



Meeting Room Change for the June Meeting

Due to a scheduling conflict with the hospital, The June meeting will be held in conference room 2A. This is on the second floor of the main hospital building. (see map below).

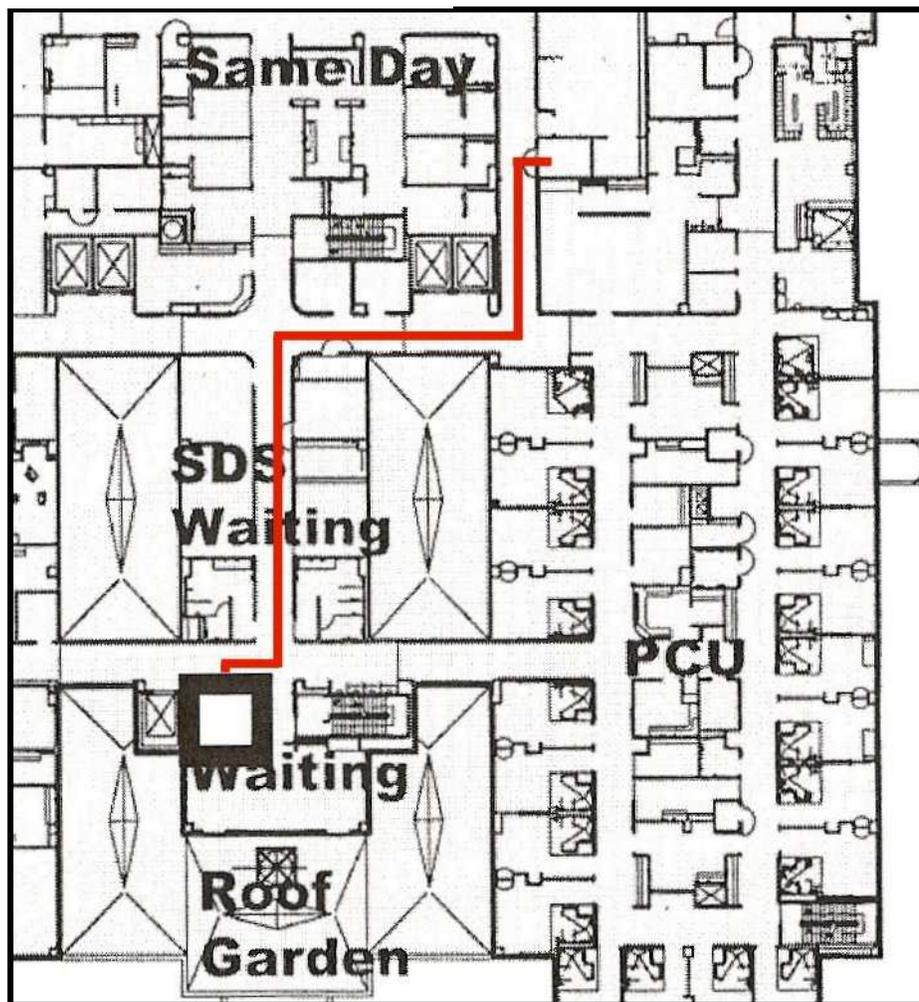
We'll be making plans for the ARRL Field Day, which is held on June 23/24th. Field Day is part contest, part emergency preparedness exercise, and part social event.



Howard, K8DXR operating the night shift on 20 Meters

Directions to Room 2A

- From the main entrance of the hospital, take the elevator to the 2nd floor.
- Exit the elevator and turn right.
- Turn left at the first corridor
- Turn right at the next corridor
- Turn left at the next corridor
- Room 2A will be on your right.
- We will have signs posted.



De Olde Meeting Announcement

The next meeting of the Alliance ARC will be on Wednesday, June 6th at the Alliance, Community Hospital. This month, we will meet in the conference room on the 2nd floor (See the accompanying story & map on this page).

Meetings begin at 7:30 PM. Plan to join us this month as we finalize our Field Day plans.

Officers

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Editorial

By John, KD8MQ

About 5 years ago, I resigned as newsletter editor in order to devote more time to my school work. Larry (KE8VE), & Dianna Ashburn stepped up to fill the position, and have handled the production of the Zero Beat since then. Being a newsletter editor is just a couple steps below having a root canal on most peoples list of favorite things, but Larry & Dianna believe in this club, and believe, as I do, that this club must have a monthly newsletter. Words cannot properly express my gratitude to them for taking over the editing chore for these last 5 years. If you see them, don't forget to thank them for all their hard work.

Please bear with me as I try to re-learn the newsletter "business". I have a few ideas for things I'd like to change, but these will take time.

First, lets talk about the mailing list. If I have a e-mail address for you, you received a download link for the ZB via that medium. Otherwise, we spent 41 cents to mail a paper copy to you, and I will be asking you for your e-mail address in the near future. E-mail is not only the most cost effective way to get the newsletter to you, but it is a lot easier on the editor.

As always, the newsletter will be available for easy download from the club website. More on that later.

Field Day is coming up. Once again we will be operating in the field behind Marlinton Middle School. One new thing this year is that for the first time ever, we will be using a networked logging setup. From any station at the field day site, we can see whose making contacts, and where. This promises to be our most interesting Field Day yet.

Speaking of Field Day, did anyone see the article about the FD group who used a fuel cell to run the stations? I can't find it in the QST index, so maybe it was in CQ? I wonder how long before we try that

(Continued on page 3)

Meetings

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club meets on the First Wednesday of every month, in conference room 1A (at the west end of the Cafeteria) at 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

Web: www.w8lky.org

E-mail: W8lky@w8lky.org

Newsletter Information

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

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You can submit material to the Zero Beat via e-mail to tvguy07@gmail.com

May Minutes

Alliance Amateur Radio Club

May 2, 2007

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held at the Alliance Community Hospital on May 2, 2007 at 7:30 PM with club president Joe Young, KC8TAC presiding. The meeting was held in the cafeteria area since the conference room was occupied. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by introductions. There were 20 members present, along with Miriam Sanor and a guest, Tom Steele, son of Bob, K8RLS.

President Joe then had Tom report on Bob's condition as he had recently fallen and broken his hip and was now in the Community Care Center for rehab. Tom stated that Bob was making progress but it was slow and he would apparently be in there for a while. Bob would welcome any visitors.

For the secretary's report Don, AB8KV noted that the April minutes were in the newsletter, and also reported on the flowers sent to Dave Glass' funeral and the card to his wife. A thank-you note from her to the club was passed around. Don further noted that the confirmation of our insurance payment and coverage for the year had been received. Next he reported that Miller's had sent a reminder notice about ordering the portable toilet for Field Day. Vice-president John, KD8MQ then responded that he had already contacted them prior to the date of their reminder, and that he would follow up with another call to ensure we were on their list. Finally, Don noted the news that John's mother had passed away and that a card from the club had been sent. The secretary's report was approved on a motion from Smitty, KC8TJQ and seconded by Jim, K8LTG.

Mary Ann, KB8IVS gave the treasurer's report. She reiterated that

the insurance bill had indeed been paid. The treasurer's report was approved on a motion from Howard, K8DXR and seconded by Smitty, KC8TJQ.

Old business:

---President Joe first addressed the issue of the location for Field Day. He reported that Dianna had turned in the paperwork for the Marlinton Middle School site and unless there was further discussion needed, that would be the club's final selection. Since there were no other comments, the subject was closed.

---Joe then went on to the subject of the location for the club Christmas party. John, KD8MQ reported that his church was open to hosting it, with the cost \$10 per person for a ham and turkey buffet. Punch was usually provided, with other drinks and possibly dessert being extra. A tentative date of December 8 had been discussed. John stated he could try to obtain some further information and report back by the June meeting. Don, K8OMO then reported again about Pancho's willingness to host it, with the cost being whatever the menu item selected was, plus \$4. He mentioned that the average cost of a dinner there could be expected to be in the range of \$15. He said they would like to know ahead of time that we would be coming, but that the exact date was unimportant. Don also reiterated that the Vine Street church was still open to hosting us.

Joe then asked if there was a proposal or motion to choose a location for the Christmas party. Don, K8OMO made a motion to go to Pancho's. This was seconded by Larry, KE8VE and was subsequently passed on a voice vote. The date of December 8 was chosen, with a time of 6:30 PM for getting together and the meal time at 7:30.

New business:

---Jack, W8WEN reminded the club about the importance of keeping accurate logs which greatly facilitate

the verification of some QSL's.

---John, KD8MQ with others then previewed and demonstrated the N3FJP networking software proposed for use on Field Day. The cost to the club to use the software would be \$10 for a license that would authorize its use on up to 25 computers. George, K3GP made a motion for the club to pay the software licensing fee so that the club could use it for Field Day. The motion was seconded by Jim, K8LTG and passed on a voice vote.

---It was noted that the normal July meeting date would fall on the 4th this year and the question of selecting a different date was raised. A motion was made by George, K3GP to have the July meeting on the 11th. It was seconded by Frank, WA8WHP and passed on a voice vote.

---President Joe reminded the club about the Breezeshooter's hamfest on June 3.

---John, KD8MQ then reported that the Carnation Days Triathlon is scheduled for August 19 and the Castle run for the Sunday of Labor Day weekend.

---With no further new business, the meeting was then adjourned at 8:40 PM on a motion by Smitty, KC8TJQ and seconded by Jim, K8LTG.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Don, AB8KV, secretary.

Editorial - continued

(Continued from page 2)

at W8LKY? It's probably not as far out as it sounds.

Well, enough rambling for this month. See you at the club meeting. Remember, we are in the 2nd floor conference room this month (Details on page 1).

73, John, KD8MQ

A short while back, I wrote an article entitled [Whatever Happened To The Electronics Hobbyist?](#) The response was overwhelming. Thanks to all of you who wrote to express your thoughts about this topic. So many of those respondents actually took the path from hobbyist to career and are concerned that this infrequently taken path today is leaving us with a shortage of engineers.

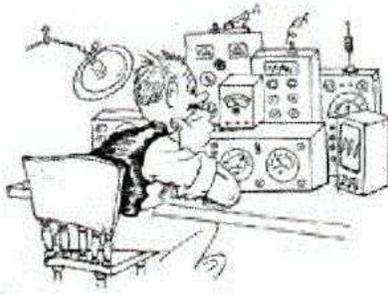
Most of you agreed with my conclusions, but your comments revealed some interesting alternative viewpoints. Maybe my somewhat gloomy view is not so gloomy after all. Here are a few highlights of your comments.

1. Many of you agreed that the hard-core electronic hobbyists today are the hams. I am still of that opinion; it is still a great path to a career. Along that line, reader Dennis Silage, a PhD and professor at Temple University, indicated that he has taken to introducing amateur radio in the undergraduate EE curriculum as a way to stimulate interest in electronics—particularly the hands-on part. I think this is a great idea, as well as a parallel and alternative to the heavy emphasis on robotics in college curricula today.

2. Some of you indicated that the “new” hobbyist is really the programmer. Reader, Jimm Hiffmann, said this: “What they are doing is writing software. Software writing provides the same type of mental challenges—puzzle solving, if you will—that building electronics did in the 60's and 70's.” I agree with that view in terms of a large part of

the current hobbyist population. These hobbyists are writing software for PCs apps as well as programming for embedded controllers.

3. A good number of you offered info on the current DIY and hobbyist movements around the country. The editor of the [Analog Zone](#) Web site, Lee Goldberg, had an interesting piece on the TechShop, a San Francisco, Calif. Bay area venture for local hobbyists to get their hands on



equipment and to make projects, in his recent article. Check it out at www.analogzone.com/nete0312.htm. Thanks, Lee.

4. Reader John Guy suggests we all visit the following Web sites. I think they are definitely worth a look:

- * www.sparkfun.com
- * www.hackaday.com
- * www.diyhappy.com
- * www.makezine.com

These Web sites are certainly relevant to today's hobbyist. Hack a Day seems to practice the systems view of electronics I mentioned in my original article, as it covers lots of tear downs, combinations, modifications and

enhancements to existing gear. Makezine is the Web site of Make magazine, a publication that features electronic projects as well as a wide range of other mechanical and other projects. They also sponsor Maker Faires, an event that bring together hobbyists and DIYers. There are Faires coming up in May in San Mateo, Calif. and October in Austin, Tex.

And reader, Matt, a 16 year old said he had gotten hooked on restoring old radios. He said to check out www.antiqueradios.com.

5. Finally, reader John Conkle said: "I agree with many of your observations and conclusions but I think the overriding factor is that we have done a wonderful job creating value in all things electronic. We did our job and we changed the world." That really sums it up, don't you think? Did we really think things wouldn't change? Probably not, but so much?

I think we can conclude that the hobby of electronics is still around, but in a much different form than before. It is a better fit for what electronics is today. It's not gone, it's just different. But hopefully it will indeed lead some of the younger participants to a career in electronics.

From the April 10, 2007 edition of [Electronic Design Update](#).

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June 2007

Birthday Greetings to: Mrs KE8VE, KG8RN, N8XTJ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">24</p> <p>ARRL Field Day SKCC Weekend Sprint</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">25</p> <p>Columbiana Cty. Train. Net 8pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">26</p> <p>Canton ARES Net 7pm 147.12 Homeland Security Net 7:30pm 147.51 SIMPLEX N, Col. Cty Net 9pm 147.255 N8XTJ - JIM</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">27</p> <p>Carroll Cty Net 0100 UTC 147.075</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">28</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AARC Nets 8:00, 8:30, 9:00</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">29</p> <p>Massillon Net 147.18 8pm NCCC Sprint Ladder</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">30</p>																																																																																				

When all else fails...Amateur Radio



Alliance Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 334
Alliance, OH 44601

Code Proficiency Field Test Program Approved

The ARRL Programs & Services Committee approved field testing of the ARRL Code Proficiency Program in the Great Lakes Division at its April 21 meeting. This means that four ARRL VE teams in the Division will soon be offering code proficiency testing at locations in their areas. If successful, the program may be adopted nationwide.

People who achieve solid copy of text for one minute may obtain a certificate or an upgrade sticker for proficiency at the speed they copied. Code speeds range from 10-40 wpm in the on-air program, but speeds in the field test will be from 5-40 wpm.

The field program, as is

true of the W1AW broadcasts, will be run once a month. There is no charge for participating in these code runs. There is a processing fee for successful candidates only if they want to obtain a certificate or upgrade sticker. The trial run will be performed by ARRL VE teams headed for this purpose by Fernie Williams, III, KE4MAI, (Lexington, KY), Gary Kline, WC8W (Akron-Canton-Massillon, OH), Bob Johnson, K3RC (Toledo, OH) and Jim Kvochick, WB8AZP (Brighton, MI).

During discussions with the VEC manager at HQ, I learned that a number of countries still require applicants for Amateur Radio exams to pass

code proficiency exams. With the FCC having gone out of the Morse code testing business, non-coded US hams who want to obtain reciprocal licenses in these countries are out of luck unless they pass code test in the foreign country. Did you ever consider taking a Morse code test in Japanese?

By running our Code Proficiency field testing program with ARRL VEs, could it be possible that passing one of our code field tests would be acceptable proof of code proficiency for these countries?

(This was excerpted from the latest "Weavers Words", a monthly newsletter from James Weaver, K8JE, who is our ARRL Great Lakes Division Director)