

Zero Beat



Alliance Amateur Radio Club

Volume XXVIII, no 11

<http://www.w8lky.org>

November, 2014

Serving the Tri-County area since 1986

An HT For A Buck?

Yah, right, we've gone crazy, right? Not entirely; this is on the level. You could walk in to our next club meeting, and win a 5-Watt Dual-Bander HT for an investment of only a buck. You'd really consider that a great win, huh? Well, the larger win would be the one dealt to the area's children who are helped by the Alliance Fire Department's annual toy drive. Here's how this works.

At last month's meeting, we voted again to donate the club's half of the November 50/50 proceeds to the toy drive. In order to sweeten the pot, and coerce you into buying a lot more tickets, the HT will be in the prize pool. Come one; Come all to the November club meeting. You might just come home with another HT!



Homebrew Night Is This Month

OK Boys & Girls, it's time once again for the AARC's annual Homebrew Night. The rules are the same as last year. Bring a homebrew project (or pictures) to our November meeting. You get a few moments to describe your pride & joy, and answer questions, then we all vote on the best of show.

The winner gets a fabulous prize straight from the Massillon Hamfest. It could be anything! Remember the year that the prize was a complete Yaesu station complete with Step-IR Dream Beam, and Alpha amplifier? Neither do I! But we'll have something good; trust us.

See you on November 12th, in the Café Conference Room at Alliance Community Hospital. We'll be starting off the meeting at 7:30. Homebrew night begins immediately following a short business meeting.



Don, AB8KV demonstrates his entry during the AARC 2012 Homebrew night

Officers

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Don Whitaker, K8OMO k8omo@juno.com

AARC Meetings

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

Find Us Online:

Web: www.w8lky.org

E-mail: W8lky@w8lky.org



AARC Repeaters

2 Meters

145.370 (-) W8LKY
-W8LKY Echolink node

440 MHz

442.350 (+) W8LKY

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)

October Minutes



October 8, 2014

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held on October 8, 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. There were 17 in attendance. Guests: Miriam Sanor, Alfreda Steele.

Committee reports:

- > Homeland Security Net
Don (K8OMO) 4 to 5 Check-Ins Doing quite well.

- > 2 Meter Net:
No Report

- > Repeater Committee:
Don (K8OMO) Gave the follow report
08/22/2014 Damage to the antenna
08/23/2014 Repaired damage to the antenna
09/10/2014 Club voted for new antenna
\$424.00 was donated. The club spent \$24.00
9/22/2014 Received antenna
09/24/2014 Installed the new antenna with Mike Collins's (KD8RUQ) help
09/25/2014 Install temporary amp.
10/03/2014 Installed new amp.
At present the 2 meter repeater is running on low power
88.5 Tone Squelch installed

- > 440 Repeater:
09/27/2014 440 Repeater installed.
John (KD8MQ) Thanked all who helped. Still a work in progress.

- > Echo Link: John (KD8MQ) No report

- > Website: John (KD8MQ) No report

- > Newsletter John (KD8MQ) Doing good

- >The Monday Morning Message John (KD8MQ) Receiving more requests to be added

Birthdays & Announcements:

Ben read off the birthdays for
October Birthdays
Oct. 4 Terry (N8ATZ)
Oct. 17 Sue (K8STH)
Oct. 26 Bob (KD8SQS)
Oct. 29 Frank (WA8WHP)
Oct. 31 John (KD8MQ)

Nov. 1 Ben (KD8KMQ)
Nov. 2 George (K3GP)
Nov. 4 Sherry (Associate)

Z e r o B e a t

(Continued from page 3)

- > Frank (WA8WHP) Classes: No classes.
- Carolyn (KD8ZOR) Received her tech license
- Starting an Extra Class via Echolink on the W8UM/R Node.

Show and Tell:

Ben showed off a piece of coax that is used for both the 2 meter and 440 Repeater.

Hamfests:

Nov. 2 Massillon Hamfest

Secretary's report:

Secretary Tom (KD8JRK) Was in the newsletter.

Approvals given:

1st. Frank (WA8WHP)

2nd. John (KD8MQ)

Treasurer's report:

Treasurer Mary Ann (KB8IVS)

No report

Old business:

Nothing to report.

New business:

—> P.O. Box was paid \$62.00 per year.

1st. Tom (KD8JRK)

2nd. Howard (K8DXR)

Motion Carried

—> Nov. Program is Homebrew Night

—> Herb (KD8YPE) Discussion of his offer

—> November Toy Drive:

John (KD8MQ) Announced the annual toy drive will take place on November's meeting. The clubs portion to the 50/50 drawing will go towards this. This is to help The Alliance Fire Dept. annual toy drive for underprivileged children

1st. Tom (KD8JRK)

2nd. John (KD8MQ)

—> Winter Field Day: Just like the spring field day. 24 Hour Contest. It is an Emergency Preparedness Drill. To be possibly held at The Log Cabin at Silver Park. 12:00 pm Sat. to 12:00 pm Sun.

On January 24, 2015. Food will be needed.

Location to be announced.

There will be a need for R.S.V.P.

This event was tabled for a later meeting.

Frank (WA8WHP) Put a motion to extend the free membership to those who past the tech test who took the class offered by the club.

(Continued on page 5)

Z e r o B e a t

(Continued from page 4)

—> Christmas Party:

Date December 20th.

Don Poncho's

6:00pm Starting

7:00pm Eating

Program:

No programs due to elections of officers.

2015 Officers

Pres. Ben (KD8KMQ)

Vice Pres. John (KD8MQ)

Secretary Tom (KD8JRK)

Treasurer Mary Ann (KB8IVS)

50/50 Drawing:

Winners: Rex (NX8G)

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tom (KD8JRK), Secretary

Swap & Shop

K8OMO has the following estate items available:

- 80—10 Meter antenna tuner - \$40
- Tower commercial grade Rhone 55G, including:
 - 4 straight sections, top section has thrust bearing plate and bearing
 - 16' mast pipe
 - Second thrust bearing plate and bearing above rotor plate
 - all hardware included
 - \$700.00
- Radio Shack 40 watt mobile HT amplifier \$40.00

Contact Don, K8OMO 145.370 repeater or call (330) 685-7613

Antenna Notes from KD8SPF

I just received this from Steve, KD8SPF: "Check this out guys, its so simple. I'm going to try one out with a motor drive on one of the pulleys. best of all it looks really inexpensive. Steve kd8spf "

It's a 3 page article from QST, but size, and copyright concerns prevent me from running it. The article is by Robert, VA2ERY, and concerns the Clothesline antenna. It is from the July, 1998 issue of QST, pg. 56. If you aren't able to log into the ARRL site to read this, let me know, and I'll forward Steve's e-mail to you.

Wayback Machine

A Look back At The Last 25 Years Of AARC History

Here again are some of the highlights from the last 20 years of the Zero Beat. you can read them at www.w8lky.org.

November, 1989, (editors KB8GCE & KB8GCF)

- Janice & Dennis started a series of articles on couples in our club.
- Our friends at the Salem Area Amateur Radio Association were preparing to hold their 2nd annual pancake breakfast.

November, 1994, (editor WX8G)

- The elections were history. The officers for 1994 were:
 - Pres: Pam, N8IAK
 - VP: Don, K8OMO
 - Secretary: Gladys, KB8GIA
 - Treasurer: Mary Ann, KB8IVS
 - Trustee: Ray, K8DEN
- Operation Santa Claus was coming up. Santa was making an appearance on the N8DZA repeater.
- We had a foxhunt followed by a picnic at N8BGJ's house.
- There was a report of a comet, which became trapped in Jupiter's orbit, and after breaking up, proceeded to pelt the surface for 6 days!

November, 2004, (editor KE8VE)

- According top Larry, the AARC railroad made the trip in record time. The annual meeting lasted all of 7 minutes! When the smoke cleared, the officers for 2005 were:
 - Pres: Bob, K8RLS
 - VP: Joe, KC8TAC
 - Secretary: Dave, W8UKQ
 - Treasurer: Mary Ann, KB8IVS
 - Trustee: Jim, N8XTJ
- Larry ran chapter 11 of "The Wayback Machine", by Bill Continelli, W2XOY.

November, 2009, (editor KD8MQ)

- Homebrew Night was scheduled for the November meeting.
- The election results were printed. The results were:
 - Pres: John, KD8MQ
 - V-Pres: Howard, K8DXR
 - Secretary: Don, AB8KV
 - Treasurer: Mary Ann, KB8IVS
 - Trustee: Frank, WA8WHP

Rambling by John, KD8MQ



AAAND the elections are over for another year. There were no changes, with the exception that Howard, K8DXR was re-elected, and went from being our outgoing trustee to our incoming trustee.

I'm a bit disappointed in the turnout for the election, though. Perhaps next October, I'll stay home as well.

And so it goes. Time to let it go and move on to other things.

Next up is our annual Homebrew Night. That's where we present our best homebrew projects of the year, and show them off. This happens at the November AARC meeting. Look for the story on pg1.

Also happening at the November meeting is our annual charity fundraiser. We'll be donating the clubs share of the 50/50 drawing to the Alliance Fire Department's toy drive for underprivileged kids. Now, just to make things more interesting, a new Baofeng 5W Dual Band HT (model# B580T) W/programming cable has been donated to the raffle. So bust open your piggy banks, and dig up those mason jars from the back yard. It's time to buy lots of tickets for a good cause! You could win a HT for just a buck!

Ham of The Year - Don't forget, this is the time of the year that we pick a deserving individual for the Ham of The Year Award. Get your ballots to Ben, KD8KMQ ASAP. So far, Ben says he has had only one vote. This is pretty pathetic. Come on folks, how long does it take to send a text, or e-mail? We're not asking you to run for office; just vote for Ham Of The Year.

Winter Field Day (correction) - Regardless of what you read in the minutes, we will be doing Winter Field Day at the end of January, and there will be NO RSVP required. This has NOT been tabled.

We are, however, still working on a location. We'd like your suggestions for someplace heated, where we can operate for 24 hours. We have a couple of ideas, but we'd like more. Please contact me (kd8mq@arrl.net) with any ideas.

That's about it for this month. 73, de John, KD8MQ

Paper Chase by Joe Wehner, W8KNO

I am writing this Monday evening after a weekend of playing radio in the CQ World Wide DX SSB Contest. If you played in the contest, you are well aware of the good propagation on 15 and 10 meters. If you were lucky to have worked Africa, you probably worked all the continents. Some of you may not be aware of the "Worked All Continents" award sponsored by the IARU.

The Worked All Continents award is issued for working and confirming all six continents: North America, South America, Europe, Oceania, Asia, Europe and Africa. You notice this is different than the seven continents you learned in school which were North America, South America, Australia, Asia, Africa and Antarctica. Therefore, the award is easier to obtain than having to actually work all the continents. You can do this with any combination of bands and modes.

The cost for the award is \$13.00. Endorsements are also available for any mode or band. The cost of the endorsement is \$7.50 but if you request multiple endorsement on one application the cost remains only \$7.50 or to put another way it costs \$7.50 each time you file an application. The application can be found at:

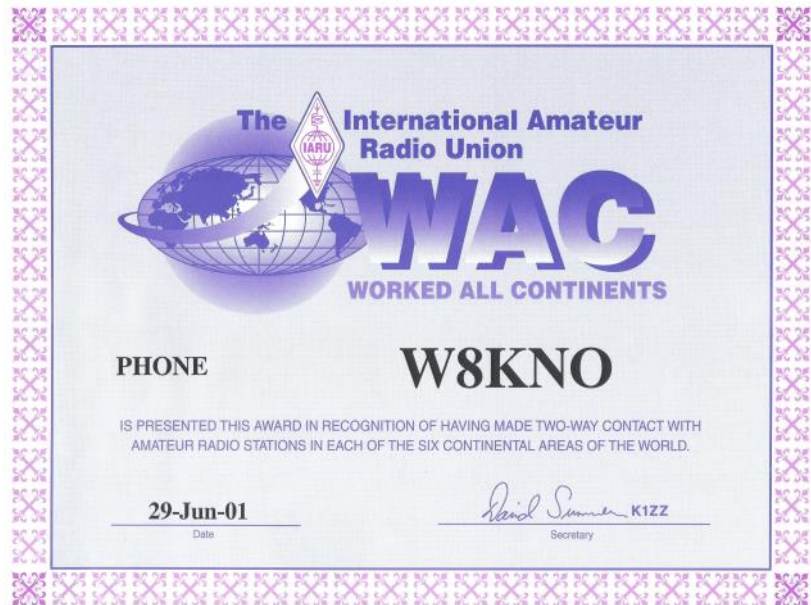
<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/DXCC/2014wac%20app.pdf>

There is also a Five-Band Worked All Continents award which is strictly a band-only award and cannot be endorsed on any mode.

WAC applications can be checked by a DXCC card checker.

Hope to hear you on the air,

Joe - W8KNO



Are knobs and buttons toast?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



In a recent column on EETimes (http://www.eetimes.com/author.asp?doc_id=1324283), an old colleague of mine, Martin Rowe, says, "Knobs and buttons are slowly on their way out. Get used to it." He's referring to the controls on oscilloscopes, but if he were a ham, he might just as well be talking about amateur radio transceivers, too.

We already see this happening in amateur radio. FlexRadio, and a couple of other companies, already make transceivers with no front panel controls. You must have a computer to use them.

Might we even start to see this with handheld and portable equipment? For example, how much cheaper could they make a Baofeng if to use it, you had to also have an Android or iPhone app to act as the human interface?

To be honest, I haven't really thought about this much myself. I'm enough of a dinosaur to still prefer buttons and knobs, but having to use on-screen controls certainly doesn't turn me off. Rowe claims, however, that "as the old-timers retire (or in our case as older hams become SKs), younger engineers (or young hams) will expect every user interface to function like a phone or tablet. Don't believe me? Just wait."

I got several interesting replies to this idea on my blog. Bill, AD8BC says, "What would be fun would be an open-source mobile radio. I picture an RF deck with a Raspberry Pi and touch screen for control, the Pi would simply tell the RF deck where to tune and handle the interface and scanning functions, it would ship with a stock app, but you could make your own. Built in support for SDR stuff, packet, APRS, remote operation...."

Most commenters, however, even the younger guys, still seem to prefer analog controls. Lucien, DH7LM, says, "I'm a newly licensed ham and I like both – experimenting with advanced computer stuff like SDRs and the great feeling a real radio provides!" Grant, KJ6ZZD, says, "Knobs perform some tasks better than a screen can. Knobs provide some tactile feedback that a screen just can't."

So, what do you think? Are knobs and buttons toast, or do you think there's still some life left in analog controls?

When not twiddling the knobs on his HF transceiver or relatively ancient Tek 2213 analog oscilloscope, you'll find KB6NU working on updates to his "No Nonsense" study guides or blogging about amateur radio at www.kb6nu.com.

Cell Phone Recycle

When you trade up to that new smartphone, we'd like you to remember that we are doing an on-going 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 of the Year ballots are due



Now's the time to cast your vote for the 2013 Ham of the Year.

Get your ballot to Ben, KD8KMQ ASAP! His contact info is on page two.

My vote for Ham of the Year is:

Comments (optional)

PREVIOUS HAMS OF THE YEAR

1989	Jim Ferguson	N8DZA (SK)
1990	Dave Buckwalter	KC3CL
1991	Jack Bennett	W8WEN (SK)
1992	John Myers	WX8G
1993	Pam Myers	N8IAK
1994	Larry Ashburn	KE8VE (SK)
1995	Gladys Wilson	KB8GIA
1996	Don Whitaker	K8OMO
1997	James W. Wilson	KB8GHZ (SK)
1998	Mary Ann Royer	KB8IVS
1999	David Glass	W8UKQ (SK)
2000	Jerry Wheeler	KG8RN
2001	Robert L. Steele	K8RLS (SK)
2002	Samuel Eberling	KC8ETZ
2003	Joe Young	KC8TAC
2004	George Proudfoot	K3GP
2005	David Glass	W8UKQ (SK)
2006	Franklin A. Sanor	WA8WHP
2007	Howard Miller	K8DXR
2008	John Myers	KD8MQ
2009	Larry Ashburn	KE8VE (SK)
2010	Tony Schilling	KD8BBK
2011	Don Kingan	AB8KV
2012	John Myers	KD8MQ
2013	Ben Davis	KD8KMQ



Who will be the
Alliance Amateur
Radio Club's

2014

Ham of the Year?

This honor will be awarded at our
Annual Christmas Party

Alliance Amateur Radio Club
Christmas Party

December 20, 2014 at 6 PM
at

Don Pancho's Tex-Mex café

2105 W. State St
Alliance

Don't forget the annual AARC Prize drawing!

We will be ordering from Don Pancho's regular
menu. Meals will be at regular prices plus \$4.00.

No reservations required!

KD8BBK Wins OSPOTA!

Ohio State Parks On The Air



Well, the results are in, and Tony, KD8BBK has come in first in his class in the 2014 Ohio State Parks On The Air Contest. His score of 12,375 was almost 2,000 points above the nearest competitor, and almost 4000 above your editor, KD8MQ.

Tony was back at Salt Fork State Park this year, operating "Single Op High Power In A Park" class. It should be noted that Tony scored 3rd place overall, missing out on 2nd place by barely 100 points. Congratulations Tony!



Upper right: Tony, in the 2012 OSPOTA Contest

Right: Overall Standings by Score

Lower Left: Single Op Hi Power in a park scores - top 9.

Category	Call	Park Name	Score
MMH	AB8DD	KISER LAKE	40832
MSH	KC8OKJ	PIKE LAKES	12483
SOH	KD8BBK	SALT FORK	12375
MMH	K8BLP	GUILFORD LAKE	12012
MMH	K8CY	GENEVA	11662
MMH	W8MRC	EAST FORK	11475
	W8VP	WOLF RUN	10706
	K8FH	FINDLEY	10670
	W8WDS	INDIAN LAKE	9310
	W8VTD	MOSQUITO LAKE	9180
	N8NPT	PAINT CREEK	9130
	W8CPG	DILLON	8532
	KD8MQ	A.W. MARION	8415

Single Op-High Power - In a Park		
Call	Park Name	Score
KD8BBK	SALT FORK	12375
K8FH	FINDLEY	10670
N8NPT	PAINT CREEK	9130
KD8MQ	A.W. MARION	8415
AE8YL	OAK POINT	7632
NB8I	PUNDERSON	7102
K8WTF	LAKE HOPE	6545
N8RAC	VAN BUREN	5782
N8W	WOLF RUN	5588

November 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,

November 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 will be
our annual
"Homebrew Night"**

More information can be found
on pg. 1.

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
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P.O. Box 3344
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