

Alliance Amateur Radio Club

Zero Beat

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http://www.w8lky.org

January 2009

Serving the Tri-County area since 1986

KD8MQ is Honored as Ham of the Year!



John, KD8MQ receives the Ham of the Year plaque from Howard, K8DXR, at the AARC 2008 Christmas Party

The latest AARC Ham of the Year is your editor, John, KD8MQ. This is his 2nd time as Ham of the Year, the first being in 1992.

John has been licensed since 1980, and a member of the club pretty much since then. He has held office several times, including multiple stints as President, Trustee, & Vice-President, an office he holds today. He has been involved with the Zero Beat for much of the last 23 years, currently holding the title of Editor. He has also taught licensing classes, and has been Field Day chairman.

His current interests include Radio Direction Finding (Fox Hunting), Portable HF operation, computers, and web page design, to name just a few.

Meeting Announcement

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 7th, 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.

He is currently employed by the City of Canton, as a Traffic Signal & Lighting Technician. He & his wife Lyn, live in Alliance with their 2 cats.

Officers

President

WA8WHP Frank Sanor 24462 St. Rt. 172 Minerva, OH 44657 wa8whp@verizon.net 330-894-2186

Vice-President

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Editor

John Myers, KD8MQ (See above)

Ramblings

By John, KD8MQ

Well, by the time you read this, the presents have all been opened, and you're looking forward to 2010. Straight Key Night is coming up on the 31st. I hope to participate. It's the one night of the year when I don't have to apologize for my fist. :-)

One thing I do need to apologize for is the lack of pictures from the Christmas Practically Party. every picture I took with my old Fuji Digital came out looking horrible. So, for Christmas, Santa gave me а new camera. I guarantee that we'll have more pictures in the upcoming months Zero Beats! Anybody want to buy a Fuji 3.2 Mp?

My first present this season was the best one of all. Being chosen as Ham of The Year was a great honor. I'm still speechless, but appreciative.

The other present I received came in the form of some awesome attendance at the December meeting. The attendance at the board meeting was the best I've seen for a while. Then the regular meeting showed an increase, as well. That makes me very happy.

We're doing a couple of demos for the scouts in December, and January. I'm excited that not only did I get two volunteers to help with the Fox Hunt Demo, but had a couple volunteers step forward to put on the demo in January. We'll have more

(Continued on page 4)

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 8:00 PM, on 147.51 simplex

Internet

Web: <u>www.w8lky.org</u>

E-mail: W8lky@w8lky.org

Newsletter Information

The Zero Beat is a publication of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club P.O. Box 3344 Alliance, OH 44601

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You can submit material to the Zero Beat via e-mail to kd8mq@neo.rr.com December 3, 2008

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held at the Alliance Community Hospital on December 3, 2008 at 7:30 PM with club President Frank Sanor, WA8WHP presiding.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by introductions. There were 18 members present, along with guests Dana Barnes, N8DA, Jerry Shore, N8SH and newly licensed Duane Zorger, Dallas KD8JSB, Underwood, KD8JRY, and Tom Steele, KD8JRK.

The Secretary's report was given by club Secretary Don, AB8KV. There were no minutes for November as there was no regular meeting due to the TV station tour. Don, with Frank and Sam, KC8ETZ gave a brief summary of the tour at the TV station where Frank works as an engineer.

Don then noted that an email had been received Hamilton from Carter, **KD0FNR** concerning free online exam practice tests, including study resources. The site is http:// copaseticflow.blogspot. com. Carter's email address is hcarter333@gmail.com. This concluded the secretary's report.

Club Treasurer Mary Ann, KB8IVS then gave the

January 2009

December Minutes

Treasurer's report. The report was approved on a motion by Smitty, KC8TJQ and seconded by Howard, K8DXR.

President Frank then acknowledged the three newly licensed hams present, welcoming them to the club and noting that they would receive a year's free membership in the club.

Old business:

• Frank reminded the club about the club Christmas dinner on the 6th at Pancho's. Time is set for 6:00 PM with cost being the menu item selected plus \$4 tip per person.

• Frank made an executive decision to allocate the \$100 for the Christmas dinner door prizes, as there was no November meeting due to lack of a quorum at the station tour.

New business:

• Bob, K8RLS raised the issue about the club contributing to the Toys for Tots program. It was decided to attempt to contact Joe, KC8TAC during the meeting to ask if further donations were needed or being accepted. It was later reported that Joe stated donations were still being accepted and that any money left over would be applied to the program next year. A motion to donate \$100 to the Toys for Tots was then made by Howard, K8DXR and seconded by Smitty, KC8TJQ. The motion was then approved by the membership.

• Frank then suggested the club come up with ideas for projects or contests to stimulate interest and participation. He mentioned the possibility of having a homebrew contest with a deadline of 3 months from now.

 \Rightarrow Tom, KD8JRK suggested the club should have VE's to give exams. It was noted that Don, K8OMO and Dana are accredited, with the possibility of Vice President John, KD8MQ being reaccredited.

⇒Howard, K8DXR put forth the idea of having a club contest for DXCC.

 \Rightarrow Rick, KC8SUI mentioned that it might be possible to combine a fox hunt with a search & rescue exercise.

• VP John then had several items of new business: \Rightarrow He had compiled a list of hams in the area and put them into a database, then he is sending out hard copies of the Zero Beat in rotation to non-club members. For this month, hard copies went to 6 club members and 16 went to other area hams. \Rightarrow The club website had come up for renewal before the meeting and so John went ahead and renewed it. The membership needed to vote on the renewal. A motion to renew and reimburse John was made by George, K3GP and seconded by Don, K8OMO. The motion was passed on a voice vote.

(Continued on page 5)

Rambling—cont.

details later in the newsletter.

Starting with last newsletter, months We mailing began out complimentary copies to local Hams who are not members of the AARC. I have a list of about 60-70 hams so far. I'll be mailing to about 16 of those each month.

If you know anyone locally, who you think may enjoy the Zero Beat, then forward their address (email, or snail mail) to me, and I'll add them to the mailing list.

As you've heard, the FCC has asked for our help in educating the public about the DTV switchover. President Frank & I have been talking About ways that this club can get involved. We'll have more information at the next meeting.

Well, that's all the rambling for this month. See you at the club meeting.

73 de John, KD8MQ

Quote o' the Month

Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing.

Benjamin Franklin

AARC Looks Back at 2008

I thought it would be fun this year, to take a look back at 2008.

At the January club meeting, Howard, K8DXR accepted the 2008 Ham of the Year plaque.

In March, the AARC Spring Fox Hunt was postponed due to a snowstorm which dumped 14 inches of snow on the area.

Also in march was Skywarn training at Stark State College.

In April, we were finally able to hold our Spring Fox Hunt. It was a cold, rainy day, but we still managed to drag 3 carloads of hunters out for the hunt. Tom, KC8QOD was declared the winner.

In May, we held our first fox hunt practice run. The foxbox was hidden in a tree in front of WI8T's QTH. Rumor has it that WI8T's neighbors called the police on OMO!

In June, we participated in the ARRL Field Day. This was one of the most enjoyable Field Days that any of us could remember.

In July, our Summer foxhunt was won by Jim, N8PXW.

In August, we put on a special event station at Silver Park. This was to commemorate Alliance as the birthplace of the Ohio state flower, the Scarlet Carnation. We also provided communications for the Carnation Triathlon.

In September, we provided communications for the Castle Run, on Labor Day.

On the same weekend, Tony, KD8BBK set up a club station from Salt Fork State Park, and participated in the "Ohio State Park On The Air" contest.

Later that month, we held our club picnic at the Jaycee pavilion in Silver Park.

Also in September, Jerry, KG8RN, and Frank, WA8WHP set up a table at the Knox Township Safety Days.

At our elections in October, Frank, WA8WHP was elected president. VP, secretary, and treasurer remained the same. The Trustees were K3GP, K8OMO, and KC8TJQ.

In lieu of the November meeting, we took a field trip to the WDLI studios, where WA8WHP works.

Also in November, our licensing classes led by Larry, KE8VE graduated 3 students, who passed the exams, and received their licenses.

In December, we held our annual Christmas Party. John, KD8MQ was named 2009 Ham of the Year.

Also, in December, we held a fox hunt for the scouts.

So, I see that this "look back" filled up 2/3 of a page. Let's try to fill a full page in 2009!

December Minutes - cont.

 \Rightarrow John then noted that the hospital conference room 1A had been reserved for the club for 10 of the next 12 months, with March and June requiring us to meet in the second floor conference room. \Rightarrow John then deferred to Larry, KE8VE to report on the completion of the ham licensing classes. Larry reported that this round of classes was finished, with 3 individuals becoming licensed. He had returned the Red Cross building keys to John Essick, whom VP John noted was open to having future classes held there.

⇒ John proposed a motion to send a thank-you letter to John Essick for his cooperation. The motion was seconded by Rick, KC8SUI and was approved by the membership.

 \Rightarrow John then reported that he had a proposal for the Scouts to allow the club to make a presentation, perhaps in January, in an effort to stir interest in amateur radio. He noted that he was going to do a presentation in a couple weeks on radio direction finding, followed by a brief demonstration at Walborn reservoir using the techniques. Frank then inquired about the previously considered club involvement with the Scout Adventure program. John responded that the problem has been getting Scouts interested. He is hoping that the presentations being proposed will help to

generate that interest.

• Secretary Don then inquired about the status of the Ham of the Year award. Howard responded that the votes were all in and that the presentation would be made at the Christmas dinner.

• After the break, John presented videos by ICOM about the IOTA island DX-peditions.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM on a motion by Smitty, KC8TJQ and seconded by Howard, K8DXR.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Don, AB8KV, Secretary.

WorldRadio Sold To CQ!

I, had a surprise when I opened last months issue of WorldRadio. Apparently, Armond, N6WR decided that after 37 years it was time to take a well-deserved retirement.

WorldRadio will remain as a web only publication of CQ Communications. All WorldRadio subscriptions, except life memberships will be honored by CQ Communications. Life memberships will be honored based on the amount that was paid for the life subscription when purchased.

More information can be found at <u>www.wr6wr.com</u>.

AARC General Classes to begin in January!

Our next round of licensing classes begin January 13th. They'll be held at the Alliance Chapter of the American Red Cross. The Red Cross is located at the corner of S. Arch Ave, and E. Broadway St, in Alliance.

This round of classes will cover the material needed to pass the exam for the General Class license. Classes will run from 7:00 to 9:00 ΡМ on Tuesday evenings beginning January 13th. Classes will run through March 31st. The only cost for the class will be for the license manual.

The instructor will be Larry Ashburn, KE8VE. For more information, Larry can be reached at (330) 821-9808. His e-mail is KE8VE@alliancelink.com.



FCC Calls on Amateur Radio Service for Assistance with Digital TV Conversion

(ARRL - December 10, 2008) Earlier this week, the ARRL received a request from the FCC asking that ARRL members to provide technical educational assistance to their communities concerning the FCC-mandated digital television (DTV) conversion scheduled for February 17, 2009.

According to ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, Amateur Radio clubs across the country are being asked to develop and implement plans to provide information throughout January and February about the DTV conversion in their areas. The FCC is leaving it up to the clubs to decide how to do this, as local groups understand the communities in ways that the FCC does not. Each community is a little different, Pitts said, so plans carried out by the clubs will vary from community to community. Interested groups should contact their ARRL Section Manager.

Pitts stressed that hams should *not* make "house calls," sell any equipment or do actual installations; the request is only to distribute technical information and FCC materials. He commented: "As we all know, some folks just never get the message until too late. Materials for presentations, education and many other activities are available <u>online</u>. Beginning early January, FCC staff will contact Section Managers and leaders of interested clubs and, where possible, arrange to meet to share even more information, audio, visual and printed materials, as well as and training aids, with the clubs involved this effort. We know the time is short, but your aid in this now will be



appreciated."

In early January, Pitts said that the FCC will ask Section Managers for the names and contact information of the volunteering groups. The FCC staff will then make contact with the groups, learn their plans and provide them with the media, brochures or other materials groups may need in this effort. Materials also can be downloaded from the DTV Conversion Web site. FCC regional staff members may even come and visit with larger groups to aid in implementation of the group's plans.

"I really appreciate the willingness of the ARRL to actively participate in helping Americans with the transition to DTV and your helpful suggestions," said George Dillon, FCC Deputy Bureau Chief for Field Operations. "The DTV transition will be an historic moment in the evolution of TV. Broadcast television stations can offer viewers improved picture and sound quality and new programming choices. All-digital broadcasting also will allow us to significantly improve public safety communications and will usher in a new era of advanced wireless services such as the widespread deployment of wireless broadband. Our goal is to engage the amateur community on a cooperative basis to help with the DTV outreach and to educate consumers."

Dillon continued that local Amateur Radio clubs might consider offering technical advice to consumers via telephone to those consumers who may encounter difficulty with the installation and setting up of their converter box. "Any assistance...will greatly help in the efforts of the FCC to ensure a smooth transition to DTV on February 17, 2009."

Pitts advises interested groups to keep in mind that they are to provide technical educational help only: "At no time should the hams enter someone else's home or

(Continued on page 7)

FCC Asks For Help - cont.

(Continued from page 6)

install equipment. They should not broker or sell conversion boxes in any way. Clubs can provide such things as a call-in telephone number for technical help,

Fox Hunt Practice Run is scheduled

A new year of fox hunts is beginning. This months fox hunt practice run is scheduled for Saturday, January 24th. We'll be hiding the fox somewhere in the Alliance area, and let it run from 1 PM, to 3 PM.

The fox hunt practice run is a chance for you to test your equipment, and hone your hunting skills in a n o n - c o m p e t i t i v e environment.

The fox handler for this run will be Tom, KC8QOD.

More info on tape measure beams can be found at <u>http://www.open-</u> <u>circuit.co.uk/tape.php</u>. This is essentially the WB2HOL beam with a couple of tweaks.

More info on RDF can be found at <u>http://</u> <u>www.homingin.com/</u>. Hope to see you at the next run.

Hall of Science ARC sends out an SOS!



The Hall of Science Radio Club Amateur WB2JSM is putting out an SOS (save our station) call for your help. The Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club has been demonstrating amateur radio to the visiting public for over 35 years as an independent exhibit at the New York Hall of Science Children's Museum located in Queens, New York.

The museum is undergoing a major renovation project and wants us out for good. We have started a petition which we want you to sign and circulate for us in order to help preserve a great ham radio asset by showing officials at the museum that you value what we do.

Please visit <u>http://</u> <u>tinyurl.com/6ljost</u> to read more about our plight and sign our petition. We have logged over 10,000 contacts from the station and even if you're not in our log your help will let us continue to talk up amateur radio and create the next generation of ham radio operators.

Beware of Amateur Radio phishers

The fishers are out there and in this case we spell fishers p-h-i-s-h-e-r-s. These are electronic scam artists who want your personal information to rob you blind and they will go to great lengths to get you to release it, even claiming that it's needed in some way for Amateur Radio.

The American Radio Relay League says it has received several reports from members with arrl.net e-mail accounts who have recently been contacted via e-mail a sking for personal information such as user names and passwords.

The ARRL says these emails are fraudulent attempts at "phishing" and did not originate from ARRL. There is never a time when the League would ask via mass e-mail for user names and passwords of arrl.net users.

If you receive an e-mail a sking for personal information do not respond, even if it appears to come from some legitimate source you know and trust. Instead delete it and go on with life. Both you and your bank account will be happier that you did.

The Scouts found the fox - - Twice!



Four local Hams braved the frigid temperatures on the 19th of December to demonstrate Radio Direction Finding to some local scouts. The Hams; Scott, N3JTT, Mike, KD8ENV, Tom, KC8QOD, and John, KD8MQ are no stranger to the sport.

Scott and Mike are the foxmeisters for the Massillon Amateur Radio club.

Tom was the winner of our clubs Spring fox hunt, and is usually one of the Hams who sign the log when we have a practice run.

Your editor, John, KD8MQ, has been organizing the club fox hunts, & practice runs in 2008.

On December 15th, KD8MQ gave a brief talk at one of the scout meetings, and brought along parts for the scouts to assemble two tape measure beams. As luck would have it, the beams did not work, on the day of the hunt. We believe this was due to feedline issues.

The hunt continued though, using tape measure beams supplied by Scott, Mike, and Tom. The scouts were split into two groups, and set off to find the fox. Scott, and Mike each took a different group, and assisted them in homing in on the foxes signal.

The first fox was found in about 20 minutes, or so, hiding just off the trail, above the Walborn spillway.

The scouts asked for a second hunt, and we were happy to oblige. Scott found a perfect hiding place for the fox, just off the trail, and the hunters were off again. The fox hunters found the lair in short order, and we bid adieu. All seemed to have had a good time, and we hope to see them again in the future.

January 2009

Happy Birthday to: K8RLS, KD8BBK						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>S M</u> 1 7 8 14 15 1	Dec 2008 T W T F S 2 3 4 5 6 9 10 11 12 13 16 17 18 19 20 23 24 25 26 27 30 31	Feb 2009 S M T W T I 1 2 3 4 5 6 8 9 10 11 12 1 15 16 17 18 19 2 22 23 24 25 26 2	6 7 3 14 0 21	AARC Nets 8.9. 9:30PM AGCW Happy New Year Contest Happy New 21th Century Contest Netw YEARC SARTG New Year Contest SCAG Straight Key Day- SKD	2 KBRLS	3 ARRL RTTY Roundup EUCW 160 m Contest
4 EUCW 160 m Contest KD8AMX Carroll Cty. Nets 8.9PM Kid's Day New Year "Vytautas Magnus Trophy" Contest	5 Columbiana Cty.Train.Net 8PM	6 ARS Spartan Sprint Canton ARES Net 7PM - 147.12 N. Columbiana Cty.Net 9PM 147.255 SAARA Net 9PM 146.805 pl 162.22	7 AARC Meeting - 7:30PM	8 AARC Nets 8,9, 9:30PM Massillon Net 147.18 8PM Tony - KD8BBK	9	10 23rd Southwest Ohio Digital & Technical Symposium Hamfest, Middletown Hunting Lions in the Air January CW Contest North American QSO Party Ø7Ø Club PSKFest
11 CUYAHOGA ARS VE. INDEPENDENCE KD8AMX Carroll Cty. Nets 8,9PM Midwinter Contest SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	12 Columbiana Cty. Train. Net 8PM	13 Canton ARES Net 7PM - 147.12 N. Columbiana Cty.Net 9PM 147.255 SAARA Net 9PM 146.805 pl 162.22	14	15 AARC Nets 8,9,9:30PM MAHONING VALLEY ARA VE. YOUNGSTOWN Massilon Net 147.18 8PM	16	17 CQ UT Contest Feld-Hell Club LZ Open Contest North American QSO Party UK DX RTTY Contest
13th Annual Hamfest, Nelsonville KD8AMX Carroll Cty. Nets 8,9PM	19 Columbiana Cty. Train. Net 8PM Martin Luther King Day Run For The Bacon QRP Contest	20 Canton ARES Net 7PM - 147.12 N. Columbiana Cty.Net 9PM 147.255 SAARA Net 9PM 146.805 pl 162.22	21 MOON Contest	22 AARC Nets 8,9,9:30PM Massillon Net 147.18 8PM NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	23 NAQCC 160 m Straight Key/Bug Sprint	224 CQ World-Wide 160 Meter DX Contest REF Contest SARL Youth for Amateur Radio SPAR Winter Field Day UBA DX Contest WRECE VE. BENTLEYVILLE YLISSE QSO Party
25 KD8AMX Carroll Cty. Nets 8,9PM Tusco Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Stasburg	26 Columbiana Cty.Train. Net 8PM	27 Canton ARES Net 7PM - 147.12 Homeland Security Net 8PM 147.51SIMPLEX N. Columbiana Cty.Net 9PM 147.255 SAARA Net 9PM	28 SKCC Sprint	29 AARC Nets 8,9,9:30PM Massillon Net 147.18 8PM	30	31 YLISSB QSO Party YLRL YL-OM Contest

Amateur Radio...When All Else Fails!

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

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/.

January, 1988, (editor N8IAK)

- The times (and place) they were a changing. Our meeting night, and location was changing. Beginning with the January 1989 meeting we were meeting in the cafeteria of the hospital, on Thursday nights. This is the same night, and location that we enjoy to this day.
- Plans were being made for the upcoming Mall Show. Dates being discussed were March 11/12.
- Our spotlight this month was on Bob, NW8E.
- We had our Christmas banquet. For the program Dave, KC3CL showed slides of his trip to Guantanamo Bay.
- We were raffling off a TV, a VCR, and a cordless Telephone as a fundraiser for the club.

 The AARC DXCC contest was on. The prize was a plaque, and a \$150 Ham Radio Gift Certificate.

There were no January 1994, or January 1999 issues of the Zero Beat.

January, 2004, (editor KE8VE)

- At the most recent AARC banquet, Our newest Ham of the Year, was Joe, KC8TAC. Since he was unable to attend the banquet, the presentation was made at the January club meeting.
- KE8VE was putting the finishing touches on his new computer. Quoting KC3CL, Larry said "This new computer is so fast it anticipates my mistakes and makes them for me."
- Larry ran the first installment of "The Wayback Machine" by Bill Continelli, W2XOY. (Editors note: This fine series is still available on the web, and well worth reading.)