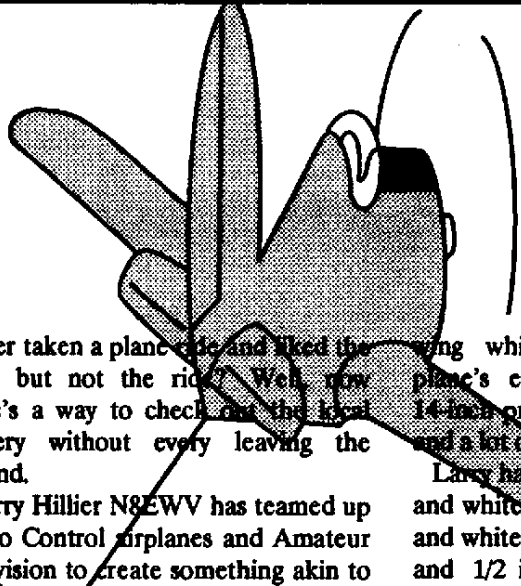


AARC

ZERO BEAT

VOLUME 6 NO. 12

DECEMBER 1992



Club soars to new heights with ATV video

Ever taken a plane ride and liked the view, but not the ride? Well, now there's a way to check out the local scenery without ever leaving the ground.

Larry Hillier N8EWV has teamed up Radio Control airplanes and Amateur Television to create something akin to ATV air mobile.

Larry was the guest speaker for the November meeting and narrated a 20-minute video of some of his most recent ATV experiences in flight.

And what a view his plane offered! The color pictures from about 1,000 ft. were spectacular. He was using a home-brew plane -- a tail dragger with a Cadet fuselage but with a different

wing which spanned 7 feet. The plane's engine is a 4-cycle with a 14-inch prop. "It's has a lot of torque and a lot of power," Hillier said.

Larry has used two cameras -- a black and white and a color one. The black and white is about 3 inches long and 1 and 1/2 inches square. That camera costs about \$700 and brings the plane's total weight to about 12 pounds.

The camera is located in the nose and can look straight ahead or pivot 45 degrees up or down.

The flight pack includes a 1200 mA power supply. The longest Larry has flown the plane is for 45 minutes and he says the pack is good for 80 to 95

minutes. The operating frequency for the ATV transmission is 439.25 Mhz which he says can be picked up on cable channel 58 or 60 with an outside antenna. Audio is 146.865 Mhz.

The transmitter puts out about 1 watt, but at 1,000 feet, Larry says he has received a P5 (a very strong, clear picture) report from a fellow in Cleveland -- a distance of about 54 miles.

Larry's next goal is to work the plane while mobile in a van, so as to extend the range of the craft.

It's not as easy as it sounds. There were frequent crashes, he said, but with teamwork it paid off in the end.

N8LVO

Board of Directors planning Bylaws reprinting, info packet

An updated printing of the Bylaws, an information packet for prospective members of the club and an advance calendar are just some of the ideas the

Board of Directors are working on.

John Myers WX8G, spokesman for the Board which has begun meeting on a regular basis, said there has been a flurry of activity and the fruits of this labor will soon be presented to the club.

He said Dan Mutigli N8LVO has reprinted the Bylaws on his laser printer and copies are soon to be made.

The activities are due in part to input the Board recently received from club members who have asked for more info on the club.

N8LVO

ZERO BEAT: The art of all parties being on the same frequency.

INSIDE

CALENDAR	7
CALLSIGNS	4
CHRISTMAS PARTY	6
EDITOR'S REMARKS	8
FOXHUNTING	5
HAM OF THE YEAR	6
MOVED & SECONDED	4
PRESIDENT'S REMARKS	4
TV REPAIRMAN TALES	3
V.E. EXAMS	4
WHERE'S DX?	3



NEXT MEETING

Thurs., Dec. 3
7:30 p.m.

Merry Christmas From Santa



THE ALLIANCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB ZERO BEAT

Published the third week of every month by John Myers WX8G.

Changes in one's address may be sent to: John Myers, 510 W. Harrison, Alliance, Ohio 44601.

Deadline is the 14th day of the month.

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club is an American Radio Relay League affiliated club; a special service club; and the editor is also a member of the Amateur Radio News Service.

The club meets the first Thursday of each month at the Alliance Community Hospital in the employees' cafeteria. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m.

-- SUBMISSIONS --

Stories may be submitted to the editor only in writing. Entries should be written double-spaced on white paper and post-marked to:

Daniel Mutigli N8LVO
925 E. First St.
Minerva, Ohio 44657

This edition was produced on a Toshiba T1200XE laptop computer using Avagio Desktop Publishing software and was printed on an Okidata OL400 LED page printer. Copies are then made from the master sheets.

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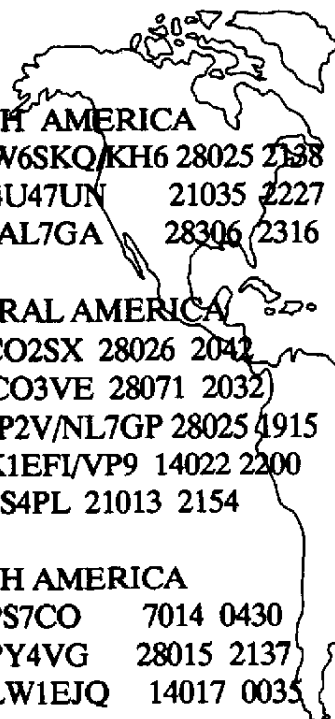
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WHERE'S DX?

By Jack Bennett WSWEN

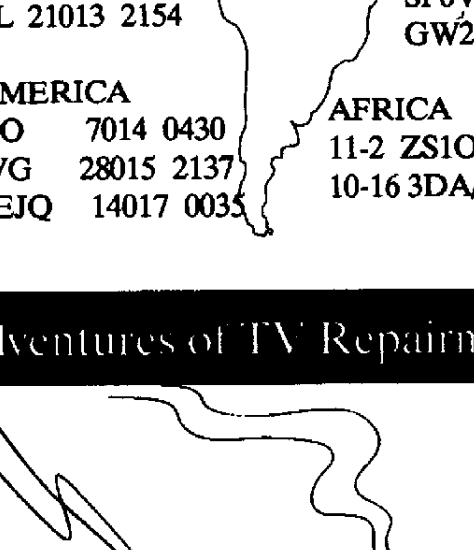


NORTH AMERICA
 10-21 W6SKQ/KH6 28025 2138
 10-8 4U47UN 21035 2227
 10-4 AL7GA 28306 2316

CENTRAL AMERICA
 11-3 CO2SX 28026 2042
 CO3VE 28071 2032
 VP2V/NL7GP 28025 4915
 10-5 K1EFI/VP9 14022 2200
 FS4PL 21013 2154


SOUTH AMERICA
 10-8 PS7CO 7014 0430
 10-5 PY4VG 28015 2137
 10-4 LW1EJQ 14017 0035

All times are in UTC. All contacts are CW.



EUROPE
 11-4 S57FS 21036 1649
 10-22 Y54FO 28028 1713
 10-21 DK9NC 28003 1711
 I5KHX 28003 1704
 F6DYG 28003 1702
 DL6ALJ 28003 1657
 I1CKO 28003 1649
 HB9AJA 28003 1642
 F6BVR 28003 1638
 SP6VWL 28003 1632
 GW2DPD 28003 1627

AFRICA
 11-2 ZS1OU 14021 0353
 10-16 3DA/G3TXF 21023 1700



ASIA
 11-4 S57FS 21036 1649
 11-2 4L0FWW 14028 0348
 10-21 U88JA 14009 0300
 UI8GA 14036 0245
 UI8BDU 14012 0229
 10-17 JU83OC/6 14015 0122
 RA0UF 14019 0110
 JM1YGW 21035 0039
 10-8 UA0KBL 21045 2236
 10-7 UW0LDS 21072 0026

ANTARCTICA
 10-3 4K1YAR 14006 2349

The Adventures of TV Repairman

By John Myers WNSG



Remember that early morning lightning storm that rolled through the area last month? Well, I was called out to a home near Westerville Lake to inspect lightning damage from that storm.

This house got hit at 7:10 a.m. -- and it must have been a direct hit because it vaporized the TV antenna right off the tower.

All that was left was the mast pipe and a little bit of hardware from the antenna just where the feedline and rotor cable entered the house. And there was a circular burn right there on the siding in about a 1 foot radius.

What made it interesting was that this house was equipped with lightning rods. The ground wire from the lightning rods was buried about 6 inches below grade and the hole over the ground was covered with dirt and gravel. When that bolt hit, it was like setting off dynamite at that ground rod. All that gravel went flying and like bullets they pierced the vinyl siding in 20 or 30 places. The siding was also cracked, especially near the electric meter.

Inside the house, the phone line was burned in so many places that a new line had to be installed. But underground this time.

All in all, this has got to be a tie for the worst lightning strike I've ever seen. I'm glad it was someone else and not me!



Latest FCC call signs as of Nov. 1:

	AREA 8	AREA 3
EXTRA	AA8JC	AA3CH
ADVANCED	KF8XP	KE3FK
TECH/GEN	N8VZO	N3NOO
NOVICE	KB8OJC	KB3AJL

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Well, I'm certainly disappointed in the lack of reservations for the Club Christmas Banquet. There was a half-page reservation form in the November *Zero Beat*. Please inform us well in advance so we can let Charley B's know. We've got some great entertainment lined up for the evening, plus a good time of fellowship and Ham of the Year!

What a meeting we had in November! Thanks to Larry N8EWV for showing the video of his ATV airplane. I enjoyed it very much.

I would also like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

QUICK-STAT

For the first six months of 1992, there was a total of 20,822 new Technician licenses issued. In 1991, the same time period produced 9,273 -- a 125 percent increase!

Moved and Seconded: the Nov. 5 meeting

All officers and trustees were present with the exception of Allen Dicks W18T.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. at the hospital by President Pam Myers N8IAK with 23 members and two guests. Guests for the evening were Jeff Carpenter N8VXR and Dave Buckwalter KC3CL.

Secretary Dan Mutigli N8LVO read the minutes which were approved with corrections as read.

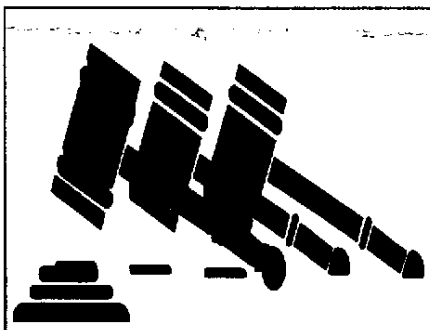
Pam read a prepared statement from Allen which reported a balance of \$3,625.99. Breakdown: Bank One CD \$1,418.28; First American CD \$1,055.29; First American savings \$622.11; checking \$510.31; and \$20 petty cash. This is a net increase of \$47.70 over last month.

Committee Reports:

Mall Show -- John Myers WX8G reported the mall has been contacted about possible dates for Mall Show 1993. A show of hands indicated that

the membership would like to have mall show some time in the fall. John will contact the mall again in March.

N8DZA Repeater -- Jim Ferguson N8DZA reiterated that the special sequence to be used with the autopatch is only needed for long num-



bers. He also said that there are hundreds of slots available. Autodial slots are advantageous because they are shorter. Give Jim a call if you would like one.

Old Business

Fundraisers -- Jack Bennett said

the buttons might be sold at the next antique key demonstration slated for some time in 1993.

Christmas Party -- Entertainment will be a sing along this year.

Ham of the Year -- Ballots were distributed and should be returned to Jack Bennett ASAP.

New Business

Calendar -- John WX8G is preparing a calendar of events so that members will be able to plan their schedules well in advance.

Announcements

John Bray N8SFN has upgraded to General Class.

Winner of the 50-50 drawing was Larry Hillier N8EWV who won the \$8 split.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m. after which the club heard from Larry N8EWV for 30 minutes on Radio Controlled airplanes and Amateur Television.

N8LVO

LOCAL VOLUNTEER EXAMINER TESTING

DATE	LOCATION	TIME	CONTACT	PHONE
DEC. 5	MENTOR		SCOTT	256-0320
DEC. 12	RAVENNA	9 A.M.	JOANNE SOLAK	274-8240
DEC. 12	NORTH OLMSTED		DAN	267-5083
DEC. 20	ELYRIA		OLA SLOANE	647-5116

After the fox

By Howard D. Rubin N3FF

We may not wear red coats and ride horses over hill and dale, but we're fox hunters, too.

We're high-tech hunters who seek hidden transmitters. Our "fox," is a ham who finds a tricky spot to transmit from. And we compete to track and find the fox, before someone else does.

Our fox can hide almost anywhere, although private property and unsafe places are avoided. The fox does his or her best to confuse the hunters, and can sometimes be ingenious and, well, smart like a fox.

Foxes sometimes hide along creeks or rivers, where the signal seems to follow the water. Or else they hide along railroad tracks, where the signals seem to radiate from the rails. One fox hid atop a railroad overpass watching the hunters search; and he trans-

mitted taunts to hunters driving back and forth underneath.

Another time, the fox decided it was harder to find a needle in a needle box than in a haystack, so he hid on a used car lot.

A fox hunt is challenging, but not so much so that beginners can't enjoy it. Everyone has the same map and the fox must hide within the area covered by it, a square about 10 miles on a side.

If you haven't done fox hunting of the radio kind, consider riding with an experienced hunter. But don't be surprised if a beginner finds the fox while the pros are still stumbling around taking bearings. It happens.

Most fox hunts take place on the 2-meter band because more hams have radios for it than any other. And fox hunts are always on a simplex fre-

quency; otherwise the hunters would "find" the repeater, not the fox.

Equipment can be as simple as a handy-talkie held close to your body. You turn to find a null and look for the fox behind you. It works especially well when you're already close and the fancier equipment overloads. You can remove the antenna and walk backwards, keeping the fox in the null until you trip over the fox's antenna.

Small, close-spaced yagis are popular fox hunting antennas, as are loops and small quads. Mobile fox hunting antennas must either be small enough to drag inside the car or mounted outside, but rotatable from inside.

Finally, when you hunt alone, stop the car when you take bearings. You'll be less likely become an accident statistic.

APR86

Novice testing & the VEC

By Frederick O. Maia W5YI

(Editor's Note: This article was edited for brevity and originally appeared in CQ Magazine, October 1992 in the Washington Readout column.)

Last May the ARRL and W5YI-VEC filed separate petitions with the FCC asking that all amateur radio license examinations be administered under the volunteer examiner coordinator (VEC) system.

The existence of the Codeless Technician Class has had a major impact on the Novice Class -- 75 percent of all first-time licensees now are Technician Class. In 1990, 88 percent of all newcomers entered at the Novice level.

In early 1992, Novice licenses were down 35 percent over 1991 and 52 percent over 1990. This is particularly significant when you understand that there are still 40 percent more beginners in total this year.

The ARRL and W5YI-VEC have both recommended to the FCC that all Novice examinations be included in the VEC system in the interest of efficiency. co

NEWCOMERS TO THE AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE

Class	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Total
1988							
Novice	989	1466	2407	1996	2714	1234	1086
Technician	165	126	251	168	233	186	1129
Other	35	32	75	31	55	74	302
Total	1189	1624	2733	2195	3002	1494	12237
1989							
Novice	1930	1041	1933	2512	2869	1805	12090
Technician	247	200	181	255	356	176	1415
Other	57	33	33	54	77	22	276
Total	2234	1274	2147	2821	3302	2003	13871
1990							
Novice	2434	1679	2466	2368	3875	1724	14546
Technician	191	219	205	239	359	214	1427
Other	46	43	56	51	50	46	292
Total	2671	1941	2727	2658	4284	1984	16265
1991							
Novice	1713	1810	1734	2651	1801	1088	10797
Technician	89	307	882	3025	2858	2112	9273
Other	14	45	40	73	55	41	258
Total	1816	2162	2656	5749	4714	3231	20328
1992							
Novice	655	1260	1364	1330	1066	1371	7046
Technician	3318	2764	3347	3810	3058	4525	20822
Other	57	68	95	75	54	61	410
Total	4030	4092	4806	5215	4178	5957	28278

Christmas Party Advance Reservation Form



The annual Alliance Amateur Radio Club Christmas Dinner is planned for Saturday, Dec. 12, at Roadhouse Charlie's on State St. starting at 6 p.m. with a cash bar and dinner promptly at 7 p.m.

Pam Myers N8LAK is Christmas Party Chairwoman this year. Please take time out to fill out this registration form and return it to Pam along with the advance payment. Pam's address is : 510 W. Harrison, Alliance, Ohio 44601 or come to the next meeting. Choose from the following:

CHOICE 1

Strip Steak
8 oz.
R-MR-M-
MW-W
\$12.95

CHOICE 2

Boston
Boiled
Scrod
\$9.25

CHOICE 3

1/2 Honey
or BBQ
Chicken
\$8.25

NAME: _____

OF CHOICE 1
MEALS AND COOK-
ING INSTRUCTIONS: _____

OF CHOICE 2: _____

OF CHOICE 3 BBQ
OR HONEY: _____

TOTAL MEALS: _____

TOTAL COST: _____

Dinners include: baked potato, salad & choice of coffee, tea or ice tea. Prices include tax, gratuity.



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE FOR YOUR CHOICE OF "HAM OF THE YEAR"

Vote for your choice and return your ballot to last year's "Ham of the Year," Jack Bennett W8WEN: 3591 Mountview Ave., Alliance, Ohio 44601.

MY CHOICE IS _____

REASON: _____

ALLIANCE ARC DECEMBER 1992

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 AYRC CLASS 4:30 P.M.	2	3 AARC MEETING 7:30 P.M. ALLIANCE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL	4	5 MENTOR VE EXAM
6	7	8 AYRC CLASS	9	10 SAARA MEETING 7 P.M. RED CROSS TRI-COUNTY NET 145.37	11	12 NORTH OLMSTED & RAVENNA VE EXAMS CHRISTMAS PARTY 6 P.M. CHARLEY B'S
13	14 DEADLINE FOR ZERO BEAT	15 AYRC CLASS	16 CARC MEETING 7:30 P.M. STARK COUNTY JAIL	17 TRI-COUNTY NET 145.37	18	19
20 ELYRIA VE EXAM	21	22 AYRC CLASS	23	24 TRI-COUNTY NET 145.37	25 CHRISTMAS	26
27	28	29 AYRC CLASS	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT KBBBYN BIRTHDAY		



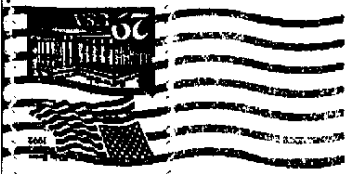
ALLIANCE, OH 44601
217 W. Simpson St.
Dave Glass W8UKQ

Your license expires in 1995

TO:

Copies printed: 50
Unit price: \$0.42
Mailed: Nov. 28, 1992

ALLIANCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. BOX 3344
MOUNT UNION STATION
ALLIANCE, OHIO 44601



PAGE 8

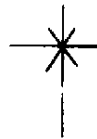
DECEMBER 1992

Postscript

By Dan Mutigli N8LVO

For those of you that are wondering, our publisher, John Myers, is now using a new format for address labels. The new format looks something like this:

N8AAA EXP 98
John Doe
111 Anywhere
ANYTOWN, 00000



The format is intended to remind you just when your FCC licenses expire as a service to you. Let us know what you think and if we can help you in any way. We also are trying to ascertain all of your birthdays, so that they will be made part of the monthly calendar. I have included a list to John which has about 75 percent of you figured out. If your expiration for your license is missing, it means that John would like to hear from you about that and your birthday.

Also new is a short info feature about the newsletter which appears just below the *Zero Beat* address on the mailer side. The price per issue does NOT include the 29 cent stamp.

Well, I've run out of room so I will wish each of you a Merry Christmas and happy holidays.

PEACE ON EARTH

