

Zero Beat



Alliance Amateur Radio Club

Volume XXVII, no 5

<http://www.w8lky.org>

May, 2013

Serving the Tri-County area since 1986

Stark County VHF QSO Party Wrap-Up

April 6th was the Alliance ARC's latest running of the Stark County VHF QSO Party. In my opinion, it was the best one so far, with pileups noted on some frequencies. There was some inadvertent doubling of calls, but it happens at times. The purpose of this contest is to:

- A)** Provide an opportunity for local Amateurs to enhance their stations and operating skills.

By operating simplex, A lot more is learned about VHF propagation, than can ever be discovered by working repeaters. It also points out why the 1/4 wave mag-mount stuck to your home A/C unit may not be the best setup for your VHF station.

- B)** Simulate emergency conditions (with NO repeaters).

It's pretty simple to call a friend 20/30 miles away on VHF when the repeater systems are functional. However, not so when the repeaters are down. An exercise like this can be a real eye-opener.

- C)** To enhance utilization of the 2 meter band and simplex operation

And utilize it we did! It is good to occasionally remind everyone that there are more frequencies on VHF FM than just repeater pairs.

- D)** To have fun.

What can I say about this one? I had fun, and from the phone calls, and e-mails I've received, so did the rest of you.

One of the phone calls I received touted, among other things, the cooperation that exists between the three Stark County clubs. This contest is just one example of that cooper-

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This Months Meeting

will be on Wednesday,
May 8th

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
Check Your Rig night

Presented by Bob, WB8OVQ
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

May 4th Is Log Deadline

Just a reminder that
May 4th is the log submission
deadline for the VHF QSO
Party.

You can either
A) send them to
2mcontest@w8lky.org, or
B) via Snail Mail to: John My-
ers, KD8MQ, 910 W. Mill St,
Alliance, OH 44601.

Officers

President

WA8WHP
Frank Sanor
14345 Bandy Rd
Alliance, OH 44601
wa8whp@juno.com
330-206-2639

Vice-President

KD8RFZ
Mary Maendel
14345 Bandy Rd
Alliance, OH 44601
mmaendel152@gmail.com
330-428-2923

Secretary

AB8KV
Donald R Kingan
446 West High St.
Alliance, OH 44601
dkingan@neo.rr.com
330-821-5819

Treasurer

KB8IVS
Mary Ann Royer
6255 Sandalwood NE
Canton, OH 44721
kb8ivs@aol.com
330-492-0703

Trustees

KD8BBK
Tony Shillig
8980 Paris Ave
Louisville, OH 44641
kd8bbk@aol.com
330-875-0085

KD8KMQ
Ben Davis
4561 Anderson Ave, NE
Homeworth, OH 44634
drpepper9x@gmail.com
330-257-3301

KB8RFE
Steve Collins
10690 Maple St
Minerva, OH 44657
kb8rfe@yahoo.com
330-868-5083

Webmaster

Ben Davis, KD8KMQ drpepper9x@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

John Myers, KD8MQ kd8mq1@gmail.com

QSL Manager

Howard Miller, K8DXR hmiller32@neo.rr.com

W8LKY Callsign Trustee

Don Whitaker, K8OMO k8omo@juno.com

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



AARC Repeaters

2 Meters

145.370 (-) W8LKY
-W8LKY Echolink node

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

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VHF QSO Party Wrap-up - cont.

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ation. Thanks to both the Canton and Massillon clubs for their cooperation, and participation.

Also, there were a number of stations sharing a limited number of simplex frequencies, but I heard no disagreements. We all managed to work & play well together. Now if we could just manage to expand this to the ops on HF.

The object of the contest was to contact as many Stark County (OH) stations, in as many different cities, villages, and townships as possible. I don't yet know how many multipliers were activated, but I bet we came close to full activation. I'm looking forward to receiving everyone's logs.

We'll soon be getting together for a debriefing, to see what needs to be tweaked for next year. If anyone has any ideas, or suggestions for the 2014 contest, please forward them to me at kd8mq@arrl.net.

April Minutes

April 10, 2013

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held on April 10, 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 22 members present along with Miriam Sanor, Alfreda Steele and guests Terry Russ (N8ATZ), Matt Welch (W8DEC), James Aylward (KC8PD), and Mike DiCarro (KD8FLZ).

Prior the business meeting, President Frank turned over the floor to Matt Welch (ARRL Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator) for his program on ARES. At the conclusion of the presentation and a question period, the business meeting went forward.

Committee reports:

- For ARES and nets, Don (K8OMO) reported that the Homeland Security net has been active, covering a 5-county area with three hospitals on the net. He added he hoped to get other area clubs involved with helping hospitals become more active for this net. He noted that the Thursday 10-meter CW net needs more participation while the 10-meter SSB net has averaged around 6 check-ins. Smitty (KC8TJQ) reported that the 2-meter net is doing well, averaging 15 to 16 check-ins.
- Regarding the repeaters, Frank noted that Echolink is now operating 24/7, with Don adding that there are now four control operators. Don noted that work was still under way toward linking the 2-meter and 70-cm repeaters. He further stated that starting this summer, a transmit PL tone of 88.5 would be added to re-

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Newsletter Information

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Alliance, OH 44601

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

Hams Continue to Help in Wake of Boston Marathon Bombings

The following comes from the [CO Newsroom Blog](#)

When two bombs exploded near the finish line of April's Boston Marathon, the first thing ham radio net controllers did was check in on each of the 250 ham volunteers working the course to make sure they were OK (they were).

Next, according to reports from ARRL and Newsline, the hams continued providing communications as police halted the race and runners began to congregate at first-aid and water stations along the route, all of which had ham stations as well.

The hams kept runners updated on events and coordinated deployment of "sweep buses" to transport runners still on the course to pre-arranged meeting areas. Hams in the finish line area remained at their posts and provided communications as needed from the medical tents until police - fearing additional explosions - ordered everyone evacuated.

April Minutes - cont.

(Continued from page 3)

duce interference from distant stations.

- Smitty posed a question regarding accessing Echolink via the repeater. After some discussion noting that it is accessed via the internet, Jerry (KG8RN) added that the Echolink operation is restricted to incoming only to prevent tying up the local repeater with DX calls or similar usage.
- Regarding the website, John (KD8MQ) noted that the banner graphics had been updated with more club QSL cards and that the roster was now the most accurate he had seen it.

Birthdays & announcements:

- Birthdays for the month included
 - John Augustine (KD8TKY)
 - Joe Young (KC8TAC)
 - Tom Scoville (WA8VHH)
 - Charles Unger (W8YNB)
- New members were:
 - Lewie Devore (W8LCJ)
 - Andrew Magda (AC8JR)
- President Frank reminded the club to check the newsletter for the latest information on area hamfests. Don (K8OMO) added that he had requested two free tickets from the Breezeshooter's hamfest since they now required those interested to ask for the tickets instead of their simply sending them out to many different clubs. Don noted that the tickets could be used in the club's monthly drawings.
- Frank announced that the following Saturday was the date for the balloon lift-off from the University of Akron. He noted the uplink and downlink frequencies and that the lift-off was scheduled for 1:00 PM. John added that the information is on the web site and that he had emailed club members about the event.
- Frank stated that regarding classes and testing in the area, the Columbiana club was to conduct classes, but he was unsure of the date, so he suggested those interested monitor the club 2-meter net as the information would most likely be forthcoming.
- John confirmed that the annual Dayton bus trip still had openings and that two more reservations were needed to confirm the trip.
- Frank thanked Steve (KB8RFE) and Tony (KD8BBK) for the work they have been doing on the club's tower and components, adding that a work party to do a test assembly would be held in May. John stated that he would talk to Tony to find out when he would be back and then set a date and time for the work party.

Secretary's report:

Secretary Don (AB8KV) gave the report, initially noting that the March minutes were in the current newsletter. He

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Bob Rickard, KB8GAG SK

It is with deep regret that we learn of the passing a couple months ago of Bob Rickard, KB8GAG. By his request, there were no services, or calling hours.

The following info, lightly edited comes from Don, K8OMO.

I met Bob Rickard KB8GAG about 25 years ago. He was just moving back to Alliance from New York where he ran an Underwater Salvage Co.

He purchased the old Battershell Turkey Farm on North Rockhill. Bob met Jim Ferguson K8LTG at Shaffers and Jim got him started in Ham Radio. Bob attended some of the Classes the Club had back then and got his ticket, He already knew the code from being a Pilot during the Berlin Airlift(1946-1947) in Germany. After that, he started flying for Pan American Airways and flew Clipperships across the ocean. I don't remember him saying he ever flew Commercial planes in the US.

Bob sure had some good stories to tell. He was a real nice guy, who was 91 years old when he passed away.

Many of us flew radio controlled planes out at his farm and also sailed boats on his lake.

Bob's ashes were scattered to all four winds over the farm; a fitting thing for him. OMO

April Minutes - cont.

(Continued from page 4)

noted that he had submitted the application paperwork to ARRL/Hays Insurance for the club-owned equipment insurance. The application was approved with the coverage having begun on April 1. He added that the club's liability insurance is due for renewal on May 6, so a decision was needed at this meeting to decide on renewing with Erie or going with the ARRL. With nothing further, the report was approved on a motion by Tom (KD8JRK) and seconded by John.

Treasurer's report:

Treasurer Mary Ann (KB8IVS) gave the report, noting that the fee for Field Day use of the Sebring campground had been mailed. The report was approved on a motion by Smitty and seconded by Howard (K8DXR).

Old business:

- Frank addressed the issue of the club's liability insurance. Discussion followed, considering the cost difference and whether it would be better, in the event of a liability claim, to have local representation through Hatherill rather than ARRL/Hays. At the conclusion of the discussions, John made a motion to renew with Hatherill/Erie, with a second provided by Jerry. The motion was carried by a voice vote. Frank then directed Mary Ann to go ahead and complete the renewal.
- Frank then addressed the issue of Field Day, noting that the site has been reserved but that help is needed for set-up and to provide food. John suggested setting up a meeting for all those interested to address the various Field Day issues. It was decided to meet at Sheetz on Monday, April 15 at 7:00 PM.
- Steve noted that a replacement snatch block at the top of the tower was needed. He asked for the ok to obtain the item. A motion to approve the purchase and reimburse him was made by Don (K8OMO) and seconded by Jeff (KD8QCF), with final approval given by voice vote.
- Frank thanked the club station operators (Don-K8OMO, Rick-KC8SUI, Tomas-KC8ZEH and Paul-K2ASA) for their work during the Stark County VHF QSO party. Frank proposed some extra consideration be given to those four for giving up operating time to run the club station with Don (K8OMO) feeling that that was perhaps unfair. John then thanked everyone who participated and noted that at some point soon a work night, to be scheduled, would be needed to tabulate results. He further suggested that the issues just raised might be addressed at the next meeting, with Frank agreeing.

New business:

- noted that it would soon be time to get information to QST and other forums regarding the club's Carnation Days special event station. Secretary Don answered that he would handle that.
- Rick asked if there were any improvements to be done to the 70

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Hall Of Fame City Challenge Changes Dates!

I've been following the progress of the Marathon in Canton. It's truly been an unfortunate situation, with former partners at odds, and both planning their own race for this year.

For a while, I personally doubted that either race would make it to the starting line.

There's a lot more to this story than what I will print here. But, there's a glimmer of hope that there will be a marathon in Stark County this year.

In recent weeks, the organizers for the Hall Of Fame City Challenge announced that the race was being moved from Fathers Day weekend to September 7th.

A few days later, the announcement was made that the course had been certified. So, I'm hopeful that the race will happen.

I've not heard of any request for Hams to volunteer as yet, but we'll post the latest info as soon as that happens.

In the meantime, there will be other opportunities for us to assist. One example is the Castle Run, which is customarily held on Labor Day. Keep your eyes & ears open.

April Minutes - cont.

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cm repeater to increase accessibility and performance. He wondered if a different location might help. Don (K8OMO) stated that the duplexers did need tuned up. John suggested that any consideration to moving that repeater or doing other changes to it be postponed until the duplexers were tuned. Frank agreed, adding that the station license and repeaters were Don's responsibility.

- Don noted that club equipment was available to be loaned out and that he had a high-quality tuner from K2ASA that he would check out and add to the club equipment.
- Tomas announced that he still had available three copies of a video from the K3LR station tour.

The raffle drawing for the weather station prize was held, with Ben (KD8KMQ) the winner.

The meeting was then adjourned at 9:10 PM on a motion by Smitty, seconded by Steve.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Don, AB8KV, Secretary.

The 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.

May, 1988, (editor N8IAK)

- Our Ham of the Month was Matt Thomas, N8EAD.
- We held our first Fox Hunt of 1988. Ten participants were noted, representing The Portage, and Canton Clubs, as well as our own. The winners were the team consisting of WC8F, N8HHV, and N8EYM. As it turned out, the National Guard was holding their own Radio Direction Finding exercises, a few miles away. The only difference between them, and us, were the guns, & the camouflage.
- We were in the process of switching over to a new computer to do the mailing labels for the ZB. If I remember correctly, this computer boasted a clock speed of 800 KHz, and was armed with dual 5.25" floppy drives. On-board RAM was 128K.

May, 1993, (editor N8LVO)

- As of May, 1993, 23 membership renewals, and one new member had been recorded.
- On April 3rd, 1993, we had set up a direction finding test range at Butler Rodman park.

May, 1998, (editor K8LTG)

- Jim noted with sadness, the passing of Lance Farkas,

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VE Exams - cont.

May 9

Ambridge, PA

Time:

5 PM (Walk-ins OK)

Location:

Beaver County EOC

351 14th St

Ambridge, PA

[Map](#)

Contact:

Christy Moratis

(724) 266-2866

cjmoratis@verizon.net

Feb 11

Canton, OH

Time:

9 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)

May 12

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

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The AARC Wayback Machine

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KB8NQL. Lance never let his recent stroke stop him from becoming a Ham.

May, 2003, (editor KE8VE)

- Dennis Moriarty, K8AGB returned to present a program on RFI/TVI, at the May Meeting.
- Plans were being made to hold our Field Day exercises at the Marlinton Middle School.
- Doug, AB8CJ gave a presentation on the ARRL's "Big Project". The club donated \$100 towards setting up a program at Marlinton High School, with the possibility of more funding at a later date. Additionally, Doug was giving a two year membership to the club. Any student who earned their license through this venture would receive a free one year club membership.

May, 2008, (editor KD8MQ)

- Tom, KC8QOD won the AARC Winter fox hunt
- The editor/VP was cajoling people to get interested in holding licensing classes.
- Re Field Day, there were some changes afoot for Field Day 2008. first, the demonstration mode had been replaced by the "Educational Activities Bonus". Second, there was a 20 point per QSO bonus for any contact made by an operator under 18 years of age.

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.

Oh yes, did I mention that the club gets paid for them?

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



VE Exams - cont.

(Continued from page 7)

May 15 Youngstown, OH

Time:
6:30 PM (Walk-Ins OK)
Location:
ITT Technical Institute
1030 N Meridian Rd
Youngstown OH [map](#)

Contact:
Allan Avnet
(330) 549-3051
ab8aa@arrl.net

May 18 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

May 21 Akron, OH

Time:
7 PM (Walk-ins OK)
Location:
Akron Baptist Temple
2324 Manchester Rd
Akron, OH
[Map](#)

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

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Field Day KD8MQ volunteers as 2013 FD Chairman

Field Day - Well, I've done it again! I've volunteered as Field Day Chairman. I was pretty unhappy last year, with how I did my job as Field Day chairman. So far, this year is shaping up to be different. Here's what's happened so far.

- A) We've held our first Field Day Committee meeting.
- B) A new Field Day page has been added to the website, for the purpose of displaying information pertaining to our 2013 FD effort. You'll find pictures & records from previous years, a schedule, including times for antenna setup (I'm asked about that one several times each year), and most important, a **Need List**.
- C) Frank & Miriam are again in charge of food. They are hard at it planning to keep this army fed.
- D) We'll be meeting on May 11th to do a work party at Tony, KD8BBK's house to test out our tower/hazer ass'y, and the tri-band beam.
- E) We've been talking about bumping our classification to 4A this year. We'll have the following stations set up:
 - 160/80/10 Meters
 - 40 Meters
 - 20 Meters
 - 15 Meters
 - VHF Station (Free station - doesn't count to our classification)

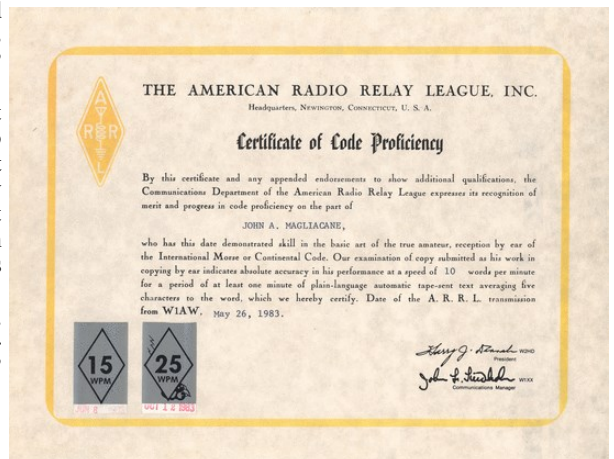
There's more info to come in the next couple months. We will be having another Field Day meeting coming up soon.

W1AW CW Qualifying Run

Here's a thought - did you know that the ARRL offers a Code Proficiency Certificate? True!

Copy some text at gradually-increasing speeds to get a series of endorsement stickers to the basic award. They go as high as 40 wpm! The next [W1AW Qualifying Run](#) is on May 7th and a West Coast run is on May 16th.

Do a few CW contests, sharpen up that #2 pencil, and - are you QRV? (from the ARRL Contest Update)



VE Exams - cont.

(Continued from page 8)

May 23
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

June 1
Ravenna, OH
 Time: 10 AM (Walk-ins OK)
 Location: PCARS
 705 Oakwood St
 Ravenna OH
 Contact: Robert Gurney
 (330) 607-3833
n8rlg@portcars.org

Paper Chase
 by Joe, W8KNO

I am still retired but I received a QSL card in the last month that I thought you might find interesting. During the Virginia QSO Party, I had a contact with N3KN. If you do not recognize the call sign, it belongs to Kay Craigie. Do you recognize it now? She is the President of the ARRL.



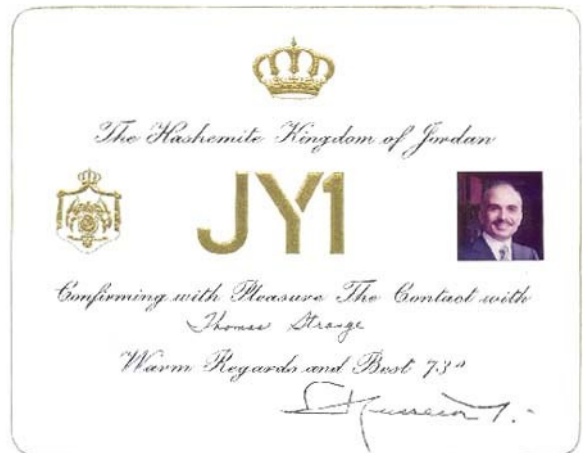
It made me think, what other famous people might I have worked. I have a QSL card from K7UGA. I worked the special event station three years after Barry Goldwater died.

The most famous QSL card is one I had to find on the internet, JY1, King Hussein of Jordan.

Remember QSL cards are an interesting part of our hobby; therefore, get on the air and you will be surprised!

Hear you in the pile ups,

Joe - W8KNO



NCDXF Provides Free Contest University Tuition To Young People

An announcement from the [Northern California DX Foundation](#) (NCDXF) at the recent International DX Convention in Visalia, CA bodes well for bringing younger DXers and contesters into our hobby. NCDXF Director, Glenn K6NA announced, "NCDXF will provide full tuition scholarships for hams 25 years of age and younger at all [DX University](#) and [Contest University](#) sessions held in North America for the next year. This includes those held at the Dayton Hamvention next month." Thanks, NCDXF! *(From the April 24 issue of the ARRL Contest update)*

K1TTT Uses Video Drone To Check Tower

Dave K1TTT has put one of those unmanned video drones to an excellent purpose - [checking out the antenna farm](#) without a climbing belt! Dave is using a [Parrot AR-Drone 2.0](#). It's hard to tell who is having more fun with the drone - Dave the operator or Pablo the excited dog! (Thanks, Tim K3HX)

(From the April 24 issue of the ARRL Contest update)

Random Access by Franklin Sanor, WA8WHP

Hi everyone. I want to thank all our members for the help so far this year. If there is anything you want to see done or any other suggestions, let me know.

Our next big event is the picnic at Silver Park on June 12. I believe we can be at the log cabin after 4PM that day. This will be a potluck. Our Grillmaster has said he will do it again. That means we need the side dishes as the meat has been promised. We also could use donations of drinks (non-alcoholic), tableware, buns (hotdog and hamburger) and condiments. This is also the time to finalize our plans for Field Day, June 22-23. For Field Day we will assemble on Saturday morning at the camp in Sebring. If you need help to find it, ask. We can always use help setting up and operating. This is a 24 hour effort and some of us can not last that long so we could use some operators. Saturday evening will be a potluck supper. Everyone bring your favorite picnic style victuals. I plan to have the club supply paper plates and plastic flatware. Sunday breakfast is still in the planning stage as I write this in mid-April.

After we recuperate from that we can look forward to other events. Carnation Days Special Event Station and Ohio QSO Party in August and Castle Run and Ohio State Parks on the Air in September. Our club picnic will also be in September. Place to be decided later. We also are looking forward to starting Technician classes in September. More on this later.

The big thing coming this next meeting on May 8. Bring your hand-holds for our test your rig. WB8OVQ has graciously "volunteered" to bring test equipment to check frequency, power and other properties of our little friends. For those so inclined we will be meeting for our "trustee's meeting" at Frank's Alliance Family Restaurant on East State at 6PM.

Dayton Bus Trip; This Is Your Last Chance!

I'll say it again - The best deal at the Dayton Hamvention® is in Akron, Ohio!

On Saturday, May 18th, the Pioneer Amateur Radio Fellowship is again offering a day trip to the Dayton Hamvention®. Just \$65 gets you a trip down, and back, and your Hamvention® ticket as well!

The bus leaves at 5:30 AM, from the Akron Baptist Temple, and will pull up to Hara around 9:00 AM. After a fun-filled day at the Hamvention®, we stop at the Golden Corral in Columbus for dinner, then arrive back in Akron shortly after dark. For more information, and a sign-up form: w8lky.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Dayton-Bus-Trip1.pdf.

Misc. Videos, And Such From the Web

The Ham Radio Bucket List

By E. Mike McCardel, KC8YLD
From The Ohio section Journal

I am sure we all are aware of what a "Bucket List" is. Popularized by a movie *"The Bucket List"* starring Morgan Freeman and Jack Nicholson, two people who were told they had limited time left on Earth embarked on an adventure to fulfill their dreams, before they kicked the bucket.

I was recently inspired by a post to the AMSAT-BB list by Les Rayburn, N1LF. He recalled his meager and poor beginnings in ham radio 40 years ago, barely affording his simple station. He went on to state "My Elmer used to let me borrow his copy of QST and I'd dream about all the great adventures that I'd have "someday" in ham radio. Being a child of the Space Age, key articles among them were anything related to the New Frontier.

"EME (Moonbounce), Meteor Scatter, and satellites all seemed like the stuff of science fiction---and I longed to experience them all. But they were exotic, and required equipment far beyond my reach. I resolved to accomplish them all someday and added them to a sort of ham radio "bucket list" that I hoped to accomplish before my ham career was over."

Well five years ago he checked off the first of this list after working meteor scatter with the aid of WSJT software. More recently he made his first satellite QSO with Art, K4YYL on FO-29, a Japanese amateur satellite.

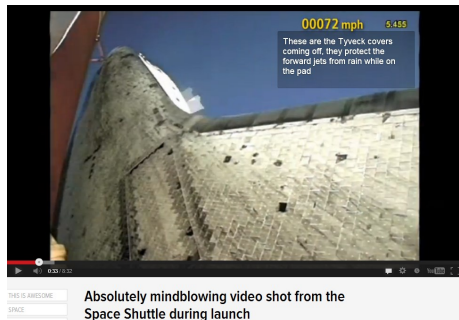
This hit home with me because working the ISS was one of the reasons I got my ticket ten years ago. It only took me 8 years to get around to building and working a satellite ground station. I still haven't talked directly with someone on the ISS but I have bounced packets through it and have made other satellite QSOs. What finally got me started was a demo by an 18 year old student who convinced me, I could do it.

All this got me to thinking, what might be on other folk's Ham Radio Bucket List and how can we help each other achieving the challenges on it. This has the makings of a great club project written all over it. It might also lead to common knowledge, expertise and confidence to turn new accomplishments into educational tools that can be shared as "look what I just did" moments.

This all leads us to this month's club challenge. What if club members shared their bucket lists with each other and worked together to make them happen, or, perhaps, making up a club bucket list and start chipping away at it. Regardless, the challenge is to get together, share information, learn and do something new and exciting. I wonder how much Helium I need to carry a Raspberry Pi with a camera to a height of 100,000 feet.

I would be really interested on hearing back from anyone who takes up this challenge.

(E. mike is our Affiliated Club Coordinator. Mike can be reached at



Ohio QSO Party

OK, I got your attention. Everyone places; some in first place, some in millionth. Welcome to the story that almost wasn't. Last month I promised more information on the 2012 Ohio QSO Party. It never materialized. It darned near didn't make it this month.

Anyway, last summer we operated from Sebring for the Ohio QSO Party. Since Mahoning County is usually a bit more rare than Stark County, we chose the location at the Sebring Campgrounds. As it turns out, there were only 43 QSOs reported in Stark County last year.

We worked 15 CW QSOs (11 CW Mults), and 175 SSB QSOs (63 SSB Mults) for a final score of 15,170.

In 2011, we did 2 CW QSOs, 314 SSB QSOs, 98 Mults for a total score of 31,164.

In our class (Ohio Multi-operator), we placed 14 out of 20 stations. Of course the stats don't factor in the amount of fun we had, nor the number of pizzas we consumed. Scores are woefully lacking in these categories.

This years OHQP will again be on the 4th Saturday in August. The contest runs from Noon to midnight. No word yet of what the club is doing this year, but I'm sure plans are in the works. I'm planning to work portable from Columbus as time permits. My nephew is getting married that day, so operating with the club will not be in the cards this time.

Rambling

By John, KD8MQ

Not counting the snow that was on roofs & cars last weekend, spring has finally arrived. There's a lot to tell you about this month, and even more coming up in the months ahead.

K3LR Field Trip - The field trip to the K3LR Multi-multi super station happened on March 30th. Tim is an excellent host, and took a couple hours out of his day to show us around his civil war era property that has been converted to one of the top contest stations in the world. Look for more information, and pictures both here, and on the website (www.w8lky.org).

VHF Contest - Well, the Stark County VHF QSO Party is behind us for another year. Due to the shortened format, I doubt that any mobiles were able to activate all multipliers. But that doesn't mean we didn't try; I was excited to work the team of Wade, WD8MIU, and N2TJX when they were in Wilmot. Sadly, I hear that we'll be losing Sam soon, as his life leads him to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. But, I bet we haven't heard the last of him!

Bucket List - Did you read the story about the **Ham Radio Bucket List** on the previous page. If not, I urge you to go back & read it now. E. Mike challenges us to share our Ham Radio bucket list with others in our club, or group. After sharing our bucket lists with each other, we get together to help each other work towards achieving some of these goals.

Would you be surprised to find that some of your friends have the same items on their bucket lists as you do? So, how about sharing your Ham Radio Bucket List with us? I'll start with mine.

No big surprise that I would thoroughly enjoy going on a DXpedition to someplace exotic.

| KD8MQ Triple Play Status (as of 4/24/13) | |
|---|---------------|
| Mode | States Worked |
| CW | 2/50 |
| SSB | 39/50 |
| Digital | 34/50 |

How about you? Is your item operating a new mode? Maybe a rhombic antenna on 160? Send your bucket list items in, and we'll put them in the Zero Beat. Let's see how many bucket list items

we can help our members achieve.

How about sharing your Ham Radio Bucket List with us?

Alliance ARC Fox Hunt Results

The 2nd AARC fox hunt of 2013 was held on April 24th.

This month was the shakedown for the new fox-box. Due to the recent events in Boston, it was decided to skip the ammo case enclosure this time.

Instead, my XYL, Lyn volunteered to hide the fox, which was in her car. To keep things legal, the fox was remotely controlled, from the starting line. She chose as a hiding spot, the Catholic cemetery on the east side of town.

All four hunters, Jim, N8PXW, myself, Jeff, KD8QCF, and Don, K8OMO/Richard, KD6MPN found the fox in about 9 minutes. We all pulled into the cemetery within 30 seconds of one another.

Afterwards, we met at Sheetz for debriefing.

Fox Hunt Schedule

May 1st, 15th, & 29th

Cuyahoga falls ARC 7:00 PM

Starting point:

2850 Church St, Stow, Ohio. Talk-in freq. is 147.27, the club repeater. The hunt frequency is 147.525 simplex.

May 22nd

Alliance ARC 7:00 PM

Starting point:

1900 S. Union Ave (Rte. 183), Alliance, OH
The hunt frequency will be 147.525 simplex. We will be monitoring 145.37®

Rambling—cont

Last Month, I'd intended to do something in the Zero Beat about the **Ohio QSO Party**, but that never materialized. It made it into this issue.

Shack Notes - At this time last month, I had bought a new operating desk. It was well worth the work it took to get it into the shack. The next thing on my list was to replace the old Windows XP machine. It works just fine remotely, as a file server, but trying to use it as a computer is a pain in the neck. So, a new Windows 7 box arrived recently, and is being configured as I type this. It'll be used primarily for Ham Radio logging, and digital modes. The old machine will find a new home on my workbench.

BTW, a little plug for Walmart.com here. They are selling Windows 7 computers for under \$150. They are older Windows XP machines that have been refurbished, and upgraded to Windows 7. That being said, they should work well for Hamshack computers. Oh, did I mention they have serial ports? Something not seen on brand new computers these days.

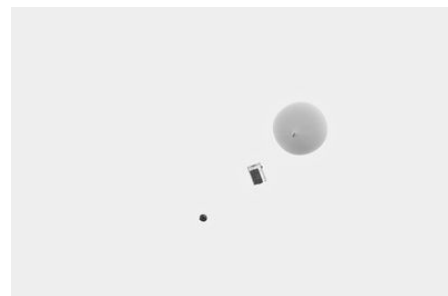
The Quest - My Triple Play quest is moving along. The new computer should help me get there a bit more easily. It'll be set up for digital modes, and contesting.

That's all I have for this month. See you on the bands. 73 de John, KD8MQ.

HABP1 High Altitude Balloon Launches

When the members from Akron University's Amateur Radio Club, W8UPD, announced their High Altitude Balloon project, it has generated a fair amount of interest.

Overcoming several obstacles, and roadblocks, they managed to get the package airborne at 6:33 PM on April 13th. Unfortunately, there were some glitches, as Mr. Murphy paid a visit, and brought his en-



HABP1 Just after launch

(Continued on page 14)

"P5 Project" Announced at Visalia

The following comes from the [CO News-room Blog](#)

Two DXing organizations used the forum provided by the 2013 International DX Convention in Visalia, California, to announce the launch of a "sustained and ongoing effort" to organize a major DXpedition to North Korea (P5).

The Intrepid-DX Group and the World-Wide DX Group issued a joint statement in which they said discussions have been under way for four years with business and tourism professionals who regularly do business in North Korea, that several group members and advisors have made multiple visits to the country, and that a comprehensive proposal for a four-week ham radio operation had already been delivered to officials of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea through a Chinese emissary. "We are committed to work as hard and as long as it takes to activate this rare and much needed entity," said the statement. P5 is at the top of virtually every DX "most-wanted" list.

HABP1 High Altitude Balloon Launches - cont.

(Continued from page 13)

tire family to boot!

Originally scheduled to launch at 1 PM, from the Akron University campus, the launch was then changed to Delaware State Park, at 2 PM (a wise move, in our opinion). Then the APRS tracker failed before launch. After launch, We could hear the on-board cross-band repeater quite well in the Alliance area, but data collected by K8OMO, and others, indicate that the repeater stopped transmitting somewhere north of Alliance. Presumably, the balloon burst, and landed someplace in eastern Portage County.

The last word we had was that the package had not been recovered. However, the HABP team promises that there will be a HABP2. No word yet as to a possible timeframe.

Ben, KD8KMQ Wins

Well, The club raffle is over for another year. This years winner was Ben, KD8KMQ. Ben is the proud winner of a wireless home weather station.

This is our second raffle in as many years. The funds generated go directly to our treasury, to fund some of the wonderful activities that we enjoy throughout the year.

Our next raffle will be held in early 2014. There's been no decision yet as to what will be raffled off, however both Ham, and Non-ham oriented prizes have been done in the past. So, who knows what the new year will bring?

Our 2012 raffle was for a Wouxun HT, which was won by Jim, KC8PD. We ordered 50% more tickets for this years raffle. Though we did not sell out, we came close.

We'd like to thank all who bought ticket, as well as those who sold them. A project like this doesn't work unless we have tremendous support, and this year, we had that support.



W8P Spreads the Word about End Polio Now

On Saturday and Sunday, February 23-24, 2013, amateur radio operators gathered at WA2HOM, the amateur radio station at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. We were there to operate special event station W8P to commemorate the founding of the Rotary Club on February 23, 1905 and spread the word about Rotary International's End Polio Now Campaign (www.endpolio.org).



The goal of the End Polio Now program is to rid the world of this terrible disease. Rotary International launched this program in 1985, and with the aid of UNICEF, the World Health Organization, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has cut the number of cases by more than 99.9%. In 1988, polio was endemic in 125 countries. In 2012, polio is endemic in only two regions. We like to say that we're "this close" to eradicating polio.

The unique part of the special operating event is that stations all over the world took part in it. Rotary is an international organization, and its amateur radio fellowship, Rotarians on Amateur Radio (ROAR), includes members all over the world. In Australia, a group operated the special event station VI4POLIO. In Europe, Pertti, past president of ROAR, operated his station, EA7GSU. Here in the States, a group that included yours truly; Jack, N8PMG; Jameson, KD8PIJ; Dinesh, AB3DC; and Mark, W8MP operated W8P.

Since the museum is only open from 1500Z - 2200Z, we were only able to operate for seven hours on Saturday. We spent all of our time on 20m phone, with our beam pointed southwest, concentrating on working mostly U.S. stations. We had originally intended to operate on 14.287 MHz, but quickly had to change frequencies, as that portion of the band was occupied by participants in the Mississippi QSO party.

We finally ended up on 14.227 MHz and made a total of 110 contacts on Saturday. This included 29 states and four DX contacts.

On Sunday, we only operated for a couple of hours and made another 27 contacts. While we made fewer contacts on Sunday, the contacts that we did make were more poignant than the ones on Saturday.

My first contact on Sunday was with a gentleman who was spending the winter in Florida, but whose hometown was Standish, Michigan. He told me that his mother had polio, and in the late 1930s and early 1940s, they would put her on a bus for Ann Arbor, where she would receive treatments. While there's no way to be sure, I think that this ham's mother was taking part in some of the research leading to the Salk vaccine in 1955. That research took place right here at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

I also talked to hams that had direct experience with polio. One was a polio survivor himself. Another's wife was a polio survivor. A third was a physician who had been to Africa and had treated polio victims there.

It was a real treat to combine two activities that I enjoy so much—amateur radio and Rotary—and it felt good to know that in some small way I was furthering the work of the End Polio Now campaign. I hope that next year we will once again operate this special event and get even more Rotarians and amateur radio operators to participate.

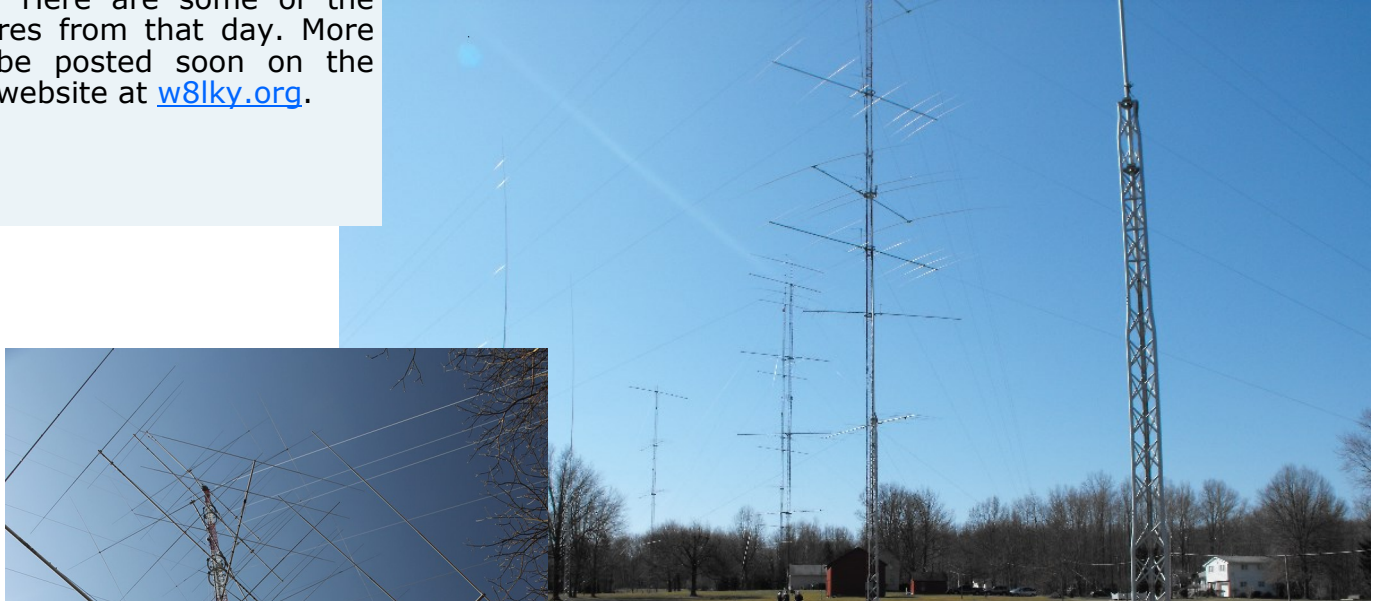
When he's not trying to save the world, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

K3LR Field Trip

Well, it was a couple years in the making, and there were concerns that the weather wouldn't cooperate. But, in the end, it was a beautiful day for a trip to West Middlesex for a tour of the K3LR Multi-Multi super-station.

I seriously doubt that I'll ever build anything to rival the marvel of Engineering that Tim has created. But, I came away with some ideas on how to improve my own station.

Here are some of the pictures from that day. More will be posted soon on the club website at w8lky.org.



K3LR Field Trip



Contest Calendar

May 4

10-10 int. Spring Sprint, CW
7th Area QSO Party
Indiana QSO Party
New England QSO Party

May 11

Nevada Mustang Roundup

May 25-26

CW WW WPX Contest

For information on these and many more contests, please go to the [WA7NBM Contest calendar](http://WA7NBM).

Hamfests

May 17-19, 2013

Dayton Hamvention

Location:

Hara Arena
1001 Shiloh Springs rd
Dayton, OH [map](#)

www.hamvention.org

June 2, 2013

Butler Hamfest

Location:

Butler Farm
Showgrounds
627 Evans City Road
Butler, PA 16001 [map](#)

www.breezeshooters.org

More information on these, and other Hamfests can be found at arrl.org/hamfests

Ham Volunteers are Needed for COOL Day



OK, I'll admit it; When Wade, WD8MIU e-mailed us requesting volunteers for COOL Day 2013, I knew very little about the program. Luckily, you can find anything on the internet.

COOL stands for Community Outreach Of Love. COOL had it's roots in Canton, in 2007. Some of our members helped out with one of their events, and found it to be a good experience. This years COOL project will take place in the Tremont neighborhood in Massillon, on June 1st Amateur Radio communications has been requested. The following is from the COOL Website:

In partnership with [Montage Ministries](#), the C.O.O.L. Project will be reaching out to the city of Massillon this year. This will be a one-day ministry event involving over 50 area churches. We will be working together to transform the Tremont Southwest neighborhood through the gift of practical service. This is a multi-generational outreach, so volunteers of all ages are welcome. We love to see families getting involved together in whatever capacity they feel called to serve. The larger areas of need may call for expertise in carpentry, landscaping, roofing, and concrete work; however, there is a job for everyone. Beyond cleaning up a neighborhood, this is a "heart transformation" project. We are the hands and feet of God's extravagant love to express how much He values each and every one of us! Begin praying for the city of Massillon!

According to the e-mail that Wade sent, they need around 15 Hams to assist in communications. Regardless of whether you are able to donate one hour, or four, your help will be appreciated. This is a way of helping out with a very good cause, and help support our friends on the western side of the county at the same time.

One thing is guaranteed; you will have a fun day helping others, while playing radio!

If you can help, please contact Wade, WD8MIU, at wd8miu@gmail.com. He will send you further information. More information on C.O.O.L. can be found at cooldays.org.

May 2013

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Apr 2013</p> <table style="font-size: small; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <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> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Jun 2013</p> <table style="font-size: small; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div> | | 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 | | | | | 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 | | | | | | | <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">1</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px auto; width: 80%;"> <p style="font-size: small;">7:00 PM CFARC FoxHunt</p> </div> | <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">2</p> <p style="font-size: small;">7:00 PM PCARS Net (146.895) 8:01 PM AARC CW (28.100 MHz) 8:30 PM AARC SSB(28.400 MHz) 9:00 PM AARC VHF (145.37(-))</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">3</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">4</p> |
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| <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">5</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">6</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">7</p> <p style="font-size: small;">7:00 PM Stark Cty ARES Net (147.12) 9:00 PM Northern Columbiana Cty Training Net (147.255)</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">8</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">AARC Meeting</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">9</p> <p style="font-size: small;">7:00 PM PCARS Net (146.895) 8:01 PM AARC CW (28.100 MHz) 8:30 PM AARC SSB(28.400 MHz) 9:00 PM AARC VHF (145.37(-))</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">10</p> <p style="font-size: small;">8:00 PM Massillon Net (147.18)</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">11</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">12</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Tom, WA8VHH BD</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">13</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">14</p> <p style="font-size: small;">7:00 PM Stark Cty ARES Net (147.12) 9:00 PM Northern Columbiana Cty Training Net (147.255)</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">15</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px auto; width: 80%;"> <p style="font-size: small;">7:00 PM CFARC FoxHunt</p> </div> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">Charles, W8YNB BD</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">16</p> <p style="font-size: small;">7:00 PM PCARS Net (146.895) 8:01 PM AARC CW (28.100 MHz) 8:30 PM AARC SSB(28.400 MHz) 9:00 PM AARC VHF (145.37(-))</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">17</p> <p style="font-size: small;">8:00 PM Massillon Net (147.18)</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">18</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">19</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">20</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">21</p> <p style="font-size: small;">7:00 PM Stark Cty ARES Net (147.12) 9:00 PM Northern Columbiana Cty Training Net (147.255)</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">22</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px auto; width: 80%;"> <p style="font-size: small;">7:00 PM AARC Foxhunt</p> </div> | <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">23</p> <p style="font-size: small;">7:00 PM PCARS Net (146.895) 8:01 PM AARC CW (28.100 MHz) 8:30 PM AARC SSB(28.400 MHz) 9:00 PM AARC VHF (145.37(-))</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">24</p> <p style="font-size: small;">8:00 PM Massillon Net (147.18)</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">25</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">26</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">27</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">28</p> <p style="font-size: small;">7:00 PM Stark Cty ARES Net (147.12) 8:00 PM Homeland Security Net (147.51) 9:00 PM Northern Columbiana Cty Training Net (147.255)</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">29</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px auto; width: 80%;"> <p style="font-size: small;">7:00 PM CFARC FoxHunt</p> </div> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">Jeff, KD8QCF BD</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">30</p> <p style="font-size: small;">7:00 PM PCARS Net (146.895) 8:01 PM AARC CW (28.100 MHz) 8:30 PM AARC SSB(28.400 MHz) 9:00 PM AARC VHF (145.37(-))</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">31</p> <p style="font-size: small;">8:00 PM Massillon Net (147.18)</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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

Club To Hold "Check Your Rig" Night

How's your HT these days? Are you wondering if it's on frequency? Have the guys on the repeater told you that your signal sounds worse than a bunch of tomcats out on the town?

Well, worry no more. At our May meeting, Bob, WB8OVQ is bringing a service monitor. He'll be able to check such things as power output, deviation, and frequency.

Just bring your rig, and power supply if applicable. Also, if you are using an unusual antenna connector, please bring an adaptor to BNC, or PL-259.

Bob will NOT be fixing rigs. The readings he provides are for information only.

The meeting begins at 7:30 at the Alliance Community Hospital Café Conference Room. Prior to that, feel free to join us at 6 PM for dinner at Frank's Family Restaurant.

