



Alliance Amateur Radio Club

Zero Beat

Volume XXIII, no 5

<http://www.w8lky.org>

May 2009

Serving the Tri-County area since 1986

KE8VE SK!

On April 19th, the Alliance ARC lost one of its staunchest supporters, as Larry Ashburn, KE8VE passed away in his sleep sometime during the day Sunday. (The official obituary which was in the Alliance review can be read online at <http://www.funeralplan.com/Ctcfuneral/link3?id=165701>.)

In preparation to write this story, I consulted the past issues of the Zero Beat. I found that Larry joined this club in 1988. At various times over the past 21 years, he has served as:

- Trustee
- Vice President
- Novice class instructor
- Tech Class instructor
- Mall Show Co-Chair
- Fox hunt organizer
- Editor - Zero Beat
- Publisher - Zero Beat
- ARES Committee member
- 1994 Ham of the year

In addition to that, here's some personal remembrances about Larry, from myself and others.

- **KD8MQ** - When the bur-



Larry at Field Day 2007, with his solar charged battery

den of my college classes became overwhelming, Larry volunteered as the new editor. He never even hesitated. He felt that the newsletter was too important to let go.

- **KD8MQ** - When the club needed to put up a 2 Meter antenna at the armory, in support of our ARES activities, it was Larry who took care of it.
- **KD8JRK** - I will always remember Larry as one of my many mentors in Ham radio. He helped me out quite a bit with me getting both my Technician and General License.

He also was a very good friend. I know that both Ham radio and myself will miss him GREATLY. God Bless Him and His Family.

- **From N8GOB** - I just remember that Larry was always kind of a happy person and seemed to active with your group and seemed to help with a lot of things you did. Very likable.
- **From K8OMO** - Living beside Larry KE8VE for

Meeting Announcement

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 6th, at the Alliance Community Hospital, in the Cafe conference room.

This month, we'll be welcoming Terry, N8ATZ, who will speak on the subject of Emergency Communications

Meetings begin at 7:30 PM.

As usual, some of us get together at 6 PM, for food, & fellowship, at Don Pancho's Tex-Mex Café (2105 W. State St.).

Officers

President

WA8WHP
Frank Sanor
24462 St. Rt. 172
Minerva, OH 44657
wa8whp@verizon.net
330-894-2186

Vice-President

KD8MQ
John Myers
510 West Harrison St.
Alliance, OH 44601
kd8mq@neo.rr.com
330-936-5021

Secretary

AB8KV
Donald R Kingan
446 West High St.
Alliance, OH 44601
dkingan@neo.rr.com
330-821-5819

Treasurer

KB8IVS
Mary Ann Royer
6255 Sandalwood NE
Canton, OH 44721
kb8ivs@aol.com
330-492-0703

Trustees

K3GP
George Proudfoot
P.O. Box 343
Louisville, OH 44641
k3gp@arrl.net
330-829-9504

K8OMO
Don Whitaker
920 W. Beech Rd.
Alliance, OH 44601
330-823-5639

KC8TJQ
Oliver "Smitty" Smith
25462 Buffalo Rd.
E. Rochester, OH 44625
330-894-2530

Editor

John Myers, KD8MQ
(See above)

Ramblings

By John, KD8MQ

Well, This is probably one of, if not the toughest issues of the Zero Beat that I've ever done. When I received the call that Larry had passed away, the caller made sure that I was sitting down first. Even then, how can you be prepared for news like that. Our prayers go out to Dianna during this difficult time.

Anyway, even if you didn't notice, this issue of the Zero Beat is a couple days later than I had planned on. It was just too tough to sit down do this issue.

OK, on to a happier subject. 'OMO had sent advanced word to several of us that a school in Ashland was scheduled for an ARISS QSO recently. At the appointed time, I tuned in using only the 1/4wave mag mount on my vehicle. I was pleasantly surprised to hear the voice of NA1SS running S-9 on the downlink frequency of 145.80. The operator was answering questions from the students, and everything appeared to be going well. Thanks to OMO, for the heads up.

Just a reminder that the May club meeting is coming up next week. We have some important business to take care of, most important being Field Day.

Terry, N8ATZ will be there to discuss emergency communications.

I hope to see everyone there.

73 de 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 held:

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 8:00 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

Unless otherwise noted, permission is 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 via e-mail to kd8mq@neo.rr.com

March Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2009

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held at the Alliance Community Hospital on March 4, 2009 at 7:30 PM with club President Frank Sator, WA8WHP presiding. The meeting was held in the hospital cafeteria as both conference rooms were occupied. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by introductions. There were 15 members present, along with several guests including Chuck Lazear (N8PLM), Gloria Lazear (N8PLN), Jessie Evans (KD8KDK), Dana Evans (KC8LKB) and Bill McClaren (KB8MNE). Special guests for the meeting were John Essick and Virginia (Ginger) Grilli (KC8ZFK) from the Red Cross.

The first part of the meeting was turned over to John and Ginger. John addressed the club first, noting the long history of cooperation between the Red Cross and amateur radio, both on a local and national level. He also spoke about some of the changes that have taken place in the Red Cross and touched on the main subject for the evening, which was Disaster Assessment Training. He passed out a fact sheet outlining the Fundamentals of Disaster Assessment training course. He then turned the meeting over to Ginger.

Ginger addressed

some fundamentals concerning the current Red Cross organization and how responsibilities and regions are divided. She then spoke at length about what is involved with Disaster Assessment and about the two-part training offered to those interested in pursuing course certification in Disaster Assessment.

After their presentation, the club's normal business meeting was held.

Secretary Don, AB8KV gave the Secretary's report, which mainly noted that the February minutes were in the newsletter. The Secretary's report was approved on a motion by Tom, KD8JRK and seconded by Larry, AA8NV.

There was no official Treasurer's report as Mary Ann was at home recovering from her recent surgery.

Old business:

- President Frank reminded the members about submitting suggestions for club activities.

- ◊ Larry, AA8NV suggested having a code practice session, perhaps 10 minutes long, during meetings.

- ◊ There was also renewed discussion about homebrew projects for show-n-tell or for a homebrew contest.

- ◊ Other suggestions included having some type of DX contest and holding one or more inter-club fox hunts. The latter was addressed by VP John, KD8MQ who men-

tioned a tentative date of April 16 for such an event.

- Frank noted that April 18 is Amateur Radio Day and wondered about any possible club participation or publicity.

- ◊ VP John volunteered to check with the library about the possibility of their hosting a presentation that day, given by the club.

- John then made a motion that the club contact the Park Board about holding its June meeting at the cabin in Silver Park since the hospital conference room was taken for that date (June 3). The motion was seconded by Don, K8OMO and passed on a voice vote.

- Tom, KD8JRK reported that his father Bob, K8RLS had fallen at home and was hospitalized as a result. He noted that Bob would appreciate visitors.

New business:

- VP John noted that programs were on tap for the next two meetings.

- ◊ For April, Bill from AEP will speak to the club about electrical safety.

- ◊ In May, Terry Russ will talk about emergency communications.

- John then reminded the club that the next fox hunt is scheduled for March 28 from 1-3 PM.

- Larry, KE8VE noted that the statewide tornado disaster drill is set for March

(Continued on page 5)

April Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2009

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held at the Alliance Community Hospital on April 1, 2009 at 7:30 PM with club President Frank Sanor, WA8WHP presiding. The pledge of allegiance was recited followed by introductions. There were 19 members present along with Miriam Sanor and guests Bill Oles (WB8UAE), Carl Mani (K7CE) and Mr. Honnoll.

So as to not detain Bill and Carl longer than necessary, the first part of the meeting was turned over to them for presentations they had prepared for the club. Bill spoke about electrical safety using a demonstrator which depicted various accident scenarios where power line electrical hazards were present. Carl spoke about electrical interference, focusing on issues related to the AC power distribution system.

Following these presentations, the club's regular business meeting was held.

For the Secretary's report Don, AB8KV noted that he had missed the deadline for the March minutes inclusion in the newsletter, but that they would be in the next newsletter. The Secretary's report was approved on a

motion from John, KD8MQ and seconded by Tom, KD8JRK.

The Treasurer's report was given by Treasurer Mary Ann, KB8IVS. She reminded the club that annual dues were now due. The Treasurer's report was approved on a motion by Don, K8OMO and seconded by Howard, K8DXR.

Old business:

- VP John, KD8MQ reported on his contact with the Park Board regarding using one of the city parks for Field Day. He stated that while the Jaycee pavilion at Silver Park was not available for Field Day weekend, he had obtained permission to use the Jaycee pavilion at Butler-Rodman park.

The Board had agreed to allow the club to stay overnight and had also waived the usual fee. John further noted that while there was no fire place, restrooms were on site, eliminating the need for a Port-a-Pot.

After some discussion, Don, K8OMO made a motion to table a final decision on using Butler-Rodman until the next meeting in order to give members a chance to visit the site. This was seconded by Tom, KD8JRK and passed on a voice vote.

- VP John noted that Don, K8OMO and Rick, WD8AYC had found the fox at the last hunt.

- President Frank congratulated Tom, KD8JRK on his

upgrade to General.

- VP John then reminded the club that the hospital conference room was not available for the June meeting and that it had been proposed that the club reserve the cabin at Silver Park for the meeting. John had found that the cabin was reserved on our usual meeting night (June 3) but proposed changing the meeting to either the 2nd or 4th if the cabin was available.

A motion to that effect was made by Don, K8OMO and seconded by Howard, K8DXR, then passed on a voice vote.

New business:

- Tom reported that his father Bob, K8RLS was in the Community Care Center at the hospital in room 161 and would appreciate visitors.

- President Frank reported on PR the club had received regarding the presentation made about the DTV transition. He noted that he had received a request from Michigan for a copy of the presentation.

- Frank then announced upcoming hamfests, including Cuyahoga Falls on April 19, Athens on April 26 and the Dayton Hamvention on May 15-17.

- Don, AB8KV remarked that if John was going to be checking on the cabin availability for the June meeting, perhaps he could also inquire about getting it towards the end of September for the

March Minutes

(Continued from page 3)

18.

- Frank then brought up Field Day and appointed Larry, KE8VE and Howard, K8DXR to head it up. He then raised the issue of location.

- ◊ Dianna Ashburn agreed to check on the availability of the usual location at Marlinton Middle School.

- ◊ VP John will talk to the Park Board about the possibility of the club using one of the parks this year for a change.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM on a motion by Dave, N8NLZ and seconded by Larry, AA8NV.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Don, AB8KV, Secretary.

Wayback - cont.

(Continued from page 12)

W. State St. The antenna was a horizontally polarized ¼ wave mag mount with a light pole ground plane.

- Speaker at our next club meeting was to be Bud, K8DHD, on the subject of "Traffic Handling"

May, 2004, (editor KE8VE)

- At the April meeting, Doug Bowling, AB8CJ gave us an update on "The Big Project" at Marlinton High School, which was followed by a very informative presentation by Jason Bowling, KB8RNU and Will Sebastian, KC8UIR on APRS.

April Minutes

club picnic. John responded that he would and would also check about the Jaycee pavilion for the special event station during Carnation Days.

- Don, K8OMO reported that he had initiated a tone squelch on the repeater of 203.5 in order to reduce the interference from other repeaters.

- President Frank then stated that the Canton ARC had requested that our club join with them in sponsoring a Venturing group with the Boy Scouts. He also noted that a request had been received for help with the Hall of Fame parade. With further action on these items tabled, the club broke for refreshments.

With no further business to address, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM on a motion by John, KD8MQ and seconded by George, K3GP.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Don, AB8KV, Secretary.

Correction

In last months issue, I congratulated Duane Zorger, W8DHz on upgrading to General class.

By the time I got around to recognizing him, he had made the jump to extra. Congratulations, Duane.

Field Day

The subject of a Field Day site was tabled until the May meeting, to give everyone more time to go out & walk the site at Butler-Rodman park.

Larry, KE8VE had contacted me a few days before his death, concerned that there would be no time to secure the Marlinton Middle School site, if we waited till the May meeting to vote on it.

So, I gave the go-ahead for him to pursue it. I'm not sure where that stands right now, but will try to get a status report by the night of the meeting.

The Butler-Rodman Park site is on the west side of the park, behind the restrooms. Please stop by, and check out the site, as we will be voting between it, and the Marlinton Middle School site at the May meeting.

On that subject, I will be going to Dayton this year, and can pick up Field Day T-Shirts, hats, etc, for anyone who would like to save the shipping charges. Pictures & price lists are available at <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=NO-0515#top>. Just make sure to get your money to me before May 15th.

I hope to see everyone at the May meeting, as we vote on our choice of Field Day site. (KD8MQ)

KE8VE SK - cont.

the past 5 years + has been a real treat. Never boring that's for sure. Like on New Years Eve, He always liked to rattle the windows with a home made bomb as such and would be very concerned if it didn't rattle the windows. Well I always told him it wasn't much or didn't even hear it and sure enough on the 4th of July there would be another one at Sunset that "REALLY RATTLED" the windows Hi HI.

• **From Duane, W8DHZ -**

I first met Larry at the ham license schooling. He was a soft spoken man with a great deal of knowledge of ham radio. It was interesting to find out that he repaired the same radio's that I used when I was in the military. His willingness to give up time to help the members of the class led us to all get our Tech licenses. I will always be grateful for Larry's help in getting my license.

• **From N8PLM -** Well, I can not say he was a good Ham. I would have

to say he was a great Ham, & I will never forget KE8VE was always willing to give the most important thing he had; his time, to help & teach. It is one thing to have knowledge, but so grand to be willing to share it with others. It is my belief that he will be reaping all the good he did on earth. God Bless you Larry. I sure wish I could have told him in person, but oddly enough, I never did! Now my prayers go to his family. 73's Larry, KE8VE

A Letter to the Editor

John, KD8MQ

I am a fan of ZERO BEAT and the Alliance Amateur Radio Club is lucky to have you editing it.

But just this once I wish to take issue with part of the otherwise very cute Temp Chart in the April, 2009 edition on page three.

The joke of The Cleveland Browns not winning the Super Bowl until we reach -100 degrees has a problem with realism. The Cleveland Browns have won three Super Bowls. If the Super Bowl is the Championship game of the National Football League, then we've already hit -100 degrees and did it three times.

Now for those who believe The Browns have

NEVER won, well, you must accept the premise that the NFL was invented in 1967. No NFL in 1966 or before and that professional football league which history said started in 1920 just is a mirage.

But say you listen to ESPN faithfully and believe the Super Bowl - NFL Final Championship game - started in 1967. Now should you believe that, will you join me in going to the Fulton Street exit of I-77 and remove all exhibits of any player or team whose accomplishments substantially occurred before 1967. Any takers?

The Super Bowl name is a marketing tool perpetuated by ESPN and has no basis in real history. But ZERO

BEAT is a great newsletter and an award winner in our annual Ohio Newsletter contest

Joe Phillips, K8QOE
Ohio Section Manager

2009 HOF Grand Parade Needs Hams for Saturday Aug. 8th

Please sign up now and then Mark Your Calendar for Saturday Aug 8th.

We need to show our support for one of the biggest events in Stark County. As Ham's in Stark County, we should be proud to be part of this event.

Please e-mail Wade Huthmacher Wd8miu E-mail address wd8miu@gmail.com for more information, or to sign up.

Whatever Happened to Heathkit?

Whenever I mention to folks that I used to work at Heathkit, a few people actually ask, "What's Heathkit?" Yes, I suppose that does date me a bit. Others will say, "Oh, yes, my dad used to build Heathkits." Anyway, some of you do remember Heathkit, and fondly in most cases. If not, let me explain.

There once was a time in electronics when you could actually build circuits and equipment yourself. You needed a design that you could create yourself—or if not, get from one of many magazines, including *Electronic Design*. You could buy the resistors, capacitors, transistors, or tubes in the olden days, then put them all together on a metal chassis, a breadboard, or a finished printed-circuit board (PCB). It was quite a project but doable, and many hobbyists like hams built these designs on a regular basis.

In the late 1940s and 1950s, someone invented the kit business. Companies designed a product and sold it as a bundle of parts called a kit. You could buy the kit for a fraction of what a comparable wired unit would cost and then build it yourself. The outcome was quite favorable—a workable electronic product and a great sense of accomplishment you got from the construction.

Heath was one of those companies that help started the kit business. Ed Heath founded the company in 1926 with, of all things, an airplane kit. He died in a test

flight in one in 1935, but Howard Anthony kept the company going. Right after World War II, he bought a batch of electronic surplus. Out of that came one of the first successful kits, a small oscilloscope for \$50, which was a real achievement in its time. With that success came many new products.

Heathkit probably succeeded more on its ham radio products than anything else. Most of the early kits were shortwave radios, transmitters, accessories like antenna tuners, and the famous Cantenna, a 1-kW non-inductive power resistor in a paint can with mineral oil for the heatsink. Heathkit went on to create an extensive line of small and large transceivers and big power amps, many of which are still operational today.

The Successful Years Later in the 1950s and 1960s, Heathkit expanded into audio equipment, TV sets, and lots of other consumer products. The company even had a low-cost line of test equipment with scopes, multimeters, generators, counters, and other items. While Heathkit had competitors like Allied Knight, Lafayette, Eico, and a few other smaller companies, it essentially beat the pants off everyone else because it had a better product.

But Heathkit's good reputation really came from offering a better assembly manual than anyone else. A poorly executed step-by-

step manual is a prescription for disaster for any kit company. If the customer can't build the kit successfully without massive telephone and mail support, it would die a quick death, and many did. Heathkit figured this out early and spent as much development time in the manual as it did engineering the product. Its primary marketing message was "We won't let you fail," and the company lived up to it.

I went to Heathkit in the early 1970s to start its education and publishing product line. The idea was to extend the concept that building a kit was an educational endeavor and that we could expand on that idea with more formal learning materials to supplement the kits. We built a line of self-instructional courses on electronic fundamentals and a wide range of other topics. A line of kit trainers accompanied the instructional materials. The first products emerged in 1974 and were instantly successful. We followed up with microprocessor learning packages, which were hot for their time. And, we developed the Hero robot kit that came out in 1982.

I was also involved with the development of the Heathkit computers. We created the H8 and the H11, not to mention the H9 terminal, and of all things the H10, a paper tape reader/punch. (What was I thinking?) The H11 kit used Digital Equipment Corporation's

(Continued on page 8)

Heathkit - cont.

(DEC) famous LSI-11 board. We packaged that into kit form with some 8-in. hard drives (remember those?) and the RT-11 operating system with Basic—not bad for \$1200 at that time. The all-in-one H89 and others came later.

The Beginning of the End

The success of the computer line attracted the attention of Zenith Corp., which went on to buy Heathkit in 1979 from the owner Schlumberger, an oil field service company that also owned Fairchild Semiconductor at the time. Zenith carved out the computer product line and started Zenith Data Systems (ZDS), and that company went on to build a several billion dollar business making Zenith computers and PC compatibles. Groupe Bull of France eventually bought that business, and ultimately it succumbed to the market forces driving the PC-compatible business with all its shake-outs, ups, and downs during the late 1980s and early 1990s.

In the meantime, the kit business suffered. Zenith didn't really want that business, but it came with the deal. It was neglected as ZDS grew, and so began its slow decline into oblivion. But a great deal of that decline had little to do with Zenith. It was also the time of great progress in semiconductor manufacturing. More and more equipment was being made of more and

smaller ICs and surface-mount components, both of which were always a challenge for kit builders. It became harder to make a kit people could build at home with basic hand tools.

At the same time, wired products became cheaper thanks to Asian engineering and manufacturing. You could buy a great stereo or color TV set for less than what a kit cost, and you didn't have to spend three weekends building it. Everyone was into instant gratification in the 1980s, so nobody wanted to spend time building kits.

Heathkit discovered it could no longer compete in many markets like ham radio, audio, TV, and test equipment as it took as much time and money to create the manual as it did the product. With double the development costs and the technology making assembly more difficult, Heathkit eventually concluded it could not compete. This perfect storm of conditions led to the formal phasing out of the kit business in 1991 and 1992. There was lots of editorial coverage about that being the end of an era.

But Wait—Heathkit Really Didn't Go Away

Everyone thought that Heathkit was no more. Wrong! The education and publishing business now called Heathkit Educational Systems (HES) was still doing well. While the courses, materials, and trainers were sold to individuals, HES also

developed a huge college and university business. HES was soon sold to a private buyer and continued as a successful operation. It still is today.

While its primary customers are educational institutions, you can still buy individual learning programs and even the trainer kits. HES also retained the rights to all those amazing kit manuals. The company still has many in stock. If you're looking for the documentation on an older Heathkit transceiver, scope, or whatever, you can get a copy of the manual. It's a nice little side business.

And despite the surface-mount components, ever smaller ICs, and challenging construction, you can still buy a kit today. Most of these kits are smaller products, but a few larger ones require some skill to build. An example of some of the smaller kits can be found at Ramsey Electronics (www.ramseykits.com), which offers a wide range of kits like power supplies and amplifiers that hobbyists love. Ramsey also has many ham radio kits and some commercial radio kits.

J a m e c o (www.jameco.com), which you might recognize as a mail order parts house, also has a line of small kits for hobbyists and educational institutions. Some of the ham radio companies offer kits as well, like Elecraft (www.elecraft.com) and Ten-Tec (www.tentec.com). Other sources include Elenco Elec-

Heathkit - cont.

tronics (www.elenco.com) and Kelvin Electronics (www.kelviin.com).

Most kits go light on the newer parts and stay with older but still good ICs with the larger through-hole packages. When newer ICs are used, they're often pre-mounted on a PCB or the assembly using them will be pre-wired to prevent damage from poor construction.

It is still fun and satisfying to build a kit—at least to some people. And if you have the patience, you will actually experience that “Eureka” feeling one gets from building a particularly large and difficult kit. It works! It is a rare, satisfying experience that few enjoy any more. Next time you

want to encourage one of your kids or relatives to enter the electronics field, give them a kit.

So despite the fact that almost everyone thought Heathkit died, it still exists and is still doing well. Check out its Web site at www.heathkit.com. The company's new address is 2024 Hawthorne Avenue, St. Joseph, Mich. 49085. Call 269-925-6000 or 800-253-0570. Many of the original Heathkit employees are still with the company, and that “we won't let you fail” attitude still prevails.

Acknowledgements

My special thanks to Chas Gilmore (W8IAI) of PPM Inc. as well as Doug

Bonham and Randy Kaeding (K8TMK), both of Heathkit, for clarifying some of this information.

The preceding copyrighted article was reprinted with permission.

Many thanks to Electronic Design magazine, and the Author, Louis Frenzel. Also, to Don, AB8KV for forwarding this.

Editors note: In my rush to I originally neglected to list my source for this article. So, this is being added after the fact.

April Fox Hunt Practice Run

The April Fox Hunt Practice Run went off without a hitch, with two hunters finding the fox.

The foxmeister for this one was Don, K8OMO, who placed the foxbox in some shrubbery Across State St from Sheetz. After setting up the box, he took a seat at one of the tables outside, and sat back to watch the fun. The box was transmitting at 1 Watt into a rubber duck, which limited its range to a mile, or so.

This was a nice, easy hunt, however both hunters fell prey to a phenomenon that I'll call the Glamorgan Effect.

The Glamorgan Effect refers to our starting point in the parking lot at Glamorgan castle. The castle parking lot blocks direct signals from the south, leaving us only reflections from the east, & west to use as a starting bearing. In the future, we'll need to take bearings from different sides of the castle, to overcome this .

In the end, the fox was found by yours truly, KD8MQ, and by Eddy, KD8FTS, who came from Parma to join us for a afternoon of hunting.

Volunteer foxmeisters are being recruited. Contact Jon, KD8MQ



Top: OMO's secret weapon

Bottom: OMO wait for the hunters.

AARC Spring Fox Hunt Largest So Far

The AARC spring fox hunt was held too late to make the deadline for the April issue of the Zero Beat. This meant that Don, K8OMO, and Rick, WD8AYC, had to wait a whole month to see their names in print.

The hunt was held on March 28th, from 1 - 3 PM, and attracted the largest turnout so far for one of our hunts. The foxmeister for this hunt was John, KD8MQ, who chose a spot on the shore of Deer Creek as a hiding spot for the foxbox.

For this hunt, fox box's rubber was replaced with something a bit larger. A pair of 3-element beams were connected via a phasing harness, and oriented with multiple orientations, and polarizations. One was aiming back towards the finish line, and the other aimed low towards the water.

In testing, it was found that the 1 watt signal was heard very well at the starting line, 5 miles away.

We had 5 teams participating this time. Unfortunately, only one club member participated.

First place was won by the team of Don, K8OMO, and Rick, WD8AYC.

Next was Jason, KC8LIN, and his friend, Jen (No call), followed by the team of Dale, NX8J, Andy, & Brian, (No Calls).

Then came Eddy, KD8FTS, accompanied by Martin, W8ADV, followed by

the team of Dan, N8DZM, accompanied by Ben, KD8KMQ.

In order to complete the hunt, participants had to find the fox box, collect the lowest numbered poker chip which was attached, and open the envelope, which had directions to return to the finish line at the main

parking lot.

This actually made the hunt more challenging, since hunters couldn't just look for the foxmeister. This is a trick which was used by Don, K8OMO, at the latest practice run (See that story elsewhere in this issue).

(Tnx to Dale, NX8J for these pictures)



The fox looks abandoned



Nope, Andy found it!

May 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 7 PM Canton ARES Net 147.12 9 PM N. Columbiana cty net 147.255 9 PM SAARA Net	6 6:00 AARC Board Meeting 7:30 AARC Meeting	7 AARC Nets 8, 9, 9:30 8 PM Massillon Net 147.18	8	9 CQ National Foxhunting weekend
10 Mother's Day CQ National Foxhunting weekend	11	12 WA8VHH Birthday 7 PM Canton ARES Net 147.12 9 PM N. Columbiana cty net 147.255 9 PM SAARA Net	13	14 AARC Nets 8, 9, 9:30 8 PM Massillon Net 147.18	15	16 Armed Forces Day
17	18	19 7 PM Canton ARES Net 147.12 9 PM N. Columbiana cty net 147.255 9 PM SAARA Net	20	21 AARC Nets 8, 9, 9:30 8 PM Massillon Net 147.18	22	23 1 – 3 PM Fox Hunt Practice Run
24	25 Memorial Day	26 7 PM Canton ARES Net 147.12 9 PM N. Columbiana cty net 147.255 9 PM SAARA Net	27	28 AARC Nets 8, 9, 9:30 8 PM Massillon Net 147.18	29	30
31						

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/newsletters/>.

May, 1989, (editor N8IAK)

- This was Pam's last newsletter. After this issue she was handing the reins over to Janice, KB8GCE, and Dennis, KB8GCF.
- The annual meeting & election was coming up on May 4th.
- The mall show was history, with Mark Koontz, from Channel 8 being the main attraction on Sunday.
- The league had proposed a No-code amateur license. We were being encouraged to forward our opinions on the matter to our division director.
- Amateur Radio had been approved for secondary inclusion on STS-35. Payload specialist Ron Parise, W4SIR was preparing for voice, video, and packet communications, as time

permitted.

- The ARES committee had been meeting regularly. The City of Alliance had been putting together an emergency preparedness plan, which included Amateur Radio. ARES photo ID badges were in the works, and we were looking for volunteers for the aerobatic competition at Berlin Aeropark (formerly Miller Airport).
- As of that issue, no one had stepped forward to claim victory in the AARC DXCC contest. It appears that many were close, though.

May, 1994, (editor WX8G)

- Bob, W8ACP had just passed away. At the previous meeting, the club had awarded him an ARRL flag.
- The AARC Spring Fox Hunt had been won by Bill, W8ZZS, and John, KF8ZG. The fox was Jim, N8DZA, and John, N8PLA, who were hiding in West parking lot of the comfort inn, on

(Continued on page 5)