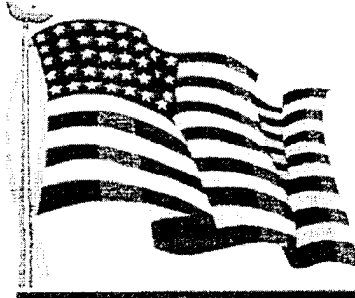


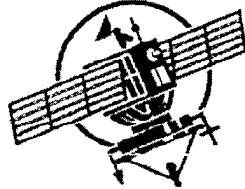
Rec 12-3-97



# THE ZERO BEAT

THE VOICE OF THE ALLIANCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
DECEMBER 1997 VOL 11 NR. 12

## SPUTNIK



## FLIES

## AGAIN!

The Soviet Union launched a small satellite on November 3rd. to commemorate the 40 th anniversary of Sputnik 1.

The satellite is not much bigger the a football and sends a beeping tone at the rate of about 14 every ten seconds or so. The satellite may be heard on a frequency of 145.820 MHZ. It is best listened to on upper side band but it can also be heard on FM with an HT if the pass is fairly close. It is expected to last for only about three or four weeks, so it may be gone by the time this hits your mail box. Don K8OMO has heard it and played a tape of one of the passes

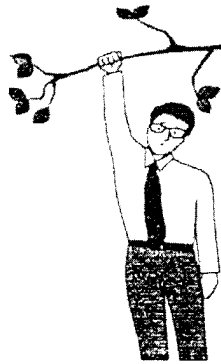
I can remember the night I first heard Sputnik 1 make a pass. I was only 16 at the time and studying for my Ham ticket. I had an ancient Philco chassis salvaged from one of the local dumps. As I recall it had six tubes and did not have a case. It glowed in the dark quite nicely and to me was the epitamy of what radio was about. I listened very carefully just abovr the twenty meter band. I eventually heard the pulsing signals with the doppler shift as it went over. I was suprised that the signals were so strong.

I was a bit disturbed that the Russians were able to launch such device. You will remember we were in the heart of the cold war and that most of our attempts were blowing up on the launch pads, some quite spectacularly. I could barely wait to get home from school and listen to the brave little bird make its' pass.

I am curious how many of our members remember the first Sputnik and its impact upon the world.

## AARC OFFICERS FOR 1997

- PRESIDENT..... K8OMO DON WHITAKER
- VICE PRESIDENT... K88VE LARRY ASHBURN
- SECRETARY..... W8UKQ DAVE GLASS
- TREASURER..... K8SIVS MARY ANN ROYER
- TRUSTEE ..... KA8GRC DEAN RICHIE
- TRUSTEE ..... K88RN JERRY WHEELER
- TRUSTEE ..... K8LTG JIM FERGUSON
- EDITOR ..... K8LTG JIM FERGUSON



IS  
THIS  
YOUR  
PROBLEM?

You are ready to use your soldering iron only to discover the cleaning sponge makes the Sahara desert look like the ocean. It is DRY! To make matters worse the nearest water source is not very handy. Not something to make this the pinnacle of your day, right?

Well sir take a hint from a Ham who has been there and got pretty tired of the situation. I discovered over at the local K-MART a handy little bottle made by the Rubber maid people. It has a handy straw like appentage that neatly folds away when not in use. It neatly guides the water to the sponge with out any spillage and flips closed to keep the container from leaking. The one I got holds about a pint or so which is plenty for months of rewetting yee ol sponge. I have knocked it off the shelf a few times and not spilled a drop. Give it a try, you will be hooked and smile the rest of the day!



## EDITORIAL

Well folks no one offered to tar and feather me for the last issue, so I guess I get to do another one. I appreciate all the accolades and the thoughtful reminders advanced by you less timid souls concerning

Thanksgiving. I would have thought since Thursday was taken by the AARC nets that it would be obviously necessary to move Thanksgiving! Ah the joys of editorship!

It is mid November as I write this. The first light snow of the season clings precariously to the ladder line arcing away from the station window. It is not difficult to accept that December is swiftly approaching. There is so much to look forward to with the club Christmas celebration approaching. Time to think about what you are going to order for dinner. We will want to be able to start wrapping the affair up by the next meeting.

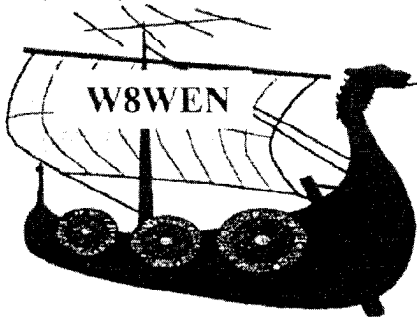
The long winter days bring increased operating opportunities. I like to get the old key oiled up and head down to our top band of 160 meters. The summer static is slowly starting to subside and the band is coming back to life. You fone folks can wipe the dust off your old trusty microphone, perhaps a little polish on the chrome will help.

Perhaps it might be a good opportunity to try a new mode of operation you have been interested in like RTTY, packet, slow scan tv or what have you. I have been listening to NW8C, KB8SWV and K8OMO playing around with some slow scan. Sounds like they are having a ball.

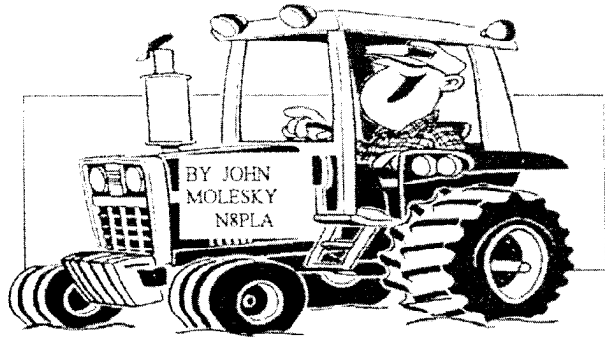
I might remind you it might be a good time to get out the tapes and books and prepare for that next license advancement. The club has been holding classes on a regular basis for several years now. It is a lot of fun and a good chance learn a bit more. Might even want to "Shutter" try some CW.

How about getting out the old soldering iron and rolling a project for the shack?

I am currently putting together a transverter for six meters to use with my Ten-Tec Scout. It is a great kit and easily built by almost any one with only very basic skills. There are a number of kits available that are useful, entertaining and educational. You cannot imagine the thrill of making a contact on a rig you have home grown. Try it, you might just like it and think of how impressed your friends will be!



Guess who won an HT at Massillon Hamfest?



## The Further Adventures of

## Jeff and Jake.

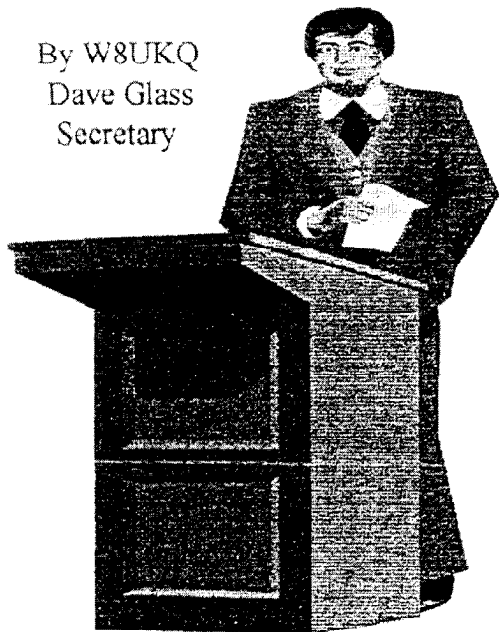
This is the time of the year to tell the story of Jeff and Jake's adventures in working the Pa Qso Party. This year, unlike past years, these fellows are getting more professional. This year the high point was in the operating. No longer do they stand outside in the rain throwing rocks over tree limbs to string some sort of wire antenna. These fellows have their act together!

This year they brought out the Bow-N-Arrow to project the fish line over the limb. The first attempt, made by Jeff was a failure, the fish line broke. Not a very successful attempt but mostly the fault of Jake for not properly holding the fish line spool correctly. Then Jake wrenched the Bow away from Jeff. There was a small argument over who was the best shot and how they could go into Olympic competition etc. (At least I missed the cabin this year .... Jake.) Jake was able to send the arrow over the limb in fine shape. This time the fish line didn't break because Jeff knew how to hold the spool. (I will never hear the end of this! .... Jake) The arrow was hung up in the tree for a while but Jeff persuaded it slowly low enough to be within the reach of the shorter Jake.

Then the heavy parachute cord was tied on and the wire antenna was lofted up into the tree. This was accomplished in about 10% of the time of past years. These guys have their act together!

A vertical multi-band antenna was also set up. A dummy load would have been better! Some SSB transmission was done, but the majority of the communications was done on CW. The wire antenna worked flawlessly. The wire loaded well and communications were a snap. About 100 contacts were made. This is not the best but was good enough for two fellows who only do this for fun. This year contact was made with the other "AARC" team of WX8G/W18T transmitting from Indiana county Pennsylvania. This was a first for the Jefferson county team.

By W8UKQ  
Dave Glass  
Secretary



## The Minutes of the ALLIANCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

November 6, 1997

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held at the Don Poncho's November 6, 1997, at 7:35 P. M., with Don Whitaker K8OMO, president, presiding. Secretary David Glass W8UKQ kept the minutes. There were 19 members and three guests present. The pledge of allegiance was given, and introductions were made.

The minutes of the last meeting as printed in the newsletter were approved on motion by Matt N8EAD, seconded by Ray K8DEN

Mary Ann KB8IVS reported the treasury balances. The report was approved upon motion by Jerry KC8DKM, seconded by Jim N8XTJ.

Old business:

Coffee Break: This item was tabled on motion by Don K8OMO, seconded by Jerry KG8RN, and approved.

Christmas party: Jerry N8SH sent word that the reservation is on record at Roadhouse Charley for December 13. There was no objection to the dinner choices as in the past: Strip steak, broiled scrod, or honey chicken breast.

The secretary sent a SASE to the 8th Area QSL Bureau and a letter of apology to the Salem ARC about the newsletter error.

New business:

The next meeting will be Thursday, December 4th at the HOSPITAL ON THE 4TH FLOOR IN PEDIATRICS. Next year the meetings will be on Wednesday in the cafeteria. There will be nets every Thursday.

John WX8G congratulated the new newsletter editor, Jim K8LTG, on his first issue. Jack W8WEN suggested we send the next newsletter and a QSL to Barry Goldwater K7UGA who is ill. It was noted that Carl Mani K7CE is in China and will try QSO's on 14,185 at 0000 and 0600. There will be a VE session November 22nd at the Columbiana County Career Center.

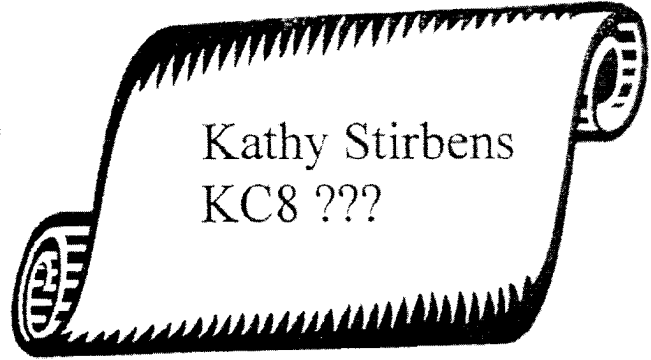
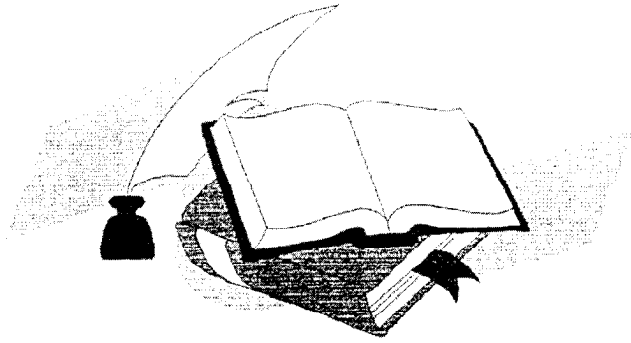
It was reported that Dan Jeswald W4NPI is moving to this area, NS8M Orfeo moved to the Chicago area, and George Antonosanti KE4BNE has moved to Atlanta.

Turn in Ham of the Year ballots to Don K8OMO by the next meeting.

There was no 50-50 drawing.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 P. M., upon motion by Bill W8ZZS, seconded by Dave W8UKQ.

Respectfully submitted, Dave Glass W8UKQ, Secretary



## From the Archives... November, 1987...

Ham of the month Gene Smythe KB8BYK/N8JKZ .

KC3CL, KA8CIY, KD8MQ operated in the PA QSO Party...Result of Field Day in Class 3A was 83rd place out of 254...Members participated in JOTA...KD8MQ asked for info on a Phasemaster 2B transmitter from the 1950's...any answers?...

December, 1987...

Fox hunt winners were Dave Beatty KC8WY and Allen Dicks KA8CIY...Ham of the month Jim Ferguson N8DZA/K8LTG...Bob Hobbs W8ACP was honored for 41 years of service...Hal Kelly KE8II up-graded to extra... Jim N8DZA purchased the 145.37 repeater...Christmas party coming up.....

...de W8UKQ, Historian

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations are in order to Kathy, a fine lady who has worked diligently to achieve her Amateur license. Her first attempt earned her not only her Technician plus ticket but also a certificate of Proficiency for the General class morse code element as well. Kathy now watches the mail box much more closely these days awaiting her first call sign.

I might add that this lady is a busy mother and wife so you can appreciate her effort more fully.

-73-

## HAM HINT

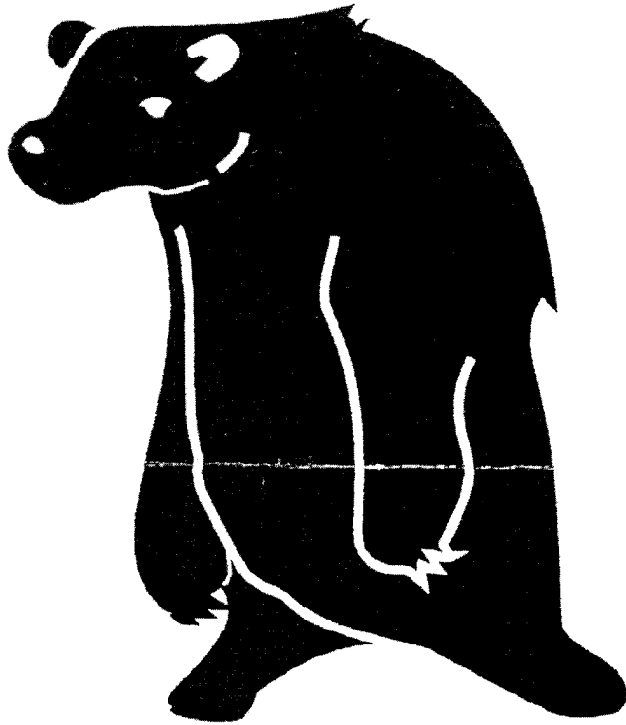
**D**o you have trouble soldering small assemblies or making connections to coax assemblies?

Well most of us do. As we get older we sometimes even get a bit schmarker. For years I have vexed my frustration over those things that seem to require more hands than the good Lord saw fit to provide me with.

The solution is an, old but excellent one that costs next to nothing to build. You will need a piece of wood about 4 x 6 by 1/2 inch thick, two wooden clothes pins and four small wood screws.

Affix the clothes pins to the top of the wood about five inches apart with the wood screws. You can give the whole thing a coat of shellac or varnish if you like. It will amaze you how well this simple tool can assist with the assembly of mike plugs, coax connectors etc. Give it a try, I would not be without mine!

-73-



## From The Presidents Desk

Well here it is December , how time flies when your having fun

Needless to say if you don't have that new antenna or tower up it is going to be a little hard to do it now . Also good time to be working 160 meters now with the Winter months upon us , low noise levels on the band and all that stuff. I don't have any room to talk, I was going to put up a 160 meter ant and guess what ? It's not up. Oh well.

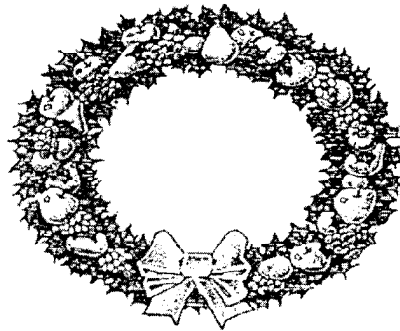
We got the Christmas Party to look forward to , and the Ham of The Year awards. Both should be a lot of fun.

One more thing to remember ;the Club Meetings, starting in January, will be on Wednesday nights at the Hospital in the Cafeteria. This change was due to a commitment by the Hospital to another Group , which we don't have any control over . I feel as along as the Club has ties with the repeater , as sorts, we should stay at the Hospital for our meetings.

Oh, almost forgot, since there will be meetings on Wednesday , that means the nets will be every Thursday, so remember to check into the 28.400 mcs CW net at 8:00 pm and the USB net at 8:30 same freq. Then the two meter 145.370 FM net at 9:00pm.

Club meeting will be on the 4th floor meeting room this month only. We will send someone to the lobby just before the meeting to

make sure you find your way up if you don't know where to go. If I don't ,by chance , see you at the meeting, dinner or what ever have a happy Holidays and a good New Year from OMO and the family.



## ***HOLIDAY GREETINGS!***

*AS* we approach the Christmas holidays I wish You the best of the season. Take time to reflect upon its meanings to you and your families. We seem to spend all to much time upon the commercial aspects with the gifts and demands. Take time with family and friends and enjoy the holidays and Happy New Year! We all look forward to the opportunities and joys of the new year. Work to make the best of them. Plan to enhance your friendships,your career,and especially your family . I look forward to seeing you all at the coming Christmas celebration f or the club. It is a great time to relax and enjoy a great night with your fellow Hams and their families. Plan to attend and enjoy a night of comadrie.

From my home to your home a very warm and special Holiday Greeting!

Jim, K8LTG

YE OLDE SORT OF DISPOSABLE PAGE.

CHRISTMAS BANQUET!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF STEAK \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF SCROD \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF HONEY  
CHICKEN \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Pease remit by check to our Treasurer Mary Ann as soon as possible. Preferably by the December meeting .  
We will be paying by one check which includes the gratuity. Thank You!

\*\*\*\*\*

MY VOTE FOR THE "HAM OF THE YEAR" IS \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

# EVENTS

# AARC

1997

# DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 MEETING NIGHT 7:30 PM	5	6
7	8	9	10	AARC NETS 11 28.4 MHZ 8 & 8:30 145.27 AT 9:00	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 28.4 MHZ 8 & 8:30 145.27 AT 9:00	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27
28	29	30	31	NO NETS CHRISTMAS DAY	DO NOT FORGET AARC MEETINGS MOVE TO FIRST WEDNESDAY IN 1998!	