



Alliance Amateur Radio Club

Zero Beat

Volume XXVI, no 1

<http://www.w8lky.org>

January 2012

Serving the Tri-County area since 1986

Table of Contents

Calendar	15
Christmas Cookie Cutter	8
Christmas Party Pictures	7
Contact Us	2
Club Info	2
D-Star Day	6
December Minutes	3
General Classes to Begin	1
Ham of the Year	1
Happy Birthday Amateur Radio	4
How I got into Ham radio	6
Meeting Announcement	1
Morse Code - Why Bother?	5
Net Info	2
Rambling by KD8MQ	2
Shack Shots	6
Swap & Shop	10
Wayback Machine	16

Reminder - This Months Meeting is on January 4th!

AB8KV Chosen Ham Of The Year



In a move which was long overdue in this editors opinion, Don Kingan, AB8KV was named 2011 Ham of the Year. The award was presented at the Alliance ARC

Christmas Party, which was held at Don Panchos on December 10th.

Don was recently re-elected as club secretary for a 6th term. Congratulations!

Meeting Announcement

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 4th, 2012 at the Alliance Community Hospital, in the Cafe conference room. Our meetings begin at 7:30 PM

This months speaker is Frank Tompkins, W8EZT, Who will speak on **"Station Grounding"**

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

This month, we'll be meeting at the Alliance Family Restaurant, at 405 E. State St. (the old Ponderosa)

AARC General Classes To Begin

The Alliance ARC will be holding General Classes beginning on Tuesday, January 10th, and continue for 10 weeks.

We'll be using the ARRL General Class License Manual. They will be available at discount, or feel free to bring your own.

We'll be holding

classes in the library at Marlington High School. Class time is 7—9 PM.

To pre-order your book at \$22.45, please contact John, KD8MQ. (contact info is on pg2).

If you know someone who has been wanting to upgrade, please forward this info to them.

Officers

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Editor

John Myers, KD8MQ
(See above)

Rambling

By John, KD8MQ

Hi everyone, welcome to the January issue of the Zero Beat.

Last month, I said I'd be one happy camper to be on the air on Straight Key Night. Will I make it? It's still too soon to tell, but things **are** looking promising!

Happy Holidays, & Merry Christmas

I'm planning for you to receive this after Christmas, but well before New year's eve. So far, I'm on track.

How I got into Ham Radio

This series concludes this month. Thank you for your response to this! I'm finally out of material, so I'm printing mine this month.

Show us your shack!

Send me a picture of your shack, preferably with you at the controls. Include a paragraph or two of description, if you'd like. The first picture appears in this months issue.

AARC General classes

Our classes are coming up, beginning on January 10th. If you would like to upgrade to General, or know someone who might, please pass this info along to them.

AARC 25th Anniversary

2012 is our 25th anniversary year. Actually, we go back farther than that; a lot further. But, our most recent ARRL charter was signed in January, 1987. Discussion on what to do in celebration of this event was tabled to the January meeting.

ARRL Diamond DXCC Challenge

This one sounds like a hoot! The league is going

(Continued on page 6)

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
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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

December Minutes

December 14, 2011

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held on December 14, 2011 at 7:30 PM in the second floor conference room of the Alliance Community Hospital with club President John Myers (KD8MQ) presiding. The pledge of allegiance was recited followed by introductions. There were 13 members present along with Miriam Sanor and guests Jessie Evans (KD8KDK), Dana Evans (KC8LKB) and E. Mike McCardel (KC8YLD) who is the ARRL affiliated club coordinator for the Ohio section.

Secretary Don (AB8KV) gave the Secretary's report which this month consisted of noting that the minutes from last month's meeting were in the current newsletter. The report was approved on a motion by Tom (KD8JRK) and seconded by Ben (KD8KMQ).

The Treasurer's report was then given by Treasurer Mary Ann (KB8IVS) and was approved on a motion by Frank (WA8WHP) and seconded by Tom.

Committee reports/old business:

- ARES & nets: Don (K8OMO) noted that there was nothing new to report except that the HSN simplex repeater had been pulled due to the problems with its use.

- Classes: President John

reiterated that three of the students from the Technician classes had passed the exam. These were Mary Maendel (KD8RFZ), David Van Derkar (KD8RFY) and Joe Sukosd Jr. (KD8RFX). He reminded the club that General classes would begin on January 10 at 7:00 PM for 10 weeks. John and Frank will be conducting the classes with John handling the main instructional duties this time. He then asked the club to spend \$45 for two instructor's manuals. After some brief discussion and the motion from John, with a second from Tom, the request was approved on a voice vote.

- John then commented on the Sweepstakes party / chili cook-off. Although only six contacts were made and were not being submitted, he noted that everyone had a good time and lots of good chili.

- John reminded the club that the January meeting will be held on the first Wednesday of the month (January 4) with Frank (W8ETZ) providing a program about station grounding. He also noted that the January board meeting will be held at the Alliance Family Restaurant. Tom added that he may not be at the January meeting due to his mother being at the Cleveland Clinic for eye exams by specialists.

- John then brought up

the subject of the club's 25th anniversary in the coming year and what events might be planned for it. Several suggestions were made, including tying the event into Carnation Days with the special event station, or moving the annual club picnic to the summer and hosting a special event station for the anniversary at that time. Don (K8OMO) moved that further discussion be tabled for consideration at upcoming meetings. The motion was seconded by Tom and approved on a voice vote.

New business:

- John noted that an official approval was needed for the money spent at the club Christmas party. Frank made a motion to that effect, which was seconded by Tom. The expense was then approved on a voice vote.

- On a motion from Tom, the club gave a round of applause to John for serving a third year as President and for all the work he puts in to support the club.

The club business meeting was then adjourned at 7:55 PM for a short break.

After the break, Mike McCardel spoke to the club about the ARRL and what clubs can be doing to further enhance Amateur Radio.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Don (AB8KV), Secretary.

Happy Birthday Amateur Radio!

As we celebrate the New Year here in the United States, we can also wish the hobby of Amateur Radio a Happy Birthday. This year will mark the 100th year of the Amateur Radio licensing in the United States.

Although the origins of Amateur Radio can be traced back to the late 19th century, it really did not begin to evolve as it is today until the early 20th century. In 1912 the regulation of amateur radio began as a result of the US Navy's concern about interference to its stations, and its desire to be able to order Amateur Radio stations off the air in the event of war.

Under authority of the Radio Act of 1912, the Department of Commerce issued Amateur First grade, and Amateur Second grade operator licenses. Amateur First grade required an essay-type examination and five words per minute code examination before a radio inspector at one of the department's field offices.

In 1933, the Federal Radio Commission reorganized amateur operator licenses into Classes A, B, and C.

Class A conveyed all amateur operating privileges, including certain reserved radiotelephone bands.

Class B licensees did

not have the right to operate on the reserved radiotelephone bands.

Class C licensees had the same privileges as Class B licensees, but took their examinations from other licensees, rather than from commission field offices.

In 1951, the FCC moved to convert the existing three license classes (A, B, and C) into six named classes. Following the rule change, the classes were Novice, Technician, General, Conditional, Advanced, and Amateur Extra. Each license class required two exams; one on theory and one on Morse code, and each license was valid for five years (except Novice).

Until the advent of incentive licensing in the late 1960s, the Technician, Conditional and General Classes shared the same written examination and the Conditional, General, Advanced and Amateur Extra classes shared the same operating privileges.

From the 1960s up until more recently, many other changes took place in regards to the rules, regulations, and classes of Amateur Radio, as well as the licensing requirements.

In 1999, the FCC moved to simplify the Amateur Radio Service Operator

license structure, streamline the number of examination elements, and reduce the emphasis on telegraphy. The reduction of the number of operator license classes went from six to three. The Advanced, Technician Plus, and Novice classes were deemed redundant, and would no longer be issued, however those existing licensees would retain their operating privileges and be allowed to renew their licenses.

Then, in 2003, the International Telecommunications Union ratified changes to the amateur Radio regulations to allow each country to determine whether it would require a person seeking an Amateur Radio operator license to demonstrate the ability to send and receive Morse Code.

With this change, the FCC, in 2006, announced that there would be an elimination of the Morse code requirement for Amateur Operator Licenses in the United States. After this requirement was dropped the ARRL reported a significant increase in the number of applications for licensing.

By November, 2011 it was reported that the FCC had logged 700,314 licenses, with nearly 40,000 new ones in the last five years.

Morse Code – Why Bother?



Morse code is an important part of wireless history. In the beginning, all wireless communications were accomplished using the code. For a long time after voice modes became available, it was still required to prove your proficiency with Morse code to become a licensed Amateur Radio Operator. It's a recent phenomenon that hams have been licensed with no code requirement. But it's still pretty cool to be a "know code" ham.

Radio equipment capable of CW is much more simple and inexpensive than equipment for other modes. If you have an interest in home-brewing equipment, then knowing the Morse code will open up a whole new world of kits and equipment that can be hand made in a home workshop.

As a communications mode, CW is very efficient and can often times be pulled out of the noise level, where

voice modes would have been unintelligible. Add to that the fact that Morse code is also pretty universal when it comes to making a valid contact, you might just get that "rare one" from a non-English speaking foreign ham! CW is still used by a very large percentage of hams world-wide; don't self-declare those contacts as off-limits just because you're unwilling to learn a valuable skill.

Sure, it's going to take some effort. You've got to learn the letters, numbers and other characters, one at a time. Then you've got to build your skill to a level where you can QSO with other stations. Those first few QSO's at approximately 5wpm are going to seem painstakingly slow. The more you QSO, the better you'll become and pretty soon it starts to be fun. Before you know it you'll be an *awesome* CW op and will have added a lot of BIG FUN to your ham radio hobby!

Beginning on Saturday, January 7th, there will be a 5 week "learn the code" class every week at 10:00 – 11:00 AM, sponsored by the CW/QRP Special Interest Group, at the PCARS club site, located at 705 Oakwood St. Ravenna, OH 44266. Please arrive at least 10 min-

utes early so the class can begin on time. Terry, KB8AMZ, will be the lead teacher. During this first 5 week session you will learn letters, numbers and basic punctuation. It is expected that each student will practice at least 30 minutes every day in two 15 minute sessions to reinforce the class session.

At the end of the first 5 week session, there will be a second 5 week session of slow code practice designed to get you to a skill level adequate to have successful "on air" QSO's. There will then be a third 5 week session for anyone who would like to be mentored with live, on air QSO's using the PCARS club stations. Although the cost is FREE, the investment will pay off big in operating skills, fun and the satisfaction of knowing something that sets you apart, even among other hams!

If you would like to participate in this program, please send an email to Tom – WB8LCD,

wb8lcd@portcars.org , so we can anticipate how many to be ready for. You'll be proud to say you're a "Know Code" Ham!

(Tom, WB8LCD is the incoming President of PCARS)

Shack Shots



This Month begins a new feature in the Zero Beat. We are printing your "shack shots". Simply send me a picture, preferably with you

seated at the controls.

This month's picture comes from Butch, WA8SHP. Thanks, Butch!

Rambling—cont.

(Continued from page 2)

back to the 1937 DXCC list. How many of the original 226 countries can you work in a year? No QSLs required, either! This may be the motivation I need to get the station set up.

Please, if you choose to participate, keep your editor informed of your progress!

We'll find room to print the standings in each month's newsletter.

More information can be found on the ARRL Website (No login required).

The Last Word

That's all I have for this month. I hope to see you at the next meeting. 73, de John, KD8MQ

D-Star Day!

If you would like to learn more about D-Star, there an event called D-Star Day, co-sponsored by **DX Engineering** and **Icom America** will be held on Saturday, January 28th, in West Middlesex, PA, about an hour's drive from Ravenna.

You can learn more about it at

www.dstarday.com

including the agenda for the day, which happens to include a field trip to K3LR at the end of the day.

73 and Merry Christmas!

Jim, KC8PD

How I Got Into Ham Radio

Well, it's been a long run, but here we are, at the final entry in the "How I Became A Ham" series. Of course, it probably comes as no surprise that the last entry is mine.

Remember, while we will always accept your stories, we are now accepting "Shack Shots"; pictures of your shack. Anyway, on to my story.

I came to Ham Radio via Shortwave listening. I used to enjoy listening to foreign shortwave stations, such as Radio Netherlands, BBC, HCJB (Quito, Ecuador), and others. I can tell you firsthand why you should never send a reception report to Radio Havana.

My first Rig was a Knight-Kit Span-Master. I often wish I still had that old piece of junk! Some of the SW stations had shows about ham Radio, which I listened to whenever possible.

In 1975, a buddy at school clued me into a novice class that was being taught at the radio club headquarters, behind the armory. The classes were taught by Jim, K8LTG, and Frank, WA8WHP. I'm sure they wondered what they could have possibly done to deserve a student like me. I guess I was their penance.

Things didn't work out for me to get my license at that time, but the spark

(Continued on page 7)

How I Got Into Ham Radio - cont

(Continued from page 6)

never really went out. I was distracted by High School, girls, cars, and did I mention girls?

I still remember attending hamfests at the Stark County Fairgrounds, and the Nimishillen Grange. The Nimishillen grange hamfests were held twice yearly; one on a summer Sunday, next on a winter Saturday evening.

In the fall of 1980, the Alliance School system adult education catalog offered Amateur Radio Classes, so I signed up. The instructor was Carl, WD8OTZ (now K7CE). Carl did a good job of getting us ready for the Novice test. There were four of us who passed the test that fall. I was KA8LKR. Besides myself, there was Dick Bontrager, KA8LKQ, Jim Lackey, KA8LKS, Jerry Steele, KA8LKT (now K8CMI).

I guess the rest is history. I upgraded, taking plenty of ribbing for changing my callsign quite often. I moved on to N8CUQ, KD8MQ, WX8G, and finally back to KD8MQ, thanks to the vanity licensing system.

There's a lot more to this story, but I promised myself I'd keep it under a page!

The knowledge I've gained via Amateur Radio has served me well over the last 30 years. I can't wait to see what's ahead!

Christmas Party Pictures

Thanks to Tom, KD8JRK





What Does A Christmas Cookie Cutter Have To Do With Communications ?



An Interesting question that requires an interesting answer along with a mystery !

Before Christmas in the 1950's and 1960's, it was customary to bake a lot of cookies and then exchange some of them with the many other bakers in our village.

Mom would always look for new cookie cutter designs which were normally made out of some type of metal. In the late 1950's Mom found a set of plastic cutters, probably about 3 to 5 designs mounted on a cardboard stock and selling for around 39 to 59 cents.

These cookie cutters were **ruby red** and translucent which resembles a styrene type of plastic. After Mom used these for several years, something brought my attention to the Christmas tree design. After looking at the design for a while, I noticed that the garland had an unusual amount of detail, a lot of round and rectangular plastic pieces that made a mark into the cookies. Closer observation showed that the design resembled morse code.

Since I was studying for my novice license at the time and just finished taking the code test a month earlier, I wrote down the characters from the detail on the garland. The message spells **MERRY CHRISTMAS**. I thought this was unique. The plastic is not perfect but so close that it is easily recognizable as you can see from the following page that is enlarged for clarity. Actual size is 4 inches tall by 3 inches wide.

Now for the mystery !

Who did the artwork for the cookie cutter ?

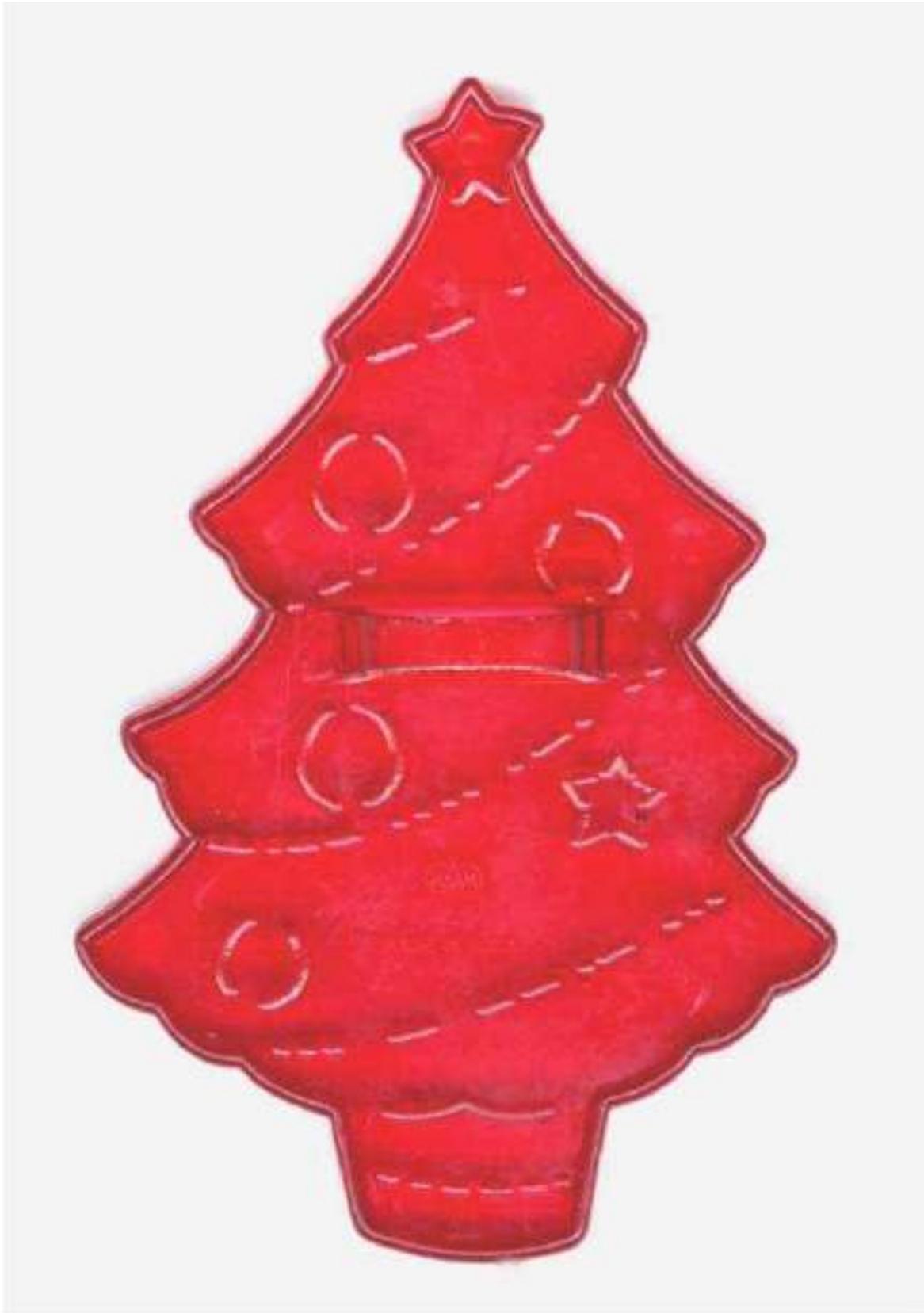
Could it be an Amateur Radio operator ?

Or a Telegrapher ?

Or a person who did communications in the service ?

*Or a person just making some **dough** for the design?*

73 DE MIKE, WA8MKH



This came from Mike, WA8MKH, via Gary, WC8W , editor of the Massillon ARC Newsletter.

AARC Swap n Shop!

Do you have something Ham-related for sale, or something you are wanting to buy? Nothing to list this month. If you have something, contact KD8MQ; His e-mail address is below.

From various estates, come the following. Better grab a cup of coffee. This is a long list. Call Don, K8OMO (330-823-5639) for more information on the following.

- ARRL Repeater Directories 1994, 95, 97, 98, 99,2001
- Satellite Experimenters Handbook (2nd Edition)
- ARRL Antenna Handbook (16th Edition)
- 1992 ARRL Handbook (Hardback Edition)
- 1950 Radio Amateur Handbook \$10
- 1958 Radio Amateurs Callbook Hardcover
- 1996 Radio Amateurs Callbook
- Extra Class License Manual (5th edition)
- FCC Rule Book (9th Edition)
- Packet Radio (2nd Edition)
- Packet Radio Handbook, by Glen Rogers, K4ABT
- Satellite Handbook
- 1996 ARRL Handbook
- 1959 ARRL Handbook
- Police Call frequency Guide (1994)
- CDE Rotator, + Box, & Mounting plates
- Roll of cable (RG-59?)
- Air Balun (N Connectors) copper 2 Meter
- Simpson VOM in case
- H & B Data switch
- Tuner – Coax & wire (Looks good!)
- Weather alert Radio
- Home Made Dipole

If interested, contact Don, K8OMO, at 330-823-5639

(Continued on page 11)

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 (e-mail: kd8mq@arrl.net)

AARC Swap n Shop!

(Continued from page 10)

- 2 cell phone antennas
- F connectors
- 14 panel meters
- MFJ 989 Antenna Tuner (Air Roller inductor)
- Bencher paddle (has 3 buttons on side for triggering memory keyer)
- Train Transformer
- 3 Low Pass Filters
- Western Union Signal Set
- Wall Speaker
- Antron 2M/440 Mag Mount
- CB type Rubber Duck
- Motorola Car Speaker
- Motorola P-10 Handheld
- 2 Climbing Belts (Nylon – Rose Mfg)
- Midland CB
- Realistic CB
- ARRL License Manual (13th edition)
- CQ Magazine
- 1961
- April, 1953
- Assorted QST Magazines:
 - August, 1950
 - April, 1951
 - January, 1952
 - June, 1953
 - November, 1953
 - January, 1953

(Continued on page 12)

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AARC Swap n Shop!

(Continued from page 11)

If interested, contact Don, K8OMO, at 330-823-5639

- April, 1954
- March, 1954
- August, 1954
- January, 1954
- February, 1955
- May, 1955
- Window Coax feed-through panel (has SO-239 connectors)
- 50' CAT5 Cable
- HR40 Key, on Board
- Bird 19" Watt Meter & Pickup
- 8877 RF Deck (All Copper)
- Air Castle Shortwave Radio (AC/DC)
- Assorted Crystals
- 2 boxes of ECG MOV's
- NOS 6.3V Filament Transformer
- Crimp on N Connectors
- IC3-AT Accessories
- 2 YH55 Headphones
- Heil Proset Boom set
- Misc Box of Cables
- 2 Mtr Mag Mount
- 440 Ringo Ranger
- 2 Meter Ringo Ranger
- 10 Meter Vertical
- 10 Meter Vertical (Needs painted)
- 10 meter antenna (Broken NMO connector, No Base)
- TE Systems 0510G 6 Meter Mobile Amp

(Continued on page 13)

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AARC Swap n Shop!

(Continued from page 12)

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- Field Strength/SWR Tester (HF)
- Watt/SWR Meter (HF + 11 Meter)
- RadioShack SWR/Power meter (2 KW HF)
- MFJ-924 UHF antenna tuner
- Homebrew 4 position coax switch
- Royal Sound SWR/Field Strength Meter
- 50-450 MHz Signal Amp
- Cobra 19LTDII CB w/ Echo Mic
- Fanon Emergency Radio (Goes on Bicycle?)
- Microphone Stand – 2 Holders?
- GE Emergency CB Radio
- 2 Big Mouth Speakers (4" X 4")
- Nye Viking Low Pass Filter 2 KW (Square)
- Nye Viking Low Pass Filter 2 KW (Round)
- EF Johnson Low Pass Filter 2 KW
- Realistic 4" Speaker
- DX Solutions CT232TNC
- Astron 12V 35A Power Supply (V/A Meters)
- Antron AL1200X 2KW Amp with 10 Meter & WARC Bands
- 5 element 6 Meter Beam
- 4 sections Rohn 55G
- Yaesu GS800 Rotor
- Alinco DJ-C4 440 Credit Card radio
- 2 Parts boxes (Coax connectors, plugs, lightning arrestors, AC adaptors, lots of etc.
- Various lengths of Coax, jumpers, etc.
- Software for Packratt
- White PVC Center loaded antenna Frequency unknown

(Continued on page 14)

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AARC Swap n Shop!

(Continued from page 13)

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- 2 Push to Talk Foot switches
- Vacuum Variable Capacitor 5-30pF
- Tubes
- 8321 Amperex
- 4X150 JAN
- 3 4X150A Eimac
- 4X150A Jan
- K4XD2871 (11 pin – same size as a 4X150)
- 2 8072 (Final for a Signal One)
- 416B Western Electric
- 1E35225 VHF/UHF Tube
- 2 7289 (Jan – includes RF Mount + Blower Guide)
- 3 2C39AG RF Amp (215 – 235 Mhz – Telechrome)
- 3C22 (GE 125 Watts -1.4Ghz Radar Tube)
- 3 2C39 (Eimac With Partial socket)
- 4X150D NOS in can – Eimac
- 3 4CX1500B (Eimac / JAN8660)
- 8877 (NOS Eimac)
- 7 8791 (Cermolox 1KW UHF)
- 4CX5000 (Big Tube 5KW +)
- Bird Slugs
- 25D 25 Watt / 200-500 Mhz
- 1000D 1000 Watt / 200-500 Mhz
- 2500W 2500 Watt / 100-250 Mhz
- 25C 25 Watt / 1000-250 Mhz

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January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
1 New Years' Day	2	3 7:00 PM Stark Cty ARES Net (147.12) 9:00 PM Northern Columbiana Cty Training Net (147.255)	4 Alliance ARC Meeting	5 7:00 PM PCARS Net (146.895) 8:01 PM AARC CW (28.400 MHz) 8:30 PM AARC SSB(28.400 MHz) 9:00 PM AARC VHF (145.37(-))	6	7																																																																																				
8 Tony, KD8BBK BD	9	10 7:00 PM Stark Cty ARES Net (147.12) 9:00 PM Northern Columbiana Cty Training Net (147.255)	11	12 7:00 PM PCARS Net (146.895) 8:01 PM AARC CW (28.400 MHz) 8:30 PM AARC SSB(28.400 MHz) 9:00 PM AARC VHF (145.37(-))	13 8:00 PM Massillon Net (147.18)	14																																																																																				
15	16	17 7:00 PM Stark Cty ARES Net (147.12) 9:00 PM Northern Columbiana Cty Training Net (147.255)	18	19 7:00 PM PCARS Net (146.895) 8:01 PM AARC CW (28.400 MHz) 8:30 PM AARC SSB(28.400 MHz) 9:00 PM AARC VHF (145.37(-))	20 8:00 PM Massillon Net (147.18)	21																																																																																				
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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/>.

January, 1987 (Editor, KB8AKQ)

- The newly re-formed AARC had elected its first three trustees. They were:

Hal Kelley, KE8II

Ron Gwynne, KC8VG

Darrel Shaffer, N8HHP

- The January program was by Jim, K8LTG, on Traffic Handling.

- Our Novice classes had just graduated 4 students.

Hal Kelley, sr., W8BGI, was maintaining a twice weekly schedule on 20 meters,

from his winter QTH, in Florida.

January, 1997 (Editor, N8SH)

- The AARC was having a "Christmas in January" Party at Roadhouse Charlies.

January, 2002 (editor, KD8MQ)

- Bob, K8RLS was named Ham of the Year at our annual Christmas Party.

January, 2007, (Editor, KE8VE)

- Frank, WA8WHP was named the 2006 Ham of the Year. The award was presented at the annual Christmas Party, held at the Bradons Iron Steak House

- Rumor had it that John, KD8MQ would be returning as Zero Beat Editor.