "Allan's devotion to serve amateur radio inspired a whole generation of Ohio Section leadership."

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- - - - -  
ARRL Ohio Section  
Section Manager: Frank  
Piper, KI8GW

## Points To Ponder

- Why is it considered necessary to nail down the lid of a coffin?
- Why does the sun lighten our hair, but darken our skin?
- Why can't women put on mascara with their mouth closed?
- Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?
- Why don't you ever see the headline "Psychic wins lottery" ?
- Why is abbreviated such a long word?
- Why is a boxing ring square?
- Why isn't there mouse flavored cat food?
- Why is it that all doctors call what they do "practice"?
- Why is it that rain drops but snow falls?
- Why is it that when you're driving and looking for an address, you turn down the volume on the radio?
- Why Is lemon juice made with artificial flavor, & dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?
- Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?
- Why is the third hand on the watch called second hand?

*From the Student Informer, Stark State College of Technology, Lorie Murray, Journalist/ Publisher*

## KC8YLD to speak at December Club Meeting

E. mike McCardel, KC8YLD, will be travelling to Alliance to speak at our December club meeting. E. mike is the ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator (ACC), for the Ohio Section.

If you're wondering just what the heck an ACC is, here's a short description from the ARRL website:

*"The ACC is the primary contact and resource person for each Amateur Radio club in the section, specializing in motivating, providing assistance and coordinating joint activities of radio clubs."*

The topic will be "Things every club should do/ have/try". It promises to be an interesting evening. Hope you can make it. Invite your friends.



## W1AW 2011/2012 Winter Operating Schedule

### Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWf	Tue, Thu

### Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 1700 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM EST)  
 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST)

(Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM EST))

### Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
2100 UTC (4 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
2100 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
2200 " (5 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
2300 " (6 PM EST)	DIGITAL	Daily
0000 " (7 PM EST)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
0000 " "	CWf	Tue, Thu
0100 " (8 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
0200 " (9 PM EST)	DIGITAL	Daily
0245 " (9:45 PM EST)	VOICE	Daily
0300 " (10 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
0300 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
0400 " (11 PM EST)	CWb	Daily

### Frequencies (MHz)

**CW:** 1.8025 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975 21.0675 28.0675 147.555  
**DIGITAL:** 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095 147.555  
**VOICE:** 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390 28.590 147.555

### Notes:

**CWs** = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM  
**CWf** = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM  
**CWb** = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.  
 DIGITAL = BAUDOT (45.45 baud), BPSK31 and MFSK16 in a revolving schedule.  
 Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

(Continued on page 9)

## 60 Meter Changes To Take Effect

On November 18, the FCC released a Report and Order (R&O), defining new rules for the 60 meter (5 MHz) band. These rules are in response to a Petition for Rulemaking (PRM) filed by the ARRL more than five years ago and a June 2010 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). In the R&O, the FCC replaced one of the channels in the band, Increased the maximum authorized power amateur stations may transmit in this band and authorized amateur stations to transmit three additional emission designators in the five channels in the 5330.6-5406.4 kHz band (60 meters).

The Amateur Radio Service in the United States has a secondary allocation on 60 meters. Only those amateurs who hold General, Advanced or Amateur Extra class licenses may operate on this band. Amateur stations must not cause harmful interference to -- and must accept interference from -- stations authorized by any administration in the fixed service, as well as mobile (except aeronautical mobile) stations authorized by the administrations of other countries.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE CHANGES HAVE NOT YET TAKEN EFFECT. These new rules will take effect 30

## W1AW 2011/2012 Winter Operating Schedule - Cont.

*(Continued from page 8)*

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2330 UTC (6:30 PM EST), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular digital frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Thursdays and 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Fridays.

Audio from W1AW's CW code practices and CW/digital bulletins is available using EchoLink via the W1AW Conference Server named "W1AWBDCT." (The 9:45 PM ET phone bulletin is currently unavailable via W1AWBDCT.) The CW/digital audio is sent in real-time and runs concurrently with W1AW's regular transmission schedule.

All users who connect to the conference server are muted. Please note that any questions or comments about this server should not be sent via the "Text" window in EchoLink. Please direct these questions or comments to [w1aw@arrl.org](mailto:w1aw@arrl.org).

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Digital at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

All licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1500 UTC to 1700 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM EST), and then from 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST) Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur radio license or a photocopy.

The W1AW Operating Schedule may also be found on page 88 in the October 2011 issue of QST or on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule> .  
NNNN /EX

days after they are published in the Federal Register. The ARRL will announce on its website when the rules are published. Additional information can currently be found on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-releases-new-rules-for-60-meters>.

## Welcome New Member

We have Another new member this month. Please join me in welcoming aboard Doug Mathew, KB8DNQ.

## "The Night Before Christmas", Ham Radio-style



'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the town,  
The snowstorm was raging, the phone lines were down;

The wind it did howl, the tree limbs did crack,  
I hope that St. Nick isn't forced to turn back.

The wife making cookies, the kids making noise,  
While away in the shack, by my rig I was poised.

The finals were glowing, the mike gain was set,  
I was chasing DX to see what I could get.

The bands were all empty, the frequencies clear,  
Except one lone station that sounded quite near.

He was calling CQ and my interest did pique,  
When he ended transmission with the words,  
"Old St. Nick".

I answered back quickly, I used great dispatch,  
If this were St. Nicholas, good God, what a catch!

We exchanged information, it was really quite graphic,  
Then he came back and said,  
"I've emergency traffic!"

His reindeer were tired, his elves in a grump,  
If he didn't land soon, then his sleigh he would dump.

I thought very carefully, I thought very hard,  
Then I gave him directions to my snow covered yard.

As he flew past my window, his hair like a mane,  
He reined in his chargers and called them by name:

"Whoa, Anode! Whoa, Cathode! Whoa, Zener! Whoa, Diode!  
Stop, Heater! Stop, Grid leak! Stop, Bias! Stop, Triode!

You're flying too low! you're flying too fast!  
Look out, you dumb reindeer, his antenna mast!"

## "The Night Before Christmas", Ham Radio-style

So into the backyard the reindeer did drop,  
St. Nick, the elves, and the sleigh went kerplop!  
Then at the back door, I heard this loud knocking,  
"Open up in there, or I won't fill your stocking!"  
As I turned off the light and was leaving the shack,  
Into the house Saint Nicholas came from the back--  
His two-meter rig held to his hip with a strap,  
"Hams do it in the shack" on the front of his cap.  
The sack that he carried made his aged brow furrow,  
And he handed me a card that read,  
"QSL Via Bureau".  
His clothes were all sooty, from his shoes to his vest;  
I felt like a novice taking his test.  
His fingers were calloused and from what I could tell,  
This came from a straight key that I'll bet he used well.  
I offered him coffee, I offered him smokes,  
I tried easing the tension by telling ham jokes.  
Then he nodded his head and raised up his thumb,  
He smiled like an Elmer, did I ever feel dumb.  
He grabbed up his sack and went straight for the tree,  
And placed in it a large present for me.  
When he finished his work, he stood up, took a bow,  
Then out the back door to his team he did plow.  
But I heard him exclaim as he flew o'er the land,  
"Beware the FCC, friend, we were both out of band!"



Merry Christmas from my house to yours!



Who will be the Alliance Amateur Radio Club's 2011 Ham of the Year?

This honor will be awarded at our annual Christmas party

Alliance Amateur Radio Club  
Christmas Party

December 10, 2010 @ 6 PM

at

Don Pancho's  
Tex-Mex café  
2105 W. State St,  
Alliance

We will be ordering from Don Pancho's regular menu. Meals will be at regular prices plus \$4.00.

**No reservations required!**

## National Weather Service Honors Ham Radio Operators Dec 3

Newington, CT -- The National Weather Service's annual SKYWARN® Recognition event will take place Saturday, December 3. Cosponsored by the National Weather Service (NWS) and ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio, SKYWARN Recognition Day is the National Weather Service's way of expressing its appreciation to Amateur Radio operators for their commitment to keep communities safe.

Amateur Radio operators (often called "hams") volunteering as storm spotters are an extremely valuable asset to National Weather Service operations because they are cross-trained in both communications and severe storm recognition. Typical SKYWARN operations during severe weather provide direct communication between mobile spotters and local NWS offices giving critical "ground truth" information for forecasters. Instant spotter reports of events such as hail size, low-level cloud rotation and wind damage, given in real time, greatly assist the weather centers. Their reports can be then be correlated with Doppler radar displays which may not see lower level activity in storms. The results are more accurately worded statements or issuing lifesaving warnings a few precious minutes earlier than would otherwise have been possible.

While, except for Irene, the 2011 hurricane season has been fairly quiet in the US, Amateur Radio's people are also deeply involved with the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN). The HWN, which organized in 1965, began as an informal

group of amateurs that has developed into a formal relationship with the National Hurricane Center in Miami via its Amateur Radio station WX4NHC. Ham radio operators and volunteers at Miami work together when hurricanes threaten, providing real-time weather data and damage reports to the Hurricane Center's forecasters. Over 100 National Weather Service regional offices will be participating in this year's event to recognize the community service of ham radio people.

For full information see: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/mtr/hamradio/>

Frequently Asked Questions about SKYWARN Recognition Day

### **What is SKYWARN Recognition Day?**

SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) was developed in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League. It celebrates the contributions that volunteer SKYWARN radio operators make to the National Weather Service. During the day SKYWARN operators visit NWS offices and contact other radio operators across the world. Information regarding SRD is updated at <http://hamradio.noaa.gov>.

### **Why are the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League cosponsoring the event?**

The NWS and the ARRL both recognize the importance that amateur radio provides during severe weather. Many NWS of-

fices acquire real time weather information from amateur radio operators in the field. These operators, for example, may report the position of a tornado, the height of flood waters, or damaging wind speeds during hurricanes. All of this information is critical to the mission of the NWS which is to preserve life and property. The special event celebrates this special contribution by amateur radio operators.

### **When is SKYWARN Recognition Day?**

This year SKYWARN Recognition Day begins at 0000 UTC on December 3, 2011. It will last 24 hours.

### **How many NWS stations are participating in the event?**

It is estimated that around 100 NWS stations will participate this year.

### **Is this a contest or what?**

No, this is not a contest, so no scoring will be computed. This is simply a group of stations transmitting from NWS offices during the same time. Similar event occurs every year on the amateur radio calendar. For example, hams operate from lighthouses across the world during one weekend and from naval ships/submarines during another.

### **We would like to publicize the event in the media. Can we do it?**

You bet.

## Stomp the Grapes Half Marathon Wrap-up

On Saturday, November 5th members of the Massillon, Alliance, and Portage Amateur Radio Clubs combined forces to provide communications support for the Annual Stomp The Grapes Half Marathon in Hartville, Ohio. This years event took runners on a scenic course around the Hartville countryside including historic downtown Hartville and over to the famous Hartville Flea market.

Good weather made for a strong turnout as over 1,000 participants joined for this years marathon. Amateurs provided safety and support communications by staffing five water stops, relay points and several last minute potential trouble spots along the course. APRS was also utilized to track the trail vehicle which was following the last runners. Sev-

eral water stops also had APRS support. This worked very well thanks to a portable Gateway station that had been put in place prior to the event.

Net Control was located at the race start at Maize Valley Winery using the Massillon ARC's Emergency Communications Trailer which gave us multiple communications capability.

Race Director Terry Lewis was very impressed with our communications, especially our ability to track the end of the race using APRS. This provided a real time track of the race end which was monitored by computer from inside the trailer.

The race was very successful with nearly all participants finishing safely. Race officials would like to thank

all the amateur volunteers for their support again this year with this popular community event. Amateur radio received great exposure during the marathon. At the conclusion, all runners and volunteers were treated to a post race party at the Winery.

Communications Coordinator Terry Russ, N8ATZ of the Stark Co ARES also thanks all the volunteers who support this event. They were: John Myers - KD8MQ; Ben Davis - KD8KMQ who together provided the APRS equipment; Tom Gill - KC8QOD; Tom Steele - KD8JRK; Wade Huthmacher - WD8MIU; Jim Farriss - WA8GXM; Gail Wands - WB8VNO; Ted Wands - WD8CVH; Richard Humpolick - KD6MPN; James Korenz - N8PXW and Don Whitaker - K8OMO.



Massillon's very well appointed emergency communications trailer, which was used for this event



John, KD8MQ operating from Massillon's communications trailer.

## Carving Out Time for Ham Radio

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On a recent episode of This Week in Tech ([www.twit.tv](http://www.twit.tv)), Leo Laporte, W6TWT, mentions ham radio, and a guest asks him how much time he is spending on the air. Leo, who just recently got his Tech license says "Zero!" and laughs.

This is not uncommon. Lots of people seem to get a ham radio license and then do very little with it. I think one reason for this is that they don't take into account how much time the hobby really can eat up.

They get their ticket because it seems like a cool thing to do, but then they have to carve out some time to actually be a ham radio operator. Even if you don't make any of your own gear, setting up a station takes time, and then there is the operating time, of course. Carving time out of busy schedules—and I would guess that Laporte has a pretty busy schedule being the owner of TWiT—is a challenge.

I see things like this all the time. At one ham radio club meeting that I attended, the club vice president asked, "OK, here's the question of the month. How many of you actually got on the air in the past month." Less than half of those in attendance raised their hands. Geez, I thought to myself, why do they even bother to come to meetings if they don't get on

the air?

### **Making time for ham radio**

So, if you're a busy person, how do you make time for ham radio? Well, being the Internet geek that I am, I Googled, "making time for things you love." I got a lot of links to sites that talked about work-life balance and some new-age blogs, but none of them offered much in the way of concrete advice.

Then, I Googled "make time for hobbies" and right off the bat, I found two good articles—7 Creative Ways to Make Time For Your Creative Hobby! (<http://www.exploringwomanhood.com/homelife/hobbies/maketime.htm>) and 5 Ways to Make Time for Your Hobby (<http://o5.com/5-ways-to-make-time-for-your-hobby/>). Both articles offered very similar advice. Here are four points that both made:

**1. Schedule it** Set aside a specific time during which you're going to do ham radio. Don't let that time get pre-empted.

**2. Designate a place in your home for ham radio** Having to set up your radios or dig out your tools every time you want to operate or build something is not much fun and wastes a lot of time. Having a "shack" and a workspace designated for your projects will let you spend more time on the fun stuff.

**3. Partner up** Arranging to work with another ham will make it harder to blow off ham radio for some other activity. Besides, it's a lot of fun to do things with other hams. If you're a newly licensed ham, find an Elmer. There really are plenty around who would be willing to help you.

**4. Create a project plan** Setting up an amateur radio station is no small feat. Breaking it down into smaller chunks will make it seem more doable, and you'll get a feeling of accomplishment when you meet your in-between goals.

There's so much to learn and do in amateur radio that it can seem quite overwhelming. I think that's one reason why so many Techs never really get into the hobby and why some experienced hams drift away. I think if you follow the advice above, though, you'll not only find the time to pursue amateur radio, but get a lot more out of it.

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When he's not down in his shack, working with a friend on yet another amateur radio project, Dan writes amateur radio study guides. You can find them on his website at [www.kb6nu.com/tech-manual](http://www.kb6nu.com/tech-manual). Make some time to e-mail him at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

## AARC Swap n Shop!

Do you have something Ham-related for sale, or something you are wanting to buy? Nothing to list this month. If you have something, contact KD8MQ; His e-mail address is below.

From various estates, come the following. Better grab a cup of coffee. This is a long list. Call Don, K8OMO (330-823-5639) for more information on the following.

- ARRL Repeater Directories 1994, 95, 97, 98, 99,2001
- Satellite Experimenters Handbook (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)
- ARRL Antenna Handbook (16<sup>th</sup> Edition)
- 1992 ARRL Handbook (Hardback Edition)
- 1950 Radio Amateur Handbook \$10
- 1958 Radio Amateurs Callbook Hardcover
- 1996 Radio Amateurs Callbook
- Extra Class License Manual (5<sup>th</sup> edition)
- FCC Rule Book (9<sup>th</sup> Edition)
- Packet Radio (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)
- Packet Radio Handbook, by Glen Rogers, K4ABT
- Satellite Handbook
- 1996 ARRL Handbook
- 1959 ARRL Handbook
- Police Call frequency Guide (1994)
- CDE Rotator, + Box, & Mounting plates
- Roll of cable (RG-59?)
- Air Balun (N Connectors) copper 2 Meter
- Simpson VOM in case
- H & B Data switch
- Tuner – Coax & wire (Looks good!)
- Weather alert Radio
- Home Made Dipole

**If interested, contact Don, K8OMO, at 330-823-5639**

*(Continued on page 17)*

**Swap & Shop rules:** We'll keep the rules simple.

1. All ads will run for two months, unless you contact me to cancel, or extend it.
2. You are allowed to post anything as long as it is Ham Radio, or Computer related.
3. Please, no converted CB equipment.

**To place an ad:** contact John, KD8MQ (e-mail: kd8mq@arrl.net)

## AARC Swap n Shop!

*(Continued from page 16)*

- 2 cell phone antennas
- F connectors
- 14 panel meters
- MFJ 989 Antenna Tuner (Air Roller inductor)
- Bencher paddle (has 3 buttons on side for triggering memory keyer)
- Train Transformer
- 3 Low Pass Filters
- Western Union Signal Set
- Wall Speaker
- Antron 2M/440 Mag Mount
- CB type Rubber Duck
- Motorola Car Speaker
- Motorola P-10 Handheld
- 2 Climbing Belts (Nylon – Rose Mfg)
- Midland CB
- Realistic CB
- ARRL License Manual (13<sup>th</sup> edition)
- CQ Magazine
- 1961
- April, 1953
- Assorted QST Magazines:
- August, 1950
- April, 1951
- December, 1952
- June, 1953
- November, 1953
- December, 1953

*(Continued on page 18)*

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*(Continued from page 17)*

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- April, 1954
- March, 1954
- August, 1954
- December, 1954
- February, 1955
- May, 1955
- Window Coax feed-through panel (has SO-239 connectors)
- 50' CAT5 Cable
- HR40 Key, on Board
- Bird 19" Watt Meter & Pickup
- 8877 RF Deck (All Copper)
- Air Castle Shortwave Radio (AC/DC)
- Assorted Crystals
- 2 boxes of ECG MOV's
- NOS 6.3V Filament Transformer
- Crimp on N Connectors
- IC3-AT Accessories
- 2 YH55 Headphones
- Heil Proset Boom set
- Misc Box of Cables
- 2 Mtr Mag Mount
- 440 Ringo Ranger
- 2 Meter Ringo Ranger
- 10 Meter Vertical
- 10 Meter Vertical (Needs painted)
- 10 meter antenna (Broken NMO connector, No Base)
- TE Systems 0510G 6 Meter Mobile Amp

*(Continued on page 19)*

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## AARC Swap n Shop!

*(Continued from page 18)*

**If interested, contact Don, K8OMO, at 330-823-5639**

- Field Strength/SWR Tester (HF)
- Watt/SWR Meter (HF + 11 Meter)
- RadioShack SWR/Power meter (2 KW HF)
- MFJ-924 UHF antenna tuner
- Homebrew 4 position coax switch
- Royal Sound SWR/Field Strength Meter
- 50-450 MHz Signal Amp
- Cobra 19LTDII CB w/ Echo Mic
- Fanon Emergency Radio (Goes on Bicycle?)
- Microphone Stand – 2 Holders?
- GE Emergency CB Radio
- 2 Big Mouth Speakers (4" X 4")
- Nye Viking Low Pass Filter 2 KW (Square)
- Nye Viking Low Pass Filter 2 KW (Round)
- EF Johnson Low Pass Filter 2 KW
- Realistic 4" Speaker
- DX Solutions CT232TNC
- Astron 12V 35A Power Supply (V/A Meters)
- Antron AL1200X 2KW Amp with 10 Meter & WARC Bands
- 5 element 6 Meter Beam
- 4 sections Rohn 55G
- Yaesu GS800 Rotor
- Alinco DJ-C4 440 Credit Card radio
- 2 Parts boxes (Coax connectors, plugs, lightning arrestors, AC adaptors, lots of etc.
- Various lengths of Coax, jumpers, etc.
- Software for Packratt
- White PVC Center loaded antenna Frequency unknown

*(Continued on page 20)*

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## AARC Swap n Shop!

*(Continued from page 19)*

**If interested, contact Don, K8OMO, at 330-823-5639**

- 2 Push to Talk Foot switches
- Vacuum Variable Capacitor 5-30pF
- Tubes
- 8321 Amperex
- 4X150 JAN
- 3 4X150A Eimac
- 4X150A Jan
- K4XD2871 (11 pin – same size as a 4X150)
- 2 8072 (Final for a Signal One)
- 416B Western Electric
- 1E35225 VHF/UHF Tube
- 2 7289 (Jan – includes RF Mount + Blower Guide)
- 3 2C39AG RF Amp (215 – 235 Mhz – Telechrome)
- 3C22 (GE 125 Watts -1.4Ghz Radar Tube)
- 3 2C39 (Eimac With Partial socket)
- 4X150D NOS in can – Eimac
- 3 4CX1500B (Eimac / JAN8660)
- 8877 (NOS Eimac)
- 7 8791 (Cermolox 1KW UHF)
- 4CX5000 (Big Tube 5KW +)
- Bird Slugs
- 25D 25 Watt / 200-500 Mhz
- 1000D 1000 Watt / 200-500 Mhz
- 2500W 2500 Watt / 100-250 Mhz
- 25C 25 Watt / 1000-250 Mhz

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## December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																													
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center; width: 150px;"> <caption>Nov 2011</caption> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center; width: 150px;"> <caption>Jan 2012</caption> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>				S	M	T	W	T	F	S	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>1</i></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">7:00 PM PCARS Net (146.895) 8:01 PM AARC CW (28.400 MHz) 8:30 PM AARC SSB(28.400 MHz) 9:00 PM AARC VHF (145.37(-))</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>2</i></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>3</i></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Sam, KC8ETZ Birthday</p>
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Alliance Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 3344  
Alliance, OH 44601

## The AARC Wayback Machine

Here again are some of the highlights from the last 20 years of the Zero Beat. you can read them at <http://www.w8lky.org/newsltrs/>.

### **December, 1991 (Editor, KC3CL)**

- The 1996 AARC Christmas party was coming up. That years party was being held at Dawsons restaurant.

- Our speaker for that meeting was to be Rick Sullivan, from Ohio Edison, who was speaking on Superconductors.

### **December, 1996 (editor, AA8GY)**

- December was proclaimed QRP Month. The editor tells of building the "Ugly Transceiver" from the 1994 ARRL Handbook.

### **December, 2001, (Editor, KD8MQ)**

- The front page story was about the cancellation of the DX-pedition to Ducie Island, due to high seas

- The editor was pleading for help with the newsletter, due to a busy school schedule.

- The location of the 2002 Tusco Hamfest was in question due to Homeland security concerns.

### **December, 2006, (Editor, KE8VE)**

- The upcoming Christmas Party was to be held at the newly named Brandon's Iron Steak House.