Recent and Upcoming Events In Ham Radio

The Annual Christmas Banquet will be at Mike's Roadhouse Charly at 6:00 on Dec. 17th. Contact Mary Ann, KB8IVS immediately if you wish to attend and haven't turned in your reservations yet. Contact information can be found on page 2. Anyone is welcome to attend. Also, Ham of the Year nominations must be turned in by this months meeting.

Larry Hillier, N8EWV, sailed from North Carolina to Antigua Island in the West Indies. He arrived there on November 28th He had several mishaps on his trip to Bermuda in June, but survived more or less intact. His path to Antigua can be viewed at: www.mmsn.org

The ARRL sent ballots to all members in September, which were to be marked and returned by noon on November 18th. Neil Sablatzky, K8IT and Jim Weaver, K8JE were running for Great Lakes Division Director. Incumbent Jim Weaver was re-elected to a second term by a vote of 3505 to 883. Also on the ballot were two candidates for Vice Director. Former Great Lakes Division Director Gary L Johnston, KI4LA, who was replaced by Weaver in 2002, ran against Daniel Romanchik, KB6NU. Johnson defeated Romanchik by a vote of 3033 to 1263. Our current Great Lakes Division Vice Director, Richard Mondro, W8FQT did not run for re-election. Johnson was appointed to the position of Director in 2002 following the resignation of George Race, WB8BGY and held the position until the election.

And finally as always, If you would like to see your name in print or you have aspirations of being a published writer, send your material to the Zero Beat.

Ham Radio Provided Only Reliable Communications During Katrina

Note: The following Editorial from Electronic Design Magazine 10/13/05 is reprinted here with the permission of Mark David, Editor-in-Chief, Electronic Design.

ARRL's ROLE IN RESCUE OFFERS LESSONS FOR FUTURE

Investigations into the communications breakdowns in our national emergency response systems continue. Yet I'm struck by the contrast between the hue and cry for upgraded infrastructure solutions and the much quieter revelation that old-school ham radio provided the only trustworthy communications during Hurricane Katrina.

New Orleans emergency departments' radios were wiped out when broadcast towers lost backup power generators. Police and fire departments only had citizen-band radios, offering inadequate bandwidth. Emergency responders lacked coordinated frequencies.

The National Guard cited antiquated communications technology as a

Editorial

The November Zero Beat never quite made it, although pieces of it were handed out at the meeting last month. This issue is pushing the deadline. I've included all the material from the November issue in this one for reference, except the calendar which is out of date, but those of you who made it to the meeting last month got that and the minutes. I've printed both the October and the November minutes in this issue so if you have missed the last few meetings, you can catch up on them. Also note that the October issue of the Zero Beat is on the Club's web site. I don't think I ever emailed it. If you need a hard copy of that issue, let me know and I'll send one to you. There were copies available at the October meeting.

I apologize for the missed issues. I never missed an issue before except when we had a death in the family, but since we started working overtime it just seems like there aren't enough hours in the day. I get behind in my sleep and that slows me down and then I get farther behind and try to catch up on weekends. Maybe I'll get next month's issue out a little earlier.

Hope to see all of you at the meeting and also at the Christmas Party

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 145.37 ®. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM. 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 meters
9 PM on 145.37 MHz

Internet

If you'd like to check us out on the web, our E-mail address is:
   w8lky@qsl.net
Our club home page is:
   http://www.w8lky.org

Newsletter 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 either electronically, to ke8ve@alliancelink.com, in person, or via snail mail. I can read most word processor formats, but prefer your files to be in straight text, E-mail, or Microsoft Word format.

Minutes of the October And the Annual Meeting

ALLIANCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

October 5, 2005

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held at the Alliance Community Hospital on October 5, 2005 at 7:30 PM with club president Robert Steele, K8RLS, presiding. There were 19 members and 1 guest present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by introductions. The guest welcomed was Duane Zorger of Alliance, who has attended several meetings.

The minutes of the September meeting were read aloud due to publication of the newsletter being delayed. A correction to last month's minutes was made by Frank, WA8WHP. The amateur classes at the Stark county Sheriff's office were being sponsored by the Canton Amateur Radio Club, not the Sheriff's office itself. The minutes were then approved by a voice vote of the members.

Mary Ann, KB8IVS, gave the treasurer's report. The report was accepted on a motion from Smitty, KC8TJQ, and seconded by Dave, W8UKQ.

Old business:
Don, K8OMO, reported that the latest operation of the Homeland Security Hospital Net yielded a comparatively poor response, with few check-ins.

Treasurer Mary Ann reported that the club check to the Salvation Army in support of hurricane relief had been sent.

President Bob reminded the club of the Massillon hamfest on October 30. Don, K8OMO, would be running an auction to take place during the hamfest.

Don, K8OMO, and Joe, KC8TAC, reported on the new hospital's planned opening in January, 2006, and that plans had been made to add a fourth floor in about two years.

New business:
Don, K8OMO noted that the FCC is not currently renewing vanity calls due to work backlog from the hurricanes.

President Bob reported that the ARRL is sponsoring a toy drive for hurricane victims, and that K9YA is looking for World War II and Korean radio operators' stories to be published in a newsletter. Bob has the addresses for these activities for those interested.

The Muskingum County hamfest will be held on October 9 in Zanesville at the home of WZ8V. The Canton ARC is having the hamfest. The hamfest is free for admission and vendors.

The Canton ARC is also sponsoring their third annual Worked All Stark County contest on December 11. This will be a 2-meter FM simplex contest.

President Bob then adjourned the regular meeting at 7:48 PM in preparation for the trustee's meeting and election of officers.

Election of officers:
Frank, WA8WHP, was nominated by Bob, K8RLS to be retained as a trustee. The trustee nominations were closed on a motion by John, KD8MQ and seconded by Joe, KC8TAC. The nomination was approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Bob, K8RLS was nominated by Larry, KE8VE for continuation as president. The nominations were closed on a motion by Dave, N8NLZ and seconded by Dave, W8UKQ. The nomination was then approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Joe, KC8TAC was nominated by Howard, K8DXR for continuation as vice president. This was seconded by Jim, N8XTJ. The nomination was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Don, AB8KV was nominated by Howard, K8DXR for continuation as secretary. This was seconded by John, KD8MQ. Nominations were closed on a motion by Larry, KE8VE and seconded by Howard, K8DXR. The nomination was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mary Ann, KB8IVS was nominated by Joe, KC8TAC for continuation as treasurer. This was seconded by Howard, K8DXR. Nominations were closed on a motion by Jim, K8LTG and seconded by Larry, KE8VE. The nomination was then approved by a unanimous voice vote.

The trustee meeting / election of officers portion of the meeting was then closed on a motion by Smitty, KC8TJQ and seconded by Sam, KC8ETZ.

President Bob then reopened the regular meeting for a continuation

ALLIANCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

November 2, 2005

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held at the Alliance Community Hospital on November 2, 2005 at 7:30 PM with club president Robert Steele, K8RLS, presiding. There were 21 members and 2 guests present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by introductions. The club welcomed guests Michael Shaffer, N8RQU, of Carrollton and Miriam Sanor, wife of Frank, WA8WHP. The club also welcomed new member Gary Lewis Sr., W8SSB.

The October minutes were published in the newsletter. They were approved on a motion by Howard, K8DXR and seconded by Frank, WA8WHP.

.Mary Ann, KB8IVS, gave the treasurer's report. The report was accepted on a motion from Joe, KC8TAC and seconded by Don, AB8KV.

Old business:
President Bob reminded the club that Ham of the Year nominations were due and were to be turned in to George, K3GP. He also noted that the club Christmas party was coming up on December 17 and reservations needed to be turned in to Mary Ann by the next club meeting on December 7.

Don, K8OMO reported that the operation of the Hospital Homeland Security Net was somewhat better on the last run, having more check-ins than the previous one. He noted that more operators were still needed.

Comments about the Massillon hamfest were mixed, with some negative input about restrictions on the auction, marginal lighting in the main sales room and a smaller size overall since moving from the fairgrounds.

President Bob announced that the club's ARRL Special Service Club status had been renewed. He also noted that the club's State non-profit organization registration renewal (due every 2 years) was due. A motion to pay the registration was made by Howard, K8DXR and seconded by Jim, K8LTG. The motion was passed on a voice vote.

New business:
Don, AB8KV wanted the club to be aware of a reprinted article in the newsletter lauding amateur radio's role in emergency communications during hurricane Katrina. The article noted how the hams were able to provide communications while many of the "official" systems were not.

President Bob announced that the Foundation for Amateur Radio was offering 54 scholarships for 2006-2007, and the information was available from him.

He also noted that the ARRL was sponsoring a toy / money drive for hurricane victims this Christmas. However, it was proposed by Jack, W8WEN and Howard, K8DXR that the club instead donate $100 to the Alliance Fire Department for their local Christmas toy drive. A motion to do so was made by John, KD8MQ and seconded by Dave, N8NLZ. The motion was passed on a voice vote.

President Bob reported on an email he had received concerning an individual's selling of inherited TV repair equipment and parts. Information on contacting the individual was available.

Joe, KC8TAC introduced a motion to allocate $100 for door prizes at the club Christmas party. The motion was seconded by Frank, WA8WHP and Gladys, KB8GIA, then approved on a voice vote.

Discussion was held regarding entertainment at the Christmas party, particularly a musician who had previously performed. The idea was tabled due to the cost.

President Bob stated that there would be no official net on Thanksgiving day. However, Howard, K8DXR offered to take it if there were participants.

Bob also noted that the club needed to arrange with the hospital a place in which to meet before the hospital move scheduled for mid-January. Don, K8OMO offered to discuss this with hospital personnel.

The meeting then closed on a motion by George, K3GP and seconded by Jim, N8XTJ.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Don Kingan, AB8KV, Secretary.

THE WAYBACK MACHINE
ISSUE #22
by Bill Continelli, W2XOY
reprinted with permission

On March 4, 1929, Herbert Hoover, the former Secretary of Commerce who had helped Amateur Radio during it's embryonic years, became President of the United States. Less than 8 months later, the Nation was thrown into the Great Depression. Stock prices fell 80%, the Gross National Product fell 50%, and unemployment was at 25%. It did not sound like a good time to waste money on a frivolous hobby such as amateur radio. And yet, the early 1930's was the period of the greatest growth in our history. From 1929's census of 16,829, amateur radio expanded 276% in 5 years, to a total of 46,390 in 1934.

What was life like in our hobby 65 years ago?

QST was 25 cents per issue. One of the interesting columns in it was entitled "Calls Heard", which simply listed page after page of callsigns heard by various stations reporting in. Each month hams would scan the hundreds of calls listed, to see if their signals had been noticed. One of the callsigns listed was W2XAF, which was not an amateur station, but rather the shortwave relay of WGY, Schenectady. In fact, in the 1930's, there were so many broadcast stations with SW relays, that the Callbook listed them in addition to amateur callsigns.

Most of the ads in QST at that time were for components to construct your own station. Tubes, resistors and condensers (not capacitors), were displayed in full page ads. RCA and deForest were the dominant entities in the tube field. If you needed "A", "B" and "C" batteries, the Burgess Battery Company in Madison, Wis. could supply them. As the 1930's progressed, more companies appeared with kits or even assembled units. Hammarlund, then known as Hammarlund-Roberts Inc, made it's debut with the "AC PRO", an 8 tube superhet receiver. National's new receiver was the SW-3. Radio Engineering Labs, known as REL, of Long Island City, supplied low cost transmitter and receiver kits. In 1931, one of these kits was at the center of a legal battle that went all the way to the Supreme Court. RCA, which held the deForest patents on the regenerative circuit,

sued REL. Edwin Armstrong, who actually invented regeneration, but lost a controversial court battle with deForest, saw this as an opportunity to win back his patent. He purchased 51% of REL's stock, and proceeded to fight the grand battle once more. Unfortunately, in 1934, the Supreme Court ruled that deForest, not Armstrong, was the inventor of regeneration.

Armstrong could take some small consolation that another of his inventions was finally put to good use in the amateur world -- superregeneration. Invented in the early 1920's, superregeneration provides very high sensitivity on AM signals. However, it has almost no selectivity, a very high noise level in the absence of stations, and radiated a broad interfering signal to nearby receivers. It was useless on MW or SW, but was perfect for the 5 meter band at 56 mc. During the early 1930's, Ross Hull, QST's Associate Editor, wrote many articles about 5 meters and the surprising propagation there. Many 'phone stations appeared on 56 mc, almost all used "supergenny" receivers, and some even operated full duplex.

If "UHF" 'phone doesn't interest you, how about amateur television? In 1931 you ask??? Unbelievably, the answer is yes!. In 1931 an article appeared in QST describing the "spinning disc" mechanical television system that had been around since the 20's. It was clumsy and crude, but it worked. The Jenkins Television Corp of Passaic, NJ, offered a "spinning Disc" kit in QST. Within 9 years however, the mechanical system was rendered obsolete by RCA's all electronic system.

The Madrid Conference was held in 1932. Unlike the 1927 Washington Conference, amateur radio was not in danger, and no frequencies were lost. 1932 also saw the expansion of the 'phone bands, but a special endorsement was needed to operate them.

The "Old Man" was still around, with his letters in QST about "rotten" operators, "rotten" band conditions, "rotten" stations, etc.. In fact, everything that didn't meet the Old Man's standards was "rotten". For the past 15 years he had been writing--no one knew who he was. Finally, when Hiram Percy Maxim died in 1936, the ARRL revealed that Maxim was indeed the Old Man. By the way, since H.P. Maxim, W1AW, was still alive in the early 30's, the ARRL Station Call was

Ham Radio Provided Only Reliable Communications During Katrina, cont.

(Continued from page 1)

contributor to its delayed response. Lt. Gen. Steven Blum told USA Today that there was a shortage of high-tech radios and satellite communications gear. "We were underequipped," Blum told USA Today. "We don't need tanks and attack helicopters… but we must have state-of-the-art radios and communications."

The Guard has historically gotten "hand-me-down" equipment from active-duty military. It now uses Vietnam-era radios while it needs 37,000 newer radios," according to Guard budget briefings.

Meanwhile, ham radio operators proved that older technology can be the most reliable technology. Our EDA Editor (and ham) David Maliniak wrote an online column on the subject, pointing out that sometimes "old works when new doesn't." (Read it and add your comments at ED Online 11136.) During and after Katrina, hams running on generators (sometimes with makeshift antennas) worked throughout the hurricane zone to put emergency stations on the air. They guided rescuers to stranded victims and updated weather services via the Hurricane Watch Net.

Amateur radio was the primary means of contact with the outside world for many shelters, It's estimated that some 1000 amateur radio volunteers helped serve the hurricane-ravager communities and shelters, even providing communications for the Red Cross.

Still, the real lesson of the ham radio successes isn't that old sometimes trumps new. Upgraded, reliable hardware is vital for adequate emergency response. Amateur radio has continued to upgrade too. Hams use satellites, digital systems, cross-band repeaters, and more. As the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) puts it,

the Morse code key may still be on the desk, but generally it's next to a modern system operable under extreme emergency conditions.

DISTRIBUTED NETWORKS—Katrina taught two key lessons. First, the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) organization proved effective because hams don't depend on a centralized infrastructure. When cell towers, phone switching centers, or other central communications networks are down, hams aren't. Many operators have their own generators and are ready to fire them up to get on the air when there's no power. National disaster response plans must assume that the centralized communications infrastructure likely will be crippled, so the emergency system must include a distributed or mesh networking scheme.

Second, ARRL succeeded because operators subscribe to a mission that comes with their licenses—to be ready to provide emergency communications whenever and wherever they're needed. ARES has a well conceived action plan coordinated through the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES). ARES is a part of the ARRL, and RACES is coordinated through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). But like the broadcast system, the emergency plan is decentralized. Radio operators can work independently to serve their community as circumstances require.

A decentralized emergency plan requires deputized people who truly understand and care about their responsibilities. The best emergency response relies on distributed manpower, with first responders empowered to make decisions at the scene of the crisis.

It doesn't take a federal investigation to realize that the government's emergency-response debacle was caused by centralizing the decision-making with

politically appointed bureaucrats who didn't have a personal mission or a true sense of ownership in ensuring preparedness. The fiasco with now-deposed FEMA leader Michael Brown exemplifies the folly of appointments based on cronyism, rather than the recruitment of people who have a passion, understanding, and commitment for the responsibilities they shoulder

In this issue's cover story, Ron Schneiderman looks at government programs and the new technologies tackling our homeland security problems. But will the right people get those technologies? Too often, homeland security appointments and dollars are doled out according to political favoritism. As we saw in the recent emergency response, technologies are only effective when managed by people—like the hams—who take their responsibilities to heart.

Hats off to all of you who care about the quality of the security and emergency communications technologies you're engineering. Let's hope they end up controlled by people who care just as much.¤

You can e-mail Mark David at:
    mdavid@penton.com

December 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 05 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		**January 06** S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		**1** AARC NETS 8:00, 8:30, 9:00 QCWA Net 7:30	**2** ARRL 160-Meter Contest	**3** KC8ETZ LAKE COUNTY ARA VE, KIRTLAND, OH SILVERCREEK ARA VE, RITTMAN, OH TARA RTTY Melee Wake-Up! QRP Sprint
4	**5** COLUM. COUNTY TRAINING NET 8:00PM	**6** Canton ARES Net 7pm 147.12 CUYAHOGA FALLS ARC VE, STOW, OH NORTHERN COLUMBIANA ARES NET 9PM 147.255	**7** AARC Meeting 7:30 CARROLL CTY NET - 8PM - 147.075	**8** AARC NETS 8:00, 8:30, 9:00 QCWA Net 7:30	**9** MASSILLON NET 8:00PM 147.18	**10** ARRL 10-Meter Contest
11 CQC Great Colorado Snowshoe Run N8PLA	**12** COLUM. COUNTY TRAINING NET 8:00PM	**13** Canton ARES Net 7pm 147.12 NORTHERN COLUMBIANA ARES NET 9PM 147.255	**14** CARROLL CTY NET - 8PM - 147.075	**15** AARC NETS 8:00, 8:30, 9:00 QCWA Net 7:30	**16** MASSILLON NET 8:00PM 147.18 N8DAV Russian 160-Meter Contest	**17** AARC Christmas Party Croatian CW Contest KC8TQF MDXA PSK DeathMatch OK DX RTTY Contest RAC Winter Contest Stew Perry Topband Challenge
18	**19** COLUM. COUNTY TRAINING NET 8:00PM KA8GRC	**20** Canton ARES Net 7pm 147.12 NORTHERN COLUMBIANA ARES NET 9PM 147.255	**21** CARROLL CTY NET - 8PM - 147.075	**22** AARC NETS 8:00, 8:30, 9:00 QCWA Net 7:30 WARREN ARA VE, NEWTON FALLS, OH	**23** MASSILLON NET 8:00PM 147.18	**24**
25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	**26** COLUM. COUNTY TRAINING NET 8:00PM	**27** Canton ARES Net 7pm 147.12 Homeland Security Net 7:30PM at ACH 147.51 Simplex NORTHERN COLUMBIANA ARES NET 9PM 147.255	**28** CARROLL CTY NET - 8PM - 147.075 WRECS VE, BENTLEYVILLE, OH	**29** AARC NETS 8:00, 8:30, 9:00 QCWA Net 7:30	**30** MASSILLON NET 8:00PM 147.18	**31** STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT

Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people only once a year.- Victor Borge

WAYBACK MACHINE

W1MK.

Dealers included "Uncle" Dave Marks, whose first store was located at 115 North Pearl St in Albany, NY. This address is significant to me because the building I now work in stands on that site.

By 1934, the Federal Radio Commission was super-seded by the FCC, and a new license structure, with Class A, Class B, and Class C licenses, was in place. <<Class A, Class B, and Class C?? What goes around, comes around.

In our next installment, we will take a look at the late 1930's, particularly some events in 1938. I hope you can join me.

October Minutes, cont.

of new business:

The Ham of the Year nominations are needed by the time of the November club meeting.

The club Christmas dinner is scheduled for December 17. Discussion was held regarding the choice of menu items. The suggestion was made to try for a five-item main menu selection. It was further suggested that the menu and a reservation form be included in the news-letter.

John, KD8MQ, reminded the club of the upcoming PA QSO party.

The meeting was then adjourned by President Bob on a motion by Frank, WA8WHP and seconded by Howard, K8DXR.

Respectfully submitted by Don Kingan, AB8KV, Secretary.