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AARC partners with Elder-Beerman for "Community Day" Fundraiser

Frank, WA8WHP has taken the lead, and organized another fundraiser for the club. This one involves selling coupon books for Community Day which is coming up on February 26th.

I've reprinted excerpts from the FAQ page from the website here. If you have any further questions, or would like to pick up coupon booklets to sell, please contact Frank, at 330-206-2639.

We need people to man the table in the store, as well as to sell booklets. Remember, this is to help bolster **YOUR** club treasury. Your dues do not fully cover the expenses of club activities. So we're asking each club member to step up and participate.

Coupon booklets will be available at the February club meeting, or from Frank, WA8WHP.

Meeting Announcement

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 9th, 2010 at the Alliance Community Hospital, in the Cafe conference room.

No program has been planned for this month

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

Don Panchos
2105 W. State St.

WHAT IS COMMUNITY DAY?

Community Day is our annual fundraising event designed to provide schools, nonprofit and 501c3 organizations with a fun and easy way to raise money. Since 1999, the event has raised over \$80 Million! All materials are provided risk free.

WHEN IS IT?

Community Day takes place on Saturday, February 26, 2011, at our family of stores: Bon-Ton, Elder-Beerman, Bergner's, Boston Store, Carson's, Herberger's, Younkers, and Parisian. Stores open at 7 am, and stay open late.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Participating organizations sell coupon booklets to the public for \$5 each, keeping 100% of the proceeds! Each booklet contains coupons valid during our Community Day One Day Sale on February 26th.

WHAT WILL CUSTOMERS RECEIVE IN EACH BOOKLET?

(Continued on page 5)

Officers

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Editor

John Myers, KD8MQ
(See above)

Rambling

By John, KD8MQ

OK, enough already, we're ready for spring! Hopefully everyone is making out OK during this intense winter we've found ourselves in.

I began this year with a list of things I'd been procrastinating about. By this time, I'd planned to have a large number of things scratched off the list. But, I'm just a bit behind, as work & home has kept me busy this month.

One thing I'm behind on is programs for the club meetings, I have a couple feelers out, but nothing concrete for the February meeting.

It occurred to me after the fact that I had neglected to check for new licensees last month. With this issue, we've corrected that!

Field Day - As you may have heard, we finally voted on this year's Field Day site. Yes, this year, we will be doing Field Day from the Sebring Campgrounds. This is the same site we used for the Ohio QSO Party event, and the November sweepstakes party. There will be more information on this as time progresses.

VHF Contest — Planning is nearly complete for the Stark County VHF QSO Party. I'm just waiting on some information from the clubs, so I can finalize the contest packets. This year's contest is April 2nd; Save the date!

Fund Raiser - Frank,

(Continued on page 5)

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 R .

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
P.O. Box 3344
Alliance, OH 44601

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You can submit material to the Zero Beat via e-mail to kd8mq1@gmail.com

January Minutes

January 12, 2011

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held on January 12, 2011 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 12 members present along with Miriam Sator and guest John Kalafice (W0OZZ).

For announcements, President John noted that birthdays in January included Tony (KD8BBK). He also presented a certificate of appreciation to Don (AB8KV) for serving as club Secretary for the past four years.

For the Secretary's report Don noted that the minutes for December were in the newsletter and reported that the TUSCO hamfest was coming up on January 30 in Strasburg. He gave the notice regarding the club's post office box renewal to Vice President Howard (K8DXR) to complete and turn in. Finally, it was noted that the club had received an invitation from NorthSide Elementary to participate in their Navigators program. This would involve sharing information or presentations about amateur radio to the students enrolled in the program. With no other information about it known, John directed Secretary Don to inquire about it. With nothing else to add, the Secretary's report was approved on a motion by Frank (WA8WHP) and seconded by Tom (KD8JRK).

Treasurer Mary Ann (KB8IVS) was absent so John gave her report as forwarded to him. It was noted that a business account for the club had been opened at Huntington bank, completing the search for a new bank without the fees recently imposed by the club's previous bank. The Treasurer's report was then approved on a motion by Don (K8OMO) and seconded by Tony.

Old business & committee reports:

- Regarding ARES and the nets, Don (K8OMO) reported that the Homeland Security net was doing very well and that he was looking into encouraging hospitals north of us to participate. He also noted that an antenna line still needed to be run to the hospital's communication room and the whereabouts of the HS hospital radio is still unknown.

- VP Howard reported that all QSL's he had received had been processed but there was a question about where FIST QSL's are going. He stated that he would check with the regular QSL bureau while Don (K8OMO) would check with the FIST bureau.

- Regarding Carnation Days for this year, John noted that Don (K8OMO) had been able to reserve the Jaycee pavilion for the special event station. He then asked the Secretary to notify the pertinent magazines (QST, CQ, and World Radio) about the event. In the discussion which followed, there was some confusion about which date had actually been reserved, August 13 or 20. John then asked Don to verify which date the club had and to let the Secretary know.

- John then asked Frank about the cell phone fund raiser. Frank reported that both drop-off sites had been lost, so new sites are needed. He further noted that no phones had been turned in during the last month. Frank then reported on a possible fund raiser sponsored by Bon Ton (Elder-Beerman) wherein coupon books could be sold for \$5 with the club keeping the sale price. The coupons were for the company stores and were good for one day (February 20). Ben (KD8KMQ) then added that his Ruritan club had been selling the books for several years and found it to be a viable fund raiser. Frank then asked for input from the members and if there was sufficient interest, he would order a number of the coupon books.

- John then addressed annual upcoming events, starting with the Stark County VHF QSO party. He

asked for any suggestions for improving the contest. After some discussion, it was decided to ban any intra-vehicular QSO's and request start and finish mileage for information purposes only.

- For Field Day, discussion centered on choosing a site. It was generally felt that a new site other than Marlinton Middle School was desirable, in part because of removal of a large number of the trees. After the club was reminded that the Christian Church on Beech street had declined use of its pavilion, John suggested the Sebring campground. A motion to hold Field Day at that site was made by Frank and seconded by Rick (KC8SUI) then passed by a voice vote.

New business:

- John reported that the MARCS system 300-foot tower in Knox township was up and that the owner had approved the club installing the W8LKY repeater there. However, the repeater owner was not in favor of locating the system at that site. John then suggested that the club might consider at some point installing a digipeater or other amateur service system there.

- Tom then noted that the Ohio SSB net was now operating at 10:30 AM, 4:15 PM and 6:00 PM for the winter and needed assistance for traffic handling in our area.

After the break, a video was shown documenting a worker's final ascent up a 1700-foot tower. After the video and some discussion, and with no further business to address, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Don (AB8KV), Secretary.

QRZ.Com currently has a very interesting item on fractal antennas (<http://forums.qrz.com/showthread.php?t=277623>). While the idea of applying fractals to the design and construction of antennas has been around for quite some time, very few hams have actually built them, and there are currently no companies building commercial fractal antennas for the ham radio market. The question, of course, is why?

Those that are hyping fractal antennas—most notably W1YW, CEO of Fractal Antenna Systems—claim several advantages. These advantages purportedly include wider bandwidth and smaller size when compared to traditional antennas, such as verticals and dipoles. Those that are trying to debunk these claims contend that this is all just hogwash, and that there's no real scientific basis for these claims.

One thing that's confounding this debate is that there have been very few articles published on the topic. For commercial reasons, W1YW has made his articles unavailable. He says that he will be publishing something real soon now, but there is nothing definite at this point.

There is at least one article on the Internet that

describes the construction of a fractal antenna for amateur radio use. "FYI:FYQ: Another look at the Fractal Quad Yagi" (<http://www.scribd.com/doc/18788401/FYIFQY>) was published in the October 1999 issue of 73 magazine. It describes the construction of a two-element, 10m antenna. Like most 73 articles, it's not incredibly technical, though, and doesn't really contribute to the technical debate, except to demonstrate that physically small antennas can be made using fractal design.

The PDF contains several photos of the antenna. It's a crazy contraption that looks relatively difficult to build. So difficult, in fact, that it makes me wonder if it's even worth it to try building one. After all, 10m antennas are not really all that big or all that difficult to build to begin with.

Even more interesting than the antennas are the personalities on both sides of the debate. The QRZ.Com discussion quickly devolved into a flame war, with neither side scoring a knockout.

Personally, I think the brouhaha is much ado about nothing. It seems to me that it's been demonstrated that you can build antennas using fractal design techniques.

They are physically smaller than traditional antenna designs, but you really don't get something for nothing. Overall, they don't have as much gain as yagis or quads, and they're more complex to build.

My opinion on this is that if W1YW can build antennas that radiate a signal and can sell those antennas to someone, then more power to him. In the end, his company will live and die by how well, his antennas work and how much they cost when compared to antennas from other companies.

As for me, I think I'll stick with the more traditional HF antennas. If I need to make my antennas smaller, I'll use loading coils or designs such as the Moxon. I may not be on the bleeding edge of technology, but I'll certainly avoid a lot of headache trying to figure out who's right.

When not avoiding flame wars on QRZ.Com, Dan, KB6NU, operates CW on the HF bands, writes and publishes license exam study guides, and teaches ham radio classes. You can find his ham radio blog at www.kb6nu.com.

Elder-Beerman Fundraiser - cont.

(Continued from page 1)

- All coupons now include Yellow Dot!
- 1- \$10 off on a \$10 or more item.
- NEW (1) 20%* off shopping pass – use the pass over and over
- 1- 30% Early bird coupon, valid 7am-10am
- 7- Bonus buys
- 3-Web Exclusive Offers

WHERE DO WE SELL BOOKLETS?

You can sell booklets on your own, and [in our stores](#) before and during the event.

IS THERE A MINIMUM NUMBER OF BOOKLETS WE MUST SELL?

Organizations are not required to sell a minimum number of booklets to participate in the Community Day event, however, there are rewards in place for organizations that meet a minimum number of booklets sold, participate in selling booklets in our stores and comply with our end of the event requirements of returning unsold booklets. Those groups that exceed these requirements and become the top booklet sellers will receive a special invitation to sell booklets at their participating store on Community Day.

ARE THERE ANY SELLING GUIDELINES WE MUST FOLLOW WHEN SELLING BOOKETS IN-STORE?

Yes, here are our basic guidelines when selling in our stores:

- All members must be age 16 or older, or accompanied by an adult.
- Dress appropriately - no jeans, sweatpants or shorts. School teams and organizations are encouraged to wear their uniforms or team t-shirts.
- No eating on the selling floor or at selling tables.
- Cell phone use on the selling floor or at selling tables is prohibited.
- Always act professional and treat customers in a friendly manner.
- Organization members must report to their assigned stores at the beginning of their scheduled shifts.
- Each member must sign in with the store manager or Community Day Captain at the Gift Wrap desk at the start of the shift and sign out upon completion of shift.
- Organization contact is required to report weekly booklet selling results.

Above all, remember to keep the fun in fundraising!

Rambling - cont.

(Continued from page 2)

WA8WHP has put together another fundraiser for us. This one is in conjunction with the Elder-Beerman store at the Carnation City Mall.

Look for more information on this, elsewhere in the newsletter.

Special Event - Thanks to Don, K8OMO, we have an August 13th reservation for the Jaycee pavilion at Silver Park. We'll be putting W8LKY on the air to commemorate Alliance as the home of the Ohio state flower, the scarlet carnation.

That's all I have for this month, so Have fun, stay warm, and I hope to see everyone at the February meeting!

New Licenses, and Upgrades

• A welcome to the area to Edgar Gonzolez, KC2JIU.

• Congratulations to Doug Mathews, KB8DNQ, who just upgraded to General.

•Congratulations to Patricia & Steven Collins, KD8PJF, & KD8PJG from Minerva. They both recently received their Technician licenses.

AARC Holds Mid-Winter Fox-Hunt

Proving beyond a shadow of a doubt that all Hams are nuts, the Alliance ARC held a January Fox hunt.

The temperature was a balmy 16 degrees, and the sun was shining, as Don, K8OMO, and Richard, KD6MPN arrived at the secondary starting line.

Our advertised start line was being used as overflow parking for a High School event, so we congregated at the old Buds parking lot in Mt. Union, instead.

Since he was still in "testing mode" with the Doppler, John, KD8MQ opted to hide the fox, and do some equipment testing. This left Don and Richard free to carry out a painstaking, methodical, search for the fox.

They found it in about 7 minutes; a new record, I believe!

The fox was hidden in Silver park, near the stage. KD8MQ was heard to proclaim : **"Next time we have a hunt in snow, they'll need snow shovels and a bobcat to find the darned thing!"**.

Logbook of The World Now Supports VUCC

ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW) -- an online system for amateurs to confirm two-way contacts that can be used for various ARRL awards -- has been upgraded to support awards based on Maidenhead grid squares, such as VUCC and the Fred Fish Memorial Award.

To take advantage of the new features, you need to log in to your LoTW account. VUCC is an open-ended award that hams can work on throughout their lifetime, just like DXCC. But, like the Worked All States award, the VUCC rules require all the contacts to be made from a defined area. For VHF and UHF QSOs on 1296 MHz and below, this distance must be within 200 km.

For SHF awards, contacts must be made from a single location, defined as within a 300 meter diameter circle. As such, the VUCC support in LoTW allows you to make the rule -- or rules - - necessary to find the QSLs in LoTW that satisfy the VUCC rules.

From the January 20, 2011 ARRL Letter

AARC Net Statistics

Thanks to K8OMO for a copy of the net statistics. Times & frequencies for these nets are on page 2 of this issue of the Zero Beat. (Two Meter net statistics are not included here)

W8LKY Homeland Security net/ ARES nets

147.51 simplex
13 sessions
111 check ins
average 8 ck ins per session

W8LKY 10 meter CW Net

28.400 MHz
38 sessions
138 check ins
average 5 ck ins per session

W8LKY 10 meter SSB net

49 sessions
282 ck ins
average 6 ck ins per session

NCS, Don K8OMO



The ad to the right is from 1946, courtesy of Don, K8OMO. Those were the days!

IF IT'S COLLINS . . . In New England . . . it's at the RADIO SHACK

It is with great pride that we announce our appointment as *Exclusive Distributors* in our New England area, for the *Collins Radio Company* Cedar Rapids, Iowa

It was only natural that we, as the oldest and best established amateur supply organization in the New England area, be selected by Collins Radio Company to distribute their products. And we are delighted to bring this acknowledged line of quality equipment to the amateur and the industrial users. Our ample stocks of Collins apparatus assure prompt shipment from Boston. Before you buy, SEE COLLINS AT THE RADIO SHACK.

TRANSMITTERS

20K	100 watts CW 575 watts phone	4 bands Complete with tubes	\$1450.00
22V.1	150 watts CW 120 watts phone	2 bands Complete with tubes	\$475.00

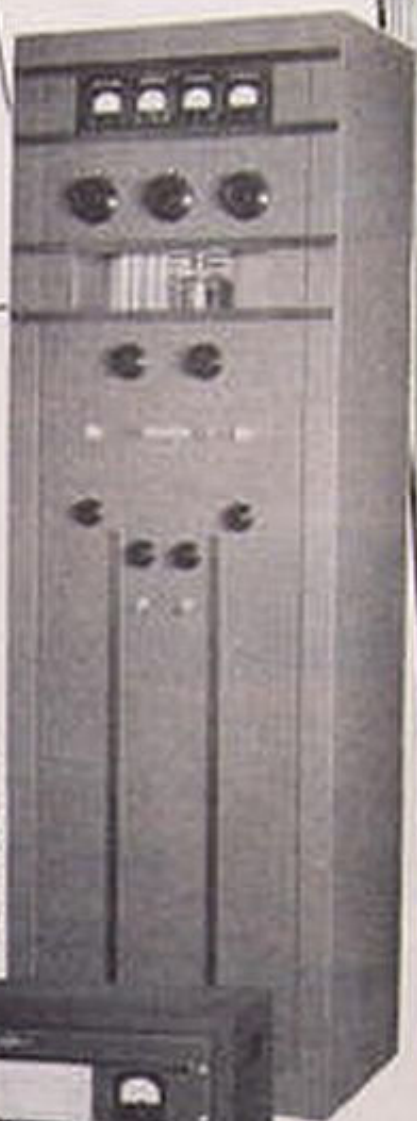
ACCESSORIES

3100-3	30 watt A.F., all bands	\$100.00
3100-2	25 watt A.F., all bands with antenna coupling network	\$125.00
2100-1	Standard frequency standard with key and amp.	\$5.00
3700-2	Standard frequency standard with key and amp.	100.00
700-B	Component kit, 5000 cycle A.F.A. All accessories complete with tubes	45.00

RECEIVERS

72A	Superheterodyne, all-band receiver with 45 tubes, headphones, power amp.	\$275.00
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This new Collins equipment will give you a new concept of quality and value in amateur radio equipment. And it's available for immediate delivery or special time payment plans.



Catalogue on all Collins equipment free on request.

The RADIO SHACK Corp.
 CABLE ADDRESS: RADIOSHACK
 117 WASHINGTON ST., BOSTON, MASS., U.S.A.

ARISSat-1 Blasts Off!

QST de W1AW
Space Bulletin 002 ARLS002
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington, CT January 28,
2011

To all radio amateurs

SB SPACE ARL ARLS002
ARLS002 ARISSat-1 Blasts
Off

At 0132 UTC January 28, a Soyuz-U rocket lifted off from the Baikonur Space Center in Kazakhstan carrying the Russian Progress M-09M cargo vehicle to orbit for a rendezvous with the International Space Station (ISS).

In addition to delivering fuel, oxygen, food and other supplies, the Progress contains

the new AMSAT ARISSat-1 Amateur Radio satellite. Progress is scheduled to dock with the space station on January 30 at 0240 UTC.

ARISSat-1 will be manually jettisoned from the ISS during a spacewalk on February 16. The satellite features a new software defined transponder that will provide simultaneous 2-meter FM, CW, BPSK transmissions, as well as a Mode U/V (70 cm uplink, 2 meter downlink) transponder.

More information is available at the AMSAT-NA website at <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/index.php>, and in the February 2011 issue of QST magazine.

Cuyahoga Falls Fox Hunt Schedule!

FOX HUNT 2011
Gay, WB8VNO

2011 Daylight savings time.

Begins Sunday, March 13
Ends Sunday, November 6

Fox Hunt season is rapidly approaching! Come out and see what the fun is all about. You can catch a ride with an experienced hunter if you don't have direction finding equipment.

After the hunt we will gather at a restaurant to debrief and complain about where the fox hid!

Hunts are the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month

and the 5th Wednesday if there is one.

We will be starting on Wednesday, March 16th.

Since there are 5 Wednesdays in March there will be a bonus hunt on the 30th.

We start at 7PM from The Church in Silver Lake On Rt 59 (Kent Road) The church is on the South Side of the road at the traffic light.

KB6NU

Releases E-book Versions of his Tech Study Guide

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU has released E-book versions of his *No-Nonsense Technician Class License Study Guide*.

There is a version available for both the Amazon Kindle, and the Barnes & Noble Nook. Both cost \$9.99.

Of course, the PDF version is still free on Dan's website at www.kb6nu.com.

Skywarn Training Schedule

Here's the latest Skywarn spotter training schedule:

- Stark County - March 17, 6:30 PM @ Stark State College Auditorium

- Summit County - March 24, 6 PM @ Akron Red Cross

- Mahoning County - April 6, 6:30 PM @ Austintown Fitch Auditorium

- Portage County - April 21, 6:30 PM @ Maplewood Career Center

February 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																												
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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/newsltrs/>.

February, 1991 (Editor, KC3CL)

- The editor of the Zero Beat was apparently hanged as a result of neglecting to produce the January, 1991 issue. We're sure this was tongue in cheek, since KC3CL is alive and well, living somewhere east of here under an assumed callsign.

February, 1996 (Editor, WX8G)

- The editor was giving up his Compu-Serve address. Boy I sure hated to give up that classy 75027,1342@compuserve.com. Unfortunately, I traded it for a virus named AOL.

- The organizers of the Mansfield Hamfest were to be charging \$1 for parking in 1996.

- WX8G was advertising for a successor , as he prepared to take a break from editing.

- The FCC had sent retest demand notices to about 2 dozen new hams in New Jersey.

February, 2001, (Editor, KD8MQ)

- The date of March 6th, 2001 had been set as the death date for the MIR space station. According to the plan, a progress cargo ship was to dock with MIR, & fire it's rockets to de-orbit MIR, which would then splashdown in the Pacific ocean.

February, 2006, (Editor, KE8VE)

- Dave Glass, W8UKQ (SK) was named Ham of the Year. The award was presented at the January meeting.

- The club was moving to a meeting room in the new hospital.