

5-31-94



Zero Beat

Serving hams in the Tri-County Area

Volume 8 No. 5

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

June 1994

Field Day Fever!

Field day to be discussed at June meeting.

For those that haven't experienced a Ham Radio Field Day, the next meeting is a must. Field Day is on the weekend of June 25th & 26th.

The purpose is to set up stations under emergency conditions, preferably without using commercial power. Our goal is then to contact as many other Field Day stations as possible, around the US & Canada. We get points for each station we contact, as well as bonus points for such things as using all natural power (solar cells, water wheels, etc.), for setting up our stations in a public place (park, shopping mall, etc.), or for contacting other Hams through one of the OSCAR Satellites. There are other categories for bonus points,

but I think you get the idea.

Our club has always had a good time with Field Day. It seems that everyone has a favorite Field Day story. For instance, does anyone remember the year that NT8O's generator decided to take a walk in the middle of the night? The generator, which was running a bit rough anyway, had been placed on a gentle slope on Hillier's hill. Around midnight on Saturday night we noticed it was running rougher than usual. Upon arriving at the spot where the generator used to be, we found that it had moved about 10 feet, and was heading for a steep drop off. I never thought we'd have to put Carl's generator on a leash.

At our next meeting, we will be making plans for this year's Field Day. Among the things to be discussed, will be

the use of computers for logging our contacts. The logging program that we will be using, will be demonstrated at this meeting.

The co-chairmen for this year's Field Day are Don Whitaker K8OMO, & Jim Ferguson N8DZA. Either Co-Chairman can be reached on the 5.370 repeater. Their phone numbers are listed on page 2 of the Zero Beat, and they take phone calls 24 hours a day. (Just Kidding)

Even if you can't make it to the meeting, we'd love to see you at Field Day. We'll be set up behind Marlinton Middle School, which is located just west of Alliance on Beeson Street. (Just look for the towers) 73 & see you there.

Some Field Day Operating Tips

Here's some practical tips to help you through the Field Day experience. This is a condensed version of an article from the June 1993 Zero Beat (Dan Mutigli N8LVO ed.), with some changes, in order to make it more relevant to Field Day.

Physical

- Try to get a good nights sleep before Field Day.
- Try operating while standing for short periods.
- Don't be afraid to take short breaks. Go for a short walk to clear your head.
- Wear loose comfortable clothes.

Operating

- Transmit the minimum amount of data necessary to complete the QSO.

Food/Drink

- Avoid a big meal right before the contest starts.
- No booze.
- Drink lots of fluids during the contest.

Station

- Review your station setup. Everything should be positioned for maximum comfort and reduced back strain.
- Use a comfortable chair. (Not too comfortable!)
- Use computer logging programs.
- Preparation
- Understand propagation before and during the contest.
- Work the band vigorously the week before the contest to under-

stand who is on and their game plan.

- Have a plan for spare equipment in case something fails.
- Know the rules inside & out. Good luck and may the band be with you.

Meeting Announcement

Our next meeting will be held on May 5th at the Alliance Community Hospital. We will be meeting at 7:30 PM, in room A. Visitors are always welcome. Our program this month will be "Field Day", by Don Whitaker K8OMO, & Jim Ferguson N8DZA.

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

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The Alliance Amateur Radio Club meets on the first Thursday of every month, at The Alliance Community Hospital. Our meetings are held in room A, and begin promptly at 7:30 PM. Visitors are always welcome.

Editorial

By John Myers WX8G

Did you ever have a day when you seemed to be operating in a fog? Well, my whole month of April was like that.

If you read this column last month, for instance, you saw me give a big write up to the new Q & A column. I didn't realize until later, that I forgot to include it in the newsletter. I guess it could be blamed on computer problems, but I think you're too smart for that. I won't even promise that it won't happen again, because it probably will. I guess that the only thing to say here is OOPS!

If you were listening to the 5.37 machine a few weeks ago, you heard an unlicensed operator take to the air with his new HT. Now I bet you're saying to yourself, "I suppose he just didn't know any better, huh?" Nope! "Well, maybe he was trying to jam the repeater." Nope! "Maybe he thought it was a new toy?" After paying \$200.00 for it? Give me a break! "Okay, so why was he on the repeater?" Well, the reason he was on the repeater made me pretty upset. Not at him, but at the dealer that sold him a two meter radio, then was not able to put him in touch with the local ham community.

He was ready for his test, but couldn't find any local hams who could give him information on testing opportunities. Actually, I don't blame him. He had a problem, and after trying and failing to get help from his dealer, he made a short contact with the local hams on 5.37, who quickly took him off the air, & via landline were able to give him the help that he was seeking.

Sure, it was illegal. He risked an FCC fine for himself, the repeater owner, and to any licensed amateur who spoke with him. But his initiative impressed me. I wonder how many would-be amateurs have reached this point, given up, returned the HT to the store, and went back to playing Nintendo? Or even worse, decided that it was more fun to be bad, thus joining the ranks of jammers who seem to crawl out of their holes all too often these days.

Continued on Page 5

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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 IBM formatted disk (3.5" 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.

Permission is freely granted to reprint portions of the Zero Beat, as long as credit is given to the author & source. The editor & board reserves the right to edit all submissions.

June 1994

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 7:30 PM AARC Meeting	3	4
5 Breezeshooters Hamfest-Butler	6	7	8	9 8:30 PM Tri-County News & Info Net	10	11
12 Goodyear Hamfest Goodyear VE Exams	13	14 KB8GAG Birthday	15	16 8:30 PM Tri-County News & Info Net	17 Dianna Ashburn Birthday	18
19 Cuyahoga ARS Hamfest	20	21	22	23 8:30 PM Tri-County News & Info Net	24	25 ARRL Field Day
26 ARRL Field Day N8XTJ Birthday NW8C Birthday	27	28	29	30 8:30 PM Tri-County News & Info Net		

Q & A

Welcome to a new feature in the ZB. This is where we'll attempt to answer some of your Amateur Radio related questions. I'd really like to tell you how this is going to work, but I'm not sure. If it's done right, you won't even recognize this column a year from now. I'm going to try to use questions that I am actually hearing from other hams. You can help by writing down any questions that you might have and forward them to the editor.

This month's question concerns Amateur Television(ATV).

Question: I've been hearing a lot of people talking about Amateur Television. Is there an easy way to receive these signals on my TV set without spending a lot of money?

Answer: There sure is! To receive ATV transmissions, you need a cable ready TV or VCR, and an outside antenna. Just set the Cable/Normal switch on your TV or VCR to the cable position. The output of the repeater will appear on channel 58, while the input will be on channel 60. What could be easier? Don't forget to turn your antenna towards the Beloit area, though, for best reception from the repeater.

Dear Sire!

The following is an actual letter. The original was typewritten, and all spelling and grammar has been carefully left intact, including errors. I thought this was pretty funny.

To Mr. (name omitted) District Manager for Alabama Radio Shack 3300 N. Pace Blvd Pensacola, FL. 32505

Dear Sire, This letter is complain about the problems I have having with the ham radio model number 19-1101 I had got from your Company Radio Shack. I had this shipped special to me from your store 1096 Eastdale Mall Montgomery Alabama. I was got this because I think that i would get transmitt furthur that I did with the TRC 217 40 channel walkie talkie. The problem that had first was when I was going to hook this radio HTX-1000 to the antenna the conektor on the radio was wrong it wouldn't attach to my cable. I was able to hook it finally by making a small change in in the connektor. As soon as I tried to use it there was no sound coming at all. This happened for two days and I never did get to talk to anybody the whole two days. That day the cable company came knocking my door and said there was something causing problems at my house and disconnected my radio from the cable

line. you knew when i brought the Radio that I was going to use that for my antenne. You didn't tell me not to why not? Next time I decided to put the HTX-1000 in my automobile I thought I would see how it worked their. I hooked it to my CB-antenna and at least I could hear people. But what happens now is no one wants to talk to me because they says you have to have a licencs to talk to them. Why? I dont have to have a licencs to talk on CB. They'll talk to me there. Anyhow it dont matter much anymore because somebody done took the radio HTX-1000 from my automobile. What I would like for you Radio Shack to do is refund my money because I don't have the radio anymore and its not my fault i dont and I think you should give me back my money. Also the cable company here says that I hurt something in there line and want to paid fix it. It will cost \$27482.98 to fix the equipment they say was damaged because you didnt tell me not to hook it to the cable. Please remit to me the check for \$27758.53 for damages due. To save this matter from going to court the check must be in my hand by June first or I will turn this over to my attorneys of law. Thank you (name withheld)

How not to put up a tower

Dear Sirs,

I am writing in response to your request for additional information on my recent accident. In block #3 of the accident report form, I put "Poor Planning" as the cause of the accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully, & I trust that the following details will be sufficient.

I am an Amateur Radio Operator. On the day of the accident, I was working alone at the top section of my new 80 ft. antenna tower.

When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 lbs. of tools & spare hardware. Rather than carry the now unneeded tools & hardware down by hand, I decided to lower the items in a small barrel by using a pulley which fortunately was attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower.

Securing the rope at ground level, I went up to the top of the tower and loaded the tools & hardware into the barrel. I then went back to the ground & untied the rope, holding tightly to ensure a slow descent of the 300 lbs. of tools & hardware. You will note in block #11 of the accident report form, that I weigh 155 lbs.

Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground suddenly, I lost my presence of mind, & forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate up the side of the tower. In the

vicinity of the 40 ft. level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone.

Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley.

Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my presence of mind & was able to hold tightly to the rope, in spite of my pain. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel hit the ground, & the bottom fell out. Devoid of the weight of the tools & hardware, the barrel now weighed 20 lbs. I refer you again to my weight in block #11.

As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 ft. level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles, and lacerations of my legs and lower body.

The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools & hardware. Fortunately, only three vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the tools & hardware, in pain, unable to stand, and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind.

I let go of the rope.

This story is originally from WorldRadio (issue unknown), and is reprinted from the Zero Beat (KB8GCE/KB8GCF Co-editors) June 1989 edition.

From THE SMOKEHOUSE MAMMOTH CAVE
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

FATHER OF HAM RADIO

SHORT-WAVE "Hams" throughout the country mourn the passing of Hiram Percy Maxim who passed away on February 17, 1936 at La Junta, Colorado.

His home was in Hartford, Connecticut, from which point his far reaching activities in short-wave Hamdom emanated. Mr. Maxim was well known throughout the world, particularly as the inventor of the Maxim silencer and numerous implements of warfare. Mr. Maxim was the president and founder of the American Radio Relay League with headquarters at Hartford, and he was responsible for the rapid growth of the League and its membership, which numbers thousands of short-wave "hams" throughout the country.

Hiram Percy Maxim was the son of Sir Hiram Stevens Maxim, inventor of the Maxim automatic gun, and he was the nephew of Hudson Maxim, inventor of smokeless powder. For many years Mr. Maxim was president of the Amateur Cinema League and he was also president of the International Radio Union.

Mr. Maxim was born in Brooklyn, New York, September 2, 1869, and in 1886 he graduated from the School of Mechanic Arts of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He also held an honorary degree of Doctor of Science from Colgate University.

At the start of his career Mr. Maxim was an electrical engineer with the Fort Wayne, (Indiana) Jenny Electrical Company. He was associated at one time with the Thomson Electric Welding Company of Lynn, Massachusetts. Later he was associated with the American Projectile Company of Lynn, and still later he was chief engineer for the Electric Vehicle Company of Hartford, Connecticut.

He was a member of numerous scientific societies and held a commission as Lieut. Commander in the United States Naval Reserve Corps. In 1933 he published a book entitled--"Life's Place on the Cosmos".

A people trap run by a mouse. That's what Walt Disney built in Anaheim, CA. Ground was broken to begin Disneyland.-January

26, 1954

Top 10 ways to tell you live next door to a ham operator

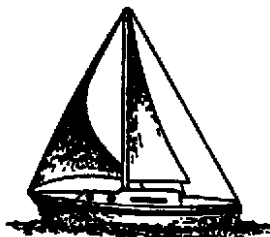
10. Teenaged son's radio sounds strangely better than usual.
9. An unusually high number of burglar false alarms in the neighborhood.
8. Neighbors back yard begins to look like Radio Free Europe.
7. Doorbell rings, but theres nobody there. Then you realize that you don't have a doorbell.
6. Lights on your block dim at 20 words per minute.
5. Birds roost in the middle of the day due to shadow cast by the new "TV" antenna.
4. There's a strange absence of small animals in the neighborhood.
3. Flourescent lights in your house can't be turned off.
2. You find your microwave popcorn already popped... On the shelf.
1. You start to have conversations with your toaster over morning coffee.

From the National Repeater, Bob Gruchowski, N5UPF editor



Where's DX ?

By Jack Bennett, W8WEN



This month was an eventful one at the W8WEN shack. Jack overcame computer problems to deliver his log results in time for publication.

He notes that conditions on the 160 meter band were enhanced by the annular eclipse on the 10th of May. Nighttime conditions were experienced between stations in the moons shadow. In fact, Jack dropped off a SWL card that he received from the eclipse. The SWL reported that Jack's 160 meter signal was better than S-9 at his QTH, which is about 150 miles SE of Buffalo. He was listening on 160 meters for illegal buoys. Having logged illegal buoys from many different countries, he seems like a real expert on the subject. Maybe we can get an article on the subject.

Now, here's the latest excerpts from the W8WEN logbook. (All the QSO's are in CW)

South America

5-11 TG9AQ 14.014 0036Z

Europe

4-16 T77C 14.00 1522Z

4-23 HB9FAP 21.00 1447Z

4-24 4N70 14.00 2126Z

4-24 IC8SDA 14.00 2134Z

4-24 ES2RW 14.00 2151Z

4-27 EX8F 14.00 1550Z

4-28 PI5EHV 14.00 1621Z

5-10 SV1AMH 14.020 1751Z

Africa

4-24 SU1STR 14.00 2138Z

4-27 6W1/F5PHW 21.00 1753Z

4-27 ZS6MG 21.00 1809Z

Oceania

4-23 VK6HQ 14.00 2353Z

Editorial

Continued from Page 2

Before you start looking for an appropriate length of 7/8" hardline to cane me with, or start tossing J-38's through my picture window, let me explain. I'm not saying that it's OK to buy a radio and immediately get on the air without a license. But, darn it, if Radio Shack is going to sell Ham rigs, then they should at least be able to provide phone numbers for some local Hams!

I'd like to hear your opinions on this, & I'll be glad to print any opposing viewpoints.

I think this person pointed out a problem that we can help with. We are now working on a flyer that can be passed out by the salespeople at the local Radio Shack. It will give a prospective ham a source in his/her own hometown, for licensing and club information. We're optimistic that this will help to steer more people into our hobby. 73 de WX8G

This is 8KX in Pittsburgh

Later the Call letters would be KDKA, but the night of that first continuous radio broadcast, it was 8KX with Frank Conrad at the mike reporting the results of the Harding-Cox election. -November 2, 1920

2300 MHz Comments Sought

ZCZC AG08 QST DE W1AW ARRL BULLETIN 43 ARLB043 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS NEWINGTON CT MAY 11, 1994 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS

SB QST ARL ARLB043 ARLB043

2300 MHZ COMMENTS SOUGHT

THE FCC HAS ISSUED A NOTICE OF INQUIRY ON REALLOCATION OF SPECTRUM FROM FEDERAL GOVERNMENT USE (IN ET DOCKET 94-32). 50 MHZ OF SPECTRUM WOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO PRIVATE SECTOR USE, POSSIBLY AS EARLY AS THIS SUMMER. THE COMMENT DEADLINE IS JUNE 15, 1994.

THE REALLOCATION IS CALLED FOR UNDER THE OMNIBUS RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1993, WHICH REQUIRES THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO IDENTIFY 200 MHZ OF SPECTRUM BELOW 5 GHZ

TO BE REALLOCATED WITHIN THE NEXT 15 YEARS.

THE SPECTRUM IDENTIFIED FOR IMMEDIATE REALLOCATION IS AT 2390 TO 2400 MHZ, 2402 TO 2417 MHZ, AND 4660 TO 4685 MHZ. AMATEURS SHARE THE FIRST TWO RANGES. THE COMMISSION SAID THAT "THERE ARE A NUMBER OF FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH EXISTING ALLOCATIONS OF THE BANDS THAT WILL AFFECT THEIR POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE SECTOR USE."

THE FCC SPECIFICALLY ASKED FOR INPUT ON WHETHER THE PROPOSED REALLOCATIONS WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT AMATEUR OPERATIONS, ESPECIALLY AMATEUR SATELLITES. THE COMMISSION SAID THAT "THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE EXPECTS THAT THE AMA-

TEUR SERVICE COMMUNITY CAN SATISFY THE MAJORITY OF ITS SPECTRUM REQUIREMENTS IN THE REMAINING 35 MHZ (LEFT AFTER THE PROPOSED REALLOCATION). IT ALSO BELIEVES THAT CURRENT USE OF THE 13 CM BAND BY AMATEUR STATIONS IS LIGHT COMPARED TO USE OF BANDS LOWER IN THE SPECTRUM, BUT NOTES THAT USE MAY INCREASE FOR AMATEUR-SATELLITE, HIGH-SPEED COMPUTER DATA LINKS, AMATEUR TV, AND OTHER WIDE-BAND APPLICATIONS.

"THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE STATES THAT IT EXCLUDED THE 2400-2402 MHZ BAND FROM CONSIDERATION FOR REALLOCATION IN ORDER TO PROTECT EXISTING AMATEUR SATELLITE OPERATIONS."

Short circuits

- Congratulations to Dennis KB8RJC. He graduated from Malone College on May 7th with a degree in biology.
- Our treasurer asks us to remind you that dues are due. You can send your dues to Matt Thomas N8EAD, or to P.O. box 3344, Alliance, OH 44601.
- As of May 1st, the FCC is taking 10-12 weeks to process your 610 forms. The latest call signs are:
Extra AA8OP
Advanced KG8IF
Novice/Technician KB8SHJ
- Check out the ARRL bulletin, which is elsewhere in this issue. It seems that the FCC is saying, "Oh, by the way. Do you mind if we take away some of your frequencies"? The comment deadline is June 15th, 1994.
- Don't forget! You can join or renew your membership in the ARRL through the club. Just check with Patti Hillier KB8KH, for details.

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

5 years ago

(From the June 1989 Zero Beat,
Dennis Barber KB8GCF
Janice Barber KB8GCE editors)

- The June issue was the first for our new editors. Dennis & Janice were graduates of our Fall Novice classes in 1988, and the ink on their licenses was just barely dry when they volunteered to edit the Zero Beat.
- Elections were over (At that time, our elections were held at the May meeting. Ed.). Our new officers were as follows:
President-Dave Buckwalter KC3CL
Vice President-Gary Grimes KB8GAB
Secretary-Gladys Wilson KB8GIA
Treasurer Patti Hillier KE8KH
Incoming trustee was Larry Ashburn KE8VE, who replaced Ron Gwynne WC8F.
- It was reported that the Color TV that had been raffled off at the mall show was won by Jim Wilson KB8GHZ.
- The program for the June meeting was to be "Field Day". Field Day was to be behind Patti & Larry's house.

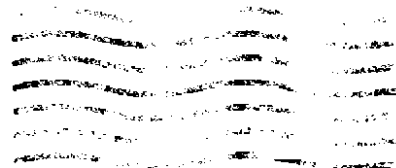


Pres says

A great big thank you to our Vice President Don Whitaker K8OMO, who acted as President at the last meeting. As most of you know, I had a bad bout with laryngitis, but am ok now. Don did such a great job, I think he'd make a good nominee for President in October.

Field Day is fast approaching, we always have so much fun. New members and hams, please join us at Field Day, even if you know nothing about it. We will help you to be familiar with what is going on. Everybody lend your support to the Field Day committee and we'll see you in June. N8IAK

- The estate sale was still going on. Dave was trying to get interest in the equipment by calling it GOOD STUFF.
- The DXCC contest was in it's 6th month, and rumor was that Jack Bennett W8WEN was close to having 100 countries confirmed.
- KB8GCF was editorializing on the possibility of a no-code ham license, and what form it should take.



Dave Glass W8UKQ
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