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Tony, KD8BBK Is Chosen Ham Of The Year!



Tony accepting the award for AARC Ham of the Year

One of the highlights of the AARC Christmas banquet is the awarding of the plaque for Ham of the year. This year was no different.

Getting people to turn in ballots for this years Ham of the Year was a snap. As the votes were counted, it became clear that we had a landslide on our hands. We had several votes for Tony Schillig, KD8BBK. Along with the votes, we also received comments. Not just one, or two, either. We'll reprint

(Continued on page 5)

Meeting Announcement

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 12th, 2010 at the Alliance Community Hospital, in the Cafe conference room.

The program for this months meeting will be a short video of a climb to the top of a 1600' communications tower. There may also be another short video, as well.

Before the meeting, you're invited to join us at 6pm for dinner

**Don Panchos
2105 W. State St.**

New Meeting Night for the AARC!

Beginning this month, our meeting night moves to the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

This change was approved by the membership at the November meeting. It was done due to a conflict with the Cuyahoga Falls Fox hunts, which Don, K8OMO, and myself attend pretty regularly.

Also This month, we will be meeting in the hospitals basement conference room.

ference room.

We've not met there before, and frankly, I never knew it existed until receiving the e-mail from the Hospital.

Signs will be posted, but the directions are simple:

From the Main Lobby, take elevator to the basement, exit elevator to your left, turn left at 1st hallway, go through double doors to next hallway turn left, conference room on right.

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Editor

John Myers, KD8MQ
(See above)

Rambling

By John, KD8MQ

Hi everyone! Hope your Holidays were excellent, full of fun, & fellowship.

Here at our QTH, the radio install in the new truck is almost finished. At this time, I'm waiting till after the holidays for delivery of a mic extension cable for the D710. Until that time, you will likely hear a clicking sound on my V/UHF signal which has been described as the chattering of my teeth. This is caused by some leakage in the CAT5 extension which I'm currently using.

You may have noticed that the Zero Beat is about a week later than usual. No, I'm not behind, but it sure wouldn't be the first time if I were. I like to have the ZB in your inbox about a week ahead of the next club meeting. Since we are now meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, not the 1st, the newsletter deadline moves accordingly.

Thus begins a new year of activities for the AARC. The fun begins this month with a Mid-winter Fox hunt.

We have some more fun stuff coming up this year, such as the Stark County VHF QSO Party, Field Day, club picnics, special event operations, club meetings, and more! Likely, there will be numerous public service opportunities, as well. Are you ready?

Homeland Security Net - The other night, I

(Continued on page 7)

Meetings

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club meets on the Second Wednesday of each 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

We are also on Facebook!

Newsletter Information

The Zero Beat is a publication of the
Alliance Amateur Radio Club
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You can submit material to the Zero Beat via e-mail to kd8mq1@gmail.com

December Minutes

December 1, 2010

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held on December 1, 2010 at 7:30 PM at Alliance Community Hospital with club President John Myers (KD8MQ) presiding. The pledge of allegiance was recited followed by introductions. There were 9 members present along with Miriam Sanor and guest speaker Mark Perna.

President John announced birthdays for the month, including Sam (KC8ETZ) and Jessie (KD8KDK).

For the Secretary's report Don, (AB8KV) noted that the minutes for November were in the newsletter, and that he had procured the flowers for the funeral of Bob (K8RLS) as well as having sent a sympathy card to the family on behalf of the club. The report was approved on a motion by Frank (WA8WHP) and seconded by Tom (KD8JRK).

Treasurer Mary Ann (KB8IVS) then gave the Treasurer's report.

She noted that the club's current bank was starting to charge a maintenance fee and so she had combined the savings and checking accounts to try to maintain a high enough balance to avoid the fee. However, she added that she was actively looking for another bank where the fee(s) might be avoided.

The Treasurer's report was then approved on a motion by Tom and seconded by Ben (KD8KMQ).

Old business & committee reports:

- President John reminded the club about upcoming activities, including the Christmas party on December 11 at Pancho's and that he was open to suggestions for programs for the coming year.

- John then reported on the recent half-marathon in Massillon. He thanked those who had helped and noted that the race directors were very appreciative of the club's assistance.

- He went on to comment on the sweepstakes party recently held. He noted that Steve (K8SRR) had actually done most of the operating and that it had gone well.

- For ARES, Don (K8OMO) stated that the most recent Homeland Security net operation had gone very well.

- Frank then reported that he had more cell phones to turn in for the club's fundraiser, and urged the members to talk up the program to get more donations of used phones.

- John then noted that Field Day 2011 was on the agenda for discussion, but he suggested that it be tabled until the January meeting when attendance was expected to be higher.

New business:

- President John asked for a motion to approve payment for renewal of the club's website. A motion was made by Tom and seconded by Frank, and approved by voice vote.

- John noted that there was a new ARRL affiliated club coordinator.

- Tom thanked the club members who had attended the calling hours for his father, and noted that his mother had been touched by their presence.

- John then reminded the club that starting in January, the monthly meetings would be held on the second Wednesday of the month, instead of the first Wednesday. That puts January's meeting on the 12th.

- Don (AB8KV) asked whether the bylaws needed amended to reflect the change of meeting day. While it was felt by most that the bylaws did not specify a day, President John asked Don to double check.

With no other business, the meeting was paused for refreshments. After the break, the business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM on a motion by Frank and seconded by Tom.

Mark Perna then presented a program about the development of commercial fuel cells, with which his company is involved.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Don (AB8KV), Secretary.

2010 - A Look Back

January

- Our January program was on a CW training program called RufzXP.

- The Zero Beat included a rough draft of the rules for the Upcoming Stark County VHF QSO Party.

February

- N8XTJ became a SK

- Our Facebook page went "live" on Feb 6th. In less than a month, we had 24 "friends". At this writing, we have almost 50.

March

- Our March program was presented by Bill, WB9LBI.

- Stark County Skywarn training was held at Stark State College.

- The March Fox Hunt was won by the team of Don, K8OMO, and Richard, KD6MPN. The foxbox was hidden under some construction debris at site of the old Parkway Lanes.

April

- Our April meeting was "Amateur Radio and the Law", presented by Bob Winston, W2THU.

- The Stark County VHF QSO Party was held. Participation was brisk.

- N8PXW won the April Fox Hunt. The hiding place was Highland Memorial park, in Beloit. Power on the fox signal was 45 watts. K8OMO's engine computer was found to be transmitting

on a nearby frequency, so the hunt frequency was changed for future hunts.

May

- The program for the May meeting was a 1971 Field day video produced by the Palisades ARC, in California.

- Local Hams participated in the hospitals disaster drill on the 10th.

- Jim, N8PXW won the May Fox Hunt. The fox was hiding on Rockhill ave, close to the chain link fence along the UMU practice field.

June

- Our June meeting was PJ2T, presented by Geoff, W0CG

- We participated in the ARRL Field Day. We operated class 3A from the pavilion at Marlinton middle school.

July

- Several Club members set up a booth at the Mile Branch Grange fair.

- K8OMO won the July Fox Hunt, tracking the signal to Memorial Park across from McDonalds.

August

- We provided communications assistance for the 25th running of the Carnation triathlon. This was our first attempt at using APRS to keep track of the athletes.

- We set up stations,

"Field Day style", at the Sebring campgrounds to operate the Ohio QSO Party.

- Jim, N8PXW won the August fox hunt. The foxbox was well hidden under a flat-bed trailer on the north side of town.

September

- We provided communications assistance for the annual Rotary Castle Run, on Labor Day

- We provided communications assistance for the YMCA Strides for strong kids 5K run.

- We held our annual club picnic at the First Christian Church pavilion.

- The September Fox hunt was won by Jim, N8PXW, who tracked the 440 MHz signal to a hunting area near Berlin lake.

October

- The Zero Beat wins 3rd place in the Ohio Section Newsletter contest

- The last hunt of the year was won by Jim, N8PXW. We were hidden a Rockhill School.

November

- We held our 2nd annual Homebrew Night.

- We provided communications assistance for the Stomp the Grapes Half Marathon.

- Later that month, we

(Continued on page 5)

2010 A Look Back

held an outdoor Sweepstakes Party to operate part of the ARRL November Sweepstakes.

- Our former President, Bob Steele, K8RLS became a silent key.

December

- At our annual Christmas Party, held at Don Panchos, Tony Schillig, KD8BBK was awarded the prize of Ham of the Year.

- On a sadder note, Paul, NW8C became A Silent Key

So, another year is behind us. What will 2011 bring? It's all up to us! If have any ideas for activities you'd like to see the club engage in this year, please share them with your club officers. Contact info for all officers is on Pg. 2 of this newsletter.

Ohio SSB Net Needs Our Help!

Shortly after the last club meeting, I received an e-mail from Don, WB8SIQ. He is the Assistant Net Manager for the Ohio Single Sideband Net. They need more check-ins to handle traffic to & from the Akron, Canton, & Massillon areas.

They meet three times daily, at 10:30 AM, 4:15 PM,

Reversal of the Earth's Mag- netic Poles?

A reversal of the Earth's magnetic poles would certainly make life interesting for hams. The Geomagnetic North Pole is currently moving north under the Arctic Sea at about 40 km per year, dragging the auroral oval along with it and affecting polar path propagation. While it's been three-quarters of a million years since the last reversal, no one knows whether we are overdue for a flip-flop and the field strength seems quite strong. Pull up a lawn chair, pop open a cool drink, and watch - you never know! (Thanks, Graham VE3GTC, Dana AD5VC, and Ron W2IOL)

(From the December 8th issue of the Contest Update, Ward Silver, N0AX, editor)

Editors note: There was a link to more information in this story, but I could not reproduce it to my satisfaction, so here it is:

<http://tinyurl.com/y48h8eb>

and 6:00 PM. As the days get longer, the evening time will move back to 6:45 PM. The net meets on 3972.5 KHz, with 3968 KHz used as a backup frequency.

Their website with lots of useful links is at:

www.qsl.net/ossbn

Please help out if possible.

KD8BBK - Ham of the Year - cont.

(Continued from page 1)

them here.

- *I would like to nominate Tony Schillig as ham of the year. He has been a tremendous help to me and he has a great enthusiasm for ham radio.*

- *He is always willing to help*

- *He is a great asset to the club*

- *Never seen anyone pick up so many things about Ham Radio as he does so FAST. like he was born to be one. make a great new Trustee also*

We congratulate Tony on this honor.

Web Site of the Week

If you are a casual contest participant and don't want to install a contest logging program, the [Cabrillo Forms](#) Web site by WA7BNM gives you an on-line option of manually entering your QSOs and sending the resulting log to the contest sponsors in Cabrillo format. (Thanks, Doug KR2Q)

(From the December 8th issue of the Contest Update, Ward Silver, N0AX, editor)

AARC Christmas Party 2010



Rambling - cont.

(Continued from page 2)

checked into the Homeland Security Net, which is run by Don, K8OMO. It is a 2 Meter Simplex net, which makes for an interesting experience. Who can hear who? Is this beam better than the J-pole? How about now? These are some of the things you may hear during a normal net session. This helps us as we optimize our Two Meter signal, should it ever be needed in a real emergency.

I invite you to check out the Homeland Security net at 8 PM on the last Tuesday of every month, on 147.51 simplex.

Goals - At the end of 2008, I posted a list of goals that I wanted to see the club achieve in 2009. I tried again in 2010. So, here we are in 2011. how'd we do? Let's see.

1) **Find some interesting programs for our 2010 meetings.**

Again, we've had some interesting topics for our club meetings. We've had Mark Perna talking about fuel cells; Geoff Howard showed us what it takes to keep a contest station on Curacao running; We had another interesting Homebrew night. We are now in the process of lining up speakers for the 2011 season. If you have

any suggestions, drop me a line.

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

2010 marked the first running of the **Stark County VHF QSO Party**. This was a rip-off of events that were originally run by the **Canton ARC**, and **Portage County ARS**. We also set up "Field Day style" to participate in the **Ohio QSO Party**, & the **ARRL November Sweepstakes**.

The club also submitted at least one entry in the **Ohio State Parks on the Air Contest**. How's that for some new activities? Although it's not a new event, we set up at the Mile Branch Grange Fair after a several year absence. This year's display promises to be even better! The club callsign was also used in the **PCARS 2 Meter Sprint in October**, thus winning 2nd place in the event.

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

OK, I drew a goose egg on this one. . Again! I had every intention to do it, but just plain forgot, until it was too late to do anything. But, just wait! This will happen this year! You can bank on that!

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

Again, a **BIG** goose egg on this one! We need to make some progress this year. I wanted to see us hold Tech classes this year, but we never got off the ground on those. So, how about September 2011?

Stark County VHF QSO Party - It's that time again!

We need to finalize the rules for the VHF QSO Party. In February, & March, I hope to "hit the road" to promote this to some of the other clubs in the area.

If there are any changes you feel should be made to the rules, please speak up. Drop me a line, or catch me at the next club meeting.

OSPOTA - This just in at Press time. Congratulations go out to Tony, KD8BBK, who took 4th place in his category in the **Ohio State Parks On The Air** contest in October.

That's about it for this month. Thanks to everyone for your support, and encouragement in 2010. I don't do this for the pats on the back, or for the kind e-mails, but they sure do make me feel good!

73 de John, KD8MQ

Paul, NW8C SK!

Just before Christmas, we were saddened to hear of the passing of Paul Beane, NW8C (photo at left). I didn't know Paul well, but will always remember him for his use of CB lingo on .37, just to jerk Jim, K8LTG's chain. I bet it worked, too!

I know he will be missed, especially to all who frequent the K8K8LTG repeater.

His obituary is online at:

<http://tinyurl.com/23h38jr>.



Wayback Machine—cont.

word was given on the outcome.

- Bob, K8RLS was looking for net control operators for the 2 Meter net.

- I had an unusual problem with that issue of the Zero Beat; Too much material. I was forced to decide between leaving something out, and having to mail the hard copies via parcel post.

- We had talked at the December 2000 meeting about holding a special event station set up at the Taylorcraft Fly-in in June.

- There was an interesting story on MABEL-1. MABEL stood for Michigan Area Experimental Balloon Launch. The project involved ATV, Fox hunting, and APRS. It achieved a height of 94,000 feet before bursting.

January, 2006, (Editor, K8VE)

- The 2006 AARC banquet had been held at Mike's Roadhouse Charly's. The 2005 Ham of the year was Dave Glass, W8UKQ. Dave had not attended the banquet, so the plaque was awarded at the January Club meeting.

"Keys IV.... And More; The Finale" Free For Download

Thanks to Tom, WB8LCD for forwarding this to me. Dave Ingram, K4TWJ became a silent key last January.

Besides writing the "**World of Ideas**" and "**How it Works**" columns for CQ Magazine, Dave had written several books, a some of them on telegraph Keys. His final book, "**Keys IV.... And More; The Finale**" has been made available for free download on his website.

His web address is:

www.k4twj.com/books.htm

What is the Reverse Beacon Network?

Have fun with www.reversebeacon.net/ and its reporting features, particularly after a recent contest, to see how your signal and those of the competition stack up.

From Bob N6TV, "Hover your cursor over DX spots in the toolbar at the top of the page, then select the Analysis tool." You can click the signal strength button or the frequency button and start having fun. Hours may pass.

To save the image, use Prt Scrn and then paste into an MS Paint window and crop. The image doesn't "save" like most graphics do. (From the December 22nd issue of the Contest Update, Ward Silver, NOAX, editor)

January 2011

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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 goal Beat. you can read them at <http://www.w8lky.org/newsletters/>.

There was no January 1991 Zero Beat

January, 1996 (Editor, WX8G)

- Gladys Wilson, KB8GIA was chosen as the AARC's 1995 Ham Of The Year; an excellent choice!

- Bill Parks, K8JZN had passed away. If you were active in Ham Radio in Stark County at that time, then you had met Bill!

- Our program for the January meeting was a video on Kenwood's new rig, the TS-870.

- Citing a lack of time (or perhaps it was poor time management?), I had announced my impending retirement from the editing of the club newsletter. Immediately after making this announcement, my hard drive began making this weird noise!

- In 1996, the Dayton Hamvention was

moved to the month of May.

- Articles for the newsletter could be submitted as an ASCII file on a 3½", or 5¼" disc. No internet yet, so direct transfer via packet, or modem was available via KE8VE.

- FCC vanity callsign application form 610-V was available, but not being accepted yet for filing. The FCC had mailed out 9000 copies of the form, in preparation for the opening of the first gate sometime in the early part of 1996.

- The AARC Santa Net was coming up.

January, 2001, (Editor, KD8MQ)

- Jerry, KG8RN was awarded the plaque for 2000 **Ham Of The Year**.

- AO-40 had been knocked off the air during a maneuver intended to raise it's apogee to 50 KM. A stuck helium valve resulted in a final apogee of 60 KM, and knocked the satellite off the air until a reset was done. Ground controllers had yet to reload the operating system. No