



Alliance Amateur Radio Club

AARC

Zero Beat

Volume XXII, no 3

<http://www.w8lky.org>

March 2008

Serving the Tri-County area since 1986

AARC Schedules Fox Hunt For March 9th

After what seems like an eternity, the AARC has scheduled it's first fox hunt in several years. The action begins at 2 PM on March the 9th, at Glamorgan castle's north parking lot. This hunt will be on Two Meters, with the frequency to be announced at hunt time.

So what the heck is a Fox Hunt, anyhow? Well, it is more formally known as "Radio Direction Finding", "T-hunting", "Bunny Hunting", "Bozo Hunting", etc, etc. etc. The goal of a fox hunter is to be the first hunter to find the hidden transmitter, using only technology, and common sense.

Confused yet? Let's go a bit more in-depth. In a Fox Hunt, one operator is chosen in advance as the fox. Usually, this is the winner of the previous hunt. They're responsible for setting up the hunt, and being on the air at the announced time. They also get to choose the hiding spot. Transmissions from the fox should occur at regular intervals during the hunt. One minute on, one minute off, for example.

The hunters gather at the starting point, sign in, and wait for the fox to begin transmitting. At that time, using some type of directional antenna, the hunter takes their bearing. After that, the hunting style is up to the individual hunter.

One hunting style is to drive along the path of your first bearing, while watching your signal strength meter. If the strength starts fading, turn around, and head the opposite direction. Take other bearings along



your route, and adjust your route accordingly. You will eventually find the fox.

Another more efficient hunting style is to plot the first bearing on your map, then drive to a couple more locations, take more bearings, and plot them on the map.

In a perfect hunt, all the lines you've drawn on the map will cross at the same point, and that is where the fox is hiding. But, no hunt is ever perfect. In the real world, you have to deal with reflections, multi-path propagation, and outright trickery. All of these will combine to confound even the most seasoned hunter.

Once you have tracked the fox to a general area, your directional antenna may become unreliable, due to the strength of the foxes signal. At this point, it is good to have some means of attenuating the received signal. There are a couple ways to do this. Personally, I use a step attenuator that I built, using plans from the ARRL handbook.

Here's a neat trick, in case you don't have an attenuator. Tune your receiver slightly off of the

Dues are Due!

Well, it's that time again. As you know, our membership year runs from April 1st, to the next March 31st. Your dues help to support our club programs and activities

For your convenience, we've enclosed a membership application in this months newsletter.

Won't you please take a moment, and drop a check in the mail to Mary Ann? I know she would appreciate it.

Meeting Announcement

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 5th at the Alliance Community Hospital.

This month's program will be on Radio Direction Finding.

This month's meeting will be held in the 2nd floor conference room. Directions will be posted in the lobby, and are printed in this issue.

Meetings begin at 7:30 PM.

We hope to see you there!

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Editor

John Myers, KD8MQ
(See above)

Editorial

By John, KD8MQ

Hmm, let's see, Groundhog stew, groundhog chowder, grilled groundhog. I think we'll just boil the rodent who saw his shadow on February 2nd. Boy has it been cold! I guess old man winter has decided to stick around for a while.

But, that's OK. These winter evenings have been great for catching up on the to-do list. Our goal was to have our home ready to go on the market by the next meeting. The new goal has not been set, as of yet. :-)

Mildred Hostettler, wife of David, N8NLZ fell recently, and broke her collarbone. We hear that her recovery is going well. Best to her, and David.

We have some great club events coming up this year. Some you know about, others, we are still working on. We'll do our best to keep you informed. Stay tuned.

The March club meeting is coming up. We will be in the 2nd floor conference room this month. The room can be a challenge to find, but signs will be posted, so no one gets lost. This month's program will be on Fox Hunting, which I hope will get everyone in the mood for the March 9th Fox hunt.

In the past, we've held as many as 4 fox hunts a year, and had a great time with it, but the interest has waned a bit in recent years. We also used to give presentations on the subject to other clubs in the area. I'm hoping we can resurrect some of that magic.

It's also not too early to begin thinking about Field Day. I've heard rumors that President K8LTG has arranged for the Goodyear blimp to circle the Field Day site all weekend, supporting his 160 Meter Sterba Curtain. That will be a sight to see. Larry & Dianna are in the process of reserving our usual spot

(Continued on page 4)

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

February Minutes

February 6, 2008

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held at the Alliance Community Hospital on February 6, 2008 at 7:30 PM with club president Jim Ferguson, K8LTG presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by introductions. There were 15 members present, along with Miriam Sanor.

For the secretary's report Don, AB8KV noted that the January minutes were in the newsletter. He then reported that the wife of Dave, N8NLZ had fallen and broken her collarbone. The Secretary's report was approved on a motion by Frank, WA8WHP and seconded by Larry, KE8VE.

Mary Ann, KB8IVS then gave the Treasurer's report. It was approved on a motion by Don, K8OMO and seconded by Howard, K8DXR.

Old business:

- VP John, KD8MQ reported that the proposed fund raiser was still on the table and that he favored the prize being a laptop. There is to be some discussion with Sam, KC8ETZ about what would be available from Best Buy and what pricing might be obtained by the club. Further fund raiser discussion was then tabled until the March meeting.
- VP John also reminded everyone that the club's March meeting will be held in the hospital's 2nd floor conference room instead of the usual location.
- Don, K8OMO reported that he had placed the equipment the club had for sale on the Trader's Net, but had received no

response as yet. After some brief discussion with President Jim, it was decided to hold off further sales attempts until early spring

- VP John then raised the issue about whether the club should sponsor a special event station during Carnation Days. While there seemed to be general support for the idea, it was noted by Don, K8OMO and others that more effective publicity was needed to attract the public to both the special event station as well as Field Day. Some discussion about newspaper ads and other media followed. Also discussed were suggestions about exactly where to set up the station, operating times and lead times for reserving the JC pavilion or other location. The final decision about the special event station was then tabled until the March meeting. VP John stated that he would check on the lead time needed to place an insert in QST.

New business:

- VP John initiated discussion about this year's Field Day. Initial decisions made included selecting the Marlinton Middle School again as the club's operating site, with Larry and Dianna to contact the school to arrange permission. Also, VP John stated he would reserve a Port-a-pot as in previous years.
- Don, K8OMO raised the issue about whether the classification should be 2A or 3A, with his feeling being that the club could handle the 3A. John then noted that there is a need to try to keep the bands operating with multiple operators, meaning that more people need to participate.

It was also noted that the network software needed some tweaking or perhaps replaced as not all of the information could not be downloaded at the end of last year's FD. George, K3GP reported on his efforts working with the software and also checking out another program which might be useful.

- The issue of publicity for Field Day was again raised with limited suggestions for any new approaches or campaigns. It was noted that perhaps a sign out in front of the school during FD would be helpful.
- Larry, AA8NV noted that Skywarn training was coming up March 18 at Stark State at 6 PM
- VP John reminded the club about the fox hunt March 9 at 2 PM, with some training to be held at the club's March meeting. He reported on his efforts at sending out publicity regarding the event to area clubs.
- Treasurer Mary Ann then reminded the club that annual club dues were due starting A p r i l 1 .

With no other new business, the meeting paused for a break. After the break, the club viewed a video about a French craftsman hand-making vacuum tubes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM on a motion from Don, K8OMO.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Don, AB8KV, Secretary.

Editorial—cont.

behind Marlinton Middle School.

I've been scrambling this week, trying to order parts for a project I'm building. Until now, I didn't realize how hard it was for a hobbyist to find parts. I was looking for a specific DTMF decoder chip. Even though I had the chip number, and the manufacturer name, I could not find a supplier willing to quote on a small (2 pcs) quantity. I did finally call the manufacturer, who sent me 2 chips as samples. So, that ended well. Now, I just need to build the darned thing.

Don't forget, Skywarn training is coming up on March 11th, in Lisbon, and March 19th at Stark State. I plan to make one of those.

I guess this is where we'll end this month's editorial. See you at the meeting.

73 all,
John, KD8MQ

The AARC Wayback Machine

1998. The date had been changed, due to a conflict with the 20/9 ARC's Hamfest.

March, 2003, (editor KE8VE)

- Dennis Moriarty, K8AGB was scheduled to speak at the next club meeting on the subject of RFI/TVI.
- We had just held a fox hunt, after a 4 year absence. The fox for this hunt was Eddie, KC8HUU. After a bit of a slow start, the hunt was on. Winners were John, KD8MQ, and Lyn (1st place), followed by Dave, KC8WY, and his XYL (2nd place).
- According to the minutes, we had just lost Jim Miller, N8MAA. In a related note, not so close to home, the space shuttle Columbia had been lost. Callsigns are listed for 3 of the 7 crewmembers who lost their lives, during re-entry.
- The bylaws were amended to allow an increase in the treasurers petty cash fund to \$50, from \$20 previously.
- The Radio Amateurs Callbook was to cease publication after 75 years of publication.

Quote o' the Month

"A lot of people like snow.
I find it to be an unnecessary freezing of water.

Carl Reiner

"The Ultimate Steal" is a great deal for Hams!

I recently upgraded from Office 2000, to Office 2007. It has a fresh new look, and I'm sure there's a ton of new features. I've only begun to scratch the surface of what is possible with this new version. I will say that I was never a fan of Microsoft Outlook, but Outlook 2007 is Awesome!. I use it to manage my day to day schedule, as well as my contact list. This program alone, was well worth the cost of the software.

To get this deal, there are two hoops to jump through:

- You must be taking at least a half course load in college.
- You must have a college e-mail suffix which ends in <.edu>. Stark State students have a

<.net> suffix, but there is a procedure to get a <.edu> suffix.

If you meet both of these conditions, then you can get Microsoft office Ultimate 2007 (suggested retail \$679) for only \$59.95. We Hams are known for our frugality, and this is one of the best deals, I've ever seen, and hasn't been real well publicized to the general public. For more info, go to <http://www.theultimatesteal.com/home.asp>. If you don't meet the criteria, then maybe it's time to call in a favor from your grandkids. It's well worth the money, in my opinion.

So far, I've had only one problem, and one disappointment with Office 2007's.

First, My HP PDA would not synchronize with this version, but luckily, HP had a updated driver for that. After installing the new driver, everything works fine.

Secondly, the default save format in 2007 is not readable by older office versions. If I'm working on a document that I'll need to edit on another computer, then I have to do a "save as" to an older office format, or it won't open elsewhere.

That was small potatoes, though. Compared with the price. Now, if only Adobe would do a deal like that for Flash, or Dreamweaver, I'd be one happy Ham!





Callsign- _____

W8LKY
Alliance Amateur Radio Club
Renewal – Membership Application

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

Mail to: Mary Ann Royer
6255 Sandalwood NE
Canton, OH 44721

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Birthday _____

Occupation _____ ARRL Member? Yes No

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

E-mail Address _____

Special interests? (i.e. Dxing, Contesting, Hunting, etc.) _____

Pro-Rated Dues Schedule
(New Members Only)

	April-June	July-September	October-December	January-March
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 Member	\$1.00	\$0.75	\$0.50	\$0.25

Please do not write beneath this line

Dues paid – Sustaining() Full() Associate() Family() \$ _____ on _____, 20____ signed _____

Zero Beat

Fox Hunt - cont.

foxes frequency, to bring the signal back into the range of your S-meter. If you try this method, make sure to decrease the tuning step on your receiver first.

The winner is not necessarily the first hunter to find the fox. Hunts are sometimes scored on a combination of elapsed time, and distance traveled.

So, why do we hunt?

- 1) it's fun.
- 2) It's excellent practice in tracking the source of an interfering signal. This makes us more valuable to our safety forces
- 3) It's excellent hands-on training in VHF propagation.

In preparation for this hunt, there will be a presentation on Fox Hunting, as well as some equipment examples at our next club meeting (see page 1 for meeting time, &

Stark ARES Meeting March 6th

Terry Russ, N8ATZ - Assistant
Emergency Coordinator

(Feb 4, 2008) -- The Stark County ARES is currently organizing a general meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 6th from 7:00 - 8:30 PM to be held at the Stark County Emergency Operations Center. The EOC is located on Route 62 in the lower level of the Stark Co Sheriff's Office.

The meeting is open to all ARES volunteers, all area club members and guests. A meeting agenda is currently being developed but ideas are both encouraged and welcomed. Stark County EMA Director Tim Warstler will be a guest speaker during the meeting.

Questions and agenda items can be directed to Assistant EC Terry Russ, N8ATZ at (330) 837-3091 or by email to

Columbiana County Skywarn training

The Skywarn training is coming up in March. See the bottom of this page for info on the Stark County session.

Columbiana county's training session is on March 11th, at 7 PM, in the Columbiana County Career and Technical Center State on State Route 45, in Lisbon. All are welcome to attend.



SKYWARN

March Skywarn Spotter Training

Terry Russ, N8ATZ - Assistant Emergency Coordinator

(Feb 3, 2008) -- The Stark County Emergency Operations Center under the Direction of EMA Manager Tim Warstler and the Cleveland National Weather Service will sponsor the 2008 Severe Weather Spotter Training Meeting on Wednesday, March 19th at Stark State College of Technology. Registration will begin at 6:00 PM with the meeting to follow at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be conducted by Cleveland NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Gary Garnet. Skywarn training is free and open to the public. Public

Safety forces, hospital staff, school employees, ham radio operators and the general public are encouraged to attend. You do not need to pre-register but local ARES volunteers will be on hand to both verify existing spotter registration and to issue new spotter registration numbers to those who would like to register their location with the Cleveland NWS.

The training meeting will last approximately 2 hours with one short break and will consist of a powerpoint presentation together with movie clips and classroom

discussion conducted by Gary Garnet. The goal of the training is not just to recognize tornadoes, but to have some understanding of storm structure which will better prepare you to recognize severe weather patterns.

Also attending will be M & K Engraving, the official ARES supplier of Skywarn identification badges. Contact Terry Russ, N8ATZ at (330) 837-3091 with any questions or by email at truss@sssnet.com. Gary Garnet can be reached at garg.garnet@noaa.gov.

(This from the newly redesigned Stark County

March 2008

Happy Birthday to: WC8F, KB8IVS, KE8VE, K8OMO, N8LGE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																																											
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<p>2</p> <p>DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest</p> <p>Open Ukraine RTTY Championship</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Columbiana Cty. Train. Net 8pm</p> <p>RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data</p>	<p>4</p> <p>AGCW YL-CW Party</p> <p>ARS Spartan Sprint</p> <p>Canton ARES Net 7pm 147.12</p> <p>N. Col. Cty Net 9pm 147.255</p>	<p>5</p> <p>(2nd floor conference room)</p> <p>AARC Meeting 7:30pm</p> <p>Carroll Cty. Net, 1:00 UCT, 147.075</p> <p>WC8F - RON</p>	<p>6</p> <p>AARC Nets 8:00, 8:30, 9:00</p>	<p>7</p> <p>NCCC Sprint</p>	<p>8</p> <p>AGCW QRP Contest</p> <p>EA PSK31 Contest</p> <p>Idaho QSO Party</p> <p>Oklahoma QSO Party</p> <p>RSGB Commonwealth Contest</p> <p>SOC Marathon Sprint</p>																																																																																																																											
<p>9</p> <p>North American Sprint, RTTY</p> <p>NSARA Contest</p> <p>SKCC Weekend Sprintathon</p> <p>UBA Spring Contest, CW</p> <p>Wisconsin QSO Party</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Columbiana Cty. Train. Net 8pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Canton ARES Net 7pm 147.12</p> <p>CLARA and Family HF Contest</p> <p>N. Col. Cty Net 9pm 147.255</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Carroll Cty. Net, 1:00 UCT, 147.075</p> <p>RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW</p>	<p>13</p> <p>AARC Nets 8:00, 8:30, 9:00</p> <p>KB8IVS - MARY ANNE</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Massillon Net 147.18 8pm</p> <p>NCCC Sprint</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10-10 Int. Mobile Contest</p> <p>CLARA and Family HF Contest</p> <p>Feld Hell Sprint</p> <p>Russian DX Contest</p> <p>Virginia QSO Party</p>																																																																																																																											
<p>16</p> <p>9K 15-Meter Contest</p> <p>Toledo Hamfest and Computer Fair, Maumee</p> <p>UBA Spring Contest, 6m</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Bucharest Contest</p> <p>Columbiana Cty. Train. Net 8pm</p> <p>Run for the Bacon QRP Contest</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Canton ARES Net 7pm 147.12</p> <p>N. Col. Cty Net 9pm 147.255</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Carroll Cty. Net, 1:00 UCT, 147.075</p>	<p>20</p> <p>AARC Nets 8:00, 8:30, 9:00</p> <p>KE8VE - LARRY</p> <p>MAHONING VALLEY ARA VE, YOUNGSTOWN</p> <p>NAQQC Straight Key/Bug Sprint</p> <p>RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB</p>	<p>21</p> <p>ARLHS Annual Spring Lites QSO Party</p> <p>Massillon Net 147.18 8pm</p> <p>NCCC Sprint</p>	<p>22</p> <p>BARTG Spring RTTY Contest</p>																																																																																																																											
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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 read them at <http://www.w8lky.org/newsltrs/>.

March, 1988, (editor N8IAK)

- Planning for the Mal show was underway. Loans of coax were being solicited.
- The club was raffling of a Magnavox VCR.
- This months Ham of the Month was Barb Gwynne, KB8CDA..
- Our guest editor was Patti Hillier, KE8KH. She printed a lot of good information about the KE8KH repeater system on 146.85.
- Bill, K8JZN had just released the 1988 Stark County Directory.
- Hal, W8BGI was recovering from a hospital stay.

March, 1993, (editor N8LVO)

- The club was being called upon to present programs on fox hunting throughout Eastern Ohio, western PA. The lectures were very well received.
- Due to a scheduling conflict, the March, and April club meetings were to be held at the First Church of

God, Where Brad, KE0XS was the pastor.

- In the briefs section, Dan notes that as of last count 400 software pirates had been nabbed by a sting operation.
- Six students were in the licensing class at the hospital. Additionally, another YMCA youth club member passed his Novice test.
- The club finances were audited. No major issues were noted.
- Larry KE8VE gave a presentation on the solar flux.
- Jim, N8XTJ passed his no-code Tech test.

March, 1998, (editor K8LTG)

- We were discussing the possibility of hosting a coffee break as a fund raiser. It was voted to table the discussion for another month.
- There was an article on tuning of VHF antennas.
- Dana, KI8EW (now N8DA) had just upgraded to Extra class, at the Lisbon exam session. At the same session, Kathy Stirbens, KC8IXE upgraded to Advanced class.
- Date for the next Mall show had been set for May 2/3,