



Zero Beat

Serving hams in the Tri-County Area

Flash!

North Pole DX

See Page 5

Volume 7 No. 11

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club

December, 1993

P.O. Box 3344, Alliance, OH 44601

Another Great Mall Show!!

Well, the Mall show is history. All that's left is the memories. The weekend of September 18/19 is only a blur. I guess that means I had fun. The co-chairmen for this years show, were Dan Mutigli, N8LVO. & John Myers, WX8G. Dan did his usual good job on the publicity, but was unable to attend the show, due to a death in the family. We were joined this year, by members of the YMCA Radio club, The Salem Area ARC, and the Quarter Century Wireless Association. SAARA, & the YMCA ARC set up tables, while the QCWA members circulated, and helped out wherever they were needed. Honorable mention should go to Mike Goshorn N8KNU, who, although not an AARC member, brought out his computer, and demonstrated weather fax.

One late entry was Don Whitaker K8OMO, who set up a 1940's era ham station. Don valiantly resisted all attempts to load this station into my truck.

An impressive addition to Jim Ferguson, N8DZA's station, was a Model 28 teletype. Jim was determined to give this machine to the first ham to make eye contact with him. Luckily, it left in the same truck it came in. For you youngsters, the model 28 is one of those old mechanical units, that uses about 2 million levers, springs, nuts,



bolts & other assorted gizmo's. They can usually be identified by the familiar clackity clack noise, and the smell of machine oil. Actually, It was an impressive display. I really don't think Jim would part with it for love or money.

The hams that went astray, were ably put back on course, by Jim Miller N8MAA, Bill Moretta, N8TLY, and Pam Myers N8IAK, who operated the 2 meter check-in table.

Jack Bennett W8WEN, set up a couple of display tables which were jam packed with QSL's, handouts(No,

Jack wasn't giving away QSL's. I tried.), and antique keys/ sounders. A fair amount of recruiting for ham classes was done over these tables. That's pretty good, considering that I tried to talk Jack out of that location, telling him that he'd be too far away from the rest of us. His table turned out to be the best attended table of all of them.

Next to Jack's table, was a sign board, with information about the N8EWV flying repeater(which was featured in the ATV column, in the November, 1993 issue of 73 Magazine), which

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The Alliance Amateur Radio Club

P. O. box 3344, Alliance, OH
44601

Officers

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Jim Ferguson N8DZA

115 E. Cambridge

Alliance, OH 44601, 823-3925

Editorial

By John Myers, WX8G

As you probably know, Dan, N8LVO has resigned as editor of the Zero Beat. He leaves behind some big shoes to fill, and, in that position, he'll be missed. His resignation left the future of the Zero Beat in doubt, as several options and suggestions were presented at the October meeting. After some discussion, it was decided to table the fate of the Zero Beat, and let the Tri-County News & Information net act as a newsletter of the air. At that time, I felt this was a reasonable course of action. But, after reviewing the amount of activities that are coming up in the next few months, I had second thoughts. Like Amateur Radio in general, this club is made up of a group with many different interests, such as DX, Packet, and Fox hunting to name a few. Is it reasonable to expect that we would all be able to drop everything at 9 PM on Thursdays, to listen to the net? I think not. Furthermore, if other obligations, such as work, family, or maybe just a new country on 20 meters, leave us unable to participate in the net, does this make us bad Hams? Again, I doubt it. I could see a tremendous need for the Zero Beat during this holiday season, so I approached the board to volunteer my services as temporary editor. My offer was accepted. This will give us time to explore some new ideas for the Zero Beat I'll have full details in the next issue of the Zero Beat.

Well, here it is. your last chance to put in your vote for Ham Of The Year. I'll be accepting nominations until around December 1'st. Just get your ballot to WX8G by then. Who will be our 1994 Ham of the Year? Will it be you? I guess you'll have to come to the Christmas party to find out.

Staff

Editor

John Myers, WX8G

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Larry Ashburn, KE8VE

Dianna Ashburn

Credits

Thanks to the contributors to

this months Zero Beat

W8ZZS KB8GHZ

KB8GIA K8OMO

N8LAK W8WEN

WC8F KB8DST

The Zero Beat is a publication of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 3344, Alliance, OH 44601. Contributions to the Zero Beat are welcome, and can be given to any board member. Articles can be submitted in hard copy, or on disk (3.5" Double density or 5.25" IBM). We can read most Word processor formats, and Telephone transfer via modem. can be arranged by calling WX8G at 821-5513.

Packet submissions are not available at this time.

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Mall Show(Continued from Page 1)

was on loan from N8EWV, This years best of show award, went to last years best of show winners. Jim & Gladys, not content to rest on their...Laurels, built an even more impressive display, around the portable communications station which won them first place, last year. They built miniature versions of popular antennas, then mounted them on wooden bases, making for a really striking display. Attendance was pretty good, too. We had 69 hams sign in on Saturday, with 44 on Sunday.

The antennas were erected, & the coax was run, on the Saturday before the show. The roof crew consisted of Dave W8UKQ, Dan N8LVO, Bill N8TLY, & myself. The ground crew were too numerous to mention, but voices I heard, included Don K8OMO, Jim N8MAA, & Pam N8IAK. We started by setting up 3 HF verticals, 2 VHF mag mounts, and 3 J poles on the roof. Then we laid out the feedlines to them. In all, we used between 1200-1400 feet of coax this year, to make up 8 cables. On Saturday, to give Don K8OMO a better match for his antique Collins station, one of the VHF antennas were replaced with a G5RV which was suspended about 15 feet above the roof. This was at it's high point! Please, don't ask about the other end, or how we fixed the PL259 that broke on the roof. For next years show, Don has volunteered to scale the water tower & tie off the G5RV from there. The staff & management of Carnation Mall are to be congratulated for a job well done. Since the mall is provided us with tables, at no charge, I believe the cost to the club was again, zero. Of course, I cant forget our clubs most valuable resource which was expended in the service to others. Our most valuable resource is our time. And as usual, the local hams gave freely, to share their hobby with others.

Some new faces, Some old faces

Myers captures 3'rd term

We held our annual meeting in October, and as you know, annual meeting means the election of officers. Pam Myers, N8IAK was reelected to an unprecedented 3'rd term as president. Pam is also the first YL to serve as President.

Larry Ashburn, KE8VE, was replaced by Don Whitaker, K8OMO, as Vice President. Larry has been an officer in the club as long as he's been a member. He's served in various elected, as well as volunteer positions within the club. He is currently teaching Novice/Tech classes. This is Don's first office in the club, since it was chartered back in 1985. Don served as both President, & Vice-President of the club about 10 years back, and was a charter member of the club when it reformed, in 1985.

Dan Mutigli, N8LVO was replaced as Secretary by Patti Hillier, KE8KH. Dan has been Secretary for the past two years, as well as acting as the unofficial PR officer for the club. Patti was One of the charter members when the club was reformed, and was also the clubs first Secretary-Treasurer, & when the post was split up, she became Treasurer, serving in that position until 1992. She brings to the board, a wealth of knowledge & experience.

Allen Dicks, W18T was replaced as treasurer by Matt Thomas, N8EAD. Allen has also served in various capacities. As another charter member, he's served as Equipment Chairman, Vice-President, and most recently, as Treasurer. Matt is a new face to the board, though he has been an active supporter of the club for many years, and has endured much good natured ribbing for falling asleep at club meetings.

The outgoing trustee this year was John Bray, KF8ZG, who was fulfilling the unexpired term of Dave Buckwalter, KC3CL. John was replaced by Jim Ferguson, N8DZA, who beat out, Bill Moretta, N8TLY, for the post. John was a relative newcomer to the club, when he was elected as trustee, but his experience & insight, have made him a valuable asset to the board. A former AARC Ham of the Year(1989), Jim has not held a lot of offices in the club, but has volunteered for about everything, from Field Day, to mall show, and beyond. He's been teaching licensing classes for as long as I can remember. Most recently, he has been volunteering at the YMCA 2 afternoons a week, conducting licensing classes. He's also the Owner/Scapegoat for the 5.37 machine. Good Luck, all!

Hal had no complaints

Wayne Thalls/KB6KN, "Short Skip," Santa Cruz County(ARC) ARC, May 93. via the Ground wave, Daytona Beach Amateur Radio Assoc.

Have you heard people complaining that the code or written exams are too difficult, and should be made easier? A recent obituary in the San Jose Mercury, subtitled "Trapped mind turned to writing, Ham Radio," that tells of Hal Johnson/KG6ZX, an SK this april, might give them pause. A series of massive strokes years ago left hal a quadriplegic who couldn't speak or eat, except through a tube. Even so, he learned to receive morse code, and to type and send, using a head wand. Seeking no waivers, Hal passed his Novice, Technician, and General class exams. He copied the 13 WPM code flawlessly. Later he passed the advanced class exam as well. He typed his 6,000-word autobiography, "Three Strokes and I'm not out," himself, in two months, using the wand. Now, what are those people complaining about?

Dicks & Myers Set New Record

The three man team of WI8T, WX8G &, N8YMQ, returned from Pennsylvania, feeling triumphant, after this years excellent showing in the PA QSO Party. The team made 614 QSO's, bettering they're 1990 record by 111. Band conditions, plus the usual appearance by Mr. Murphy, contributed to the stress level this year. When the contest began at 1600Z, the band conditions on 40 meters, were not good. The band had gone long. We worked many states, & sections, but had to listen hard, just to hear the Pennsylvania stations. In fact, the only PA stations, we heard, were those within neighboring counties, and even so, we had to strain to pull them out of the mud. That changed, though after switching to 80 meters, though, we were usually managing pileups, instead of participating in them. This thanks to the Amplifier, which we procured from a friend. QSO's were made on both SSB & CW modes, with an output power of 400-1000 watts, depending on band. The rig was an Icom IC-735, driving a Dentron amplifier. A 40 meter dipole, and A dual band 160/80 meter dipole were strung up in the trees, and performed very nicely. Logging and most of the CW were done by computer. The portable operation is good practice for those situations

where a field station needs to be set up & on the air quickly. Every year, we try to improve the stations overall performance, while bettering our previous years score. Next year we will work on comfort level. Our weather this year was a mixed bag. It rained on Saturday, and cleared up on Sunday. temperatures ranged from the mid 70's on Friday, to the mid 30's on Saturday night. Luckily, the campground manager took pity on us, and brought a gas heater, to the pavilion, where the station was set up. Although we drove down a day early, to do some golfing, and sightseeing, we spent most of our time getting the station on the air. A lot of hours were spent on antenna testing, and rebuilding. A task which would have taken twice as long, had it not been for the MFJ antenna analyzer which was donated, by Jim, N8DZA. While there, we also took a short course in tuner & amplifier repair. An important lesson was also learned about the importance of buying top quality coax connectors, when One of the bargain basement elbows I bought at a Hamfest, opened up under high power. Even with all these "hardships", we're already looking forward to next year.(WX8G)

Meeting Announcement

Don't forget, the newsletter is bimonthly, for now, but our meetings are still held at 7:30 PM, on the first Thursday of every month, at Alliance Community Hospital. All are welcome to attend. We're very lucky to have tentatively scheduled Michael Bryce WB8VGE, for the December 2'nd meeting. Michael, who writes a monthly QRP column for 73 Magazine, and occasional articles, for QST, will be speaking on solar power. He works swing shift, though, and won't know his schedule, until the Monday before the meeting. So, just in case. The alternate program for the evening will be either, Patti Hillier KE8KH, speaking on police radio procedures, or, Larry Hillier N8EWV, who will tell us about the aeronautical mobile TV flight to lake Erie. January's meeting, will be on January 6'th, 94. The speaker will be Tim Duffy, K3LR, who will be speaking on antenna farms. Tim is the ARRL Technical Coordinator for Western Pennsylvania, as well as a regular speaker at the Warren Hamfest. He can usually be found operating most major contests. His QTH boasts one of the most impressive antenna farms in this area. It sits beside I-80, just east of the Pennsylvania line.

Excitement in Alliance !!!!!

WOW! We nominate and vote in a new Vice President, and, as his first official duty as an officer, he not only tries to drown the president with a can of pop, but he starts a new net. (with the club's blessing of course !) The name of the net is the Tri-County News & Information Net. The purpose of the net is to expand the continued usage of 10 meters. The net runs every Thursday night except for the first Thursday of the month (club meeting night) on 28.400 Mhz. Don Whitaker K8OMO was the first net control and did a tremendous job controlling the net. For the first night, there was a total of 21 check-ins. This was not including W8WEN, who tried out the concept of "wireless radio," by trying to check in without an antenna. Don is to be commended for a job well done. The time of the net is 8:30 pm. Then you can run over to 145.370 and check in on the two meter version of the Tri-County News & Information net. Submitted by N8IAK

Dizzy & Geno Tree the Fox!

The AARC fall fox hunt was held on October 23rd, with the team of N8DZA & N8JKZ taking first place. The Day dawned bright & clear, with temperatures in the 60's. This was perfect fox hunting weather. The hunt was conducted by Don, K8OMO, & Paul, NW8C, The winners of the AARC summer foxhunt. The only rules for this hunt were that the fox would be hidden somewhere in Stark county, and the hunt frequency would be 147.510. Everything else was left open. Don & Paul set up a portable repeater about 300 feet from the starting line, at Butler-Rodman park. The repeater listened in the 450 MHz band, and transmitted on the two meter hunt frequency. The output Power was 1/4 of A watt, into a rubber duckie. The signals could be heard from as far north as Limaville. For the sake of security, the repeater was installed in a metal box, and chained to the fence at one of the ballfields in the park. Other finishers in the hunt were as follows: 2nd place Pam, N8IAK & John, WX8G 3rd place Larry, N8EWV 4th place John, KF8ZG

After finding the signal strength fading quite rapidly, the further north they traveled, Jim & Gene DF'ed the signal back to the park. They traced the fox to the north end of the park. Since the only things there, were a ballfield, &

the woods, then the fox must be hiding in the woods, right? As they were walking towards the woods, Gene stopped to rest by the left field fence. As he caught his breath, he noticed the dual band rubber duck attached to the top of a metal box which was chained to the left field fence. The note on the box advised that the hunters had, indeed, found the fox. They were to then take a tag from the box, and meet the fox behind the restaurant across the street. In a performance worthy of an Academy Award, Gene advised Jim of his discovery, while not chuing in Larry, N8EWV, who was also sniffing around at the park. They then proceeded to sniff around for a few minutes, before "giving up". and heading for the restaurant. Rumor has it, that it was a very profitable day for Gene. The motel next to the restaurant was host to a "kit car" meet, that day. As he & Jim browsed around the meet, Gene managed to sell a spare bumper which had been left over from the construction of his own kit car. He was concerned that this could be construed as making money from Amateur Radio. Don't worry, Gene. We won't tell.



Santa DX !

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club would like to invite all licensed hams to check into a special net on December 16th, at 8:00 PM on the 145.37(-600) repeater. On this net, we will be trying to contact the north pole, and talk to Santa Claus. So all you grandpa's and grandma's, mom's and dad's, gather the little ones around the

"Gather the little ones
around the radio
& get ready for some fun.

radio, and get ready for some fun. The format will be open to the little ones to say what's in their heart(Oh, by the

Wheres DX ?

North America

10-13 J79DX 21.025MHz 1439Z
10-19 XE2JIM 28.021MHz 1900Z
10-20 HK0DPA 28.015MHz 1735Z
10-29 V26B 1.833MHz 0336Z

South America

10-19 FY5GJ 28.015MHz 1944Z
10-29 P4ZJ 1.838MHz 0312Z

Europe

10-1 GD4BEG 1.835MHz 0348Z
10-8 T94US 7.0045MHz 0434Z
10-12 Z31PK 18.071MHz 1558Z
10-14 JW4WIA 14.005MHz 1925Z
10-19 9A1CEI 21.023MHz 1623Z

Africa

10-6 ZD9SXW 28.023MHz 1420Z
10-7 5X1B 21.026MHz 1837Z
10-9 9J2XX 14.022MHz 0005Z
10-14 7Q7XX 18.073MHz 1829Z
10-18 S79MX 14.049MHz 2045Z
11-03 ET3YU 21.031MHz 1535Z

Asia

10-07 9K2ZZ 21.005MHz 1444Z
10-18 BV7FC 14.005MHz 2359Z

Oceania

10-7 VK9YM 14.024MHz 1457Z

way, the age is from 1 to 101). If someone has the feeling of Christmas in their heart, and want to talk to Santa, go ahead. You do not have to belong to the Alliance Amateur Radio Club to check in. If you read this and hold a license, please get a believer in Santa, and check in on December 16. The more the merrier.(KB8GHZ)

Alliance Amateur Radio Club

Christmas Party

Advance Reservation Form

The annual Alliance Amateur Radio Club Christmas banquet is scheduled for Saturday, December 18'th at Roadhouse Charlies, on west State St. There will be a cash bar at 6, with dinner served at 7 PM. Please fill out this registration form, and return it to Pam Myers, N8IAK, with your payment. Pam's address is: 510 W. Harrison St., Alliance, OH 44601.

Our menu this year will be as follows:

- Choice One - 8 oz. Strip Steak \$12.95
- Choice Two - Boston Broiled Scrod \$9.25
- Choice Three - 1/2 Honey or BBQ Chicken \$8.25

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

Name: _____

#1 Steak # _____ @ \$12.95 =

#2 Scrod # _____ @ \$9.25 =

#3 Chicken

Honey # _____ @ \$8.25 =

BBQ # _____ @ \$8.25 =

Total enclosed- _____



Ham Of The Year

We are again accepting ballots for AARC Ham Of The Year. Deadline for ballots are December 1'st, and should be given to John, WX8G, 510 W. Harrison St, Alliance, OH 44601.

My Choice is _____

Because _____

Past
Ham Of the Year
winners
1989 N8DZA
1990 KC3CL
1991 W8WEN
1992 WX8G
1993 ???

December 1993

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 7:30 PM AARC Meeting	3 ARRL 160 Meter Contest	4 ARRL 160 Meter Contest
5 ARRL 160 Meter Contest	6	7	8	9 8:30 PM Tri-County News & Info Net Hanukkah	10	11 ARRL 10 Meter Contest
12 ARRL 10 Meter Contest	13	14	15	16 8:00 PM AARC Santa Net	17	18 6:00 PM AARC Banquet
19	20	21 Winter begins 	22	23 8:30 PM Tri-County News & Info Net	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 8:30 PM Tri-County News & Info Net	31 ARRL Straight Key Night  New Year's Eve	

January 1994

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6 7:30 PM AARC Meeting	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 8:30 PM Tri-County News & Info Net	14	15 2:00 PM AARC Fox hunt
16		18	19	20 8:30 PM Tri-County News & Info Net W8ZZS Birthday	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 8:30 PM Tri-County News & Info Net	28 CQ WW 160 Meter CW Contest	29
30	31					

Short Circuits

- ✦ Jim Ferguson, N8DZA, has volunteered to act as manager for the Tri-county News & Information Net. He replaces Dan Mutigli, N8LVO, who resigned, effective October 7, 1993. No changes in net operation, have been announced as of this writing. The net meets on the 2'nd, 3'rd, 4'th, & sometimes 5'th Thursdays of the month, at 9 PM. The frequency is 145.37(-). All check-ins are welcome.

- ✦ Check out the ATV column in the November issue of 73 Magazine. Larry, N8EWV, & his model airplane, equipped with two meter, and ATV repeaters, are featured.

Alliance Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 3344
Alliance, OH 44601

- ✦ John, N8GIE, can now be reached by packet on 145.03. his packet address is N8GIE @ N8APU.#NE.OH.U.S.A.NA His Compuserve address is: John J. Ziccardi JR., 72714,406

- ✦ At their December 9'th meeting, the Salem Area Amateur Radio Association will be hosting a program radiation procedures. The club meeting will be held at 6:00, with the program to begin at 7:00. They will be meeting at the Salem red Cross.

WBUKQ
Dave Glass
217 W. Simpson St.
ALLIANCE OH 44601

Trading Post

The following items have been offered for sale by Paul Lattavo, KB8DST:

- * Yaesu FL101/FR101 Separate Transmitter/ Receiver combo
- * Heathkit HR-108 Receiver, & Viking Challenger transmitter W/VFO.
- * Dentron antenna tuner.

All these items are priced to sell. If interested, Phone Paul at 488-0401

For Sale- Ron, WC8F has a set of YK-88 filters for the Kenwood TS-130 or TS-430. Give Ron a call at 823-6866

