

Zero Beat



Alliance Amateur Radio Club

Volume XXVII, no 3

<http://www.w8lky.org>

March 2013

Serving the Tri-County area since 1986

WA8MKH To Speak At March Meeting.

The program at this month's club meeting will be presented by Mike Sciarini, WA8MKH, on the subject of **choosing an antenna analyzer.**

Mike was first licensed in 1964, and holds an extra class license. He is a VE in the Stark County VE test sessions, and a member of QCWA. He holds a (General) First Class Radiotelephone license. From 1973 to 1980 he designed, built, and maintained the Millersburg, Ohio 146.670 MHz repeater system. He has written many articles published in area Amateur Radio Club Newsletters and is currently the President of the Massillon Amateur Radio Club. Mike is a retired Senior Design Engineer in electronics from the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center at Wooster, Ohio.

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.

BTW, You owe it to yourself, to attend Skywarn training this year. The schedule for all local training sessions are listed in the sidebar on page 5.

This month's club meeting has been re-scheduled to March 6th; a week early. This is to prevent a conflict with the Stark County Skywarn Training on the 13th.

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

This Month's Meeting

will be on Wednesday,
March 6th, 2013.

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

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

Our meeting will begin at
7:30PM

This Month's program will be
**Choosing An
Antenna Analyzer**

Presented by Mike, WA8MKH

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 Update	20
ARRL Incoming QSL Bureau	6
Calendar	19
Cell Phone Fundraiser	5
Antenna Analyzer Basics	12
Club Info	2
Contact Us	2
Contest Calendar	9
Dayton Bus trip	16
Dues Are Due	1
February Minutes	3
Hamfest Calendar	7
How's DX?	10
K3LR Trip	6
Lisbon ARC Meeting Change	6
March Meeting Rescheduled	5
Meeting Announcement	1
Membership App	15
New Members	9
Net Info	2
Ohio section Youth & Educational Outreach	4
Paper Chase	7
Rambling by KD8MQ	11
Random Access by WA8WHP	10
Skywarn Training Schedule	5
Stark Cty VHF QSO Party	9, 18
VE Exams	7
VHF Contest Flyer	17
WA8MKH To Speak	1
Wayback Machine	8

February Minutes

February 13, 2013

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held on February 13, 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 18 members present along with Miriam Sanor, Gary Grimes (KB8GAB), Dana Evans (KC8LKB), Jesse Evans (KD8KDK) and guests Joe Wehner (W8KNO) and Lewie DeVore (KD8TUB).

Committee reports:

- For ARES and nets, Don (K8OMO) noted that the 10-meter SSB net needed additional participation from members.
- Regarding the repeaters, Don (K8OMO) reported that the recent outage of the 2-meter repeater was caused by an animal intrusion into the equipment area, breaking some wires, which he soon repaired. Ron (WC8F) announced that Echolink would be available on the club's 2-meter net this next Thursday, using the club call sign.
- Ben (KD8KMQ) noted that the club website was running well.

Birthdays and announcements:

Birthdays for February included

- Pat Collins (KB8QWH)
 - Doug Matthew (KB8DNQ)
 - Dick Bontrager (KA8LKQ)
 - Don Kingan (AB8KV)
 - Bryan Webler (N8WD).
- President Frank reminded the club about upcoming ham-fests, including Mansfield (2/17) and Brookville (2/23), adding that again this year a bus trip would be available for the Dayton Hamvention in May. He also reminded everyone that the March club meeting would be on the first Wednesday (3/6) to avoid a conflict with the Skywarn training in Canton on the 13th.
 - Ted (K8TWA) reported that VE testing would be held at the Sheriff's office on the 23rd.

Secretary's report:

Secretary Don (AB8KV) gave the report. He noted that the January minutes were in the current newsletter and thanked President Frank for recording last month's meeting in his absence. With nothing further, the report was approved on a motion by Don (K8OMO), seconded by Rick (KC8SUI).

Treasurer's report:

Treasurer Mary Ann (KB8IVS) gave the report, reminding

(Continued on page 4)

Newsletter Information

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

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

Ohio Section Youth And Educational Outreach Program Announced

During the ARRL forum held at the Mansfield Mid-Winter Hamfest on Sunday, February 17, 2013, Ohio Section Manager Frank J. Piper, KI8GW announced the formation of a new program in the Ohio Section, "Youth and Educational Outreach". The goal of this program is to assist Schools, Youth Organizations, and Amateur Radio Clubs in educating our youth about Amateur Radio.

There are many programs and grants the ARRL offers to teachers and schools, which may go unnoticed simply because they are just not aware of how the science and technology of Amateur Radio can be brought into the classroom. There are many Boy/Girl Scout events which demonstrate Amateur Radio, and then the kids simply go back to their home councils, and never have the chance to research the hobby further. And, many Amateur Radio Clubs wish to develop younger members, but simply do not know where to gather resources to start a prosperous Elmer program. That is where this new program will come in.

The Educational Outreach program will be headed up by E. Mike McCardel, KC8YLD, who will vacate his Affiliated Club Coordinator position to assume an Assistant Section Manager (ASM), Youth and Educational Outreach appointment, heading up a team of three other Assistant Section Managers, each with a responsibility for various aspects for this program. Those new ASM positions will be:

ASM - Radio Scouting
ASM - Youth Outreach
ASM - Educational Outreach
From the Ohio Section News)

February Minutes

(Continued from page 3)

everyone that club dues were due next month. The report was approved on a motion by Don (K8OMO) and seconded by Tom (KD8JRK).

Old business:

- President Frank noted that the club still needed to finalize the list of equipment to insure so that the insurance purchase could go forward. Don (K8OMO) stated that a repeater committee meeting would be arranged to accomplish that.
- John (KD8MQ) reported that the raffle tickets had been printed and that sales were going well, with the break-even point having been passed. He further noted that sales had been made at the TUSCO hamfest and the PCARS and Massillon meetings. He added that he would be selling at the Canton meeting and the Mansfield hamfest, requesting a volunteer to assist at the hamfest.
- Frank reminded the club that club operators were needed to share the duty for the Stark County VHF QSO party on April 6 from 12-4 PM. Three volunteers came forward (Don-K8OMO, Rick-KC8SUI and Tony-KD8BBK).
- John then addressed the subject of the proposed field trip to the contest station in Pennsylvania. He stated that the trip would possibly be on a Saturday in March and would keep the club informed as plans finalized.
- Frank asked if anyone had looked at or been using the club's Facebook page, with several members responding in the affirmative.

New business:

- Frank raised the issue of sharing rides for the Stark County Skywarn training on March 13th, mentioning that he could take several people in his van. John suggested possibly getting together in Canton for supper before the training, with several members indicating they thought this was a good idea.
- Frank asked the members if there was any interest in having a club-based operating contest for the members. After some brief discussion, not enough interest was expressed.
- Don (K8OMO) announced that a FT-2800 radio had been donated to the club, but needed repaired. He volunteered to do the repairs but the parts cost would be \$40.00, with approval needed to spend the money. After some brief discussion, he made a motion to that effect, with Rick seconding the motion. It was then approved on a voice vote.

With nothing further, the club business meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM on a motion by Tom, seconded by Doug.

After the break, Joe Wehner presented a program about operating awards.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Don, AB8KV, Secretary.

2013 Skywarn Training Schedule

March 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 Cty 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-on OH

Heavy Duty Crimper

James, KD8VT has a heavy duty crimper which he will make available for loan to any local ham who needs it.



This crimper is capable of crimping lugs and butt splices on wire from #8 thru #1/0 and will make quick work of any crimping job. This will be especially helpful when grounding your station. There is absolutely no charge for the use of the crimper. However a cash deposit will be required to ensure the tool will find its way back home.

James also has about one-hundred (100) #6 lugs which will be available for purchase at wholesale prices until they are depleted. Contact James @ [330-206-4909](tel:330-206-4909).

Cell Phone Fundraiser

What's wrong; did your cell phone stop working? Well, we aren't going to buy you a new one, or even fix your old one. But, we can ensure that your old phone gets recycled in the most environmentally friendly way possible.

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

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



K3LR Trip Postponed Until June

Sorry folks, the field trip to K3LR's station is on hold till June.

We'll be in touch with Tim in a couple months, and will let you know once a firm date has been ironed out.

Lisbon Area ARA Changes Meeting Night

The Lisbon Area amateur Radio Association Has changed their Monthly meeting date to the 3rd Thursday of the month.

Next meeting is March 21st at 6:30 Pm at the Col Co. EMA, 215 S. Market St, Lisbon, OH [Map](#)

Guests and new members are welcome to attend. (TNX Dave, N8GOB for this info)

ARRL 8th Area QSL Bureau

[8th Area QSL Bureau](#)

PO Box 307
West Chester,
OH 45071-0307

E-Mail: n8dx@arrl.net

arrl-greatlakes.org/8th_bureau.htm

For other area QSL Bureaus, see www.arrl.org/incoming-qsl-service

ARRL Incoming QSL Bureau

This month, I thought I'd cover a subject that may be unfamiliar to some of us. The ARRL Incoming QSL Bureau. Anyone who's QSL'd a DX station likely understands how expensive it can be to QSL direct with an overseas Ham radio operator. This cost rises significantly if we are collecting cards for an operating award, such as DXCC (Logbook of the World has reduced that cost. We'll get to that in a future column).

Luckily, we have the Incoming QSL bureau to help defray the cost of QSLing with DX stations. Your only cost is some postage, and a few envelopes.

Cards coming into the US from DX stations are sorted at ARRL headquarters, and sent out to the area QSL Bureaus. The volunteers at the area QSL bureaus then sort the cards by callsign, and send them to the letter managers who put them in your envelope, mail it to you. What could be simpler?

Though it is mentioned below, remember that postal rates have just risen. If you have envelopes on file at the bureau, they may need additional postage. Here's a tip; use forever stamps on your envelopes to the bureau.

If you have questions, don't hesitate to contact your letter manager. Their contact info is usually on the QSL bureau web page.

Remember; this is a free service. No ARRL membership is required. But, you do have to follow some simple rules. I've included contact info for some of the area bureaus in the sidebar on this page. Here's the list of do's & don'ts from the ARRL website.

Dos

- Do keep self-addressed 5 x 7-1/2 or 6 x 9 inch envelopes or money credit on file at your bureau, with your call sign in the upper left corner, and affix at least one unit of first-class postage.
- Do send the bureau enough postage to cover SASEs on file and enough to take care of possible postage rate increases.
- Do respond quickly to any bureau request for SASEs, stamps or money. Unclaimed card backlogs are the bureau's biggest problem.
- Do notify the bureau of your new call sign as you upgrade. Please send SASEs with your new call, in addition to SASEs with your old call.
- Do include your call sign on any correspondence with the bureau.
- Do include a SASE with any information request to the bureau.
- Do notify the bureau in writing if you don't want your cards.
- Do notify the Bureau of a change of address.

Don'ts

- Don't send domestic US to US cards to the various call area bureaus.
- Don't expect DX cards to arrive for several months after the QSO. Overseas delivery is very slow. Many cards coming from overseas bureaus are over a year old.
- Don't send your outgoing DX cards to your call area bureau.
- Don't send SASEs to your "portable" bureau. For example, NU0X/1 sends SASEs to the W0 bureau, not the W1 bureau.
- Don't send SASEs or money credits to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service.
- **Don't send SASEs larger than 6 x 9 inches.** SASEs larger than 6 x 9 inches require additional postage surcharges.

VE Exams

March 2

Rittman, OH

Time:

9:30 Am (Walk-ins OK)

Location

Rittman Public Library
49 W. Ohio
Rittman, OH

[Map](#)

Contact:

Barry Youmans
(330) 925-1706

byoumans@neo.rr.com

March 10

Independence, OH

Time:

9:00 AM (Walk-Ins OK)

Location:

Town Hall
6652 Brecksville Rd
(St. Rt. 21)
Independence, OH

[Map](#)

Contact:

Gary S. Dewey
(216) 642-8705

gsdewey@en.com

March 14

Stow, OH

Time:

7:00 PM (Walk-ins OK)

Location:

Stow-Munroe Falls
Public Library
3512 Darrow Rd
Stow, OH

[Map](#)

Contact:

Bruce Ferry

ve@ak8b.us

<http://www.ak8b.us/ve/>

(330) 929-2766

March 14

Ambridge, PA

Time:

5 PM (Walk-ins OK)

Location:

Beaver County EOC
351 14th St

(Continued on page 8)

Paper Chase by Joe Wehner, W8KNO

The Cambridge Amateur Radio Association has provided a list of the twelve Special Event Stations that they are sponsoring this year. Each month you should be able to find them near either 14.260 MHz or 7.235 MHz.

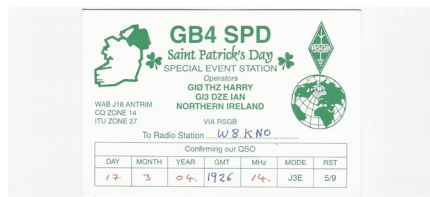


The following is the list of the Special Events:

- January 26, 2013 (Great Blizzard of 1978)
- February 16, 2013 (Senator & Astronaut John Glenn)
- March 2, 2013 (Ohio Statehood)
- April 6, 2013 (Cambridge Glass Company)
- May 4, 2013 (William Boyd aka Hopalong Cassidy)
- June 13, 2013 (W8VP VHF Contest Record holder 25 Years)
- July 13, 2013 (Morgan's Raid 150th Anniversary)
- August 10, 2012 (Salt Fork Arts & Crafts Festival)
- September 14, 2012 (Peter's Creek "S" Bridge 185 Years)
- October 12, 2012 (First Bridge in Northwest Territory)
- November 9, 2012 (203 years Guernsey County Ohio)
- December 7, 2012 (Cambridge ARA 100 Years Old)

A QSL card can be obtained from the **Cambridge Amateur Radio Association, Po Box 1804, Cambridge, Oh 43725**. If you work all twelve of the special events, you can get your certificate from the same address.

A trivia fact about this months special event: Ohio has the only burgee state flag.



The other special day this month is St Patrick's Day. Though I could not find any posted special event celebrating it keep an ear for one. Usually, GB4SPD is around somewhere.

Last month the surprise Valentine Special Event came from Romance, Arkansas.

Remember to get on the air and have fun. Hope to hear you in the pile-ups.

Joe - W8KNO

VE Exams - cont.

(Continued from page 7)

Ambridge, PA

[Map](#)

Contact:

Christy Moratis
(724) 266-2866

cjmoratis@verizon.net

March 16

Lisbon, OH

Time:

1:30 PM (Walk-ins OK)

Location:

Columbiana County EMA
215 S. Market St
Lisbon, OH

[Map](#)

Contact:

Albert J. Beal
(330) 303-5793

n8rak@yahoo.com

March 21

Youngstown, OH

Time:

7:30 PM (Walk-ins OK)

Location:

Youngstown State
University
Wood St - Facilities Bldg.

[Map](#)

Contact:

James Viele
(330) 534-1394

w8jv@yahoo.com

March 24

Newton Falls, OH

Time:

6:30 PM (Walk-ins OK)

Location:

Newton Falls
Community Center
52 E Quarry St
Newton Falls, OH

[Map](#)

Contact:

William H. Showers
(330) 872-1929

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.

March, 1988, (editor N8IAK)

Planning for the Mall show was underway. Loans of coax were being solicited.

- The club was raffling off a Magnavox VCR.
- This months Ham of the Month was Barb Gwynne, KB8CDA..
- Our guest editor was Patti Hillier, KE8KH. She printed a lot of good information about the KE8KH repeater system on 146.85.
- Bill, K8JZN had just released the 1988 Stark County Directory.
- Hal, W8BGI was recovering from a hospital stay.

March, 1993 (editor N8LVO)

The club was being called upon to present programs on fox hunting throughout Eastern Ohio, western PA. The lectures were very well received.

- Due to a scheduling conflict, the March, and April club meetings were to be held at the First Church of God, Where Brad, KE0XS was the pastor.
- In the briefs section, Dan notes that as of last count 400 software pirates had been nabbed by a sting operation.
- Six students were in the licensing class at the hospital. Additionally, another YMCA youth club member passed his Novice test.
- The club finances were audited. No major issues were noted.
- Larry KE8VE gave a presentation on the solar flux.
- Jim, N8XTJ passed his no-code Tech test.

March, 1998 (editor K8LTG)

We were discussing the possibility of hosting a coffee break as a fund raiser. It was voted to table the discussion for another month.

- There was an article on tuning of VHF antennas.
- Dana, KI8EW (now N8DA) had just upgraded to Extra class, at the Lisbon exam session. At the same session, Kathy Stirbens, KC8IXE upgraded to Advanced class.
- Date for the next Mall show had been set for May 2/3, 1998. The date had been changed, due to a conflict with the 20/9 ARC's Hamfest.

March, 2003 (editor KE8VE)

Dennis Moriarty, K8AGB was scheduled to speak at the next club

(Continued on page 9)

Contest Calendar

March 1
ARRL Int'l DX Contest-Phone

March 9
Idaho QSO Party

March 10
NA Sprint - RTTY

March 16
N. Dakota QSO Party
Oklahoma QSO Party
Virginia QSO Party
BARTG HF RTTY Contest

March 23
Alaska QSO Party

March 29
CQ WW WPX Contest—SSB

March 30
Missouri QSO Party

New Members

This month, please join us in welcoming these new members:

John J Augustein, KD8TKY

Bryan Webler N8WD

Gary Grimes KB8GAB

Hamfests

Sorry, No Hamfests this month.

The AARC Wayback Machine

meeting on the subject of RFI/TVI.

□ We had just held a fox hunt, after a 4 year absence. The fox for this hunt was Eddie, KC8HUU. After a bit of a slow start, the hunt was on.

Winners were John, KD8MQ, and Lyn (1st place), followed by Dave, KC8WY, and his XYL (2nd place).

□ According to the minutes, we had just lost Jim Miller, N8MAA. In a related note, not so close to home, the space shuttle Columbia had been lost. Callsigns are listed for 3 of the 7 crewmembers who lost their lives, during re-entry.

□ The bylaws were amended to allow an increase in the treasurers petty cash fund to \$50, from \$20 previously.

□ The Radio Amateurs Callbook was to cease publication after 75 years of publication.

March, 2008 (editor KD8MQ)

- We had scheduled our first fox hunt in several years. In conjunction, the program scheduled for the March meeting was on fox hunting.
- We were talking about raffling off a laptop as a fundraiser.
- Plans were being made for the clubs annual special event station, as well as for Field Day.

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

Bonus stations will be on the air from Alliance (W8LKY), Canton (W8AL), and Massillon (W8NP) Radio Clubs.

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.

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

How's DX?

The following excerpts are from the most recent issue of the Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin. Thanks to Ted Mirgliotta, KB8NW, & BARF80.ORG. To subscribe,

www.papays.com/opdx.html

8P, BARBADOS

Tom, W2SC, will be active as 8P5A during the ARRL DX SSB Contest as Single-Op/All-Band/High-Power entry. QSL via LoTW or direct to NN1N.

N4, UNITED STATES

Gene, K9UTQ, will activate the "USS Wisconsin Battleship BB-64", N4WIS, during the Wisconsin QSO Party on March 9th. QSL via N4WIS. For more details and updated, visit:

www.n4wis.org/n4wis/

P4, ARUBA

Andy, AE6Y, will be active as P49Y from Aruba (SA-036) during the ARRL DX SSB Contest as a Single-Op/All-Band/High-Power entry. QSL via LoTW or AE6Y.

TX5, CLIPPERTON ISLAND

Expect the operation to be on air either February 28th or March 1st, activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY.

<http://tx5k.org>

VP9, BERMUDA

Operators Kurt/W6PH and Robert/WA1Z will team up to be active as VP9I for the ARRL DX SSB Contest as a Multi-Op/Low-Power entry. QSL via WW3S (see QRZ.com).

XR0, EASTER ISLAND

The UK DXpedition team

(Continued on page 11)

Random Access

by Franklin Sanor, WA8WHP

A request has found my in-box for an explanation and suggestions about digital television. I realize this is somewhat off topic but, I see a need so here goes.

The conversion from analog to digital which happened in the U.S.A. Was 5 years ago at least. In the old analog days if we could see the signal at all we could watch it albeit through snow. That signal level for digital may be problematical. Since digital is perfect or nothing, we must optimize our system.

There is a web site to help. You can find it at : <http://tinyurl.com/3leedv>

Since I cannot give everyone an analysis for your location and situation, the use of this site will be a big help.

This will allow you to enter your location and antenna height. This is the minimum you need to know to get a handle on your situation. Needless to say at the UHF that most television stations now use, the higher the elevation and the higher gain the antenna the better until you get multi-path. Rabbit ears will not cut it if you are more than 10 miles from the station in normal terrain. As an aside do not be fooled by ads for "digital antennas". Any antenna you had for analog that gave you a decent signal (as snow free as possible) will work just fine.

An antenna rotor is almost an essential in fringe areas. Amplifiers, as you will see later can be a trap. A case in point. My daughter lives in the Cleveland area. I installed an omnidirectional amplified antenna for them. It worked for most stations but, for one they got nothing. We lowered the gain and solved that problem. This is caused by multi-path.

Multi-path in good signal areas is the inability to see what should be a crystal clear signal. The cause is if the decoder sees two signals from the same station slightly out of sync, it will confuse the decoder and it will not show any signal. To get around that turn the antenna slightly off the best analog direction and it may knock down the self-interference to a usable level. A clue would be, if you had ghosting on that channel and direction on analog, you may have this problem.

One final thought, rescan on a regular basis. It is less critical now as the stations have settled in their channel allocations. When we were going through the change every station was moving around to where they thought they would get the best coverage. Another would be the channel numbers in their ID may be, but probably is not their RF channel. Let the scan solve that.

Until next time,
73 GL CUL DE WA8WHP Frank AR

How's DX?

(Continued from page 10)

which will be active as XR0YG from Easter Island (SA-001) between March 20-27th, now has a Web page available at: xr0yg.com

KHO, MARIANA ISLANDS

Operators Gennady/R0FA and Yuri/RA0FU will be active as KH0/homecall from the Saipan Rental Shack on Saipan Island (OC-086, USI NI002S, WLOTA 1333) between March 25th and April 4th. Activity will be on all HF bands and modes, as well as an entry in the CQWW WPX SSB Contest (March 30-31st).

QSL via their home callsign, by the Bureau or direct.

The ARRL DX International Contest is coming up this weekend, beginning at 7 PM Friday night (0000 Saturday, GMT). If you are tuning around looking for new countries, please don't forget 40, & 80 Meters.

Both bands **do** have DX openings, and you do not need to have massive antennas, and huge amplifiers to work the them. DX can be worked using low power, and modest antenna systems.

Later in the month, we have the CQ WW WPX SSB contest. I've never tried this one, but it sounds like a good chance to snag some new countries.

So, don't be afraid to jump in and give a call; you never know what you can do till you try.



Rambling

By John, KD8MQ

Well, It's still winter, but spring is on it's way! The first fox hunt of the season is scheduled for March 20th, so good weather can't be too far off!

Don't forget, we have another month to go on our raffle. I want to thank everyone who's been out there selling tickets. I'd like to single out Mike, KD8RUQ, and Paul, K2ASA who helped sell tickets at the Tusco, and Mansfield hamfests.

I've heard a lot of favorable comments on the Zero Beat redesign. I'm glad, not only that you are happy with the changes, but that you are reading the Zero Beat. Sometimes, I wonder how many of you are reading this. Remember, **please** let me know if you see something in the newsletter that needs tweaked.

A big thank you goes out to Joe, W8KNO; both for his presentation at our February meeting, and for the article he submitted for this months issue. I hope there's more articles to come.

My quest for the ARRL Triple Play award had slowed a bit, but got a big jump start, last weekend, thanks to multiple contests. If the Zero Beat is in your hands later than usual, you can blame it on the North American QSO Party (RTTY). Still no Alaska, or Hawaii, though. I need them both, on CW, SSB, and Digital. W8KNO is correct. You need to put in the "Chair Time" to get the awards.

As progress is being made towards the Triple Play, and more confirmations roll in via LoTW, I'm keeping the prize in mind. My reward to myself for finishing this quest is a new HF rig. So, as you can see, I have a lot of motivation to see this through to the end. **(Requirements for the triple play are work each US state on CW, Phone, AND digital)**. I've posted my current numbers, not to brag, but keep myself motivated. As you can see, I need to get moving on CW.

For those who've been asking (you know who you are), the e-mails continue between myself & K3LR. We are still working to find a date that works for Tim, as well as for us. We are now looking at June. I'll report back as soon as I have something definite.

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

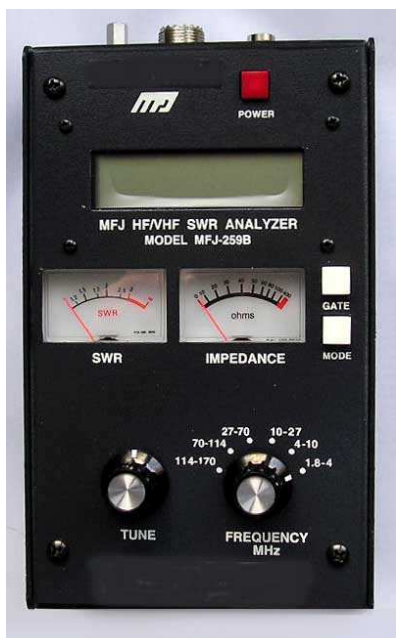
KD8MQ Triple Play Status (as of 2/24/13)	
Mode	States Worked
CW	1/50
SSB	33/50
Digital	30/50

Antenna Analyzer Basics

There are several manufacturers of antenna analyzers. The following instruments, MFJ 259, 259B, and 269 were available to use as examples.



The model 259 is the oldest of the three. The manual, copyrighted 1998, lists the available functions. Direct readings include Frequency, and Analog SWR and Resistance. The model 259 readings (plus a calculator), allow advanced functions listed in the manual: Measuring capacitance & inductance, Testing Baluns & RF transformers, Testing RF chokes, Velocity Factor of Transmission Lines, Impedance of Transmission Lines, Estimating transmission line loss, and adjusting tuners. Read the manual for more information. **Of the three models, the Model 259 (even though it is older) has the highest resolution and accuracy of the frequency counters. The counter displays to 1 Hz and is internally adjustable for accurate calibration.**



The model 259B is the next of the three. The manual is copyrighted 1998. The inside printed circuit board is dated 2002. Direct readings include Frequency, Analog and Digital reading of SWR, Impedance, and more in the advanced modes. The manual lists the same functions as the model 259 although now with built-in display as well as advanced functions such as: Magnitude of Impedance, Return Loss and Reflection Coefficient mode, Distance to Fault, Resonance, and Percentage Transmitted Power. Read the manual for more information. **The frequency counter does not appear to be adjustable and only has a resolution to the nearest 100 Hz. Calibration specification elsewhere on the web states that this counter is within 5 KHz. To obtain more accuracy, a suggestion is to compare this counter with an accurate counter at 2 meters such as 146.520 and**

note the difference. Determine a number to multiply the Model 259B readings to obtain a final accurate value. Then place a label with this multiplier on the case for future reference. This model contains a newer type of detector diodes that can be easily damaged if the instructions are not carefully followed.

Antenna Analyzer Basics, Continued



The model 269 is the latest of the three. The manual is copyrighted 2002. The inside printed circuit board is dated 2002. Direct readings include Frequency, Analog and Digital reading of SWR, Impedance, and more in the advanced modes. The manual lists similar functions as the Models 259 & 259B. An addition to this model is the 415 to 470 MHz range. The frequency counter does not appear to be adjustable and only has a resolution to the nearest 100 Hz. Calibration specification elsewhere on the web states that this counter is within 5 KHz. To obtain more accuracy, a suggestion is to compare this counter with an accurate counter at 2 meters such as 146.520 and note the difference. Determine a number to multiply the Model 259B readings to obtain a final accurate value. Then place a label with this

multiplier on the case for future reference. The manual notes that this model contains a newer type of detector diodes that can be easily damaged if the instructions are not carefully followed. In addition, the manual lists (many times) the procedure before pressing the UHF switch to the on position. The owner installed a label next to the UHF switch to notify of the proper procedure.

The analyzers can be easily damaged if instructions are not followed. Here are some important guidelines:

- Antenna leads should be momentarily shorted together to remove static charge before connecting to the analyzer. When strong wind is blowing or when there is a storm, charges can build up on an antenna especially in low humidity environments. Do not use the analyzer during these conditions.
- Do not connect the analyzer to any antenna when there is a transmitter operating nearby, such as field day. Make all antenna adjustments before allowing transmitting equipment to be operated.
- Never apply any voltage to the input to the analyzers since the diodes can be **very** easily damaged.
- Remove batteries when analyzer is in storage. If in doubt when the analyzer will next be used, remove the batteries. When batteries are installed, store the meter with the back down, so if for some reason there is a battery leak; it will fall onto the back instead of onto the PC board.
- The older 259 battery side holding clips, made of metal, can short the battery pack. Install insulating paper between the battery and the metal clips.
- An AC adapter is recommended in place of batteries when possible

Antenna Analyzer Basics, Continued

Homebrew Accessories



A homemade adapter for checking antennas as well as traps and resonant circuits.

Use the type of RG58 that has a stranded center conductor. The overall length is approximately 1 foot but not critical. Suggest about 3 inch leads.

The clips can be connected to the antenna or parallel connected coil/capacitor combination.

Use heat-shrink tubing to insulate the shield.



The adapter in use checking a 20 meter trap. The clips are connected together, forming a loop.

Start with the lowest frequency. Slowly tune the analyzer for a dip in the SWR meter. Move the loop away from the coil about 1/2 inch at a time and repeat the procedure until the dip covers about 1/2 of the SWR meter red section. Read the frequency on the analyzer. This is the resonant frequency.

The adapter may work on other analyzers but has not been tested. The adapter simulates the function of the older grid-dip meters with reasonable results.

Careful study of the manual will help to protect your investment for many years.

The items covered in this article do not constitute endorsement of the products mentioned or the exclusion of items not mentioned.

73 de Mike, WA8MKH



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 _____



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

March 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																			
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Feb 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></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Feb 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			<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Apr 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>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <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>		Apr 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					<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
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Alliance Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 3344
Alliance, OH 44601

AARC Raffle Update

Well, tickets for the Ambient weather station are still available. Sales are good, and there's still plenty of time for you to sell tickets before the April 10th deadline.

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!**

