



Serving the Tri-County area since 1986

Tom, KC8QOD wins the AARC Winter Fox Hunt The Day That Mr. Murphy Went Fox Hunting

While we were finally able to pull off our first fox hunt of the year, Old man Murphy just had to put in an appearance. The first fox hunt had to be cancelled, due to 14 inches of snow which were dumped on the area. The second try came off with a few hitches. In spite of a steady rain, 3 cars, carrying 5 hunters, braved the miserable weather to find the fox. The winner was Tom, KC8QOD. Jim, K8LTG came in second place.

The fox was John, KD8MQ, who was holed up at the Stark Parks trailhead, on Gaskill avenue. The first hunter to find the fox was Tom, KC8QOD, from Canton. Jim, K8LTG came stumbling in a few minutes later, followed closely by KC8WY, with team members consisting of his neighbor (Sorry, forgot to write down the name & call), and K8OMO.

This hunt served as the shakedown for the automated fox controller, which performed well. That, however, was the only thing that day that ran according to plan.

First, we had the poor weather. Next, when hunt time came, we arrived to find the parking lot at Glamorgan Castle full of tour busses.

Just shy of an hour into the hunt, we decided to shut down the transmitter, and take off in search of refreshments. So, We talked Larry, AA8NV in (Sorry about that Larry), and headed to Shorties. As luck would have it, they had closed at 2 PM. Not to be discouraged, we headed for Burger hut. No dice; They were just closing. We all gave up after that, and went our separate ways. That also explains why there's no pictures from the hunt.

Later that night, I received an E-mail from Dan, N8DZM, who had come from Massillon to participate. He arrived too late to register, but persevered, to find the hunt frequency, and take off in search of the fox. He was less than a mile away, when we turned off the transmitter, and cleared. Sorry Dan.

By the time of the next hunt, the transmitter will be mounted into a weather resistant box, which will allow us to just hide it somewhere, and go. So, no more abbreviated hunts. That is a promise.

But, despite the appearance from Mr. Murphy, the hunt seemed to go well. No equipment problems were noted, and everyone seemed to enjoy

themselves. Now, if we could just figure out what to do about the weather!

So, what happens now? How about we do it again soon? Later in this issue of the ZB, there is a tentative fox hunt schedule for 2008. Please look it over, and let [me](#) know if you see any conflicts. (KD8MQ)

Meeting Announcement

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 7th, at the Alliance Community Hospital.

At this time, we're planning to be back in our regular place, the cafeteria conference room.

The program is still being decided at this time, but it will have a Field Day theme.

Meetings begin at 7:30 PM.
We hope to see you there!

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Editor

John Myers, KD8MQ
(See above)

Ramblings

By John, KD8MQ

Each month I do my best to peruse the latest issue of QST, from cover to cover, as time permits. One column I usually skip is K1ZZ's editorial (Sorry Dave). He usually writes on an important topic, just not one that holds my interest long enough to read the entire thing.

The May issue was different; The title "It Takes a Club" immediately caught my attention. In it, Dave gives several good ideas for cultivating new members, not just visitors.

One question he had was "Does your club hold licensing classes?". Sadly, I have to answer that with a No. I know I entered the ranks of Hamdom, through a licensing class. So did a lot of the rest of you.

I know it's been a while since we taught licensing classes, but I'd say it's about time we started them up again.

I'd like to see our club holding some sort of Amateur Radio classes, possibly this fall. We could teach just the Technician class, or try to go all the way to General, and Extra. What do you think about this? Are you interested helping? If enough of us get involved, we could trade off lecturing duties. For instance, you could come in one evening and share your expertise in some area of study, then someone else could do the next week, etc. If you have some ideas, let me know. I'd be happy to discuss it.

At last month's club meeting, we had a very informative presentation on the

(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

The Homeland security Net meets on the last Tuesday of the month, at 7:30 PM, on 147.51 simplex

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 kd8mq@neo.rr.com

April Minutes

April 2, 2008

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held at the Alliance Community Hospital on April 2, 2008 at 7:30 PM with club President Jim Ferguson, K8LTG presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by introductions. There were 17 members present, along with Miriam Sanor and guests Tom Steele, Allen Dicks (WI8T) and Melissa Robertson.

Club Secretary Don, AB8KV gave the Secretary's report, noting that the March minutes were in the newsletter, and thanking Larry, KE8VE for taking the minutes last month while Don was out for surgery. He also reminded the attendees that new membership cards would be distributed to those who paid their annual dues. The Secretary's report was approved on a motion by Smitty, KC8TJQ and seconded by John, KD8MQ.

Mary Ann, KB8IVS then gave the Treasurer's report. She also reminded the club that annual club dues were now due. The report was accepted on a motion by Frank, WA8WHP and seconded by George, K3GP.

Old business:

Vice-President John, KD8MQ reported on a number of items:

- Regarding the proposed special events station for Carnation Days, he noted that lead time was June 1 to get announcements published by mid-August. He further noted that

the club had of course not yet reserved the Jaycee pavilion and that each passing day made it less likely that we would be able to get it.

At that point, Frank, WA8WHP made a motion to go ahead with the special event station, the motion being seconded by Bob, K8RLS. The motion was carried by hand vote. John then stated that he would contact the Park Board about the activity and request the use of the pavilion.

- John then noted that the club had received its certificate for its special service club status.

- He reminded the club about Field Day and that it would be held at the Marlinton Middle School, with more in-depth planning over the next two meetings.

- He addressed the issue of the proposed fund raiser, with further action tabled until Sam, KC8ETZ could obtain information about the proposed main prize, a laptop computer.

- John then reminded the club about the planned fox hunt on Sunday, April 13 at 2:00 PM, starting at Glamorgan Castle parking lot.

- Don, K8OMO reported that he had spoken to the Hospital again about the Homeland Security Radio, and that they still wanted it installed. He noted that any wall pass-throughs required expensive finishing to meet code requirements, with an inside cable route requiring two pass-throughs and an outside route needing only one. He stated that his company would be willing to

pay for one pass-through. Don also stated that a new location for the club repeater was still needed, with a move back to the hospital probably not practical. He then reminded the club that the Homeland Security net was still operating on the last Tuesday of the month, with the previous session having eight check-ins from four counties.

New business:

- President Jim raised the issue of the club's liability insurance being due, needing a motion and approval to pay it. Dave, N8NLZ so moved, with a second by Smitty, KC8TJQ. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

- Vice-President John then introduced special guests Melissa Robertson and Allen Dicks from the Boy Scouts of America. They gave a presentation about the Scout Venture program, with the aim of encouraging Amateur Radio clubs to sponsor Venturing groups, with the focus of these particular groups being on Amateur Radio, licensing, engineering and related areas.

Highlights of the presentation included other facts about the groups:

- ◊They are co-ed, for ages 14-20 and are adventure oriented.

- ◊Responsibilities of the sponsoring organization include providing a meeting place, carrying liability-accident insurance, and providing leadership for mentoring, education, etc.

F o l l o w i n g t h e

(Continued on page 4)

2008 Fox Hunt Schedule (Tentative)

We need your help. Here's a tentative fox hunt schedule for the rest of the year. If you see any conflict with another holiday, or date please [e-mail me at kd8mq@neo.rr.com](mailto:kd8mq@neo.rr.com).

May 11th Practice run
(147.51 MHz)

June 15th Practice Run
July 20th Fox Hunt
Aug. 10th Practice Run
Sept 14th Practice Run
Oct. 5th Fox Hunt
Nov. 9th Practice Run
Dec. 28th Practice Run

The Fox hunts are scheduled about every 3rd month, with Practice Runs in between.

The Fox hunts are competitive events, with winners determined by elapsed time multiplied by distance traveled.

The lowest score wins. The starting line is the north parking lot at Glamorgan Castle. Hunt will begin at approximately 2 PM.

The Practice Runs are just that. We hide the fox box, and turn it on for a couple hours. Hunters can have fun testing their equipment and technique, in a non-competitive environment.

All we ask is that you sign the log when you find the foxbox, so we know that someone was there.

The hunt frequency will be announced well in advance. On two Meters, we'll probably use 147.51. I'd like to try a hunt on 440, so we'll pick a frequency for that one later.

Suggestions, & ideas are always welcome. My contact info is on page 2.

See you at the next hunt!
([KD8MQ](#))

Minutes-cont.

(Continued from page 3)

presentation, there was further discussion about the program and how AARC might assume the role of sponsoring a group.

After a short break, Vice-President John reminded the club about the Cuyahoga Falls hamfest on April 20 and the Tri-State Radio Meet in Pennsylvania.

With no further new business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM on a motion from Frank, WA8WHP, seconded by Peter, N8IGZ.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Don, AB8KV, Secretary.

Just a Reminder

In case you're like me, and need a bit of a reminder, here you go. Dues were due on April 1st. Renewal forms are available at the club meeting. They were also in the last couple issues of the Zero Beat. They are also available online at <http://www.w8lky.org/newsletters/application.pdf>.

Check with [Mary Ann, KB8IVS](#), if you have any questions.

KD8MQ's Ramblings - cont.

(Continued from page 2)

Boy Scouts Venture Crew program. A few nights later, I addressed the Boy Scouts leadership roundtable, explaining about Amateur Radio. Hopefully this will translate into more interest, and opportunities for our group. Let's face it, none of us are getting any younger. We need fresh blood, if this hobby is to survive.

I hope everyone can make it to next week's club meeting. It would be great to have

everyone's input as we make our preparations for ARRL Field Day. The site, and necessary facilities have been secured. Now it's just a matter of filling in the blanks. We need commitments for stations, food, publicity, etc. There are some changes in the rules this year, so it behooves us to discuss these, and how they will affect us.

I hope to see you all at the next meeting.

73, John, KD8MQ



Field Day Changes

In perusing the Field Day rules, a couple of changes came to light.

First, No more demonstration mode; It has been replaced by the "Educational Activities Bonus". We can get a 100 point bonus for having a specific education related activity at Field Day. The subject is left to us, as long as it is related to Amateur Radio related.

Some ideas which come to mind include:

- ⇒ Fox Hunting
- ⇒ Satellite QSO
- ⇒ Solar power

Does anyone want to put on an educational "demonstration" at Field Day? It's worth 100 Points, and you'll have fun to boot!

Next, if an experienced mentor/coach is present to assist the operators of the GOTA station, the points for the GOTA contacts double.

Also, we get 20 points per QSO (up to 100 points) for QSO's made by operators under the age of 18.

Planning begins at the next meeting. Hope you can make it!

Quote o' the Month

" There are no limits.
There are only plateaus
and you must not stay there,
you must go beyond them."

Bruce Lee

PCARS proudly announces the first Ohio State Parks On The Air Contest (OSPOTA) which will be held on Saturday, September 6, 2008, from the hours of noon to eight p.m. EDT (1600Z to 2400Z). Our members know that the number one goal of PCARS has been to create opportunities for amateur radio fun and this contest is our way of sharing that fun on a wider scale. For hams throughout the State of Ohio this contest presents an opportunity to visit and enjoy the amenities offered by the seventy-three beautiful State Parks here in Ohio. You can spend the day or even spend the weekend at the park of your choice. No matter whether you are camping or staying at one of the outstanding lodges or resorts you will find that the parks are one of Ohio's greatest assets. Find out more about the parks and all that they have to offer at: <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/default/tabid/80/Default.aspx>.

This contest places a premium on working stations at the State Parks. That means that it is critical to have as many parks activated as possible. So all you PCARS members need to get out there and participate at any one of the dozen or so State Parks in our immediate area. Even better, how about a road trip and a ferry ride to one of the Lake Erie islands?

The challenge for Ohio stations will be to work HF in the 50 to 300 mile range. Contacts can be made with any mode on the HF

and VHF bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 meters and all contacts have the same point value. This is a great chance to try something new, like an NVIS antenna or two meter SSB. Individuals and clubs can operate high or low power park stations and there is a

special award for the club that activates the greatest number of parks! PCARS is not eligible for that special award since it is the sponsor of the contest. Non-park stations in Ohio as well as outside of Ohio can also compete with each other.

So get to an Ohio State Park and get On The Air in September. Have some fun with this contest!

You can get complete information, including rules, forms and FAQ's, at <http://parks.portcars.org>, or contact the OSPOTA contest chairman, Chuck, K8CMP, at: OSPOTA@portcars.org. Check back at the web site for future announcements about additional prizes and information updates.

Editors note: This contest is sponsored by the Portage County ARC. This article is reprinted from the May issue of their newsletter, "The Radiogram".

Stolen Equipment

We regret to report that some of the equipment that was loaned for the Yaesu sponsored **3B7C** Dxpedition was stolen when the container returned to the UK.

It would be appreciated if you could please look-out for any of the following being offered for sale or trade-in, and if seen then please contact the police quoting the following Incident Number. Crime Incident number : 4070539181

- FT-2000 100W Serial number: 7D170271
- FT-2000 100W Serial number: 7D170459
- FT-847 100W HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver: 3C131053
- FT-847 100W HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver: 3C131054
- VP-1000 Quadra Power Supply unit: 7F920017

Yaesu UK is offering a **reward** for information leading to the conviction of the criminals responsible.

This article is reprinted from the May issue of their newsletter, "The Radiogram".

Most New Ideas Have their Skeptics

"I think there is a world market for maybe five computers"

Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943

"This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us"

Western Union internal memo, 1876

"The wireless music box has no imaginable commercial value. Who would pay for a message sent to nobody in particular?"

David Sarnoff's associates in response to his urgings for investment in the radio in the 1920's

"The concept is interesting and well-formed, but in order to earn better than a 'C,' the idea must be feasible."

A Yale University professor in response to Fred Smith's paper proposing reliable overnight delivery service (Smith went on to found Federal Express Corp.)

"Who the hell wants to hear actors talk?"

H.M. Warner, Warner Brothers, 1927

"A cookie store is a bad idea. Besides, the market research reports say America likes crispy cookies, not soft and chewy cookies like you make."

Bankers response to Debbie Fields' idea of starting Mrs. Fields' cookies

"We don't like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out."

Decca recording Co. rejecting the Beatles, 1962

News Briefs

- Something new from the league this year is the Field Day Station locator. Based on the Google maps API, it shows all Field Day sites in a given area. Each group has to register to be on the map, so not all are on there. But, It looks good so far. It's at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php>
- Speaking of the League, and Field Day. The league has FD t-shirts, pins, etc. for sale. Check them out at <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=NO-1324> Maybe we can place our order, and pick it up at Dayton, to save shipping.
- Court Finds FCC Violated Administrative Procedure Act in BPL Decision - It looks like the league won in the fight against BPL. This just came out on Friday, and is too lengthy to reprint here. The ARRL Bulletin can be read online at <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/2008-arlb008.html>.
- We'll take a moment here to right a wrong. I just realized that we never added the Homeland Security net to our net directory on page 2. It meets at 7:30 PM, on the last Tuesday of the month. The frequency is 147.51 Simplex.. Be sure to check it out.
- According to the latest issue of the ARRL Letter, The league is discontinuing it's online classifieds, effective April 30th. They cite problems with posters not conforming to the rules of the site as the reason. This required a "a disproportionate amount of staff time", to deal with.
- If you're planning a drive to Dayton for the Hamvention this year, be prepared for delays. Among several road construction projects, Needmore road will be down to one lane each way. For traffic information, try <http://www.hamvention.org/hv2008/media/trafficnews.html>.
- When repairing an electromechanical component, such as a switch or insulating mounting bracket, if you use epoxy be sure that it does not contain metal particles. The popular JB Weld, for example, has metal filler so it would be risky to use when repairing a band switch. The pure resin epoxies (usually clear or translucent) or cyanoacrylate glue would be a better choice in such an application. (Thanks, Carl KM1H and others)(*This was borrowed from the ARRL Rate Sheet, April 16th edition*)

May 2008

Happy Birthday to: WA8VHH

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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/>.

May, 1988, (editor N8IAK)

- Our Ham of the Month was Matt Thomas, N8EAD.
- We held our first Fox Hunt of 1988. Ten participants were noted, representing The Portage, and Canton Clubs, as well as our own. The winners were the team consisting of WC8F, N8HHV, and N8EYM. As it turned out, the National Guard was holding their own Radio Direction Finding exercises, a few miles away. The only difference between them, and us, were the guns, & the camouflage.
- We were in the process of switching over to a new computer to do the mailing labels for the ZB. If I remember correctly, this computer boasted a clock speed of 800 KHz, and was armed with dual 5.25" floppy drives. On-board RAM was 128K.

May, 1993, (editor N8LVO)

- As of May, 1993, 23 membership renewals, and one new member had been recorder.

- On April 3rd, 1993, we had set up a direction finding test range at Butler Rodman park.

May, 1998, (editor K8LTG)

- Jim noted with sadness, the passing of Lance Farkas, KB8NQL. Lance never let his recent stroke stop him from becoming a Ham.

May, 2003, (editor KE8VE)

- Dennis Moriarty, K8AGB returned to present a program on RFI/TVI, at the May Meeting.
- Plans were being made to hold our Field Day exercises at the Marlinton Middle School.
- Doug, AB8CJ gave a presentation on the ARRL's "Big Project". The club donated \$100 towards setting up a program at Marlinton High School, with the possibility of more funding at a later date. Additionally, Doug was giving a two year membership to the club. Any student who earned their license through this venture would receive a free one year club membership.