

Zero Beat converts to HTML!

I'm running a test this month, and I need your help. When I took the reins a few months ago, I had access to PDF conversions via the Adobe Acrobat website. Unfortunately, my authorization to use that site has expired.

So, this month, we're trying something a bit different. The *Zero Beat* is being displayed as a web site. If you're reading this on-line, you'll notice a navigation bar like this, at the bottom of every page.

[1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12](#)

This bar allows you to jump easily from page to page. Just click on the page you'd like to visit. Also, this issue is riddled with links, so, if you see a reference to a hamfest, or event, click on it, and you'll be taken to that page, or website.

Now for the technical stuff. To view this newsletter, you'll need **at least Internet Explorer 5.0**. I'm not sure what the version requirements for Netscape Navigator are. I'm using Version 4.7, and don't have any trouble reading this file.

Please, let me know what you think of this format. (KD8MQ)

Triathlon wrap-up

This years running of the Carnation Triathlon is history. This event is held yearly, usually on the first weekend of the Carnation Festival. According to race officials, the Carnation Triathlon consists of a 1000 meter swim, followed by a 25 mile bike ride, and a 10 K run.

This years overall winner finished the grueling course in just under 2 hours, 4 minutes. There were just over 130 participants for this year's event.

We were again invited to supply communications for this event. A force of ten hams conspired to assist in the smooth running of this years event. The hams listed on net control's log sheet were:

- KD8MQ, John-Net Control & chief arm-twister
- WD8OOI, Jerry-S.R. 183 & Tallmadge Rd.
- WA8IWJ, Dave-Alliance Rd & Tallmadge Rd.
- KB8VAS, Paul-Tailing the pack
- KC8AWU, Ruby-Flexible; special assignments
- KC8ETZ, Sam-Rode along with Police at the front of pack
- K8RLS, Bob-S.R. 619 & Reeder Ave.
- KG8RN, Jerry-Industry Rd. & Price St.

- K8OMO, Don-Liaison
- N8PLA, John-Vine St. & Aebi Ave.

The operators performed flawlessly, if you don't count net control (me).

First, I leaned back against something, and pressed the send button on my phone, causing it to dial K8OMO's number. Don had to call me on the radio to request that I hang up my phone. As if that wasn't embarrassing enough, I kept hitting the function switch on my new headset mic, throwing it into VOX mode. This happened sev-

(Continued on page 3)

Meeting Announcement

The next meeting of the AARC will be on Wednesday, September 6, at 7:30 PM.

We meet in the rear of the cafeteria at Alliance Community Hospital. Visitors are always welcome.

Talk-in is on the K8LTG repeater-145.37 (-). See you there!

For more information, check out our clubs meeting page: www.qsl.net/w8lky/meetings.html

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Editorial

John Myers, KD8MQ

Well, here it is, the end of August. It sure has been one great summer, hasn't it? Not too hot, not too cold, and just enough lightning to keep things interesting. Last month, we went on vacation, and the highs were around 110°-115° all week. Needless to say, we spent a lot of time indoors.

This month's issue is being done in HTML. I've installed navigation bars at the bottom of each page. I don't know if we'll continue in this format, or go back with Acrobat format. You be the judge. Tell me what you like.

As I write this, the Ohio QSO Party is in full swing. I've been off the low bands, since a tree limb fell on my vertical a few months ago. This morning, I put up a 40 meter antenna and it works great. During testing, I got excellent reports on this low (about 15 feet above ground) dipole.

As I was surfing around the web, I found a page for "[Operation CQ](#)," administered by Mike Carroll, N4MC. He is working to document everyone's callsign history, in a database, to be opened next year. I've already entered my callsigns (all four of them), and I encourage you to do the same.

Well, that does it for this month. I hope you all have a great Labor Day, and I'll see you at the club meeting.

Meetings

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club meets on the First Wednesday of every month, in the cafeteria of the Alliance Community Hospital. Talk-in is on the K8LTG repeater (145.37).

Meetings begin around 7:30 PM, but are rarely called to order. Visitors are always welcome.

Nets

Thursday is our "net night," with the following nets on tap:

Ten meters

CW @ 8PM on 28.400 MHz
SSB @ 8:30PM on 28.400 MHz

2 meter net @ 9PM on 145.37 MHz

Internet

If you'd prefer to check us out on the web, our E-mail address is:

W8lky@qsl.net

Our club home page is:

[Http://www.qsl.net/w8lky](http://www.qsl.net/w8lky)

We'd be honored to meet you



Amateur Radio News Service

Membership Information

The Zero Beat is a publication of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 3344, Alliance, OH 44601

Unless otherwise noted, permission is freely granted to reprint portions of the Zero Beat, as long as credit is given to the author & source.

You can submit material to the Zero Beat in a number of ways. I'll accept handwritten submissions, but prefer electronic submissions. They can be sent as E-Mail to kd8mq@qsl.net, or fax to 330-821-8274.

I can read most word processor formats, but prefer your files to be in straight text, or Microsoft Word format.

Triathlon-cont.

(Continued from page 1)

eral times, prompting some interesting suggestions on how to repair the mic (thanks, Paul).

The rainy weather, which greeted us on Sunday morning, subsided until about 12:15, when the race was called, due to lightning.

The operators were thanked profusely by the race officials (A very nice thank you was received. It is reprinted elsewhere in the newsletter); A sentiment that was echoed by the net control station.

(P.S.- The next day, I shortened the knob on the mic function switch. Thanks to everyone for your patience.)

Short circuits

- Congratulations to Brenda Krukowski, KB8IUP. She's our new Ohio ACC (affiliated Club Coordinator). She replaces Joanne Solak, KJ3O, who stepped down, after several years of service to the Ohio field organization. Best of luck to Brenda.

- While reading through the August 25th issue of the Canton Repository, I found a most interesting thing. The 100 years ago column, concerned a lightning strike in Alliance, that lit up the entire town for 30 seconds. It was reported that a lightning bolt struck the trolley wire of the streetcar company, and was distributed throughout the city. The phenomenon caused a hissing noise from the wires, which woke people from their sleep. Balls of fire reportedly dropped from the wires in all directions, with one hitting a tailor shop.

August Minutes

Alliance Amateur Radio Club

August 2, 2000

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held at the Alliance Community Hospital on August 2, 2000, at 7:30 P. M., with Jerry Wheeler KG8RN, president, presiding. Secretary David Glass W8UKQ kept the minutes. There were 20 members present. The pledge of allegiance was given, and introductions were made.

The minutes of the last meeting were printed in the newsletter. The report was approved upon motion by Don K8OMO, seconded by Jerry K8CAT.

Mary Ann KB8IVS reported the treasury balances. The report was approved upon motion by Gladys KB8GIA, seconded by Dave W8UKQ.

Old business: Don K8OMO called attention to the triathlon on August 6.

The Mile Branch Grange Fair will be investigated next year. There is a lot of traffic through the commercial building. At the front of that building may be a good place for the club.

New business: Larry KE8VE said that classes will probably begin the second week of September.

FISTS QSLs were received.

Jerry KG8RN has plans for a project to build dual band antennas. They could be installed at special places. Perhaps the plans could be distributed in the newsletter.

Jerry KG8RN reported that the ARRL VECs have a new 5 wpm code test using the Farnsworth method and a fill in the blanks test or one minute of solid copy.

It was noted that the FCC will issue a new FRN (Federal Registration Number) to replace the Social Security Number.

There is no information about a Fox Hunt.

Don K8OMO asks that anyone receiving or sending QSLs under the W8LKY call for them to do their own QSLs, and to give the incoming cards to him as trustee of the license.

Tickets to the Medina Hamfest on October 8 and the 50-50 drawing were won by Jim N8XTJ.

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 P. M., upon motion by Dean KA8GRC, seconded by David N8NLZ.

Respectfully submitted, Dave Glass W8UKQ, Secretary

Carnation City Festival



Dear John,

Just one more thank you to you and your crew for working at the triathlon. Having you guys there kept all the small problems from turning into big ones. Next year I will call you as soon as we have a date set then maybe a month before the event we can get all the volunteers together and get your input on how best to utilize your help.

Thanks again,
Randy Crawford

Z e r o B e a t

A bit of History

5 Years ago

From the August/September, 1995 issue of the Zero Beat, John Myers, WX8G, ed.

President Vacant
Vice-President Don Whitaker, K8OMO
Secretary Gladys Wilson, KB8GIA
Treasurer Mary Ann Royer, KB8IVS
Trustees
Jim Wilson, KB8GHZ
Jim Ferguson, N8DZA
Ray Scoville, K8DEN

On page one: We held our wrap up of the Great Ohio Bicycle adventure, which stopped overnight in Alliance, during June of 1995. Over 2000 bicyclists rolled into Alliance on June 19th, 1995. The campground, dubbed "Gobaville," by the participants, was a sea of tents. Organized by Don, K8OMO, our 17 operators, (supplemented by other operators who were traveling with the riders) manned local check points on Monday,



and Tuesday.

Field Day Wrap-up-Our 1995 Field Day effort was the first using our new club call sign, KB8YXT. We made 155 CW contacts, and 220 phone contacts, for a claimed score of 1,060 points, before bonuses. Saturday's dinner was provided by Nancy Morretta, XYL of Bill, N8TLY (SK). Breakfast was provided by Dave, N8NLZ, and Dianna Ashburn.

The summer foxhunt was postponed, due to the heat.

September 2000

10 Years ago

From the September, 1990 issue of the Zero Beat, Dave Buckwalter, KC3CL ed.

President Jim Wilson, KB8GHZ
Vice-President John Myers, WX8G
Secretary Gladys Wilson, KB8GIA
Treasurer Patti Hillier, KE8KH
Trustees
Jim Ferguson, N8DZA
Dave Buckwalter, KC3CL
Larry Ashburn, KE8VE

On page one: A proposed amendment that would have changed the club's annual meeting to November.

At that time, you had a host of options, if you wanted to submit an article for the Zero Beat. Your article could be sent via modem (not internet), RTTY, or on IBM PC formatted disk 5.25" 360 Kb, or 3.5" 720Kb. All files needed to be in ASCII (does anyone remember what ASCII stands for?), or an IBM PC word processor format. No E-mail? YUK!

Special elections were to be held at the September meeting, to fill the recently vacated offices of President, Vice-President, and Secretary.

Also at the September meeting, we were planning to draw the winning ticket for the latest raffle.

Dave printed the third in a four part series, covering the W1JR technical presentation on antennas,

Quote of the month

June, 1995
during GOBA

When a bicyclist complained about not being able to make it the rest of the way, Jerry, KG8RN, replied, "Don't worry. We've got a preacher, and a graveyard at the next checkpoint."

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Zero Beat Web Wanderings

Well, here we are again. Another months worth of our favorite web sites. All I can say is thanks, and keep 'em coming!



www.joecartoon.com From Don, K8OMO, comes this one. You may not agree, but I think it is one of the funniest sites on the web.

<http://www.bluemountain.com/> Thanks to Mary Ann, KB8IVS, for this site



<http://urbanlegends.about.com/culture/beliefs/urbanlegends/library/blhoax.htm> Another one from Mary Ann.

<http://hfradio.org/wb8rcr/> A slick QSL card designer, from Bob, W8HZ



<http://hfradio.org> Here's another Amateur Radio Site, which bears some exploration

<http://www.ebay.com/> Guess how I plan to pay for college?



<http://www.qsl.net/kd8mq/paqso/paqso.htm> Here's a shameless plug for my PA QSO web site.

<http://www.qsl.net/narc/paqso.htm> In case I've convinced you to participate in the QSO party, here's the official web site



<http://www.qsl.net/kd8mq/links/links.htm> Another shameless plug for my web site. This has more links to PA QSO Party sites, among other things.

<http://www.n4mc.com> This is a link to Mike's callsign restoration project.



AMATEUR RADIO LEGEND LEW "MAC" MCCOY, W1ICP, SK

Amateur Radio legend and former ARRL Headquarters staff member Lew "Mac" McCoy, W1ICP, of Mesa, Arizona, died July 31. He was 84. His daughter, Marsha Ashurst, W1HAQ, said McCoy had not been feeling well for about seven weeks and was diagnosed as being seriously ill only three weeks before he died.

As a member of the ARRL Headquarters staff from 1949 until 1978, McCoy gained a national and international reputation primarily for his articles in QST and his early work to combat TV interference. "He became a hero of all the Novices and beginners because his stuff was so down to earth and easy to read," said retired ARRL Communications Manager George Hart, W1NJM, a good friend.

ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, described McCoy as "one of a kind" and "versatile." Sumner said McCoy "left his mark on future generations of amateurs as QST's 'Beginner and Novice' editor." When FM repeaters came along, Sumner said, McCoy made it his mission to educate his ARRL colleagues about their potential.

An ARRL Life Member, McCoy was first licensed as W9FHZ. He arrived at ARRL Headquarters in 1949, eventually landing in the Technical Department. There, he was able to take advantage of his ability to explain technical concepts in

simple terms.

McCoy earned a reputation as a tireless traveler and goodwill ambassador for Amateur Radio. He first started hitting the road in the early 1950s after TVI had become troublesome for amateurs and soon became the League's TVI expert.

Ashurst recalls how the family toured with McCoy as he demonstrated TVI cures for hams and TV service personnel alike. "As children we also sat through many of his presentations and knew more about TVI than any other kids in the country," she said. "We were the first in town to have a TV set so that Dad could monitor interference. Having a TV also made us very popular with the other kids, especially when Ed Sullivan had Elvis Presley [on]."

ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, credited McCoy with providing the foundation for the ARRL's current RFI expertise in helping hams to deal with interference to consumer equipment and interference to hams from other sources. McCoy also was well-known for one of his projects, "The Ultimate Transmatch," an antenna tuner he described in a July 1970 QST article.

After leaving the ARRL Headquarters staff, McCoy continued as a QST contributing editor. He subsequently was a major contributor to other Amateur Radio publications, including CQ.

During his active years on

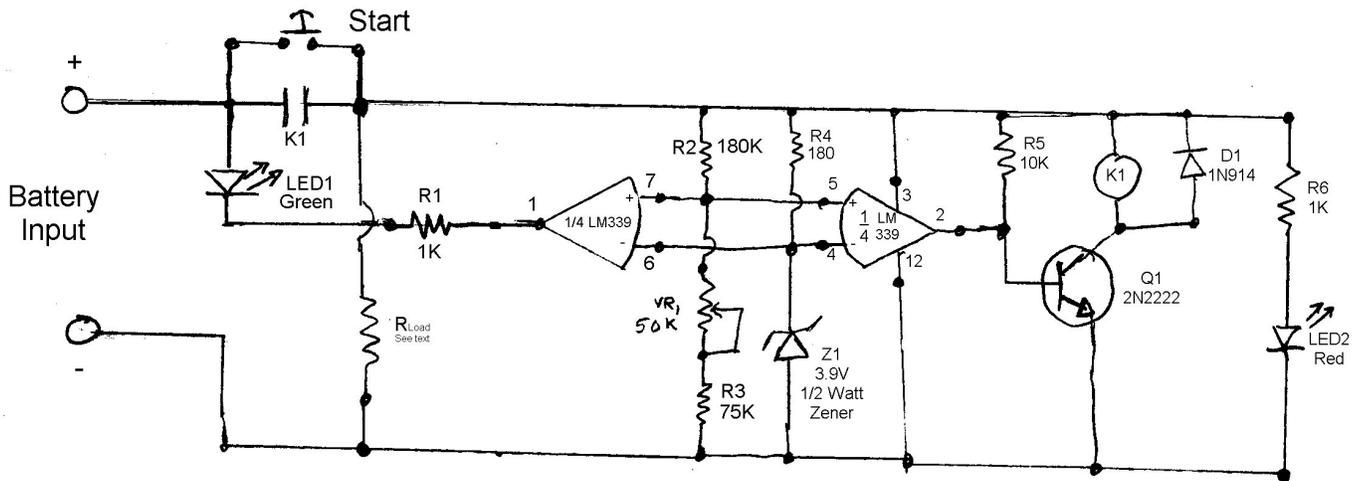
the air, McCoy was an avid DXer. More recently, he was active in the Quarter Century Wireless Association, had served as QCWA president and a board member and had just been elected again to the QCWA's Board of Directors, something his daughters never got to tell him before he died. QCWA President Emeritus Leland Smith, W5KL, remembers McCoy as a proponent of a no-code license for beginners who also advocated the 5 WPM maximum code requirement subsequently adopted by the FCC.

McCoy's first wife (of 60 years), Martha, died in 1998. Survivors include his wife, Clara Gibbs McCoy, and his daughters, Marsha Ashurst, W1HAQ--licensed at age 8 and said at the time to be the youngest ham in the world--and Sharon Armann, ex-WN1GQR, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In accordance with McCoy's wishes, there will be no funeral. The family is planning a memorial service for McCoy in early December. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting memorial donations in Lew McCoy's name to Hospice of the Valley, 1510 E Flower St, Phoenix, AZ 85014-5656. Condolences may be sent to the family care of Marsha Ashurst, PO Box 2260, Lakeside, AZ 85929.

From The ARRL Letter, Vol. 19, No. 30, August 4, 2000

The Discharger

By Frank Sanor, WA8WHP



K1- 5 Volt reed relay (1 N.O. contact capable of handling current)

All resistors except R_L are 1/4 Watt

The television station where I work, needed to ensure the NI-CAD packs we use for remote taping, were always at the end point before recharging. This would eliminate the memory effect that sometimes affects NICAD batteries.

The endpoint was assumed to be 1 volt per cell. The packs we use are 14.4 Volts nominal. This converts to 12 cells (a NICAD is 1.2 volts per cell at full charge).

My task was to design a discharger to take the pack to the endpoint, then stop. Timing would not accomplish this, as the cells may be used only partially then the camera may be shut off. The next operator may not know what the cell charge state was, so the pack would be changed for a fresh pack to be sure of the most filming time. These partially charged cells may develop the memory effect, lowering the amount of usable power available. This led to the following design.

The basic circuit is designed

around a quad comparator (an LM339). The load was sized to discharge a fully charged pack in ten hours. To calculate the resistance and wattage rating, use the following method:

1. Determine the Amp-Hour rating of the pack.

Example: 1000mahr 7.2VDC pack.

2. At 1000mahr, the discharge rate would be 100ma.

3. This gives a value of $7.2/.1$ or 72 Ohms

4. The wattage is .72 Watts.

Use at least a 1 Watt resistor

Note: this is based on Ohm's law. $E=IR$ and $P=IE$.

The circuit operates by comparing the voltage presented to pin 7 with the voltage presented to pin 6. When pin 7 is positive, with respect to pin 6, pin 1 will be high. When pin 6 is positive with respect to pin 7, pin 1 goes low. This turns on LED 1, showing "End of Discharge". Pin 5 is the same as pin 7, and pin 4 is the same as pin

6. Pin 2 is the same as pin 1. When pin 2 is high, Q1 is turned on, and relay K1 is on.

To operate, connect the pack correctly. Press the "Start" switch. This impresses the battery voltage to the circuit, which pulls in K1, which holds through it's own contacts, until the comparator switches at the set point. It then opens, which disconnects the pack, and stops the discharge.

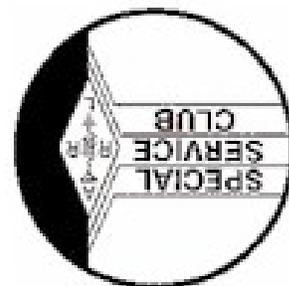
The only adjustment needed, is to set the en point voltage. Connect a variable power supply to the battery input. Adjust the supply 1 Volt per cell of the pack. The example above was 7.2 Volts, which would be 6 cells. Assume 1.2 Volts per cell of stated pack voltage. Press "Start", and adjust VR1 to switch at 1 volt per cell.

(ed note-If you have trouble reading this schematic, just E-mail me, and I'll get you a better copy)

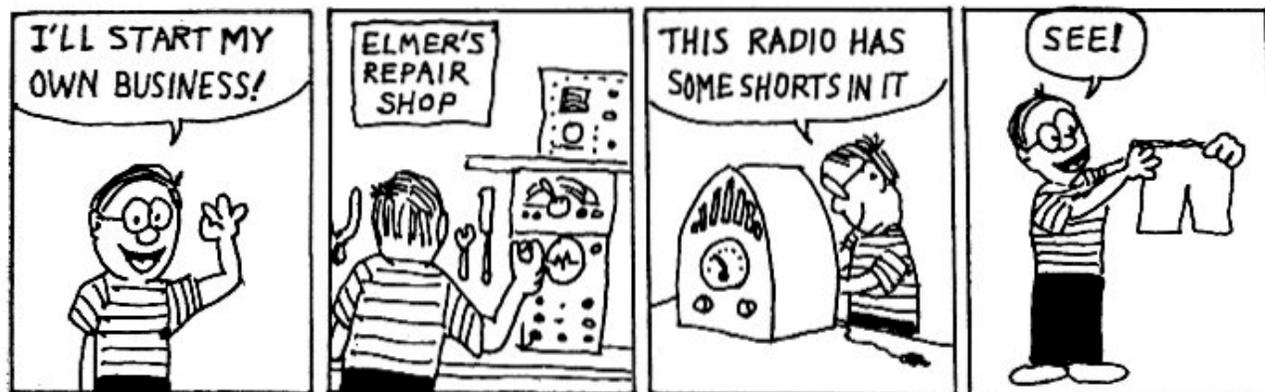
September 2000

Monthly Planner

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Alliance Amateur Radio Club
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Rich Regent has kindly contributed his cartoons to the ARNS Bulletin. You may use them if you credit him.

