

# Zero Beat



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<http://www.w8lky.org>

April, 2017

**Serving the Tri-County area since 1986**

## AARC Meeting Announcement

The March Meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club is coming up on Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. There's no program this month, since the meeting will be about Field Day Planning.

We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Alliance Community Hospital. Normally, you can find us in the Cafe Conference room, which is just off the cafeteria.

**See you on the 12<sup>th</sup>!**

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## A Message From The President

Good evening.....

Just a reminder. The April meeting will be Wednesday April 12 at 1930 at Alliance City Hospital. If you wish, join us for dinner prior to the meeting at 1745 at Franks Family Restaurant in Alliance.

The meeting will be used for planning. We have a special event in June for the Relay for Life and following that in June we have ARRL field day the 4th weekend in June, and we have an opportunity for another special event this month 4/22 from Noon to 1600 we will cover that as well.

I know that this meeting is normally wacky key night, but I will schedule that for the AUGUST meeting. So get those keys built and ready.

Things seem to be coming together for field day so watch for further mailings about that...

If you have any questions let me know.....

*(Continued on page 3)*

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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

(Continued from page 1)

MAY THE DX BE WITH YOU

PAUL K2ASA

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## Dues Are Due

Our treasurer, Tony, KD8BBK advises that it's time to think about paying dues. For your convenience, a membership application can be found on the club website at [w8lky.org/?page\\_id=43](http://w8lky.org/?page_id=43).

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## Interesting Gadgets I Wish I Had Time For

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I'm on a lot of mailing lists and participate in a bunch of amateur radio forums. As a result, I see a lot of interesting gadgets that guys are buying or are thinking about buying. Here are three of the latest that look interesting to me. I wish I had time (and money) to purchase all of these and try them out.

### Android antenna analyzer



The Mini60 Antenna Analyzer being used with an Android tablet

On Reddit ([https://www.reddit.com/r/amateurradio/comments/60nnp1/finally\\_got\\_my\\_mini60\\_ebay\\_antenna\\_analyzer\\_time/](https://www.reddit.com/r/amateurradio/comments/60nnp1/finally_got_my_mini60_ebay_antenna_analyzer_time/)), some of the guys have been talking about the Mini60 Antenna Analyzer (<http://www.ebay.com/itm/CW-USB-Interface-Cable-WINKEYER-compatible-3-5mm-plug-/132121085623?>

(Continued on page 4)

# Z e r o B e a t

[hash=item1ec307c6b7:g:up8AAOSw241YeTei](#)). Its frequency range is 1 – 60MHz, but the cool thing about this device is that you can use it standalone with the built-in LCD display or with some software ([http://www.jtelectronics.co.nz/information\\_links/MINI60/Add-Bluetooth-Module-To-MINI60-Antenna-Analyser.htm](http://www.jtelectronics.co.nz/information_links/MINI60/Add-Bluetooth-Module-To-MINI60-Antenna-Analyser.htm)) and a tablet with a Bluetooth interface to get fancy frequency vs. SWR plots. See <http://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/mini60-ant-analyzer.jpg> for a photo of the Mini60 Antenna Analyzer being used with an Android tablet.

Of course, this is made in China, but how can you beat the price? It costs \$112 shipped.

## Multi-functional component tester



Here's another marvel of Chinese engineering and manufacture – a smart component tester ([http://www.banggood.com/3 5inch-Colorful-Display-Multi-functional-TFT-Backlight-Transistor-Tester-p-1083042.html](http://www.banggood.com/3+5inch-Colorful-Display-Multi-functional-TFT-Backlight-Transistor-Tester-p-1083042.html)) for only \$30, shipped. It identifies and characterizes NPN and PNP transistors, capacitors, resistors, diodes (including Zener diodes), N-channel and P-channel MOSFET, IGBT, JFET, triacs, and batteries.

This isn't the first smart component tester to hit the market, but the unique thing about this unit is that it has a graphical display that not only identifies the type of component that you've connected to it, but also draws the schematic symbol of the part. You can see a video of this tester in action at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07FH6tjzwWg>.

## Make your Raspberry Pi into a desktop PC

Newark/element 14 will soon start selling a kit of part that will make it easier to turn your Raspberry Pi into a desktop PC ([https://www.element14.com/community/docs/DOC-83477?CMP=e-email-SEPO-210317-e14PI&et\\_cid=28941683&et\\_rid=1231362216&cmp=](https://www.element14.com/community/docs/DOC-83477?CMP=e-email-SEPO-210317-e14PI&et_cid=28941683&et_rid=1231362216&cmp=)). The kit includes:

- Intelligent and Safe Power Controller
- Interface to connect mSATA SSD (up to 1TB)
- Real Time Clock to keep track of time

# Z e r o B e a t

- Heat Sink
- Enclosure

They don't list the price just yet, but this might be what I need to actually make use of the Raspberry Pi 3 I bought several months ago.

If you have one of these gadgets, or buy one in the future, please let me know how you like it. I'll put your review up on my blog, so that everyone can benefit from your experience.

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When he's not drooling over electronic gadgets, Dan blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, writes the "No Nonsense" amateur radio study guides, and teaches ham classes. You can contact him by e-mailing [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

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## DX Contest Comes To An End

Naw, I'm not talking about the ARRL, or CQ DX Contest. I'm talking about the Alliance ARC DX contest. Sorry, it's open only to members of the Alliance ARC. If you would like to enter, just convert your log (October 1st, through March 31st) to ADI format, and send it to me at [kd8mq1@gmail.com](mailto:kd8mq1@gmail.com). The deadline for submitting your entry is April 30th.

The winner this year does not get a plaque, but I guarantee that you'll like it.

Did you miss out this year? Not to worry, the next one begins on October 1st!

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## Minutes - March

Ham Radio meeting Wed. March 8, 2017

In attendance:

Peter Lucke N8IGZ  
Rick McDaniels WB8TPG  
Ron Rittenhouse  
Sherrell Wimer N8UIN  
Jim Wimer N8OOG  
Duane Zorger W8DHZ  
Cliff Burse KE8FSZ  
Paul Richardson K2ASA  
Mary Maendel KD8RFZ  
Tony Shillig KD8BBK  
Carl Mani K7CE  
Scott Yonally N8SY  
Chris McDaniel AC8VN  
Bryan Webler N8WD  
Frank Sanor WA8WHP

# Z e r o B e a t

Miriam Sanor  
James Yeagley W8JMY  
Tom Steele KD8JRK  
Howard Miller K8DXR  
Dwight Turner KD8YFV  
Benjamin Davis KD8KMQ  
Dave Van Derkar KD8FRY  
Terry Russ N8ATZ

Started at 7:30

K2ASA gave out more certificates

One correction on minutes from last month, it was pointed out that the time of start should read 7:30 not 8:30, minutes were approved as corrected. Moved to accept as corrected by WA8WHP and seconded by KD8JRK

Motion carried to accept

## **Treasurers report:**

\$226.00 in account as of today without the monies in the account we haven't gained access to yet.

We have all trustee signatures needed to get into account and we have proper tax i.d. number now

Still not sure of amount in old account

Bill for p.o. box , moved by WA8WHP and seconded by KD8JRK to take petty cash on hand to pay 76.00 to pay for years box

Tax i.d. number is all complete

Motion made to accept treasurers report as read, Moved by KD8JRK and KD8YFV seconded

Birthday's announced

Cw net report by WA8WHP, 2 check ins

Voice net 6 to 12 check ins,

Repeater report from K2ASA, we think we will put it at hospital and put receivers around town

WA8WHP reported that class is still waiting on nursing home to respond

## **Old business:**

Relay for life, if anyone has ideas of activities that we can do, to bring people in. June 10, KD8RFZ can do a couple of hours of face painting. KD8BBK suggested corn hole competition

Summer field day and fee will be due soon. Motion made by KD8JRK and seconded by K8DXR to pay 50 to Marlinton and passed

Field day news, K2ASA will bring 2 tents to hold radios in and we can have less background noise on radio

We will have a few campers on site, generators by KC8ZEH, we will have GOTA station, Cliff's call KE8FSZ will be coach and call. KC8SUI will be safety man.

Last weekend of June, 24, 25<sup>th</sup> set up on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, KD8ZEZ has been talking to Boy Scouts and we may have some scouts on the GOTA station, K8AHP will be in uniform.

WA8WHP will make contacts with city to see if we can get p.r.

We need night time operators, we'd like to have them for the whole 24 hours so if we

# Z e r o B e a t

get some volunteers for a few hours will be great.

## **New business,**

Funds on hand is approx.. 3800.00 we won't know for sure until details with account are finalized.

We have only dues to bring in \$, we have to come up with ideas to raise money.

Selling candy bars. With dues and moneys from 50 50, we aren't really making any money. Raffles, craft shows, leave us in your will, set up at hamfests, raffle or sell fire-arms,

Discussion shelved until next month.

Motion made to adjourned, K2ASA moved and WA8WHP seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

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## Swap & Shop

The club has for sale a DRAKE TR7 HF setup.

The Alliance ARC has for sale a DRAKE TR7 HF setup.

- Drake TR7 Transceiver \$600
- Drake PS7 Power Supply \$100
- Drake MS7 Speaker \$100
- Drake RV7 VFO \$100
- Drake SP75 Speech Processor \$100
- MFJ 989C VERSA TUNER V \$100
- Box of repair parts for the TR7 purchased as backup if needed. (Will go with the transceiver)

These are probably high end prices but it is a TOTAL COMPLETE system that should sell together as a one awesome unit. This unit was on the air and operative when we picked it up. Take it all for \$850.

Contact PAUL K2ASA, at [wlfen98@neo.rr.com](mailto:wlfen98@neo.rr.com)

## Newsletter Information

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**Alliance Amateur Radio Club**  
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