

# Zero Beat



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<http://www.w8lky.org>

June, 2016

Serving the Tri-County area since 1986

## AARC Meeting Announcement

The June Meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club will be held on June 8th in the Café Conference Room at the alliance community Hospital. The Hospital is located at 200 E. State St., Alliance.

There will be no formal program this month, since we will be making plans for field Day.

Our meetings begin at 7:30PM.

At 5:45, we meet for dinner at [Frank's Alliance Family restaurant](#) at 428 E. State St. All are welcome to join us for the best meal in town! Frank's is only a short drive (or walk) from the Hospital.



## Relay For Life Special Event

Here's something we've not done before, and we can sure use your help. On Saturday, June 4th, we are setting up a table at the Carnation Mall, to support the Alliance & Louisville Relay For Life which is going on from 10Am to 10PM that day. You can read more about it on the event page by [clicking here](#).

What we need most are people to hang out at the at the table and answer questions from the public about Amateur Radio. Don't worry if you're We'll be setting up around 9AM, and will continue until 2-3PM (later if we have the people, and the desire). One more person at 9AM might be good for set up.

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## AARC Meetings

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club meets on the Second Wednesday of each month, at the Alliance Community Hospital. For times, and program information, check the meeting announcement in this newsletter, or check our website (see below)  
Talk-in on either of the club repeaters.  
Meetings begin at 7:30 PM. Visitors are always welcome.

## Find Us Online:

**Web:** [www.w8lky.org](http://www.w8lky.org)

**E-mail:** [W8lky@w8lky.org](mailto:W8lky@w8lky.org)



## AARC Repeaters

### 2 Meters

145.370 (-) W8LKY  
-W8LKY Echolink node

### 440 MHz

442.350 (+) W8LKY  
(pl - 131.8hz )

## Nets

Thursday is our "net night," with the following nets held, beginning at 8 PM

### Ten Meters

8:00PM 28.100 MHz (CW)  
8:30PM 28.400 MHz (SSB)

### Two Meters

9:00 PM 145.37 MHz W8LKY (-)

### Homeland security Net

(Meets on the last Tuesday of each month  
8:00 PM 147.51 Simplex

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## AARC Field Day to be held at Marlington Middle School

For the second year in a row, the club will be setting up at Marlington Middle School. Our home base of operations will be at the Herbert Pavilion, however we are free ([per the rules](#)) to set up anywhere within a full 984' circle. Some stations will be set up near pavilion, while others (me) may choose to be anti-social, and set up "**out in the tuli bushes**" as Jim, K8LTG was fond of saying.

ARRL Field Day is a yearly exercise that is, depending on who you ask, either a emergency preparedness exercise, contest, a weekend campout, or all of the above. You can learn more about Field Day at [arrl.org](http://arrl.org).

The Herbert Pavilion is located south of the Marlington Middle School, and in fact shares a parking lot with the school. ARRL Field Day (**always** on the 4th weekend in June) 2016 will be held on the June 25/26. setup for the event can begin as early as 8PM EDST on Thursday. The event begins at 2PM (EDST), and continues for the next 24 hours.

There are several bonus points categories available. They are:

- 100% Emergency Power
- Media Publicity
- Public Location
- Copying the W1AW Message
- Natural Power
- **Get On The Air**
- Web Submission
- Youth Participation
- Public Information Table
- Traffic Handling
  - Message to ARRL Section Manager
  - Handling Messages
- Educational Activity
- Site Visitation
  - By an invited elected government official, or
  - By an invited representative of an agency (American Red Cross, Salva-

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tion Army, local Emergency Management, law enforcement, etc.).

In addition, we have two new ones available this year:

- Safety Officer
- Social Media

You can learn a whole lot more about these, and other Field Day related stuff by downloading the rules from [arri.org](http://arri.org).

There are still a lot of decisions to be made. For that reason, our Field Day Chairman, Shawn, KD8ZEZ asks everyone to make the effort to come out to this months club meeting.

We'll be meeting on June 8th at our usual place in the Café conference Room at the Alliance Community Hospital. For more information, look at the meeting announcement on pg. 1.

## Minutes

AARC 11May16

The meeting was opened by President Rex, NX8G, with the Pledge of Allegiance followed with the round of introductions. There were 14 members and 2 guests in attendance. The birthdays were announced. The net reports were then given as follows: Homeland Security Net was not run due to the loss of K8OMO and no station has taken up the task. KD8WVE volunteered to take up the position next net time. That net is the last Tuesday of each month on 147.51 simplex at 8PM. The Two meter net was not reported as KC8ZEH the net manager was not in attendance. The 28.100 MHz CW net was held with WA8WHP as NCS. The check-ins were KC8TJQ, K2ASA and KC8ZEH. The 28.400 MHz USB net was held with KD8MQ as NCS with WA8WHP filling in when John was unavailable. The check-ins were KC8ZEH, KB8MNE. K2ASA, WA8WHP, and KD8RFY.

The Net from Coshocton area on 28.450MHz at 9PM on Fridays was announced and we were invited to join in.

The Secretary, WA8WHP, stated the April Minutes were published in the last issue of The Zero Beat. KD8KMQ moved to accept as published, seconded by KD8BBK. Motion carried

The Treasurer's report was given by KB8IVS. KD8MQ moved to accept as read, seconded by N8WD. Motion carried.

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## **Old business:**

Field was discussed with the result of we will be again holding forth at the pavilion at Marlinton Middle School. The club will be participating with our effort to put Cuyahoga National Park on the air on 17Sep16 at 11AM. Carnation Days in the Park will be in honor of Silent Key K8OMO from the Jaycee Pavilion in Silver Park on 20Aug16. All are urged to help with the operation. 04Jun16 we will be at Carnation Mall to operate a demonstration station for the Walk For Life 10AM to 10PM.

## **New business:**

The Christmas party is tentative set for 17Dec16 at Don Pancho's. A change to social hour at 5PM and sit to the meal at 6PM at the suggestion of the restaurant to avoid rush hour. It was moved by N8WD seconded by K2ASA to accept the arrangements. Motion carried.

KD8MQ brought a suggestion for a new club banner. The banner would be 6 foot by 2 foot vinyl. It was moved by KD8MQ seconded by WB8TPG to go ahead with a limit of \$100 for the purchase. KD8BBK volunteered to check into cost and availability of portable masts.

Moved by N8WD seconded by KD8ZEZ to close the meeting for our program. Meeting closed at 8:25PM followed by a great program about "GO BOXES"

Respectively submitted by WA8WHP Secretary.

## **Rambling**

OK boys, and girls, It's back! The PDF version of the zero Beat, gone since last year, is a victim of the exodus from Mailchimp. They were the e-mail marketing service website which didn't quite measure up. When G-mail began clipping the newsletters, it was the last straw. So, the PDF version of the Zero Beat is back. I'm still not printing & mailing, though. If you know of a club member without e-mail, please do them & me a favor. Print out the Zero Beat, and drop it off to them?

Another thing that will return is the online archive of the Zero Beats. I'll get that up to date ASAP.

So, how was Dayton? I heard it was great! I was managing the Dayton On The Air project at the Wright Brothers Bicycle Shop, so my time at Hara was limited. I hope everyone who attended had a great time.

Field Day is coming up. I'm making plans to set up with the club this year. My plan is to set up quite a ways off. So I can play with an antenna that won't fit on my

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city lot.

Shawn is our Field Day Chairman this year. Let's have a great crowd at the June meeting so we can help with the planning process.

73 all, DE John, KD8MQ

## **DX Contest**

Well, the DX Contest is over, and we have a winner! But, I'm not spilling the beans until the presentation of the plaque. I hope that the plaque will be ready for the June 8th meeting. Keep those fingers crossed! DE KD8MQ

## **Club To Participate in NPOTA (National Parks On The Air)**

You'll hear more about this later in the summer, but the Alliance ARC has a pavilion rented at the Cuyahoga Valley National Park on September 17th. Cuyahoga valley carries the NPOTA designator of NP14. We will be setting up multiple stations for the purpose of activating the park for the National Parks On the air event.

Run by the ARRL, NPOTA is a year-long celebration of the 100th birthday of the National Park service. Watch for more news about this event later in the summer.

## **Portage Hamfair 2016 Cancelled! Will return in 2017**

Word was received this last week that the Portage Hamfair which was scheduled for the 5th of June has been cancelled. No word on the reason, but it's a bit of a relief for me. The Butler Hamfest is on the same day.

The news release from Portage promises that they will be back next year on their usual date.

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## Coshocton Ten Meter Net

We received the following E-mail this month from the folks down in Coshocton County:

Hello Rex . Richard Couch here kd8ytn . I would like to invite you and your members to check in on our Jonny Apple Seed net each Friday at 9:00 pm . We are on 28.450.00 and located between the City's of Newcomerstown and Coshocton Ohio.

We would like to check in on your net , need day freq and time . We want to increase active on what one would call local Ohio Clubs on 10 meter . We have been improving net check in latest is wo8g Milton and his club in Marietta Ohio . Please contact me at any time . Rex I thank you for your time and I hope all the best to you , your and each of your club members . Richard 73s

Rex did respond with our net information, so hopefully we'll be hearing from them on Thursday nights in the near future.

## Design Advances Make Portable Operation Easier, More Fun

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I've just returned from the Dayton Hamvention. Dayton was a blast as usual, and if there's one thing I took away from this year's event it's that portable operation is not only becoming more popular, but more sophisticated as well. In fact, it's a virtuous circle. More sophisticated portable equipment is making portable operation more popular, which is spurring manufacturers to make more sophisticated equipment, which is making portable operation even more popular, and around we go.

This is perhaps most easily seen in the evolution of the Elecraft products. One of their first rigs was the K1, a small rig that was frequently toted out into the field, even though it wasn't really designed for that purpose. It had a small form factor, but had a conventional front panel layout.

The next evolution was the KX1. This CW-only radio was designed specifically for field work. It originally only covered 40m and 80m, and had a very limited front panel, but its built-in battery pack and KXPD1 paddle made it a great choice for portable operators when it was introduced in 2004.

A big leap forward was made when they introduced the KX3 in 2012. This radio com-

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bined a bunch of features never before found in a portable rig. The KX3 features an SDR architecture and covers all modes, including (SSB, CW, Data, FM, AM); used the same full-sized LCD display as the K3; has advanced DSP features; and can be connected to a computer via USB for firmware upgrades and for use with other ham radio software. The KX3 is so full-featured that many operators use it as their main rig with a suitable linear amplifier.

At Dayton 2016, Elecraft took this concept even further and introduced the KX2. It's about half the size of the KX3, but yet has almost all of the features of the KX3. There was a tremendous amount of buzz over this radio at Dayton among portable operation aficionados. The base price of the KX2 is \$750, and with options, will cost you about \$1,000.

Of course, Elecraft isn't the only company competing in this market. LNR Precision sells a radio called the LD-5, and at Dayton, they introduced the LD-11, which like the KX3 and KX2 features an SDR architecture and covers 160m - 6m. This radio goes for about \$800, and has also proven to be popular among portable operators.

Dayton also had a number of exhibitors that supplied products other than radios to aid portable operation. There were several portable antenna manufacturers, including Buddipole ([buddipole.com](http://buddipole.com)) and PackTenna ([packtenna.com](http://packtenna.com)), and BiEnno Power ([biennopower.com](http://biennopower.com)) was also there, showing off their new lithium-iron batteries,

While radios like the KX2 and LD-11, at relatively low prices, allow operators to easily get out into the field, portable operation would not be as popular as it is without organized activities. Programs like the Summits on the Air (SOTA, [www.sota.org.uk](http://www.sota.org.uk), [na.sota.org](http://na.sota.org)) and the National Parks on the Air (NPOTA, [npota.arrl.org](http://npota.arrl.org)) make portable operation even more fun. These programs do this by providing a structure in which operators can find one another and gain awards for operating. SOTA did not have a booth at Dayton, but NPOTA was a big part of the ARRL section there.

If you aren't already a portable operator, you should give it a try! You don't have to invest a bunch of money in a rig to just try it. KX1s have been had for less than \$400, and simpler QRP rigs cost a lot less. Getting outside and operating in the fresh air is a lot of fun and could give you a whole new perspective on amateur radio.

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Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at [KB6NU.Com](http://KB6NU.Com), and you can contact him by e-mailing [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com). Listen for him operating his KX1 from the park or beach this summer.

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## Field Day History

Folks have asked in the past about previous AARC Field Day operations. Here are some numbers from recent field Days:

Year	Class	# of QSOs	Final Score
2015	3A	1,117	3,890
2014	3A	1,177	4,690
2013	4A	960	3,964
2012	3A	466	2,152

I'll have the entire spreadsheet available for your perusal at the next meeting. 73 DE KD8MQ

## Newsletter Information

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