

Zero Beat



Alliance Amateur Radio Club

Volume XXVII, no 9

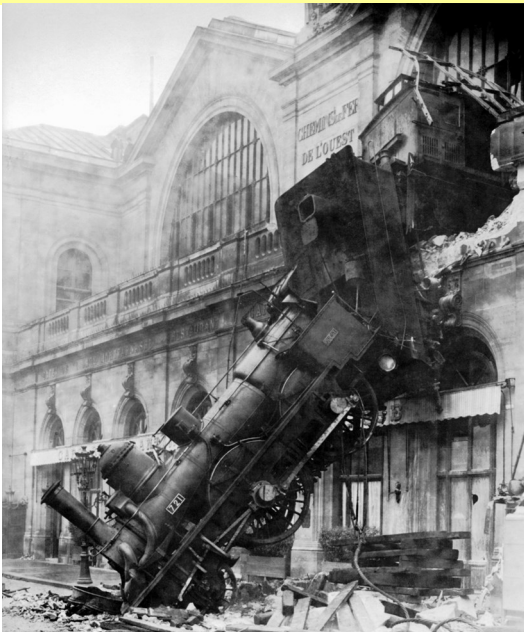
<http://www.w8lky.org>

September, 2013

Serving the Tri-County area since 1986

Random Access

By Frank Sanor, WA8WHP



Once more a topic must be found. A few days ago (as I write this) we held a special event for Carnation Days. Of our approximately 50 members only about 10% showed up to help. Setup went well and the 40 meter band was active. We made about 70 contacts thanks to those who came to operate. We also had other hams, who were not members, operating. We can do better than this.

On another topic, elections are at the October meeting. We did a fine job last year, except for one mistake. I am again asking our trustees to get up a slate of candidates. I would like to see the railroad stay in the station again this year. As to our members, step up and help your club. The offices are not that hard or take that much time. Fresh ideas will make our club better. Who knows other hams in the area who could be members? Have we asked them? Have we visited other clubs? They have ideas that may help us be better. Have we volunteered to help with community projects, such as walks and races?

I want to thank all who helped this year. Don Kingan, AB8KV, for his long service as secretary, Mary Ann Royer, KB8IVS, for being our treasurer these many years, Mary Maendel, KD8RFZ, our busy vice president, Steve Collins, KB8RFE, Ben Davis, KD8KMQ, and Anthony Schilling, KD8BBK, our trustees. Finally, I give a special "Thank You" to John Myers, KD8MQ, for his service as President, vice president, Newsletter editor, Field Day Chairman and other jobs too many to mention. Also to Howard Miller, K8DXR, for taking on the job of QSL Manager after his stint as vice president. And finally Don Whitaker, K8OMO, as HF net manager, repeater committee chairman and license trustee, and Oliver (Smitty) Smith as VHF repeater net manager.

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

August Minutes

August 14, 2013

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held on August 14, 2013 at 7:30 PM in the first floor conference room of the Alliance Community Hospital with club President Frank Sanor (WA8WHP) presiding. The pledge of allegiance was recited followed by introductions. There were 14 members present along with Miriam Sanor and guests Tomas Murray, Mike Sciarini (WA8MKH) and Carol Sciarini (KB8IMH).

Committee reports:

- Nets: Smitty (KC8TJQ) reported that the 2-meter net has been doing well with an average 25 check-ins. He added that he would like to see additional operators volunteer to occasionally take the net control position. For the 10-meter nets, Don (K8OMO) noted that the usual summertime lull was still in effect but that the CW net is coming along with two new operators. The sideband net is still doing ok despite some QRM during band openings. He added that the Homeland Security net has been iffy but that his main concern is to try to get the area hospitals to participate, especially since they all have the necessary equipment.
- Repeater: Don (K8OMO) reported that the county coordinator had requested that all the repeaters in Stark county utilize the same transmit PL (110.9). He reiterated the incident of the recent lightning strike to the repeaters, noting that the Polyphaser units did their job, protecting the repeaters, even while damage occurred to other equipment in their house as well as to the Warner cable system and a pole-mounted power transformer. Finally, Don noted that the new LMR600 coax had provided at least a 4 db gain over the previous cable.
- Website: Ben (KD8KMQ) stated that there was essentially nothing new to report.

Birthdays & announcements:

Frank read off the birthdays for the next month, including:

- Dave Hostetler (N8NLZ)
 - Howard Miller (K8DXR)
 - Duane Zorger (W8DHZ)
 - Dave VanDerkar (KD8RFY)
 - Steve Simon (KD8SPF)
 - Gladys Wilson (KB8GIA)
 - Allen Dicks (WI8T)
 - John Kalafice (W0OZZ)
 - Barry Heiks (AB8YE)
 - Paul Richardson (K2ASA).
- Frank reminded the club about the special event station coming up on the 17th, with K8OMO noting what equipment was to be used.
 - Frank reiterated that the club would be holding licensing classes starting September 3 at 7:30 PM at the Marlinton high school IT lab.

August Minutes - cont.

- For area test sessions, it was noted that they would be held at the Warren hamfest (with drawings for prizes for those who passed elements of the exams) and also at the Massillon hamfest on November 3.

Secretary's report:

Secretary Don (AB8KV) gave the report, noting that last month's minutes are in the current newsletter. He introduced guest Tomas, who is interested in attending classes and getting licensed and who also has a rig for which he needs some help to troubleshoot and repair. Don went on to note that he had sent a condolence card on behalf of the club to Jim Altimore's family and had posted the special event station information on QRZ. He then reported on the condition of Dave (N8NLZ) which sadly is not good, with the cancer having spread and chemo stopped. With nothing further, the Secretary's report was approved on a motion by Tom (KD8JRK) and seconded by Howard.

Treasurer's report:

Treasurer Mary Ann (KB8IVS) gave the report, it being approved on a motion by Don (K8OMO) and seconded by Smitty.

Old business:

- President Frank presented an award to Tony (KD8BBK) for tying for third place operator with Mike Collins (KD8RUQ) on Field Day.
- Frank went over some details about the upcoming classes, noting that the initial class would cover the technician level exam, with a possible future class for the general and, if there is interest, a concurrent class for the extra level.
- K8OMO reported on the club's presence, with the K9 Search & Rescue group (Rick-KC8SUI) at the recent disaster drill held in Alliance. Of note were the communication difficulties experienced by various authorities using the county trunking system with their 800 MHz radios. Don was able to provide reliable communications assistance with his small HT, a fact which impressed those who were present.

New business:

- Frank reported on the fund for Jim Altimore (KC8TFG—SK) which is being handled by Tomas (KC8ZEH). Donations were still being sought.
- John (KD8MQ) spoke about the upcoming Castle Run on Labor Day, soliciting volunteers and requesting shirt size info by August 20.

With no further business, and after the break and 50/50 drawing, the business meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM on a motion by K8OMO and Tom.

Tony then presented a program and demo about the Ham Radio Deluxe software suite.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Don (AB8KV), Secretary.

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.

September, 1988, (editor N8IAK)

- The club spotlight shone on Paul Lattavo, KB8DST. Paul, and his son Anthony were graduates of our Novice classes.
- Elections had been held to fill the vacancies left by Pam, N8IAK, and John, KD8MQ. Dave, KC3CL stepped in as president, while Eric, N8HHV, took over as Secretary.
- The Fox Hunt was won by the team of John, KD8MQ, and Pam, N8IAK. (Ed. note - If memory serves, we found the fox with just seconds to spare before the end of the hunt.) The team of foxes consisted of Ron, WC8F, Eric, N8HHV, and Barb, KB8CDA. They set up in the Alliance street Dep't parking lot, on Rush street, and aimed their beam at the top of the city savings building on Main street.
- Pam, N8IAK was lamenting the poor attendance at club activities, and meetings.
- John, N8GIE was moving to Chardon, to take a new job.
- Novice classes were coming up at the Hospital.
- The Amateur 220 - 222 MHz was re-allocated to Land Mobile use. The remaining 3 MHz was re-assigned to the Amateur service as an exclusive, rather than shared allocation, which we had previously.
- The next Fox Hunt was scheduled for September 25, 1988. The club picnic was to be held immediately following.
- Dick, KA8LKQ volunteered to be net manager of the Eastern Stark County ARES Net.

September, 1993, (editor N8LVO)

- Plans were being made for the 1993 show at the Carnation Mall. Two displays were to be Mike, N8KNU with Weather Fax, and Dave W8UKQ with QCWA.
- The 9th running of the Carnation Triathlon went well, with no injuries reported.
- KB8NDM's Packet BBS went on-line on 145.05. This was another means to submit stories to the Zero Beat.
- There was an article by W0FCH on "Earth Ground Science". Very interesting reading! The article gives the procedure for measuring your ground resistance.
- Dan, N8LVO declared his decision to not seek a third term as club secretary.
- Pam, N8IAK was reminding everyone not to miss the September meeting, as we made plans for the Mall Show.

September, 2003, (editor KE8VE)

- This months Zero Beat was a recap of the AARC's summer activities. In the summer of 2003, the club had
 - participated in Field Day

The AARC Wayback Machine - cont.

- Operated a station at the Mile Branch Grange Fair
- Toured the Ch. 17, WDLI studios
- Set up an information table at the Carnation Festival Pump-in
- Provided communication for the Triathlon.
- We had accepted the donation of a GMC RV Van, and were getting prices on insurance.
- A fox hunt was scheduled for July 13th, then rescheduled for July 20th.

September, 2008, (editor KD8MQ)

- Licensing classes were to begin at the Alliance chapter of the American Red Cross.
- Our club picnic was scheduled for later in September.
- We were looking for operators for the 2008 running of the Castle Run.

N4MC Vanity HQ Website Pulls The Plug

After serving the US Amateur Radio community for 14 years Mike Carroll, N4MC, has shut down his [Vanity HQ](#) website.

"Vanity HQ is closed," now greets visitors to the site. "It's been a good 14 years. Thank you everyone for participating, sending bug reports and comments, and I especially thank all the Elmer volunteers who have helped me over the years. It is time for me to move on. Regards to all."

The site has had its ups and downs over its lifetime. Carroll made a similar announcement in 2004, citing "a shift in my priorities," but the site eventually remained open. Over the years Vanity HQ often was the first stop for radio amateurs seeking a vanity call sign. Among other information, it provided a list of recently issued vanity call signs as well as available call signs and active vanity call sign applications.

In 2008, the ARRL Board okayed a partnership with the Vanity HQ site to have QST Silent Key listings included in the Vanity HQ history project in an electronically searchable format.

After Carroll announced he was shutting down in 2004, Eldon Lewis, K7LS, inaugurated his [RadioQTH](#) website, which offers essentially the same information Vanity HQ did. (*tnx ARRL Letter, vol. 2013-08-29, Rick Lindquist, WW1ME Editor*)



Higher FCC Vanity Call Sign Fee Effective August 23rd

The new FCC regulatory fee of \$16.10 to apply for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign went into effect Friday, August 23rd, when the new regulatory fee schedule appeared in the Federal Register. Earlier this year the FCC had proposed upping the vanity call sign fee from its current \$15 to \$15.20, but in the Report and Order in MD Docket 13-140, released August 12th, the Commission offered no explanation for the higher fee.

In another change, starting in FY 2014, the FCC will require that all regulatory fee payments be made electronically.

Higher FCC Vanity Call Sign Fee - cont.

The R&O ordered a broad schedule of new fees and waived the usual 30-day waiting period following Federal Register publication, because it feared there would not be time for FY 2013 fees to become effective before the start of the new federal fiscal year on October 1st.

The FCC says it expects \$230,230 in revenue to cover the costs of administering the vanity call sign program. It anticipates 14,300 vanity call sign applications. (tnx Radiogram)

Seven Misconceptions About Amateur Radio by Dan, KB6NU

Despite all the information about amateur radio that is available on the Internet, and the efforts of our public relations folks to set the record straight, there are still quite a few misconceptions about amateur radio floating around out there. Here are the top seven:

1. **Amateur radio is a dead hobby.** This is far from the truth. There are now more than 700,000 licensed radio amateurs in the U.S., and the number keeps growing.
2. **You need to know Morse Code.** This myth persists, even though the Morse Code test was eliminated for the Technician Class license more than 20 years ago, and it has since been eliminated for the other license classes. You don't need to pass a code test to get an amateur radio license!
3. **Amateur radio uses old technology.** Yes, some hams enjoy using vintage equipment that uses vacuum tubes, but modern transceivers, are very sophisticated. They have multiple embedded processors and perform some very advanced digital signal processing.
4. **You need to be an electronic genius to be a ham.** To get the most out of amateur radio you do need to have some knowledge of how radio works, but you don't need to be an electronics engineer to enjoy the hobby.
5. **The Internet means the death of amateur radio.** Far from it. Rather than railing against the Internet, many hams have embraced it. Using Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) technology, for example, amateur radio operators have networked their local repeaters with repeaters all over the world. And, the Internet provides a wealth of information about amateur radio, more than we would have dreamed of in the days before the Internet.
6. **It's only for "old men."** Yes, the median age of amateur radio operators is probably somewhere north of 40, but there are still plenty of women and kids in amateur radio. 30% of the members in our club, for example, are women, and I have had many women and young people in my amateur radio classes.
7. **All amateur radio operators are nerds.** This is a commonly-held misconception. Actually, only 95% of licensed amateur radio operator are nerds. We can't figure out how the other 5% got their licenses.

Rambling by John, KD8MQ

Hi everyone, it's not necessarily been a busy summer, but I've had trouble making time for Ham Radio lately. Now that fall is upon us, there's a couple of events coming up which have me in prep mode.

The first is OSPOTA. OSPOTA stands for the **O**hio **S**tate **P**arks **O**n **T**he **A**ir Contest. This year, I'll be at Lake Hope State Park. Rumor has it that Tony, KD8BBK will also be on the air. His plans are to activate Salt Fork State Park.

Last year, I had a myriad of issues which forced an early departure from Lake Hope. Hopefully, all the issues have been properly addressed this year. We have a new tent, a new mattress, and I WILL NOT forget my power supply again.

I have N1MM working on my laptop. This was no small feat, since OSPOTA is not one of the contests supported by N1MM.

A couple years ago, a few diehards worked to create a User Defined Contest file for OSPOTA. NA3M kicked in a special "For Testing Purposes Only" update to N1MM. It worked great with that version of N1MM. Unfortunately, with each update to the N1MM full install, the chances of failure increase. Unless the state parks contests get a whole lot bigger, it's doubtful that we'll ever have real N1MM support for this contest.

The long range weather forecast looks good, so barring the unexpected, I will be activating Lake Hope State Park (Vinton County, OH) next weekend.

Do we have any active county hunters in the club? If so I have some questions for you.

Next month is my favorite of all the State QSO parties; the PA QSO Party. Allen, WI8T, Ben, KD8KMQ, & myself will be descending on Buzzards Roost again. Thanks go out to John, N8PLA for his hospitality. We'll be activating Jefferson, and Forest Counties this trip. We may be coerced into a third, depending on prevailing conditions.

Around the home QTH, I've been working on re-routing my coax so that it doesn't have to be moved each time I mow. An interesting issue appeared with that project. The rig didn't like one section of coax I had in the line. The SWR was perfect, but it just wouldn't work well with the rig. The power would fold back to less than 20 watts, and the antenna tuner did not work properly whenever this length of coax was in the line. After it was identified as a problem, the coax went into the trash. A new piece of LMR400 resolved my issues.

I'm also prepping a portable mast made from fiberglass poles. I'm going to use it to activate Forest County PA next month during the PA QSO Party.

The plan, someday, is to get started with prepping the tower which is going up. However, that project may have to age a bit more before it sees completion.

It should be somewhere else in the newsletter, but in case it isn't, Frank, WA8WHP notified us that the club picnic will be held in place of the September meeting. Call Frank, WA8WHP for more information.

That's about all I have for this month. See you at the picnic. 73, de John, KD8MQ

Ohio State Parks On The Air Contest Is Coming Up!

Remember, now that the OH QSO Party is over, we still have the Ohio State Parks On The Air Contest to look forward to.

As usual, OSPOTA is held on the first Saturday after Labor Day, despite what you may have read in QST. More information can be found at ospota.org.

So, how can you participate? One way is to get on the air, and give a contact to those of us who are "roughing it" by operating portable in a State Park.

A **better** way to participate is to pack up the gear (don't forget the family) and enjoy a fun-filled day at one of the 74 OH State parks. The weather is still beautiful at that time of the year. The great thing about going portable is that everyone counts for point credit; not just other OH state park stations.



You never know who will be there to help you. . .

If you go to ospota.org, and click the link marked "Planned Operations - 2013", you can get an idea what parks are going to be active this year. As of this writing, it looks like we'll have at least 47 State parks on the air. But, we'd love to see full activation (74 parks) this year. So far, no one has posted activation plans for Quail Hollow, or Portage Lakes State Parks. These are close enough to make a day of it. Beaver creek is also shown as open.

Also, the Indiana Parks On The Air (INPOTA) will be held the same day. More information can be found at www.inpota.com.

So, get on the air, check out OSPOTA for yourselves. It's just about the most Ham Radio fun you can have outdoors.

Special Thanks to Parky, KB8UUZ for the photoshopping of the picture.

Paper Chase

by Joe Wehner, W8KNO



When you read this, the Ohio QSO Party will have come and gone and OSPOTA will just be a few days away. Another similar event starting on the same day is the Route 66 Special Event.

The Route 66 Special Event started in 2000 when a trial was run to test the event for the 75th anniversary of Route 66. The event was not unique in collecting multistations.

There had been DXCC, VUCC, IOTA, Museum Ships on the Air, Light House Society and others that did the same thing. But, Route 66 established a time frame to make the contacts. Since then, we have seen OSPOTA, Indiana State Parks on the Air and the 13 Original Colony special events.

U.S. Highway 66 was established in 1926, it was the first major improvement to link the west coast with the nations



heartland. It runs from Chicago to Santa Barbara.

Through stories, songs and TV shows, the highway came to symbolize the spirit of the freedom of the open road, inspiring many to see America.

However, the demise of Route 66 began in the 1950's as the U.S. began it's interstate highway system, and the highway was officially decommissioned in 1986. Today, small portions of the U.S. Highway 66 still exist in towns and rural areas in several states.

The event starts September 7th and ends September 15th.

The stations you will contact are:

- W6B: Los Angeles, CA
- W6C: San Bernardino, CA
- W6D: Victorville, CA
- W6E: Barstow, CA
- W6F: Kingman, AZ
- W6G: Flagstaff, AZ
- W6H: Albuquerque, NM
- W6I: Amarillo, TX

- W6J: Elk city, OK
- W6K: Oklahoma city, OK
- W6L: Tulsa, OK
- W6M: Riverton, KS
- W6N: Joplin, MO
- W6O: Lebanon, MO
- W6P: St. Louis, MO
- W6Q: Chicago, IL

The Route 66 On The Air Special Event participating stations are likely to be found somewhere in the vicinity of the following frequencies.

	80M	40M	30M	20M	17M	15M	12M	10M	6M
CW	3.533	7.033	10.110	14.033	18.080	21.033	24.900	28.033	50.033
SSB	3.866	7.266	N/A	14.266	18.164	21.366	24.966	28.466	50.166
Digital	3.580	7.070	10.140	14.070	18.100	21.070	24.920	28.120	N/A

Hear you in the pile-ups! - Joe, W8KNO

AARC Special Event 2013

by Don, K8OMO

Well the Special Events Station set up at Silver Park has come and gone . Being a Great success for our Club . There were 6 people helping out with 3 operators working 21 States with over 70 QSO'S.

Most of the contacts were made on 40 meters with very ruff conditions but thanks to Tony KD8BBK with a Home Brew G5 RV antenna loaned to the Event we persevered. Can't wait till next year.

Winner of the Door Prize AC8JR Andy Magda, real nice garage radio. AM/FM, AC/DC Cassette Stereo.

Thanks to all who checked in, already have requests for Cards and Certificates.

73's,

De K8OMO

Licensing Classes Coming Up.

Alliance - Alliance's Licensing classes begin on Tuesday, September 3rd. Classes begin at 7 PM. Location is the Marlinton HS IT lab. Cost TBD.

For now Frank will provide KB6NU license guide free to any who bring thumb drives. ARRL books will be available on request.

Contact Frank, WA8WHP for more information. His contact info is on page 2.

Salem - The Salem Area ARA will be sponsoring a license class beginning on September 28th. The time is 8:30 - 11:30 AM. Classes will be held at the Lisbon EMA.

AARC Club Picnic Scheduled

The AARC annual club picnic has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 11th, at 5PM, in Silver Park's Rustic Shelter.

According to President Frank, WA8WHP, the shelter is reserved for 5 - 10PM. There will be a short business meeting.

For more information, contact Frank, WA8WHP. His contact info is on page two.

Salem 440 MHz Repeater is On-Line

Word has been received that SAARA's new 440 MHz repeater on top of the Salem Community Hospital is up & running.

The frequency is 444.9625, with a PL of 162.2. (TNX Dave N8GOB)

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) announces the 6th annual

Ohio State Parks On The Air



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest

Saturday, September 7, 2013, from 1600 UTC to 2400 UTC

There are **74** Ohio State Parks
Make a day of it and join us in the **FUN!**

Visit a beautiful Ohio State Park
and have some
Amateur Radio Fun at the same time!



Rules? Entry Forms? Log Sheets? Ohio State Park Information?
Check out **all** the details at: www.OSPOTA.org

While you're at it, check out the PCARS web site at: www.portcars.org

G0806

AN AMATEUR

Over the years there are similar common questions asked by new amateur radio operators. In the reprinted edition of the **1926** Radio Amateur's Handbook, Chapter 1, What Is An Amateur ?, are two paragraphs that may provide some answers.



“In many places it is possible to join a radio club and to enjoy active membership. The exchange of information between club members is valuable. By talks and demonstrations the club provides interesting winter activities. Through code classes, beginners are helped in getting started as “good” operators. A club library containing the books best suited to the members is an additional asset to the radio enthusiast who does not have too much money to spend on his hobby. In the summer, social activities of a different nature keep the members together for some enjoyable times. Picnics, demonstrations with portable equipment, and athletic contests keep up the interest then. Many such clubs are affiliated with the League and receive monthly bulletins from the League. On request, information on organizing a club and becoming affiliated is supplied from League Headquarters.”

“Amateur radio offers the only means of free communication with our fellows who are outside the range of the human voice. When we have become familiar with some of the simple facts about this fascinating hobby we will want to get on the air and talk by wireless with other men who have stations similar to ours. This we can do just as soon as our station is in actual operation. Cards will be received from many places where our signals have been heard. Correspondence with folks we have met by radio will result. New friendships will be made. We will take pride in our station and its records.”



Those two paragraphs are similar today. In earlier times, amateur radio was obviously a hobby for mostly technical persons. Since that time, amateur radio has changed into a family hobby with wives and children obtaining higher classes of license. Also stated is the purpose of radio clubs and activity throughout the year. One common word then and now is picnics and social activities. Do you suppose their picnic was like our field day?



Club member participation in events, (all age groups and classes of license), will keep the radio club healthy. Amateur radio today has more modes of operation and choices. There are now more groups within the club that have various radio-related interests. It takes time for new members to learn the various subjects and decide their area of interest. It may take a year or two to understand club operations. Notice the word “library” in 1926. Then, and now, books are a great way to learn.

73 DE MIKE, WA8MKH

G1308

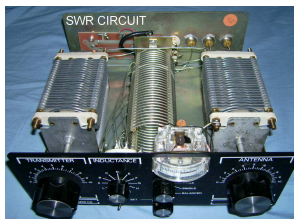
MARC Radio Club Tuner, Tunes Again



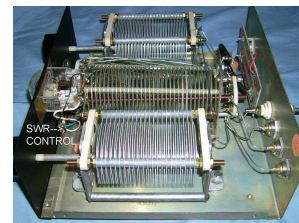
The Dentron Model AT-1K antenna tuner was repaired. This article describes the inside of the tuner as well as information in tuner use and troubleshooting.

The first step was the normal cleaning of the case & controls. The RF switches were cleaned with a non-residue cleaner (described later). Hardware was checked for tightness and proper fit of RF connectors. Knobs were checked for proper mechanical adjustment and alignment to the internal capacitors and inductor. Right & Left Knobs: (0) was minimum capacitance and (10) was maximum capacitance. Center Knob: "A" was minimum inductance and "L" was maximum inductance.

Next was connecting a 50 ohm load to the output of the tuner and applying 10 watts to the tuner input. The operators manual (available online) was referenced for front panel calibration settings. **Always use low power, 5-10 watts, when using a manual or automatic tuner. Otherwise arcing damage can occur and/or reduce the life of the components.**



The SWR circuit was not responding. Note in the left photo, the SWR circuit board in the far upper-left. The diodes were both shorted. This is normally caused by excessive voltage or lightning. **In this case the damage may have been caused by tuner adjustment with full transmitter output which can**



cause very high voltages. Further troubleshooting indicated a defective SWR Control potentiometer caused by the same conditions. The potentiometer is shown in the right photo, inside middle bottom of panel. The potentiometer was replaced and testing continued. Calibration now checked normal.



SWITCH CLEANING, left photo, was done by using a non-residue tuner cleaner while operating the switch. One brand of cleaner that some have used is called DeoxIT. Web site is <http://store.caig.com/> Results may vary with different cleaners. Other factors include type of switch, age, type of metal plating and thickness, and the contact pressure and wear.



Note on the left picture, there is only 1 insulated connector for a long-wire. The front panel antenna switch shows a balanced line choice. This is possible only by using an external 1:1 or 1:4 Balun. This company made other model tuners with a built-in Balun and had 2 white ceramic insulators on the rear panel.

The manual shows procedures for using this tuner. If an antenna analyzer is available such as the MFJ 259B or 269, the tuner can be safely tuned and the readings logged for future reference about every 100 KHz of each band. **MARC radio room has a log sheet showing initial settings for another type of tuner (MFJ) that should get to at least 1.5 to 1 SWR or better for all bands 160 thru 6 meters depending on the type of antenna used.**

73 DE MIKE, WA8MKH

September 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
1 <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">Colorado QSO Party</div> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">Tennessee QSO Party</div>		3 <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">7:00 PM AARCTech Class</div> 7:00 PM Stark Cty ARES Net (147.12) 9:00 PM Northern Columbiana Cty Training Net (147.255) Dave, KD8RFY BD	4 <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">7:00 PM CFARC FoxHunt</div>	5 8:00 PM AARC CW (28.100 MHz) 8:30 PM AARC SSB(28.400 MHz) 9:00 PM AARC VHF (145.37(-))	6 Gladys, KB8GIA BD Steve, KD8SPF BD	7 20/9 Hamfest <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">NA Sprint - CW</div> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">Ohio State Parks On The Air Contest</div>																																																																																																		
8 Allen, WI8T BD John, W0OZZ BD		10 <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">7:00 PM AARCTech Class</div> 7:00 PM Stark Cty ARES Net (147.12) 9:00 PM Northern Columbiana Cty Training Net (147.255)	11 5:00 PM AARC Club Picnic AARC Meeting Barry, AB8YE BD	12 7:00 PM Cuyahoga falls ARC VE Exams 8:00 PM AARC CW (28.100 MHz) 8:30 PM AARC SSB(28.400 MHz) 9:00 PM AARC VHF (145.37(-))	13 8:00 PM Massillon Net (147.18) <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">Fists Get Your Feet Wet Weekend</div>	14 <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">AR QSO Party</div> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">ARRL September VHF Contest</div> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">Fists Get Your Feet Wet Weekend</div> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">NA Sprint - SSB</div>																																																																																																		
15 <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">ARRL September VHF Contest</div> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">Fists Get Your Feet Wet Weekend</div>		17 <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">7:00 PM AARCTech Class</div> 7:00 PM Stark Cty ARES Net (147.12) 9:00 PM Northern Columbiana Cty Training Net (147.255)	18 <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">7:00 PM CFARC FoxHunt</div>	19 8:00 PM AARC CW (28.100 MHz) 8:30 PM AARC SSB(28.400 MHz) 9:00 PM AARC VHF (145.37(-)) Tom, KD8JRK BD	20 8:00 PM Massillon Net (147.18)	21 1:30 PM Lisbon VE Exams <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">SC QSO Party</div> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">WA State Salmon Run</div>																																																																																																		
22 6:30 PM Newton Falls VE Exams <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">WA State Salmon Run</div>		24 <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">7:00 PM AARC Tech Class</div> 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) Mary, KD8RFZ BD	25 <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">7:00 PM AARC Foxhunt</div> Smitty, KC8TJQ BD	26 8:00 PM AARC CW (28.100 MHz) 8:30 PM AARC SSB(28.400 MHz) 9:00 PM AARC VHF (145.37(-))	27 8:00 PM Massillon Net (147.18)	28 <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">CQ WW DX Contest - RTTY</div> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">TX QSO Party</div>																																																																																																		
29 <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">CQ WW DX Contest - RTTY</div> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; margin: 5px;">TX QSO Party</div>	30	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Aug 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>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Oct 2013</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>					Aug 2013							S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Oct 2013							S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
Aug 2013																																																																																																								
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																		
				1	2	3																																																																																																		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																																		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																																		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																																		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																		
Oct 2013																																																																																																								
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																		
		1	2	3	4	5																																																																																																		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																																																																																																		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19																																																																																																		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26																																																																																																		
27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																				

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

Cell Phone Recycling

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.

This Months Meeting

will be on Wednesday,
September 11th

As part of our club picnic.
It will be held at the Rustic Shelter at Silver Park.
Hope to see you there!

Newsletter Information

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

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

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

Table of Contents

Calendar	15
Cell Phone Recycling	16
Club Info	2
Club Picnic Scheduled	11
Contact Us	2
Dentron Repair	14
Higher Vanity Callsign fee	6
Licensing Classes	11
Minutes	3
Meeting Announcement	14
Net Info	2
OSPOTA Is Coming Up	9, 12
Paper Chase	10
Rambling by KD8MQ	8
Random Access by WA8WHP	1
Salem 440MHz repeater online	11
Seven misconceptions about Amateur Radio	7
Vanity HQ Pulls Plug	6
W8LKY Special Event	11
Wayback Machine	5
What Is Amateur Radio	13