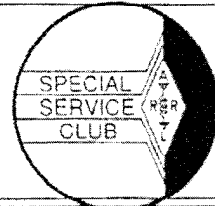




Zero Beat

Serving hams in the Tri-County Area



Volume 9 No. 7

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club-KB8YXT

Aug/Sept 1995

P.O. Box 3344, Alliance, OH 44601

Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure

On June 17-24, Northeast Ohio was invaded by over 2000 bicyclists and their support crews. For a week, these people of various backgrounds, were joined by a love of bicycling, and a desire to finish the 350 mile tour.

GOBA was divided into 7 daily rides of about 50 miles each. Wherever they stopped for the night, the campgrounds were dubbed "Gobaville", and the red carpet was rolled out for them. Alliance was no exception.

The group rolled into Alliance on Monday, June 19th. By 5 PM, local organizers were faced with crowds that would have rivaled the Warren Hamfest.

By 6 PM, just about every square inch of grass at Alliance High School was taken over by tents, and bicycles. (My favorite campsite had a pair of pink flamingos guarding the tent door. ed.)

As you know, GOBA communications are handled by Amateur Radio. In addition to our 17 volunteers, quite a few hams were riding along with the group, and the people in charge of GOBA are hams. Our people were organized by Don, K8OMO, who designated 5 checkpoints north of town on Monday, and 6 checkpoints south of town on Tuesday morning. Don spent most of Monday riding the route, making sure that everything ran smoothly.

Next year, GOBA will take place in the SE section of Ohio, and operators will be needed. Any takers?

Field Day '95

Well, Field Day has come and gone for another year. It stormed. The food was good. What more can I say?.

We didn't do as well as last year, but I think that everyone will confess to having had a good time at this years Field Day. As usual, it was held behind Marlington Middle School.

This was the first year that we used the club call. Some of us hope that it's the last, since K8YXT is a real pain on phone. In addition, we used N8MAA's call for the Novice/Technician station.

On CW, we made 155 contacts on 40, 20, and 2 Meters. This includes 3 packet contacts made by N3KNU. On voice, we made 220 contacts on 80, 40, and 2 Meters. This gave us a claimed score of 1060 points, before bonuses.

This year, we claimed bonuses for 100% emergency power, packet-radio, WIAW message, operating from a public place, and a special bonus for every ARRL member who made at least one contact.

It's said that an army travels on it's stomach. I think the same holds true for Field Day crews. Our stomachs were certainly satisfied during Field Day. Saturday night's dinner was provided by Nancy Morretta, XYL of Bill, N8TLY(SK). Nancy owns Padulah's in Massilon, and graciously catered our Field Day.

But the good food didn't end there. Chef David(N8NLZ) put in an appearance at breakfast. David, along with his lovely assistant, Dianna, proceeded to amaze the breakfast crowd with tons of pancakes and ham.

Well, I guess the first line summed it up pretty well. It stormed. The food was good. Just wait'll next year.

Radio Direction-Finding Test

A fox hunting clinic will be held at 2 PM, on Saturday, September 30th at Butler-Rodman Park. This will not be a fox hunt. Think of it as a chance to play with your fox hunting equipment, without the pressures of competition getting in the way.

All too often, we find ourselves learning about the nuances of our equipment while we are engaged in a hunt. This can be a major pain in the rump. So bring your equipment, and we'll make an afternoon of it. A low power signal source will be available at the site, so you can check out your favorite fox hunt antenna.

If you don't have any equipment and just want to watch and learn, that's OK, too.

Meeting Announcement

The next meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club will be at 7:30 PM, August 3rd, at the Alliance Community Hospital. The September meeting will be on September 7th, at 7:30 PM. Meetings are held in Room A, which is just off the cafeteria. We have a short business meeting, followed by a program.

There will be no August program. The program at the September meeting will be presented by John, WX8G, on Radio Direction-Finding.

The Alliance Amateur
Radio Club
P. O. Box 3344,
Alliance, OH 44601

Officers

President

Vice President
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Louisville, OH 44641 935-2960

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The Alliance Amateur Radio Club
meets on the first Thursday of
every month, at The Alliance
Community Hospital. Our meetings
are held in room A, and begin
promptly at 7:30 PM. Visitors are
always welcome.

Editorial

by John Myers, WX8G

Well, Summer's here again. That means Field Day, hamfests, newsletters, and yes, more editorials.

This isn't the editorial I originally had ready for this space, but I found I was griping too much. There's nothing wrong with some good old-fashioned belly-aching once in a while, but pretty soon, people start tuning you out. So, I thought I'd lighten up a bit this month.

We've got some changes coming in the next few months. Some you'll notice, some you won't.

First, it's not too soon to be thinking about elections. At the October meeting, you'll be electing the officials who will steer the club for the next year. Who will it be? Maybe you would like to take a more active role in the club. Well, this is your chance. Just make your desire known to one of the trustees who are listed on the left, or have someone nominate you at the meeting.

Another change concerns the Zero Beat computer. It's being retired. While the trolls want me to donate it to a museum, I've decided to take it to work, where it'll fit right in with the rest of my antique computer equipment. It's being replaced by a homebrew 386 machine. You probably won't notice any major changes in the ZB right away, but I will. I'm hoping that the new machine will cut my layout time in half. Later, I hope to add such things as scanned pictures, and a packet address. I'll let you know about other changes as they occur.

Are you getting tired of reading my editorials? Well, my offer still stands for a guest editorial. Yes, you too can be read by dozens. Can you handle the popularity? The legions of adoring fans? The starlets hanging on your arm? You can? Great! Just write something of interest to your fellow club members, and submit it. The rules are pretty simple. Your subject must be Amateur Radio related, and can't be libelous or slanderous. Oh yes, keep it clean, remember, not everybody likes colorful adjectives. If you can put it on a disk, that's fine, but I don't mind typing. Heck, you can even dictate it to my answering machine if you want. See you next month. DIT DIT.

Staff

Editor

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821-5513

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Jim Wilson KB8GHZ
Gladys Wilson KB8GIA

Publication & Distribution

Larry Ashburn KE8VE
Dianna Ashburn

Credits

Thanks to the contributors to
this month's Zero Beat

KB8GHZ

KB8GIA

W8WEN

K8OMO

The Zero Beat is a monthly publication of the **Alliance Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 3344, Alliance, OH 44601**. Contributions to the Zero Beat are welcome, and can be given to any board member.

Articles can be submitted in hard copy, or as an ASCII file, on IBM formatted disk (3.5" or 5.25"). Direct transfer via Packet or modem, can be arranged by contacting KE8VE at 821-9808.

Submissions can also be forwarded as E-mail, to 75027,1342 @ Compuserve.com.

Permission is freely granted to reprint portions of the Zero Beat, as long as credit is given to the author & source.

The editor & board reserves the right to edit all submissions.

5 years ago

from the July & August, 1990
Zero Beat, KC3CL ed.

- Pam Myers, N8IAK took over the reins of the Eastern Stark County ARES Net, from Dick Bontrager, KA8LKQ. Her first act was to change the name to the Eastern Stark County News & Information Net.
- The first 2 parts of a teleconference by Joe Reisert, W1JR, on the subject of "Antennas & antenna systems: where is the state of the art going?" was included in these issues of the ZB.
- Canton ARC was holding a beginners fox hunt. Starting point was the Stark county sheriff's station.
- The YMCA youth Amateur Radio program had set a goal of 50 new novices in the coming school year. The club was being asked to help with donations of rigs, keys, publications, and time.
- N8IAK volunteered to organize the club picnic, which was to be held on Friday, August 24th at Butler-Rodman park.
- A list of do's & don'ts for emergency net operating was given. The main idea of the article was to tell you to shut up during an emergency, unless you could offer some specific assistance.
- We had made 900 QSO's at Field Day '90 (66% SSB) (33% CW)

Minutes of the July 6th, 1995 meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club

The July 6th meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 7:30 PM by acting President, Don Whitaker, K8OMO. The pledge of allegiance was given, followed by a round of introductions by members and guest. There were 24 members and 1 guest present

The Secretary's report was given and approved as read.

The Treasurers report was given and approved as read. As of July 1st, 1995, there is a total of \$4062.53 in the treasury.

Committee Reports

Newsletter Deadline is July 15th.

Program no program scheduled for August. September's program will be on Fox hunting, and given by John, WX8G.

Old Business

GOBA K8OMO thanked everyone for a good job and awarded pins to those who worked and did not receive them.

Field Day report given by WX8G

Club Callsign K8OMO will contact ARRL for a 610-V form.

New Business

Fox Hunt is scheduled for July 15th. Starting point will be at Butler-Rodman Park at 2 PM.

Silent Key plaque is to be kept by club treasurer, Mary Ann Royer, KB8IVS.

Christmas Party Dianna Ashburn, to check on locations for this years party.

Announcements

- Bowling Green hamfest-July 9th
- Wellington hamfest-July 15th
- Portage hamfair-August 6th
- 50/50 was won by KB8GIA for a total of \$7.50

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM on a motion by K8OMO and seconded by KB8IVS.

Respectfully submitted by Gladys Wilson, KB8GIA Secretary, AARC

The Amateur's Code

ONE

The Amateur is Considerate. . . He never knowingly uses the air in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

TWO

The Amateur is Loyal. . . He offers his loyalty, encouragement and support to his fellow radio amateurs, his local club and to the American Radio Relay League, through which amateur radio is represented.

THREE

The Amateur is Progressive. . . He keeps his station abreast of science. It is well built and efficient. His operating practice is above reproach.

FOUR

The Amateur is Friendly. . . Slow and patient sending when requested, friendly advice and council to the beginner, kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others; these are marks of the Amateur spirit.

FIVE

The Amateur is Balanced. . . Radio is his hobby. He never allows it to interfere with any of the duties he owes to his home, his job, his school, or his community.

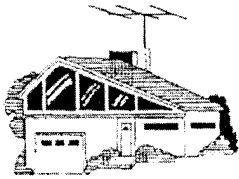
SIX

The Amateur is Patriotic. . . His knowledge and his station are always ready for the service of his country and his community.

-PAUL M. SEGAL

Quote of the month

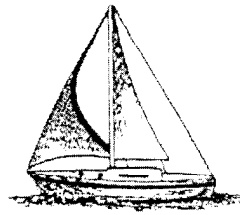
During GOBA, when a bicyclist complained about not being able to make it the rest of the way, Jerry(KG8RN) replied, "Don't worry, we've got a preacher and a graveyard at the next checkpoint."



Where's DX

?

By Jack Bennett, W8WEN



Well, it looks like Jack has had a busy couple months on the bands, as these excerpts from his logbook will show. Please remember that these are only a random sampling of his actual operating.

He also reports hearing a TJJ working England on ten. On twenty, he heard a couple BV7's, and a VK6.

Well, without further ado, here's this month's installment from W8WEN's logbook.

North America

6/26 CO4AL 14.023 0103Z

South America

7/6 AA7VB/P4 28.016 1341Z

Asia

6/4 RW9QWM/P 14.018 0112Z

6/9 4SYWP 14.020 0129Z

6/26 4X4FC 14.011 0047Z

7/6 BV4JB 14.003 1159Z

7/6 HLSBVQ 14.020 1218Z

Europe

6/9 Z32LM 14.018 0021Z

6/9 JW0H 14.009 0058Z

6/13 4K6AB 14.018 0221Z

6/13 4L1YY 14.047 0341Z

6/15 IT9XFP 14.038 0247Z

7/6 G0IVZ 28.025 1331Z

Africa

6/24 FR5DD 14.017 0349Z

7/6 TJ1JB 14.003 2106Z

Oceania

6/4 KH3AE 14.034 0157Z

Amateur tower meets utility power; Ham killed!

Another Radio Amateur has died while erecting an antenna near a power line.

The Dallas Morning News reported that on March 18, Ernest Rutledge, KC5CQR, of Keller, Texas, was electrocuted while helping a friend install an antenna. Don't take chances. Safety first!

from the May '95 Foundation for Amateur Radio "Auto-Call", KA0SEY ed. via the July/August, '95 ARNS bulletin.

Layout for this issue of the *Zero Beat* was done by the troll dudes. They spent just a little too much time on the beach this summer, and have major sunburns. I don't know if you've ever seen a red troll with purple hair, but it's not a pretty sight.

Dit & Dah talk radios Processors aren't always dicey

by Tim & Al Magahertzzi

Dear Tim & Al:

How can I determine the bandwidth of my transmitted signal from my new Yaesu 890 transceiver? I'm also interested in what effect a processor may have. I hope to read your answer in the next column. Don, KM6SE

Tim: No problem, Don. This is an easy one! Borrow an old analog-dial receiver from a friend and put it next to your shiny new gear. Key up your transmitter and begin talking into the microphone. At the same time, tune your old receiver until you hear yourself. Then move the receiver dial back & forth from one side of you signal to the other until you no longer hear anything. Using a flexible measuring tape, measure the distance between those two points. A good narrow signal should be about one half inch long on SSB. One-inch signal width indicates bandwidth problems. And no perceivable signal means you are not talking loud

enough.

Al: Don, that sounds like a method for carpenters. Maybe if you hit the rig firmly with a claw hammer, that would compress its bandwidth. A better way to measure your transmitter's bandwidth is with an RF spectrum analyzer. Most hams don't have these expensive honeys laying around the shack, but a friend can borrow one at work. A spectrum analyzer gives you a picture of the transmitted signal, including any unwanted distortion products, and it is calibrated to measure signal width directly.

Tim: I'll just leave it up to you. Don, as to which method of determining bandwidth seems more appropriate. My method is cheap, readily available, and does not require an engineering degree. As for processing, a good processor will slice, shred, chop, puree, and even knead. Cuisinart and Hamilton Beach are good brands. Either would serve you well.

Al: Tim, this is a radio column. Do you really think Don wants our opinions about food processors? Don, if your processor and automatic limiting controls are set properly, the transmitter bandwidth should be the same with the processor turned on or off. A processor gives you greater *average* RF output power, making your signal more readable in the noise. People often misinterpret the increased punch to mean a processed signal is wider, and give inaccurate signal reports.

Tim: Give me a break, Al. A speech processor can't even make a strawberry daiquiri. And Don, thanks for your question. I enjoyed giving *sound* advice to our readers.

from the Feb. '93 [River City ARCS Newsletter]-Terry Seeno, N6YQD.
Editor (Sacramento, CA)

August 1995

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | | | | 7:30 PM AARC Meeting - FQ | N8VPA Birthday | N8IGZ Birthday | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| ARRL UHF Contest LaGrange VE Exams (216)647-5116 Randolph Hamfest | ARRL UHF Contest | | | 8:30 PM Tri-County News & Info Net - FM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | | | | 8:30 PM Tri County News & Info Net - LQ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| N8NLZ Birthday Warren Hamfest | | | | 8:30 PM Tri-County News & Info Net - NM | | Canton VE Exams (216) 453-5896 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

September 1995

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| | | | | | | - FQ |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| | <i>Labor Day</i> | | KB8GIA Birthday KF8ZG Birthday | 7:30 PM AARC Meeting | FM W18T Birthday | ARRL September VHF QSO Party U of Akron VE Exams (216) 972-7677 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| ARRL September VHF QSO Party Butler Hamfest North American Sprint-CW | ARRL September VHF QSO Party | | | 8:30 PM Tri-County News & Info Net | | LQ |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| | | | | 8:30 PM Tri County News & Info Net Youngstown VE Exams (216) 534-1394 | | <i>Autumn begins</i> |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| NM Berea Hamfest | | | | 8:30 PM Tri-County News & Info Net | | Akron VE Exams (216) 882-6883 RDF clinic-2 PM |

Short Circuits

from the PAPER REPEATER contributed by
WA5ABU

- **Corn roast!**-KB8GAG has invited the club to a corn roast at his house. No date has been set, but it's expected to be sometime in August, when the corn ripens. Listen to 145.370 for more information. Bob's place is located on North Rockhill Ave. just past the turnoff for the wastewater treatment plant. Of course 5.37 will be monitored for talk-in.
- Well, it finally happened. Your editor made it into the Hall of Shame. I had made arrangements to pick up some equipment from W8WEN's neighbor. The neighbor was to leave the door unlocked and the burglar alarm off. Well, one out of two wasn't bad. About 30 seconds after opening the door and hearing the warning beep, sirens went off, and lights started flashing, and who should be standing in his driveway grinning from ear to ear, but W8WEN. There was no chance of sneaking away now. Luckily, his neighbor arrived home at that instant, or I might have been writing this from a jail cell.
- Sorry, there's no coverage of the fox hunt this time. The hunt was postponed, due to the heat, and there just

wouldn't have been time to fit it in. Look for the results in the October issue.

- We weren't the only hams that were put out by the warm weather, though. The pig wrestling at the Beechwood Festival was also cancelled due to the heat.
- Remember, there won't be any newsletter next month, monthly publication will resume with the October issue.
- However, if you've chosen not to renew your membership, this will be your last issue of the Zero Beat. There's still time though. Mary Ann, KB8IVS will be ready and willing to take your money at the next club meeting. Can't make a club meeting, you say? Just mail a check to the club address which is listed on page two.
- Here's the latest from the FCC 800 number. Electronically filed applications are being processed in less than 1 week, while others are taking 3-4 weeks. The latest call signs as of June 1st are as follows:

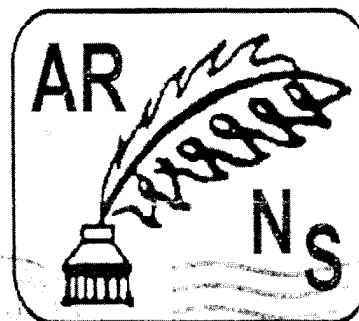
Extra AASTS
Advanced KG8RR
Novice/Tech/Gen KB8ZWA

EVERYBODY'S JOB

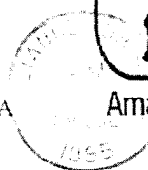
This is a true story about four colleagues: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. Somebody asked Everybody to do an important job that Anybody could do, but that Nobody wanted to do. While Somebody did not really trust Anybody to do it, Nobody realized that Everybody would not do it. Sure enough Everybody left the job for Anybody to do and Somebody later found out that Nobody had done it. It ended up that Nobody did what Anybody could have done, even though Somebody had decided that it was Everybody's job

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MEMBER



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