



### Table of Contents

2 Meter FM Sprint	15
Rambling by KD8MQ	2
Calendar	17
Carnation Triathlon	5
Castle Run	5
Cell Phone recycling	4
Club Picnic	7
Fox Hunt Page	16
Ham of the Year	6
KB6NU's Column	9
Knox Safety Days	8
New Member	6
Ohio QSO Party	1
OSPOTA	10
PA QSO Party	8
Riley's Top Ten	14
September Minutes	3
Swap & Shop	12
Fox hunt page	10
Calendar	11
Wayback Machine	18
YMCA %K	6

## AARC Operates The Ohio QSO Party!

On August 28th, the Alliance ARC participated in the Ohio QSO Party. To summarize, the weather was great, the turnout was good, and we beat last years score by 34,578 points!

We set up three stations at the Sebring Campgrounds, and operated until about 9 PM. The entry has been submitted to the sponsoring club. Now all that's left is to wait the results, and answer the QSLs.

Our QSL Manager, Howard, K8DXR tells us that a number of QSLs have already been received. Likely these are from county hunters, eager to confirm Mahoning County.

Sadly, all QSO's could not be used, as the entry requires time of contact for

each QSO. This is something we'll remember for next year. This error won't happen again!

Personally, I'd like to do it again next year, but have something more formal lined up for dinner, like a cookout, or maybe a corn roast. The pavilion is more than large enough to accommodate us.

There has been talk about using this location for Field Day. I encourage everyone who has not been there, to take a drive to Sebring, and check out the site.

The Field Day site for next year will be neck & neck between the Sebring Campgrounds, and the first Christian church pavilion, so check it out. We'll likely be talking about it in November.

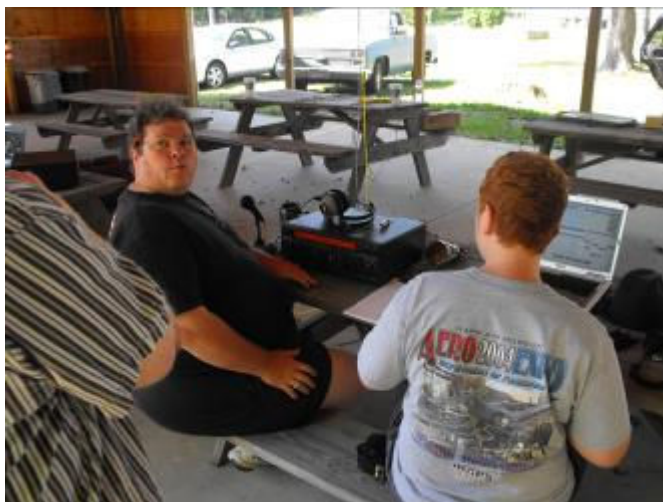
### Meeting Announcement

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at the Alliance Community Hospital, in the Cafe conference room.

Meetings begin at 7:30 PM.

Before the meeting, you're invited to join us at 6pm for dinner

**At our NEW LOCATION:  
Don Panchos  
2105 W. State St.**



Rick, KC8SUI, answers a question from the camp caretaker, as his son, Patrick, looks on

## Officers

### President

KD8MQ  
John Myers  
510 West Harrison St.  
Alliance, OH 44601  
[kd8mq@neo.rr.com](mailto:kd8mq@neo.rr.com)  
330-936-5021

### Vice-President

K8DXR  
Howard Miller  
10626 Dot Ave.  
Alliance, OH 44601  
[hmliller32@neo.rr.com](mailto:hmliller32@neo.rr.com)  
330-821-9392

### Secretary

AB8KV  
Donald R Kingan  
446 West High St.  
Alliance, OH 44601  
[dkingan@neo.rr.com](mailto:dkingan@neo.rr.com)  
330-821-5819

### Treasurer

KB8IVS  
Mary Ann Royer  
6255 Sandalwood NE  
Canton, OH 44721  
[kb8ivs@aol.com](mailto:kb8ivs@aol.com)  
330-492-0703

### Trustees

K8OMO  
Don Whitaker  
920 W. Beech Rd.  
Alliance, OH 44601  
[K8OMO@Juno.com](mailto:K8OMO@Juno.com)  
330-823-5639

KC8TJQ  
Oliver "Smitty" Smith  
25462 Buffalo Rd.  
E. Rochester, OH 44625  
330-894-2530

WA8WHP  
Frank Sanor  
24462 St. Rt. 172  
Minerva, OH 44657  
[wa8whp@juno.com](mailto:wa8whp@juno.com)  
330-206-2639

### Editor

John Myers, KD8MQ  
(See above)

## Rambling

By John, KD8MQ

Wow, what a month September was! October is promising to be just as busy.

**2Meter FM Sprint** On October 2nd, PCARS holds their 4th annual 2M FM Sprint. This is the contest that was the template for our Stark County VHF QSO Party. Last year, with KD8JRK as logger, I placed 6th place out of 7 mobile entries. This year, I plan to improve my score. MY YL (*I'd be sleeping on the couch if she ever found out that I called her an XYL*), has graciously volunteered to drive me around all afternoon. We'll likely start our odyssey in northern Portage County, and work our way south.

I hope to work a lot of you. I also hope that everyone sends in their logs; even if you only make a couple contacts. Remember, put the Alliance Amateur Radio Club in the club name box on your entry!

**Annual meeting** This is where we elect our officers for the upcoming year. Our trustees are hard at work putting together a slate of candidates. As usual, nominations will be accepted from the floor. One change that this editor hopes is permanent, is the derailment of the AARC railroad. At this time, it looks like it will be sidelined this year. That is certainly great news!

**Knox Safety days** are coming up on October 9<sup>th</sup>. We will have a table set up, so please stop out. And of course, bring along any old cell phones you'd like to donate to the club fundraiser.

**PA QSO Party** is also on the weekend of October 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. This is one of the best of the state QSO parties, and it's right in our backyard. You can sit at home, and work PA stations, or

(Continued on page 5)

## 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 <sup>®</sup>.

Meetings begin at 7:30 PM.

Visitors are always welcome.

## Nets

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

### 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:** [www.w8lky.org](http://www.w8lky.org)

**E-mail:** [W8lky@w8lky.org](mailto:W8lky@w8lky.org)

**We are also on Facebook!**

## Newsletter Information

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

Unless otherwise noted, permission is granted to reprint portions of the Zero Beat, as long as credit is given to the author & source.

You can submit material to the Zero Beat via e-mail to [kd8mq1@gmail.com](mailto:kd8mq1@gmail.com)

## September Minutes

September 1, 2010

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held on September 1, 2010 at 7:30 PM at Alliance Community Hospital, with President John Myers (KD8MQ) presiding.

The pledge of allegiance was recited followed by introductions. There were 17 members present along with Miriam Sanor and guests Jeremy Graber (KB8VHL), Butch Lebold (WA8SHP), Bill McClaren (KB8MNE) and Dave Sprouse (N8GOB).

President John announced club birthdays for September which included:

- Gladys (KB8GIA)
- Tom (KD8JRK)
- Smitty (KC8TJQ).

Don (AB8KV) gave the Secretary's report, noting that the July and August minutes were both in the current newsletter. He reported that he had sent a letter of thanks to the Mile Branch Grange Fair Board for their cooperation and donation of space for the club's special event station during the Fair. He also noted that he had sent a get-well card on behalf of the club to Bob (K8RLS) and let the club know that Dave (N8NLZ) was ill, though improving. Don (K8OMO) added that Paul (NW8C) was in the Salem hospital and also needed re-

membering. President John then asked the Secretary to send a get-well card to Paul. With nothing further to add, the Secretary's report was approved on a motion by Tom and seconded by George (K3GP).

Mary Ann (KB8IVS) gave the Treasurer's report. The report was approved on a motion by Frank (WA8WHP) and seconded by Smitty.

### **Committee reports and old business:**

•President John reported on the club's participation in the Ohio QSO party, for which there was an excellent turnout. Three stations were operating on 20, 40 and 80 meters, both CW and side-band. There were 501 phone QSO's with 96 multi's and 38 CW QSO's with 13 multi's. He noted that the location in Sebring was excellent, and Frank suggested that the club should consider combining the QSO party with the annual club picnic. It was decided to put that suggestion on the agenda for future meetings and decision. It was noted that Zep's Pizza in Sebring had donated four large pizzas to the club during the party, and so John requested Secretary Don to write a thank-you letter to them.

•John then reported on the August fox hunt held on

the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Four teams participated, with N8PXW claiming first place, WC8F in second, K8OMO & KD6MPN third, and KB8FTS fourth.

John reminded the club about the club picnic on September 18 starting about 12:30. He also reminded everyone that November's meeting would be homebrew night.

John noted that the current ARRL section manager, Frank Piper (KI8VW) was re-elected in a low-participation election.

John and Sam (KC8ETZ) reported on the Carnation Triathlon and a strategy meeting they had attended. It was being considered reducing the scope of the race, changing the name to a "sprint" with starting and ending points within Alliance and possibly changing the day. No final decisions were reached at the meeting. John and Ben (KD8KMQ) then commented on the performance of the APRS system during the race.

### **New business:**

•President John reminded the club about the Castle run on Labor Day, noting that fewer operators were needed and discussing assignments with those who were going to participate.

•A date for the club Christmas party was finalized (December 11) at Pancho's.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## September Minutes—cont.

*(Continued from page 3)*

Don (K8OMO) is to confirm that the date is ok.

•Don also reported that he is getting QSL requests from the Ohio QSO party and cards were needed. After some discussion, Don made a motion to order cards with a cost not to exceed \$30. The motion was seconded by Rick (KC8SUI) and approved on a voice vote. Upon further discussion, VP Howard (K8DXR) noted that since he is a QSL manager, he would volunteer to handle processing and logging the QSL cards, and possibly could supply the cards as well. John is to send the log files to Howard.

•Jerry (KG8RN) reported that the Knox Safety Day is October 9 and the club had been invited to set up a station. After some discussion, John asked the club if there was interest enough to introduce a motion. Tom made a motion to set up at the Safety Day, with a second by Rick, who asked about possibly bringing his tracking dogs. The motion was approved.

•Don (K8OMO) reported that the last HS net operation had eight check-ins.

•John introduced a motion allowing him to take the club's FT-1000 to the Pennsylvania QSO party. The motion was seconded by Ben and approved on a voice vote.

•Frank reminded the club

that officer elections were coming up at the October meeting. He requested that he be contacted with nominations or applications to hopefully reduce or eliminate confusion at the meeting and the "railroad" syndrome.

•He further noted that the club's state registration renewal was coming up. John then asked for a motion to send in the \$25 renewal fee to the state. Such a motion was made by Tom and seconded by VP Howard. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

•It was noted that the Shelby hamfest was coming up on September 5<sup>th</sup> and that the Ohio Parks on the Air would be held on September 11.

•Bill (KB8MNE) announced that the old Salem repeater (still coordinated) is for sale. He has further information if anyone is interested.

After the break, Jeremy Graber (KB8VHL) presented a program about a possible fund-raising activity for the club involving collecting and recycling used cell phones.

The meeting was then adjourned for the evening at 8:55 PM on a motion by Smitty, seconded by Frank.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Don (AB8KV), Secretary.

## Club Recycles Cell Phones as Fundraiser

At the September meeting, we were joined by Jeremy Graber, KB8VHL. Jeremy is the owner of [Enviro Cellular](#). He outlined a program which could help us raise to raise money through the recycling of Cell phones.

These days, it seems that just about everyone has used cellphones tucked into a drawer somewhere. If these were properly recycled, it would reduce clutter, save money in the long run, and ultimately keep tons of e-waste out of our landfills.

So, here's how it works. Bring your old cell phones to a club meeting, or drop them in one of our collection boxes around town. We'll get them to Jeremy, who will sell them, and give is a portion of the proceeds. If they have no resale value, he will sell them for scrap, and pay us a flat fee.

Frank, WA8WHP has really taken the lead on this project, should be commended.

So far, Frank has placed collection boxes at:

•Taz's Gaming in the Carnation City Mall

•USA Petroleum, at 2021 W. State St

Furthermore, Frank is looking for more locations for to put boxes. If you have any ideas, or questions, please give Frank a call.

## Rambling - cont.

*(Continued from page 2)*

you can drive for an hour and be in the thick of it. Myself, Ben, KD8KMQ, and Allen, WI8T will be enjoying the N8PLA's hospitality in Jefferson County. Listen for us. We'll be primarily 40 & 80 meter SSB, but may pop up to 20 meters. We'll also spend some time CW, & PSK. Listen for us.

### **Ohio Section & ARES Conference**

I've been to a few of these. I find it interesting to hear from our section leaders about how things are going. I find that I always come back with some new ideas. More information & directions can be found at the section website ([arrrl-ohio.org](http://arrrl-ohio.org)).

The following weekend is the Massillon Hamfest. That's where I plan to dispose of a bunch of my no longer needed toys. Ironically, it'll also be my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. Isn't that nice of the Massillon club? They're holding a Hamfest on my birthday!

**Programs** It's getting to be that time again. We need to start scheduling programs for next year, and I need suggestions. If you have an idea for something you'd like to know some more about, please let me know. I have a couple ideas, and some tentative responses for programs for next year, but it's getting to be time to firm up some dates.

So, if there's something you'd like to learn a bit more about, drop me a line, and I'll see what I can do.

**Our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** I worry that this may be a touchy subject, but here goes. This club has been around for a lot longer than 25 years. My first contact

with this club was in 1976, when it was the Tri-County Radio Club, and met at the Civil Defense Headquarters on W. Vine St. In the early 80's, we met at the Bonanza Steak House, then Don Panchos.

By 1986, the club had become inactive, and was being re-formed. Those first meetings were held in Bill (WD8JRR) Holbert's pole building in spring, 1986. While our affiliation was effective in spring of 1987, those early meetings were held in the spring of 1986. This means this club has a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary coming up. This sounds like time for a celebration!

I'd like your ideas on how we should celebrate this milestone. Three ideas come to mind.

First, a banquet attended by our League officials.

Second, design some kind of special QSL cards for our anniversary.

Third, put together some kind of operating award for contacting W8LKY between March, 2011 & March 2012.

These are just some off the cuff ramblings. I want to hear your ideas. We'll be talking about this in more detail at the next meeting.

In closing, thanks to everyone who contributed to make the club picnic the fun time that it was.

Also, don't forget that the club's second annual homebrew night is coming up in November. Details will be in the next issue of the Zero Beat.

73 de KD8MQ

## Club assists with Castle Run!

On Labor Day, Six 6 Amateur Radio operators contributed in total, 16 hrs to our community. They assisted in the running of the Rotary Castle Run. It consisted of a 2 Mile & a 10 K run. We provided communications assistance on the 10K run route. APRS was employed to track the end of the pack.

All worked well, except for hardware issues at the finish line. The inverter which was powering the laptop went belly up. In addition, the vehicle from which power was being drawn had a weak battery. These conspired to hamper our effectiveness for a short time. For the 2011 race, we are planning to attach a tracking transmitter to the bicycle which leads the runners through the route.

The following Hams participated:

- KD8MQ (NCS)
- KD8KMQ (Intersection)
- KD6MPN (Tail Vehicle)
- K8OMO (Float/Finish Line/NCS)
- K8SRR (Intersection)
- KD8JRK (Intersection)

*(In case anyone was wondering, KD8MQ's time in the 2 Mile was just under 24 minutes, placing 143rd out of 168 runners.)*

## Welcome New Member

This month, we welcome a new club member; Butch Lebold, WA8SHP. Butch, and his wife, Darlene live in Alliance, and operates a Yaesu FT-1000MP. He accounted for a large percentage of our Ohio QSO Party contacts on 80 Meters in August.

According to Butch's QRZ profile, he is active on 6 through 80 meters, with some 2M FM, and 160 meter operation. He operates SSB, CW, PSK, & RTTY.

## Club assists with YMCA Strides for Strong Kids 1K/5K!

The ARES report doesn't tell the whole story on this one. I'd just arrived at work on Friday morning. The planning for the club picnic the next day was under control, and all was right with the world. Then, at 7:50, the e-mail from the YMCA arrived. . .

### WE NEED HELP!

I'm paraphrasing, of course, but is easy 5K race turned out to be much larger than anticipated. They needed our help, and the race was only slightly more than 24 hours away. What could I say?

I sent out mass emails asking for volunteers. Come Saturday morning, with we had 5 operators, ready & raring' to

go!

Thanks go out to:

- KD8MQ (NCS)
- KD8KMQ (Lead Vehicle)
- KD6MPN (Tail Vehicle)
- K8SRR (Intersections)
- KD8JRK (Intersection)
- WA8WHP (intersection)

We minded communications on the 5K course. All went well, due mostly to the excellent coverage provided by the Alliance PD.

After it was all over, I got another E-mail from the YMCA:

"Thank you again sooo much. You and your guys were very helpful. Please thank everyone for me. Let them know how appreciated they are. "

## Ham of the Year ballots are due



Now's the time to cast your vote for the 2010 Ham of the Year.

Get your ballot to John, KD8MQ ASAP! His contact info is on page two.

([kd8mq@neo.rr.com](mailto:kd8mq@neo.rr.com))

### PREVIOUS HAMS OF THE YEAR

1989	Jim Ferguson	N8DZA
1990	Dave Buckwalter	KC3CL
1991	Jack Bennett	W8WEN (SK)
1992	John Myers	WX8G
1993	Pam Myers	N8IAK
1994	Larry Ashburn	KE8VE (SK)
1995	Gladys Wilson	KB8GIA
1996	Don Whitaker	K8OMO
1997	James W. Wilson	KB8GHZ (SK)
1998	Mary Ann Royer	KB8IVS
1999	David Glass	W8UKQ (SK)
2000	Jerry Wheeler	KG8RN
2001	Robert L. Steele	K8RLS
2002	Samuel Eberling	KC8ETZ
2003	Joe Young	KC8TAC
2004	George Proudfoot	K3GP
2005	David Glass	W8UKQ (SK)
2006	Franklin A. Sanor	WA8WHP
2007	Howard Miller	K8DXR
2008	John Myers	KD8MQ
2009	Larry Ashburn	KE8VE (SK)
2010	???????	

My vote for Ham of the Year is: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Alliance ARC Holds Club Picnic

Our club picnic was held on September 18th. The new location at the First Christian Church worked out so well, that OMO tried to make a motion that it be used for Field Day. We informed him that he would have to wait till the next regular meeting.

It was well attended, and the food & fellowship were plentiful. I don't know of anyone who did not have a great time.

We could have made money selling food to the parents, and kids from the neighboring ball fields. Oh well, maybe next year.



Lyn gives John, KD8MQ a cooking lesson



Tomas, KC8ZEH shows off the shirt his son gave him



Foreground: Don, AB8KV, Mildred Hostetler, and Dave, N8NLZ

## PA QSO Party Is Coming Up

Well, fall arrived this weekend, and football started a few weeks ago, so that can only mean one thing. Contest season is approaching.

October 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> marks the 53<sup>rd</sup> running of the PA QSO Party, one of, if not the best of the state QSO Parties.



The contest period runs from Noon, on October 11th, to 6 PM on October 12th, with an 8 hour break between 1AM & 9 AM on Sunday morning.

The rules are simple, and can be found online at <http://www.nittany-arc.net/paqso.html>.

Here's the summary: The exchange for out of state stations are a serial number, and your state (ex. 001 OH). PA stations send a serial number and county abbreviation. County abbreviations can also be found on the PA QSO Party website.

If you're not operating from PA, then your multipliers are the 67 PA counties.

If you are operating from within PA, then your multipliers are the 67 Pa counties, plus all ARRL sec-

tions plus all RAC sections.

For those who are planning rover, mobile, or portable operations, and want to concentrate on those counties which have been rare, in the past, that information can be found on my PQP website at <http://www.kd8mq.info/pqp/>.

Also, there is a Pa QSO Party Reflector where a lot of operators post their plans for the party. Bud, AA3B compiles a the plans and posts them to the reflector every week. Instructions are on the PA QSO Party homepage.

As I said before, this is one of the best of the state QSO Parties. If you are pursuing your Worked all Counties, it's a great way to polish off an entire state, in one weekend.

Myself, Allen, WI8T, and Ben, KD8KMQ are planning to operate from Jefferson County, in the cabin of John, N8PLA. Listen for us. We'll likely be hitting 40 & 80 SSB as our main bands. Some CW & PSK is also planned.

Hope to hear you on!



## Club To Participate In Knox Safety Days

The weekend of October 9<sup>th</sup> is shaping up as a busy one. A motion was made at the last club meeting, to set up a information table & put a station on the air for "Knox Safety Days" which will be held that Saturday, from 10—3 PM.

I've never participated, but this seems like a great opportunity to do some positive PR for Amateur Radio, while passing out some contacts from Columbiana County.

I was unsure from the meeting exactly who was going to be taking the lead in setting things up. But, I'm sure that whoever it is, they'll need some help in setting up the station, and antennas, as well as operating, and doing the meet & greet thing with the public. So, even if all you can spare is an hour, please make the effort to come out & help.

This should be well attended by members of the public, as well as safety forces. Who knows, some of them may already be licensed, or better yet, interested in becoming licensed!

I'd love to be there, myself, but instead, I'll have to settle for working W8LKY on the air.



## One of the Dumbest Things I've Ever Done in Ham Radio

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Mark, W8MP, and I often argue about what's dumber—his county hunting or my collecting QSL cards from stations whose call signs spell words. It's one of those arguments that will never be won. When you get right down to it, they're both pretty dumb.

Well, one Wednesday morning, I got a call from Mark. He asked, "Hey, want to do something really dumb tonight?" When I asked what he had in mind, he replied, "Well, one of my county hunter friends, Tim, W8JJ (he's the guy looking nervous in the black cap below), claims to have confirmed all 3,077 counties. He needs at least two General Class (or higher) hams to check his QSL cards and sign off on his application for the USA-CA award sponsored by CQ magazine. I guarantee that this will be one of the dumbest things that you ever do in ham radio. I also guarantee that it will be a lot of fun."

After a fine salmon dinner with some very chewy noodles (that Mark claims his son, KD8EEH insisted that he make), we cleared the table, and Tim got out his box of cards. Mark then explained how we should proceed. I was kind of curious about this, as it's clearly impossible to check all 3,077 QSOs in a single evening.

Basically, what the two checkers are supposed to do is to check random contacts until they are satisfied that the appli-

cant does indeed have a QSL from all 3,077 counties. To select the contacts, you might choose counties where you lived, or counties that you have visited. I hit on the idea of having Tim produce the confirmations of all 16 counties in Massachusetts. Clark, who is more familiar with which counties are the most difficult to confirm, asked Tim to produce cards from some rare counties in Colorado and Hawaii.

Above all, though, the idea is to give the applicant as much grief as possible during the process.

Mark came up with the idea of calling several county hunters that he had phone numbers for and asking them to verify in their logs some of the QSOs that Tim was claiming. He first phoned Jim, N9JF, and we asked him about a 44 report that he'd given Tim seven years ago. He wasn't near his logbook, but he said that he did remember that contact and even rattled off the county (Wahkiakum, WA)!

Next, Mark phoned Guff, KS5A, who confirmed a contact, but was off by almost seven minutes. A long discussion ensued regarding the details of how a mobile logs contacts while out driving. In the end, we accepted the seven-minute discrepancy.

Finally, Mark phoned Larry, W0QE, to confirm a few of the MRCs that Tim had from him. (MRCs are records of multiple contacts. Using them instead of QSL cards makes the

process of managing all these QSLs a lot easier.) Mark joked that it looked like one of the MRCs had a forged signature. Larry replied that all of his MRCs are stamped.

"Aha," Clark exclaimed, "this MRC doesn't have a stamp!"

I don't know what was going through Tim's mind at this point, but it probably wasn't good. Larry then explained that he probably sent out that MRC before he got the stamp. When we confirmed those dates, I think Tim breathed a little easier.

In the end, Clark and I signed off on Tim's application. And, even though Mark and I joke about how dumb this activity is, it's really only a joke. In my mind, it's quite an achievement. It takes a lot of persistence, too. It took Tim nearly ten years to do it.

Another cool thing about the county hunting sub-culture is the camaraderie amongst the county hunters. It's the nature of the beast that you'll be contacting many of them multiple times, and it's inevitable that you'll make friends with many of them.

As we were leaving, Tim said, "My wife asked me the other day if I could get now get rid of all my radios since I've talked to everybody." She obviously doesn't understand this ham radio sub-culture. Tim's only just begun.

## Ohio State Parks on the Air Contest

On September 11th, State parks across Ohio were invaded by Amateur Radio operators. They came in all shapes, & sizes.

There were the ones who hit & run, making 1 or two contacts, and heading down the road to the next state park.

There were the ones who stayed a bit longer, running a few hours in one park, and moving on to another.

Then there were others who put down roots in one park, and staying the whole day.

And of course, we have to acknowledge the "Not in a Park" stations, without whom, we would not have been able to make most of our contacts.

Some of our club members took time to participate in this contest. You r editor (pictured), along with Allen, WI8T escaped to Beaver Creek State Park, in Southern Columbiana County, While Tony, KD8BBK activated Salt Fork State Park, down towards Cambridge. K8OMO, and K8DXR were also heard operating their home stations.

KD8MQ/WI8T worked 59 contacts, and 31 state parks worked

KD8BBK beat us with 32 parks, and 115 contacts.

The members of the Goodyear Amateur Radio Club likely locked up the "Most Parks Activated by a



KD8MQ starts out strong in OSPOTA



But, quickly ran out of steam!

## Ohio State Parks on the Air Contest

Club " award for the second year in a row. They had two teams; northern, and southern, hitting as many parks as possible. Their unofficial total was 26 State parks activated. This compared to 10 parks activated in the 2009 contest. According to Northern team member, Dale, NX8J, they drove to each park entrance, made a contact, then headed for the next on the list. It sounds like great fun.

At Beaver Creek, Allen & myself were mistaken for Sasquatch hunters. It seems that a few years ago, a large group arrived at the campground, and set up a base camp from which they could hunt for Sasquatch. When we

showed up, and started stringing wires in the trees, it was assumed that we were more of the same.

Little did they know that no self-respecting big-foot will come within 10 miles of KD8MQ's snoring. The contest went on till 8 PM, but the bands started to die sooner than that, so we shut down around 7. This was fortunate, since it began raining at 8:01. Power to the campground died soon afterwards.

Tony, KD8BBK also had some interesting stories to tell. This excerpt from his post to the OSPOTA reflector tells it better than I could.

*"The best thing that happened to me was when a gentlemen stopped by to see*

*what I was doing and when I explained it to him, he soon became very interested. Put him on the air as 3rd party and he made several contacts, none of which I counted for the contest. He was really having good time and finally had to go. But before he left I gave him a eyeball QSO and told him to call me if he had any questions. Well guess what, got a call Sunday afternoon and talked for about an hour and I think we will have a new ham in the area soon. That is what the hobby is all about, helping each other out. "* Well said Tony!

As of August 28th, Ohio has 75 state parks. It's too soon to tell if all of them were activated for this contest, but I bet a large number of them were.

In addition, there has been talk about other states adapting this contest to their own states. Some were also talking about starting a program, similar to **Islands On The Air**, but using State Parks. Isn't it amazing, how one good idea can gather momentum and grow to something much larger than originally planned?

It's not too early to begin scouting state parks for next September. See you next year, and watch out for Sasquatch!



This little fellow fell from the tree, and landed on the keyboard. He's to blame for any logging errors!

## AARC Swap n Shop!

Do you have something Ham-related for sale, or something you are wanting to buy? Nothing to list this month. If you have something, contact KD8MQ; His e-mail address is below.

**Paul, NW8C has the following items for sale:**

•Kenwood TR-9000 2 Meter All mode \$75

•YAESU FT-726R. It covers 15, 12, 10, 430, & 6.

comes with a spare 2 Meter module which needs work. \$300

•Hallicrafters SX 110 Receiver \$100 (Includes HA-1 Keyer which needs some work)

If interested, Paul can be reached at 330-938-0851

**Don, K8OMO has the following items for sale:**

• Radio Shack HTA 20 2 meter mobile amp (.5-5 watts input /30 watts output) \$40.00

• ANGR/5 Receiver (if you have to ask what it is you don't really want it) (60lbs) (Includes TM manual on CD) 1.8 - 18 MHz receiver \$125.00

Don can be contacted on 145.370 or by phone at 330-823-5639

**Swap & Shop rules:** We'll keep the rules simple.

1. All ads will run for two months, unless you contact me to cancel, or extend it.
2. You are allowed to post anything as long as it is Ham Radio, or Computer related.
3. Please, no converted CB equipment.

**To place an ad:** contact John, KD8MQ (e-mail: kd8mq@arrl.net)

## AARC Swap n Shop!

Do you have something Ham-related for sale, or something you are wanting to buy? Nothing to list this month. If you have something, contact KD8MQ; His e-mail address is below.

**Tomas, KC8ZEH has the following for sale:**

**-Diamond RH 519 ht antenna 2m/440 flex bnc new in the rapper. It covers 150/300/450/800 MHz \$20**

**-New Yaesu ATAS-120 HF/6/2/430 motorized tuning antenna . It works on Ft 897 and FT 857 radio's \$250**

**Tomas can be reached at [tdragon69@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tdragon69@sbcglobal.net) , or 330-452-2390**

**Ray, WA8RTI has the following:**

**- MFJ 1798 80-2 meter vertical with about 100 ft of LMR 400 coax \$150 for both or OBO. (It's up 18ft on a 2"X4" fold-over tower. It would take 3 guys to get it laid down, disassembled enough to haul.**

**- 2 meter 6 element quad (wood boom with plastic pipe spreaders). I always wanted to work 2 meter SSB and I never got the 10 gauge bare cooper wire needed to finish the elements. The original design was in QST (I have that QST issue to go along with the antenna) as a 5 element but I calculated the size for the 6th element and built it that way. I would like to see the antenna go to someone who would get it up and on the air. (I am asking \$15. to cover the cost of the wood, etc.).**

**- I also have a 5 element 6 meter beam I will give away. ( I think it is Telrex) and shouldn't be that hard for someone to figure out how to get it together with a new balun (it is coax fed with a T-match driven element) . I would like to see a serious VHFer get these antennas up and working. I am especially curious to hear the quad on the air and see how it works.**

**- I will give away a 12AVQ 3 band vertical to anyone interested. I 'm sure I have the original instruction book to go along.**

**- I will give way a home brew G5RV. With it up as a sloper (center a about 35ft and ends at about 10 ft. I worked Europe on 40 m SSB and a 100 watts. ( That was in 2006)**

**Ray can be reached at [WA8RTI@ARRL.net](mailto:WA8RTI@ARRL.net)**

**Swap & Shop rules:** We'll keep the rules simple.

1. All ads will run for two months, unless you contact me to cancel, or extend it.
2. You are allowed to post anything as long as it is Ham Radio, or Computer related.
3. Please, no converted CB equipment.

**To place an ad:** contact John, KD8MQ (e-mail: [kd8mq@arrl.net](mailto:kd8mq@arrl.net))

## Wayback Machine - cont.

•Bob Tullis, W8HZ was working to gather volunteers to participate in JOTA, at Camp McKinley.

•Part of Riley Hollingsworth's speech at the ARRL New England convention in Boxboro was reprinted. It is well worth reprinting. Look for it elsewhere in this months issue.

**October 2000,  
(Editor, KE8VE)**

•We had operated out third special event at the park, in as many years.

•The results of the annual meeting were posted. They are as follows:

- President - Bob, K8RLS
- Vice - Pres - Joe, KC8TAC
- Secretary - Don, AB8KV
- Treasurer - Mary Ann, KB8IVS

## Riley's Top Ten

*(This is a reprint from the October, 2000 issue of The Zero Beat. It is an excerpt from an address given by Riley Hollingsworth, to the ARRL New England Division Convention which had been held In July, 2000.)*

1) Be proud of what you have and let your feelings be known. Let the public know what you are, what Amateur Radio is, and why it's valuable. Let your feelings be known to Congress, to the FCC, to the media, to your states and to emergency agencies. Sprint does. AT&T does. Motorola does.

2) Operate as if the whole world is listening. *It is!*

3) Take nothing for granted. Bill Gates can't, and you can't either.

4) You're at a crossroads now. An old Chinese philosopher (or my grandmother--I can never remember which!) said, "Be careful what you wish for. You may get it." Seize the moment, and make this your finest

hour. Ham radio has been at a crossroads before and has thrived. Continue that tradition.

5 Make sure that, on your watch, Amateur Radio *never* becomes obsolete. you know. We've needed numbers for a long time.. *Respect* this wonderful legacy known as Amateur Radio that our mentors and Elmers gave us. Every time you key the mike or hit the key, think about what a legacy you were given and your duty to pass it on.

7. Enjoy ham radio. Celebrate it. But realize *it comes with responsibility*. Every gift of lasting value always does.

8. Stay away from arrogant, negative operators who know all the answers. They just haven't thought of all the questions. Encourage them to take their anger and hate to the Internet. Every minute they are on the Internet is a minute they aren't on Amateur Radio.

9. Never allow Amateur Radio to become the audio version of *The Jerry Springer Show*.

10. You may not always agree with the League, and that's fine. But I'm standing here before you tonight talking about enforcement because they never gave up. Take care of the one voice you have. You must never doubt that a small group of dedicated people can change the world. They just did



Tomas, KC8ZEH at AARC Field Day 2010

# Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)



presents the

## 5th Annual PCARS 2 Meter Simplex Contest



**Saturday - October 2, 2010  
12:00 pm until 6:00 pm**

*See if you can Work All of Portage County, Ohio*



This 2 Meter FM Simplex contest is sponsored by the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS). The purpose of this contest is to encourage amateurs to learn the basics of contesting and simplex operations and expand the scope of their VHF operating techniques beyond that needed for repeater operation.

Contest is open to all - you don't have to be a member of PCARS, you don't even have to be inside Portage County. You can operate from home, mobile, or portable. Even if you're passing through (or near) Portage County.

Heck, you don't even have to be a 'contester' to have fun during this contest - just have some FUN!

Special Participation Certificate for all that send in a log! Hams belonging to clubs outside Portage County can also submit scores for themselves and your club scores, too!

See how many Cities, Villages, and Townships throughout Portage County you can make contact with on 2 Meter FM Simplex.

In Portage County, there are:

5 Cities: Aurora, Kent, Ravenna, Streetsboro, Tallmadge,

7 Villages: Brady Lake, Garrettsville, Hiram, Mantua, Mogadore, Sugar Bush Knolls, Windham

18 Townships: Atwater, Brimfield, Charlestown, Deerfield, Edinburg, Franklin, Freedom, Hiram, Mantua, Nelson, Palmyra, Paris, Randolph, Ravenna, Rootstown, Shalersville, Suffield, Windham



## Complete Rules, Summary Sheets & Log Sheets

are available for download on the

PCARS web site:

**[www.portcars.org](http://www.portcars.org)**

We'll be listening for you!

*Join us in the fun and see just how far your rig will go on simplex.*

*Best of all - let's have a FUN day on the radio!!*



*Need more information? E-mail [2Meters@portcars.org](mailto:2Meters@portcars.org)*

## Upcoming Fox Hunts

<u>Date</u>	<u>Start Time</u>	<u>Hunt/Talk-in Freq</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Start Line</u>
October 6 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	147.525	Cuyahoga Falls ARC	2850 Church St, Stow, Ohio
October 10 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 PM	146.475	Woodchuck ARC	<b>Kmart Parking Lot 7701 Broadview Road Parma, Ohio 44131</b>
October 20 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM	147.525	Cuyahoga Falls ARC	2850 Church St, Stow, Ohio
<b>October 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>2:00 PM</b>	<b>446.00</b>	<b>Alliance ARC</b>	<b>Glamorgan Castle 200 Glamorgan Alliance</b>

For changes, or additions, e-mail [kd8mq@arrl.net](mailto:kd8mq@arrl.net)

### What a Wretched Signal!

"What a wretched signal!" That's how the foxes signal was described by one of the hunters at the September 25<sup>th</sup> hunt. He was right. I deployed the foxbox at a public hunting area about 5 miles North of the starting line. It was feeding a 5 element beam which was pointing due South. Power was a couple watts. Even with that, I couldn't even hear the signal more than a mile away, much less turn it on & off.

Add to my misery, the fact that the batteries on the HT which I use to control the box went dead about 30 minutes before the hunt.

I managed to get the box started by using my 2 Meter mobile, and a scanner, as a control link for the 440 MHZ foxbox.

And, so I waited. For the first 45 minutes, all I saw

was a pack of dogs who seemed unhappy that I was invading their territory.

Finally, about 45 minutes into the hunt, Jim, N8PXW found me. This was a good sign. Up till that moment, I wasn't even sure anyone was even looking for me!

About 10 minutes later, Tom, KC8QOD, and Denise showed up, followed 10 minutes later by Dale, NX8J, Along with Andy, KD8NPO, and Ryan. I didn't catch Ryan's callsign. Heck, I hope I remembered his name right! HI Hi.

We waited another half hour on the report that one more hunter was out there, but he never showed.

Most of us Adjourned to Doug's Classic 57 for good food, and swapping of tall tales.

### Last Hunts of the Year

Let's say that you've been sitting back thinking that you'd like to get involved in Fox hunting this year. It's really not difficult, but time is-a-wastin! All the clubs on our calendar have their final hunts of the year scheduled this month.

It's been a good season, and participation, at least from the hunts I've attended, has edged up a bit. This gives me encouragement for the year ahead.

I didn't get my Doppler finished in time for this years hunt, so maybe I'll get it finished in time for the first hunt of 2011 (fingers crossed).

At any rate, if you've not hunted lately, what are you waiting for? Grab your antenna, borrow an attenuator, and we'll see yo at the starting line!



## October 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; margin-right: 20px;"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="7">Sep 2010</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>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="7">Nov 2010</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>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>					Sep 2010							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	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			Nov 2010							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 2 Meter FM Sprint
Sep 2010																																																																																										
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																				
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																																																																																						
Nov 2010																																																																																										
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20																																																																																				
21	22	23	24	25	26	27																																																																																				
28	29	30																																																																																								
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:00 PM Stark Cty ARES Net (147.12)  9:00 PM Northern Columbiana Cty Training Net (147.255)  9:00 PM SAARA Net (146.805)	<b>6</b>  Alliance ARC Meeting  Cuyahoga Falls FoxHunt	<b>7</b> 7:00 PM PCARS Net (146.895) <b>8:01 PM AARC CW (28.400 MHz)</b> <b>8:30 PM AARC SSB(28.400 MHz)</b> <b>9:00 PM AARC VHF (145.37(-))</b>	<b>8</b> 8:00 PM Massillon Net (147.18)	<b>9</b>																																																																																				
<b>10</b> Jerry, N8SH BD  Woodchuck ARC FoxHunt	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7:00 PM Stark Cty ARES Net (147.12)  9:00 PM Northern Columbiana Cty Training Net (147.255)  9:00 PM SAARA Net (146.805)	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7:00 PM PCARS Net (146.895) <b>8:01 PM AARC CW (28.400 MHz)</b> <b>8:30 PM AARC SSB(28.400 MHz)</b> <b>9:00 PM AARC VHF (145.37(-))</b>	<b>15</b> 8:00 PM Massillon Net (147.18)	<b>16</b> Ohio Section Conference																																																																																				
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7:00 PM Stark Cty ARES Net (147.12)  9:00 PM Northern Columbiana Cty Training Net (147.255)  9:00 PM SAARA Net (146.805)	<b>20</b> Cuyahoga Falls FoxHunt	<b>21</b> 7:00 PM PCARS Net (146.895) <b>8:01 PM AARC CW (28.400 MHz)</b> <b>8:30 PM AARC SSB(28.400 MHz)</b> <b>9:00 PM AARC VHF (145.37(-))</b>	<b>22</b> 8:00 PM Massillon Net (147.18)	<b>23</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">                         2:00 PM AARC FoxHunt                     </div>																																																																																				
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7:00 PM Stark Cty ARES Net (147.12)  8:00 PM Homeland Security Net (147.51) 9:00 PM Northern Columbiana Cty Training Net (147.255)  9:00 PM SAARA Net (146.805)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7:00 PM PCARS Net (146.895) <b>8:01 PM AARC CW (28.400 MHz)</b> <b>8:30 PM AARC SSB(28.400 MHz)</b> <b>9:00 PM AARC VHF (145.37(-))</b>	<b>29</b> 8:00 PM Massillon Net (147.18)  Frank, WA8WHP BD	<b>30</b>																																																																																				
<b>31</b> John, KD8MQ BD  Massillon Hamfest																																																																																										

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 goal Beat. you can read them at <http://www.w8lky.org/newsletters/>.

### **October 1990, (Editor, KC3CL)**

- A 2 Meter FM antenna had been installed on the Alliance armory, for use in emergencies. This was to have been the first of 4 antennas to be installed at various locations in Alliance. (*ed note: To our knowledge, none of the other antennas were ever installed. The antenna at the armory came loose, and disappeared several year ago.*)

- This issue reprinted The Amateur's Code, which I believe should be hung in all Ham Shacks!

- Also in this issue was the 1990 Roster. It listed 39 Members. Now, there's a trip down memory lane!

### **October, 1995 (Editor, WX8G)**

- Gary, KB8GAB, and his wife, Nancy, won the AARC Summer fox hunt. The fox was K8OMO, who was hidden somewhere around Walborn reservoir. He used 40 Watts to 7 Element beam pointed at a cell tower. 5 teams participated.

- The latest batch of FCC form 610 was

printed without a mailing address. This was back in the day when you actually had to fill out the form, and drop it into a mailbox.

- We had a corn roast at Bob (KB8GAG) Rickards farm.

- The use of CW on MARS circuits was coming to an end, as it was being replaced by digital & sideband technologies.

- There was an interesting story concerning the words "Remember Pearl Harbor" being engraved in CW, in the dentures of the man who had approved the attack on Pearl Harbor.

- There was a parody of 2001, a space odyssey. It was obviously inspired by Intel's issues with floating point errors on it's Pentium processors.

- Jon, N8PLA, submitted his version of Murphy's Law, as it may be applied to Ham Radio.

- A 2 Meter over water distance record had been claimed after a QSO between Hawaii, and Washington State.

### **October, 2000, (Editor, KD8MQ)**

- The headline read "Zero Beat Wins First Place in Ohio Section Newsletter Contest". The Zero Beat had taken 2nd place in the 1995 contest.