

Zero Beat



Alliance Amateur Radio Club

Volume XXVIII, no 2

<http://www.w8lky.org>

February, 2014

Serving the Tri-County area since 1986

Wacky Key Night Is April 9th!

From the "Gee, I wish I'd thought of that one first" department, comes the AARC Wacky Key Night. The idea for this one comes from the Delaware-Lehigh ARC. The rules are simple.

Build a device which will key a code oscillator (provided). Simulated straight keys, iambic paddles, sideswipers; whatever! Any and all are welcome. The more elaborate or ridiculous, the better! We will provide several connector configurations for you to attach to your "Wacky Key," even alligator clips to your terminals if that's all you have.

The WACKIEST KEY WINS!! Put your silly alter ego to work and construct a Rube Goldberg device. Carry, drag, or wheel it in if you have to. No limits; just don't scratch the floor!

Imagination, originality, and HUMOR are going to rule the outcome!



There are 3 simple rules:

- 1) Real, manufactured keys are prohibited.
- 2) It has to actually function by closing a circuit that will trigger oscillator audio.
- 3) It must be able to send your Callsign legibly, or just a simple "CQ."

For ideas, please consult <https://sites.google.com/site/oh6dccw/strangeckwkeys>

Winners determined by popular vote, (determined by judges) and prizes will be awarded!

We'll see you at the April 9th club meeting!

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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

December Minutes



December 11, 2013

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held on December 11, 2013 at 7:30 PM in the main conference room of the Alliance Community Hospital with club President Ben Davis (KD8KMQ) presiding. The pledge of allegiance was recited followed by introductions. Guest: Miriam Sanor.

Committee reports:

- Don (K8OMO) Remarked 10 Meter Nets had a Big Turn Out.
- Tomas (KC8ZEH) 2 Meter Net doing good along with Echolink. Smitty (KC8TJQ) is taking early check-ins
- Repeater: Don (K8OMO) Linking the 2 meter with the 440.
- Website: John (KD8MQ) Nothing done

Birthdays & announcements:

Ben read off the birthdays for December:

- 3rd Sam Eberling (KC8ETZ)
- 9th Gary Russell (KD8QFH)
- 22nd Jessie Evans (KD8KDK)
- Tomas (KC8ZEK) reported about legalities about starting your car.
- John (KD8MQ) W8Santa will be running.

Secretary's report:

- Secretary Tom (KD8JRK) gave the report minutes are in the newsletter.
- Cards from:
 - Dave Hostetler
 - Ronald Gwynne
 - Approved Frank (WA8WHP)
 - Second Alan WI8T

Treasurer's report:

Treasurer Mary Ann (KB8IVS) gave the report, it being approved Howard (K8DXR) 2nd by John (KD8MQ).

Old business:

President Ben reminded about the Christmas Party on December 14th at Don Poncho's at 6:00PM John reminded us about Ham of the year. We needed more votes for this year.

New business:

- Ben brought up fund raisers.
- Raffle Tickets to cover expenses
- Thoughts would be appreciated.

Program:

Memorable First QSO's

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tom (KD8JRK), Secretary.

Paper Chase by Joe, W8KNO

February is known as the month of Lovers. You only need to look in the stores and see the Valentines. Amateur radio also has its Valentine's Day special Event.

The North Central Arkansas Amateur Radio Service (AB5ER) will sponsor the event on February 8th from 1500Z-2100Z. The event will originate from Romance ,Arkansas. Look for the event +/- QRM near 14.250,21.350 and 28.400 MHZ.

If you desire a Certificate, send to:

North Central Arkansas Amateur Radio Service, PO Box 911, Judsonia, AR 72081

Include either a 9x12 SASE with QSL card or if you prefer send a QSL and \$2.00 and they will provide postage and envelope with Love Stamps postmarked at the Romance Arkansas Post Office. You want get your request for a Certificate in promptly because the offer for the Romance cancellation is good only till April 30th. If you do not want a Certificate, all contacts will be uploaded to LOTW.

Hear you in the pile-up,
Joe - W8KNO



www.ncaars.org

Crew:

- N5QS Roger Gray
- N5QT Dawn Gray
- AC5AV Larry Sicks
- KC5FSV Carol Sicks
- KK5WA Darin Dykes
- N5KG Jack Hampton
- KD5HRT Heath Taylor
- KF5IPK Ken Waller
- KJ5ORD John Ord
- W5HXX Kenneth Leo
- N5QZ Ryan McAfee

U.S. Post Office
Romance, Arkansas 72136




 Valentine's Day
 Special Event Station
AB5ER



Romance is located in EM35xf White County



Station	UTC	Day	Month	Year	Frequency	Mode	RST
W8KNO	1816	09	Feb	2013	20 Meters	SSB	5-9

Facilities provided by



Romance, AR 9 February 2013

W8LKY.org Website Stats

In January, your editor came down with the flu bug, and scored a few days off work. I've never been one to sit around. So, my employers loss was the clubs gain. I used the time to catch up on some planned improvements to the club website. We aren't done yet; keep watching, as the improvements keep coming!

Some improvements of note this month include:

- 2014 activities & programs schedule has a page of it's own.
- The newsletter page has been fixed. Now the Zero Beat only has to be loaded to two pages, not three.
- The direct link to the ARRL Hamfest Locator page has been fixed.
- The Links page has been entirely re-done.

Last months website numbers are down slightly, but still respectable.

In January, we had 558 visitors, and 6704 page views. Keep checking back, and make sure to recommend the site to your friends.

But, most importantly, if you have any suggestions, or complaints, contact John, KD8MQ at kd8mq1@gmail.com.



AARC VHF Simplex Contest Coming Up April 26th.

It's that time again! Our VHF contest turns 5! This year, we have a new name, and a change in the rules. This years party will be on April 26th, and runs from 12 noon - 4 PM. Forms, and more information are posted on the club website at www.w8lky.org.

The purpose of this contest is to:

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

So, let's tune up those antennas, fine tune those mobile stations, and get ready for a great afternoon on the Two-Meter band!



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 their entirety on our club website at www.w8lky.org.

February, 1989, (editor N8IAK)

- The spotlight this month was on Jim, N8DZA (K8LTG).
- The Salem Area ARA had just become an ARRL affiliated club. There new officers were:
 - ◊ President-Dave, N8GOB
 - ◊ Vice President, Harry, KE8PK
 - ◊ Sec/Treas., Margaret, KB8EUT
- Jim, KB8GHZ, and Gladys, KB8GIA had volunteered to write the Novice Corner column for the Zero Beat.
- The ARRL had formally requested oral arguments be scheduled before the FCC in the matter of the 220—222 MHZ issue. The FCC was planning to displace Amateurs from the 220-222MHZ segment to 222 - 225 MHz segment.
- The ARRL had appointed a No-Code study committee to study the implications of a No-Code license, and make a report to the ARRL board of directors at it's second 1989 meeting.
- There was a rate increase for the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau. Effective Feb 1, 1989, it would cost \$2.00 per pound to send your outgoing cards. Ten cards, or less could be sent for \$1.
- We recognized graduates of our recent Novice classes:
 - ◊ Dennis Barber, KB8GCF
 - ◊ Janice Barber, KB8GCE
 - ◊ Gary Grimes, KB8GAB
 - ◊ Bob Rickard, KB8GAG
 - ◊ Bonny Robison, KB8GAC
 - ◊ Judy Schaffer, KB8FYV

February, 1994, (editor WX8G)

- Pam, N8IAK was named the 1993 AARC Ham of the Year.
- The top 3 places in the 1993 Austintown repeater System's joke net were won by AARC members. 1st place, N8IAK, 2nd place, N8MAA, and 3rd place K8OMO. Text of the winning jokes were printed in the newsletter.
- Our first Santa net had been held in December, 1993, with N8PLM standing in for the Jolly elf.
- The AARC Mid-winter Fox hunt had been postponed due to weather concerns.
- Tim Duffy, K3LR had given a presentation for the January meeting on the subject of antennas.
- Gene, N8JKZ had passed away during the month of December, 1993.
- Thanks to Don, K8OMO, , and Sherry, we received a flag which had flown over the capitol, courtesy of Congressman Regula's office.

February, 2004, (editor KE8VE)

(Continued on page 7)

The AARC Wayback Machine

(Continued from page 6)

- The ARRL had submitted a plan to the FCC which would create three license classes, and allow HF operation without CW testing.
- A Morse code character for @ was being considered. It wasn't stated who was considering it, but we'll assume it was the ARRL.

February, 2009, (editor KD8MQ)

- The AARC was sponsoring a DTV Awareness night in advance of the impending Analog TV shutdown.
- That months program was to be a short video on the KP5 DxPedition to Desechio Island
- In light of the recent below zero temperatures, readers of the "Ramblings" Column were reminded to have emergency supplies in their vehicles, just in case. A list of suggested items was posted in the same issue of the Zero Beat.
- CHU had relocated from 7.335 to 7.850 MHz.
- The ARRL's new Triple Play Award #1 was claimed in only 15 days, by David, W2YC.
- Al, K3TKJ was retiring. Al was the brains, and the bankroll behind QSL.net. QSL.net was transferred to Scott, KA9FOX.
- We had a January fox hunt. It was cold, and snowy, but the hunters found the fox which was hidden at Memorial Park.
- BAMA (Boat Anchor Manual Archive), the repository of manuals for vintage equipment was asked by the copyright holder to remove all Heathkit equipment manuals from the site.
- There was a story on the DxPedition to KP5 Desechio Island.

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.



Ham Cram: Good For Amateur Radio Or No?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



I've been teaching one-day Tech classes, often referred to as "ham cram" classes for several years now. As a result, a couple hundred people now have amateur radio licenses. I'm proud of that, but sometimes a doubt or two creeps in. The doubts come from whether or not I'm teaching the students enough.

I also sometimes think about whether or not, my No-Nonsense study guides (www.kb6nu.com/tech-manual) should have more technical content. Recently on my blog (www.kb6nu.com), I've been posting sections of the next edition of my No-Nonsense, Technician Class License Study Guide. One comment reads,

"Oh my, now I see why my beloved USA is falling behind in math/technology/university on the world stage. Lack of rigor brings down real world knowledge and this sad trend plagues our country at every level. Your book helps students pass the exam but not learn proper physics."

The commenter is right about my study guides not trying to teach students about math or physics. There are many other books out there that do that. I disagree, though, that my study guides and my one-day classes are part of a "sad trend."

For one thing, an amateur radio license is not a degree in electrical engineering. Not only that, the Technician Class license is the very first rung on the amateur radio ladder. So, the question is how much knowledge should we require of someone just starting out in our hobby/service?

Secondly, I always stress that an amateur radio license is really a license to learn, and getting a Tech license is only the first step in a lifelong learning journey. I've been a ham a long time, and I'm constantly learning new things. And, I'm learning them because I have an amateur radio license. Without the privileges that my license gives me, I wouldn't be able to do the things I'm doing to learn them.

I sometimes regret that I can't teach people more during my one-day classes, but when you get right down to it, there's only so much you can expect. I know that a lot of my students have gone on to get General Class and Extra Class licenses and have turned into great amateur radio operators. Presumably, they've learned a lot in the process.

Having said all that, I'm curious as to what you think about this? Are ham cram classes good for amateur radio? If not, what else should we be doing to help people get involved and enjoy amateur radio?

=====

When he's not teaching class, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands and building kits. 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



Sorry, we're running a bit late with this issue. 'Tis the time of year when I begin updating my PA QSO Party website. At it's best, it's a pretty involved process, but this year was more so. I'd like to say that it's finished, but I'm only taking a break to do the newsletter, and catch up on some other projects. Once the newsletter is finished, I go back to the spreadsheets.

On The Road Again - Last weekend, I needed to test out some equipment which I'll be using for the Freeze Your Acorns Off (FYAO) event in a couple weeks. So, I set up a portable station at Quail Hollow State Park. Only about a dozen contacts were made, but I learned what worked, and more importantly what didn't. Listen for Allen, WI8T, and myself on the air from FYAO 2014. There's a flyer in this issue which explains FYAO in more detail.

On The Workbench - I finished my antenna switcher just in time for the CQ WW 160 contest. I managed to get 5 DXCC countries on 160. That's running 100 Watts to an inverted L. Thanks again to Tony, KD8BBK for recommending it. I'm up to 33 states confirmed; all via CW. And WA8WHP thought I never used CW!

Shopping - I'm shopping for mobile antennas again. My truck is history, and has been replaced with another Jeep. I haven't yet decided whether to drill a hole in the roof, or go with a glass mount antenna for VHF/UHF.

The quest continues for the Triple play award. I'm up to 142 state/mode contacts confirmed out of 150 needed. At last check, I need KY, ND, & WY on CW. On digital, I'm missing HI, MS, MT, ND, & VT. I've worked some of these already, but the other Hams haven't uploaded to LOTW, which is OK. It's all part of the game, right?

OK, time for some stuff that **is** club related:

2014 VHF Contest - with this issue, you'll find the flyer for the 2014 VHF contest. We've made some changes this year, which we hope will be for the better.

Special Event Station - We are confirmed for setting up a special event station at the 2014 Taylorcraft Fly-in. The fly-in takes place the 2nd weekend of July, so we'll need to make some decisions about this at the February meeting, so that we can get the info to the Ham Magazines.

Upcoming Programs

- I'll be doing a presentation on LOTW in September. I'm also planning more programs on computer logging, and one on E-QSL. If there's anything else you'd like to see, just let me know. This month, we'll be screening a video on the Amsterdam Island DXpedition team.
- In April, we will hold the clubs first ever **Wacky Key Night!** It's just as the name implies; come up with your best Rube Goldberg machine to send CW, and bring it to the June Meeting. It's guaranteed to be good for a few laughs! Look for more information in this issue of the Zero Beat.
- In August, we've invited Sandy Mackey, N8YS, our new Affiliated Club Coordinator to speak.

(Continued on page 10)

Rambling - cont.

(Continued from page 9)

Rather than a prepared program, this will be an informal town hall style meeting. Tell your friends; this sounds like an interesting night!

We are actually getting to a good place on programs. Right now, we have more possible programs than we have meeting nights. Am I complaining? Not on your life!

Well, that's it for now. Hope to see a great turnout at the next meeting. 73 de KD8MQ

This Just In!

Word has been received at press time that the Dayton Bus trip sponsored by the Pioneer Amateur Radio Fellowship is on! Price is expected to be the same as last year.

More information, including a flyer will be in the next issue of the Zero Beat.

As I said before, **The best deal at the Dayton Hamvention is in Akron, OH!**

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. Encouraging your friends to do likewise. Thank you to all who have sent stuff so far.

From Joe, W8KNO - *ARRL Email Address Problem, November 4, 2013*

The ARRL has responded regarding the reject problem with the ARRL email addresses. The rejected emails fell into two categories:

- 1. People who were not ARRL members.*
- 2. People who were ARRL members but had not properly completed the pass-through process.*

If you wish to use the ARRL for your email address, you must go to your profile and click on "Opt-in to have a <username>@arrl.net email alias" in order to have the forwarding service complete. Then you can use <UrCall>@arrl.net as your email address.

Swap & Shop

• **For sale** - Kenwood TS-430 HF Rig 160 thru 10 M. Has the FM Board, and 500hz CW filter installed.

This has been my main rig for the last few years. Only **\$325**. Contact John, KD8MQ at 330-936-5021, or at kd8mq1@gmail.com.

Winter Field Day 2014



Well, we had another great time participating in winter field day. Team KD8BBK made up of Tony(KD8BBK), Scott(N3JJT), Mike(KD8ENV) and Tom(WD8MBE) ran winter field day again from Mikes cabin in Mineral City. Mike has a great cabin that is very nice and a great location. The contest isn't one of the busiest ones but the fun and laughs we share are the reason we keep going back. Ham radio has a lot to offer and the friendships is just one of the many great things I love about the hobby. These guys are a great group and know how to have fun.

As for the contest, I think we did really good considering the weather that we had this year. The weather was a bit cold so not many stations were set up outdoors this year. The band conditions seemed to be pretty good and even made a few DX contacts. Now the great thing about winter field day is the food. Scott made some sauerkraut and sausage in the crockpot, not sure that was a good idea with four guys in a cabin but it turned out ok. So there was good food, good fellowship and lots of fun, what more could one ask for and it was ham radio that made it all happen.



So there is always some fun and good times to be had with ham radio. So get off your hands and have some fun.

Tony KD8BBK



The Magic Band—Revisited



Back in January 2009, The PCARS Radiogram published an article I penned concerning the 6m "Magic Band" and the Kenwood TK-630H commercial radio. The radios were starting to show up on the used market at hamfest's and on eBay. I discussed what models to look for, and offered some programming suggestions for those willing to scout around and acquire the needed parts. (Link: <http://www.portcars.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/pcars-jan2009.pdf>)

And here it is January 2014, and I'm still writing about a 1993 model commercial radio. What's the fascination? Why am I revisiting a 5 year old article about obsolete technology? Read on...

My employer for the past 30 years has been the State of Ohio. Specifically, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) . I'm the radio technician for District 4 here in Northeast Ohio.

ODOT was one of the first agencies to utilize mobile 2-way radios, with the Portage/Summit/Ashtabula/Trumbull /Mahoning/Stark county areas being the first ODOT "pilot" program starting about 1956. It was "modern" technology back in the day. (Before cell phones, pagers, text messaging... or even solid state!) The frequencies to use in the late 1950's were VHF. (Very High Frequency, which by todays standard isn't very high at all!) While over the years most agencies and commercial entities left Low band VHF decades ago, ODOT has remained on Low Band VHF FM, very close in frequency to our beloved amateur 6 meter FM band.

ODOT owns and uses several hundred TK-630H (and other brands of) radios in service in it's snow plows and other vehicles. That is all about to change.

This past July 2013, ODOT announced that we will begin transitioning to the statewide Multi Agency Radio Communications system, also known as MARCS. It is ODOT's goal to totally abandon it's LOW BAND infrastructure before the end of 2014. While most other state agencies have already transitioned to the MARCS system, ODOT has been the largest holdout because of the HUGE amount of vehicles and radios involved. ALL of these radio units will become functionally obsolete and will be retired this year.

While I myself don't have any official capacity to distribute any of these surplus units, (I have to adhere to rules, protocol and ethics) there WILL be SEVERAL HUNDRED of these radios to be uninstalled and disposed of by ODOT in the VERY near future. I wouldn't be surprised if you don't start seeing these units making their way into the Amateur Radio community. All of this will make for a very BUSY time for me as an ODOT radio technician, but a very EXCITING time for seeing Amateurs snatch these radios up and get on 6m!

(Continued on page 13)

The Magic Band—Revisited – cont.

(Continued from page 12)

I guess now would be a GREAT time to remind folks that Northeast Ohio has many wonderful 6m repeater systems in place. I easily filled my basic 32 channels of my surplus TK-630H with frequencies.

One area repeater based in Akron is VERY high profile with multiple inputs in Akron, Massillon, Richfield and Stone Creek blanketing Portage, Summit, Wayne, Holmes and Medina counties as well as the surrounding areas. (The N8XPK Repeater system on 53.170(RX) / 52.170(TX) with PL tones selecting the different inputs: 107.2 (Massillon), 110.9 (Loudonville), 123.0 (Stone Creek) and 136.5 (Richfield). It's a comfortable family type repeater. They even have been holding a net there on Sunday nights at 7 PM yielding 30+ check- ins from all over Ohio.

A nice surplus 100 Watt 6m radio would REALLY be a nice addition...

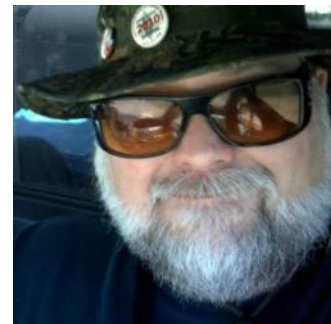
With all of that being said, there has always been a hurdle of gathering equipment AND information. While there appears that there will be no longer be a shortage of surplus equipment to be had, there is an informational hurdle to those unfamiliar with commercial radios. Since I've spent the last 20 years installing, repairing, adjusting, programming and learning about the Kenwood TK-630 radio, I thought it might be helpful to contain this information and make it available to those wanting to experiment with these surplus units.

Now is the time to explore 6 meter FM and the 50-54 MHz band!

I'm putting together a group of individuals interested in exploring these surplus radios, and have published an Internet webpage dealing with all facets of the TK-630H radio. You will have available information on how to assemble, modify, install, program, repair, retune and get the radio converted for Amateur Radio use, particularly here in Northeast Ohio. I'd like to invite folks to check out: The TK-630 Project at <http://630.zzruss.com>. There are a number of rare manuals and loads of information I'm adding daily. There is a question and answer discussion area, and hams can also contact me there. As the months continue, I hope to include how-to guides, videos, pictures, channel programming templates, software and more.

With Northeast Ohio having a FANTASTIC (but little known) 6m repeater infrastructure already in place, I can see great things ahead for those wishing to learn and experiment with 6m FM without breaking the bank. (Russ, KB8DPN)

(tnx to the Radiogram, KB8UUZ editor)



Net Report from Smitty, KC8TJQ

Smitty, KC8TJQ is net manager for the clubs Thursday night Two-Meter net. He advises that the nets are going well. Besides Smitty, Tomas, KC8ZEH has been sharing the net control duties.

Smitty tells us that he would like to see another one or two net control operators. If you would like to help out, Smitty can be contacted at 330-894-2530

He goes on to say that he's happy with the use of Echolink® during the net, but that he would enjoy having more check-ins via that mode (If you are on Echolink®, you can connect to us via the W8LKY Node).

Also remember that we are a swap & Shop net as well. Smitty has a request, though. If you buy, or sell something via our Swap & Shop, please feel free to check in, and let us know that the swap & shop did some good.

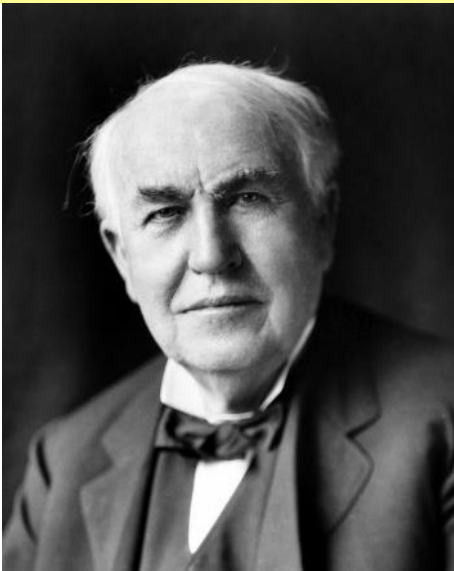
Another thing we have going is the early check-in. You can do an early check-in as soon as 8:15. Smitty added this as a help for those of us who can't hang around for the 9 PM net.

He would like to thank all who utilize the early check-in, as well as everyone else who checks-in. He reminds us that the folks who check in make the net. Without you, there would be no net.

Also, a shout out goes to Smitty for being the net manager, and doing the job that he does.

Two Meter net Check-Ins	
January	
January 2 nd	19 Check-Ins
January 9 th	15 Check-Ins
January 16 th	17 Check-Ins
January 23 rd	13 Check-Ins
January 30 th	17 Check-Ins

Thomas Edison Special Event



This weekend, the Thomas Edison Memorial Radio Club will be celebrating the Birth and Birthplace of Thomas Edison. Thomas Edison was born in 1847, in Milan, OH.

The special event will take place on Feb 8, & 9th, from 1500Z-2100Z. The callsign used will be NI8G.



Planned frequencies are:
28.370 21.270
14.270 7.270. Of course, all are +/- QRM.

For a Certificate & QSL. Send a SA-SE to Jack Hubbard, 13113 River Rd, Milan, OH 44846. e-QSL is available.

Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.



PCARS - K8BF

Ninth Annual

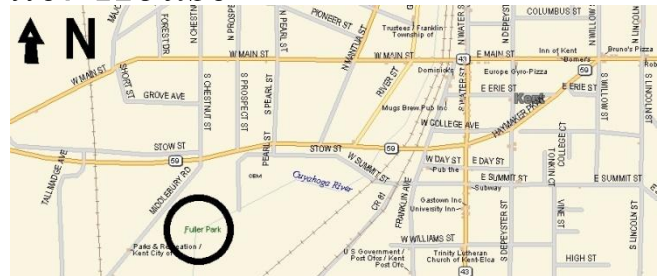
"Freeze Your Acorns Off"
(FYAO) QRP mini-field day
Special Event Station



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



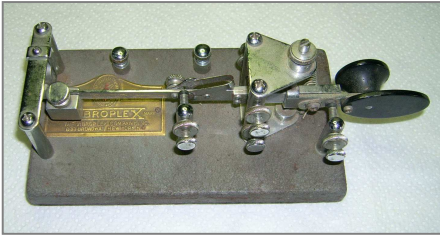
So, from the comfort of your warm radio shack - give us a contact while we're out freezing. We'll need all the contacts we can make to help keep us warm. Your support will be very much appreciated!



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



G1401

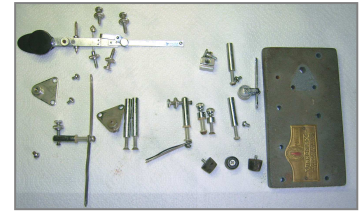


The **Vibroplex** Original Key, now a **KEY** part of the MARC Radio Station

On December 31, 2013, Don Wade W8DEA donated a Vibroplex Semi-Automatic Key, model Original, serial number 256781. The Key is often referred to as the "Vibroplex Bug" with the Bug trade mark on their Brass ID nameplate on top of the Key.

The web site http://www.vibroplex.com/date_your_vibroplex.html shows the manufacture date of 1968. Thank You to John, WW7P for his research into the birth dates of the Vibroplex Keys.

As with all vintage Keys, corrosion and paint characteristics takes its toll. Mike, WA8MKH saw a need for restoration. After disassembly, using a brass brush and "Fantastic" brand cleaner on the base, some of the original colors were better but not like the original, so base repainting was necessary. A small triangular area (right picture) was protected & very close to the original color.

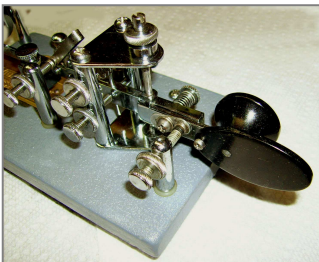


The oil enamel colors were mixed to match and a correct amount of thinner was used to brush on the paint using a 1/8 inch wide round brush with a 3/16 long tip. This was done to preserve the hammer-tone finish. Yes, it takes a while to paint top, bottom, and all sides.

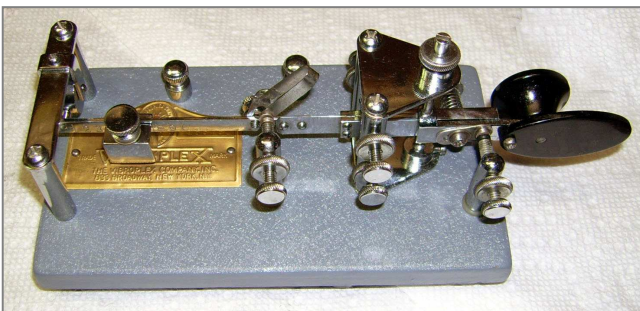
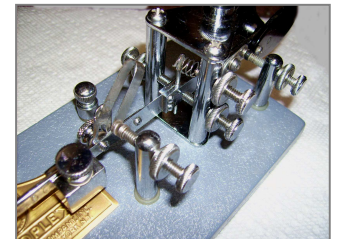
All chrome parts were cleaned using a round brass brush in a Dremel tool, lowest speed. A final cleaning was done using a sewing-machine grade oil, and then polished.



Next is the assembly of the parts. **Important: Always take good pictures of a project before starting. You never know when you may be interrupted for a few hours or days.**



There are a number of precision parts to the Key and there are many adjustments. Underneath there is a bus bar to connect the wire terminal to the dot and the dash terminals along with insulators. The 3 terminals have a 2 piece nylon shouldered washer set to prevent grounding.



The finished project is shown restored and ready for operation. The Key contains a MARC ID and history information underneath. The dot side is an automatic oscillating contact, while the dash side is a manual contact like the Straight Key.

73, DE MIKE WA8MKH

Stark County VHF Simplex Contest



April 26th, 2014

12 Noon—4 PM

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

Stark County contacts are worth **2 Pts**,
all others are worth **1 Pt!**

36 Multipliers!

Download Entry forms, Rules, and Information at:

www.w8lky.org

or

e-mail: 2mcontest@w8lky.org!

Sponsored by:

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club

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.

February 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																									
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2	3	4 7:00 PM Stark Cty ARES Net (147.12) 9:00 PM Northern Columbiana Cty Training Net (147.255)	5	6 8:00 PM AARC CW (28.100 MHz) 8:30 PM AARC SSB(28.400 MHz) 9:00 PM AARC VHF (145.37(-)) Patty, KB8Q WH BD	7	8 <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest</div> Doug, KB8DNQ BD <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px;">NH QSO Party</div>																																																																																																									
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16 Mansfield Hamfest	17	18 6:30 PM Pioneer AR Fellowship VE Exams 7:00 PM Stark Cty ARES Net (147.12) 9:00 PM Northern Columbiana Cty Training Net (147.255)	19 6:30 PM Western Reserve ARC VE Exams Don, AB8KV BD	20 8:00 PM AARC CW (28.100 MHz) 8:30 PM AARC SSB(28.400 MHz) 9:00 PM AARC VHF (145.37(-))	21 8:00 PM Massillon Net (147.18) <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px;">CQ 160 Mtr Contest - SSB</div>	22 9:00 AM Stark County VE Exams <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;">CQ 160 Mtr Contest - SSB</div> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;">NAQP-RTTY</div> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px;">NC QSO Party</div>																																																																																																									
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Alliance Amateur Radio Club
 P.O. Box 3344
 Alliance, OH 44601

This Months Meeting

will be on Wednesday,
 February 12th 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 a couple
 videos concerning the
Amsterdam Island
 Dxpedition

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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 to

kd8mq1@gmail.com

Table of Contents

AARC Member News	10
Calendar	19
Cell Phone Recycle	7
Club Info	2
Contact Us	2
Dayton Bus Trip	10
Freeze Your Acorns Off	15
Ham Cram: Good for Amateur Radio, or No?	8
Intro To Emcomm Class	18
Magic Band - Revisited	12
Meeting Announcement	20
Minutes	3
Net Info	2
Net Report	14
Officers	2
Paper Chase	4
Rambling by KD8MQ	9
Swap & Shop	10
Thomas Edison Special Event	14
VHF Simplex Contest	5, 17
Vibroplex Key Restoration	16
Wacky Key night	1
Wayback Machine	6
Website Report	5
Winter Field Day	11