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# AARC

SERVING ALLIANCE AREA HAMS

## ZERO BEAT

VOLUME 7 NO. 1

JANUARY 1993

### Myers named Ham of Year

Complete shock is how John Myers WX8G characterized his winning of the 1992 Ham of the Year.

"I was just speechless. I would like to thank everybody in the club who voted for me," he said.

Myers was presented with the traveling plaque Dec. 12 at the annual Christmas Party at Roadhouse Charley's here in Alliance by Jack Bennett W8WEN, the 1991 Ham of the Year. The traveling plaque is John's for the next year. Jack was presented with his own personal plaque by President Pam Myers N8IAK as is the now 4-year tradition of awarding the traveling plaque to the new Ham of the Year and giving a personal memento to the former winner.

No one but Jack and two trustees

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



John Myers WX8G (left) the 1992 Ham of the Year receives his traveling plaque from the 1991 winner, Jack Bennett W8WEN. John said he was speechless about winning the coveted award. (Photo by Dan Mutigli N8LVO) (More pictures of the Christmas party on Page 6)

knew who the Ham of the Year was. John will now preside over tallying the votes for the 1993 Ham of the Year.

John has been active in Ham radio since he received his license back in 1980. At that time he was working for Specht's TV near the corner of Arch and Milner streets. He graduated from Alliance High School in 1978 where he studied electronics and promptly went to work for Specht's.

In 1983, John married Pam N8IAK and one year later they started their own TV repair shop at Grove's Plaza.

John has held numerous positions in the club. He was the first president of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club back in 1986 and he has also served as vice president.


Myers was also the Field Day chairman in the last years of the Tri-

County Radio Association in the early 1980s. He was also a Novice Class instructor and ARES coordinator from

*Related story on Page 6*

1987-90. An avid Fox Hunter, John best enjoys 40 meter CW and is the publisher of two Ham Radio newsletters: one is for the *Amateur Radio News Service* and the *Zero Beat*.

N8LVO

 **NEXT MEETING**

Thurs., Jan. 7  
7:30 p.m.

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# Happy New Year



## 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 and is also a special service club.*

*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 on 3.5 inch disk AND in writing. Entries should be written double-spaced on white paper and postmarked to:

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

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WHERE'S DX?

By Jack Bennett WSWEN

All times are in UTC. All contacts are CW.

NORTH AMERICA

12-5 VE2FU 1.805 0321  
 VE3GR 1.805 0513  
 VE4JB 1.805 0504  
 VE3CUI 1.805 0456  
 VE3KP 1.805 0328

CENTRAL AMERICA

12-13 VP2/K5LZO 28.014 2155  
 11-29 9Y4H 21.065 1718  
 C6AHJ 28.058 1615  
 CO2JA 14.029 0248

SOUTH AMERICA

12-13 OA4ZV 28.042 2128  
 CX7OA 28.018 2046

EUROPE

11-29 IC8FBU 14.040 1805  
 PA3FBN 21.084 1735  
 YU7AV 21.046 1706  
 ZAJA 21.044 1702  
 LZ9A 21.040 1659  
 GM3PFQ 21.036 1658  
 GB5DX 21.030 1654  
 LZ5W 21.029 1652  
 HG6Y 21.016 1645  
 IR1T 21.006 1642  
 LZ6Z 28.054 1631  
 DL2CSI 28.061 1628  
 G3KHZ 28.065 V 1626  
 HA7TM 28.064 1626  
 PA0DDS 28.067 1620

ASIA

12-13 JA1CGT 28.038 2336  
 JR7EDL 28.039 2333  
 JF5QC 28.040 2331  
 JE7JZC 28.049 2325  
 12-12 3W4UL 14.025 0020  
 9V1YC 14.009 2320  
 11-29 UA9CR 14.017 2307  
 UC8A 28.020 1405  
 UK7WWC 14.047 1346  
 UX6B 14.033 0518

OCEANIA

11-29 VK3DXI 14.003 2204  
 11-28 VK7GK 28.037 2200  
 KH0AM 28.012 2148



It Isn't Over 'til It's Over

By Harry Raykes WB4AYO

*For those trusting souls that leave their rigs connected to a "grounded" antenna, take heart, lightning will eventually do its thing and get you, as indicated in the following story told by Fred Cox of Metropolitan Edison, Eaton, Pa.*

There was this barn protected by six roof-mounted lightning rods. The barn took an original lick and it burned to the ground. BUT, that lightning stroke was just getting started. It followed a water pipe from the barn to a nearby cistern which it completely shattered before jumping a fence extending from the now ruined cistern to a nearby pig pen. Things happened fast in the pig pen. Two pigs were killed outright, the rest were stunned and the concrete floor shattered. It then took off along a fence on the opposite side of the building which didn't really lead to anything. The lightning stroke leader spotted a nearby transformer pole serving the farm and headed that way. It left the fence and actually plowed a furrow in the barnyard for more than 100 feet to the base of the pole. Up the pole it went. Fireworks broke out when it hit the top of the pole, which recorded an 18,000 ampere discharge. Not satisfied with wiping out the transformer cutouts and arrestors, it took off along the service lines to the house, breaking the top of a cedar tree in the front yard. It blew every fuse in the farm house and welded every switch into solid chunks. So, if you think it's grounded and you are safe, think again!

One stroke in 10 is more than 6,000 amperes and one half is in the 1,500 ampere or less range.

The Birmingham

## Latest FCC call signs as of Dec. 1:

	AREA 8	AREA 3
EXTRA	AA8JG	AA3CK
ADVANCED	KF8XY	KE3FN
TECH/GEN	N8WEJ	N3NQE
NOVICE	KB8OKK	KB3AKE

## PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

I'd like to thank everyone that came to the Christmas party. Also congratulations to John WX8G for being named Ham of the Year. Special thanks to Rev. Dave Hostetler N8NLZ and Bob Aufrance for providing the music. I hope everyone will come out to see what Larry KE8VE has to say on his program on Solar Flux. See you there!

## Moved and Seconded: the Dec. 3 AARC meeting

All officers and trustees were present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. at the hospital by President Pam Myers N8IAK with 21 members and 7 guests. Guests for the evening were Larry Newton N8BGJ and his son; Larry Beaver KB8NIQ, Laszlo Farkas KB8NQL, Bob Rickard KB8GAG, Tom Miller KB8DUX and Mike Duker from the Novice Class.

John Myers WX8G gave a 15-minute program on Fox Hunting.

Vice President Larry Ashburn KE8VE asked the membership if Secretary Dan Mutigli N8LVO could dispense with the reading of the minutes, since they are now published in the *Zero Beat*. On a motion by Bill Bennett W8ZZS, and with a second, the motion was passed unanimously. There were no corrections to the minutes of the November meeting.

Treasurer Allen Dicks W18T reported a total balance of \$3,705.49. Breakdown: Bank One CD \$1418.28; Charter One (First American) CD \$1055.29; Charter One (First American) savings \$622.11; checking \$589.81; and \$20 petty cash. This is a net increase of \$79.50 over last month.

## Committee Reports

**Newsletter** -- Dan N8LVO reported the deadline is Dec. 14. John WX8G said expiration dates for licenses now are included on the mailing label. He needs to know if there are any corrections to the labels.

**Novice Class** -- Larry KE8VE reported testing will be Tues., Dec. 12. He also noted that the new TECH-GENERAL class will begin



Tues., Jan. 12, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Conference Room B at Alliance Hospital and will run for 10 weeks.

**Program Chairman** -- Pam N8IAK is pleased to announce that Bill Bennett W8ZZS is the new program chairman. Upcoming programs for 1993: January - Larry KE8VE on the Solar Flux; February - Allen W18T on feedlines.

## Old Business

**Fox Hunt** -- John WX8G said the next

Fox Hunt will be Sat., Jan. 16, at 2 p.m., starting at the Butler Rodman parking lot. This will be a Beginner's Level hunt with a time limit of two hours.

**Christmas Party** -- The wooden sleigh which will be a door prize was on display. The gift was a donation from Gladys Wilson KB8GIA and Jim Wilson KB8GHZ.

**Ham of the Year** -- Jack Bennett W8WEN said ballots need to be turned in by the end of the meeting.

**New Business** -- Dan N8LVO explained three developments that the Board of Directors has been working on for the past few months: a prospective member packet, a new member packet and a calendar.

**New Members**: Larry Newton N8BGJ & Larry Beaver KB8NIQ; total members are now 43 with 39 either Full or Sustaining. About 76 percent are ARRL members. A 5-minute break was taken at 8 p.m. to sell 50-50 tickets. Winner of the drawing was Dee Dee Ashburn who won the \$9.00 split and gave \$4.50 back.

On a motion from Jim KB8GHZ, seconded by Gladys KB8GIA, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

## Area clubs sponsor free radio classes

Radio classes are starting again soon and two clubs in our area are participating.

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club will be offering classes for radio operators wishing to upgrade to General Class, starting Tues., Jan. 12, from 7 to 9 p.m. Instructors are Larry Ashburn KE8VE, who will teach the theory and Dan Mutigli N8LVO who will teach the code. Call Larry at 821-9808 if

you would like to make arrangements to attend the class.

Also, Salem Radio Club Novice classes will start Monday, Jan. 11 at 6 p.m. at Salem High School. Call Bob at 337-6544 for more info.

The classes, which are free to the public, will prepare candidates for their choice of local volunteer examinations in the area or Novice testing from the instructors.

## NEXT VE EXAM

WHERE: *Goodyear*

WHEN: *9 a.m.*

CONTACT: *Tony*

PHONE: *836-8869*

DATE: *Jan. 30*

# 1993 UPCOMING EVENTS

*Use this as a general guide in planning your schedule.  
Note: all dates are estimated based on last year's schedule.*

## JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					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						

## FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		②	3	4	5	⑥ SALEM PANCAKE BREAKFAST
7	8	⑨	10	11	12	⑬
⑭ MANSFIELD	15	⑯	17	18	19	20
21	22	⑳	24	25	26	⑳
⑳						㉑ CO 100 500

## MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	②	3	4	5	6
7	8	⑩	10	11	12	13
14	15	⑯	17	18	⑳	20
⑳ LAKE CTV HAMFEST	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
④ SUPER CITIES WALKATHON	5	6	7	8	9	10
⑪ CLEVELAND HAMFEST	12	13	14	15	16	⑰
⑱ DAYTON	26	27	28	29	30	⑳

## MAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
② GOLD RUSH WALKATHON	3	4	5	6	7	8
⑨ MEDINA	10	11	12	13	14	15
⑯ WHEELING	17	18	19	20	21	22
⑳ CANFIELD 200	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## JUNE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
⑥ BREEZE SHOOTER	7	8	9	10	11	12
⑬ GOODY	14	15	16	17	18	19
⑳ FIELD DAY	28	29	30			

## JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
⑱ A.C. AIR SHOW 10K RACE	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
① RANDOLPH	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
⑮ WARRIOR & CAPTAIN TRIATHLON	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
30	31					

## SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
⑫ BUTLER	13	⑭	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
⑳ CLEVELAND HF & JUVENILE DIABETES WALKATHON	27	28	29	30		

## OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	②
3	4	⑤	6	7	8	⑨
⑩	11	⑬	13	14	15	⑯
17	18	⑱	20	21	22	23
24	25	⑳	27	28	29	30
31						

## NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	②	3	4	5	6
⑦ MASSILLON	8	⑨	10	11	12	13
14	15	⑯	17	18	19	20
21	22	⑳	24	25	26	27
28	29	⑳				

## DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	④
5	6	7	8	9	10	⑪
⑬	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	⑳	㉑



**The  
Christmas  
Party**



*Twass the fortnight before Christmas...*  
 Pictures from the party. Going counter-clockwise from the top we have: (from left to right) W8WEN, K8DEN, W8ACP & N8SYF; N8DZA, N8JKZ, N8GIE & W8ZZS; N8NLZ and his wife; N8MAA & his wife; and KE8IL.  
 Photos by W8ZZS & WX8G



# N O T I C E T O A L L V I S I T O R S

WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO WITNESS IS AN AMATEUR RADIO STATION LICENSED AS \_\_\_\_\_ BY THE  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION IN WASHINGTON, DC.

**BEFORE YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS, HERE ARE THE ANSWERS:**

- 1) The total cost of this equipment cannot be discussed here as it creates marital conflicts.
- 2) No, we cannot send a message to your brother in Hong Kong. We suggest you call Western Union.
- 3) This is strictly a hobby; we do not have the facilities or the time to fool around with TV sets, radios or hi-fi. We suggest that you see a serviceman.
- 4) Yes, the antenna in the backyard is essential to the operation of the equipment.
- 5) The farthest station we have contacted has been in the Ubangiland.
- 6) The cards on the wall are called QSL cards. They are confirmation of contacts made with other stations.
- 7) It is technically impossible for this station's equipment to interfere with television reception, telephones or stereo systems. Any interference problems of that nature are caused by design flaws in the home entertainment devices themselves.
- 8) An Amateur Radio station may only be operated by a highly qualified, technically skilled electronics expert. It takes dedication, training and intelligence to reach the level of competence that justifies one to be licensed by the United States Federal Government. Therefore, it is not considered inappropriate to show proper awe, respect and general obsequiousness when I discuss my hobby or operate the controls.

**FURTHERMORE... IF YOU ARE GRANTED THE EXTREME HONOR OF BEING INVITED TO SPEAK INTO THE  
MICROPHONE, PLEASE OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING RULES:**

- 1) Speak in a low and soothing tone.
- 2) Do not disagree with me in any manner.
- 3) Say no bad words and tell no off-color jokes.
- 4) It is customary for guests to make complimentary remarks about this station and its licensed operator when talking to other hams on the air.

**DO NOT TOUCH ANYTHING, TURN ANY KNOBS, SIT ON EQUIPMENT, ETC. I HAVE LOST SEVERAL VISITORS  
BY ELECTROCUTION IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS.**

Thank you for your cooperation.

## No more weak signals from Minerva

"They make the impossible look possible."

That's what Dan Mutigli N8LVO says about the antenna crew that erected a 13-element Cushcraft boomer atop Dan's television tower, Dec. 15.

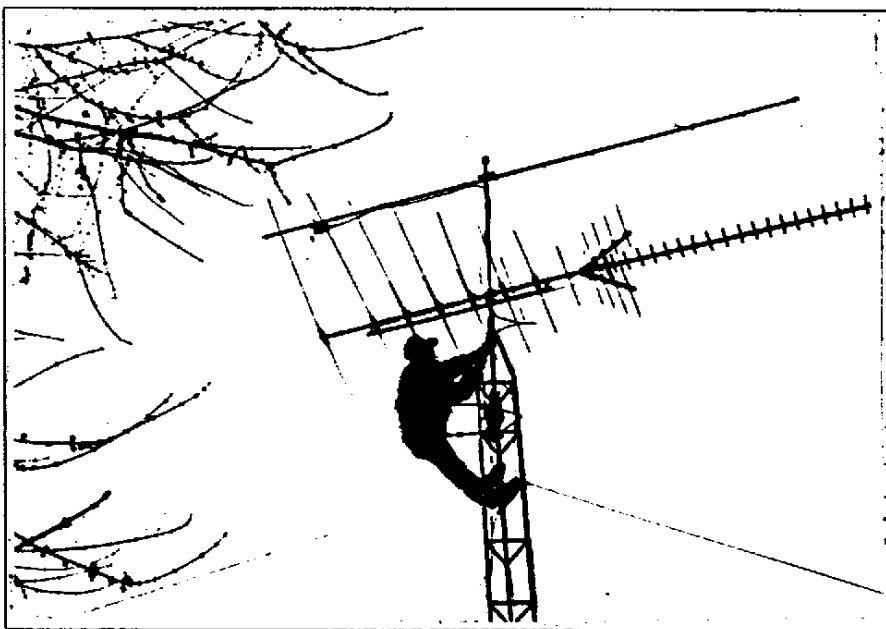
"It was totally amazing. Although we have cable, we still use the TV antenna and so one of the stipulations was that the TV antenna had to stay up."

Don Whitaker K8OMO made the preliminary site check, then on Tuesday on short notice (it was set for Wednesday, but the forecast was for rain) the team started at around 11 a.m. By 2:15 p.m., the work was done.

Al Orwick KF8LZ was the chief tower climber. Don K8OMO assisted on the roof.

The all-important ground crew comprised Bill N8TLY, Bill Bennett W8ZZS, Gene Smythe N8JKZ and Jim Miller N8MAA.

One of the more or less "tall tales" which is already transcending this antenna party is the famous "Shoestring Catch," made by Al. It seems that "OMO" was the tool relay for Al. Whenever Al needed a tool, Gene would throw the tool to Don and Don would throw it up to Al. Well, Don's throwing arm was "right on" that day and Al had successfully caught about 6 tosses. There was one



Al Orwick KF8LZ adjusts the feedline on this boomer before the last job of taping it. (Photo by Bill Bennett W8ZZS)

toss though, that went high. Al caught it, then dropped it and the tool fell down through the tower where Al proceeded to "catch" it with his foot! The record, they will surely tell you, stayed unbroken.

"Al and OMO did an outstanding job," Mutigli continued, "They made it look so easy and it really wasn't."

There was a time there when they had to thread the TV antenna in between the gin pole and the mast pipe supporting the boomer - with only about 8 inches clearance. You

also have to take into consideration that there were guy wires and another scanner antenna all up there interfering with the elements as they slid through. Hey, Al deserves a breakfast or something. Did I say that?"

To top it off the antenna crew was treated to Mama Mutigli's pizza after the work.

Five days later, Dan had to make some minor adjustments to his ground mounted vertical. All in all, still a job well done. N8LVO

## PA QSO Party deemed a success by Myers

"In 35 years of QSO parties, this is the highest recorded score, ever!" exclaimed John Myers WX8G describing the PA QSO Party.

"Oh well, I can dream anyway. At least I got your attention."

The QSO Party was held on the weekend of Oct 10-11. Weather conditions weren't real bad. Saturday was sunny, with temps in the 50s. It clouded up and started raining after dark and the rain was pretty much on

and off until Sunday afternoon.

This year two teams made the trip to Pennsylvania for the 35th annual PA QSO Party. While Dan Mutigli N8LVO, shacked up in a nice warm cabin in Washington County, Allen Dicks W18T and John braved the elements.

Dan had some help from W8ZZS, and racked up a pretty respectable score, considering the band conditions. "I heard that his location was a

little hard to find, but at least there was a restraint nearby." John said. Dan and Bill made 225 contacts and racked up a score of 18,924 points at Washington County.

At the Indiana County site it was worse. "The band conditions were pretty bad on 80 meters, but we survived. We made 328 QSO's, for 34,144 points, said John.

Both teams are looking forward to next year, again. WX8G



# ALLIANCE ARC JANUARY 1993

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 NEW YEARS DAY	2
3	4	5 AYRC CLASS	6	7 AARC MEETING 7:30 P.M. ALLIANCE COMM. HOSPITAL	8	9
10	11	12 AYRC CLASS  Tech-General Class 7 p.m. at Alliance Comm. Hospital	13	14 SAARA MEETING 7 P.M. RED CROSS	15	16 FOX HUNT
17	18 Novice-Tech Class at Salem	19 AYRC CLASS  Tech-General Class at Alliance Comm. Hospital	20 WBZZS BIRTHDAY  CARC MEETING 7:30 P.M. AT SAFETY BUILDING	21	22	23
24	25 Novice-Tech Class at Salem	26 AYRC CLASS  Tech-General Class at Alliance Comm. Hospital	27	28	29	30 VE EXAM AT GOODYEAR
31						

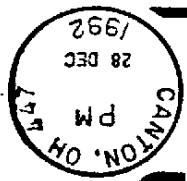
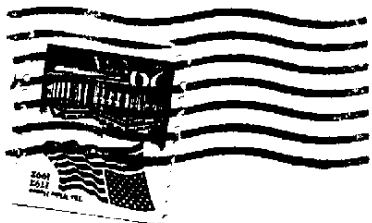
DAVE GLASS WSUKQ  
217 W. SIMPSON ST.  
ALLIANCE, OH 44601

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ALLIANCE, OHIO 44601



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JANUARY 1993

### Postscript

By Dan Mutigli N8LVO

Anybody happen to know what our point totals were for last Field Day? Having not heard anything from our glorious leaders at the meetings, I assumed they wanted to keep us in suspense until the totals were published in QSL.

Did you see them? I didn't. Which means our little wager with the YMCA still is unresolved.

You know folks, this communications gap we have is really getting ridiculous.

I mean, I understand that some things cannot be communicated via radio... But is it too much trouble for some of you ( for instance, the guy who has the results from Field Day) to send me a hard copy (on a sheet of paper) in an envelope with a 29 cent stamp? Is it too much trouble for you to make a long distance phone call (3 minutes) and let me know? I guess so.

So, this is my New Year's Resolution for 1993. In order that our readers get the information they deserve, I will be sending questionnaires to the appropriate people who HAVE the information that they fail to share with anyone else. The envelopes will include my SASE (kind of like a return QSL) which all they have to do is fill out and send back to me. All they have to do is put their response in and lick the envelope. Let's see if they can get that right.

HAPPY NEW YEAR !

