



W8WEN SK

Iraq Back on the Air!



Jack, at the 2004 AARC Christmas Party. *(Photo courtesy, K3GP)*

Diya Sayah, YI1DZ, President of the Iraqi Amateur Radio Society (IARS), announced November 13 that effective November 20, all Amateur Radio activity will be "back to normal" in Iraq. Sayah said, "All Amateur Radio operators in Iraq who carry a valid Iraqi license will be able to use their radios according to regulations of IARU Region 1 and the IARS."

Amateur Radio activity in Iraq was suspended in March of this year, with the suspension affecting both Iraqi citizens as well as any foreigners -- including military personnel and contractors -- who have been on the air from Iraq. The request to halt all ham radio activity and the issuance of licenses in Iraq originated with a letter from the Iraqi Ministry of Defense to Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki as part of a new security plan, Sayah said. *(TNX ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 46)*

The Ham community lost one of it's biggest supporters recently. Jack, W8WEN signed clear for the final time. *(His obituary can be read online at <http://www.the-review.com/news/article/2793772>).*

You always new when you saw Jack he was going to ask you "How's your CW?". He was a real champion of the cause. In 2006, I should have been surprised, when I stopped at the FISTS booth, at the Dayton Hamvention, only to find Jack helping to man it. That was Jacks

way. Whenever we did a public display, Jack's CW demonstration made him very popular with the kids. They would send their names in CW, by typing it into a keyboard. When Jack would call them by name, and shake their hands, they were amazed! He could always be counted on to teach CW at our licensing classes.

Every Field Day, he could be found running stations on 20 meter CW station.

He will be missed.

Meeting Announcement

The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 5th at the Alliance Community Hospital.

We meet at 7:30 PM, in the conference room at the west end of the cafeteria. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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Editor

John Myers, KD8MQ
(See above)

Editorial

By John, KD8MQ

Our club has lost one of it's biggest supporters. Jack, W8WEN passed suddenly on Wednesday, October 31. He will be missed by all who knew him.

I'd like to thank Frank, WA8WHP for this months article on the end of analog broadcasting. The toughest part of editing the Zero Beat is finding material to print. After inserting the editorial, the minutes, and other club news, there's usually a lot of white space to fill. You can help though. If you see anything you think would be newsworthy, please forward it to me (my e-mail address is in the left-hand column). Just tell me where you got it, so I can get reprint permission, and keep us legal.

Every month, a few of us meet at 6 PM at Don Pancho's for the "Pre-Meeting", and dinner. It's a chance to shoot the breeze with your fellow club members before the official club meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Beginning with this issue, we have working links in the Zero Beat. So, just click on a link to follow it. I've tested this feature with Adobe Reader version 6, & 8. 8 works, six does not. If your links don't work, you may need to upgrade your reader.

Remember in years past, how we put on a "Santa Claus Net"? We ran this for a few years in the early 90's. Santa would talk to kids throughout NE Ohio via the 5.37 machine. It was very well received, but fell by the wayside years ago. Perhaps it's time to resurrect this tradition. Would you like to play Santa on the radio? Give me a call, and let's talk about it.

That's all for this month. I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

73, de John, KD8MQ

Meetings

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club meets on the First Wednesday of every month. Check the meeting announcement on page 1, for the location.

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

November Minutes

November 7, 2007

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held at the Alliance Community Hospital on November 7, 2007 at 7:30 PM with club president Jim Ferguson, K8LTG presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by introductions. There were 13 members present, along with Miriam Sanor and Tom Steele.

For the secretary's report Don, AB8KV noted that the October minutes were in the newsletter. He then reported that he had ordered a floral arrangement on behalf of the club for the funeral of Jack, W8WEN, and sent a condolence card to the family. The secretary's report was approved on a motion from Joe, KC8TAC and seconded by Howard, K8DXR.

Mary Ann, KB8IVS gave the treasurer's report. The report was approved on a motion from Dave, N8NLZ and seconded by Joe, KC8TAC.

Old business:

There were no old business items brought up for discussion.

New business:

- Don, K8OMO gave a report on the funeral for Jack, W8WEN with additional comments from George, K3GP. Don had also brought along a condolence card for everyone present at the meeting to sign, which was then passed around. He asked for approval to add the rest of the club members' names to the card, which was readily granted.
- Don also noted that a person or persons were needed who were interested in installing the Homeland Security radio equipment and antenna at the hospital. He noted that the cabling route posed a problem, but a potential inside route existed through a chase at the rear of the kitchen.
- President Jim then reminded the

club that we should start thinking about Field Day for 2008. He noted several ideas that have been brought up or discussed at various times aimed at improving the club's involvement and score. Joe, KC8TAC noted that more digital modes should be worked for additional contacts. Jim then stated that further discussion about Field Day would begin in January, after the holidays.

- Don, AB8KV asked for clarification on the meal cost at Pancho's for the club Christmas dinner. Don, K8OMO stated that everyone will order from the menu at that time and will pay the meal cost plus \$4 for gratuity.

With no other new business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM on a motion by Joe, KC8TAC and seconded by Howard, K8DXR.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Don, AB8KV, Secretary.

Florida Hams Help Nab Burglary Suspects

Some hams in Florida got an earful when they heard what turned out to be teenagers planning various robberies over the Jupiter Farms 444.400 MHz CERT repeater.

On September 8, Al Moreschi, AG4BV, of Jupiter, and John Levey, KI4HTL, a retired police officer, of Palm Beach Gardens, overheard, according to Moreschi, "what sounded like men talking about committing a burglary and we were monitoring them on one of the local ham repeaters."

Moreschi said he and his fellow hams notified local law enforcement agencies of the break-in, but the alleged thieves "didn't de-

scribe the house well enough to get the exact address." The amateurs kept listening for the vandals to show up again on the repeater.

On September 21, they were in luck. This time the hams were ready and had set up recording devices to capture the break-in as it transpired. Moreschi said he and his fellow hams recognized the voices and started recording; they also called the police. The last transmission heard over the air by the suspects was, "Code Red, Code Red, Code Red. There are cops everywhere, dude!"

Three suspects were captured and arrested: one at the scene, one who was walking down a

nearby road and one at a local grocery store. An official with the local sheriff's office said that the suspects were charged with burglary for the two break-ins; the three are suspects in other local robberies, as well.

The tapes made by the hams are in the custody of the sheriff. Moreschi said that the suspects might also be facing charges from the Federal Communications Commission for operating without an amateur license. "We don't know how these kids got hold of the ham radios.

Their transmissions came right over the CERT repeater, and that has a special tone and you have to have a special tone to key it up," Moreschi said. (*TNX ARRL Letter, September 28, 2007*)

2007 Field Day Results

Thanks go out to George, K3GP who reports that the 2007 Field Day results have been posted on the ARRL website. The results are located at <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/contests/results/2007/FD/>.

Our 2007 Field Day operation was held at our usual location behind Marlington Middle School.

We placed 70th, out of 278 entries in our class. Our final score was 3,800 Pts, a 21% drop from last years effort. In the accompanying table, I've listed the data for the last 6 years. But the data doesn't tell the whole story.

The weekend weather was excellent, The generators ran flawlessly, and the food was great. Subway did their usual good job of keeping us fed, though the price did increase this year, so we need to talk about this before we commit to them for next year.

We broke some new ground this year. For the first time, we used a wireless computer network for

logging. The network performed as expected, with very few problems.

A big thank you goes out to Sam, KC8ETZ, for setting up the server, and being on site for those problems which did arise.

Also, a big thank you to Don, K8OMO, who again brought his crane truck out for the weekend. He's been doing this for more Field Days that I can remember. Using the crane truck sure beats erecting towers, and antennas by hand!

The N3FJP software turned out to be inadequate. It worked fine for the operating side of things, but when it came time to generate the results for submission to the league, George had to export the logs to WriteLog for the job of doing the after-contest paperwork. But, in my opinion, the networked software is the way to go.

Not one to wait till the last minute, George, K3GP has already been investigating other software packages for our 2008 effort. Stay tuned! (*KD8MQ*)

How'd they do?

OK, you've seen our club results, but do you wonder how a few of the other local clubs did? Well, here's your answer.

K8BTP - Salem Area ARA
(1,226 Pts / 3A / 99Q's)

KD8CKP - Portage County Amateur Radio Service Inc
(3,854 Pts / 4A / 914Q's)

W8NP - Massillon ARC
(4984 Pts / 2A / 1,183Q's)

W8AL - Canton ARC
(8,580 Pts / 2A / 2,171Q's)



Year	Total Score	Class	Total QSOs	Power Multiplier	Number Participating	Ranking (within our class)
2002	2,186	4A	568	2	10	37/129
2003	2,426	3A	576	2	15	122/281
2004	3,644	4A	968	2	22	37/129
2005	3,554	4A	767	2	12	35/124
2006	4,810	3A	1,381	2	22	39/277
2007	3,800	3A	879	2	15	70/278

W8LKY Field Day results 2002-2007

The comparison is with other stations in our class, and power level. (Source: www.arrl.org)

D-DAY!

You may have not noticed, but on 17 February 2009 the television you are probably watching will go dark. That is the last day of analog television in the U.S.A. This is the result of Congress saying we will go to digital the next day.

If you are on cable or satellite you will be able to go on watching for a time. These will not be affected at that time.

If you have a television purchased after the first of this year it will have the digital tuner included. However, if you have an older set it may or may not have the digital tuner. If the latter is the case you will need a set-top box for each set. There is nothing magical about DTV, it is just another modulation mode which is not the same as the digital mode used for cable or satellite.

Your antennas and cable will work the same as RF is RF. The government is issuing, after Jan 1st., two vouchers worth \$40.00 each to each household requesting them.

Reception will be all or

nothing. You will get a perfect picture/sound or nothing. The signal may lock up even on a strong signal. This is caused by multipath which confuses the decoder in the tuner. If it sees more than one signal of approximately the same strength but slightly different in time of arrival the demodulator will not know which to process so it will do nothing. The better the beam pattern of your antenna the less this will be a problem.

I have been using an omnidirectional antenna at 20 feet above ground and cars going by will cause a problem. However, I get good results overall. An antenna with better height and pattern will give much better results.

The FCC has allowed stations to keep their analog channel designation for their digital channels. For instance, although we transmit our digital on 39 your decoder will see it as 17.

Any questions? Give me a call or e-mail.

Redeem those IRC's

Redeem Those Soon-to-Expire International Reply Coupons. If you have old US-issued International Reply Coupons (IRCs), they can still be redeemed, but you need to do it very soon.

IRCs issued prior to 2002 (the old small ones) can be redeemed for one penny less than the issue (stamped) price, and must be redeemed by October 10. IRCs with an expiration date of December 31, 2006 can also be redeemed for one penny less than the issue price; these must be submitted to the post office by September 1, 2008.

All non-US stamped IRCs issued prior to December 31, 2006 are non-redeemable. For more information, please refer to pages 28 and 57 in US Postal Bulletin 22215 <<http://www.usps.com/cpim/ftp/bulletin/2007/pb22215.pdf>>, dated

September 13, 2007. Thanks to "The Daily DX" for this information.

The ARRL Letter, Vol 26, No 39 (Friday, September 28, 2007)

Interesting Web Links

Here's the return of an old favorite. Every month, we'll publish links to interesting websites. They come from all over; Web-surfing, other publications, & your submissions. Please submit your favorite links to [the editor](#).
(KD8MQ)

[World's Smallest Radio Fits in the Palm of the Hand . . . of an Ant](http://nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=110566)

(http://nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=110566)

(TNX ARRL Contest Rate Sheet, 14, NOV, 2007)

[The story of Horace G. Martin, the inventor of Vibroplex keys](http://www.telegraph-history.org/horace-g-martin/hgmp1.htm)

(<http://www.telegraph-history.org/horace-g-martin/hgmp1.htm>)

(TNX ARRL Contest Rate Sheet, 14, NOV, 2007)

[This "specialty" movie about ham radio operators from the 1930's](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBGldf0VjO4)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBGldf0VjO4>

(TNX ARRL Contest Rate Sheet, 17, OCT, 2007)

[12 days of Christmas Ham Radio version](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wP4ISf3MUaM)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wP4ISf3MUaM>

Dayton ARA Looking to Honor Silent Keys

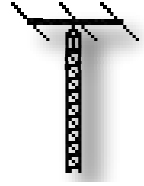
If you know of a ham who has died in service during the conflicts in Afghanistan or Iraq, the Dayton Amateur Radio Association would like to honor them. DARA is looking to publish a memorial page in the Hamvention 2008 program listing these SKs, with their name, call sign, branch of service, rank and unit.

For more information, please contact Ed Collins, N8NUY <n8nuy@arrl.net>.

(from the ARRL Letter, vol. 26, No 38 Sept 21, 2007 edition)

"The Night Before Christmas", Ham Radio-style

Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the town,
The snowstorm was raging, the phone lines were down;
The wind it did howl, the tree limbs did crack,
I hope that St. Nick isn't forced to turn back.



The wife making cookies, the kids making noise,
While away in the shack, by my rig I was poised.
The finals were glowing, the mike gain was set,
I was chasing DX to see what I could get.

The bands were all empty, the frequencies clear,
Except one lone station that sounded quite near.
He was calling CQ and my interest did pique,
When he ended transmission with the words,
"Old St. Nick".

I answered back quickly, I used great dispatch,
If this were St. Nicholas, good God, what a catch!
We exchanged information, it was really quite graphic,
Then he came back and said,
"I've emergency traffic!"

His reindeer were tired, his elves in a grump,
If he didn't land soon, then his sleigh he would dump.
I thought very carefully, I thought very hard,
Then I gave him directions to my snow covered yard.



As he flew past my window, his hair like a mane,
He reined in his chargers and called them by name:
"Whoa, Anode! Whoa, Cathode! Whoa, Zener! Whoa, Diode!
Stop, Heater! Stop, Grid leak! Stop, Bias! Stop, Triode!"

You're flying too low! you're flying too fast!
Look out, you dumb reindeer, his antenna mast!"
So into the backyard the reindeer did drop,
St. Nick, the elves, and the sleigh went kerplop!



Then at the back door, I heard this loud knocking,
"Open up in there, or I won't fill your stocking!"
As I turned off the light and was leaving the shack,
Into the house Saint Nicholas came from the back--

His two-meter rig held to his hip with a strap,
"Hams do it in the shack" on the front of his cap.

The sack that he carried made his aged brow furrow,
And he handed me a card that read,
"QSL Via Bureau".

His clothes were all sooty, from his shoes to his vest;
I felt like a novice taking his test.
His fingers were calloused and from what I could tell,
This came from a straight key that I'll bet he used well.

I offered him coffee, I offered him smokes,
I tried easing the tension by telling ham jokes.
Then he nodded his head and raised up his thumb,
He smiled like an Elmer, did I ever feel dumb.



He grabbed up his sack and went straight for the tree,
And placed in it a large present for me.
When he finished his work, he stood up, took a bow,
Then out the back door to his team he did plow.
But I heard him exclaim as he flew o'er the land,
"Beware the FCC, friend, we were both out of band!"



Seasons Greetings

AARC Christmas Party December 8, 2007 6 PM

Don Pancho's
Tex-Mex Café
2105 W. State St
Alliance

We will be ordering from Don Pancho's regular menu.
Meals will be at regular prices, plus \$4.00
No Reservations required! Just show up.

USPS Rate Changes Introduces some "Gotchas"



The recent postal rate increase from 39 to 41 cents has been generating some interesting conversations on various internet reflectors. It's not so much the rate increase itself, but rather a "gotcha" that seems to be "getting" some QSL'ers.

It's quite common to use a standard 6 X 9 "clasp" envelope. In fact, early all QSL bureaus mail their cards to you in

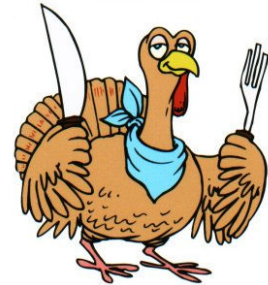
this type of envelope. Also, services such as WF5E typically use these types of envelopes. However the U.S. Postal Service seems to be more diligently enforcing a "non-machinable" surcharge. From the USPS website, the issue seems to be the clasp.

2. A letter-size piece is non-machinable (see 6.4) if it has one or more of the following characteristics (see 601.1.4 to determine the length, height, top and bottom of a mailpiece):

C. Has clasps, strings, buttons, or similar closure devices.

Should your envelope get hit with the additional charge, be prepared to pay 58 cents, instead of the typical 41.

(TNX WorldRadio, September 2007, Editor, Nance Kott, WZ8C)



Quote o' the month

The first requisite for success is to develop the ability to focus and apply your mental and physical energies to the problem at hand - without growing weary.

Because such thinking is often difficult, there seems to be no limit to which some people will go to avoid the effort and labor that is associated with it....

Thomas Edison

December 2007

Happy Birthday to: KC8ETZ

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2	3 Columbiana Cty. Train. Net 8pm KC8ETZ - SAM	4 ARS Spartan Sprint Canton ARES Net 7pm 147.12 CUYAHOGA FALLS ARC VE, STOW N. Col. Cty Net 9pm 147.255	5 AARC Meeting 7:30pm	6 AARC Nets 8:00, 8:30, 9:00	7	8 ARRL 10-Meter Contest CHRISTMAS PARTY-DON PANCHO'S																																																																																				
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16 ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint	17 Columbiana Cty. Train. Net 8pm Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	18 Canton ARES Net 7pm 147.12 N. Col. Cty Net 9pm 147.255	19 TWENTY OVER NINE ARC VE, YOUNGSTOWN	20 AARC Nets 8:00, 8:30, 9:00	21 Massillon Net 147.18 8pm	22																																																																																				
23 SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	24 Columbiana Cty. Train. Net 8pm	25 Canton ARES Net 7pm 147.12 CHRISTMAS Homeland Security Net 7:30pm 147.51 SIMPLEX N. Col. Cty Net 9pm 147.255	26 DARC Christmas Contest	27 AARC Nets 8:00, 8:30, 9:00	28 Massillon Net 147.18 8pm	29 Original QRP Contest RAC Winter Contest Stew Perry Topband Challenge																																																																																				
30	31 Columbiana Cty. Train. Net 8pm Straight Key Night																																																																																									

Amateur Radio... When all else fails.



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

The AARC Wayback Machine

Here again are some of the highlights from the last 20 years of the Zero Beat. you can access almost all of them <http://www.w8lky.org/newsltrs/>.

December, 1987, (editor N8IAK)

- The Ham of the month was Jim, N8DZA (now K8LTG). In naming him HOTM, he was described as always being always there when needed, and never having a bad word about anyone.
- The latest fox hunt was won by Dave, KC8WY, and Allen, KA8CIY (now WI8T). The foxes for this event were John, N8GIE, Kevin, N8IBI, Eric, N8HHV, and Alan, N8EZO.
- Bob Hobbs, W8ACP was recognized for 41 years of service to Ham Radio.
- It was announced that the 145.37 repeater had been purchased by Jim, N8DZA, after attempts to sell it to the club had failed.
- While a junior in high school, Eric, N8HHV placed first in the Americanism test, which was sponsored by American Legion post 166
- George Wilson, W4OYI had given his thumbs-up to the clubs Special Service Club application.
- The upcoming Christmas banquet was to be held at Dawsons Restaurant, on W. State St.

December, 1992, (editor N8LVO)

- Larry, N8EWV, showed video from his RC air mobile operation at the November, 1992 club meeting.
- Copies of the bylaws were soon to be reprinted for distribution to the membership.
- John, KD8MQ related a job he had done where a lightning strike had peppered the side of a house with rocks, knocking holes in the vinyl siding.
- The 192 hristmas banquet was to be held at Roadhouse Charlie's.
- Voting was underway for the 1992 Ham of the Year. Our outgoing HOTY was Jack, W8WEN.

December, 1997, (editor K8LTG)

- Russia had launched a small satellite on November 3, 1997, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the launch of Sputnik.

December, 2002, (editor KE8VE)

- There was a article gleaned from the web. LTC R. G. Wells tells of building a POW radio during WW2. Excellent reading.
- KE8VE proposed resurrecting the club fox hunts, which were so popular in years past. (Sounds like a great idea! Ed.)