

# End Of The World Edition!!



## Alliance Amateur Radio Club Zero Beat

Volume XXVI, no 12

<http://www.w8lky.org>

December 2012

Serving the Tri-County area since 1986

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## Fundraiser To Be Held At December Meeting For Fire Department Toy Drive

This months club meeting will be a bit different. There will be multiple winners from the 50/50 drawing.

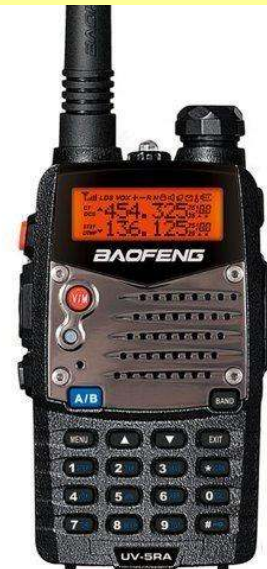
The big winner will be the kids who benefit from the Alliance Fire Departments annual toy drive. Each year, the fire department buys toys, and distributes them to poor, and underprivileged children in the Alliance area.

The other winners will be the winners of the clubs 50/50 drawing. As usual, there will be a ticket drawn for the cash prize drawing.

Then, that ticket will be placed back in the drum, and the fun begins. The next ticket drawn will be for a brand-spanking new Baofeng UV-5RA Dual-Band HT.

There will be more drawings after that for prizes which will be announced later.

The UV-5RA is a 4W HT, and comes pre-



programmed for not one, but BOTH of the club repeater frequencies! How can you pass up a deal like that?

So, dig up your mason jars from the back yard, and come prepared to donate to a good cause!

You may just walk away with a new HT, or maybe one of the fabulous yet-to-be announced prizes!

### Our Next Meeting

will be on Wednesday,  
December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

We meet in in the Café conference room at the Alliance Community hospital.

Our meetings begin at 7:30

This Months program  
**To Be Announced**

At 6 PM on meeting night,  
please join us  
for dinner at

**Don Panchos Tex-Mex Cafe**

2105 W. State St,  
Alliance

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## Rambling

By John, KD8MQ

Welcome to the "End Of The World Edition" of the Zero Beat; also known as the December issue.

Just so you know, I personally do not believe that the world is going to end this month. I do realize that some have bought into the whole world-is-ending scenario, but I am not one of them.

Life will go on, and as such it's fitting that we take time to remember those less fortunate. How often do we get a chance to help out local kids, and maybe get something for ourselves in the bargain? Take a moment to read the article on page one.

### Website

Have you checked out the new AARC website yet? There's a lot there, and more content is coming all the time.

Right now, I'm working on incorporating all of the issues of the Zero Beat from previous years. I know; they seem to all be there now. But, I'm dissatisfied with the way I formatted them, so look for a new format for the newsletters in the next month, or so.

The club roster is now up to date. There's some fills needed (addresses, etc), but it'll get filled in in due time. If you've paid your dues, and are not listed in the web roster, then email me so we can get everything corrected.

In case I've not said anything yet, my hat goes off to Ben for the website he has done. The framework he has set in place makes adding

## Meetings

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club meets on the Second Wednesday of each month. Check the meeting announcement on page 1, for the location. Talk-in is on 145.37 R.

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 28.100 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)

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## November Minutes

November 14, 2012

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held on November 14, 2012 at 7:30 PM in the first floor conference room of the Alliance Community Hospital with club President Frank Sanor (WA8WHP) presiding. The pledge of allegiance was recited followed by introductions. There were 19 members present along with Miriam Sanor, Alfreda Steele and guests Jasmine Sines, John Augustein (KD8TKY), Steve Simon (KD8SPF) and Gary Grimes (KB8GHB).

President Frank announced birthdays for the month which included:

Ben (KD8KMQ)  
George (K3GP)  
Cheryl (associate),  
Rich (WB8TPG)  
Rick (KC8SUI)  
Noah (KD8SBS)

He also noted that the club had a new member, Bob Scafate (KC8SQS).

Secretary Don (AB8KV) gave the Secretary's report, noting that the October meeting minutes were in the newsletter. He noted that on behalf of the club he had ordered flowers for the funeral of Ed McNabb, but had forgotten to bring the sympathy card for the members to sign. After discussion, it was decided to

have him simply sign the card as being from the club and send it.

He reported that he was still awaiting a quote from the club's insurance agency regarding loss coverage for club-owned equipment. There followed some discussion about what exactly to insure.

Don added that he still needed nominations for Ham of the Year and to please get these to him ASAP. With nothing further, the report was approved on a motion by Smitty (KC8TJQ), seconded by Butch (WA8SHP).

Treasurer Mary Ann (KB8IVS) then gave the Treasurer's report. The report was approved on a motion by Smitty and seconded by Howard (K8DXR).

### Committee reports:

- For ARES and nets, Don (K8OMO) reported that the 10-meter sideband net had been experiencing more check-ins. He reminded everyone of the 10-meter net times and frequencies: Thursdays at 8:00 PM on 28.100 for CW and 8:30 PM on 28.400 for SSB. He also reminded the club of the Homeland Security net the last Tuesday of each month at 8:00 PM on 147.51 simplex. Smitty added that the 2-meter net was going well with good participation.

- Regarding the repeater committee, Frank noted that a newer ham was still needed to serve on the commit-

tee and that if anyone had a nominee in mind, to submit the name to himself or Don (K8OMO). He then thanked Don for his repair and maintenance of the club repeaters.

- President Frank then reported on a meeting held with the Red Cross to get an update on their status, which basically confirmed that they still had a presence in Alliance.

### Announcements:

- It was noted that the Fort Wayne hamfest was coming up the next weekend after the meeting.

- Concerning foxhunts, John (KD8MQ) stated that no further hunts were scheduled until March. He then added information about upcoming special operating events.

- Frank reminded the club about the Christmas party on December 8 at Don Pancho's beginning at 6:00 PM.

### Old business:

- President Frank stated that a motion and approval was needed for prize money to be set aside for the Christmas party. Howard moved that \$100 be dedicated for that purpose. The motion was seconded by Don (AB8KV) and approved on a voice vote.

- Regarding the club's website upgrade, Ben reported that it was going well, with he and John having made the arrangements to

*(Continued on page 4)*

## November Minutes—cont.

*(Continued from page 3)*

transfer over the domain. Information was still being updated and added. Ben noted that he still needed QSL cards from members to be posted on the site.

- Concerning the subject of the repeater committee, Don (K8OMO) asked about clarifying the committee make-up that night. Frank agreed, and Don suggested the following individuals (besides himself): President Frank, Ben, John, Tony (KD8BBK) and whoever the newer ham turned out to be. Frank then reiterated the reason for wanting a newer ham, which is to provide continuity of knowledge and familiarity with the repeaters into the future.

### **New business:**

- Frank noted that Mike Taylor had donated to the club some high power inverters which could be added to the club equipment inventory. However, he added that they were in need of some repair, the nature of which needed to be known before going further.

- Frank reported that he had found out that ARRL offered liability insurance as well as equipment coverage. He stated that he would look into it and report back on what he found out.

- President Frank then reported on some of the suggestions he had received for club fund raisers. Examples included a maze race with

GPS, a paintball contest, "ask an Elmer" for a fee, a fix-it day, selling crystal radio kits, an auction or another raffle.

- Don (K8OMO) suggested raffling an item of interest to the general public, not just for hams with the item not being purchased by the members. John preferred a ham-related item, with other opinions also being discussed, including perhaps doing both types of items. Frank then asked for input over the next few weeks on doing a raffle, with the need to decide being urgent so as to be ready for upcoming hamfests. Don (K8OMO) then added that regarding fundraising, some seldom-used club-owned equipment could be sold or raffled, potentially including even the 440 repeater equipment. Don noted that another ham in the area who owns a 70-cm repeater with Echolink had offered to link it to the club's 2-meter repeater, perhaps obviating the need for our own 440 unit. This possibility was left open for further club discussion.

- Don then stated that the power supply for the 440 repeater had failed and needed to be repaired or replaced (for about \$100). He added that a couple members had offered to work on the unit. After some discussion among the repeater committee members who were present, it was decided to attempt repairs.

- Don noted that he had

brought some of the club's QSL cards which were on display on a table. He added he had purchased a holder for the cards at a cost of \$10. Frank asked for a motion to reimburse Don; the motion was made by Tom (KD8JRK), seconded by Steve (KB8RFE) and approved by a voice vote.

- Frank then announced that Howard had agreed to stay on as club QSL manager, and thanked him for that.

With no further official business, the club adjourned for the break.

After the break, the club held homebrew night with members presenting ham-related projects they had built or worked on.

- John showed his new potato gun model.

- Butch presented an elaborate key originally obtained from another ham.

- Jerry (N8SH) showed several radios he had built from scratch or was restoring.

- Don (AB8KV) showed a dc power control box he had assembled for his station, for which he was awarded first place after a vote was taken.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM on a motion by Tom, seconded by Smitty.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Don (AB8KV), Secretary.



## Random Access by Franklin Sanor, WA8WHP

I tried to come up with a topic for this month and this seems to have been the result. Let's do a thought experiment.

What makes an antenna resonant? It is all in the timing. We were taught that radio waves travel at the speed of light in a vacuum and slightly slower in air and solid material. That is 300,000,000 meters per second. That is equal to 186,000 miles per second.

Now invert your reference. How far would the signal travel in one cycle of the signal? If the frequency is 1 MHz, that means the signal has a period of one one millionth of a second. Therefore the signal would travel one one millionth of the distance it would travel in one second or 300 meters. That would be 0.186 miles. Multiply that by 5280 and you get 982 feet.

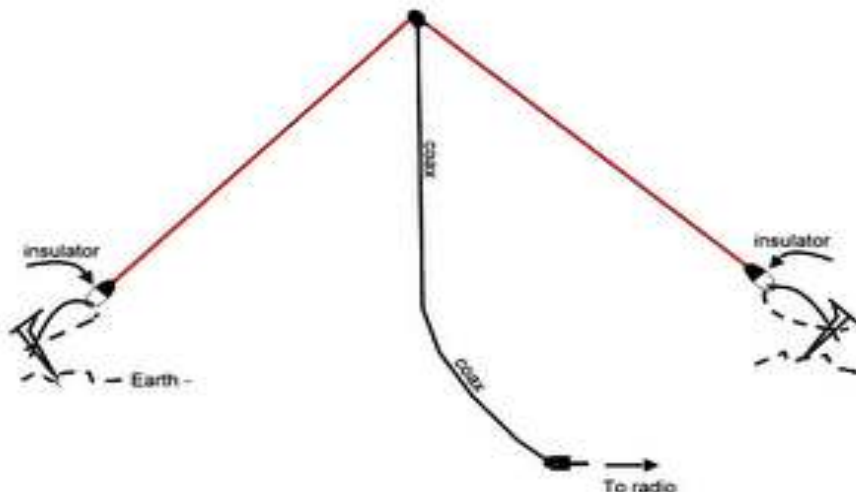
Then why do we use quarter wave length on each side of a dipole and other antenna configurations?

As I said above, it has to do with timing. The wave travels to the end of the con-

ductor where it finds it can go no further, so it bounces back. It takes a quarter of a cycle to travel to the end to be reflected. When it is reflected it is inverted in phase. Just like looking into a mirror inverts our image. That would be equivalent to another half cycle added to the timing. Add another quarter wavelength (a quarter cycle) for the return to the feed point and it meets the incoming signal at the same point in the cycle. The signal does not interfere with itself and everything is happy. If the length is not a quarter wavelength, the signals are out of step and interfere with each other and create a standing wave.

But 982 divided by 4 (remember we are traveling a quarter wavelength ) is 245.5 feet not 234 we are taught to use to calculate a quarter wavelength. What gives? Well, I said radio waves travel slower in solids. That is the distance a quarter wavelength is in solids because of the slower propagation. Are you still awake? Good. Until next time

73 GL DE WA8WHP AR



## USPS Seeks to phase out IRC's



If the US Postal Service (USPS) gets its way, it will no longer sell International Reply Coupons (IRCs) after January 27, 2013.

According to the [October 23 edition of the Federal Register](#), there is not sufficient demand for the USPS to continue offering IRCs to customers; however, per the Universal Postal Union (UPU) regulations, the USPS must continue to exchange and redeem IRCs that have been purchased in foreign countries and presented at USPS facilities.

Comments on this proposed change [will be accepted](#) through November 23, 2012. IRCs provide foreign addressees with a prepaid means of responding to inquiries, solicitations or other types of communications -- such as QSL cards -- that are initiated by US senders. IRCs are exchangeable for postage stamps by postal administrations in member countries of the UPU. Each IRC is equivalent in value to the destination country's minimum postage price for an unregistered airmail letter. The purchase price in the US is currently \$2.20 per IRC. -- [Thanks to the ARRL Letter for this report.](#)

## Don, AB8KV win's Homebrew Night



Congratulations to Don, AB8KV for winning the club's Homebrew night which was held at the November meeting.

Don's winning entry was a DC Power Control Box which will soon be installed at his station.

Very nicely done Don!



## Rambling-cont.

*By John, KD8MQ*

*(Continued from page 2)*

new content such a breeze. So, check out the site; If you like what you see, make sure to give Ben a pat on the back, or an attaboy.

### **Charity Fundraiser**

Check out the article on page one for the complete information, but at the risk of being repetitive, here we go again.

We got a late start on this. I spent the last 12 months preparing a letter with advice, and information for the incoming president. I completely overlooked the donation for the Fire departments toy campaign. My bad!

Our president, and VP have agreed to earmark the club's half of the December 50/50 drawing as a donation for that cause.

In order to sweeten the pot, and entice increased 50/50 activity, we are throwing some extra prizes into the drawing, most notable of which is a Baofeng UV-RA

which has been donated to the club for this purpose. Again, this has NOT been purchased with club funds!

So, don't forget to break into your piggy bank, dig up a mason jar, or do whatever you need to do. Let's pack the 50/50 drawing this month.

### **Where are all the Hams?**

A few years ago, I ran a story containing these words. The question has come up again; this time on the ARRL's PR reflector list. The question posted there is "How Many licensees are REALLY active?"

The opinion presented by one of the respondents is that about one third of FCC licensees are active (have been on the air in the past year). About one half of the active are ARRL members.

What do you think of this? When that story was written (March, 2010), QRZ.com listed 81 Hams in the 44601 Zip code. Of that 81, 10 were either SK, club

callsign, or moved from the area. This left us a net 71 Hams in Alliance. I still wonder where they all are?

Applying the formula presented on the PR list, We should have about 24 Hams in the 44601 ZIP Code, and about a dozen who are ARRL members.

In looking at the club roster, we have 17 members who list 44601 as their ZIP code. So, I guess we can call that myth BUSTED! Point being, we seem to have a pretty active group of Hams in this area; that's something to be proud of!

While we are patting ourselves on the back, we are up to 45 members! How awesome is that?

Well, I've reached the end for another month. Hope everyone has a great holiday season.

73, de KD8MQ

## KB6NU Builds An End-Fed, Half-Wave Antenna

I've always been interested in end-fed, half-wave antennas before, but until this recently, I'd never built one. One of the reasons for this is that most designs are for QRP antennas and not made to handle more than 5 - 10 W of power.

A couple of months ago, though, I ran across a design rated at 100 W ([http://earchi.org/proj\\_homebrew.html](http://earchi.org/proj_homebrew.html)). The design seemed relatively simple to build, requiring only a single toroid and a capacitor made with a short length of RG-174 coax. Well, it just so happens that I bought 100-ft. of RG-174 at Dayton this year, and I found the toroid cores online from the "Toroid King" for a very reasonable price, so I decided it was high time to build one.

All told, the parts cost about \$10, the biggest part of that being a 4-in. x 4-in. x 2-in. plastic junction box (Carlson E989NNJ-CAR) I got from Lowe's for \$6.41. Compare that with the \$60 that LNR wants for their end-fed antenna.

I put up the antenna about three weeks ago, on a beautiful fall Sunday, running 34 feet of wire up a trellis attached to a small deck in my backyard, then out to a tree near the back of my lot. With more than a little anticipation, I put the antenna analyzer on it, only to be somewhat disappointed with the

readings. The SWR was 2.6:1 at 14.000 MHz, dropping to about 1.5:1 at 14.900 MHz.

Since the internal tuner on my IC-746PRO is supposed to be good to 3:1, I did use it and made a couple of contacts. A guy in MA even gave me a 599 signal report. So, while I was a little uncomfortable with an SWR so close to the limit of my tuner, it did seem to radiate pretty well.

I e-mailed the guy who published the design and asked why he thought the resonant frequency was so high, and he said that all I had to do was add a couple feet of wire to the antenna. I also did some more reading about end-feds and several websites suggested that adding a counterpoise might be a good idea, too.

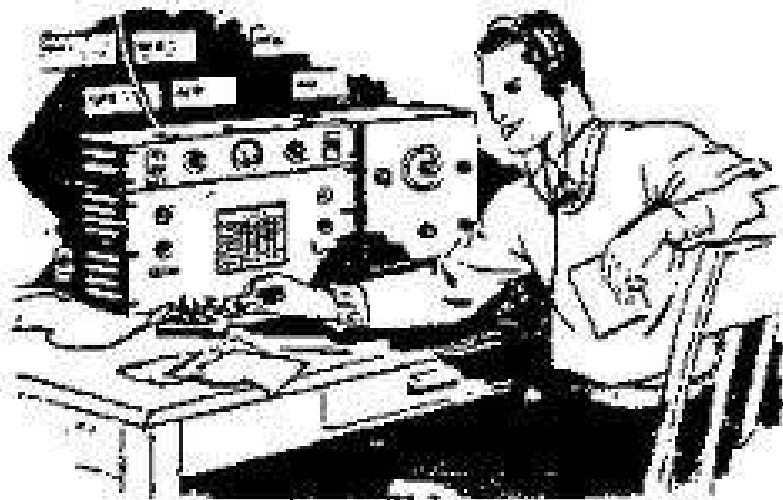
A week later, I finally got back to playing with the antenna. I added 24-in. of wire to it, and it did indeed

bring down the SWR of the antenna to below 2:1 in the CW portion of 20m. I'm happier with this. I made a couple of contacts that day, too, with both stations giving me good reports.

I still do plan to try a counterpoise. Not so much to improve the SWR, but to see if it makes the antenna a little more efficient.

Overall, this has been a fun project. I learned something about end-fed, half-wave antennas and saved a bunch of money by rolling my own. Isn't that what ham radio is all about?

*When he's not messing with antennas, Dan, KB6NU publishes the "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides. The latest in this series is the No-Nonsense Extra Class License Study Guide. For more information, go to [KB6NU.Com](http://KB6NU.Com) or e-mail [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).*



## Wayback Machine—cont.

*(Continued from page 16)*

to be held at Dawsons Restaurant, on W. State St.

**Dec, 1992, (Editor, N8LVO )**

•Larry, N8EWV, showed video from his RC air mobile operation at the November, 1992 club meeting.

•Copies of the bylaws were soon to be reprinted for distribution to the membership.

•John, KD8MQ related a job he had done where a lightning strike had peppered the side of a house with rocks, knocking holes

in the vinyl siding.

•The 1992 Christmas banquet was to be held at Roadhouse Charlie's.

•Voting was underway for the 1992 Ham of the Year. Our outgoing HOTY was Jack, W8WEN.

**Dec, 1997 (editor K8LTG)**

•Russia had launched a small satellite on November 3, 1997, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the launch of Sputnik.

**Dec, 2002 (editor KE8VE)**

•There was a article gleaned from the web. LTC R. G. Wells tells of building a POW radio during WW2. Excellent reading.

•KE8VE proposed resurrecting the club fox hunts, which were so popular in years past. (Sounds like a great idea! Ed.)

**Dec, 2007 (editor KD8MQ)**

•The Ham Community lost it's biggest supporter with the passing of Jack, W8WEN.

•IRCs issued to 2002 were being phased out

•Analog TV was also being phased out. We had an informative story by Frank, WA8WHP on the changeover to Digital TV.

## Cell Phone Fundraiser



What if I told you there was a way to help the club, while cleaning your house? Well, there is.

Just clean out your junk drawers, and bring all your old cell phones to the next club meeting. We'll collect them, and take them for recycling.

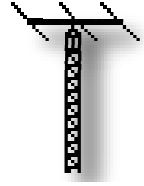
If you have fun cleaning out your junk drawers, how about offering to help out your friends, neighbors, and relatives? Everyone these days has extra cell phones lying around. It's usually just a matter of asking for them.





## "The Night Before Christmas", Ham Radio-style

Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the town,  
The snowstorm was raging, the phone lines were down;  
The wind it did howl, the tree limbs did crack,  
I hope that St. Nick isn't forced to turn back.



The wife making cookies, the kids making noise,  
While away in the shack, by my rig I was poised.  
The finals were glowing, the mike gain was set,  
I was chasing DX to see what I could get.

The bands were all empty, the frequencies clear,  
Except one lone station that sounded quite near.  
He was calling CQ and my interest did pique,  
When he ended transmission with the words,  
"Old St. Nick".

I answered back quickly, I used great dispatch,  
If this were St. Nicholas, good God, what a catch!  
We exchanged information, it was really quite graphic,  
Then he came back and said,  
"I've emergency traffic!"

His reindeer were tired, his elves in a grump,  
If he didn't land soon, then his sleigh he would dump.  
I thought very carefully, I thought very hard,  
Then I gave him directions to my snow covered yard.



As he flew past my window, his hair like a mane,  
He reined in his chargers and called them by name:  
"Whoa, Anode! Whoa, Cathode! Whoa, Zener! Whoa, Diode!  
Stop, Heater! Stop, Grid leak! Stop, Bias! Stop, Triode!"

You're flying too low! you're flying too fast!  
Look out, you dumb reindeer, his antenna mast!"  
So into the backyard the reindeer did drop,  
St. Nick, the elves, and the sleigh went kerplod!



Then at the back door, I heard this loud knocking,  
"Open up in there, or I won't fill your stocking!"  
As I turned off the light and was leaving the shack,  
Into the house Saint Nicholas came from the back--

His two-meter rig held to his hip with a strap,  
"Hams do it in the shack" on the front of his cap.

The sack that he carried made his aged brow furrow,  
And he handed me a card that read,  
"QSL Via Bureau".

His clothes were all sooty, from his shoes to his vest;  
I felt like a novice taking his test.  
His fingers were calloused and from what I could tell,  
This came from a straight key that I'll bet he used well.

I offered him coffee, I offered him smokes,  
I tried easing the tension by telling ham jokes.  
Then he nodded his head and raised up his thumb,  
He smiled like an Elmer, did I ever feel dumb.



He grabbed up his sack and went straight for the tree,  
And placed in it a large present for me.  
When he finished his work, he stood up, took a bow,  
Then out the back door to his team he did plow.  
But I heard him exclaim as he flew o'er the land,  
"Beware the FCC, friend, we were both out of band!"

## The End is Near!

That's right! The end is finally near. According to one of the three Mayan Calendars, the end of the world will occur on Dec 21, 2012. To celebrate this literally once in a lifetime event, Special Event Station NOD (Now Zero Days) will be activated for three days.

December 20; is a celebration of the end of the world. December 21; the day of destruction, we will be on the air as long as possible. December 22nd, that is a little iffy right now.

**More information is available on the Official NOD website,**

[www.nowzerodays.com](http://www.nowzerodays.com).

You can also e-mail the NOD team at

[NOD.Doomsday@gmail.com](mailto:NOD.Doomsday@gmail.com)

with questions or suggestions about Doomsday.

Amateur radio stations around the crumbling globe are invited to contact NOD, who will be operating from a secret undisclosed location. QSL with SASE via KK5W, the address is in QRZ. If Doomsday actually does happen, we regret that a QSL will not be possible so don't mail your QSL request until it is safe.

We are definitely going out with a laugh. After all it is just an excuse to get on the air. Or is it?. You never know what can happen. In any case, we urge amateurs from around the crumbling world to make contact with NOD and report conditions in their area. You know, meteors ,earthquakes, tsunamis, cracks in the earth. We will be on the air as long as we can and as long as our generators hold out.

Members of our club will be operating from several secret, undisclosed locations. We

hope to be represented on all bands (including WARC bands) and modes for as long as we can but deteriorating conditions may force us to move. As the globe falls apart, NOD may be interrupted from time to time but we will stay on the air as conditions permit. Initial operating frequencies are 28.400, 21.400, 14.200, 7.150. But all bets are off as destruction rains down upon us. We may have to change bands or frequencies at a moments notice. We will also be trying some CW and digital contacts

If by some chance, we make it through Doomsday, the Doomsday QSL is available with SASE, or by buro.

**You can become an Official Doomsday Station by registering on our website,**

[www.nowzerodays.com](http://www.nowzerodays.com) .

You will receive a registration number and the authority to identify yourself as "Official Doomsday Station" with your call sign and exchange your signal report and official Doomsday Number. Official Doomsday stations will receive the Doomsday Station Certificate. Stations contacting at least 10 Official Doomsday Stations during the event will be

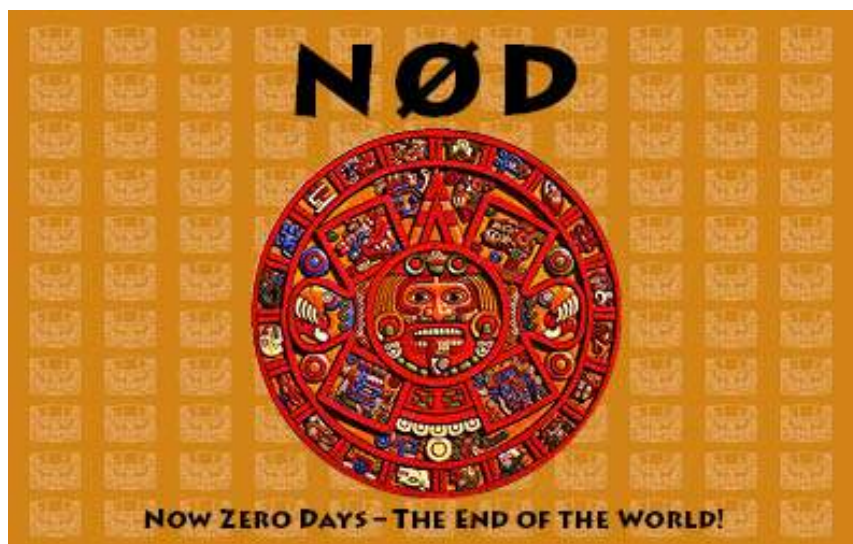
recognized on our web site.

Official NOD Doomsday apparel is now available from our website at [www.nowzerodays.com](http://www.nowzerodays.com).

Take the Doomsday survey on the website. It is not entirely clear exactly how it will happen. Will it be a cataclysmic shift in the earth's magnetic field? Global Warming on steroids, earthquakes, volcanoes floods, global thermonuclear war, Meteor collision, the 10 plagues of Egypt, UFO invasion or all of the above? Who knows ? There are scientists, soothsayers and philosophers on both sides of the question. Either way it will be an event worth remembering. . .or maybe there will be no one left to remember it?

As the day draws near for NOD to go on the air, Check our website for the latest updates

For More information contact: [NOD.Doomsday@gmail.com](mailto:NOD.Doomsday@gmail.com)





Who will be the  
Alliance Amateur  
Radio Club's

**2012**

Ham of the Year?

This honor will be awarded at our  
Annual Christmas Party

Alliance Amateur Radio Club  
Christmas Party

December 8, 2012 at 6 PM  
at

**Don Pancho's Tex-Mex café**

2105 W. State St  
Alliance

Also, don't miss the annual AARC prize drawing!  
This is one event you don't want to miss!

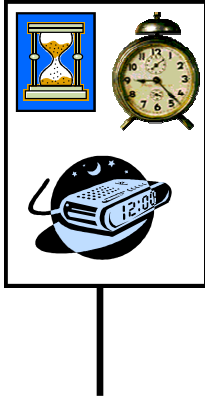
We will be ordering from Don Pancho's regular menu. Meals will be at regular prices plus \$4.00.  
**No reservations required!**



G1210

# FINDING THE TIME CAN BE PUZZLING

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTHS PUZZLE



SIGN OF THE TIMES

Clue: HEOFTENMISTSIG



00:10:00

TIME 2 ID

Clue: DIMEIT2

00:03:00

REPEATER TIMEOUT

Clue: TROUTMITEAPEER



GREENWICH

UTC TIME

Clue: CUTEMIT



MARC, OCTOBER 28, 2012

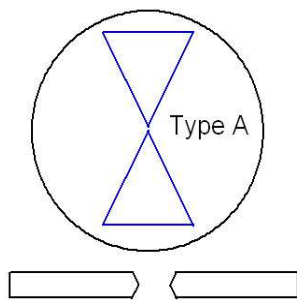
HAMFEST TIME

Clue: FEETMATHISM

73, DE MIKE, WA8MKH

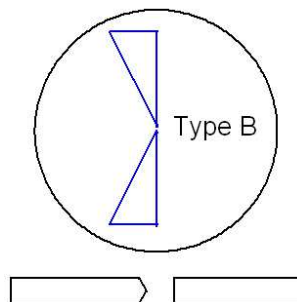
# TOOL BOX ADDITION OR CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY?

There are several types of wire cutters in use. The focus of this article is the Pliers-type of cutters. There is also a Scissor-type of wire cutters.



**Type A** (Depending on size) is noted for cutting wire such as mild steel of larger diameter or bolts. The cut wire from this design will leave a pointed end that can tear skin if scraped against it. An option is to file the end of the cut wire to remove the sharpness. Higher quality models for cutting wire offer a cleaner cut than others. Make sure the cutters will close completely without light showing thru. Dull cutters will not cut cleanly.

Example of wire ends after the cut.



**Type B** blade style is not as strong since basically 1/2 of the metal surface is not there. Wire cut from this design will leave a sharper end on one piece of the wire but a flush cut on the other piece of wire. The flush-cut type is good for trimming wire from a printed circuit board and for any cut that needs a smooth end. Another use is trimming plastic wire ties where a smooth flush cut is safer to work around.

Example of wire ends after the cut.

**Type B** has been around for a few decades but more recently one model is additionally marketed as a Model Train track cutter. While there are other brands of wire cutters, the author has experience with the Xuron model 2175B. This model can be used for cutting Copper, Plastic, and Aluminum of light gauge. **Do not use this item on steel or it will permanently ruin the cutting edge.** It is important to read the manufacturers information (available on the internet) before using this item. Also remember to use safety glasses and keep wire pieces from falling into the carpet.

This item can be found at some of the model train supply stores or some of the electronic supply distributors. Year 2012 price estimate is \$17.00.



**73 DE MIKE, WA8MKH**

## December 2012

| Sunday  | Monday                              | Tuesday   | Wednesday                 | Thursday   | Friday                                      | Saturday  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |          |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|--|---|---|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|---|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|--|----------|
|   |                                     | <table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="7">Nov 2012</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>1</td><td>2</td><td>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></td></tr> </tbody> </table> | Nov 2012                  |  |   |   |  |  |  | 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 |  | <table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="7">Jan 2013</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>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> |  | Jan 2013 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 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 |  |  | <i>1</i> |
| Nov 2012  |                                     |   |                           |  |   |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |          |
| 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 2013  |                                     |   |                           |  |   |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |          |
| 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   |   |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |          |
| <i>2</i>  | <i>3</i><br>Sam, KC8ETZ<br>Birthday | <i>4</i><br>7:00 PM Stark Cty ARES Net (147.12)<br>9:00 PM Northern Columbiana Cty Training Net (147.255)   | <i>5</i>                  | <i>6</i><br>7:00 PM PCARS Net (146.895)<br>8:01 PM AARC CW (28.100 MHz)<br>8:30 PM AARC SSB(28.400 MHz)<br>9:00 PM AARC VHF (145.37(-))  | <i>7</i><br>ARRL 10 Meter Contest           | <i>8</i><br>6:00 PM AARC Christmas Party<br><br>ARRL 10 Meter Contest |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |          |
| <i>9</i><br>ARRL 10 Meter Contest<br><br>Gary, KD8QFH<br>Birthday | <i>10</i>                           | <i>11</i><br>7:00 PM Stark Cty ARES Net (147.12)<br>9:00 PM Northern Columbiana Cty Training Net (147.255)  | <i>12</i><br>AARC Meeting | <i>13</i><br>7:00 PM PCARS Net (146.895)<br>8:01 PM AARC CW (28.100 MHz)<br>8:30 PM AARC SSB(28.400 MHz)<br>9:00 PM AARC VHF (145.37(-)) | <i>14</i><br>8:00 PM Massillon Net (147.18) | <i>15</i>   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |          |
| <i>16</i>   | <i>17</i>                           | <i>18</i><br>7:00 PM Stark Cty ARES Net (147.12)<br>9:00 PM Northern Columbiana Cty Training Net (147.255)  | <i>19</i>                 | <i>20</i><br>7:00 PM PCARS Net (146.895)<br>8:01 PM AARC CW (28.100 MHz)<br>8:30 PM AARC SSB(28.400 MHz)<br>9:00 PM AARC VHF (145.37(-)) | <i>21</i><br>8:00 PM Massillon Net (147.18) | <i>22</i>   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |          |
| <i>23</i>   | <i>24</i>                           | <i>25</i><br>7:00 PM Stark Cty ARES Net (147.12)<br>8:00 PM Homeland Security Net (147.51)<br>9:00 PM Northern Columbiana Cty Training Net (147.255)  | <i>26</i>                 | <i>27</i><br>7:00 PM PCARS Net (146.895)<br>8:01 PM AARC CW (28.100 MHz)<br>8:30 PM AARC SSB(28.400 MHz)<br>9:00 PM AARC VHF (145.37(-)) | <i>28</i><br>8:00 PM Massillon Net (147.18) | <i>29</i>   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |          |
| <i>30</i>   | <i>31</i>                           |   |                           |  |   |   |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |   |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |          |

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

## The AARC Way back Machine

Here again are some of the highlights from the last 25 years of the Zero Beat. you can access almost all of them the club website at [www.w8lky.org](http://www.w8lky.org).

### **Dec, 1987, (editor N8IAK)**

- The Ham of the month was Jim, N8DZA (now K8LTG). In naming him HOTM, he was described as always being there when needed, and never having a bad word to say about anyone.

- The latest fox hunt was won by Dave, KC8WY, and Allen, KA8CIY (now WI8T). The foxes for this event were John, N8GIE, Kevin, N8IBI, Eric, N8HHV, and Alan, N8EZO.

- Bob Hobbs, W8ACP was recognized for 41 years of service to Ham Radio.

- It was announced that the 145.37 repeater had been purchased by Jim, N8DZA, after attempts to sell it to the club had failed.

- While a junior in high school, Eric, N8HHV placed first in the Americanism test, which was sponsored by American Legion post 166

- George Wilson, W4OYI had given his thumbs-up to the clubs Special Service Club application.

- The upcoming Christmas banquet was

(Continued on page 8)