



Alliance Amateur Radio Club
AARC
Zero Beat

Volume XXII, no 12

<http://www.w8lky.org>

December 2008

Serving the Tri-County area since 1986

Three New Hams! !

The club license classes have wrapped up, and the result is that all the students have passed their tests. The classroom was provided courtesy of the Alliance Chapter of the American Red Cross.

The new licensees are:

Tom Steele, KD8JRK (Tech), son of Bob, K8RLS .

Dallas Underwood, KD8JRY (Tech). Dallas is formerly KB8SKS. His licensed lapsed, and KE8VE tells me that he is planning to re-acquire his

old call sign under the vanity licensing program.

Duane Zorger, KD8JSB (General). Duane is a neighbor of Don, AB8KV.

As graduates of the club licensing classes, all three are eligible for free club memberships.

Thanks to Larry, KE8VE, and Rick, KC8SUI, for instructing.

At this time, Plans are still being made to hold licensing classes in January for the general exam. More info next month.

Meeting Announcement

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 3rd, at the Alliance Community Hospital, in the cafeteria conference room.

Meetings begin at 7:30 PM.

Before the meeting, some of us get together at 6 PM, for food, & fellowship, at Don Pancho's Tex-Mex Café (2105 W. State St.).

Everyone is welcome to attend.

This month we'll be showing volume 4 of Icom Radio News. Included are segments on DXpeditions to Bhutan, and St. Georges Island, as well a segment on the Islands On The Air (IOTA) program.

AARC takes 98th out of 303 in class!

The 2008 Field Day results have been released. W8LKY, operating in class 3A placed 98th out of 303 other class 3A stations this year. According to the ARRL website, we posted an official score of 3,340 (533 phone / 381 CW).

This is in contrast to our 2007 score of 3800, and 2006 score of 4810. Our scores seem to be decreasing, but the comment most heard from

folks this year was how much fun they had.

Remember, Field Day 2009 is only 7 months away.

For comparison, here's results for some local clubs:

Canton ARC: 4,190 points running 2A, reporting 31 participants.

Massillon ARC: 4,530 points running 2A, reporting 25 participants

Portage County ARS: 5,944 points running 4A,

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Editor

John Myers, KD8MQ
(See above)

Ramblings

By John, KD8MQ

Well, the holiday season is upon us. That means sending Christmas cards, Christmas shopping, wrapping, etc. It also means shoveling, cold weather, and antenna work. Leave us not forget the good times with friends, and family, and of course, the reason for the season, i.e. a baby born in a manger some 2000 years ago.

Things have been busy at the home QTH this season. I had planned to relax for a couple months, and finally get around to rewriting my website. Well, one of my commercial accounts had other ideas, so I've been "re-learning" JavaScript this month. That explains the meager size of this month's Zero Beat.

By the time I finished the beta version of that new site, the deadline for the Zero Beat had passed. That wouldn't be a problem, except the only thing I had written was the Wayback Machine column. So, I'm scrambling a bit this weekend to get this finished.

I did find some time around Halloween to make some changes to my HF antenna system. The gory details are elsewhere in this month's issue of the ZB.

Thanks go out to Larry, KE8VE, and Rick KC8SUI for their work on the fall licensing classes. Unfortunately, Rick's schedule changed, and he was unable to assist in the

(Continued on page 3)

Meetings

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club meets on the First Wednesday of every month. Check the meeting announcement on page 1, for the location.

Talk-in is on 145.37 @.

Meetings begin at 7:30 PM.

Visitors are always welcome.

Nets

Thursday is our "net night," with the following nets on tap:

Ten meters

CW @ 8PM on 28.400 MHz

SSB @ 8:30PM on 28.400 MHz

2 meters

9 PM on 145.37 MHz

The Homeland security Net meets on the last Tuesday of the month, at 7:30 PM, on 147.51 simplex

Internet

Web: www.w8lky.org

E-mail: W8lky@w8lky.org

Newsletter Information

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Alliance, OH 44601

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You can submit material to the Zero Beat via e-mail to kd8mq@neo.rr.com

Scouting Program Help Needed

We have an opportunity to introduce Amateur Radio to some local scouts. The club has been asked to provide some hands-on type programs pertaining to Ham Radio in January. Nothing fancy, just a half hour, or so. I've already volunteered to do a short demonstration on fox hunting on December 15th, followed by an easy outdoor

fox hunt for them on the 20th. I'll need some volunteers for the hunt on the 20th. Let me know if you can spare a couple hours.

I also need some volunteers for the programs in January. If enough of us volunteer, no one should have to do more than one.

Let me know if you can help. (KD8MQ)

Quote o' the Month

I can accept failure,
everyone fails
at something.
But I can't accept
not trying.

Michael Jordan

AARC Wayback Machine—cont.

(Continued from page 6)

and the YMCA youth radio club. QCWA members circulated, and answered questions. OMO set up a 1940 Collins station, and Jim, K8LTG hauled in his Model 28 teletype unit.

- Pam, N8IAK had been re-elected to a third term as club president. Don, K8OMO was elected as VP. Dan, N8LVO was replaced as secretary, by Patty, KE8KH. Allen, WI8T was replaced by Matt, N8EAD, in the treasurers position.
- WX8G (KD8MQ), WI8T, and N8YMQ returned from Indiana County, PA, after making 614 QSOs in the 1993 running of the PA QSO Party. They operated in an outdoor pavilion, where the only heat came from a portable gas heater.
- Apparently, the club meetings were being held on the first Thursday of the month.
- The AARC Fall Fox Hunt

was won by the team of Jim, N8DZA (now K8LTG), and Gene, N8JKZ. The fox hunt was conducted by Don, K8OMO, and Paul, NW8C. The transmitter was hidden about 300 ft N. of the starting line at Butler -Rodman Park.

- Jim, K8GHZ was preparing for another Santa Net.
- Our 1993 Christmas Banquet was to be held at Roadhouse Charlies.
- Jim, N8DZA volunteered to act as net manager for the Tri-County News & Information Net.

There was no December, 1998 newsletter

- **December, 2003, (editor KE8VE)**

- The Christmas banquet was coming up. It was again at Roadhouse Charlies.
- Larry, KE8VE was trying to gather interest in holding a fox hunt.

Rambling—cont.

(Continued from page 2)

last half of the class sessions. Their work has netted us three new Hams in the Alliance area. Further information is available on page 1.

This brings to mind something I'd like to add to the to-do list I posted in last months column; In 2009, I'd like to see us take some steps towards starting a VE exam team. I'm willing to re-activate my VE credentials. Who's with me? Let's talk about it.

That takes care of the rambling for now. I hope everyone has a festive, and joyous holiday season. Don't forget the banquet!

73 de KD8MQ

November Minutes

Due to the field trip, there was no November meeting, hence, no minutes.



AARC Christmas Party December 6, 2008 @ 6 PM

Don Pancho's
Tex-Mex café
2105 W. State St,
Alliance

We will be ordering from Don Pancho's regular menu. Meals will be at regular prices plus \$4.00.

No reservations required!

KD8MQ Rotor is Kaput!

For probably 20 years, I've had a 25ft tilt-over mast mounted behind my garage. It was mounted to a large CDR (I think) rotator. The rotator mounted to a flange that was welded to a steel plate buried 12" down.

I recall that Matt, N8EAD got me the plat from his worksite. It took 6 guys to carry it to my back yard.

On top of the mast was a tri-bander that I had cobbled together from a TA-33, and a TA-33 Junior. It's sat,

unused, for the last 15 years. About 10 years back, half of the driven element fell off in a storm.

I figured that the time had come to remove what was left of the tri-bander, so I used a block & tackle to lower the mast assembly. With the help of Mr. Saws-all, the U-bolts holding the antenna to the mast were cut away. When I began to raise the mast back into position, I notice the rotator had cracked. I'm unsure what caused it, but I suspect I should have dug a short trench for the body of the



Ouch! KD8MQ's rotor is toast!

rotor to lay into as it was lowered.

I installed a pulley so I could raise my 80/40 Meter dipole to the top of the mast. So, we are partially back on the air, at least until moving day.

December 2008

Happy Birthday to: KC8ETZ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																								
	1 Columbiana Cty.Train. Net 8PM	2 ARS Spartan Sprint Canton ARES Net 7PM - 147.12 CUYAHOGA FALLS ARC VE STOW N. Columbiana Cty.Net 9PM 147.255 SAARA Net 9PM 146.805 pl 162.22	3 AARC MTG - 7:30PM	4 AARC NETS 8,9,9:30PM	5 ARRL 160 Meter Contest	6 AARC CHRISTMAS PARTY @ El Pancho's Great Colorado Snowshoe Run LAKE COUNTY ARA VE, HIRTLAND PORTAGE COUNTY ARA INC VE HAVENNA SILVERCREEK ARA VE, RITTMAN																																																																																																								
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28 KD8AMX Carroll Cty Nets 8.9pm RAEM Contest	29 Columbiana Cty.Train. Net 8PM	30 Canton ARES Net 7PM - 147.12 Homeland Security Net 8PM 147.51SIMPLEX N. Columbiana Cty.Net 9PM 147.255 SAARA Net 9PM 146.805 pl 162.22	31 ARRL Straight Key Night Columbiana Cty.Train. Net 8PM New Years Eve	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Nov 2008</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Jan 2009</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1 2 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Nov 2008							S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30							Jan 2009							S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1 2 3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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Amateur Radio - When all else fails!

Alliance Amateur Radio Club
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The AARC Wayback Machine

Here again are some of the highlights from the last 20 years of the Zero Beat. you can read them at <http://www.w8lky.org/newsltrs/>.

December, 1988, (editor N8IAK)

- At this time in our history, The club was meeting on the first Monday of the month, in hospitals 2nd floor conference room.
- This months spotlihter was on Allen Dicks, WI8T.
- The results were in for the 1988 June VHF QSO Party. Club president, Dave, KC3CL had clinched first place in his state, & division.
- In answer to questions that had been raised as to the format, and content of the newsletter, a newsletter survey form was included in that months issue.
- The club was holding a DXCC contest for AARC members only, which was to begin on Jan 1, 1989. The prize was to be a handsome plaque, and a \$150 Ham Radio

gift certificate.

- The AARC Christmas party was coming up. It was being held at Coletta's. The most expensive entrée on the menu was a 8 oz. strip steak for \$9.60, and that included a 20% gratuity! In case you're wondering, Coletta's was at the corner of State & Cherry, where Walgreens stands today.
- The ARRL Ten Meter contest was coming up. The club was operating the contest from the home of Allen, WI8T, on S. Arch Ave.
- The Salem club was holding a pancake breakfast at St. Paul's school to raise funds for a communications trailer.

December, 1993 (editor KD8MQ)

- After a sudden change in editors, John, KD8MQ moved into the editors chair, after volunteering to be "temporary" editor.
- The 1993 mall show was history. This years show included displays from SAARA,

(Continued on page 3)