

Rec'd 6-18-93



AARC

SERVING ALL LARGE AREA HAMS

ZERO BEAT



VOLUME 7 NO. 7

JULY 1993

The day Murphy went fox hunting

By John Myers WX8G

The day started like any other. It was April 17th and it was COLD!! This was the second fox hunt of the year for the AARC. The temperature varied between 32-40 degrees, and we were treated to a blizzard just before hunt time. In retrospect, I think this was Mr. Murphy's way of saying "Hi, I'm here!"

One final check of our equipment, and we're ready to go. This is the first time in a while that I've been able to ride shotgun, so I'm a little nervous. A lot of planning has led up to this day. It started about 2 months ago, when, in a weak moment, I posed a question to myself. "Self," I said, "What would it take to outfit my wife's car for fox hunting?"

I'd been reading about the virtues of the quad antenna for fox hunting, and had been threatening for some time, to build one. I have an affliction for which there is no known cure. It

ZERO BEAT: The art of all parties being on the same frequency.

causes me to try to improve on every antenna, or circuit I put together (the key word here is try). Well, I thought that if I could make the elements swivel on a boom and join them with a tie rod, it would fold flat and could be transported in the trunk of the car.

Twenty bucks worth of materials later and countless hours in design, and tuning, it was ready. The front-to-back and side rejection was great. Well the day came and after a good breakfast and a good lunch (Hey, you can't rush these things!) I started loading the car.

Now, competing in a fox hunt requires just a little less equipment than your average DXpedition. First comes the coax that has to be fished into the passenger compartment from the trunk. (By the way, I am getting pretty good at removing the seats from Ford Tempos, just in case I need a skill to fall back on.) Next, position the attenuator, so it can be switched, without taking your eyes off the meter on the dash. Then set the 4-inch meter on the dash, so it can be seen from outside the car. (All this meticulous work went for naught later when it was discovered the meter didn't work) Then comes the extras that always get left behind. Pop, water, camera, raft, signal flares... Nah I'm just kidding. We really don't take water along. Of course we can't forget a legible map. I am going to break a solemn vow of silence and reveal the unwritten law of fox hunting. It is required that the map that is handed out at the starting line be completely illegible. There is only one exception to this law. A halfway legible topographic map is allowable if it is completely lacking in such landmarks as roads. (which is exactly what he was given -- Ed.)

Of course, the HT and portable scanner are nice to have along, just in case, as well as spare battery packs for the HT (Since the HT has been totally undependable, and unpredictable, for the last couple years, I chose to convert it to run off junk camcorder batteries when the original pack self destructed).

See FOX, page 5

Will the fox ever be found?

Will the fox ever be found again?

Last time, no one found the fox -- much to the delight of Dan Mutigli N8LVO who vows he will never be found.

"Who says we're looking?" quipped Don Whitaker K8OMO.

This is the challenge that has once before stymied even the Great WX8G, fox hunter extraordinaire and his partner, Pam N8IAK.

Dan guarantees the July 17 hunt will be even trickier. "I doubt if they will even come as close," Dan snickered.

The rules are the same: starting point - Rodman Park, 2 p.m., 2-hour hunt, somewhere within 20 miles of the starting point, transmissions 1 minute on, 2 minutes off.

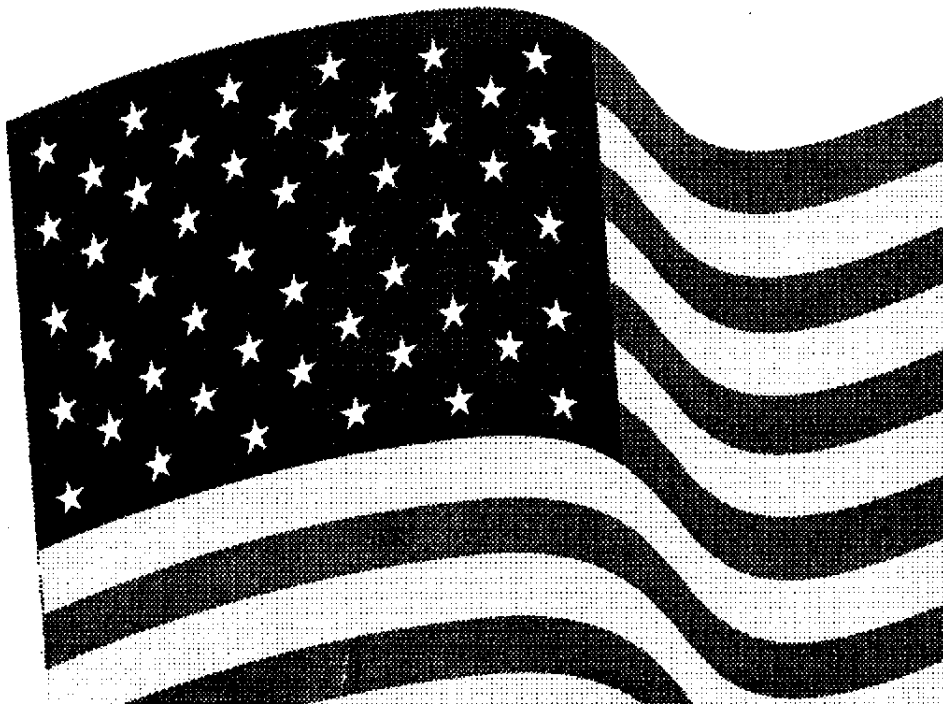
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NEXT MEETING

**Thurs., July 1
7:30 p.m.**



**INDEPENDENCE DAY
SUNDAY, JULY 4, 1993**

HAVE A SAFE HOLIDAY

THE ZERO BEAT - A SNAPSHOT

Dan Mutigli N8LVO does the typing, editing, page layouts and camera-ready copies of the newsletter. He then takes the camera-ready copies to John Myers WX8G who makes 50 copies (front and back, collated, stapled, etc.) and then mails them with the help of his wife, Pam N8LAK.

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MEETINGS

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club meets the first Thursday of every month at the Alliance Community Hospital at 7:30 p.m., employee's cafeteria. For more information on directions, try the 145.37 repeater.

TRI-COUNTY NET

The Tri-County News and Information Net meets every Thursday but the first Thursday of the month on the N8DZA repeater, 145.37 MHz at 9 p.m. Your net manager is Dan Mutigli N8LVO. For more information on conducting a net, call Dan at 868-6610.

TRUSTEES

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WHERE'S DX?

By Jack Bennett W8WEN

All times are in UTC. All contacts are CW.

NORTH AMERICA

5-10 HI3/N4GCK 14.025 0117
5-5 VE1ST/NA14 14.009 2311
5-1 FM4FX 28.007 1620

SOUTH AMERICA

6-11 CE0ZIS 14.032 0368
HK3CAA 21.038 0056
XQ0YAF 28.014 0040
5-16 P4/K7JA 14.026 2328
5-1 LU4GAA 28.037 1602
OA4CWR 28.024 1537

EUROPE

6-7 EJ2GSI 14.110 1208
6-3 ZA1J 14.027 0350
4K4BCA/A 14.017 0343
855AA 14.027 0257
5-27 4O1V 14.007 0432
T95X 14.007 0403
RL1A 14.028 0348
5-24 ZA2W 14.024 0057
5-23 3A2LU 14.045 0417
IK4GND 14.045 0400
RV6LAF 14.045 0352

AFRICA

5-28 3B8FG 14.022 0347
5-6 5X1XT 14.025 0414

ASIA

6-10 9V1WW 21.039 1434
HS0ZAA 21.020 1423
HS1CDX 21.012 1410
UZ0LWC 14.013 1244
6-3 UZ0CWW 14.015 0325
UJ8JA 14.0097 0205
4I4GMM 14.007 0335
5-24 UL7TJ 14.026 0125

OCEANIA

6-10 4F2IR 21.023 1451
5-19 ZK1AQY 14.029 0413
5-1 ZL1ATZ 14.061 0456
5W1CW 14.027 0454

BRIEFS AND SUCH

WORD OF THANKS

Don Whitaker K8OMO would like to thank all those hams who helped out at his house after high winds damaged his tower and left him without power. He especially would like to thank Dave Buckwalter KC3CL, Mike Goshorn N8KNU and Ron Gwynne WC8F for the generators.

TRIATHLON

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Mike Duke N8XER and Dan Mutigli N8LVO are looking for volunteers for the Ninth Annual Alliance Triathlon.

The swim, bicycle and run is the same day as the Warren Hamfest on Sunday, Aug. 15. Volunteers are needed for West Branch Lake at 7:30 a.m. for boat and land positions. If enough volunteers are on hand, an additional volunteer will be stationed in a plane. Additional volunteers are also needed at Glamorgan Castle at

about 9 a.m.

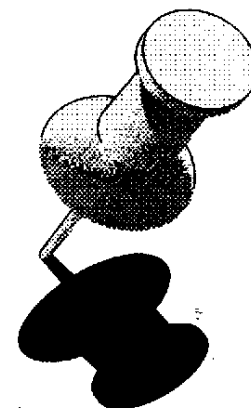
The event should last until about 1 p.m.

FIELD DAY DINNER

You are to bring: a covered dish or two, whatever meat you wish (burgers, steak, chicken), table service for you and your family, any personal snacks and soft drinks for your use during Field Day.

The AARC will furnish: fruit drink, coffee and tea bags, hot/cold cups, napkins, table covers, trash containers, mustard, catsup, coney sauce, mayo, cheese, etc; ice and water. Coffee and fruit drinks will be available throughout the night for contestants.

On, Sunday morning, a hot breakfast will be served at 8 a.m. for the contestants. The tentative breakfast will be juice, ham, pancakes and rolls. We will need an approximate count for breakfast so let W18T know.



LAST CALL FOR RENEWALS

IF YOUR MAILING LABEL HAS A RED MARK OR SIMILAR NOTATION, THIS IS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER.

Latest FCC call signs as of June 1, 1993:

	AREA 1	AREA 2	AREA 3	AREA 4	AREA 5	AREA 6	AREA 7	AREA 8	AREA 9	AREA 0
EXTRA	AA1GS	AA2NZ	AA3ER	AD4ES	AB5NQ	AB6TV	AA7WF	AA8LI	AA9HG	AA9NG
ADVANCED	KD1PE	KF2PE	KE3H	K14VO	KJ5MN	KN6MM	KI7NO	KG8BM	KF9PN	KG0GE
TECH/GEN	N1PGU	N2VAX	N3PEV	*	*	*	*	N8YVY	N9TRQ	NOXCO
NOVICE	KD1AXJ	KD2QGL	KB3AUP	KE4BWU	KC5QWV	KD6WHV	KD7VBN	KB8OZJ	KD9IQE	KB0LGZ

Moved and Seconded: the June 3 meeting

All officers and trustees were present. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by President Pam Myers N8IAK with 24 members and 2 guests. Guests for the evening were: Mike Duke N8XER and Alfred Krebs KA0DWN.

Treasurer Allen Dicks W18T reported a total balance of \$3,836.77. This is a net increase of \$192.92 over last month. Allen said he has received \$121 in dues for last month, \$55.26 in interest from the CDs and \$31.78 in other donations to the club. There has also been \$15.12 in expenses for the newsletter. Checking stands at \$650.32, savings \$622.11, CDs \$2,528.83 and petty cash \$35.51.

The minutes of the May 6 meeting were approved without corrections as published in the June newsletter.

COMMITTEES

NEWSLETTER - Pam announced that the *Zero Beat* received an excellent rating from the Amateur Radio News Service. Dan Mutigli N8LVO received a round of applause for his work as editor.

Deadline for the *Zero Beat* is June 7
PROGRAMS - Bill Bennett W8ZZS said the July program will be on the FBI Training Academy in a slide show by Chuck Henley N8LIV.

OLD BUSINESS

FIELD DAY



* Dave Hostetler N8NLZ has volunteered to cook for the evening meal. Bring your hot dogs and hamburgers and also a covered dish for the traditional family dinner at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday. Chef Dave will also be cooking the 8 a.m. breakfast Sunday for the contesters.

* The membership also approved \$120 for Field Day. A motion was made by John Myers WX8G, \$60 for food and \$60 for the Port-o-John, seconded by Frank Sanor WA8WHP. Unanimously approved at 7:46 p.m.

* Setup will be Sat., June 26 at about 9 a.m. Contest starts at 2 p.m. EST.

* Camp will be taken down at +22 to 23 hours or about noon Sunday.

* We will be working as 3A Ohio. Allen W18T will provide two stations and Larry Ashburn KE8VE will provide the other.

* The callsign will be W18T.

* All stations will be equipped for

computer duping.

* Jim Ferguson N8DZA has donated the use of a beam.

* Dan N8LVO has donated the use of a tent.

* Jerry Shore AA8GY will bring a VHF-UHF radio; Jim N8DZA donated the use of an amplifier and power supply for it.

* Frank WA8WHP will donate the firewood.

* Dave N8NLZ asked everyone to bring a couple of gallons of water.

DUES - Allen reported that we currently have 43 members which is five fewer than last year.

NEW BUSINESS

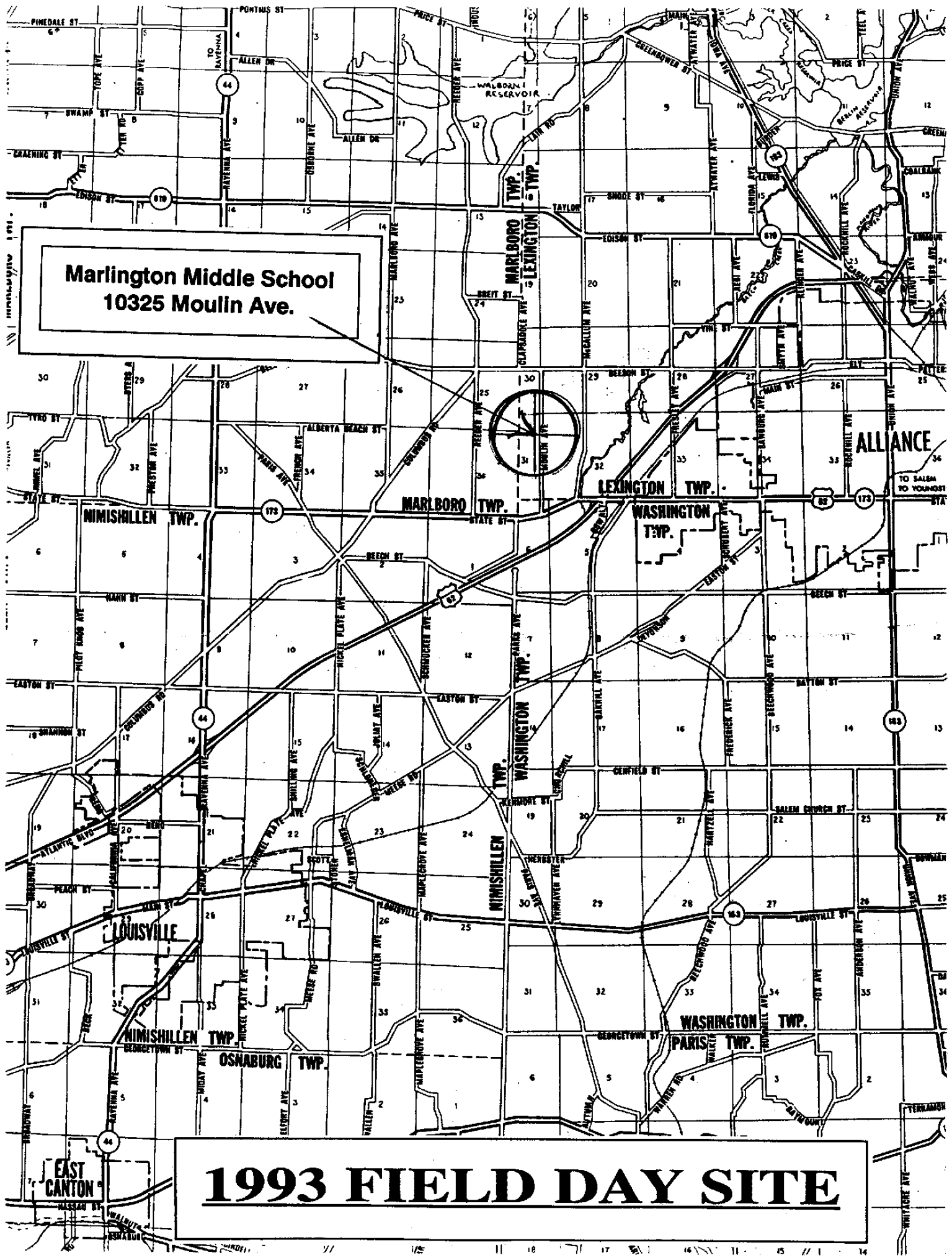
MEETING PLACE - Jim Wilson KB8GHZ asked if anyone knows of a meeting place for the club, please see him. A committee will soon form to study whether a larger meeting room can be found for our group to meet.

NEW MEMBERS - Jim Lilley N8XTJ, Mike Duke N8XER and Robert Mutigli KB8HKX. Total members now 43, 27 ARRL or 64 percent.

Winner of the 50-50 drawing was Dianna Ashburn who won \$12.

On a motion from Frank WA8WHP, seconded by Larry Ashburn KE8VE, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. for the program - a 20-minute video offered by Jack Bennett W8WEN on the VP8SSI DXpedition to South Shetland Island. Special thanks to W8BKP, the "old goat," for making the tape available.

NEXT V.E. EXAM
DATE: JULY 10
WHERE: AKRON U.
TIME: 1 P.M.
CONTACT: KEN
PHONE: 972-7677



Marlington Middle School
10325 Moulin Ave.

1993 FIELD DAY SITE

1991

EAST CANTON

FOX, from page 1

So, it's 1:30 p.m., 45 minutes before the hunt is to start. We check the supplies one more time. Everything seems complete and we leave for the starting line. Due to the weather, I have donned extra clothing. My wife, Pam N8IAK keeps calling me "Nanook." I wonder why?

After a stop at the convenience store, we arrive at the starting line. Joy of joys. We're the first (only) ones there. I don't understand where everyone is. Pam just smiles and walks back to the car, muttering something about her toes.

Steve Hwig KB8NDM arrives on foot about a minute later, hoping to grab a ride with one of the teams. At about 1:45 p.m., John Bray KF8ZG shows up, to pass out info, and display his latest handywork -- a 5-element folding quad. John is part of the fox team charged with handing out the directions. He also can't wait to try out his newest quad. It looks better than mine. I wonder if it would be unsportmanslike to pray for termites.

I leave everyone to their own devices while I check out the S-meter/quad combination on the hunt frequency. I carry the quad about 30 feet in front of the car and key the HT as a signal source. Everything looks good so I stand there waiting for a transmission from the fox. A while later, here comes Jim Ferguson N8DZA and Steve up the hill with the Double Ducky. "OK guys, I'll share my hill with you, but don't come too close. You'll make my quad look bad."

At 2:15 p.m., the fox announces on the repeater that he's transmitting, so where's the #**%\$# signal? No one can hear it. I fold up the quad and put it back in the trunk, and throw the coax in on top of it. I jump into the passenger seat, and prepare to switch us back to the car antenna, when, OOPS, the car antenna was already hooked up. So, I quickly switch antenna lines, and start to leave the car again, when, UH OH,

the radio seems to be dead. I make some quick checks and cannot solve the problem. The power from the cigarette lighter seems to be gone. Oh well, not having a meter with me, and not finding a blown fuse, I go to Plan B. I cut the power line to the radio, and patch in one of my camcorder batteries which were being used for the HT, which isn't going to be used more than a minute or two anyway. Success! The radio comes to life.

So I get the quad back from the trunk, and, after checking that it's hooked up, I climb to the top of the

"... have you ever noticed how people look at you strangely, when you're fox hunting?"

hill and again check my signal. Nothing. I check with KF8ZG. He's barely hearing the signal with his 5 element quad. (I hate a show-off) So, I stow the quad and the coax and get in the car. Pam announces that she's nice and warm. Right!

So we drive to the highest spot in town, and check the signal. All we can hear is an elevated static level to the southeast. Of course there's no reading on the S meter. I figure, that either the fox is a long way off or the turkey is transmitting static!

We continue our journey to the southeast. About 4 miles further, we take another reading. Hallelujah! We hear a signal to the southeast. Still no S-meter reading, but at least he's speaking.

By the way, have you ever noticed how people look at you strangely, when you're fox hunting? Sure we're standing patiently out in the cold, holding an apparatus that looks like it

would be best suited for hanging clothes out to dry, but other than that, what's the big deal?

Our next reading, about 2 miles closer, allows us to understand that Dan is talking about cutting boards, and Salmonella poisoning. "Lets hurry, Pam. Dan must be losing his mind." We travel another few miles, and take another reading. Up until now, it looked like Dan was only about 10 miles out. But now, as we were getting close to the 10-mile point, the signal strength as perceived by my ears, was not strong enough to support that conclusion. Incidentally, by this time I'd started to doubt my S-meter was even working, so I keyed up the mike, to read the power out on the meter. Nothing. Well, I guess Murphy had infected my S-meter too.

(It's a homebrew unit, with a 4" meter that plugs into the front of the fox hunting rig)

With the S-meter unceremoniously dumped in the back seat, we continued southeast. Three miles later, our suspicions were confirmed that he must be pushing the 20-mile limit to the max, so we stopped in New Garden for a quick pit stop and some munchies. While playing with the HT in the parking lot in New Garden, I found that I could hear the fox without even an antenna hooked up inside the car. We must be getting close.

About a half mile south of New Garden, Pam stopped the car in a school parking lot for another reading. I switched over to the quad, and the radio went dead again. We were too close to finding the fox, for me to mess with it now, so we unhooked the Azden (by the way, Azden is a Japanese word, which roughly translated, means "It'll never work.") and hooked the HT up as the main rig. Dan was due south of us, so we pressed on. As we entered the little town of Hanoverton, Dan's signal was getting very strong. By the way, Hanoverton's claim to fame is that Vice President

See FOX, page 6

Novice exams come under VEC program

Effective July 1, all Amateur Radio license examinations will be coordinated by VECs.

What will this mean for new candidates and general class testers?

THREE GENERAL (OR HIGHER) CLASS LICENSED VOLUNTEER EXAMINERS CAN TEST CANDIDATES FOR NOVICE AND TECH EXAMS (1A, 2, 3A)

GENERAL CLASS EXAMINERS MUST BE ACCREDITED THRU ONE OF THE 18 VECs.

ALL LICENSE EXAMS MUST BE PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, VECs WILL NOT CHARGE A TEST FEE FOR THE 1A UPGRADE FROM CODELESS TECH TO TECH-PLUS; NOR FOR ENTRY INTO AMATEUR RADIO AT THE NOVICE LEVEL FOR ELEMENTS 1A OR 2.

ARRL

FOX, from page 5

Dan Quayle ate lunch there in 1992. We stopped in the middle of town and tried the body shielding technique.

For those not aware of what the body shielding technique is, this is where you hold the radio close to your body (without the rubber duck on) and turn around in a circle, watching your S-meter for the lowest signal strength. All the while the locals keep a watchful eye on you and their fingers on the phone ready to call the sheriff, the moment you turn violent. When the lowest signal strength is achieved, the fox is 180 degrees behind you.

But these readings were inconclusive, so out came the sniffer loop. The only thing the loop told us, after pointing up into the hills, was that it wasn't strong enough to be stuck out a car window at 30 mph. So up into the hills we go. Past the park --

nothing. Pam sees a cemetery road. He must be there! So up we go. The cemetery is kind of dead today (pun intended), and we don't see much as we drive around, and any signal arriving at the loop, must certainly be arriving from the valley below.

So we leave. (snicker, snicker - Ed.)

As we make our way down the hill, Dan announces that we've got 4 minutes left. So we travel back into town, and the signal gets weaker. We decide to head back to the graveyard, and have a closer look. At this time, Dan announces 1 minute to go.

We were sunk.

So we leisurely drive up the hill and after the end of the hunt, we call Bill Bennett W8ZZS on the repeater, and ask him to pinpoint just where they are.

Where else? "In the graveyard."

It seems that we didn't drive far enough in. If we'd had 5 more minutes, or had bothered to drive




over the hill that cuts through the graveyard, we'd have seen N8LVO, KF8ZG, and W8ZZS, waiting for the hunters who never came. After making contact with N8DZA and KB8NDM, who were in Paris, we all arranged to meet for pie and coffee. After a constructive de-briefing session, we all adjourned to the cash register, to find that N8DZA had paid for all our checks. What a guy. Almost makes me sorry for ribbing him about being 20 miles away from the fox.

So what's the point of all this? What lesson have I learned? Forget about checking your equipment over and over. Just never invite Mr. Murphy to go fox hunting!

P.S. -- What was the problem with the rig? The speaker switch was halfway between internal and external positions and was very intermittent. (John Myers is a regular contributor to this newsletter)

ALLIANCE ARC

JULY 1993

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 AARC MEETING 7:30 P.M. ALLIANCE COMMUNITY HOSP 	2	3
4 INDEPENDENCE DAY 	5 COLUMBIANA CO. TRAFFIC NET 8 P.M. VARIES GOOD NEWS & INFO NET 9 P.M. 147.315	6 STARK CO. ARES NET 147.12 7 P.M. SWAP & SHOP NET 147.015 7:30	7 COLUMBIANA CO. Q & A NET 146.805 9 P.M.	8 SAARA MEETING 7 P.M. SALEM RED CROSS TRI-COUNTY NET 145.37 9 P.M.	9	10 V.E. EXAM AT AKRON U. 1 P.M.
11	12 NBIAK BIRTHDAY 	13 STARK CO. ARES NET 7 P.M. SWAP & SHOP NET 7:30 P.M.	14 COLUMBIANA CO. Q & A NET 9 P.M.	15 TRI-COUNTY NET 9 P.M.	16	17 FOX HUNT 2 P.M. BUTLER RODMAN PARK
18	19 COLUMBIANA CO. TRAFFIC NET 8 P.M. GOOD NEWS & INFO NET 9 P.M.	20 STARK CO. ARES NET 7 P.M. SWAP & SHOP NET 7:30 P.M.	21 CARC MEETING 7:30 P.M. SAFETY BUILDING COLUMBIANA CO. Q & A NET 9 P.M.	22 TRI-COUNTY NET 9 P.M.	23	24
25 ASHTABULA HAMFEST	26 COLUMBIANA CO. TRAFFIC NET 8 P.M. GOOD NEWS & INFO NET 9 P.M.	27 STARK CO. ARES NET 7 P.M. SWAP & SHOP NET 7:30 P.M.	28 COLUMBIANA CO. Q & A NET 9 P.M.	29 TRI-COUNTY NET 9 P.M.	30	31

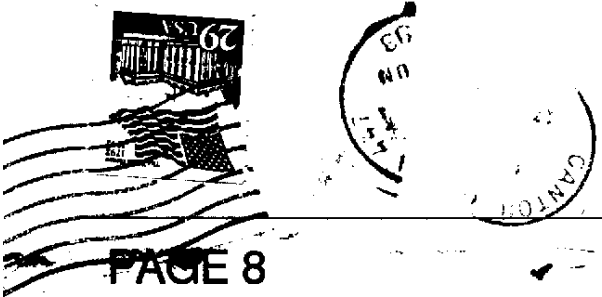


DAVE GLASS W8UKQ
217 W. SIMPSON ST.
ALLIANCE, OH 44601

TO:

Copies: 50
Unit Price: \$0.316
Date Mailed: JUNE 18, 1993

ALLIANCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. BOX 3344
ALLIANCE, OHIO 44601



PAGE 8

ALLIANCE, OH
ZERO BEAT

JULY 1993

Postscript

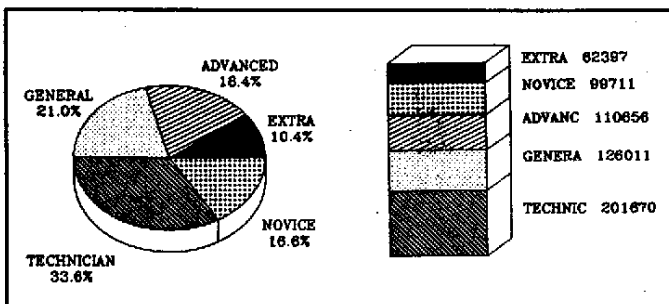
By Dan Mutigli N8LVO

I had to "bump" a brief about a picnic scheduled for August so I will mention it here.

The 2nd Annual Columbiana County Area Ham Club picnic is scheduled for Sat., Aug. 7, at Salem Park. All radio clubs in the county are invited to attend with their families. The covered dish dinner is planned for 4 p.m.

Now, I don't know about you guys, but President Pam just asked if we would like to have a picnic this year and I, for one, would like to attend this one.

Congratulations to Amateur Radio in the United States. We have reached another milestone! There are now more than 600,000 Hams in the U.S. Here's the breakdown by operating class:



Prez Says

By Pam Myers N8IAK

Take me out to Field Day. Let me operate the rigs. Well, it's not the same as take me out to the ballgame, but you get the idea anyways! It's time for Field Day and FUN! We always have a great time at Field Day, so we hope you'll come out and help set up, tear down and operate or log for the operators. You don't have to commit yourself to the whole 24 hours.

A nice change this year will be "Master Chef Dave (N8NLZ) who will be in charge of the food. Dave has promised us something we've never had at Field Day - a good breakfast! It may even help our score. Please let Dave know if you're planning to be there for Sunday breakfast.

Our program for July will be on the FBI training academy at Quantico, VA. Chuck Henley N8LIV will present the slide show. Chuck went through the training a few years ago. You don't want to miss this!

Do we want to have a family picnic this year? We will need to talk about this at the July meeting, so get your thinking caps on. If you vote to have it, then we will expect to see you there. I think it's a great idea. We do have fun at these picnics and maybe we can get Patty Hillier KE8KH to head up a volleyball team again. See you in July!