

Zero Beat



Alliance Amateur Radio Club

Volume XXVIII, no 1

<http://www.w8lky.org>

January, 2014

Serving the Tri-County area since 1986

Ben Davis, KD8KMQ is Ham Of The Year



Ben, KD8KMQ (L) receiving the Ham Of The Year Plaque from John, KD8MQ(R)

This years annual AARC Christmas party was held on Saturday, December 14th, at Don Panchos Tex Mex Café.

As is our custom, we opened the evening with another great meal from the folks at Don Panchos.

We then moved on to the drawing for gifts. Again, Thanks to everyone who brought presents, by the way.

Afterwards, we handed out the certificates of appreciation, for members who have participated in club activities this year.

Then came the high point of the evening; the awarding of the Ham Of The Year Plaque to Ben, KD8KMQ. Since joining the club, Ben has worked quietly for the betterment of Amateur Radio in the Alliance area. His work has not gone un-noticed. Thanks Ben!

ARRL Centennial QSO Party Starts NOW! W100AW To Be QRV beginning at Midnight 1-1-2014

Here's your reminder. The ARRL Centennial QSO Party begins at midnight.

The rules are too complex to reprint here, and are still being finalized at press time. For the latest info, go to the ARRL Website at www.arrl.org.



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AARC Meetings

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

Find Us Online:

Web: www.w8lky.org

E-mail: W8lky@w8lky.org



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

Get Out Of The House!

(Or At Least Support Those Who Do)

Do you love the great outdoors? Do you love Ham Radio? Why not combine the two?

There's a couple good opportunities coming up in the next six weeks.

First, comes the Winter Field Day sponsored by the Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio (SPAR). This is coming up on January 25th & 26th.



The complete rules can be found at www.spar-hams.org.

Then, on February 15th, comes the annual FYAO sponsored by PCARS. FYAO stands for **F**reeze **Y**our **A**corns **O**ff. The



FYAO stations are set up in a city park in Kent, and will be signing /FYAO. Anyone can set up, and participate in the fun.

A flier for FYAO is in this issue of the Zero Beat. You can also find it at port-cars.org

But Wait - There's More!

You don't have to go outside & freeze your gazon-gas off to have a good time!

A not-as-much-fun, but considerably warmer alternative is to stay in your nice warm shack, and give contacts to those who are out braving the cold weather. They'll appreciate it, and you will get some interesting QSOs at the same time.

By the way, anyone want to operate FYAO with me? I can sure use a second operator on my team. Contact me at 330-936-5021 if interested. (KD8MQ)



New Cabinet Appointments Made

First let me say "thank-you" from the entire Ohio Section to E. Mike McCardel, KC8YLD (ACC), Jack Sovik, KB8WPZ (PIC) and Rick Swain, KK8O (OOC) who have recently retired from their positions in the past several months. They have all done an extremely good job over these past many years. We appreciate all that you have done to advance the Ohio Section and make it the GREATEST Section in the country.

And now.. (a drum roll please) it's my great pleasure to announce the newest Ohio Section Cabinet members.



Sandy Mackey, N8YS from Delaware Ohio has been appointed to be our Affiliated Clubs Coordinator (ACC). NO, I didn't make a typo in her call. She just happens to have the reverse of mine. Sandy is a member and former Vice president of the Delaware Amateur Radio Association (DELARA), an Assistant Emergency Coordinator and Public Information Officer for Delaware County ARES®.

She was the former member and Treasurer/Secretary for the Garden City Amateur Radio Club/GCARC (Garden City, Michigan), former Sunday Night Net Control for GCARC. Currently she is the Public Information Officer/Outreach Coordinator for the Delaware County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

She's an active ARRL, W5YI, and Laurel VE and DELARA Field Day Coordinator. And, for those of you who may not have been keeping score this past Field Day, DELARA came in 2nd in the nation this year in their class. Her training is very extensive as well. She is a Skywarn Weather Spotter, CPR/AEP, Smart Triage, ARRL PR-101, Professional Mediation Course, Advanced Mediation Course, WebEOC, FEMA /NIMS courses, 100, [100.PW](#), 120.a, 200, 230.c, 235.b, 240.a, 241.a, 242.a, 244.b, 271, 300/400, 700, 702.a, 703, 800, 907, 20.13, G-290, G291, Professional Series.

She is an integral part of the inter-workings of an extremely active club <DELARA> that not only give classes to encourage the general public to join the ranks and then holds testing to get them licensed, but donates radios to those newbies to encourage and Elmer them along the way, but one that takes a very active roll with the local government agencies to help in times of need.

Her husband Gary, KE8O and her son Andrew, W8DRE are also licensed and active in Amateur Radio and club activities as well.

She was first was first licensed in 1998 and obtained her Extra Class in 2005.



John Ross, KD8IDJ from Columbus was appointed to be the Public Information Coordinator (PIC). He's an award winning journalist and public relations practitioner. He's received honors from the Associated Press, United press international and many of the major network news operations.

As a journalist he's worked as a radio and television news reporter, on-air talent and anchor and as a guest columnist for many different types of publications.

New Appointments Made - cont.

In addition, he has been honored by the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) and many other organizations for his work across many different public relations activities including crisis management, media relations publications editing.

John has served as the Public Information Officer for The Ohio State University, State of Ohio, and several county and local organizations.

For over 25 years John has been a consultant for Wilson Group Communications, a Columbus, Ohio based crisis management and public relations firm. All of his communications and PR work spans his 20 career with AT&T as a Network Force and Load Manager.

John is also a lifelong musician, He began playing the trumpet at the age of 8 and took lessons from some of the most talented and prestigious instructors in the country. He was a five year member and squad leader of the Ohio State University Marching Band (TBDBITL) and is also an Army trained musician serving with the 113th United States Army Band and the 338th Army Reserve Band. He's played with the Louis Bellson band and with Doc Severinsen.

His interest and passion for Amateur Radio and electronics began when he was 10 years old. With the help of this father he built a "walkie-talkie" and took it to a nearby Amateur Radio operator for the final tune-up. From then on he was hooked and with the help of the neighborhood ham, he was licensed as a Novice. He built much of his own equipment salvaging parts from old televisions. John also went on to obtaining all of the licenses necessary to operate and maintain commercial broadcasting stations.



John Perone, W8RXX from Galina was appointed to be the Official Observer Coordinator (OOC). John started his career as a low voltage contractor in the professional sound, commercial video, and MATV / CATV business learning the trade. He then got into the manufacturer representative business which allowed him to teach others how to design, sell, and install systems.

It was at this time he also decided to get a pilots license to better serve his territory. His interest in aviation became strong enough to obtain his commercial license.

John is married and his wife Laura, KA8IWB is active on low bands and VHF.

John has been involved with a number of organizations over his years. He is a ARRL VE, Official Observer, past President of the Central Ohio Radio Club (CORC), American Society of Industrial Security (ASIS) and Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE) just to name a few.

John was first licensed in January, 1967 as (WN8VPZ)

Sandy, John and John will start their new positions, as I will on January 1st. Please help me to welcome them to their new posts.

73, Scott Yonally, N8SY

Incoming Ohio Section Manager

W8LKY.org Website Stats

Here's the latest info on the club website. Not much new to report this month, as things tend to be pretty busy here.

It's been another busy month on the site. We've had 609 hits so far this month with one more day to go. That's just a tad above last months total. Page views are about the same as last month.

The pictures from the club Christmas party have been posted to the home page on the site.

I've got lots of plans for the site, but free time will be the determining factor for me. I really appreciate everyone's patience.

As always, if you see anything that needs correction, or maybe a feature you'd like to see added to the site, just drop me a line at kd8mq@arri.net.

The screenshot shows the W8LKY website interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for Activities, Calendar, History, Meetings, Members, and Newsletter. Below this is a banner for the 'Alliance ARC Christmas Party Is History' event. The main content area features a post titled 'KD8KMQ Is Chosen Ham Of The Year' with a date of December 24, 2013. To the right, there are sections for 'Recent Posts', 'Recent Comments', and 'Archives'.

January Meeting To Begin Series On Computer Logging

The screenshot displays the 'Recent Contacts' window in the N3FJP Amateur Contact Log 4.5 software. The window shows a table of contact logs with columns for Call, Date, Band, Mode, Power, Time On, Sent, Rec, and Country. Below the table, there are fields for Call, Date, Band, Mode, Power, Time On, Sent, Rec, and Country, along with checkboxes for 'QSL Sent' and 'QSL Rcvd'. The current time is shown as 11:13:07 PM on 04-13-07 UTC.

Call	Date	Band	Mode	Power	Time On	Sent	Rec	Country
8461	2013/11/18 02:58	40	SSB	100.000	09	09	02:08	USA
8982	2013/11/18 02:58	40	SSB	100.000	09	09	02:08	USA
8981	2013/11/18 02:57	40	SSB	100.000	09	09	02:07	Canada
8980	2013/11/18 02:52	80	SSB	100.000	09	09	02:02	USA
8979	2013/11/18 02:51	80	SSB	100.000	09	09	02:01	USA
8978	2013/11/18 02:50	80	SSB	100.000	09	09	02:00	USA
8977	2013/11/18 02:49	80	SSB	100.000	09	09	02:49	USA
8976	2013/11/18 02:48	80	SSB	100.000	09	09	02:48	USA
8975	2013/11/18 02:47	80	SSB	100.000	09	09	02:47	USA
8974	2013/11/18 02:46	80	SSB	100.000	09	09	02:46	USA
8973	2013/11/18 02:44	80	SSB	100.000	09	09	02:44	USA
8972	2013/11/18 02:42	80	SSB	100.000	09	09	02:42	US Virgin Is.
8971	2013/11/18 02:40	80	SSB	100.000	09	09	02:40	USA
8970	2013/11/18 02:38	80	SSB	100.000	09	09	02:38	USA
8969	2013/11/18 02:37	80	SSB	100.000	09	09	02:37	Canada
8968	2013/11/18 02:35	40	SSB	100.000	09	09	02:35	USA
8967	2013/11/18 02:31	40	SSB	100.000	09	09	02:31	USA
8966	2013/11/18 02:30	40	SSB	100.000	09	09	02:30	USA
8965	2013/11/18 02:28	40	SSB	100.000	09	09	02:28	USA
8964	2013/11/18 02:27	40	SSB	100.000	09	09	02:27	USA
8963	2013/11/18 02:26	40	SSB	100.000	09	09	02:26	USA
8962	2013/11/18 02:10	80	SSB	100.000	09	09	02:10	USA
8961	2013/11/18 02:10	80	SSB	100.000	09	09	02:10	USA

Beginning in January, we'll be starting a series of programs on Computer logging programs. We'll be looking at a few of the logging programs, including, but not limited to, AC Log, DXkeeper, and more.

In addition we'll be taking a look at Log-book of The World, and EQSL. We'll be doing these one at a time, so as not to rush, and provide ample time for Q & A.

In January, we'll be exploring AC Log written by Scott, N3FJP. AC Log is a great program for the money (\$24.99). You can download a fully functional demo version which will work for 45 days. This gives you plenty of time to try before you buy. It can be downloaded from n3fjp.com.

AC Log imports, & exports ADIF files, as well as up/downloads to LoTW, & EQSL. You can also configure it to display DX spots.

So, come on out to the January meeting, and lets kick the tires on AC Log. See you there! 73 de KD8MQ

The AARC Wayback Machine

Here again are some of the highlights from the last 20 years of the Zero Beat. you can read them in there entirety on our club website at www.w8lky.org.

January, 1988, (editor N8IAK)

- The times (and place), they were a changing. Our meeting night, and location was changing. Beginning with the January 1989 meeting we were meeting in the cafeteria of the hospital, on Thursday nights.
- Plans were being made for the upcoming Mall Show. Dates being discussed were March 11/12.
- Our spotlight this month was on Bob, NW8E.
- We had our Christmas banquet. For the program Dave, KC3CL showed slides of his trip to Guantanamo Bay.
- We were raffling off a TV, a VCR, and a cordless Telephone as a fundraiser for the club.
- The AARC DXCC contest was on. The prize was a plaque, and a \$150 Ham Radio Gift Certificate.

There were no January 1994, or January 1999 issues of the Zero Beat.

January, 2004, (editor KE8VE)

- At the most recent AARC banquet, Our newest Ham of the Year, was Joe, KC8TAC. Since he was unable to attend the banquet, the presentation was made at the January club meeting.
- KE8VE was putting the finishing touches on his new computer. Quoting KC3CL, Larry said "This new computer is so fast it anticipates my mistakes and makes them for me."
- Larry ran the first installment of "The Wayback Machine" by Bill Continelli, W2XOY. (Editors note: This fine series is still available on the web, and well worth reading.)

January, 2009, (editor KD8MQ)

- KD8MQ had been honored (and I do mean Honored!) as the 2008 Ham Of The Year. The award was presented at the annual Christmas banquet, which was held at Don Panchos.
- We had done some fox hunt demos with the Boy Scouts which seemed very well received.
- We had donated \$100 to the Fire Department Toy drive.
- We ran an article in the Zero Beat outlining the high points of the previous years activities.
- General classes were upcoming in January, to be taught by Larry, KE8VE.
- WorldRadio had been sold to CQ Communications. The plans were for it to become a web only publication.
- The FCC had called upon Hams nationwide to assist in educating the public about the impending conversion from Analog to Digital TV broadcasting.
- The Hall of Science ARC was circulating a petition to overturn a decision by the Hall of Science which would have kicked the club out. A check of QRZ.com reveals that the club ultimately lost their fight, but remains active anyway.

Special event stations educate, entertain

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



I like special event stations. I enjoy operating them and making contact with them. Whenever I operate WA2HOM, our club station at the Ann Arbor (MI) Hands-On Museum, one of the first things I do is to search for special event stations.

One of the reasons I enjoy operating special event stations is that it's educational. For example, on November 17, I worked W4D in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. They were commemorating the 520th anniversary of the discovery by Europeans of the island of Puerto Rico. As a result, I learned that on November 19, 1493 Christopher Columbus landed on the island, naming it San Juan Bautista in honor of Saint John the Baptist, a name that was later changed to Puerto Rico (rich port).

Working special event stations is also entertaining. Most times when you work a special event station, you can tell that they're having a good time. One time, I worked W4B, operating from the Kentucky Bourbon Festival. Now, those guys were really having a great time!

How do you find special event stations?

One way to find special event stations is to just tune around. Most special event stations will be operating at least a 20m phone station, so take a look at that band first. Also, consult the special event stations listings in QST or on the ARRL website (<http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>). KE2YK also has a special events page (<http://ke2yk.wordpress.com/special-event-station-events/>).

In addition to working special event stations, you should consider organizing and operating one of your own. For the past two years, several members of our Rotary Club who are also amateur radio operators have operated W8P on the third weekend in February, which commemorates the founding of the Rotary Club and helps spread the word about the End Polio Now campaign (<http://www.endpolio.org/>). It was not only fun to do this, but I think that we helped raise awareness about polio around the world.

Whatever your reason for holding a special event, you'll want to be somewhat knowledgeable about your topic. For example, if you decide to set up a special event station at the local Rutabaga Festival, you might want to know how long they've been having the festival, how many pounds of rutabagas are produced by local farms and around the U.S., and maybe even find a couple of rutabaga recipes that you could send out to stations that work you.

(When he's not working special event stations, Dan, KB6NU enjoys building kits and working CW. 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.)

Protect Your Gear From ESD

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



Electrostatic discharge, or ESD for short, has been a concern for anyone involved in electronics ever since we made the transition from vacuum tubes to transistors. I was schooled about ESD when I worked as a test engineer for a company called Doric Scientific shortly after I got out of engineering school, and I wrote about it when I was an editor for Test & Measurement World magazine back in the 1990s. If anything, it's even more of a concern today as electronic components get ever smaller.

In 1991, Bryan P. Bergeron, NU1N, published a two-part series on ESD (part 1: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/9104019.pdf>, part 2: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/9105028.pdf>) in QST. His suggestions about how to prevent ESD damage are as good now as they were 20 years ago:

- Consider using a room humidifier to increase the relative humidity in your shack, or wherever you work on electronic equipment to 65% RH or higher.
- Use grounded wrist straps when handling ESD-sensitive devices.
- Use grounded, anti-ESD work mats when working on electronic equipment.
- Use a grounded soldering iron and anti-static tools.
- Use anti-static bags and containers for storing and transporting electronic equipment.
- Connect the chassis of all your gear to a good earth ground.
- Consider purchasing a desktop ionizer to neutralize static buildup on your workbench.

I might also add consider grounding the chairs that you use in your shack or discharging yourself after getting up from the chair in your shack. I know that the worst electrostatic discharges that I experience are after I get up from my chair. You can even buy ESD-safe chairs (http://www.all-spec.com/products/Benches_and_Chairs%7CChairs_and_Accessories%7CCHR-00/), but they are kind of expensive.

Personally, I use an anti-static mat that I originally purchased for use with a computer keyboard and a wrist strap that was given to me by an ESD consultant when I worked for the magazine. I use these religiously when building kits or working on any solid-state gear.

It's not hard to find anti-static products. RadioShack sells a wrist strap for only \$1.23 (<http://www.radioshack.com/product/index.jsp?productId=2103245>)! You can find a whole range of anti-static products on Amazon, too. Wherever you get them, they're a good investment.

When he's not worrying about ESD, Dan, KB6NU enjoys teaching amateur radio classes and 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.

Rambling

by John, KD8MQ



Good Morning NE Ohio! I hope Frank & Miriam will excuse my poor grammar, and spelling. So, how's everyone doing? Hope you made it through Christmas OK. Not much happening at our QTH. I've been working hard to catch up on my QSLing, as I'm getting interested in "Paper Chasing".

As such, I sent out my SASEs for the 13-colony stations that I worked last summer. I didn't work all of the stations, but I made a good effort. The cards I received are pretty nice. I'm looking forward to working all them in

2014.

I also have a new switcher design to try out that will make my forays onto 160 a lot easier on me, and my rig. The parts have all arrived; I'm just waiting to clear my plate a bit so I can begin building. I'll bring the finished product to homebrew night in November.

The program for this months meeting will be the first in a series done by yours truly. This month, I'll be doing a guided tour of **Amateur Contact Log 4.5** by Scott, N3FJP. I had started out to do a program on logging programs in general, but decided instead to break it up into several programs.

You may have heard already of the passing of Gay, WB8VNO. or Gay probably wasn't known to a lot of you, but you had a lot to thank her for. She knew everybody. So, whenever I needed a speaker for a club meeting, I'd ask Gay, "hey, do you know someone who can do a program about [insert subject here]". She usually knew someone, too! She was so active in Ham Radio in NE Ohio that her full obituary could fill this newsletter, and still be incomplete. But we'll do the best we can on pg 12.

Lately, I've been reading an "authorized" biography of Thomas Edison, which was written in 1929. It, along with a gazillion other titles are available for free online. I'm only about 10% into the book, but am enjoying Edison's accounts of his youth as a telegrapher. These guys were copying 45-50 words per minute from wires which were sometimes of very poor quality. It wasn't uncommon for telegraphers to move around a lot from one job to another. The book is titled "Edison, His Life & Inventions", by Frank Lewis Dyer.

So, here's the clubs tentative calendar for 2014. Dates & times will be definite as details are nailed down.

April

- Stark County VHF Simplex Contest

June

- ARRL Field Day

July

- Special Event (TBA)

August

- Carnation Days Special Event

- Ohio QSO Party

September

- Club picnic

October

- The "Challenge" Begins

- Special Event (TBA)

November

- Homebrew Night
- FD Toy Drive Fundraiser

December

- Christmas Party

As you can see, I've got a couple of new special Event operations listed. They are marked TBA since I have some research to do yet before I announce anything. I'll give you a hint. The special event operation I'm working on for October has **nothing** to do with the PA QSO Party.

That's about it for now. I hope I'll see you at the next club meeting. 73 de John, KD8MQ

The AARC Member News-Ticker

Occasionally, I'll get an e-mail from someone with some news that is interesting, but not long enough to be a full story. So, I'm going to begin posting these e-mails under the heading of the **AARC Member News Ticker**.

This could be anything; how you did in the latest contest, or what new DX you've worked, or even a new addition to your family. Just pass them along to me at kd8mq1@gmail.com, and we'll put you in print.

Remember, this column is written by you. If you want to see more here, then send me something. Encourage your friends to do likewise. Thank you to all who have sent stuff so far.

From Ben, KD8KMQ - Along with many others this holiday season, I spent this past weekend traveling and celebrating with family. As the day was winding to a close on Sunday evening I hopped on the Ohio turnpike in Toledo headed East. About fifteen minutes into the drive I heard "KD8KMQ this is KR3ORY Voice Alert". I answered back to him and we QSY'd to somewhere that we could talk. On the other end of the Mic was Rob who happened to see my APRS beacon coming towards him on his GPS screen. We talked for the few brief minutes that simplex would afford us traveling in opposite directions at 75mph.

From Tom, KD8JRK - Apologies from Tom for the lack of minutes in this issue. According to him, He came down with a case of the H1N1. He promises that the minutes will return next month.

From Butch, WA8SHP - Santa out-done himself at our QTH this year. He went way over-board! A couple of weeks before Christmas he had one of his elves drop off a new Yaesu FTdx1200 transceiver at my QTH. Then on December 23. When we had the family Christmas with all sons, daughters-in laws, and grandkids, Santa delivered a new Heil Mic and Boom.

Been working a little DX: AU2JCB, 9H5BZ 7X3WPL, EA8OM, 7X4RJ, VS1WW, YT9A, 9H5NE, JA9PPC, ZS1S, E70T, 7Z1BL, and TA1FA.

We all have so much to be thankful for. Darleen and I wish everyone a Healthy Happy and Prosperous New Year.

From Don, K8OMO - Don reports that he is between internet providers at the moment. So, if you e-mail him, give some extra time for him to respond.

Swap & Shop

• **For sale** - Kenwood TS-430 HF Rig 160 thru 10 M. Has the FM Board, and 500hz CW filter installed. Comes with matching PS-430 power supply, and extra DC Power Cable. This has been my main rig for the last few years. Only **\$400**. Contact John, KD8MQ at 330-936-5021, or at kd8mq1@gmail.com.

Gay Wands, WB8VNO SK!



Gay, WB8VNO, and OM Ted, WD8CVH at a recent PCARS meeting. *(photo courtesy KB8UUZ)*

What a shock I had when OMO texted me that Gay, WB8VNO had passed. It's difficult to do her justice, but we'll do the best we can with the obituary from the December 29th issue of the Akron Beacon Journal.

Gay was the voice of the CFARC Fox hunts for as long as I've been going. On the odd nights that she wasn't there, there was usually a good reason for it. She was one special lady.

There's also an interesting story in this months [PCARS newsletter](#) about Bob Heil stopping by to visit with Gay, & Ted a couple weeks ago.

Here's the Official obituary:

This information has been provided by Ted

Wands, (WD8CVH):

Gail (Gay) A. Wands (nee Lossner) born October 6rd, 1945 passed away suddenly December 25th, 2013. She was born in Akron, Ohio and resided in Stow for many years. She was loved by many and survived by her husband, Ted, sister Sandy (Jim) Love, brother in law Fred (Vicki) Wands, sister in law Bette Hoover. She had many nieces and nephews all grown with their own children who will dearly miss her fun wit and loving, kind nature.

Gay graduated from Stow High School and attended Kent State University as a geology major. She also enjoyed many hobbies and was very active in volunteer work in the community. She was a Ham radio operator with the call WB8VNO and was a life member of the Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club and PCARS. She enjoyed conducting hidden transmitter hunts with the groups as well.

Gay loved to help other people, including many hours of work on the Stow Parade Committee including being the parade marshal, the Amateur Radio Public Service, the Cleveland Marathon, the Bellefair Run, many events involving the recreation of both Kent and Mantua Parks, and active supporter of Boys Scouts Troop #253 and Cub Pack #3253.

Her other hobbies included Civil War history, especially Gettysburg, Geocaching and she was active with the American Stern wheel Association. Gay was a member of Eastern Star Olive Chapter 53 and a licensed pilot. Gay also enjoyed music in many ways. She was a member of the Akron Bagpipe Band, played harpsichord with a bluegrass group and learned the steel drum. She was also active in helping to preserve older organs with the American Theater Organ Society and frequently enjoyed her own 2/7 Wurlitzer organ at her home.

Remembrance will be held at the Kent United Church of Christ on January 4, 2014 between the hours of 2pm - 4pm. A short service will be held at 2:45. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Gay Wands' name to The Ohio Masonic Home 2655 W. National Rd., Springfield, OH 45504 or the American Diabetes Association.

Tool Definitions

(The following appeared on Larry's List. Thanks to Larry Staples, W0AIB)

DRILL PRESS: A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your drink across the room, denting the freshly-painted project which you had carefully set in the corner where nothing could get to it.

WIRE WHEEL: Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench with the speed of light. Also removes fingerprints and hard-earned calluses from fingers in about the time it takes you to say, 'Oh nuts!'

SKILL SAW: A portable cutting tool used to make studs too short.

PLIERS: Used to round off bolt heads. Sometimes used in the creation of blood-blisters.

BELT SANDER: An electric sanding tool commonly used to convert minor touch-up jobs into major refinishing jobs.

HACKSAW: One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle; it transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

WISE-GRIPS: Generally used after pliers to completely round off bolt heads. If nothing else is available, they can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

OXYACETYLENE TORCH: Used almost entirely for lighting various flammable objects in your shop on fire. Also handy for igniting the grease inside the wheel hub out of which you want to remove a bearing race.

TABLE SAW: A large stationary power tool commonly used to launch wood projectiles for testing wall integrity.

HYDRAULIC FLOOR JACK: Used for lowering an automobile to the ground after you have installed your new brake shoes, trapping the jack handle firmly under the bumper.

BAND SAW: A large stationary power saw primarily used by most shops to cut good aluminum sheet metal into smaller pieces that more easily fit into the trash can after you cut on the inside of the line instead of the outside edge.

TWO-TON ENGINE HOIST: A tool for testing the maximum tensile strength of everything you forgot to disconnect.

PHILLIPS SCREWDRIVER: Normally used to stab the vacuum seals under lids or for opening old-style paper-and-tin oil cans and splashing oil on your shirt; but can also be used, as the name implies, to strip out Phillips screw heads.

STRAIGHT SCREWDRIVER: A tool for opening paint cans. Sometimes used to convert com-

(Continued on page 14)

Tool Definitions - cont.

(Continued from page 13)

mon slotted screws into non-removable screws and butchering your palms.

PRY BAR: A tool used to crumple the metal surrounding that clip or bracket you needed to remove in order to replace a 50 cent part.

HOSE CUTTER: A tool used to make hoses too short.

HAMMER: Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer nowadays is used as a kind of divining rod to locate the most expensive parts adjacent to the object you are trying to hit.

UTILITY KNIFE: Used to open and slice through the contents of cardboard cartons delivered to your front door; works particularly well on contents such as seats, vinyl records, liquids in plastic bottles, collector magazines, refund checks, and rubber or plastic parts. Especially useful for slicing work clothes, but only while in use.

Cell Phone Recycle



Remember, we are doing an ongoing cell phone recycling drive. Just bring your old cell phones to the next club meeting.

we will see that your old phone gets recycled in the most environmentally friendly way possible. At the same time, we make money for our club! How's that for a win-win?

If getting to a meeting is not convenient, just give John, KD8MQ a call at 330-936-5021, to make other arrangements.

Massillon ARC to Hold Code Class

The Massillon ARC will again be offering their code class, beginning on Friday, February 14th. They will not be teaching the QLF technique depicted to the right, however, they will give you the opportunity to learn the code, or just to brush up.

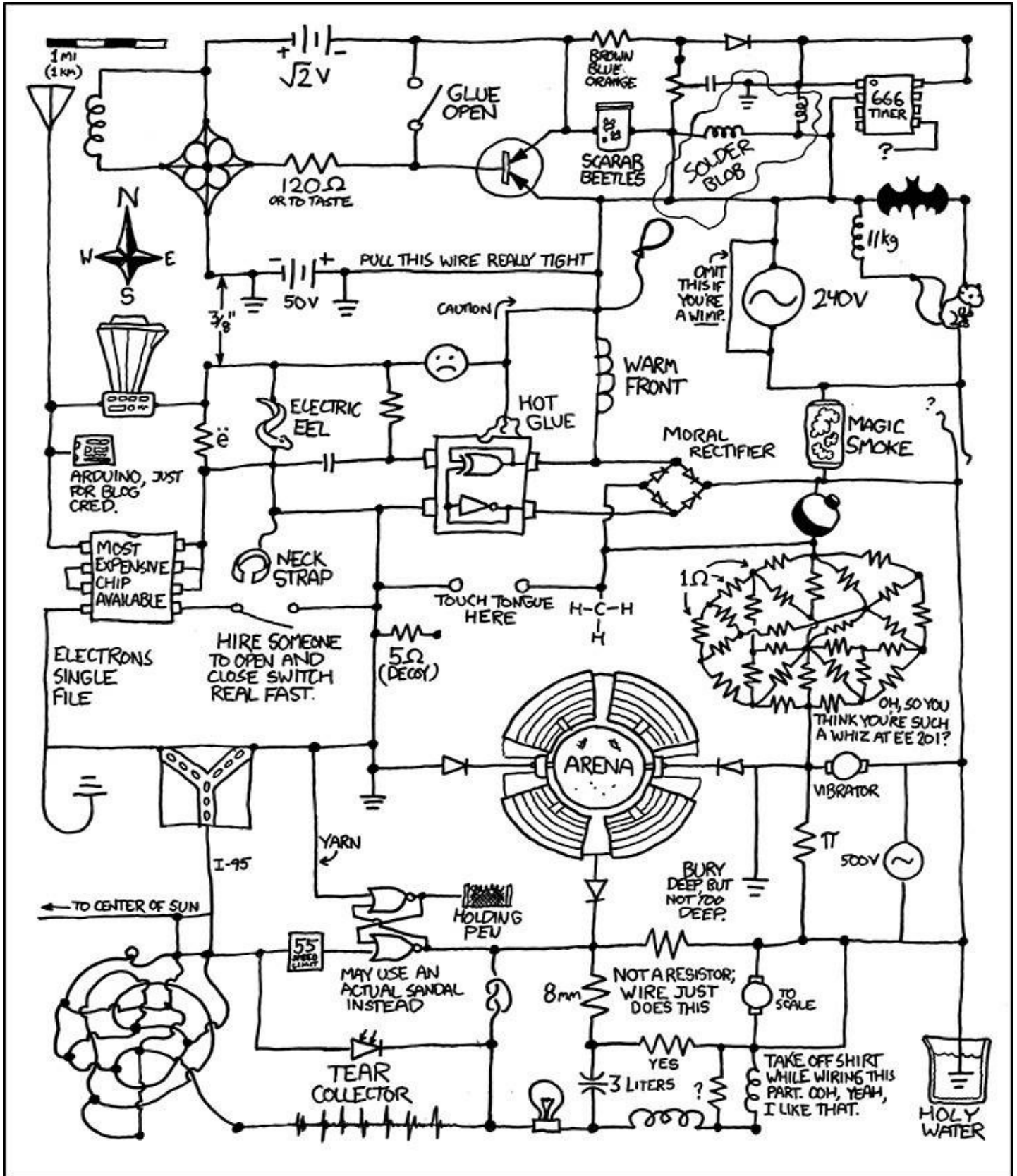
They'll offer instruction, plus hints the how, what, and where to achieve the relaxed, conversational skill that we all want.

If interested, e-mail Perry, W8AU at w8au@sssnet.com.



Holiday Homebrew Project

(Thanks to Frank, WA8WHP who posted this to the club Facebook page. Also to Jim, KC8PD who sent this to me via the PCARS reflector.)



Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.



PCARS - K8BF

Ninth Annual

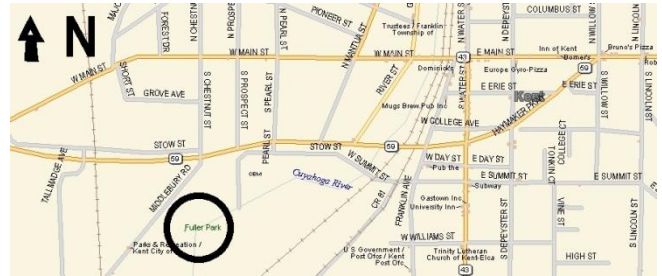
"Freeze Your Acorns Off" (FYAO) QRP mini-field day Special Event Station



Where: Fred Fuller Park - 497 Middlebury Rd., Kent, Oh at the Roy Smith Shelter House

When: Saturday - Feb. 15, 2014 Set up: 9am

Operating Time: 10am - 4pm EST



We will be active on CW & Phone in the General areas of the 6, 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80 meter bands (Repeater & Echolink on the K8SRR echo link node for a certificate) and anything else we can get working. Club Call Sign **K8BF** for a certificate. Other participating stations will be using their own callsign/FYAO, or calling "CQ FYAO" (only stations at the Freeze Your Acorns Off event should use the /FYAO designator).

Yes, we'll be braving the cold snowy weather of North Eastern Ohio to set up QRP stations using portable power and antennas.

A beautiful color (suitable for framing) 8" x 10" certificate will be available if you contact K8BF and send your QSL with a large SASE to the club call trustee: Bob Hewett, K8FEY - 3670 Sea Ray Cove - Reminderville, OH 44202



So, from the comfort of your warm radio shack - give us a contact while we're out freezing. We'll need all the contacts we can make to help keep us warm. Your support will be very much appreciated!



Check PCARS out on the web at: www.portcars.org



Introduction to Emergency Communications Class – 2014



The Communications Unit/RACES of the Portage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (EMA) is sponsoring a local, classroom based version of the ARRL's Introduction to Emergency Communications course. This was previously known as the Level I course and it has traditionally only been available on-line through the ARRL.

This local course will be taught by Jim Aylward, KC8PD, who is a registered Field Instructor and Field Examiner for the ARRL. That means that this class will qualify you to take the written exam at the end of the course in order to obtain your ARRL certificate of completion.

The class will meet on four Saturdays in March and April starting on March 8th. There will be no class on March 15th, both to provide a break for the students and to enable class participants to attend the Ohio Section ARES[®] Leadership meeting. The class will then resume on March 22nd, March 29th, with the last class on April 4th. The class will be held at the Center of Hope, 1034 West Main Street, Ravenna, and will begin at 9:00 a.m. and run to around 3:00 p.m., with a break for lunch, on each day. Attendance at the classes is mandatory. Excuses from a class session will only be granted for extraordinary reasons and anyone who misses more than one class will not be permitted to take the exam.

Anyone wishing to take the class must register prior to the class so that we can ensure that sufficient seating is available. The number of students may be limited. If you wish to attend you must pre-register by sending a note to KC8PD at aylwardjim@aol.com. Contact him if you have any questions about the class.

There is great deal of material to cover for this class and all students should purchase the course manual from the ARRL, <http://www.arrl.org/shop/The-ARRL-Introduction-to-Emergency-Communication-Course/>. The book is item #7303 and costs \$24.95.

There will be no charge for the class and you do not have to be an ARRL or ARES[®] member to participate. There is a \$15.00 fee, payable to the ARRL, to take the final exam.

This is a great opportunity to be able to obtain the certification without the expense of the tuition for the on-line course. However, everyone must be prepared to be involved and to participate in order to obtain the maximum benefit from the material.

You're Invited



To a VERY SPECIAL
PCARS Meeting on
February 10, 2014

PCARS will be hosting a LIVE
Skype presentation with

**Bob Heil,
K9EID**

Yes THE Bob Heil from



Monday - February 10, 2014 - 7 PM at the Portage County
Amateur Radio Service club meeting. PCARS
meets at Stringz & Wingz - Located at 1543
State Route 303 in Streetsboro, Ohio



Since this is something *extra-ordinary*, everyone, and anyone,
that would like to attend is invited to see Bob's presentation.
We got the room & PCARS looks forward to your being there!

In Bob's own words: "*I have no set scripts for my
presentations. We get into audio, antennas as well as some
theory - keeping it simple.*"

Need more information? Contact PCARS President - Tom WB8LCD@portcars.org

January 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																			
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Alliance Amateur Radio Club
 P.O. Box 3344
 Alliance, OH 44601

This Months Meeting

will be on Wednesday,

January 8th in the Café Conference Room at:

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

Our meeting will begin at
 7:30PM

This month's program will be the first in a series on Computer logging programs. This months focus will be on

Amateur Contact Log

Feel free to Join us for dinner beforehand at

**Frank's
 Family Restaurant**
 480 E. State St, Alliance

Newsletter Information

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

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You can submit material to the Zero Beat via e-mail to

kd8mq1@gmail.com

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