

AARC Mall Show!

April 1-2, 1995



Zero Beat

Serving hams in the Tri-County Area



Volume 9 No. 3

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

March 1995

Contact the World '95

That's the theme of this years show. In recognition of this, we are adding a special event station to the agenda. Look for more on this in a separate article.

Things to watch for include, N8DZA's RTTY machine, which he still hasn't been able to give away. (Editors note: try not to compliment him on it. He's getting desperate.) The Salem Area Amateur Radio Association will be there. We will have a two meter check-in

station, running on 145.37, and maybe even on the N8DZA 440 MHz machine. The most important thing, is that hams & non-hams from all over will be visiting the Carnation Mall, to ragchew with old friends, and to learn all about the many hobbies that make up Amateur Radio.

Plenty of PR ambassadors for Ham Radio will be needed. Hope you can come. The show will run Saturday & Sunday, during mall hours.

Special event guidelines

Here's how the special event stations will work:

The person operating the station uses his/her own call, and announces that they are portable from the Carnation Mall in Alliance, Ohio.

Work stations however you want, fast, contest style, or slow, ragchew style contacts. It's up to you.

Announcements have been posted in QST and 73, so the stations will be there, just waiting for you to call. Give QSL info often. To prevent your mailman from throwing his back out, it's best to ask all stations to QSL with a SASE to Box 3344, Alliance, 44601. This will help the paperwork to flow a bit smoother. We will be giving 8 X 10 certificates, designed and printed by Mike, N8KNU.

As of February 16th, we've got three HF stations coming. This should give us ample coverage on all bands and modes.

If you've never run a special event station before, you are in for a treat. The AARC did this during the Carnation Festival in '82. We worked about 250 contacts from Silver park, and generated quite a stack of QSL's. So plan on attending the Mall Show, and "Contacting the World"

Mall show setup schedule.

The setup for this years Mall show will be pretty much the same as last year's. The antenna party will be on Saturday, March 18th at 1:00 PM. This is when we hoist all the antennas to the roof of the mall, and run the coax. The antennas will not be erected until a few days before the show. We'll need about 4 people on the roof, and at least that many on the ground, to take care of this. We can normally get all antennas assembled, and lines run in about an hour and a half, so if you can spare some time, your help will be appreciated. In case of inclement weather, the rain date for the antenna party will be March 25th, at 1:00 PM.

Actual setup for the show, will begin at about 9:00 PM on March 31st. This is when we hang the signs from the

gridwork, and get the tables set up, and skirting attached to the tables.

In the morning, we usually come in at about 8:00 AM, set up our stations, and prepare to start operating. We will be operating during mall hours on the 1st & 2nd of April. If you have some free time, please stop out and meet the public, or give someone a break from operating.

Late in the day on Sunday, we start tearing down antennas & stations, and preparing to haul everything out of the Mall. Your help will be needed at that time, also.

This is our weekend to shine. So, come out and help recruit newcomers to our hobby.

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club

P. O. Box 3344, Alliance, OH
44601

Officers

President

Pam Myers N8IAK

510 W. Harrison St.

Alliance, OH 44601 821-5513

Vice President

Don Whitaker K8OMO

8775 Edison St. NE

Louisville, OH 44641 935-2960

Secretary

Gladys Wilson KB8GIA

6974 Rolling Ridge N.E.

N. Canton, OH 44721 492-3754

Treasurer

Mary Ann Royer KB8IVS

6255 Sandalwood N.E.

N. Canton, OH 44721 492-0703

Trustees

Jim Wilson KB8GHZ

6974 Rolling Ridge NE

N. Canton, OH 44721 492-3754

Jim Ferguson N8DZA

115 E. Cambridge

Alliance, OH 44601 823-3925

Ray Scoville K8DEN

14096 Bandy Rd

Alliance, OH 44601 823-2304

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

Well, here we go. I've been editor since November, 1993, and have, for the most part, shied away from rocking the boat too much. But, I have my limits. Webster's defines Club as "a group of people who have organized themselves with or for a common purpose." This implies that the workload is shared at least semi-equally. In this club, it has not been so.

Case in point: February 16th, there was no two meter net. K8OMO & N8DZA, our net controls (slaves) do an admirable job, but we cannot expect them to be available every Thursday night, nor should we expect it of them. If one of them doesn't show up to start the net, the net usually doesn't get started. Oh, I hear a few voices asking where the net is, but that's as far as it goes. It is a rare occasion when someone other than K8OMO or N8DZA runs their respective nets. I've heard the excuses: "but, I've never run a net before" COP OUT!!! This isn't brain surgery we're talking about here (with apologies to Jim & Don). If you'd volunteer to run a net, you'd see how easy it is. Or how about this one? "I thought someone else would pick it up." COP OUT!!! Hey, you're someone else. If everyone thinks like that, there won't be anyone to run the....Oh yeah, that's right. I could go on, but you get the idea.

This is a hobby, not a job. If we continue to pile everything on Jim & Don, they will eventually turn into grouchy old....Oh yeah....well, they'll get burnt out.

I offer that we have two courses of action. Either a few of you volunteer for net control duties once in a while, or we start paying N8DZA AND K8OMO, our permanent net controls a fair wage for their services. I think about a thousand dollars a year for each of them should be adequate. So what'll it be?

Well, Just in case I'm not here next month, It's been fun. Maybe I'll go see what the last editor's been up to. 73 de WX8G.

Staff

Editor

John Myers WX8G

Filler Material

Jim Wilson KB8GHZ

Gladys Wilson KB8GIA

Publication & Distribution

Larry Ashburn KE8VE

Dianna Ashburn

Credits

Thanks to the contributors to

this months Zero Beat

KB8GHZ

KB8GIA

N8IAK

W8WEN

ARNS

Worldradio

Cedar Mtn ARC

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. Transfer via Packet can be arranged by contacting KE8VE at 821-9808.

Submissions can also be forwarded as E-mail, to 75027,1342 @ CompuServe.com.

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More on vanity calls

Issuance of the long awaited "vanity" call signs appears to be closer. The FCC announced on January 24, 1995, that as soon as the new application form 610-V becomes available and its licensing facility prepared to process them, a four "gate" system will begin.

The first gate will allow the previous holder of a call to apply for its return; or, where that individual is deceased, a close relative may apply.

Continued on Page 4

from the March 1990, Zero Beat Janice & Dennis Barber, KB8GCE & KB8GCF ed

- Paul, NW8C was the proud grandfather of a boy born on January 6, 1990.
- The Tech/General classes, taught by Jim Ferguson, N8DZA, were winding down at the hospital, and at the YMCA.
- Jim Wilson, KB8GHZ, was soliciting displays for the Homebrew table at the Mall Show.

5 years ago

- The story of how we came to be called Hams was related by Paul, NW8C.
- Recipes featured were KB8GIA's porcupine meatballs, and KB8IQY'S (now N8LVO) famous BBQ finger lickin' chicken.
- It was reported that during 1989, Novice licenses hit their highest levels since 1987. (ed note-I believe this was in the 8th call area) During 1989, 1910 novice licenses were issued. The greatest change, however was in the Tech/General class licenses, which jumped 28% in number of calls issued.
- We recognized a flock of new Novices. They were:
Dan Mutigli-KB8IQY (now N8LVO)
Chuck Bench-KB8IQZ
Mary Ann Royer-KB8IVS
Jim Miller-N8MAA
Bill Martikan-KB8JBF
Tom Scoville-KB8JBG.
- There was a reprint from the November, 1989 issue of QST. The ARRL was petitioning the FCC for a codeless Amateur license.
- This was to be Dennis & Janice's last newsletter, before turning over the job to KC3CL.

Minutes of the February 2nd meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club

The February 2nd meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Pam Myers, N8IAK. The Pledge of Allegiance was given, followed by a round of introductions by members and guests. There were 27 members and 1 guest present.

The Secretary's report was corrected and approved.

The Treasurers report was given and approved as read. As of February 1st, there is a total of \$3881.28 in the treasury.

Committee reports

Newsletter-Deadline for articles is February 13th.

Classes are held on Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM, at Alliance Community Hospital.

Programs-March program will be on the Mall Show, April will be on the Internet.

Old Business

The new **Callbooks** are in. The old callbooks will be auctioned off at the March meeting.

Mall Show-N8KNU has designed certificates to be given for contacts made at the Mall Show. The April issue of the Zero Beat will be passed out at the Mall Show, as a PR tool.

Fox Hunt was won by John Bray, KF8ZG, and David Hostettler, N8NLZ. The next fox hunt will be in April.

Club house-Discussion was tabled till the March meeting.

New business

Field Day site will be at Marlinton Middle School, same as last year.

Volunteers are needed for net controls. contact N8DZA for the 2 Meter net; K8OMO for the 10 Meter.

Announcements

- Mansfield Hamfest-February 12th
- Cuyahoga Falls Hamfest-February 26th
- The 50/50 drawing was won by Mike Duke, N8XER for a total of 12.00.

Following the meeting, Scott, N18L gave a program on antennas.

Meeting Announcement

Our next meeting will be held on March 2nd, at the Alliance Community Hospital. We will be meeting at 7:30 PM, in the back of the Cafeteria.

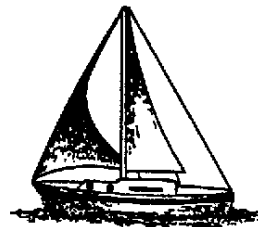
Program for this meeting will be announced.

Layout for this issue of the Zero Beat was not done by the trolls. No one's seen them for the last few weeks. If they happen to show up on your doorstep, please feed them, and send them home. Tell them that the fox hunt is over. They did not win.



Where's DX ?

By Jack Bennett, W8WEN



North America

1/6 VY2MP 14.005 2015Z
1/22 J3/K5BDX 10.101 0523

South America

1/3 ZP5XYE 14.011 0020Z

Africa

1/3 ZS3JO 14.015 1948Z
1/12 CN2SK 14.005 1529Z
1/16 C53HG 14.014 2140Z
1/16 6W1/F5NHJ 14 2150Z
1/18 5T5JC 10.102 2133Z
1/21 VQ9TP 14.023 1721Z
1/21 FR5DD 14.016 2011Z

1/22 9G1AA 14.025 2154

Asia

1/15 YI9CW 14.009 1509Z

Europe

1/2 US7WW 14.008 1538Z
1/10 GI4PCY 14.031 1605Z
1/15 LA1XFA 14.007 1446Z
1/15 7S3OWG 14.019 1518Z
1/15 ZA1AJ 14.005 1545Z
1/15 EA8AGK 3.508 2245Z
1/16 IS0IGV 14.016 1612Z
1/21 LX1MU 14.011 1747Z
1/23 TF3GC 14.018 2320Z
1/26 HV3SJ 21.014 1710Z

Oceania

1/21 VK4XA 14025Z 2020Z

Vanity Calls

continued from page 3

Gate two would permit Amateur Extra Class operators to apply; Gate three, Advanced class licensees, and gate four, all others-including club station trustees wishing to apply for the call of a deceased former holder.

Public notice of the opening of each "gate" will be made by the FCC. The fee for the use of the special calls will be \$70 (but the Commission is proposing to lower that fee to \$30), payable upon application. There will continue to be *no charge* for the issuance of automatically assigned, sequential calls assigned to new and upgrading operators.

from the March 1995 issue of Worldradio

CW

by Larry Hudson, KD7BN

Tonight, after the activities of the day, I sat down to read a few messages on the BBS. The digital airways have a lot of controversy over the No-Code license, and CW in particular. I have read some comments, and for the most part have went my way unaffected. But tonight was different.

It seems there's a ham in California that has degrees in this, that, and something else, two kids, a wife, and a full time job, who has spent two months getting his code speed up to ten WPM. He was crying the "CW is outdated, and no longer appropriate" blues, because he figured it would take him **three months** to get his speed up to thirteen WPM, and he felt it a waste of time. He felt that he should have HF privileges, without having to spend "all that time learning CW."

I spent ten minutes pounding out a response to this gentleman, and then aborted the message. I found the message

taking on an emotional tone. Those of you who know me, are well aware that I am by no means, a CW nut!! I haven't worked CW, except to determine the call of a repeater, for fifteen years!

But, here's the strange part. The emotion that had taken over in my response to this gentleman, was **pride**. It took me six months to get to the point I could pass thirteen WPM, and I was **dad gum proud** of it! I listened to a few tapes, but for the most part, I increased my code speed by communicating with other hams in our "language", CW. And I found out something else. **CW gets through!** Whether we like it or not, when the chips are down, and all the hi-falutin computerized modern gee whizzes have fallen victim to a poor signal to noise ratio, **CW gets through!**

Is that, in itself, enough to warrant the continued requirement for CW proficiency on the HF bands? In my opinion, Yes. However, while I'm soapboxing, let

me make one more point. Up until recently, CW has been the common denominator of amateurs, since there were amateurs. If you were a ham, you knew CW, period. It didn't make any difference if you were a doctor or a ditch digger, when it came to amateur radio, you had a common bond...CW.

Where is amateur radio headed? I don't know. An ever increasing portion of our society is "wanting everything for nothing," and we're seeing that attitude surface in our hobby. I guess I'm old fashioned. My mama told me, "if it's worth having, it's worth working for," and I've found that, for me, if I earned something, I appreciated and respected it a lot more than if it was given to me. End of soapbox.

from the Feb '95 issue of the "Cedar mountain ragchew" a publication of the Cedar Mountain ARC, Cody, WY

Call- _____



Alliance Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 3344
Alliance, OH 44601
Renewal/Membership Application

Dues	
Sustaining	\$15.00
Full	\$10.00
Associate	\$5.00
Family	\$1.00

Name- _____ Phone # _____

Address- _____

City- _____ State- _____ Zip- _____ Birthday- _____

Occupation- _____ ARRL Member? Yes No

License Class- _____ Expiration Date?- _____ Year you were first licensed?- _____

Special interests (Hunting, Fishing, Contesting, Model Airplanes, etc.)- _____

Pro-rated dues schedule (New members only)

	May-July	Aug-Oct	Nov-Jan	Feb-Apr
Sustaining	\$15.00	\$11.25	\$7.50	\$3.75
Full	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50
Associate	\$5.00	\$3.75	\$2.50	\$1.25
Family	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$.75	\$.25

Do not write below this line

Dues paid- Sustaining() Full() Associate() Family () \$ _____ on _____, 19____ Signed _____

Newsline

The following is a QST

Tech class hams have taken the lead position in ham radio licensing, more on the ARRL sponsored meeting of repeater coordinators and a big announcement about Newsline's Young Ham of the Year Award. It has a new home. Find out where on an extended Newsline report number 913 coming your way right now!

STARTLING STATISTICS

Technician class hams are literally on their way to ruling the world of Amateur Radio in the United States. This according to some startling 1994 year end statistics recently released by the FCC. The commission sez that forty percent of all radio amateurs licensed by that agency hold Technician or Technician Plus licenses with the Tech Plus leading the no-code Techs by a slight margin. Put into numbers, this means that some 186,000 of the estimated 250,000 hams in the United States and its possessions are Technician class operators, with up to 5000 new Techs joining the ham radio ranks every month. Even more startling is the overall increase in the total growth in ham radio over the last ten years. We are up a bit over 62% from where we were in 1884. An increase of almost 250,000 from the half million figure the FCC's licensing computer put out a decade ago. Looked at in dollars and cents the numbers are really astounding. If each ham licensed today were to buy only five hundred dollars in equipment over the next twelve months, the net income to the ham radio support industry would be in the order of \$375,000,000 -- that's million dollars. More realistically, if only 10% of that figure or 75,000 hams spend \$500 on gear the net to the industry by this time next year that would be \$37,500,000 or there about.

UPDATE

We have an update on the status of electronic filing of license applications. According to ARRL VEC Administrator Bart Jhanke, KB9NM tells us that Newsline #909 has an incomplete quote regarding the ARRL VEC's handling of electronic Form 610 application filing. Bart says that the complete information is

that, regardless of whether a VE team enters application data and mails or Electronically mails that data to the ARRL VEC, he must still receive the actual hardcopy Form 610 applications and hardcopies of other pertinent test session documents, and must screen them, before he can forward the successful applicant data electronically to the FCC. Bart emphasizes that the ARRL cannot simply bounce data received from a VE team to the FCC without screening the exam documents first. KB1NM also says that electronic filing is now very alive and well for two of the 18 VEC's. Five more VEC's will be coming on board in the near future.

NEW ASTROHAMS FOR STS-67

And electronic filing of license applications has resulted in two more U.S. astronauts joining the ranks of Amateur Radio licensees. Both will fly aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour during mission STS-67. The two new astrohams are Pilot William Gregory, KC5MGA and Payload Commander Tamara Jernigan, KC5MGF. Both took examinations with ARRL volunteer examiners on January 19 and were issued call signs on January 25. The 16 day STS-67 mission is scheduled for launch in March. Six of Endeavour's seven crew members now have Amateur Radio licenses. School groups in 26 places around the world are scheduled to make voice contacts with the STS-67 crew using the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment radio system to communicate.

ARRL HELPS DISABLED

Some good news for handicapped hams. Word that the new ARRL Sourcebook for the Disabled is available in electronic form from several sources. This includes Compuserve, America Online, the ARRL's own Hiram BBS, and the InfoServer via Internet at info@arrl.org. The Sourcebook describes sources for those helping the disabled both with licensing and operating needs. It's development and publication was funded by the ARRL Foundation.

ARRL REPEATER MEETING

More information is now known about the ARRL's decision to hold a meeting of the nations repeater

frequency coordinators. According to the minutes of the January 20th Board of Directors meeting, the stated purpose of the meeting will be to discuss several key points with coordinators. These include establishing what the ARRL calls a single point of contact between the FCC and the coordinators through which the commission would recognize and support both local and regional coordination efforts. In simpler terms, what the ARRL wants to know is whether or not the nations coordinators are willing to take their problems and complaints to the League instead of the FCC in much the same way as the ARRL's Amateur Auxiliary handles the investigation of other kinds of regulatory violations. And there is good reason for this. As Newsline learned late last year, a ham here in Alabama who was asked to vacate a repeater contacted the FCC to find out if barring him from the repeater was legal. He was basically told that the FCC is sick and tired of hearing what it considers the whining and petty complaints of repeater owners and users. The commission does not have the resources nor the interest to handle what it views as petty complaints. As a result, a fairly high ranking FCC official told this ham that if ham radio could not solve these problems with repeaters, they definitely would not like the action taken by the FCC. If we know this, the ARRL has to know it too. And if becoming a buffer between the repeater problems and the FCC is a way of avoiding some hard handed re-regulation, the ARRL appears to be ready to take on the job. A job that most repeater people will tell you that the ARRL has avoided for almost three decades. But there is a lot more on the agenda than just buffering complaints to the FCC. Also to be discussed will be setting standards for service by coordinators, how appeals of coordination decisions should be handled, establishing a method of recognition and succession of coordinators and how frequency coordinators should respond to the needs of new technologies coming to ham radio in need of spectrum. Finally, the League will also use the meeting to determine the level of support among coordinators for a return to separate repeater licensing. This is something many coordination councils have been wanting for a long time. Also, the ARRL wants to determine the extent to which coordinators should be involved in accommodating the needs of other modes and if coordinators should attempt to resolve interference between repeaters and other types of amateur operations. While no date or location for this meeting has yet been announced, it is beginning to look as if the outcome of this gathering may well impact on more than repeater owner operators and their frequency coordinators. Decisions made at this meeting will assuredly lead to regulatory changes that will affect the day to day operations of the majority of the nations radio amateurs, most of whom operate on repeaters every day. This means you!

(***** W1ALT BECOMES SILENT KEY

Some sad news. Word has just been received of the passing last summer of Frank Caswell, W1ALT in Beverly, Massachusetts. Caswell was first licensed in the 1920's. He spent much of his spare time collecting, recording and documenting the history of the Marconi Wireless Station on Cape Cod. He also built the replica rotary spark gap and model of the Marconi station that are on display at the headquarters of the Cape Cod National Seashore at South Wellfleet.

March 1995

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 7:30 PM AARC Meeting N8PLM Birthday	3	4
5 Cleveland Winterfest	6	7 20/9 VE exams 216/ 755-1000	8	9 8:30 PM Tri-County News & Info Net N8YMQ Birthday	10	11
12 KB8IQZ Birthday	13	14	15	16 8:30 PM Tri County News & Info Net	17	18
19	20 KE8VE Birthday	21	22	23 8:30 PM Tri-County News & Info Net	24	25 W8UKQ Birthday
26	27	28 K8OMO Birthday	29	30 8:30 PM Tri-County News & Info Net	31	

Dit & Dah Talk Radios

Lightning and your ground
by Tim and Al Megahertzzi

This month, Tim & Al answer part two of a question submitted by Rob, KC6IRK: "How can I determine the effectiveness of my ground system?"

Tim: Nice to talk to you again, Rob. By now I'm sure you followed up on the lightning-protection suggestions Al and I made last month. And now that we are friends, you know you can trust me. Here is an easy way to determine how well your ground system works: Set your transceiver to VOX mode. With your left hand, firmly grasp the ground wire attached to your radio gear. With your right hand(not so firmly) grab the center conductor of a short piece of coax that is connected to the output of your transceiver. Now speak into the microphone.

If you don't feel a tingling sensation, your ground system is not working. On the other hand, if someone is reading this to you in a hospital bed, you don't

need to continue reading this article; your ground system works great.

Al: Rob, maybe I can arrange for Tim to come over and conduct this test for you. He is already so brain damaged, a little more would not matter. Don't try his procedure on yourself unless you have a penchant for extreme pain and a short life.

There are no easy answers to your question, because several factors affect a ground. You may have a ground that exhibits high impedance at radio frequencies but is fine at DC. Soil conductivity, length and type of ground lead, and type of ground rod(s) all affect the performance of a ground system.

Tim: "No Pain, no gain." Rob. At least I gave you a definitive way to test your ground. Now that Al is retired (at age 44, I might add), you can expect verbosity but little hands-on perspective from him. A salt marsh is ideal for a

ground; desert soil is the worst. Most soil is between these extremes. You can improve soil conductivity by putting rock salt or copper sulfate around your ground rod and keeping it wet. The ground lead should be copper strip or braid 4 to 7 inches wide and as short as you can make it.

Al: I'm impressed Tim. I might even retract some of the things I said about you - not! Rob, you should consider using copper-clad steel ground rod(s) at least 8 feet long, the more rods the better. You should space them 12 to 18 inches apart and interconnect them with the wide copper strip or braid. If you improve your station ground, your station will be safer and you will eliminate any problems with RF in the shack. I hope you have found our suggestions helpful.

from the River City ARC "The Readout" Terry Seeno, N6YQD Editor, via the ARNS Bulletin--AF6S ed.

Short Circuits

- Congratulations to David Hostettler, N8NLZ. David passed his General code at the Ravenna test session on February 11th.
- Congratulations also go to Jerry Wheeler, KB8VVW. Jerry passed his General theory at the same session.
- Did you ever listen to Communications World on The Voice Of America? It runs every Friday night at 9:10 PM EST on the following frequencies: 5995, 6130, 7115, 7205, 7405, 9455, 9635, 9775, 11580, 11705, 11725, 15120, 15170, 15205, 15250. All frequencies are in KHz (Txn NC Alligators Group newsletter, N4KUF, editor)
- W5YI reports no growth in the number of hams in 1994. The primary reason is that more than 12000 hams

neglected to renew their licenses.

(Txn NC Alligators Group newsletter, N4KUF editor.)

- Check out your February issue of QST, for the latest info on the FCC's vanity callsign program.
- Well, I guess no one did anything stupid this month. Either that, or they're keeping it a secret from me. Oh well, maybe next month.
- Yahoo! The FCC has returned to their previous level of service. The speed of service for all Amateur applications is 4-6 weeks after the applications are received at the FCC. The latest callsigns as of February 1st are as follows:
Extra AA8SA
Advanced KG800
Novice-Tech KB8WQK

Prez Says

by Pam Myers, N8IAK

Upgrade fever is alive & well, once again in the club. Congratulations to Dave, N8NLZ, and Jerry, KB8VVW on getting their upgrades.

I'm looking forward to the Mall Show, however, due to circumstances beyond my control, I won't be able to be there all of the show. I will be there as much as I possibly can.

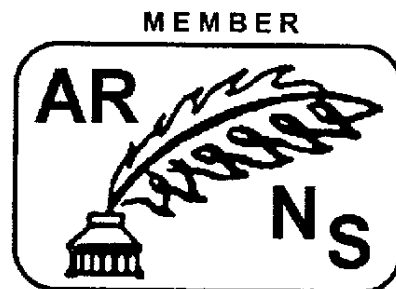
Bring your money to the next meeting. Don will be auctioning off the old callbooks. See you in the cafeteria at the meeting.

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Alliance Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 3344
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Dave Glass W8UXQ
217 W. Simpson St.
Alliance, OH 44601