

Zero Beat



Alliance Amateur Radio Club

Volume XXVIII, no 3

<http://www.w8lky.org>

March, 2014

Serving the Tri-County area since 1986



Skywarn® Car Pool Info

Stark County Skywarn training is next Tuesday (March 11th). If you need a ride, contact frank, WA8WHP at 330-206-2639. I'm guessing he'll be leaving about 4:15.

We are meeting for dinner at Chick-Fil-A on Dressler Rd at about 4:45.

Registration starts at 6:00. More information can be found on page 14 of this issue.

AARC To Host Ham "Jeperdee"



Well, we were unable to get Alex Trebek to bring the Ham version of Jeopardy to one of our club meetings, but we did the next best thing.

At our next meeting on March 12th, we'll be hosting Ham Radio Jeperdee. Plan to come out and test your Ham knowledge. We also tried to get cash prizes for the winners, but were unable to make that happen, so We'll be playing for bragging rights. Hope to see you there.

Club 440 Repeater To Relocate

At the latest club meeting, the possible sale of the W8LKY 440 repeater was discussed. K8OMO has taken the machine off the air, due to low usage, and high electric costs to run it.

An offer was made to try relocating it. This was discussed further at a subsequent meeting of the repeater committee. At that meeting, it was agreed that the club 440 repeater would be moved to the KD8MQ QTH about a mile north of the present site.

Though the site is about the same altitude, it does have some advantages. We are hoping for improved range from the relocation.

The move should take place sometime in the next few months. No disruption in service should be noted since the repeater is currently off the air.

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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
(the 440 machine is currently off the air)

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

January Minutes



January 8, 2014

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held on February 12, 2014 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 10 Meter Net is picking up.
- Repeater: Don, K8OMO Reported Repeater Meltdown due to power lines
- Website: John, KD8MQ The pictures from the Christmas party are on the website.

Birthdays & announcements: Ben read off the birthdays for January

- 1-08 Tony Schillig, KD8BBK
- 1-24 Lewie Devore, W8LCJ
- Ben, KD8KMQ Told about the Tusco Hamfest Coming up

Secretary's report:

Secretary Tom, KD8JRK was absent due to having the H1N1 Flu.

Treasurer's report:

Treasurer Mary Ann, KB8IVS was absent so there was no report.

Old business:

- Christmas party pictures are on the clubs website.
- Howard, K8DXR received a Certificate for helping with the 2013 Castle Run.
- Don, AB8KV received Certificates for coming in 1st place at the Stark County QSO Party and for 8 years for being the clubs secretary
- Raffles have been tabled until May's meeting.
(Approved by: John, KD8MQ, Seconded by Frank, WA8WHP)
- Winter Field Day is coming up January 25th to the 26th.

New business:

- John, KD8MQ Said the VHF Contest is coming up April 26th. And that the club is scrapping the Bonus Stations.
- John, KD8MQ Gave the club the calendar of activities for the year.
- June is Field Day

January Minutes - cont.

- July is The Taylorcraft Fly-in at Barber Airport.
- August is Carnation Days in the park Special Events Station.
Along with that is the Ohio QSO Party.
- September is the Club Picnic
- October The "Challenge Begins"
- November is Homebrew Night and Donations for The Fire Departments Toy Drive.
- We need a Field Day Committee chair.

Program:

John (KD8MQ) On Logging Software. Slideshow on how to use the N3FJP Logging program

Meetings Adjourned
Frank (WA8WHP)
Seconded by Alan (WI8T)

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tom (KD8JRK), Secretary.

February Minutes



February 12, 2014

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held on February 12, 2014 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, Rachel from Stark State College, Shawn Gentile and Tom Miller, KB8DUX.

Committee reports:

- Don, K8OMO Passed for homeland security net.
- Tomas, KC8ZEH 2 Meter Net doing good along with Echolink. Smitty, KC8TJQ is taking early check-ins. Net Report is in the Newsletter.
- Repeater: Don (K8OMO) Linking the 2 meter with the 440. Possibly selling the 440 if needing to. Needing a Repeater committee meeting. Money is needed to renew the 440 frequency.
- Website: John (KD8MQ) Some changes have been made. Changes are in the newsletter. The ARRL Hamfest links are now working for Hamfests within 50 miles. Also let John know if you want any links added to the clubs links page. John stated he added the clubs programs for 2014.

Birthdays & announcements:

Ben read off the birthdays for February
02-06 Patricia Collins KB8QWH

February Minutes - cont.

02-08 Douglas Matthew KB8DNQ
02-10 Richard Bontrager KA8LKQ
02-19 Don Kingan AB8KV
02-23 Bryan Webler N8WD

- Frank, WA8WHP classes for Tech and General are resuming
- John, KD8MQ PCARS Freeze Your Acorns Off will be February 15th. John, KD8MQ and Tony, KD8BBK will be operating From 10:00 to 4:00.
- Tomas, KC8ZEH Talked about the Dayton Hamvention Bus trip.
- Tony, KD8BBK talked about the Winter Field Day.
- John, KD8MQ told us about the Hall of Fame City Marathon. April 27th. Waiting for our club to be invited. Information will be forth coming.

Secretary's report:

Secretary Tom (KD8JRK) gave thanks to who took care of the newsletter for January due to his illness.

Card from:

The family of Jim (KC8TFG)

No approvals given

Treasurer's report:

Treasurer Mary Ann (KB8IVS) gave the report, it being approved
Frank (WA8WHP)
2nd by Howard (K8DXR).

Old business:

- VHF Simplex Contest 12:00 to 4:00 on April 26th.\
- John, KD8MQ brought up the field day Antenna. This is to improve the height. Need to meet at Tony's, KD8BBK to make adjustments.
- We need a Field Day Committee chair.

New business:

- John (KD8MQ) brought up the Taylorcraft Fly-In on July 11-13. Setting up a special event station on July 12th. From 10:00 to 4:00 The club will be using a 1 by 1 call sign of W8T. Advertising in QST Magazine.

Program:

John (KD8MQ) Videos of the FT5ZM DXpedition and PITCARN DXpedition.

50/50 Drawing

Meetings Adjourned

Frank (WA8WHP)


Seconded by Tom (KD8JRK).

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tom (KD8JRK), Secretary

Paper Chase

by Joe, W8KNO

N9MW
EDWIN S. TOAL
W8471 HWY 39
BLANCHARDVILLE WI 53516
U.S.A.



HONOR ROLL DXCC MDXC FLARC ARRL CWRA


STATION	DATE	GMT	MHZ	MODE	RST
W8KNO	9 MARCH 03	1927	14.2	USB	59
		1953	7.2	LSB	59

PSE QSL QSL TNX 73 *EL* XYL - SHARON W9RNF

February, the color was RED. In March, the color is GREEN. If you are a county hunter, there are two counties named GREEN. You find them in Kentucky and Wisconsin. If however you will accept a spelling of GREENE, you will find them in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Virginia. Good hunting!

If you are thinking why green, all you have to do is think March 17th, St. Patrick's Day. Though there are no published special events that I could find for St. Patrick's Day, there are usually a couple stations on from Ireland. GB4SPD is one I have heard for many years.

If you are not interested in working any of the stations, you may want to do what I like to do. I like to go to Chicago for the dyeing of the river green. You can leave Cleveland at 1 a.m. on Megabus arriving in Chicago at 6:15 a.m.. The river is dyed at 10 a.m. and the parade starts at noon.



GB4 SPD
Saint Patrick's Day
SPECIAL EVENT STATION
Operators
G1Ø THZ HARRY
G13 DZE IAN
NORTHERN IRELAND

WAB J18 ANTRIM
 CQ ZONE 14
 ITU ZONE 27

VIA RSGB

To Radio Station *W8KNO*

Confirming our QSO						
DAY	MONTH	YEAR	GMT	MHz	MODE	RST
<i>17</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>04</i>	<i>1926</i>	<i>14</i>	J3E	5/9



In between the activities, you can go by Millennium Park and you may be accosted by the most attractive leprechauns you have ever seen. Millennium Park is also the home of the Cloud Gate. If you look across the street, you will see the beginning/ending of Route 66.

You can catch the bus back at 10:45 p.m. arriving in Cleveland at 6:15 a.m.

If I don't hear you on the air, I'll see you on the bus.

Erin go Bragh
 Joe - W8KNO

Freeze Your Acorns Off

by Tony, KD8BBK

Well, on Feb 15 I participated in my first FYAO,(freeze your acorns off). It was a lot of fun and really enjoyed myself. There was a lot of laughs and some really good food too.

For those that don't know the FYAO Is A QRP contest that PCARS puts together. I set up outside in my ice shanty and was plenty warm enough and made 39 contacts all using 5 watts, all SSB. I don't know what was I doing running SSB. HI HI.



Anyways, looking forward to doing it again next year. Here are some pictures of the set up.

Tony KD8BBK



W8LKY.org Website Stats

Well, not much to report this month. Our visitors & page views on the website are up slightly. That's likely a good thing as we continue to gain respect as a club which does stuff to stay out of Meeting Mode.

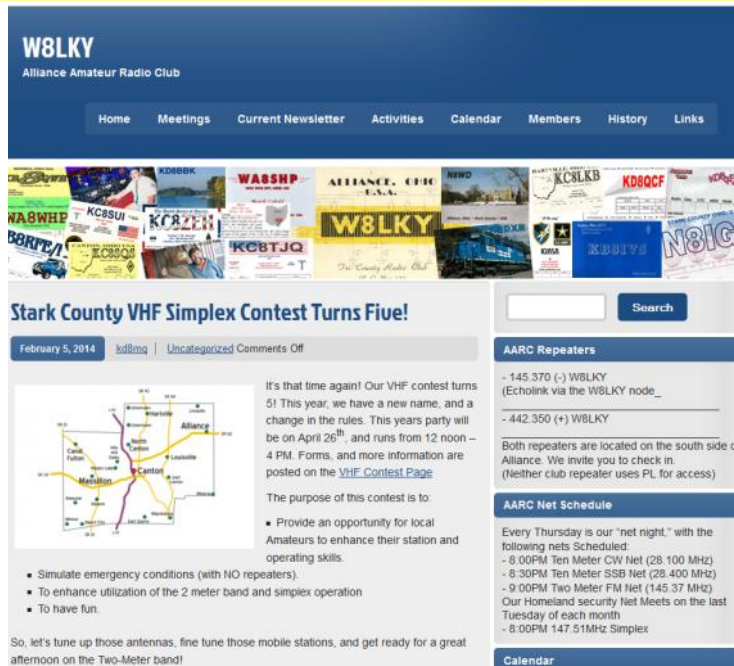
Our numbers this month were 558 visitors, and 6704 Page Views.

As time progresses, I will become more fluent in what some of the numbers about the site really mean. Your patience is, and has been, appreciated while I figure out some of the finer points of WordPress.

This month, I received a suggestion that we include our repeater frequencies, and net schedules on the home page. You asked, and we delivered. I love suggestions.

Another place we can always use some help is in proofreading. Contrary to public opinion, I don't get a text each time the site hiccups. I depend on visitors who notice when stuff is amiss, and let myself or Ben know. So, please, be brutal. This is your website. I'm working for you. So hold my feet to the fire, and demand your moneys worth, OK?

The next page to be re-designed will be the Roster. Stay tuned, folks!



AARC VHF Simplex Contest Coming Up April 26th.

Remember, Our VHF contest is coming up on April 26th. It'll run from 12 noon - 4 PM. The rules, and forms 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 25 years of the Zero Beat. you can read them in their entirety on our club website at www.w8lky.org.

March, 1989, (editor N8IAK)

- This months spotlight column focused on Jack, W8WEN.
- 5 truckloads of equipment from the estate of K8JBE were taken to the Mansfield Hamfest. 4 truckloads of equipment were brought back.
- As of January 31, 1989, the 17 meter band was open for Amateur use. We were given shared use at first, with it to become exclusive on July 1, 1989.
- The cost to use the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau was due to increase to \$2 per pound. Consequently, a lot of large shipments of QSL's were arriving at HQ. The largest shipment totaled 54 pounds.
- This was Pam's last issue of the Zero Beat. She felt it was time to "move on, and let someone else take charge".

March, 1994, (editor WX8G)

- This month's issue included part 1 of a story on the early days of the ARRL.
- Larry, KB8NIQ (AA8NV) had just passed his extra.

March, 1999, (editor K8LTG)

- Mary Ann, KB8IVS had just been elected Ham of the year.
- Paul, NW8C had returned home from the hospital. According to our editor, they had to "clean some of that slow scan TV sludge out, so he could run some good clean Morse code through his systems".
- John, N8PLA wrote a story bemoaning some of life's modern conveniences.
- The rare burrowing owls were on the move. 40 or so of the critters had been tagged with radio transmitters. Hams were asked to monitor 1712 KHz for the signal.
- Jerry, N8SH had penned a story on hooking up a better microphone to your sound card.

March, 2004, (editor KE8VE)

- Dues were due. The cost of membership was still only \$10 per year.
- The FCC had released a NPRM (Notice of Proposed Rule Making) on something called BPL (Broadband over Power Line).
- Peggy Sue, made famous in the Buddy Holly Song had gotten her Ham ticket. Her call sign was KE5AKW. She went to school with Buddy Holly, and eventually married the drummer in his band.
- Joe Walsh, WB8ACU, and Bob Heil, K9EID were planning to work the ARRL DX contest. Joe had been with



2009—Don - K8OMO - gets a 64th birthday "wet willie" from Tomas - KC8ZEH as Richard, KD6MPN, & Roger KA8FTS look on.

(Continued on page 10)

The AARC Wayback Machine

(Continued from page 9)

the Eagles, and Bob was the founder of Heil Sound.

March, 2009, (editor KD8MQ)

- We had just organized a DTV Awareness night which was held at Rodman Public Library. This was response to a plea to the Ham Community from the FCC. The purpose being to answer any questions that the public may have concerning the impending TV switchover from Analog to Digital.
- We had a representative of the American Red Cross at our March, 2009 meeting recruiting Hams for their Disaster Assessment class.

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, side-swipers; 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/strangepwkeys>

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

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



Idaho Ham Seriously Injured In Tower Repair Accident

Robert Galindo-KE7ADT was critically injured around noon last Thursday (actual date not listed) when the winching cable snapped while he was working on his forty foot crank-up tower.

Galindo, who goes by his middle name of Bear Paw, age 52 of Athol, Idaho was trapped and dangling 20 feet up in the air when rescue crews arrived at his home, located near the entrance of Farragut State Park.

The accident which was witnessed by his wife Gail Perry-KE7ADN resulted in the loss of Galindo's right hand and several fingers on his left hand. Ms. Perry stated: "I saw his fingers fly off of his right hand," "I never want to see something like that again."

Multiple agencies responded to Ms. Perry's 911 call, with help arriving 25 minutes later. Timberlake Fire Protection District officials say that it took rescuers 20 minutes to raise the upper tower sections and to extricate Galindo.

Galindo was transported by a Life Flight helicopter crew from Sandpoint, Idaho to Kootenai Health in Coeur d' Alene. At 3:00 PM trauma surgeons began more than 4 hours of surgery to Galindo.

Galindo was listed in critical condition following the surgery and is expected to remain hospitalized for several days.

The town of Athos is unique, in that one out of every 10 residents is an amateur radio operator. The small community of 692 residents located in extreme northern Idaho boasts 69 licensed ham operators.

(From nevadahamradio.com)

K8DHD Estate For Sale

The following are up for sale from Bud, K8DHD's estate.

- Kenwood 450S with auto-tuner
- Kenwood DC Power Supply P53
- Kenwood Speaker SP230
- Vertical antenna unable to determine brand

Monies raised will be given to Bud's wife Bonnie, who is in a nursing home.

Contact Larry [330-692-3871](tel:330-692-3871) . Or Mel [330-692-1628](tel:330-692-1628)

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.

This is your last chance before it gets taken to Cuyahoga Falls.

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.



Rambling by John, KD8MQ



This season called Winter seems to be destined to go on forever. But, warmer times are ahead. In a quote from one of my favorite movies *"Winter, slumbering in the open air, wears on its smiling face a dream... of spring"*.

So, I'm dreaming of spring. As soon as the weather breaks, things begin hopping around here. I'm planning to put down more wire for my radial field. Unfortunately, I'll also be putting the 160 Meter antenna away for the summer.

Have you been thinking about your entry in next month's Wacky Key Contest? If not, better get hopping. The April meeting promises to be ton of fun. Don't get left out!

Antenna Modeling - This month, we've been fortunate to get an article on antenna modeling with EZNEC. This is written by Mike, WA8MKH. I've spoken to Mike about presenting this topic at an upcoming club meeting. So keep an eye on the website. I'll post more information as it becomes available.

Club News - We have a lot of club news to report this month. During the February club meeting, I made an offer to host the clubs 440 repeater. Don's been hosting both repeaters for quite a while now. This will lower Don's electric bill, as well as giving him some more leg room in the basement. Not sure what he's going to do with all that room. I say he's installing a hot tub. Anyhow, we talked about this at the repeater committee meeting last weekend, and it looks like a go. We're waiting on me to prepare a home for it at my QTH.

Skywarn® - On March 11th, the night before the next meeting, I hope to see some of you at the Stark County Skywarn® training at Stark State. Full information on this training, as well as dates for other local counties will be in this issue. Please note that this year, the training is on a Tuesday night, rather than Wednesday, as is the custom.

Jeperdee - The program for the next meeting will be provided by Frank, WA8WHP. Frank has found a PowerPoint driven version of Jeperdee (not to be mistaken for the popular quiz show hosted by Alex Trebek). He has built some signaling buzzers, and promises a great time at the next club meeting.

Fox Hunt Season - On the 4th Wednesday of the month, we'll kick off the AARC fox hunt season. If you never tried fox hunting, and want to give it a try, please come out & ride along with us. We promise a great time. Full details will be elsewhere in this issue.

Your Homework this month is shack shots. I need some pictures of your shack, preferably with you at the controls. I'll print it in the newsletter. Then, when I occasionally need a random shot of a shack, I can use a members shack, instead using some random picture from the web.

RTTY - Everyone on the club mailing list recently received an e-mail from me concerning joining a team for the North American QSO Party (RTTY). I didn't get a lot of response from that. Howard, K8DXR, and myself operated as a team for the contest. I had a great time, and I bet Howard did as well.

There is another version of this contest running in July, and I'm thinking about opening the shack up in case anyone would like to come and learn about RTTY contesting. I'm still a rel-

(Continued on page 13)

Rambling-cont.

by John, KD8MQ

(Continued from page 12)

ative newbie on RTTY, but can hold my own in a contest QSO. If this sounds like something you may be interested in, let me know. If there's some interest shown, maybe we'll fire up the grill, and make it a social event as well.

The Quest - My search goes on for the elusive Triple Play award. I lost one contact last week, when I realized that I had mis-applied one rule in my LOTW account. But, it was quickly replaced. I'm almost to the end of this quest. My need list is currently as follows: **CW**: KY, ND, WY **Digital**: MS, MT, ND, VT.

I've been working on the 5BWAS for several years. Since upgrading to Ham Radio Deluxe, I've been tracking it with a bit more seriousness. Right now, I'm about at 196 out of 250 needed contacts. Of course, it's never the easy ones you need at the end.

I have a few other awards that I'm working on at this time. I'm also planning another State Park activation in the near future.

Once camping season begins I hope to go portable again for the WV QSO Party (June), The OH QSO Party (August), Ohio State Parks On The Air (September), and how can we forget the PA QSO Party in October?

I'm looking forward to a great summer. How about you? 73 de KD8MQ

Dues Are Due

Hey, it's that time of year again. Our membership year runs from April 1st to March 31st.

Your dues in the AARC go to support all our activities. Granted, we survive on a lot of donations, but we still have expenses. The largest being club liability & equipment insurance. Our yearly raffle only covers a portion of these expenses.

So, I've included a membership application in this issue of the Zero Beat. It can also be downloaded from [our club website](#).

So please, do it now, lest we forget.

W8T Has Been Secured For T-craft Special Event



As announced at our last meeting, We will be operating a special event from Barber Field this summer during the Taylorcraft/Aeronca/Funk Fly-in.

I've secured the Callsign W8T to be used during the special event on July 12th. Watch for more information to be posted as the time approaches.

Any questions, or suggestions, can be directed to kd8mq@arrl.net.

FYAO 2014 WI8T shape-shifts

This was my second year participating in the PCARS **Freeze Your Acorns Off** QRP event. This year, Allen, WI8T rode along. During the day, Allen showed another one of his many talents. He's a shape-shifter. We aren't sure if the yeti is his primary identity, or not. But we'd all better be very nice to him from here on out!

Scores were down a bit this year, maybe owing to the fact that the ARRL put their international DX Contest (CW) on the same weekend (**You'd think that after this many years, the league would bounce dates off of PCARS before scheduling a contest**).

Or, the lack of QSOs may be due to this critter that we spotted wandering around with an HT.

We thought we had solved the problem by catching him, and dropping him off over by KD8BBK's station. But, as the scores show, Tony still skunked. . .er. Squirreled us!

The final tally was just released. Tony , KD8BBK took 2nd place (missing 1st by only 6 measly points). Yours truly came in 3rd, trailing Tony by 96 points.

I'm already thinking about coming up with warmer accommodations for next year. I definitely will bringing a squirrel rifle!



Stark County Skywarn® Training is March 11th

In conjunction with the Cleveland National Weather Service, the Stark County Emergency Management Agency and the Stark County ARES, Severe Weather Awareness Training will once again be held at Stark State College of Technology on Tuesday, March 11th beginning at 6:00 PM. Registration will begin at 6:00 PM to issue Skywarn® Registration numbers to first time attendees although registration is not necessary to attend the training. The training is being presented as part of Ohio's Severe Weather Awareness Week March 2nd to March 8th. The training is hosted by Tim Warstler, Director of the Stark County EMA and will be taught by Cleveland Weather Coordinating Meteorologist Gary Garnet of the Cleveland National Weather Service (NWS).

The training will consist of an excellent PowerPoint presentation covering the science of severe weather, how to recognize weather patterns and cloud formations and how to report your observations to the Cleveland NWS. The training is free and open to the public. Area public safety officials, school staff, health & safety forces, hospital staff and amateur radio operators are all encouraged to attend this valuable training as we enter the 2014 severe storm season. Contact local Skywarn Coordinator Terry Russ, N8ATZ for questions or additional information at (330) 837-3091 or by email to truss@sssnet.com. M & K Engraving will also be on hand, our exclusive supplier of Skywarn® ID Badges and additional items.

The Statewide Tornado Drill will be held on Wednesday, March 5th at 9:50 AM for the purpose of testing local severe weather notification systems including Television, Radio, Cable and local neighborhood warning sirens. Stark County ARES will activate a severe weather net on the 147.12Mhz ARES Repeater accepting check-ins for those stations hearing warning sirens.

The preceding text is copied from the March issue of the Feedback. The Feedback is the newsletter of the Massillon Amateur Radio Club. www.w8np.org. Gary Kline, WC8W Editor.

Skywarn® Training For Neighboring Counties

We have the following times & dates for the Skywarn® Training Sessions in neighboring counties:

County	Date	Time	Location
Columbiana	March 25 th	6:30	Columbiana County Career Center
Mahoning	March 19 th	6:00	Austintown Fitch H.S. Auditorium 4560 Falcon Drive, Austintown
Medina	March 10 th	6:30	Medina County Career Center 1101 W. Liberty St, Medina
Portage	April 2 nd	6:00	TBD
Stark *	March 11th	6:00	Stark State College, Student Center
* (Note: Local Hams are meeting at Chik-Fil-A on Dressler at 4:45)			
Summit	March 13 th	6:00	American Red Cross 501 W. Market, Akron
Wayne	March 4 th	6:00	University of Akron Wayne College Student Life Building J.M. Smucker Multi-purpose Room 1901 Smucker Rd, Orville

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!

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Antenna Plots and Designs

AND

How You Can Make Them



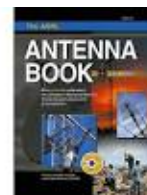
In the past, the very first antenna plots were made using manual RF readings and then plotted on a paper. As more information became available, mathematical formulas were developed to describe this data along with software to use with early mainframe computers.

The technological advances of calculators & computers along with corresponding mathematics brings us to today's high-power personal computers and software that can be used to help design and analyze new antennas.



In publications such as the ARRL QST, often there are antenna designs that include SWR, bandwidth, and antenna azimuth/elevation graphs. How do the authors get all this nice data?

One way is using EZNEC software by W7EL Roy Lewallen, which does the difficult work, after you enter information that we normally discuss when talking about antennas. There is a FREE Demo package available from Roy at <http://www.ez nec.com>. Scroll down the page to the [Free EZNEC v. 5.0 demo program](#). A downloadable manual is also available at this site. [A demo package with more capability and example files is included on a CD inside the ARRL ANTENNA BOOK.](#)



EZNEC Demo appears the same as the larger package except that it is limited to 20 segments, about the size of a 1 or 2-element dipole. A larger version is available for purchase.

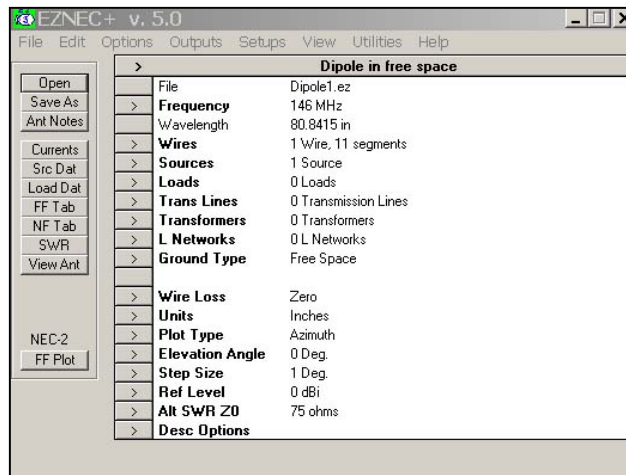


This article is a down to earth "Getting Started" approach to the EZNEC software which runs on a Windows Operating System. Only the basics and minimal information will be discussed so you can enter a basic dipole and be able to view the antenna and display the antenna pattern. (Sort of like driving a car for the first time but hopefully with better results and a lot safer)

Download and install EZNEC Demo or the ARRL ANTENNA BOOK version on a Windows PC computer. Click on the EZNEC desktop Icon to start the program. Then follow the instructions below.

The rest of this article is written like building a kit so please follow and try each step in sequence.

STEP 1



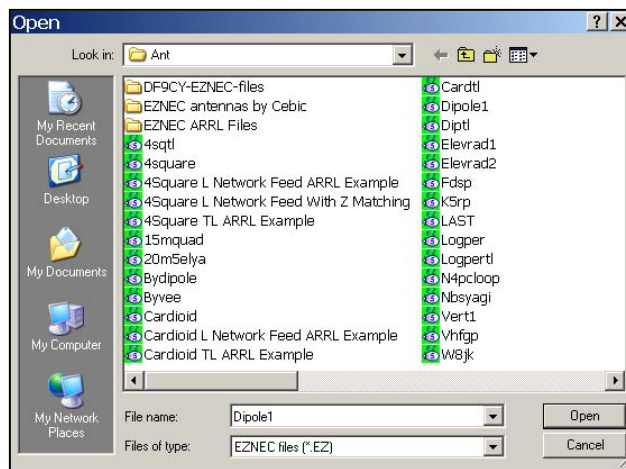
This is the first screen. Study the screen and notice the choices on the left side.

Open, **Save As**, **SWR**, **View Ant**, **Currents**, and **FF Plot** will be used in this article.

Notice the Highlighted words (slightly to the right). **Frequency**, **Units**, **Wires**, **Sources**, **Ground Type**, and **Plot Type** will be used in this article. For now, the default values will be used for the other items.

In the upper left corner click **OPEN**.

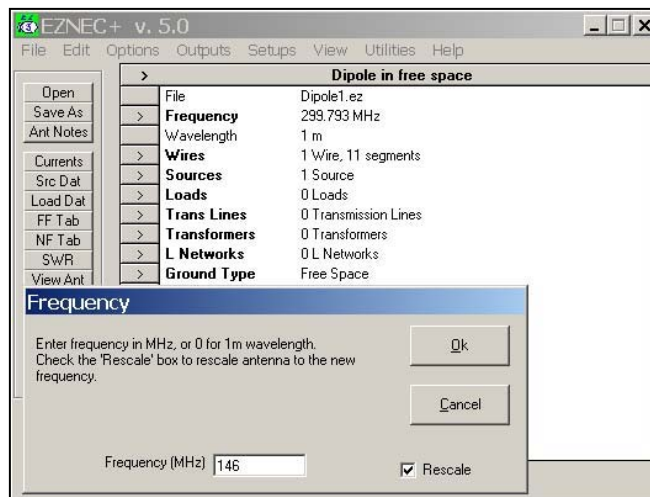
STEP 2



Find and open the file **Bydipole** which stands for back-yard-dipole (plain old dipole). Your screen may be slightly different but the dipole file should be there. (or with an equivalent name)

Protect the original file in case it is needed again. Click **SAVE AS**, type **testdipole**, then press the enter key.

STEP 3



The 2 meter band will be used for the antenna examples.

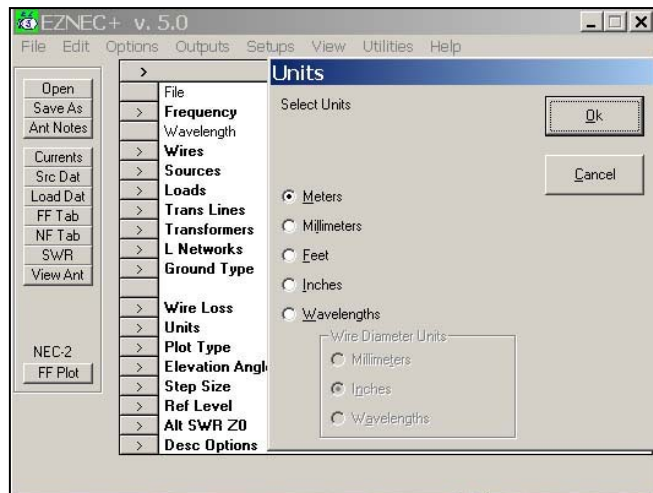
Click on **Frequency**

Enter **146** in the Frequency box. Also Click in the box called **Rescale** so there is a checkmark. Click **OK**

This "**Rescale**" will automatically scale the dimensions of the antenna to the frequency you entered. **A good time saver. This can be done when changing to any frequency.** When

changing antenna dimensions to a new band, remember to rename the file (such as the band and type of antenna) so it can be identified later.

STEP 4

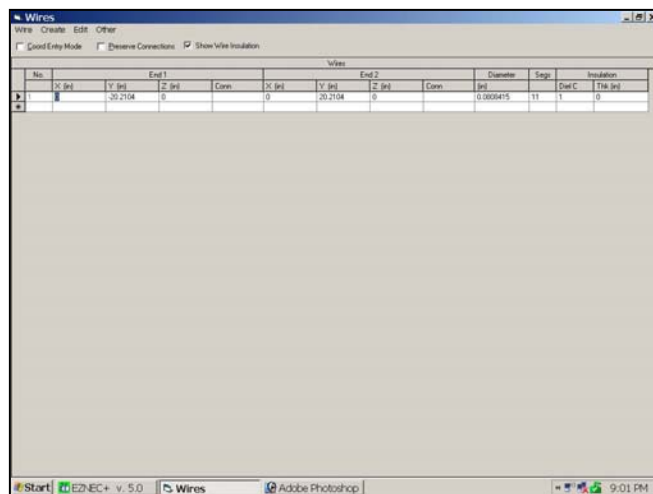


Click **Units**. This will change the units in the **Wires** table.

Inches will be used since this antenna will be short.

Click the **Inches** circle. Click **OK**

STEP 5



Click **Wires**. The antenna length is already entered from the **Frequency** step earlier. Use the default values for **Insulation**.

The total length of a half wave dipole in feet is approximately 468 divided by the frequency in MHz.

The dipole measurements are **End 1** to **End 2**. At each end there is an **X**, **Y**, and **Z** value. The **Z** value = Height.

Enter **120** inches for both **Z** values (10 foot height). After each entry, press **ENTER**.

The **X** and **Y** values are like a sheet of paper on your desk. The **X** is the left to right dimension and the **Y** is the Top to Bottom dimension.

For this antenna use **X** as the left to right dimension, so enter the **Y** values as **0** inches on both **End 1** and **End 2**.

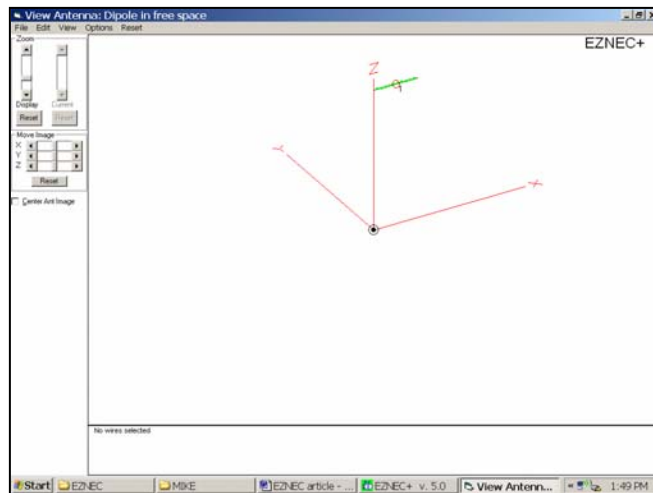
End 1 X value: enter **0** inches since this will be the beginning of the antenna.

End 2 X value: enter **38.5** inches since this will be the total $\frac{1}{2}$ wave length of the antenna. **ALWAYS PRESS THE ENTER KEY AFTER ENTERING DATA.**

The final **X,Y,Z** values should be: **End 1 0, 0, 120. End 2 38.5, 0, 120.**

In the **Diameter** box, enter **0.25** inches for the element size. **Segs** stands for **Segments**. This is the number of internal mathematical parts the program uses for calculation. Use **11** for a $\frac{1}{2}$ wave antenna. This should be an odd number (described later). Use default values for **Insulation and other items**. Close this screen.

STEP 6

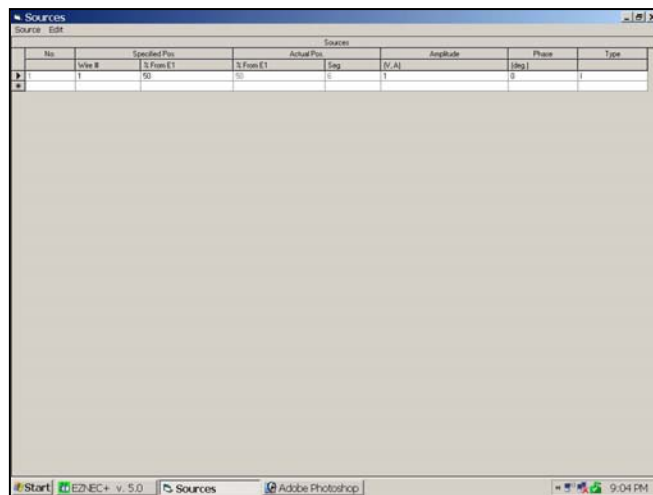


Click **View Ant.** The dipole is shown in green. **Z** is the height above ground.

The **X** axis is used to draw the antenna so the antenna is shown above the **X** line. The circle in the dipole center is the RF input (described later). Close this screen.

Click **Currents** then close the **Currents** screen. Click **View Ant.** A Violet line (now shown above the dipole) is the RF Current energy field.

STEP 7



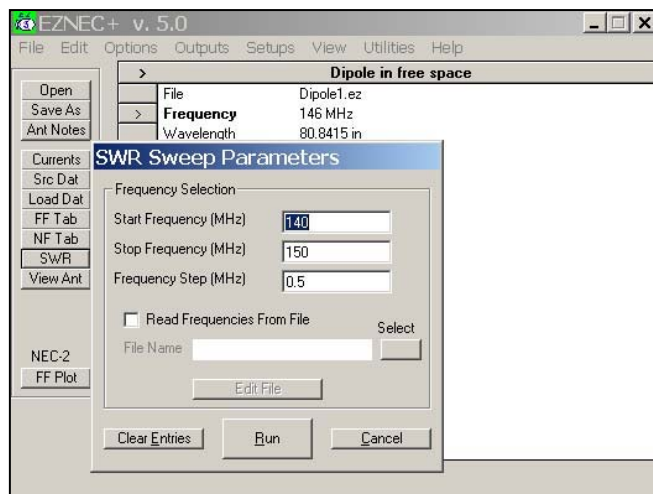
Click **Sources**

The center of the dipole is entered as a percent from **End 1**. Enter **50 %** from E1. This is the Center of **Segment #6** and center of the antenna.

For this “Center” to happen there needs to be an odd number of **Segments** as shown previously in the **Wires** section under **Segs**. (Value entered was **11**).

Everything else is left as shown. Close this screen.

STEP 8



Click **SWR**

This will give an SWR plot and Impedance

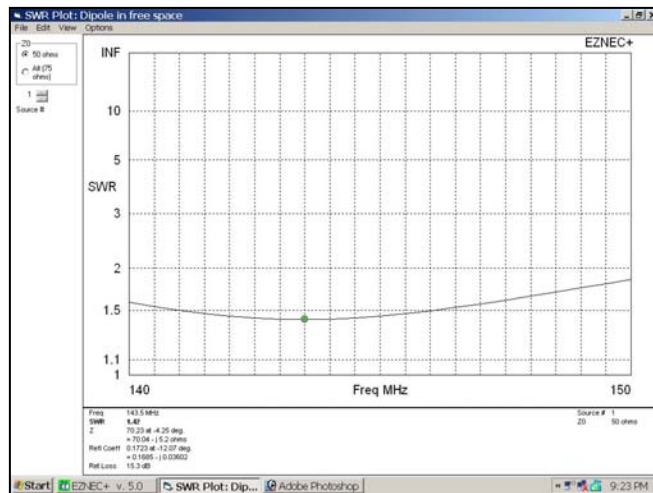
Enter Start Frequency (MHz) as **140**

Enter Stop Frequency (MHz) as **150**

Enter Frequency Step (MHz) as **0.5**

Click **Run**

STEP 9



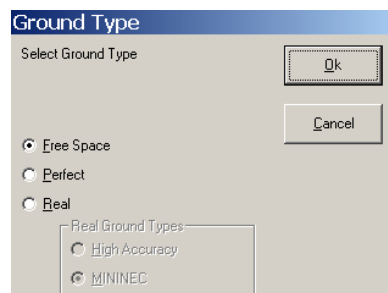
THE SWR PLOT is displayed.

Click on the lowest part of the curve. This will display a green dot. The impedance is shown at the bottom of the page.

The SWR is around 1.4 which is the average impedance for dipoles and reasonable for amateur radio transmitters. A tuner is not needed for this design.

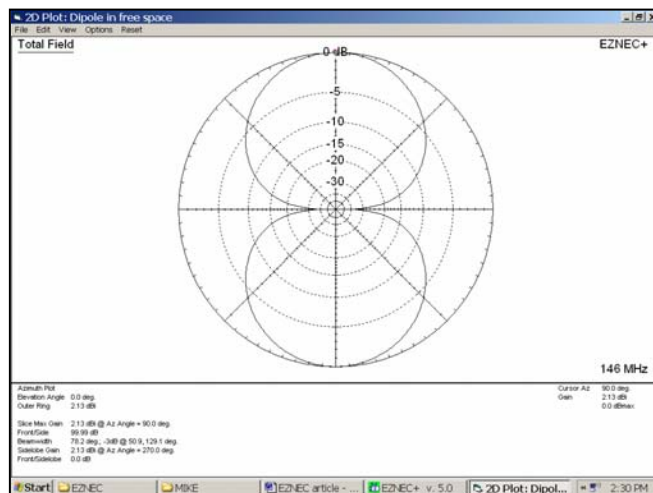
Plots will vary with antenna diameters and length. Experiment with the **Wires** section to change the length of the antenna and the diameter of the wire (element). Then plot the SWR again to see the change. Close this screen.

STEP 10



Click **Ground Type**
Click on the circle next to **Free Space**
Click **OK**

STEP 11



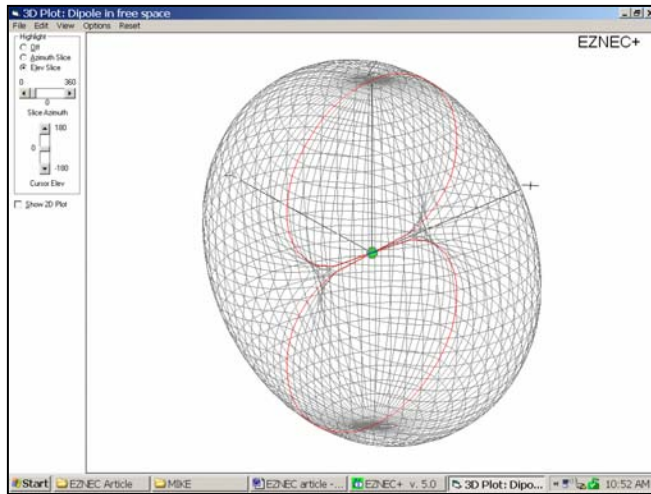
Click **FF Plot**. This is the **Azimuth view**. (looking down at the dipole from the sky).

This is the Far Field Plot of the antenna pattern. Notice the maximum RF is radiated from the broadside of the dipole. (the dipole wire is left to right)

Clicking on any part of the figure 8 plot will give the gain of the antenna at that point. The reading will be at the right side of the page about one inch from the bottom.

Close the view.

STEP 12



Click **Plot Type**. Notice the three 3 choices. Select **3 Dimensional**, Click **OK**.

Click **FF Plot**. This is a 3 dimensional view.

Click **Elev Slice** (under highlight). The Elevation View is highlighted in Red.

Close the view.

DRAWING THE ANTENNA ON GRAPH PAPER

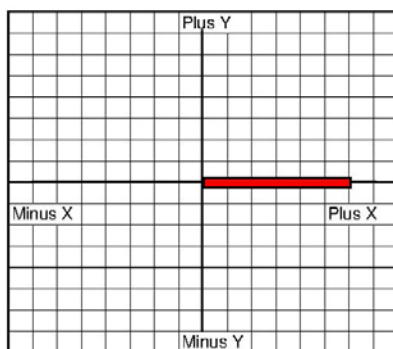
Start with the Z values (height) being the same such as 10 feet or 120 inches.

Finding the X and Y values is like looking at your property from the sky and using the property left to right as X and Front to Back as Y or like looking at a sheet of paper.

The 2-Meter Dipole had X values of **0** and **38.5** inches

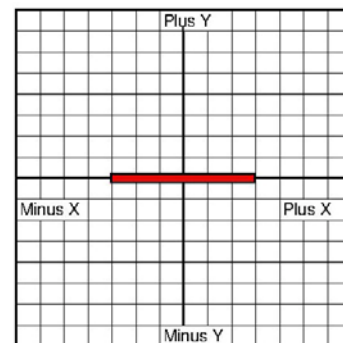
This could also be **-19.25** and **+19.25** which is still a total length of **38.5** inches

These 2 examples will give the same results
Red is the Antenna Wire



END 1
X = 0
END 2
X = 38.5

END 1
X = - 19.25
END 2
X = + 19.25



The drawing on the right is easier to understand when placing more elements on a Beam since everything is centered.

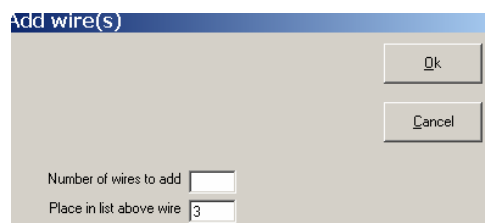
Summary

This article will help the user get started with 12 basic steps. The program is capable of much more and it will take time to learn the choices. Antennas such as the Inverted VEE, vertical dipole, sloper, and a quad element can be modeled with the demo version. To do larger antenna arrays there are upgraded versions available from W7EL Roy Lewallen on the internet for purchase. The demo version is limited to 20 Segments.

EZNEC analyzes the dipole at each **Segment**. Literature indicates that reasonable accuracy uses 11 **Segments** for a ½ wave dipole. You may try 7 **Segments** or 9 **Segments** and see the difference in accuracy. More **Segments** than 11 can be used. There are methods in EZNEC to check the accuracy of the design which is beyond the scope of this article.

Rules need to be followed when connecting other wires and wires at angles. Information is available from the EZNEC manual and internet articles. Adding transmission lines, Coils (Inductors), Capacitors, and Baluns will require more study and more **Segments**.

HOMEWORK: Reduce the Dipole **Segments to 9 (Ignore and close the Segment Errors messages for now). Note the centered type of graph above and enter the new **Wire 1 X** values. Add a Reflector Element 14 inches from the dipole.**



Wire 2 needs added to the **Wires** section
Click **Wire**
Click **Add**
Type **1** into the “Number of wires to add” box
Click **OK**

Enter the **Wire 2** values:

End 1: X= -20.2, Y= 14, Z= 120
End 2: X= +20.2, Y= 14, Z= 120
Segments = 9

Wire 1 values should be:

End 1: X= -19.25, Y= 0, Z= 120
End 2: X= +19.25, Y= 0, Z= 120
Segments = 9

Try **View Ant**, **SWR**, and **FF Plot (Azimuth view)**. Notice the changes !
Click **Currents**, then close the screen.

Click **View Ant** and notice the Violet colored lines. This is the **Current** field of each element of the antenna.

There are many EZNEC articles on the internet. Articles by L.B. Cebik W4RNL is available at ARRL site <http://www.arrl.org/antenna-modeling> (ARRL members only)
Roy W7EL <http://www.eznec.com> site contains a large amount of information.
All EZNEC screen pictures are from EZNEC 5+ software by W7EL Roy Lewallen.

73, DE MIKE WA8MKH

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.

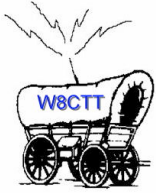
The class will meet on four Saturdays in March and April starting on March 8th. There will be no class on March 15th, both to provide a break for the students and to enable class participants to attend the Ohio Section ARES Leadership meeting. The class will then resume on March 22nd, March 29th, with 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.



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Sustaining	\$15.00	\$11.25	\$7.50	\$3.75
Full	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50
Associate	\$5.00	\$3.75	\$ 2.50	\$1.25
Family Member	\$1.00	\$0.75	\$0.50	\$0.25

Please do not write beneath this line

Dues paid – Sustaining() Full() Associate() Family() \$ _____ on _____, 20__ signed _____

March 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																			
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<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>9</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;">ID QSO Party NA Sprint, RTTY WI QSO Party</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>10</i></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>11</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;">7:00 PM Stark Cty ARES Net (147.12) 9:00 PM Northern Columbiana Cty Training Net (147.255)</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>12</i></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>13</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;">8:00 PM AARC CW (28.100 MHz) 8:30 PM AARC SSB(28.400 MHz) 9:00 PM AARC VHF (145.37(-)) Mary Ann, KB8IVS BD</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>14</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;">8:00 PM Massillon Net (147.18)</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>15</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;">1:30 PM Lisbon VE Exams Eddie, KC8HUU BD VA QSO Party</p>																																																																																			
<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>16</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;">NA Sprint, SSB Toledo Hamfest VA QSO Party</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>17</i></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>18</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;">7:00 PM Stark Cty ARES Net (147.12) 9:00 PM Northern Columbiana Cty Training Net (147.255)</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>19</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;">7:00 PM PCARS VE Exams</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>20</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;">8:00 PM AARC CW (28.100 MHz) 8:30 PM AARC SSB(28.400 MHz) 9:00 PM AARC VHF (145.37(-))</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>21</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;">8:00 PM Massillon Net (147.18)</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>22</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;">LA QSO Party OK QSO Party</p>																																																																																			
<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>23</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;">LA QSO Party OK QSO Party</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>24</i></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>25</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;">7:00 PM Stark Cty ARES Net (147.12) 9:00 PM Northern Columbiana Cty Training Net (147.255)</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>26</i></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>27</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;">8:00 PM AARC CW (28.100 MHz) 8:30 PM AARC SSB(28.400 MHz) 9:00 PM AARC VHF (145.37(-))</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>28</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;">8:00 PM Massillon Net (147.18) Don, K8OMO BD</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>29</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;">CQ WW WPX SSB</p>																																																																																			
<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>30</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;">Charles, N8LGE BD CQ WW WPX SSB</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>31</i></p>																																																																																								

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

This Months Meeting

will be on Wednesday,

March 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

Ham Radio "Jeperdee"

Feel free to Join us for dinner
 beforehand at

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

Newsletter Information

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 Club**
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