



KE8VE chosen Ham of the Year

In a first for the AARC, the 2009 AARC Ham of the Year honor was awarded posthumously to Larry Ashburn, KE8VE. Accepting the award was his widow, Diana.

Larry had been an active supporter of this club right up until his untimely death, last spring.

As the holder of the 2008 award, it fell to your editor to tabulate the votes

for my successor. After suggesting KE8VE as a possible candidate for this award, I was pleased with the amount of positive feedback that was shared on the idea. In the end, the vote tally was unanimous.

Larry passed away in April. The story can be found in the May issue of the Zero Beat. Back issues are on the club web site at <http://www.w8lky.org>.

Stark County QSO Party is Proposed

At the December meeting, we presented an idea for a 2 Meter Simplex contest with stark county municipalities as multipliers.

When Frank, WA8WHP was president, one of his ideas was to find some operating activity that we could engage in as a club. This seems to fill the bill. The full proposal is printed on pages 8 & 9.

Some of the changes which have been suggested so far are:

-Multiple band operation

-bonus points for contacting:

- AARC Members
- Club Stations

Based on these suggestions, E-mails have been sent to the Canton & Massillon Clubs, to see if they are interested in putting their club stations on the air for bonus points.

We'll be discussing this in detail at the January meeting. Please make plans to attend, and share your thoughts, and suggestions.

*Merry Christmas
&
A Very Happy
New Year to you
& Yours!*

Meeting Announcement

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 6th, 2010 at the Alliance Community Hospital, in the Cafe conference room.

Meetings begin at 7:30 PM.

This months program is on a CW training program called RufzXP

Before the meeting, you're invited to join us at

**Luna's Restaurant
2340 W. State St.**

We meet there at 6 PM, for food, & fellowship

Officers

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Editor

John Myers, KD8MQ
(See above)

Rambling

By John, KD8MQ

Happy New Year everyone! This column will be a little on the long side, so you may want to refill your coffee cup right about now.

You're probably reading this a few days before the first, at least if I've timed everything right. To say that this is has been a hectic holiday season is probably the mother of all understatement. Not that I'm complaining, mind you. But, I'm looking forward to throttling back a couple of notches this month.

As you have no doubt seen already, Larry, KE8VE, was unanimously voted Ham of the Year. The award was, of course, awarded posthumously. I heard quite a few positive comments concerning this choice, and I'm convinced that it was the right one.

I have but one regret, and that is that we've never done more to honor those club members who have achieved Status.

Not everyone was aware that we had a Silent Key. I know I had forgotten. I'm hoping to display it at the monthly meetings.

This month marks a return to a real calendar. Since Bob, K8RLS retired, I've been using a MS Word template to do the calendars. It worked OK, but required much too much fussing to get everything just so.

The other night, I needed to break in on a repeater conversation, and had one heck of a time. Please,

(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 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

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You can submit material to the Zero Beat via e-mail to kd8mq@neo.rr.com

December Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held on December 2nd, at 7:30 PM at Alliance Community Hospital. President John Myers, KD8MQ presided. The pledge of allegiance was recited, followed by introductions.

There were 15 members, and 3 guests present.

We then paused for a program by Robert Gilbert, KA8JOY, on the subject of Crash scene investigation.

Afterwards, we took a break for the consumption of donuts, before continuing with the business meeting.

Minutes were accepted as printed in the Zero Beat, on a motion by k3gp, seconded by K8DXR

The Treasurers report was presented by Mary Ann, KB8IVS, and accepted on a motion by K8DXR, and seconded by WA8WHP.

Committee reports

Field Day report- President John reported that the results have been posted on the ARRL website.

Our final score was 3646 Pts. We made 939 QSO's. We outscored the Massillon club, but the Canton club beat the pants off everyone, with 8956 pts. (2283 QSO's)

George, K3GP gave a

recap of the recently held Field Day Committee meeting.

Some of the points covered were:

- No change in location this year.
- We need to do more setup on Friday night
- We need to add digital modes to our arsenal
- A volunteer is needed to do satellite QSO's
- We should do NTS messages ahead of time, and dump them into the during the Field Day Period.
- Copy the W1AW bulletin the night before.
- Enlist more elected officials to show up
- We need a GOTA station, and someone to act as coach. looking for volunteers
- Need more CW ops
- Scheduling of operators should be seriously considered
- We should stay at class3A, but we need:
 - ⇒ Smarter band changes
 - ⇒ Someone to work the night shift on 80 Meters.
- New Field Day software is being considered
- Outboard CW sending units are also being considered.

K8OMO points out that we need more people to come back to the club.

The question was then raised as to how many members we had in the club. Mary Ann responded that we had close to 30 members at this time.

We are still waiting for the 2010 Field Day rules to be posted sometime in Early February

ARES- Nothing to report at this time

ARRL Report-

•FCC set to relax vanity Callsign rules

•HB212 & HR 2160 still alive

Old Business

A vote was taken on the pending bylaws amendment re the increase to the amount of petty cash in the treasury from \$20 to \$50.

After minimal discussion, a motion was made by K8DXR, seconded by K3GP, to accept the amendment, which passed on a voice vote.

Don, K8OMO Noted that the banquet was to be at Panchos, on December 12th. Santa Claus was scheduled to attend.

Don then noted that a switching power supply was needed for the Yaesu 920. As a dual purpose, it can be used on the 5.37 repeater. Motion made by Don, Seconded by KD8JRK. Cost should be a little over \$100.

Motion passed on a voice vote.

New business

A proposal was presented that the club hold a Stark County VHF QSO Party.

This was originally

(Continued on page 4)

Minutes—cont.

(Continued from page 3)

held by the Canton club, but had not been held since 2005. After checking with the Canton club, they have generously donated \$25.00 to the prize fund should we proceed with this.

A Proposed set of rules were passed out. KD8MQ offered to answer questions at the meeting, but asked that discussion on the proposal be kept at a minimum until the January meeting (*ed note: see page one of this issue for more info*).

K8OMO Noted that there is to be no use of the W8LKY Callsign without permission of the Callsign trustee, Don, K8OMO

Frank, WA8WHP noted that the Massillon club will be setting up a Dxpediton to North Bass Island next summer.

Tom, KD8JRK noted that scheduling of operators was needed for the 2 Meter net. It was decided that this was best addressed with the net manager, Jim, K8LTG.

Announcements

- The AARC banquet was coming up

- The program for the January meeting will be on RuffzXP.

Motion to adjourn by K3GP, seconded by KD8JRK

Minutes submitted by John, KD8MQ, in the absence of Don, AB8KV.

Rambling by KD8MQ—cont.

(Continued from page 2)

please, please, wait for the courtesy tone before keying up. Not only does this give the time-out timer a chance to reset, but it also gives a chance for someone to sneak in their Callsign

At the end of last year, I posted a list of goals that I wanted to see the club achieve in 2009. So, how'd we do? Let's see.

1) **Finding some interesting programs for our 2009 meetings.**

We've made great strides towards livening up our club meetings. We've had some excellent programs in the last couple months, but it doesn't stop there. We have some terrific speakers lined up for 2010.

2) **Organize at least one new event for the club.**

In February, we hosted our DTV Awareness night for the public to learn about the upcoming DTV switchover.

Then, in November, we held our first Homebrew Night. It appears to have been very well received. So much so that we are planning to do it again this November.

3) **Organize some type of competition just for club members. Such as a DXCC, WAS, or VUCC contest?**

OK, we drew a goose egg on this one. But, wait till this fall. We have something coming up.

4) **Start a VE exam team.**

Another goose egg. This is someplace where I feel we need to make some progress this year.

A goal for 2010 is to start holding training classes once again. I'd like to see us hold Technician classes this September. Then, move on to General, and extra class sessions in the spring. More on this later as the year progresses.

In November, we were approached to find a meeting room for a District ARES meeting. IT was attended by EC's, & AEC's from this part of the state. Alliance was chosen due to our central location in the district. The meeting was held on November 24th, at the hospital, and appeared to have gone smoothly.

At our next club meeting, we'll give you a chance to test your CW skills. We'll have a presentation on RuffzXP, a CW trainer program for your computer.

We'll talk about what it is, and how it works., and how to install it. We'll also have it available to test drive. Hope to see you there.

A Look Back At 2009

Well, In what is now a tradition, it behooves us to take a look back at the events & activities of 2009.

January

- General Classes taught by KE8VE

- George, K3GP, and Howard, K8DXR did a RTTY demonstration for a local scout troop.

- We had a January Fox Hunt Practice Run. Tom, KC8QOD volunteered to be the foxmeister on this frigid day in January.

February

- The FCC asked for help from the Ham community, and the Alliance ARC delivered! Frank, WA8WHP, Tom, KD8JRK, and John, KD8MQ presented a "DTV Awareness Night" lecture at Rodman Library, on the upcoming DTV transition. We got PR in the form of airtime on WDPN, a nice story in the Alliance Review, and several replays of the event on the Carnation Cable Channel. In addition, Frank presented the lecture to the Massillon ARC

- A Fox Hunt Practice Run was held in February. Foxmeister was Dana Evans, KC8LKB

March

- A change of venue for Field Day was explored. While we chose to remain at Marlinton Middle, we did get some positive PR in the local paper, after meeting with the Park board.

- We had some new Hams & upgrades. Some were from our General upgrade class.

They were:

- ◊Robert Underwood, KD8KMR (Tech)

- ◊Tom Steele, KD8JRK (Upgraded to General)

- ◊Duane Zorger, KD8JSB (Upgraded to Extra, and changed Callsign to W8DHZ)

- ◊Jessie Evans, KD8KDK (Tech)

- Our Spring Fox Hunt was held on March 28th, and was our largest one to date. We had 5 teams participate. The hunt was won by Don, K8OMO, and Rick, WD8AYC.

April

- The Program for the April meeting was presented by Bill, WD8UAE, and Carl, K7CE. The subject was Electrical Safety.

- Larry, KE8VE became a Silent Key

- We Held a Fox Hunt Practice Run. Don, K8OMO hid the fox across from Sheetz, then sat back to watch the fun.

May

- The Speaker for our May meeting was Terry, N8ATZ, who spoke on ARES.

June

- A convoy of better than 30 military vehicles passed through the area.

- Our ARRL Section Manager, Joe Phillips, K8QOE passed away just prior to field Day.

- Speaking of Field Day, W8LKY operated 3A, and managed well over 900 QSOs from Marlinton Middle School. This in spite of the outhouse being placed upwind of the pavilion.

July

- We participated in the Greater Stark County Fox Hunt, which was a joint venture with Massillon, and Canton clubs. Don, K8OMO, and Richard, KD6MPN came in second place, but won the drawing for the main prize, an offset attenuator kit.

August

- We set up a special event station at Silver Park

- We provided communications for the Carnation Triathlon

September

- On Labor Day, we provided communications for the Castle Run

- At the Ohio Section Conference, the Zero Beat was awarded 2nd place in the Section newsletter contest

- We held our club picnic at Silver Park

October

- We participated in a mass casualty incident drill. This was run by the hospital, but the Alliance PD, and Mt. Union College Security participated.

- The final fox hunt of 2009 was won by Jim, N8PXW. This hunt was on 440 MHz.

November

- We held our First Annual homebrew night at the November club meeting.

- A group of AARC members met to form a Boy Scout Technology Crew.

December

- We held our annual club banquet at Don Panchos.

2010 is up to us!

How's your CW?

(This is a reprint from the July, 09 Zero Beat. This is the program that I'll be demoing at the January meeting.—KD8MQ)

After returning home from Dayton, I heard that I had missed seeing a new piece of software which sounds invaluable to anyone wishing to increase their CW speed. The program is called RuzXP (<http://www.rufzxp.net/>), and is a free download.

The designers of RuzXP describe this software as

"an excellent training software for improving code speed and CW practice, particularly (ultra) high speed memory copying of true amateur radio calls. Focusing

on improvement of CW proficiency, it is no contest simulator and does not provide for QRM. It provides additional tools for keeping track of training progress and comparing with other operators via International RuzXP Toplist".

So far, I have installed this on three computers (XP Pro, XP Home, and Win2000). I won't say that the install was a "piece of cake", but it should cause no trouble for most of us. The most important pre-requisite is to have ALL your updates done before attempting to install RuzXP. Specifically, You need MS .net 2.0/3.0, and direct 9.0C installed. Once all that was done, the

installs were a snap.

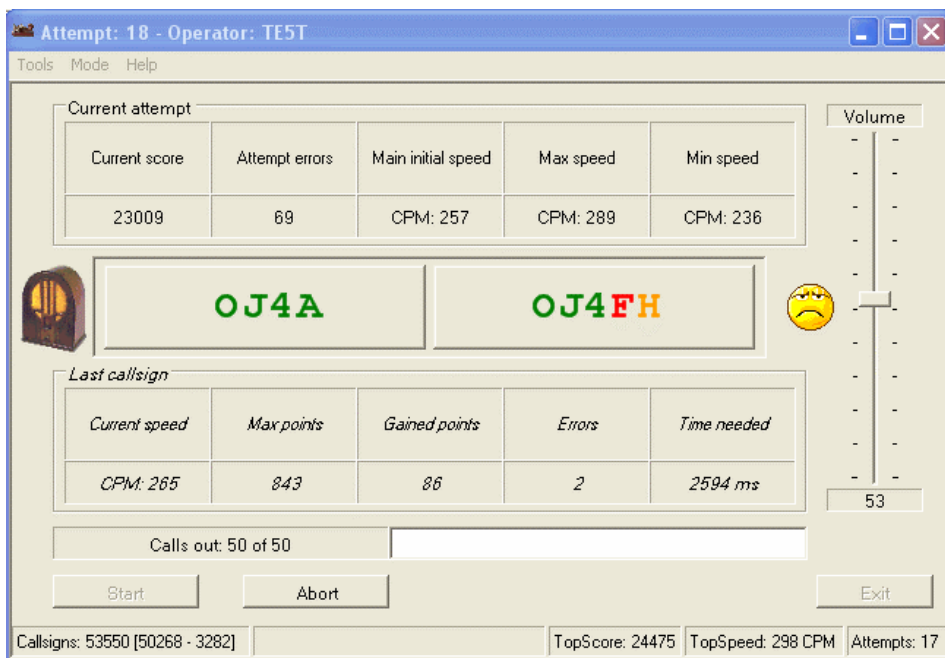
RuzXP sends a chosen number of random selected true amateur radio calls (50 by default) to be typed into the keyboard. After <ENT> key has been pressed, the computer gives its next call.

If the call has been copied correctly, the transmitting speed increases, if not, it decreases. In this way software automatically adapts transmitting speed to user's maximum performance. Every last call can be heard once again by pressing F6-key (50% penalty).

The number of points for each call is primarily related to the CW-speed sent, the number of errors and the length of the call. In addition typing time exerts a minor influence. But it is helpful to think about whether the heard call is useful or not.

The initial speed is variable, from 8 to 803 (not a typo) WPM. As you run the program, you will notice that the pitch changes from one callsign to another.

My CW speed was never great to begin with, but with the help of this program, I hope to make a stab at 40 CW at this years Field Day. (KD8MQ)



Here's a screenshot from the RuzXP site.

Don't Trust Little Old Ladies!

A young man shopping in a supermarket noticed a little old lady following him around. If he stopped, she stopped. Furthermore she kept staring at him.

She finally overtook him at the checkout, and she turned to him and said, "I hope I haven't made you feel ill at ease; it's just that you look so much like my late son."

He answered, "That's okay." "I know it's silly, but if you'd call out 'Good bye, Mom' as I leave the store, it would make me feel so happy."

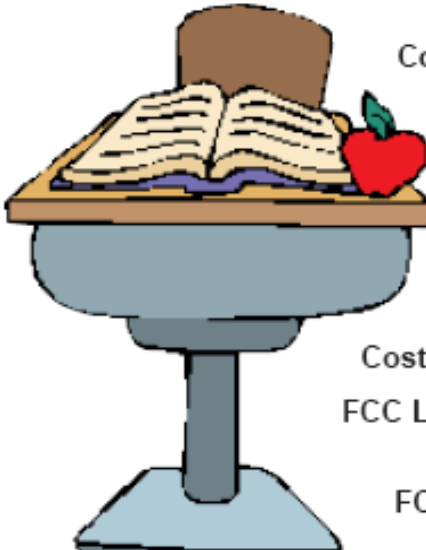
She then went through the checkout, and as she was on her way out of the store, the man called out, "Goodbye, Mom." The little old lady waved and smiled back at him.

Pleased that he had brought a little sunshine into someone's day, he went to pay for his groceries. "That comes to \$121.85," said

the clerk. "How come so much? I only bought 5 items."

The clerk replied, "Yeah, but your Mother said You'd be paying for her things, too."

Bet you thought this was going to be a tear jerker. Don't trust Little Old Ladies!!!



TECH CLASS

Contact: Allan "Al" Avnet AB8AA
330-549-3057 or ab8aa@arrl.net

Monday Evenings 7:00 - 9:30 P.M.
starting January 4, 2010
(No classes Jan 11 & Feb 8)

Class Location: Salvation Army
1249 N. Ellsworth Ave., Salem

Cost: \$20.00 for books & Materials.

FCC License Exam: FEBRUARY 22
for all classes

FCC Testing Fee: \$14.00, payable
FEBRUARY 22

20th Annual

Tusco A.R.C. Hamfest

Where friends meet and meet new friends.

SUNDAY JANUARY 31, 2010
965 North Wooster Ave. Strasburg, Ohio
www.tuscoarc.org

DIRECTIONS: Exit 87 off I-77 to SR 250 W (1.9 miles)

Talk/Check in on 146.730-

Admission: \$5.00 Donation at the door
Tables: \$10.00 Plus Admission
Open: 6:00 am for set up, 8:00 am to ??? for public.
Parking: FREE, close parking available in rear.



Dealers Welcome!

For additional information and to reserve tables contact:

Kyle Quillen KD8HDJ
518 Fair Avenue NW · New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663
Telephone 1-888-447-2403 · Email hamfest@tuscoarc.org



****PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN EXTENSION CORDS. 120 VOLTS IS AVAILABLE.**

A SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 15, 2010 TO ENSURE THE RETURN OF RESERVATION CONFIRMATION. RESERVATIONS MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE!

Alliance

Amateur

Radio

Club

Proposal

Stark County VHF QSO Party

Sponsored by:

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club

April 10th, 2010

12:00PM - 6:00 PM

Mode: 2 Meter FM Simplex

The purpose of this contest is to:

- A. Provide an opportunity for local Amateurs to enhance their station and operating skills without regard to license class
- B. Simulate emergency conditions (with NO repeaters)
- C. To enhance utilization of the 2 meter band and simplex operation.

Objective:

Stations in Stark County — To work as many stations as possible

Stations outside Stark County - To work as many Stark County stations, in as many cities, townships, or villages, as possible.

Entry Classifications:

Low Power: Station running a Power level of 5W or less

High Power: Fixed station running a Power level of more than 5W

Mobile: A station capable of being operated while in motion

Frequencies:

Contacts can be made on any 2 Meter simplex frequency (Check the attached band plan).

Contest contacts on repeaters are not permitted. However, use of repeaters for solicitation of contacts is allowed.

Exchange:

Stark County stations: Callsign & QTH (i.e.: township, city, village)

Non-Stark County stations: Callsign & QTH (The county you are operating from)

Work stations only once. Work Mobiles/Portables again each time they move to a new township, city, or village

Scoring:

Contacts with Stark County stations count for 2 points

Contacts with stations outside of Stark County count 1 point

Multipliers:

There are 33 possible multipliers. Stark County has 17 Townships, 11 villages, and 5 cities. Each one is a multiplier.

Bonus points:

Contacts with W8LKY count 10 bonus points

Mobile stations get an additional bonus; Add 50 points for each Township, City, or Village activated.

Stark County Multiplier List

Townships

Bethlehem
Canton
East Canton
Jackson
Lake
Lawrence
Lexington
Marlboro
Nimishillen
Paris
Perry
Pike
Plain
Sandy
Sugar Creek
Tuscarawas
Washington

Cities

Alliance
Canton
Massillon
Louisville
North Canton

Villages

Beach
City
Brewster
East Canton
East
Sparta
Hartville
Limaville
Magnolia
Minerva
Navarra

Suggested Simplex Frequencies

146.430	146.505
146.445	146.520
146.460	146.535
146.475	146.550
146.490	146.565

AARC Christmas Party 2009



AARC Christmas Party 2009



AARC Swap n Shop!

Welcome to a new feature in the Zero Beat. Do you have something Ham-related for sale, or something you are wanting to buy? Let me know. My contact info for placing an add is at the bottom of the page.

For Sale - Paul, NW8C has the following for sale.

- Hallicrafters HT-37 Transmitter
- Hallicrafters SX-110
- Pyramid 22A Power Supply
- Kenwood TR-9000 2M All Mode

You can contact Paul, NW8C @ 330-938-0851

For Sale - Frank, WA8WHP has the following for sale.

(He notes that all proceeds will be donated to the club)

Meters

1	0-50uA DC	4.5 "
1	0-75A AC	3.5"
2	0-30V DC	3.5"
1	0-50uA DC	edge mount
3	0-25A DC	3.5"
2	0-15A DC	3"
1	0-10V DC	3.5"

Klystrons

6 8907

timer switch 120 VAC 2 pole

Power resistors

1	5 ohm 200 Watts
2	4 tap 250 kilohm @ 200 watts
4	4 tap 62.5kilohm @ 200 watts

(Continued on page 13)

Swap & Shop rules: We'll keep the rules simple.

1. All ads will run for two months, unless you contact me to cancel, or extend it.
2. You are allowed to post anything as long as it is Ham Radio, or Computer related.
3. Please, no converted CB equipment.

To place an ad: contact John, KD8MQ (Cell: 330-936-5021, e-mail: kd8mq@arrl.net)

AARC Swap n Shop! -cont.

fans

- 1 160 cfm 120 VAC
- 2 65 cfm 120 VAC
- 2 115 VAC .19/.15A Comair rotron muffin
- 1 115 VAC .07/.06A Comair rotron muffin

Time Delay Relay 0-5 Min. DPST 120 VAC 10 Amp contacts

Powerstat 0-120VAC 22A

Powerstat 0-140VAC 22A with knob

Staco 0-240/280VAC 3.5A

Powerstat 0-280VAC 3.5A with knob and scale

Relays

- 3 3PDT 10A 12VDC coil P&B
- 3 DPDT 10A 120VAC coil P&B
- 4 DPDT 10A 115VAC coil #3A993
- 26 DPDT 10A 120VAC coil #11AG120
- 19 3PDT 10A 120VAC coil #14AG120
- 10 CHASSIS MOUNT SOCKET
- 6 3PDT 10A 120VAC coil #14DG120

If interested in any of this, please contact Frank, WA8WHP, via e-mail (wa8whp@verizon.net), or phone (330-206-2639)

For Sale - Don, K8OMO reports the following for sale item:
Heath Kit singlebander 20 meters drake mobile power supply to run it
problem with transmit low output \$100.00 Don, K8OMO email
k8omo@juno.com, or phone: 330-823-5639

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Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.



PCARS - K8BF

Fifth Annual

"Freeze Your Acorns Off" (FYAO) QRP mini-field day Special Event Station



**Where: Fred Fuller Park - 497 Middlebury Rd., Kent, Oh
at the Roy Smith Shelter House**

**When: Saturday - Feb. 27, 2010
Set up: 9am**



Operating Time: 10am - 6pm EST

We will be active on CW & SSB in the General areas of the 15, 20, 40 and 80 meter bands (Echolink on the KC8RKV echolink node) and anything else we can get working)

Club Call Sign K8BF



Yes, we'll be braving the cold snowy weather of North Eastern Ohio to set up QRP stations using portable power and antennas.



A beautiful color (suitable for framing) 8" x 10" certificate will be available if you send your QSL card and a large SASE to the club call trustee:
Al Atkins KB8VJL - 12433 Chamberlain Rd. - Aurora, OH 44202

So, from the comfort of your warm radio shack - give us a contact while we're out freezing. We'll need all the contacts we can make to help keep us warm. Your support will be very much appreciated!



Check PCARS out on the web at: www.portcars.org



January 2010

Happy Birthday K8RLS, KD8BBK

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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31 Tusco Hamfest	<h3>Amateur Radio - When all Else Fails!</h3>																																																																																									

Alliance Amateur Radio Club
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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/>.

January, 1990, (editors KB8GCE & KB8GCF)

- Tech/General classes were moving right along, with six students enrolled. They were being taught by Jim, N8DZA, and John, WX8G.

- Jim, KB8GHZ wrote that he had helped administer the code test to Mary Ann, KB8IVS.

- There was talk of requiring fees for Amateur Radio Licenses. Luckily, this idea had been sent to the dumper.

- At the QORC Christmas banquet, Jim, N8DZA received the first annual Ham of the Year award.

- Also at the banquet, Jack, W8WEN was awarded a nice plaque for winning the AARC DXCC contest.

- N8DZA was helping the kids at the YMCA to get their Ham licenses. They got a surprise when an anonymous benefactor donated a sum of money for a "Kenwood 440" rig, coax, antenna, and extras. *Ed. Note: I'm not sure if this refers to a 44MHZ rig, or a Kenwood TS-440.*

- It was announce that Dave KC3CL would take over as editor, beginning with the May issue.

(There was no January, 2000 issue of the Zero Beat)

January, 1995, (editor WX8G)

- At the most recent Christmas banquet, Larry, KE8VE was chosen Ham of The Year.

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January, 2005, (editor KE8VE)

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