

AARC

SERVING ALLIANCE AREA HAMS

ZERO BEAT

VOLUME 7 NO. 2

FEBRUARY 1993

Cold doesn't deter first Hunt of year

A newcomer, an old-timer and a river rat got their first taste of victory Jan. 16 for the first Fox Hunt of the new year.

The team of John Bray N8SFN, Bill Bennett W8ZZS and

Dan Mutigli N8LVO took first place on a cold, but clear Saturday on a typical winter day in Ohio. On paper, the threesome scored a decisive knockout, but it was closer than it appeared.

The first-place team had a final score of 660 points, while N8DZA finished second with 1,023 points and KC8WY took third with 1,274 points. The score is determined based on total mileage multiplied by the time in minutes; the lowest score wins. The next hunt will be Sat., April 17, 1993.

Both N8DZA and the first-place team had the same mileage, but W8ZZS's team clocked-in right at 60 minutes, while it took N8DZA 93 minutes to find the fox.

Place	Team Members	Mileage	Time	Score
1	W8ZZS, N8LVO, N8SFN	11	60	660
2	N8DZA	11	93	1,024
3	KC8WY, KB8BLU	14	91	1,274
4	WA8WHP, KB8NDM, MIKE	13	108	1,469
5	W1BT, BRIAN	21	117	2,457

The Fox Hunt saw three new faces to the sport. In addition to co-winner John N8SFN, there was Steve Huwig KB8NDM and Mike Duke (call pending) who both rode with Frank Sanor WA8WHP.

With so many new hunters, some teams had to double up. Dan N8LVO elected to sit in the back of Bill's Toyota truck so that John could pick up some pointers from Bill.

"Everybody thought I would freeze back there in an open pickup truck," Dan laughed, "but the wind really didn't hit you when you sat against the cab and the most trouble I had was from the dust the wind picked up and got in my eyes."

As for the hunt, "It was a combination of luck and technique that won it for us," Dan said. "When we got close to the shopping mall, we could see other fox hunters in the area doing their sweeps, so we knew we were close."

At that point, Dan removed his antenna and broke the

squelch and heard a faint signal coming through on the fox's chosen frequency -- 147.51 MHz simplex. He told Bill W8ZZS to stop at a shoe store to take another reading. The 4-element

hand held beam, used for long-range triangulation was now useless at that point being overloaded by a full-scale signal in all directions.

Having no in-line attenuators, Dan huddled over Bill's Yaesu FT23R handheld like he was lighting a match in the wind. Doing a slow circle, he found a null and motioned to the others. "They've got to be behind me in this direction," he said pointing back toward the

Continued on Page 5

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

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NEXT MEETING

Thurs., Feb., 4
7:30 p.m.

Now you can send stories via packet

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club *Zero Beat* may now take your stories from any digital mode you choose.

The best way to proceed is to contact Dan Mutigli N8LVO, editor of the *Zero Beat*, on the 145.37 repeater in Alliance. This is to make sure his packet BBS is active since it is not a 24-hour-a-day BBS.

Dan operates his PBBS on 145.05 MHz usually from noon to midnight, every day, except during a 7-day period following the 14th day of the month. During this period, he uses the serial port of his computer for his mouse to design the newsletter.

Contact can be made any time with Dan once he has been contacted through the N8DZA repeater. Dan's packet address is N8LVO-1 on 145.05 MHz for the BBS or on 145.09 MHz for his designated home address: N8LVO @ KA8Z.OH.USA.NA.

If you cannot connect to Dan directly, try to digipeat through the Alliance node KB8NDM-3. The address would be N8LVO V ALLIAN.

The *Zero Beat* may also accept submissions as before on typewritten or formatted disk media. However, hard copies of all stories should be included in case the data cannot be read.

The word processing program Dan uses is for straight ASCII production. This means that if you send him a story, you should save it to ASCII if your program allows. A way to tell if your word processor stores to ASCII format is to save the story, then go to the command line in DOS and use the TYPE command to show the story you just typed. It should only have the written words and no strange looking characters in it if it has been saved in ASCII.

Dan uses the Avagio Desktop Publishing system. He can import graphics from the following formats: PC Paintbrush (*.PCX), Unison World (*.UWI), Postscript (*.EPS) and Tagged Image File format (*.TIF).

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

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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WHERE'S DX?

By Jack Bennett WSWEN



NORTH AMERICA
 1-7 W5RRR 7.030 0326
 12-13 VE6AO 28.072 2213
 VE5AAD 28.037 2202
 12-30 VA1S 8.507 0336

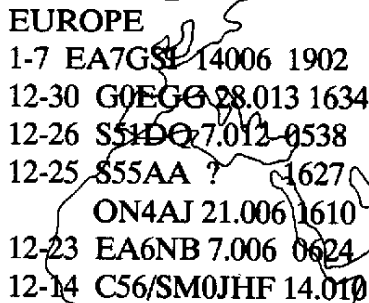


CENTRAL AMERICA
 12-24 FS4PL 14.028 0239
 12-13 VP2V/K5LZO 28.014



SOUTH AMERICA
 1-6 LU1HNL 7.007 0625
 1-4 LU6ENY 14.004 0142
 12-13 OA4ZV 28.042 2128
 CX7OA 28.018 2046

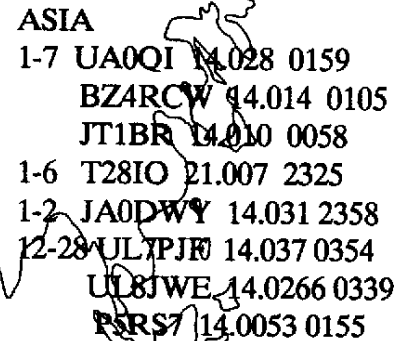
All times are in UTC. All contacts are CW.



EUROPE
 1-7 EA7GS 14.006 1902
 12-30 G0EGG 28.013 1634
 12-26 S51DQ 7.012 0538
 12-25 S55AA ? 1627
 ON4AJ 21.006 1610
 12-23 EA6NB 7.006 0624
 12-14 C56/SM0JHF 14.010



AFRICA
 12-28 ZS1REC 14.025 0554
 ZS5ADU 14.009 0431



ASIA
 1-7 UA0QI 14.028 0159
 BZ4RCW 14.014 0105
 JT1BR 14.010 0058
 1-6 T28IO 21.007 2325
 1-2 JA0DWY 14.031 2358
 12-28 UL7PJE 14.037 0354
 UL8JWE 14.0266 0339
 PSR57 14.0053 0155



ANTARCTICA
 12-21 4K1YAR 14.910 0507

BRIEFS

WINDSHIELD GLASS BLOCKS RADIO WAVES

The metallic content of passivated glass, installed on many new cars, impedes the performance of antennas installed on glass. Passivated glass has a high metallic content to help block sunlight. Unfortunately, it's equally effective at blocking radio waves. Alternatives include using traditional mobile mounts or purchasing a car without passivated glass. For more info, check the glass index on the corner of the windshield.

H.A.R.C. HAPPENINGS

PROGRAM IDEA? SEE BILL

Bill Bennett W8ZZS is looking for ideas for programs. If you have an idea for one, see Bill. Some of the ideas he is kicking around are: the Morse Code key program and the well-radio clinic.

TECH NUMBERS MUSHROOM

Ham Radio is one of America's

fastest growing hobbies. Since 1990, the number of Amateur Radio operators in the U.S. increased from 494,000 to more than 580,000 individuals. The vast majority of new hams are code-free Techs and a large number of people are learning the morse code on their way to higher license classes.

HAMSAY

QUESTION POOLS TO EXPIRE

New Questions pools for Novice and Technician exams will be in use beginning July 1, 1993. In the spring, there will be a 2nd edition printing of "Now You're Talking," that reflects the new pools. In addition, the General Class pool expires on June 30, 1994 and the Advanced and Extra Class pools will expire on June 30, 1995 and June 30, 1996 respectively.

VEC TESTING FEE GOES UP

The testing fee for 1993 has been set by the FCC at \$5.60 and will remain

at that figure for the entire year.

N8RPL

NEW CZECH CALL LETTERS

As of Jan. 1 1993 Czechia will issue OK0-OK5, while Slovakia will issue OK6-OK9, prefixes. Present callsigns will not be withdrawn until further notice. There is a debate whether any of the two new countries will be accepted as a new DXCC country.

VE7POR

N8MAA TAKES THIRD

Winners of the 1992 Annual Joke Net on the 147.375 Repeater: 1st Place--Lee Clegg - K8AAK Fire Truck in Boardman; 2nd Place--Phil Cato - N8MVA Keeping Idiot in Suspense; 3rd Place--Jim Miller - N8MAA Tail Gunner at 5 o'clock (Winner of the 1991 Joke net); 4th Place--Darin Sillaman - N0UTZ age 11 Canon City, Colorado Skud missile (Has been a Ham 1 week); 5th Place--Lori Owens - N8RVY.

K0BJU 88S

Latest FCC call signs as of Jan. 1, 1993:

	AREA 1	AREA 2	AREA 3	AREA 4	AREA 5	AREA 6	AREA 7	AREA 8	AREA 9	AREA 0
EXTRA	AA1EW	AA2MB	AA3CU	AA4YL	AA5JS	AA6PR	AA7SX	AA8JP	AA9FP	AA0KZ
ADVANCED	KA1LZ	KF2MC	KE3GE	KQ4QY	KJ5HK	KN6EY	KF7IV	KF8YK	KF9MQ	KG0CI
TECH/GEN	N1NZA	N2TFP	N3NVF	*	*	*	*	N8WMC	N9RSZ	NOUXC
NOVICE	KBLANK	KB2PRF	KB3ALG	KD4VFC	KBSWQW	KD6QIP	KB7RLT	KB8OLY	KB9IGV	KB0KVV

Moved and Seconded: the January 7 meeting

All officers and trustees were present except for Allen Dicks W18T.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. at the hospital by President Pam Myers N8IAK with 24 members and 3 guests. Guests for the evening were: Laszlo Farkas KB8NQL, Bob Rickard KB8GAG and Brad Steadman KE0XS.

Treasurer Allen Dicks W18T was absent, but he communicated the report to John Myers WX8G. The total balance is \$3,506.31. Breakdown: CDs total \$2,473.57; First American Savings \$622.11; checking \$384.87; and \$25.76 petty cash. This is a net decrease of \$199.18 over last month. December checking balance was \$589.81. There were deposits of \$345.05, interest of 84 cents; withdrawals of \$501.45 (Roadhouse Charley) and \$49.38 (stamps and newsletters) making the present checking balance \$384.87.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NEWSLETTER -- Dan N8LVO reported the deadline is Jan. 18. His new packet station is capable of receiving stories for the newsletter. Call him on the 145.37 repeater or by chance when the BBS is running on 145.05. John WX8G said he will be returning to the expiration dates on

the labels for the newsletter.

NOVICE CLASS -- Larry KE8VE reported that Mike Duke has passed his Technician No Code test and is awaiting his call. He also noted that the new **TECH-GENERAL** class will begin Tues., Jan. 12 for all those interested in upgrading. The 10-week class will be from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at Alliance Community Hospital, second floor, Conference Rm. B. Larry will teach the theory and Dan Mutigli N8LVO will help with the code. Jim Ferguson N8DZA said the YMCA has about 5 students in their class.

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 -- Pam N8IAK asked if the membership would like to make reservations now for the 1993 Christmas party. On a motion by Jack Bennett W8WEN, seconded by Jim Wilson KB8GHZ, we will make arrangements to have the party at Roadhouse Charley on Dec. 11. The motion was passed unanimously by the membership.

CALLBOOKS -- John Myers reported that callbooks have yet to be purchased. There was some discussion of the future of packet BBS and callbooks on computer. On a motion from Dave Glass W8UKQ, seconded by John WX8G, the club will purchase a complete set of U.S. and DX Callbooks, plus supplements for the least price. Motion approved unanimously. Larry KE8VE said he has an up-to-date cross reference

of the U.S. and Canadian calls for those who are interested.

NEW BUSINESS

INVITATION -- John WX8G reported that he has received a request from the **Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association** for a lecture on "Fox Hunting -- Antenna Building and Chasing Techniques." This would be for their program when they meet on the second Thursday in February -- Feb. 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Beaver County (911) Police Center on East End Ave. John said a crew could be assembled. Discussion was tabled for the next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Bill Parks K8JZN** is out of the hospital and is recovering from viral pneumonia.

***Hamfests: Mansfield Feb. 14 & Cuyahoga Falls Feb. 28.**

***Pancake Breakfast at Salem, Feb. 6**

***ARRL is petitioning for club calls again.**

PROGRAM -- Larry gave a 5-minute talk on the Solar Flux. His comments were a preview of a longer talk he will give at the Feb. meeting.

New Members: **BRAD STEADMAN KE0XS** and **LANCE FARKAS KB8NQL**; total members are now 45 with 39 full or sustaining; 28 ARRL or 71.79 percent.

A 5-minute break was taken at 8:08 p.m. to sell 50-50 tickets. Winner of the drawing was **Jim Ferguson N8DZA** who won the \$10.00 split and gave it all back to the club.

On a motion from **Frank WA8WHP**, seconded by **Dave Hostetler N8NLZ**, the meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

"Safety First" is the motto of every Ham operator.

NEXT V.E. EXAM

WHERE: CANTON

WHEN: 9 A.M.

CONTACT: DICK

PHONE: 453-5896

DATE: FEB. 27

1992 Field Day Results

By Allen WIST & Dan NSLVO

Summary of CW mode for Field Day:

Summary of SB mode for Field Day:

BAND	QSOS	MULT	TOTAL
160	0	2	0
80	40	2	80
40	51	2	102
20	120	2	240
15	50	2	100
10	0	2	0

BAND	QSOS	MULT	TOTAL
160	0	2	0
80	186	2	372
40	107	2	214
20	0	2	0
15	28	2	56
10	10	2	20

261 X 2 X 2 = 1,044

331 X 1 X 2 662

The club also accumulated 500 bonus points for having the following: packet, natural power, publicity, public location and copying the Field day message. Total Score: 2,206. This is the club's sixth highest score for QSOs and points.

STATISTICS FROM YEARS PAST

Alliance Amateur Radio Club 1986-93

YEAR	TOTAL QSOS	TOTAL PTS.	CW QSOS	PHONE QSOS	SECTIONS	STATES	DX
1986	551	1,684					
1987	974	3,070					
1988	952	3,096					
1989		2,726					
1990	897	3,664					
1991	657		302	355	65	45	3
1992	592	2,206	261	331			

Fox Hunt from Page 1
center of the mall.

At that point the team was about 800 feet from the fox, who was parked at the far end which was packed with weekend shoppers.

"Dan was shouting out signal reports as we traveled down the length of the mall," Bill said.

"It was a textbook maneuver," said Dan. First there was just a scratchy signal, then it got clear and the S-Meter moved up steadily. I was shouting out 'S1, S2, S3, S4, etc.' A few seconds later, it was full-scale and I noticed Bill had pulled into one of the parking lanes." He looked up to see the fox's car a couple of parking spaces off to the side.

"From the time we took the last reading until we bagged them, took less than five minutes," Dan concluded.

A fox hunt in Amateur Radio is actually a race to find a hidden transmitter. Hunts are rated by difficulty based on where the transmitter is located, how much power he runs and what kind of antenna(s) he uses. This was a Level 1 hunt, ranked the easiest to find.

The foxes, in this case, were John and Pam Myers WX8G and N8IAK. Tradition dictates the winner of the last Fox Hunt is the fox for the next hunt.

John and Pam were parked in the College Plaza Shopping Center on the east side of Alliance, about 3 miles from the start. They used an Azden mobile radio, with an unchanging output power of 5 watts, transmitting 1 minute on and 2 minutes off. Their antenna was a 1/4 wave mag-mount on the trunk lid.

**Mansfield Hamfest
deadline is Feb. 1
for tickets, tables**

Mansfield, Ohio -- Midwinter Hamfest & Computer Show Sunday, Feb. 14, 1993; 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Flea Market; Richland County Fairgrounds; Free Parking; Sponsored by the Intercity Amateur Radio Club and M.A.S.E.R., Inc.

Yaesu FT747GX is the top prize. Talk-in W8WE 146.34/94; Tickets advance: \$4.00; at door \$5.00; Tables advance only \$9.00. Ticket and table deadline: Feb. 1, 1993.

Advance orders must include SASE to: Dean Wrasse KB8MG, 1094 Beal Road, Mansfield, Ohio 44905 (419) 589-2415 after 5 p.m.

I WAS A TEENAGE NO-CODE

By Steve KM6YU

I had wanted to become a ham for a long time, but several people, including my high school electronics teacher, told me it was too hard—not worth the effort.

Last year I learned of the new No-Code Technician Class license. One month later, I passed the test.

Once on the air, using my VHF radio to talk to my new friends, I found out how easy it can be to learn the code with helpful other hams as teachers.

After several months of study and practice, practice, practice, I passed the 13 wpm test and the General Class written exam. I was excited at my accomplishment so I immediately began studying for my Advanced Class test which I passed one month after General.

I haven't yet started my quest for Extra, and I'm not sure I can ever pass the 20 wpm code test, but I wouldn't change the requirements for that or any other ham test. The achievement is too great a joy to give up by making it easier. Everyone who has done it knows the feeling I'm talking about.

Learning the code is not as hard as I thought it would be. At first I heard just a bunch of beeping, but with time it began to sound like letters and make sense. So if you too are a No Code Tech, give it a try. After you pass, you'll take pride in knowing you have accomplished something significant. It's a wonderful feeling going from No Code to know code! Beep beep and 73.

ARMS

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE A HAM?

By Dave Kozuch N2JBO

...The mail arrives and you read your radio magazines before you balance your bank statement.

...The grass is 2 feet high but you put off mowing until you work that rare DX station.

...You turn a Sunday drive with the family into a stop at a hamfest.

...You find yourself thinking ... - --- ---. while waiting your turn at an intersection.

*You know
you're a*

HAM

when...

...Certain rhythmic tapping or banging noises at work remind you of the CW you worked last night.

...You consider using a speech compressor to fit a word in edgewise with your mother-in-law.

...You've considered going Shopping Cart Mobile while at the supermarket.

...You send out more QSL cards than Christmas cards.

...You never leave home without a copy of the ARRL Repeater Directory.

...You see every tall object (flag pole, telephone pole, redwood tree) as a fantastic place for an antenna.

...You make more trips to the roof to fiddle with antennas than to clean the leaves out of the rain gutters.

...You use your HT more than you use the telephone.

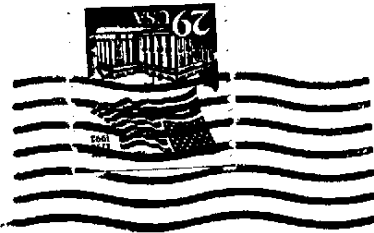
ALLIANCE ARC FEBRUARY 1993

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 AYRC CLASSES TECH-GEN CLASS 7 P.M.	3	4 AARC MEETING ALLIANCE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL 7:30 P.M.	5	6 SALEM PANCAKE BREAKFAST HAS BEEN CANCELLED
7 NOARS WINTERFEST at Gargus Hall	8 NOVICE CLASS AT SALEM 6 P.M.	9 AYRC CLASSES TECH-GEN CLASS	10 KABLKQ BIRTHDAY	11 SAARA MEETING 7 P.M. RED CROSS TRI-COUNTY INFO NET 145.37 MHZ 9 P.M.	12	13
14 MANSFIELD HAMFEST	15 NOVICE CLASS AT SALEM	16 AYRC CLASSES TECH-GEN CLASS	17 CARC MEETING 7:30 P.M. EOC	18 TRI-COUNTY INFO NET 145.37 MHZ	19	20 VE EXAM AT COLUMBIANA CO. JVS 9 A.M. INFO: EVELYN 532-3131
21	22 NOVICE CLASS AT SALEM	23 AYRC CLASSES TECH-GEN CLASS	24	25 TRI-COUNTY INFO NET 145.37 MHZ	26 WBWEN BIRTHDAY	27 VE EXAM AT CANTON 9 A.M.
28 CUYAHOGA FALLS HAMFEST						

DAVE GLASS W8UKQ
217 W. SIMPSON ST.
ALLIANCE, OH 44601

TO:

Copies: 50
Unit Price: \$0.28
Date Mailed: Feb. 21, 1993



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

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FEBRUARY 1993

Postscript

By Dan Mutigli N8LVO

Due to a computer error, the name of Jack Bennett W8WEN was omitted from the list of contestants in the Fox Hunt on Page 1.

Jack took 6th Place, driving 48 miles in 2 hours for a score of 5,760 points.

The computer error, simply stated, is that the top center box used for the final results is the result of a layering of text, graphics and boundaries. It was the first to go on and is like a keystone -- remove it and the page falls apart.

If you look at the page in three dimensions, there would be 5 layer boundaries attached at various points along that one graphic.

Somehow, towards the end of the page, the program started to become "confused" as to where these boundaries were -- and started fusing text over top of text.

It seems as though both the "Inside" menu and the statistics box wanted to occupy the same space simultaneously. Any try at removing them locked up the computer. (How convenient when I was just about done.)

Fortunately, I was able to mask over the unwanted text with cut-and-paste techniques. Problem solved, but sorry Jack.



Pres. Remarks

By Pam Myers N8IAK

I was glad to see the great attendance at the last meeting and also at the last Fox Hunt.

I want to remind all club members that the Board of Directors is here to serve you if you have an idea for club activities.

Bill Bennett W8ZZS, program chairman for the club, is looking for ideas for future programs.

Don't miss the next meeting. Larry Ashburn KE8VE will have the program on Solar Flux.

Also, the "dreaded gavel" Madam President uses, is being replaced by ----.

Well, guess you'll just have to come to the meeting to find out!