



AARC

SEVING ALL LANGUAGES

ZERO BEAT



VOLUME 7 NO. 6

JUNE 1993

Some Field Day operating tips

With Field Day a few weeks away, I thought I would remind you of some contesting tips I picked up from a Jan. 1991 issue of CQ magazine on "How to improve your contest score," for DX contests.

Throwing out the references to DX, the tips also make perfect sense for Field Day and I thought I would share them with you:

PHYSICAL

- * Try and get a good nap on Friday afternoon.
- * Try operating while standing for short periods.
- * Don't be afraid to take short breaks. Go for a 5-minute walk to clear your head.
- * Wear loose comfortable clothes.
- * Change into fresh clothes periodically.

OPERATING

- * Don't worry about your competition.
- * Transmit the minimum amount of data necessary to complete the QSO.
- * Use that RIT -- especially on CW.
- * Dig for weak signals.
- * Split your operating into different parts of the band. Don't get stuck in one area the whole contest.

* Don't get stuck trying to run guys when you can't; the search and pounce method can yield good rates.

* Track your QSO/Mult ratios. If this falls, you might be spending too much time on one station.

* Use propagation tools to find openings.

* Pass your brains out!

* Don't be caught DXing when you should be running guys.

* Never miss easy multipliers; always be aware of what you have and what you need.

* Always operate on the highest band open.

* Use your VFO memories to store sked frequencies, pileups, etc.

* Be aggressive when operating.

* Operate where others aren't from time to time.

* Don't be afraid to start moving needed multipliers to other bands in the beginning of the contest.

FOOD/DRINK

* Avoid a big meal right before the contest starts.

* Coffee, NO-DOZ, Coca-Cola -- Choose your weapon.

* Choose your meal plan for the weekend; focus on high-energy foods.

* No booze.

* Drinks lots of fluids during the contest.

* Consider food choices that are quick to prepare: stews, soups, etc.

STATION

* Label everything.

* Review your station setup. Everything should be positioned for maximum comfort and reduced back strain.

* Use a comfortable chair. (Not too comfortable!)

* Ensure good lighting.

* Evaluate your headphones: they can ruin the advantage of a good receiver.

* Use computer logging programs!

* Try setting up a second radio for spotting, listening.

* Try using voice keyers.

PREPARATION

* Understand propagation before and during the contest.

* Work the band vigorously the week before the contest to understand who is on and their game plan.

* Have a plan for spare equipment, in case something fails.

* Have a good understanding of last year's efforts, especially where you made good band decisions.

* Set goals for yourself and try to exceed them.

* Know the rules inside and out (10-minute rule, multipliers, etc.).

Good luck and may the band be with you!

NBLVO

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

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**NEXT
MEETING**

**Thurs., June 3
7:30 p.m.**

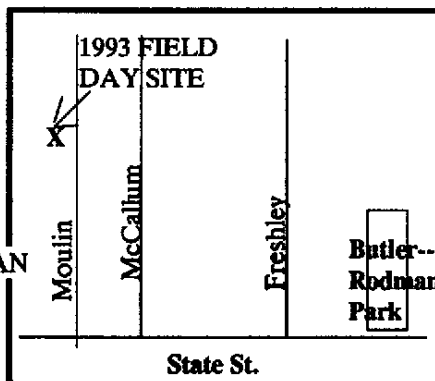
**SURVEY FOR AARC FIELD DAY
JUNE 26-27 1993**

LOCATION: MARLINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL
10325 MOULIN AVE.
ALLIANCE, OH 44601

COORDINATORS: JOHN MYERS
AND ALLEN DICKS

SEND COMPLETED FORM TO:

ALLEN DICKS, ASST. FD CHAIRMAN
8870 ALBERTA BEACH ST.
LOUISVILLE, OHIO 44641
OR CALL: 875-4344



NAME _____ CALL _____

HOW MANY ATTENDING? _____

I WILL BE THERE (CIRCLE) SATURDAY SUNDAY

WHAT TIME? _____ WILL YOU BE CAMPING ON SITE? Y N

ARE YOU SETTING UP A STATION? IS THERE ANYTHING YOU
REQUIRE? (POWER SOURCE, ANTENNA, ETC.?)

CAN YOU BRING A PACKET OR SATELLITE STATION? Y N
(PLEASE LIST EQUIPMENT)

ARE YOU BRINGING ANY FOOD? WHAT KIND? _____

THE ZERO BEAT - A SNAPSHOT

Dan Mutigli N8LVO does the typing, editing, page layouts and camera-ready copies of the newsletter. He then takes the camera-ready copies to John Myers WX8G (the publisher) who makes 50 copies (front and back, collated, stapled, etc.) and then mails them with the help of his devoted wife, Pam N8IAK.

EDITOR	PUBLISHER
Dan Mutigli	John Myers
925 E. First St.	510 W. Harrison
Minerva, Ohio	Alliance, Ohio
44657	44601
(216) 868-6610	(216) 821-5513

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MEETINGS

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club meets the first Thursday of every month at the Alliance Community Hospital at 7:30 p.m., employee's cafeteria. For more information on directions, try the 145.37 repeater.

TRI-COUNTY NET

The Tri-County News and Information Net meets every Thursday but the first Thursday of the month on the N8DZA repeater, 145.37 MHz at 9 p.m. Your net manager is Dan Mutigli N8LVO. For more information on conducting a net, call Dan at 868-6610.

TRUSTEES

Jack Bennett W8WEN
3591 Mountview Ave.
Alliance, Ohio 44601
821-9779

Jim Wilson KB8GHZ
6974 Rolling Ridge NE
North Canton, Ohio 44721
492-3754

John Bray KF8ZG
1624 Denwood St.
Alliance, Ohio 44601
823-4404

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Pam Myers N8IAK
510 W. Harrison
Alliance, Ohio 44601
821-5513

VICE PRESIDENT
Larry Ashburn KE8VE
1080 W. Beech St.
Alliance, Ohio 44601
821-9808

TREASURER
Allen Dicks W18T
8870 Alberta Beach St.
Louisville, Ohio 44641
875-4344

SECRETARY
Dan Mutigli N8LVO
925 E. First St.
Minerva, Ohio 44657
868-6610

WHERE'S DX?

By Jack Bennett WSWEN

All times are in UTC. All contacts are CW.

NORTH AMERICA
 5-5 VE1ST/NA14 14.009 2311
 5-1 FM4FZ 28.007 1620

SOUTH AMERICA
 5-1 LU4GAA 28.037 1602
 OA4CWR 28.024 1537
 4-22 LU7ESH 28.006 2019
 LU1FNH/QRP 28.022 2007
 ZP9XB 14.013 0116

EUROPE
 5-6 LZ1ED 10.102 0403
 5-5 WM4SCF 14.017 2356
 OM3PC 14.917 2352
 IQ4KID 14.012 2336
 EG1RJ 14.0266 2318
 ZA1Z 14.019 0233

AFRICA
 5-6 5X1XT 14.025 0414

ASIA
 5-5 4S7WP 14.002 2356
 UL7TJ 14.008 2306
 7Z2AB 14.0023 2246
 UD6DFN 14.021 0309
 4K4BCU/A 14.025 0250
 UL7CM 14.020 0230

OCEANIA
 5-1 ZL1ATZ 14.061 0456
 5W1CW 14.027 0454

HAMFESTS AND SUCH

JUNE 6

The Breezeshooters Hamfest and Computer Show will be Sun., June 6, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Butler Farm Show Fairgrounds, Butler, PA. Admission is \$1. There will be a computer raffle for a 486-SX IBM compatible. Main prize is an IC-765. Talk-in on 147.96 MHz. Mobile check-in on 146.52.

JUNE 13

The Goodyear Amateur Radio Club Hamfest will be Sunday, June 13 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Goodyear Wingfoot Lake Park near Suffield. Admission is \$5 at the gate. Talk-in on 146.985 MHz.

JUNE 20

The Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society Hamfest will be Sun., June 20 at Longwood Park at Macedonia, near Rt. 82. Admission is \$3 for the hamfest, which is from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and talk-in is on 146.82 MHz.

YOUTH IN RADIO

Brian Dicks has received his call. It's N8YMQ. Brian is the son of Allen Dicks WI8T.

Deron Boring passed his No-Code Technician test at Akron in January. His call is N8XTH. Deron is a student at Rootstown Middle School and received his teaching through the Alliance YMCA Radio program.

DOUBLE OR NOTHING

The Alliance Youth Radio Club officially challenges the Alliance Amateur Radio Club to a contest to see who can amass the most contacts on Field Day.

If the AYRC wins, the AARC owes the participants each a banana split at Friendly's.

If the AARC wins, the AYRC owes the participating radio operators TWO banana splits each at Friendly's.

While no scores were traded last year, AARC claimed victory.



**Don't Forget to
 Renew Your
 Membership**

Latest FCC call signs as of May 1, 1993:

	AREA 1	AREA 2	AREA 3	AREA 4	AREA 5	AREA 6	AREA 7	AREA 8	AREA 9	AREA 0
EXTRA	AA1GE	AA2NM	AA3EI	AD4DH	AB5MO	AB6SY	AA7VR	AA8KV	AA9GY	AA0MR
ADVANCED	KD1ON	KF2OJ	KE3HV	KQ4TB	KJ5KY	KN6KS	KI7MP	KG8AR	KF9PA	KG0FH
TECH/GEN	N1OZA	N2UQC	N3OXE	*	*	*	*	N8YGD	N9TGL	N0WMS
NOVICE	KB1AVV	KB2QDW	KB3ASK	KE4AQU	KC5ACP	KD6UUI	KB7UEE	KB8OXC	KB9IOG	KB0LFG

Moved and Seconded: the May 6 meeting

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by President Pam Myers N8IAK with 27 members and 8 guests. Guests for the evening were: James Lilley N8XTJ, Dallas Underwood, Mike Duke N8XER, Alfred Krebs KA0DWN, Hal Kelley KE8II, Grant Kelley N8VPA; and Steve Apfel and Nick Miller from the National Weather Service.

The program for the evening was on Skywarn training, conducted by guests Nick Miller and Steve Apfel, meteorologists from the Youngstown Weather Bureau.

At 8:45 p.m. a 5-minute break was taken and the business meeting began at 8:52 p.m.

Treasurer Allen Dicks W18T was absent but he communicated the report to John Myers WX8G who reported a total balance of \$3,643.85. This is a net increase of \$50.39 over last month. The aforementioned also includes \$1,677.30 earmarked for the repeater fund.

The minutes of the April 1 meeting were approved as published in the May newsletter. Deadline for the

Zero Beat is May 14.

OLD BUSINESS

FOX HUNT – Dan Mutigli N8LVO reported that three teams took part in the April 17 fox hunt. No one found the fox so fox hunters will try again on July 17.

PROGRAMS -- Bill Bennett W8ZZS said Field Day will constitute the June program.

NEW BUSINESS



MCNABB RETIRING – Pam N8IAK announced that Ed McNabb, head of the Red Cross will soon retire and an Open House is planned for May 20th from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Red Cross. Ed has been a big help to the Amateur community and it is hoped that we all turn out to say goodbye.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Alliance Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is re-activating.

Goodyear Hamfest is June 13.

The AARC took 29th out of 54 in the PA QSO party held last October.

Winner of the 50-50 drawing was Gladys Wilson KB8GIA, \$13.

On a motion from Frank Sanor WA8WHP, seconded by Larry Ashburn KE8VE, the meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m. for after-meeting socializing.

Newsletter wins high honors in ARNS contest

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club's *Zero Beat* received an Excellent rating for 1992, according to the Amateur Radio News Service.

The rating is based on an average of three judges' scores.

The *Zero Beat* received a total of 258 points out of 300 possible points for an average score of 86. The individual judges' scores were 97, 87 and 74.

Newsletters were rated either Superior, Excellent or Good. Good scores averaged between 60.5 to 69. Excellent scores averaged between 70 and 89.5. Superior scores averaged between 89.7 and 99.5.

A total of 90 newsletter editors took part in the contest.

According to Bernie Falter N3EPN, chief judge, nine entries received Superior, 63 were rated Excellent, and 18 were rated Good.

The judges' scores were detailed in a report to each editor along with his certificate. The *Zero Beat* needs work in the following areas: Member Contributions, Editorials, Humor, Puzzles and Entertainment.

The details of the results and the Certificate of Excellence will be displayed at the June meeting.

MG/C

NEXT V.E. EXAM

DATE: JUNE 12

WHERE: RAVENNA

TIME: 10 A.M.

CONTACT: JOANNE

PHONE: 274-8240

HOW HAMS GOT THEIR NAME Dr. Edwin T. Bishop K6OFM

Have you ever wondered why radio amateurs are called Hams? Well, it goes like this:

In 1908, the first Amateur Radio station at Harvard University was operated by Albert S. Hyman, Bob Almay and Poogie Murray.

At first, they called their station -- HYMAN-ALMAY-MURRAY. But tapping out such a long "callsign" in code soon became tiresome and called for a revision. They next shortened the names to the abbreviation, HY-AL-MU, using the first two letters of their names.

Early in 1909, some confusion resulted between Amateur Radio station HY-AL-MU and a Mexican ship named HYALMU. They then agreed in the interest of brevity, to shorten it again and the station finally become HAM.

These were the pioneer days of un-

regulated radio and radio operators were free to pick their own call letters and frequencies. Then, as now, some amateurs had better signals than commercial stations. The "hated QRM" that ensued soon came to the attention of congressional committees in Washington and much time was spent on proposed legislation to limit amateur radio activity.

In 1911, Albert Hyman chose the controversial wireless regulation bill as the topic for his thesis at Harvard. His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to Sen. David I. Walsh, a member of one of the committees hearing the bill.

The senator was so impressed by the thesis that he asked Hyman to appear before the committee. Hyman took the stand and described how the little station was built and he almost cried when he told the crowded room

that if the bill went through they would have to close down the station because they could not afford the license fees and all the other requirements which the bill imposed on the amateur radio stations.

Congressional debate began on the wireless regulation bill and little HAM became the symbol of all the little amateur radio stations in the country crying to be saved from the menace and greed of the big commercial stations who did not want them around. The bill finally talked about poor little station HAM.

That is how it all started. You will find the whole story in the Congressional Record. Nationwide publicity associated station HAM with Amateur Radio operators from that day to this. And to the end of time, an Amateur Radio operator is called a HAM.

LIVE WIRE

HOW ELMERS WERE NAMED By Mike Czuhajewski W8SMCQ

Returning to ham radio in 1985 after a 15-year absence, one of the many changes I noticed was the introduction of the term "Elmer" to the ham vocabulary.

Since then I have asked dozens of people about its origin, but none knew. I sent out a bulletin on the packet network--surely someone out there knew how "Elmer" came about, but all replies were along the lines of "Gee, I'd always wondered myself!" I promised a lot of people that if I ever found the answer I'd put out an info bulletin with it. I did, and here it is:

I sent a second bulletin a couple weeks ago, and Tom Kravec, W8TK, gave me a great lead; while he couldn't give me a reference, he knew it originated with Rod Newkirk, W9BRD, DX editor for QST from before 1950 until 1978. I dug into the old QSTs and found his first use of "Elmer" in the "How's DX?" column

in the March 1971 issue.

Rod was talking about the challenges of becoming a ham, and said that personal contact is what most often makes non-hams get interested in ham radio and eventually become hams. He went on to say that one frequently hears the sad story, "Oh, I almost got a ticket, too, but Elmer, W9XYZ, moved away and I kind of lost interest." (In those days, ham calls were not issued with an X suffix; if you wanted to use a safe, generic, non-existent call sign that couldn't possibly belong to anyone, you'd use something like W9XYZ, the ham equivalent of "John Doe", sort of like the bogus phone numbers you see on TV and in the movies, which always start with "555-")

There's more, and when you read the whole column it's pretty obvious that this is the first use of the term "Elmer" as we know it now, not just

someone using a term already in existence.

Rod went on to describe a local "Elmer", and then concluded by asking his readers to drop a line and tell about their "Elmers."

They did just that, and in 13 more columns over the next several years, until the last "How's DX" written by W9BRD, in the February 1978 issue, he devoted space to their tributes to their Elmers.

Since then, the term has become an everyday part of the ham language, and virtually every ham in the country knows what an Elmer is, even if they don't know where it came from!

Incidentally, W8TK tells me that Dave Newkirk, WJ1Z, QST Senior Assistant Technical Editor (and fellow QRPer), is Rod's son.

Thanks to all who showed an interest in learning the source of "Elmer," and special thanks to W8TK.

ALLIANCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. Box 3344
Alliance, OH 44601
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION RENEWAL

Name _____ CALLSIGN _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Date of Birth _____

Place of Employment _____

Type of work _____

License Class _____ Expiration Date _____

Year first licensed _____ ARRL member Y N

Areas of Interest; Amateur Radio equipment (please list)

Signature _____

Date of application _____

DUES - Dues are to be pro-rated quarterly, as follows for new members (anyone who has not been on the roster for at least one year):

Sustaining -	1. \$15.00	2. \$11.25	3. \$7.50	4. \$3.75
Full -----	1. \$10.00	2. \$ 7.50	3. \$5.00	4. \$2.50
Associate --	1. \$ 5.00	2. \$ 3.75	3. \$2.50	4. \$1.25
Family -----	1. \$ 1.00	2. \$.75	3. \$.50	4. \$.25

The fiscal year begins 01 April, quarters are:

- 1. April, May, June
- 2. July, August, September
- 3. October, November, December
- 4. January, February, March.

***SPECIAL NOTE - If you have been off the membership roster for one year or more, you are considered a new member, and are eligible for these rates.**

Do not write below this line:

- Dues paid -- Sustaining
- Full
- Associate
- Family

\$ _____ on _____, 19 _____ signed _____

ALLIANCE ARC

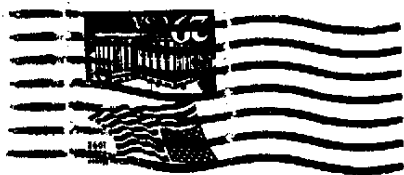
JUNE 1993

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 STARK CO. ARES NET 147.12 7 P.M. SWAP & SHOP NET 147.015 7:30	2	3 AARC MEETING 7:30 P.M. ALLIANCE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL	4	5
6 BREEZESHOOTERS HANFEST TALK-IN 147.96	7	8 STARK CO. ARES NET SWAP & SHOP NET	9	10 SAARA MEETING 7:00 P.M. SALEM RED CROSS TRI-COUNTY NET 145.37 9 P.M.	11	12 V.E. EXAM AT RAVENNA 10 A.M.
13 GOODYEAR ARC HANFEST TALK-IN 146.895	14	15 STARK CO. ARES NET SWAP & SHOP NET	16 CARC MEETING 7:30 P.M. SAFETY BUILDING	17 DIANNA ASHBURN BIRTHDAY TRI-COUNTY NET 145.37 9 P.M.	18	19
20 CUYAHOGA ARS HANFEST TALK-IN 146.82 FATHER'S DAY	21	22 STARK CO. ARES NET SWAP & SHOP NET	23	24 TRI-COUNTY NET 145.37 9 P.M.	25	26 ARRL FIELD DAY MARLINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL
27 ARRL FIELD DAY MARLINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL	28	29 STARK CO. ARES NET SWAP & SHOP NET	30			

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

TO:

Copies: 50
Unit Price: \$0.28
Date Mailed: MAY 27, 1993



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

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JUNE 1993

Postscript

By Dan Mutigli ¹⁰ N8LVO

I'd like to thank everybody who helped the *Zero Beat* get an "Excellent" rating from the Amateur Radio News Service.

It takes a lot of teamwork to put this newsletter together. I do the editing and John and Pam do the labeling and mailing. (Thank goodness, too, because I hate licking stamps!) And here, I would like to pause and think a little about how HARD it used to be when the *Zero Beat* was edited and published by one person. The splitting up of the workload goes a long way toward saving an editor's sanity.

In the same way, teamwork is necessary in all our club activities. Now, I know how to operate a radio and set up in the field and work off of batteries, but it sure does help when we divide up the workload on Field Day. We all know how to do communications alone, but God would I be miserable if I had to do it all myself.

This year, I think, is going to be easier and harder, I predict because we are not going to have as many stations on the air. But that should actually make our score go up because we will emphasize our operators for around-the-clock activity. And there is the YMCA Challenge (see page 3) which should also inspire us ... Oh well, I can dream.

Prez Says

By Pam Myers N8IAK

What a great program we had in May! Nick Miller and Steve Apfle from the National Weather Service in Youngstown came over and gave a great talk on the weather and weather spotting.

The program for June is FIELD DAY! Field Day is rapidly approaching so please be sure to be at the meeting to make plans. We have a few surprises, too!

I think that we really ought to be looking for a new place to hold our meetings. We are only allowed the back half of the cafeteria, and we seem to be bursting at the seams every meeting. The hospital has been great, and we hate to have to give it up, but I feel that this is something that we are going to have to do, and soon! So if you know of a place that we could have, let me or one of the board members know.

Don't forget to pay your dues! And I would like to say CONGRATS to Dan on the fine work he does on this newsletter. Dan recently entered the Amateur Radio News Service newsletter contest and he received an Excellent rating for the *Zero Beat*. Dan does a tremendous job on this newsletter, which is a pretty thankless job. Next time you see him, pat him on the back and say, "THANK YOU."