

Zero Beat



Alliance Amateur Radio Club

Volume XXVII, no 2

<http://www.w8lky.org>

February 2013

Serving the Tri-County area since 1986

2013 Raffle Is Underway!

Well, the Weather station has been purchased, the tickets printed. At the January club meeting, it was decided to choose an Ambient weather M#WS-1090 wireless home weather station for this years fundraiser.

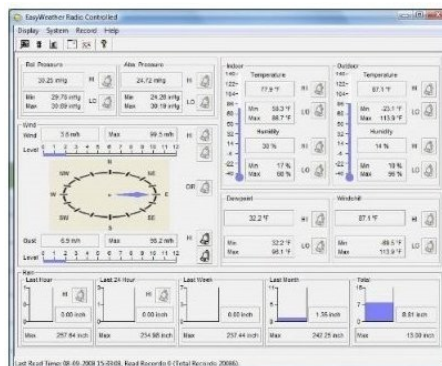
This widens our customer base. An HT can be sold to just Hams, where a weather station can be of use to anyone.

So, Would you like to buy a chance on our latest venture? How about several chances? That's the spirit!

Tickets will be for sale at all upcoming Alliance ARC meetings. Our upcoming club meetings are scheduled for February 13th, March 6th, and April 10th. We meet at 7:30 PM in the Café conference room At the Alliance Community Hospital.

Since this is a club project, tickets should be available from any club member. If you ask a club member, and they are unable to sell you a ticket, just tell them to call John, KD8MQ @ 330-936-5021. He will make sure they have tickets to sell.

The drawing is held at our April 10th club meeting. Make sure to get your tickets before they are **ALL SOLD OUT!**



This Months Meeting

will be on Wednesday, February 13th, 2013.

We'll be meeting in in the Café conference room at the

Alliance Community hospital
200 E. State St
Alliance, OH.

Our meeting will begin at 7:30PM

This Months program will be on **Amateur Radio Awards Chasing**
Presented by Joe, W8KNO

Please Join us for dinner at 6 PM on meeting night.

This month, we'll be eating at **Franks Family restaurant**
480 E. State St
Alliance

Dues Are Due

Don't forget; Alliance ARC Dues are due by April 1st.

For your convenience, we've included a membership renewal form in this issue of the Zero Beat.

Please, take a moment, and take care of this before it slips your mind.

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AARC Meetings

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club meets on the Second Wednesday of each month, at the Alliance Community Hospital. Check the meeting announcement on page 1, for times, and program information. Talk-in on either of the club repeaters. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM. Visitors are always welcome.

Find Us Online:

Web: www.w8lky.org

E-mail: W8lky@w8lky.org



Find us on:
facebook®

AARC Repeaters

2 Meters

145.370 (-) W8LKY

440 MHz

442.350 (+) W8LKY

(Neither club repeater uses PL for access)

Nets

Thursday is our "net night," with the following nets held, beginning at 8 PM

Ten Meters

8:00PM 28.100 MHz (CW)

8:30PM 28.400 MHz (SSB)

Two Meters

9:00 PM 145.37 MHz W8LKY (-)

Homeland security Net

(Meets on the last Tuesday of each month)

8:00 PM 147.51 Simplex

Table of Contents

2013 Raffle Is Underway	1
Bar Codes Co-Inventor Dies	4
Briefs	4
BSA to Offer Ham Rating Strip	20
Calendar	18
Cell Phone Fundraiser	8
Choosing An Antenna Analyzer	13
Club Info	2
Contact Us	2
Contest Calendar	7
Dayton Bus trip	15
Dues Are Due	1
Hamfest Calendar	7
How's DX?	9
January Minutes	3
Joe, W8KNO To Speak	5
March Meeting Rescheduled	5
Meeting Announcement	1
Membership App	19
Net Info	2
PCARS CW Training Course	6
Rambling by KD8MQ	12
Random Access by WA8WHP	6
Repair on a Icom 2100H	11
Skywarn Training Schedule	5
Stark County VHF QSO Party	10
Thank you from K8OMO	11
VE Exams	8
VHF Contest Flyer	17
Wayback Machine	9
W1AW Winter Schedule	7

Newsletter Information

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You can submit material to the Zero Beat via e-mail to kd8mq1@gmail.com

January Minutes

January 9, 2013

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held on January 9, 2013 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 14 members present along with Miriam Sanor and guest Gary Grimes (KB8GAB).

Committee reports:

- For ARES and nets, in the absence of Don (K8OMO), President Frank simply noted that more participation was needed on the 10-meter nets while the 2-meter net was doing fine.
- Regarding the repeater committee, John (KD8MQ) reported that a meeting of the committee was scheduled for that evening.
- Ben (KD8KMQ) noted that the club website was operating well.

Announcements:

- President Frank presented certificates to Steve (KB8RFE) and Allen (WI8T) for their participation in Field Day and the Rotary Castle Run respectively.
- The only birthday for the month was Tony (KD8BBK).
- Upcoming hamfests included TUSCO on January 27 and Mansfield on February 17.
- Operating events announced were:
 - North American QSO party (cw) on January 12-13
 - January VHF contest on January 19-21
 - North American QSO party (phone) on January 19-20
 - CQ world-wide 160-meter cw contest on January 25-27
 - Winter Field Day on January 26-27.
- There followed some discussion about the club participating in the winter Field Day event. It was decided to leave it up to individual participation rather than make it a club event.
- The subject of licensing classes was raised, and John noted that he had heard that the Red Cross training room could be reserved for free if anyone was a member of the Red Cross. With two club members working for the Red Cross (Paul-K2ASA and Howard-K8DXR) it was felt this might be a viable location for new classes. There was general agreement that new classes should be started, possibly beginning an entire new cycle in the fall. Further discussion and

Bar Codes Co-inventor Dies At 91

A couple of weeks ago, [NPR re-ported](#) that N. Joseph Woodland, a co-inventor of the bar code passed away at the age of 91. I found this to be a very interesting story. First, because the bar code was really so far ahead of its time.

The original patent was applied for in 1949, and issued in 1952, but it wasn't until 1974 that the first bar code was actually scanned. It took that much time for the scanner and computer technology to be developed enough to actually read and process the bar code. This was long after Woodland and his co-inventor, Bernard Silver, sold the patent for \$15,000.

The second reason is its connection to Morse Code. The story reads,

The only code Woodland knew was the Morse Code he'd learned in the Boy Scouts, his daughter said. One day, he drew Morse dots and dashes as he sat on the beach and absent-mindedly left his fingers in the sand where they traced a series of parallel lines.

"It was a moment of inspiration. He said, 'instead of dots and dashes I can have thick and thin bars,'" Susan Woodland [his daughter] said.

[Woodland's New York Times obituary](#) has more on this story.

January Minutes

details were tabled for future meetings.

Secretary's report:

Secretary Don (AB8KV) was absent so President Frank gave the report, noting that the December minutes were in the current newsletter. With nothing further, the report was approved on a motion by Tom (KD8JRK) and seconded by Tony (KD8BBK).

Treasurer's report:

Treasurer Mary Ann (KB8IVS) gave the Treasurer's report. It was approved on a motion by Howard and seconded by Tony.

Old business:

- Regarding the club insurance, President Frank noted that the club had approved obtaining equipment and liability insurance from ARRL. The liability coverage would not be started until the current coverage came up for renewal, but he added that the equipment coverage needed to start as soon as possible. With that in mind, he stated that discussion and decisions on what equipment to cover needed to take place.
- For the raffle committee, Tony reported on sources and prices he had obtained for an HT and a weather station as possible prizes. After some discussion, a motion was made by Tom to obtain the weather station as the prize. This was seconded by Tony and approved on a voice vote. There was then further discussion as to when the drawing date should be. It was decided to perform the drawing at the April club meeting (April 10).

New business:

- Frank raised the issue of the club's normal meeting night in March falling on the same day as Skywarn training in Canton. During the discussion about changing the date for March only, John made a motion to move the March meeting to March 6. He then commented about the possibility of establishing the regular meeting date on the first Thursday of each month. However, it was generally felt that this would interfere with the club's net night. John's original motion was then seconded by Tom and was passed on a voice vote.
- Frank raised the issue of Field Day for 2013, noting that it was not too early to begin thinking about it. Further discussion was reserved for future meetings.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Don (AB8KV), Secretary, with thanks to President Frank for recording the meeting and getting the attendance.

2013 Skywarn Training Schedule is Announced!

February 27

Wayne County 6PM
EMA EOC
Justice Center
201 W. North St.
Wooster, OH 44691

March 13th

Stark County 6PM
Stark State College -
Student Center
6200 Frank Ave Nw
North Canton, OH 44720

March 20th

Mahoning County 6 PM
Austintown Fitch High
School Auditorium

4560 Falcon Drive
Austintown, OH 44515

March 21st

Summit County 6PM
American Red Cross
501 W. Market Street
Akron, Ohio 44303

April 3rd

Portage county 6:30
Maplewood Career
Center
7075 State Route 88
Ravenna, Ohio 44266

April 10th

Columbiana Cty 7PM
Columbiana County
Career & Technical
Center
9364 Ohio 45
Lisbon OH
-

March Meeting Rescheduled!

Skywarn Training To Blame!



Please disregard the urgency of the above headline. It was somewhat tongue in cheek. In reality, we are all too happy to accommodate this most important event. Have you been to Skywarn training lately? If so, that's great! If not, why? You owe it

to yourself, your family, and your community to learn what to do in an emergency.

Time, and date for local Skywarn training sessions are listed in the sidebar to your left.

To afford our members the opportunity to attend the Stark County training session at Stark State, the membership voted to reschedule the March club meeting to March 6th; the first Wednesday of the month. The time, and place will remain the same.

The program for that month will be Mike, WA8MKH, who will speak on choosing an antenna analyzer.

This promises to be a good meeting, with an interesting speaker. Mark this one on your calendar.

Joe, W8KNO To Speak At February Meeting!

⇒ **Topic To Be Awards Chasing**

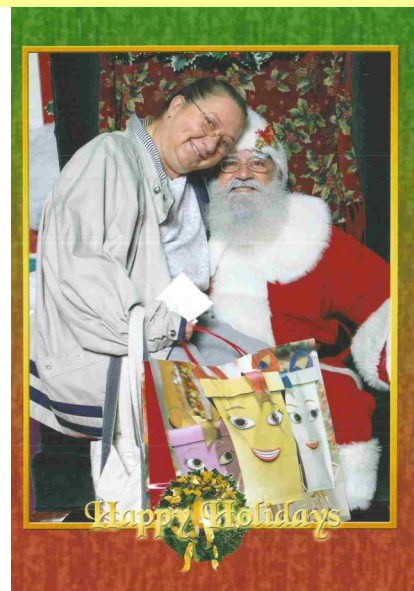
⇒ **Will also be available to check cards for ARRL Awards**

For our February meeting, we are very fortunate to have Joe, W8KNO, AKA Hiram Joe, AKA Santa Claus. Joe will be speaking on the subject of Amateur Radio awards chasing.

But Wait; there's more! Since last fall, when I originally spoke to Joe about speaking, he has been appointed a ARRL DXCC card checker.

Joe tells me that he can check cards for several ARRL awards, DXCC, WAS, WAC and VUCC. He will be available at our meeting room, beginning at 6 PM on meeting night for those of us who have QSL cards to check.

I Hope to see a good turnout.



Joe, W8KNO with his
XYL, KD8EPF

Random Access

by Franklin Sanor, WA8WHP

Well here we are again. A new month and all the opportunities that brings. I hope all have gotten the diamonds and other baubles for their significant others. I know most of us would prefer a new rig to the sparklers but you cannot have everything.

I have been hearing a suggestion that we have a program chairman. I totally agree. Any volunteers? Any topics you would like to see? Personally I would like to know more about APRS, and the digital modes. With computers and a little interfacing there are modes doing great things with digital QRP. I see some are doing PSK31, WSPR, and others. What are they and what is needed?

I don't want to sound like a broken record but, it is not too soon to be thinking about field day. We also should think about Stark County QSO Party and other operating opportunities. Any volunteers to operate an hour for the party to hand out those coveted bonus points?

It has been said that members of the Red Cross may use the conference room free. Has anyone checked it out? It would be a good place to have classes this fall if that is true. We could also return to Marlinton High School. That is my choice because of the facilities. Do we want to have Technician then General or General then Extra? Can we be really ambitious and do all three? What night would suit? Tuesdays are taken for some of us. Wednesdays are taken for most of us. Thursdays are net night. Realizing it is not required, do we want to include a CW elective?

One final note. The UV-5R is a good little radio. There is help available. Just ask in advance so we can have the facilities available. You need to know what firmware you have as that determines the software needed to program it. To find out your firmware turn off the radio, press and hold the "3" key while turning on the radio. You will get an indication such as "BFB251". This is what mine has. The newer firmware, up to at least "BFB297", uses different software to do the job. To find out more go to www.miklor.com. That site has loads of information about this "LCR".

73

DE WA8WHP

PCARS To Hold On-The-Air CW Course

Here's your chance to learn Morse Code from the comfort of your home on your 2-meter hand held radio. Starting in February, PCARS will conduct No Excuses Morse Code Training. We call it *No Excuses* because:

- All training is conducted on the air
- No books to pay for. Course materials can be downloaded
- No charge for the training course
- Sessions are conducted three times weekly.
- Lesson plans for the entire course are published in this article, so you can always go catch up the sessions you miss.
- Lecture portion of each session is short, usually about 5 minutes.
- You can race ahead in the course and impress/annoy (pick one) your friends.
- You can generate your own code practice, using free software.

More info Can be found at www.portcars.org/wp/?p=2031#more-2031

Contest Calendar

- February 2**
Minnesota QSO Party
- February 2-3**
Vermont QSO Party
Delaware QSO Party
- February 3**
North American Sprint
- February 9**
CQ WW RTTY WPX
Louisiana QSO Party
New Hampshire QSO Party
- February 11—15**
School Club Roundup
- February 16-17**
ARRL Int'l DX Contest-CW
- February 22-24**
CQ WW 160Meter SSB Contest
- February 23**
Mississippi QSO Party
North Carolina QSO Party
NA QSO Party-RTTY

Hamfests

- February 3**
NOARS Winter Hamfest
NOARS
VFW Post 1079
500 S. Abbe Rd
Elyria, OH
<http://www.noars.net/>
- February 17**
Mansfield Mid-Winter Hamfest & Computer Show
InterCity ARC
Richland County Fairgrounds
750 N. Home Rd
Mansfield, OH
<http://hamfest.w8we.org/>
- February 24**
WashFest 2013
Wireless Assoc. of South hills
Castle Shannon VFD
Memorial Hall
3600 Library Rd (SR 88)
Castle Shannon, PA
<http://n3sh.org/>

W1AW Winter Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Mode</u>	<u>Days</u>
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWf	Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 1700 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM EST)
1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST)

(Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM EST))

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Mode</u>	<u>Days</u>
2100 UTC (4 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
2100 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
2200 " (5 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
2300 " (6 PM EST)	DIGITAL	Daily
0000 " (7 PM EST)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
0000 " "	CWf	Tue, Thu
0100 " (8 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
0200 " (9 PM EST)	DIGITAL	Daily
0245 " (9:45 PM EST)	VOICE	Daily
0300 " (10 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
0300 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
0400 " (11 PM EST)	CWb	Daily

Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8025 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975 21.0675 28.0675 147.555
DIGITAL: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095 147.555
VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390 28.590 147.555

Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM
CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM
CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

DIGITAL = BAUDOT (45.45 baud), BPSK31 and MFSK16 in a revolving schedule.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2330 UTC (6:30 PM EST), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular digital frequencies.

(Continued on page 8)

VE Exams—cont

Feb 2

Ravenna, OH

Time:

10 AM(Walk-ins OK)

Location:

PCARS
705 Oakwood St
Ravenna OH

Contact:

Robert Gurney
(330) 607-3833
n8rlg@portcars.org

Feb 14

Ambridge, PA

Time:

5 PM(Walk-ins OK)

Location:

Beaver County EOC
351 14th St
Ambridge, PA

Contact:

Christy Moratis
(724) 266-2866
cjmoratis@verizon.net

Feb 23

Canton, OH

Time:

8 AM(Walk-ins OK)

Location:

Stark County EMA/EOC
4500 Atlantic Blvd NE
Canton, OH 44705

Contact:

Ted Armstrong, K8TWA
k8twa@live.com
[330-495-0732](tel:330-495-0732)

Feb 19

Akron, OH

Time:

7 PM (Walk-ins OK)

Location:

Akron Baptist Temple
2324 Manchester Rd
Akron, OH

Contact:

Leonard Johnson
330-608-2267
lhj98235@yahoo.com

W1AW Winter Operating Schedule

(Continued from page 7)

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Thursdays and 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Fridays.

Audio from W1AW's CW code practices and CW/digital bulletins is available using EchoLink via the W1AW Conference Server named "W1AWBDCT." The 9:45 PM ET phone bulletin is currently unavailable via W1AWBDCT. The audio is sent in real-time and runs concurrently with W1AW's regular transmission schedule.

All users who connect to the conference server are muted. Please note that any questions or comments about this server should not be sent via the "Text" window in EchoLink. Please direct any questions or comments to w1aw@arrl.org.

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Digital at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

All licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1500 UTC to 1700 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM EST), and then from 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST) Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur radio license or a photocopy.

The W1AW Operating Schedule may also be found on page 90 in the January 2013 issue of QST or on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule>.

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.

Bring them to a club meeting, or call KD8MQ @ 330-936-5021 to arrange a pickup.



How's DX?

Information for this column comes from the ARRL DX Bulletin, and the OPDX Bulletin.

Do you have something to add? By all means, send it in. I'll be happy to add member submissions to this list.

CARIBBEAN/ATLANTIC TOUR (Press Release From OH2BH).

Martti, OH2BH, sent out the following [edited]:

"Press Release - January 30, 2013, Montego Bay, Jamaica ---
M/S KRISTINA KATARINA

NORTHERN FOLKS AT IT AGAIN
FROM THE CARIBBEAN TO THE
ATLANTIC, OJ0H/MM

With the severe winter in Northern Europe, OHs are heading South as is their lifestyle of four deep seasons. Cruising in as many as nine countries in the Caribbean, they will end up meeting hams in many of their stopovers such as 6Y, P4, PJ4, YV7, J49, FM, V2 and HI.

They will be active on board their 450ft cruise ship m/s Kristina Katarina. Typically you will find them on 14.267 kHz. They will also be on CW at sea.

www.kristinacruises.com/en/cruises/ms-kristina-katarina

OJ0H/MM CREW:
Hilkka/OH1DV (YL)
Markku/OH1MV
Pekka/OH1TV
Rami/ OH2BCI,
Leena/OH2BE (YL)
Martti/OH2BH
Osmo/OH2KH
Heikki/OH4NS,
Seppo/OH6TJ
Osmo/OH8KN.

CRUISING SCHEDULE:

January 31st -
(THU) Montego Bay, Jamaica

(Continued on page 10)

The AARC Wayback Machine

Here again are some of the highlights from the last 25 years of the Zero Beat.

you can access all issues of the Zero Beat on the club website at www.w8lky.org.

February, 1988, (editor N8IAK)

- Our Ham of the Month was Dave Buckwalter, KC3CL.
- The Zero Beat was officially one year old with the February, 1988 edition.
- The winner of our HT raffle was Dick Bontrager, KA8LKQ. Dick won a new Yaesu HT.
- The next Mall Show was scheduled for March 11-13, 1988.
- Tech/General classes, taught by Jim, N8DZA(now K8LTG), had just begun.
- We printed the net format for the Eastern Stark County ARES Net, which was the precursor to the current Tri-County News, training, and swap net.
- Dave, KC3CL was dubbed keeper of the club callbooks.
- Allen, KA8CIY (Now WI8T) penned a guest editorial, reminding us that in order to round out our emergency training, First aid, and CPR training should be on **every** Ham's to-do list. Even 20 years later, it's still good advice.

February, 1993 (editor N8LVO)

- January 16th was the date for the first Fox hunt of the new year. The team of Bill Bennett, W8ZZS (SK), John Bray, N8SFN(SK), and Dan Mutigli, N8LVO earned first place honors, by braving the elements

February, 1998 (editor K8LTG)

- The club had lost one of its greatest friends, with the passing of Jim Wilson, KB8GHZ.
- The club was talking about doing a coffee break, as a fundraiser.
- Licensing classes were beginning again. However, the newsletter doesn't specify which class license is being taught. W8WEN was involved, so we know CW was being taught.

February, 2003 (editor KE8VE)

- The club lost another supporter, as Jim Miller, N8MAA became a silent key.
- A fox hunt was scheduled for February 16, 2003.

February, 2008 (editor KD8MQ)

(Continued on page 10)

How's DX?

February 1st - (FRI)
at sea

February 2nd - (SAT)
ranjestad, Aruba and
P43A & P49V

February 3rd - (SUN)
Kralendijk, Bonaire and
PJ4LS

February 4th -
(MON) El Guamache, Isla
Margarita, Venezuela

February 5th - (TUE)
St. George's, Grenada
and J39AH

February 6th - (WED)
Fort-de-France, Marti
nique

February 7th - (THU)
St. John's, Antigua, on
the ruins of V26B

February 8th - (FRI)
at sea

February 9th - (SAT)

Santo Domingo, Domini
can Republic

Following the Caribbean stint, the party will continue to Azores Islands with an additional Finnish and Estonian assemblage titled "The Atlantic and I" with participation in the ARRL CW and SSB Contests from their Atlantic outpost at CR2X and CQ8X.
QSL OJ0H/MM and CR2X & CQ8X via OH2BH."

D4, CAPE VERDE (Correction/Update). Mats, SM7GIB, will be active as D44TIB from Cape Verde (AF-086) until February 7th (not between February 25th and March 8th). Activity will be holiday style using a K3 into a wire vertical for 160-10 meters. Look for him to be on the radio in the early mornings and evenings - on CW. QSL via his home callsign.

5V, TOGO. Jackie, F8AEJ, will be active as 5V7JD from Lome between February 4th and March 15th. Activity will be holiday style (visiting his son), using a FT897D with a "AT-897

The AARC Wayback Machine

- Howard, K8DXR had been named 2007 Ham of the Year.
- The editor was whining about the previous newsletter, and blaming it on Office 2007 being installed on his computer; Yeah, right!
- We had a story on John, K3TUP, who was just a regular guy, working on a cure for cancer.

Stark County VHF QSO Party Is Scheduled for April 6th

Shortened to 4 hours this year

This year marks the 4th year for the Stark County VHF QSO Party under the AARC sponsorship. Over the last couple years, we've noticed a small, but dedicated following of VHF simplex operators who activate the 2 Meter simplex frequencies for an afternoon in April.

This years party will be on April 6th. This years contest runs from 12 noon - 4 PM. Forms, and more information are posted on the club website at www.w8lky.org.

Though plans are still tentative at press time, we are hoping for bonus stations to be on the air from Alliance (W8LKY), Canton (W8AL), and Massillon (W8NP).

The purpose of this contest is to:

- Provide an opportunity for local Amateurs to enhance their station and operating skills.
- Simulate emergency conditions (with NO repeaters).
- To enhance utilization of the 2 meter band and simplex operation
- To have fun.

The last couple years, activity ebbed a bit towards the later part of the afternoon, so this year we are planning to shut down at 4 PM.

If you have any questions, and can't get an answer from the official forms on the website, please give John, KD8MQ a call at 330-936-5021.

So, get those bandplans out, check out those beams, and get ready for a fun time!

How's DX?

Plus Tuner" into a 6 band Conrad window antenna (used at CN2CDJ; see QRZ.com). He informs OPDX that he will do mostly digital modes. QSL via his home callsign, direct or eQSL. Log will be posted on Club Log.

6V, SENEGAL. Vladimir "Vlad", RK4FF, will once again be active as 6V7S from Le Calao in Ngaparou at least four times during 2013. His schedule is as follows: February 11th-April 3rd, May 13th-May 30th, July 1-16th and October 22nd-November 27th. Activity will probably be on 80/40/20/15/10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via RK4FF.

C6, BAHAMAS. Look for operators Tom/N1GN and William/NE1B to be active as C6ANM from Nassau (NA-001, FL15) during the CQ 160 Meter SSB Contest (February 22-24th) as a Multi-Single entry. QSL via LoTW. They will also be active before and after the contest. Also, operators Tom/N1GN, William/NE1B, Mike/N1IW and Paul/K1VK will be active as C6ANM during the ARRL DX SSB Contest (March 2-3rd) as a Multi-Multi entry. QSL via LoTW and look for operations on all bands and modes before contest.

Are you working on your WAS, DXCC, or any other award? How about sending progress reports to us for inclusion in this column in the Zero Beat? For example:

KD8MQ is working towards his ARRL Triple Play award. He is at CW-1, SSB-

Thank You From K8OMO

As most of you are aware, Sherry Whitaker, Don, K8OMO's XYL was in the Cleveland Clinic for an extended visit.

We received a note from OMO, asking us to forward it to the group.

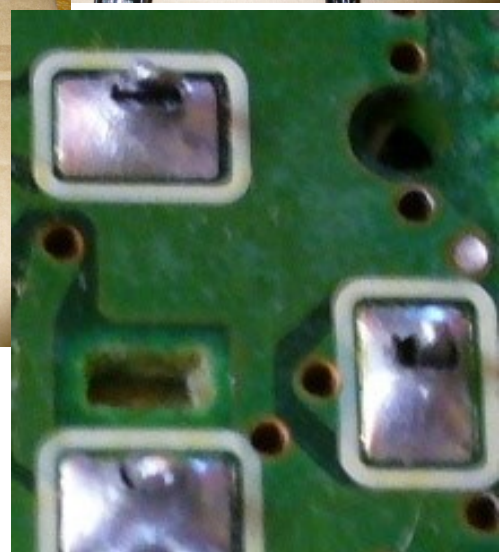
"Thanks to all for their Prayers , Sherry is Home for now and hope for a fast recovery - OMO"

Repair on a Icom 2100H

This comes from Tony, KD8BBK. He reports that he had to do a repair job on his 2 meter mobile the other day.

The mobile is a Icom 2100H and the external speaker jack quit. Had to de-solder the SO-239 jack from the board and the some other components because the bad solder joint was on the back of the board.

Here are some pics.



Rambling

By John, KD8MQ

Well, it's 3:45 in the morning, and I'm up checking the computer. I started an install of Microsoft 2013 about 9:30 last night, and it just completed. No, it isn't that slow; I just had a couple settings that needed to be "tweaked" in order to allow it to finish.

So far, the only real major difference between office 2013, and the last version is the lack of chrome in the GUI. It looks different, but everything is still there. The goal for this version was to have a product that would run on more of the windows 8 devices, including smart phones. We'll see how it all works out. So far, this issue of the Zero Beat has been written on 3 different versions of Microsoft Publisher, so I guess they got the interoperability right.

The update to the newsletter continues, as we move more articles into the single column format this month. As I said last month, **please** let me know if you see something that needs tweaked. Each issue is an extension of my comfort zone. A few years ago, I would have been dead set against doing a single column format. I thought it looked unprofessional. But, as was pointed out by an editor friend, more & more newsletters are being read not on paper, but on computers, tablets, and, yes, even smartphones. We need to change with the times. Please bear with me as the tweaking continues.

My odyssey with LoTW continues. As usual, I was way over-thinking the whole thing. It turns out that LoTW is a piece of cake, as long as you follow the rules. As of this writing, I am just shy of one third of the way to my ARRL Triple Play award. In case you're wondering, the requirement for the triple play award is to work all 50 states, 3 times. Once each on SSB, CW, and Digital. All confirmations must be on LoTW. No paper QSLs!

I got involved with the ARRL RTTY Roundup a few weeks ago, and managed to wipe quite a few states off of my need list.

Well, as you no doubt read on page one, the AARC raffle 2013 is well underway. The first stop on our ticket selling odyssey was the Tusco Hamfest, in Strasburg. This Hamfest, sports a small, but enthusiastic crowd, and I try not to miss it. In 2½ hours of selling, Mike, KD8RUQ, and I sold \$81 worth of tickets. We aren't close to the break-even point, but we can see it from here.

I'll be attending the Canton, and Massillon club meetings. Also, a table has been reserved at the Mansfield Hamfest (February 17th).

I may need someone to help man the table, so I can enjoy the Hamfest too. If you're able to help, either let me know in advance, or stop by the table at the hamfest. I'll likely be monitoring 145.37 simplex. You can reach me via my cell John, KD8MQ

Remember, this is your club, and your fundraiser. It behooves us all to pitch in, and sell tickets. This is our only fundraiser of the year, so lets join together, and make it a success! To get some tickets to sell, call me, and we'll arrange to get some tickets to you. My phone # is 330-936-5021.

Work on the W8LKY website continues, as we work on updating the site. We still have a long way to go, but check back often. We are posting new items all the time.

That's about it for this month. See you at the next meeting. 73 De John, KD8MQ.

Choosing An Antenna Analyzer

By Dan, KB6NU

A reader recently e-mailed me:

In the past you told me you started with the Autek RF-1, and later moved to the Palstar ZM-30. I am finally getting around to thinking about purchasing an antenna analyzer, but I am stumped by the choices. In order of increasing purchase price this is what I've turned up:

[Autek RF-1](#) - \$139.95

[Autek RF-5](#) - \$229.95

[Rig Expert AA-54](#) - \$340.00

[Palstar ZM-30](#) \$399.99

[W4RT Electronics MiniVNA](#) \$399.99

[Rig Expert AA-230PRO](#) \$690.00

[Timewave Technology TZ-900S](#) \$899.99

How does one decide? Where does one go to find out the differences? Other than asking a fellow ham, how does one find out which one is the best antenna analyzer without paying an arm and a leg (unless the feature(s) so purchased are deemed worth the cost)?

Thanks! 73

He actually missed several other good choices:

[Autek VA1](#) - \$199. This is actually the antenna analyzer that I first purchased.

[MFJ 259B](#) - \$240. This is arguably the most popular antenna analyzer on the market. MFJ has several other models with different feature sets.

[YouKits FG-01](#) - \$250. This is a very cute, little analyzer with a small graphical display. It seems kind of expensive, but the graphical display might be worth it.

[Comet CAA500](#) - \$450.

So, how do you choose just one from this list? Well, I think the first thing that you have to ask yourself is how you're going to use the analyzer. If all you're going to do is to check the SWR of your HF dipoles, then buy the Autek RF-1. It's the least expensive unit, is reasonably accurate, and is small and lightweight, making it easy to use outside where your antennas are located.

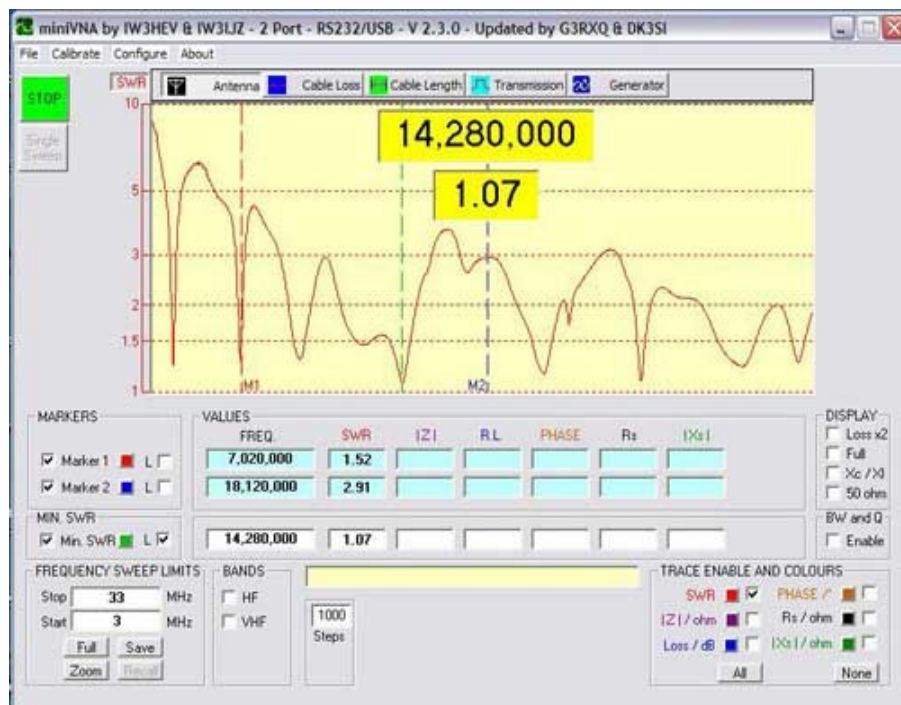


The Autek RF-1 is inexpensive, and its small size makes it easy to use outdoors where your antennas are.

If you want to do some more serious frequency analysis, then you should be looking at the W4RT miniVNA or, if you have more cash, the Timewave TZ-900s. These instruments can help you do a lot more in-depth analysis of your antenna system. The figure below, for example, shows a plot generated by the miniVNA software. It shows the SWR of a multi-band vertical antenna from 3 - 33 MHz.

Choosing An Antenna Analyzer

By Dan, KB6NU



For more sophisticated frequency analysis, consider the miniVNA. It uses a computer to generate graphs like this.

Some antenna analyzers do more than just SWR. For example, what sold me first on the Autek VA1 and then on the Palstar was that they also measured reactance. So, you can use the antenna analyzer as an LC meter as well. Palstar also says that you can use the ZM-3 as a low-level signal source.

Next, you need to consider what bands you'll be using it on. Many antenna analyzers only cover the HF bands. That's a bummer if you like operating 6m, or like to experiment with VHF/UHF antennas. A friend of mine bought the Palstar antenna analyzer after talking to the company at Dayton. At the time, they said that they were planning to come out with a model that covered 6m, as well as the HF bands.

Unfortunately, they never did come out with a 6m version, and he was sorely disappointed. He ended up buying a miniVNA instead.

Asking your fellow hams about the antenna analyzers they have is actually a good way to figure out what's best for you. If you ask nicely, they might even let you borrow their analyzers or come over and show you how it works on your antennas.

Reading the reviews on eHam is also a good way to gather information before making a purchase like this. You certainly have to take the reviews there with a grain of salt, but if several reviewers mention a particularly good or particularly bad feature of a product, then it's certainly something worth taking a hard look at.

If you're new to the hobby, starting out small and working your way up might be a good strategy. You could buy one of the less expensive models and get used to how they work, then sell it and make the leap to a more sophisticated unit. The way things are going, you should be able to sell your first antenna analyzer for at least 80% of what you paid for it.

Whatever you do, don't fall victim to "paralysis by analysis." Go ahead and buy one and start using it. This is a learn by doing hobby after all.



Pioneer Amateur Radio Fellowship, Inc.

Dayton Hamvention 2013

Saturday, May 18, 2013 5:30 AM



Don't miss out on this year's PARF Bus Trip to the world's largest topical conference and product exhibition. Save on gas, parking, and walking by riding with us! Leave the driving to us and you can come and go to the flea market with your great purchases and leave them on the bus. The bus will be parked close to the flea market entrance.

You can save \$10* if you book before April 15th.

The cost of the **Bus & Entrance ticket** to the Hamvention:
\$65* before April 15, 2013

The cost of the **Bus Only** to the Hamvention:
\$50* after April 15, 2013

(You will need to get your own Hamvention Entrance Ticket at gate \$25, or order by phone & have held at Will Call--possibly getting Advanced \$20 price.)

We will take riders right up to departure that morning (if there are seats available) on a first come, first served basis.
Departure time is 5:30 AM **SHARP**, so please be on time so you don't miss the bus!
Parking will be in the back of the church.

There will be a stop for breakfast @ McDonald's and a dinner stop @ Golden Corral Buffet (out of pocket expense).

Transportation is being provided by the Crossroads Transportation Company.
This bus is a smoke free bus, so there will be no smoking permitted.

To Order - Complete application & send with check/money order (*payable to "PARF"*) to:

Joy Spencer KA8TDF
2101 Bigelow St
Akron, OH 44314
Or call 330-745-5115
E-mail: KA8TDF@arrl.net

Please supply a return e-mail for your receipt confirmation.

Location of Departure is:

Akron Baptist Temple
2324 Manchester Road
Akron, Ohio 44314
Located on Rt. 93 just north of Rt. 224

Repeaters 147.135 & 146.610

Please pass the word out to all of your ham friends & computer geeks.

The above pricing does not include any tips...a hat will be passed for driver's tip.

Pioneer Amateur Radio Fellowship, Inc.



W8CTT



2013 DAYTON HAMVENTION BUS TRIP

Bus & Entrance ticket: \$65* before April 15, 2013

Bus Only: \$50* after April 15, 2013

(You will need to get your own Hamvention Entrance Ticket at gate \$25, or order by phone & have held at Will Call--possibly getting Advance \$20 price.)

Funds must be received by Club Treasurer by April 15th deadline:

Joy Spencer, KA8TDF
2101 Bigelow Street
Akron, OH 44314-2521

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Email Address _____

(Email confirmation will be sent you upon receipt of your check.)

The charter bus company requires that we have emergency info on hand for each of our riders. After speaking with emergency personnel about "best case" info to have on hand, this is what they look for: (If carry such info with you or you prefer not to answer, please so note below.)

Emergency Contact Person _____ Their Phone # _____

Meds you are on _____

Allergies _____

*******For Office Use Only*******

Date Received _____ Amount Received _____ Confirmation Sent _____

Stark County VHF QSO Party



April 6th, 2013

12 Noon—4 PM

Make as many contacts as you can on 2 Meter FM Simplex!

Stark County contacts are worth **2 Pts**,

all others are worth **1 Pt!**

36 Multipliers!

Bonus Stations Will Be On The Air!

Download Entry forms, Rules, and Information at:

www.w8lky.org

or

e-mail: 2mcontest@w8lky.org!

Sponsored by:

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club

February 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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Callsign-_____

W8LKY
Alliance Amateur Radio Club
Renewal – Membership Application

	Dues	
Sustaining		\$15.00
Full		\$10.00
Associate		\$5.00
Family		\$1.00

Mail to: Mary Ann Royer
6255 Sandalwood NE
Canton, OH 44721

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Birthday _____

Occupation _____ ARRL Member? Yes No

License Class _____ Expiration Date _____ Year you were first licensed _____

E-mail Address _____

Special interests? (i.e. Dxing, Contesting, Hunting, etc.) _____

Pro-Rated Dues Schedule
(New Members Only)

	April-June	July-September	October-December	January-March
Sustaining	\$15.00	\$11.25	\$7.50	\$3.75
Full	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50
Associate	\$5.00	\$3.75	\$ 2.50	\$1.25
Family Member	\$1.00	\$0.75	\$0.50	\$0.25

Please do not write beneath this line

Dues paid – Sustaining() Full() Associate() Family() \$_____ on _____, 20____ signed _____

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

BSA to Offer Amateur Radio Operator Rating Strip

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has approved an Amateur Radio Operator rating strip for Scouts and Scouters to wear on their uniforms. According to BSA Communication Services Director Jim Wilson, K5ND, the strip recognizes the Scout or Scouter's availability as an Amateur Radio operator for communication services for events and activities, as well as emergencies. All registered youth members and adult leaders who also hold a valid FCC-issued Amateur Radio license of any class are eligible to wear the rating strip.



"Last year, the BSA Awards and Insignia Committee introduced the Morse Code Interpreter Strip upon the recommendation of the BSA's National Radio Scouting Committee," Wilson told the ARRL. "We are always looking for ways to promote Amateur Radio, both within Scouting and to the world. The National Radio Scouting Committee thought this new Amateur Radio rating strip was a wonderful way to do exactly that, as it readily identifies to everyone that the wearer is a licensed radio amateur, prepared to be useful and to help others."

Wilson, who heads up the National Radio Scouting Committee, said that the Amateur Radio Operator rating strip is similar to the Amateur Radio Operator badge offered as a proficiency badge by Scouts Australia, as well as the badge recently introduced by Scouting Netherlands. It follows in the footsteps of the Scout Radioman personal interest badge for Senior Scouts and Explorer Scouts that was offered by the Boy Scouts of America in the 1940s. The strip is worn on the right sleeve.

From the ARRL