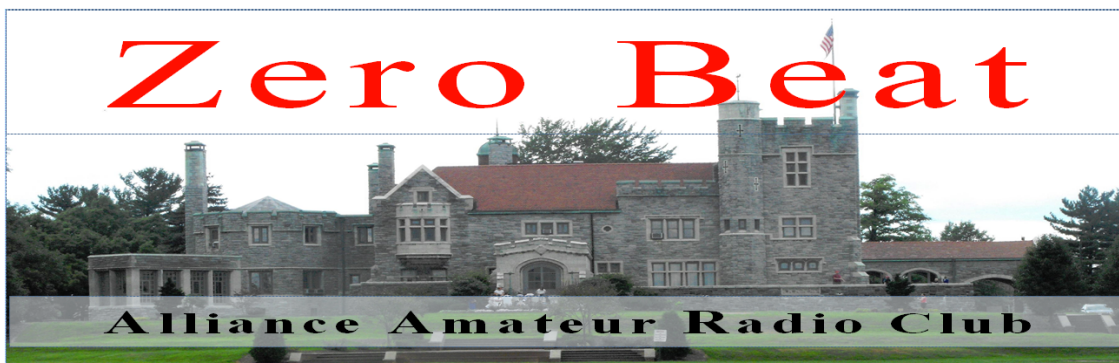


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Volume XXX, No 3

www.w8lky.org

March 2016

Welcome to another issue of the Zero Beat. This is a Monthly newsletter devoted to announcements of upcoming news, & events of interest to members of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club. More information on the Alliance Amateur Radio Club can be found on our website at www.w8lky.org. I'm your editor, John, KD8MQ.

Unless otherwise noted, feel free to copy anything you see here for use in your club newsletter. All we ask is that credit to be given to the Zero Beat.

KD8MQ Rambling

Well, here we are again. The Zero Beat is again a bit late. I'll just call it the new early, and leave it at that.

So what's coming up? well, let's see; the program for the march meeting (Next week by the way) will be Tom Hammond doing a presentation on 3D Printers. He recently presented to the Massillon ARC and received great reviews.

"Hey John, what about the group build you promised for after the first of the year?" Well, everyone, life happened to me. I finally got all the woodworking equipment moved out of my sisters house, and brought home. I'm still working on making room in the garage workshop. The group antenna build will have to be on hold till warmer weather, where we can overflow into the driveway.

We have some progress on finding a club site. Come to the March meeting to hear the latest.

More information is in this issue of the Zero Beat.

It's been suggested that this summer, the club might attempt a NPOTA activation of the nearby Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Sounds good to me. How about you?

Also, be advised that the W8AL repeater 146.79 repeater in canton has returned to CTCSS receive mode using 141.3hz

With that, I'll tie the ribbons on it, and say see you at the next meeting!

73,

John, KD8MQ

Meeting Announcement

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the alliance Community Hospital. Our meetings begin at 7:30, and are held in the Cafe Conference Room, which is just off the Cafeteria.

Before the meeting, feel free to join us for dinner at Frank's Alliance Family Restaurant at 428 E. State St., Also in Alliance. We meet there at 5:45.

This month, we'll have a special program. Tom Hammond from Wayne College (University of Akron) will be presenting his program on 3D printers. This one is a must see, folks!

Alliance ARC To Hold Wacky Key Night In April



OK folks, the Annual Alliance ARC Wacky Key Night is coming up soon. Bring your wacky key to the April 13th meeting. Use your imagination. Just don't scratch the floor of the meeting room. Build a device which will key a code oscillator (provided).

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." Need ideas? Here's a link:

<https://sites.google.com/site/oh6dccw/strangeqcwkeys>

February Minutes

10Feb2016

At 7:30 PM KC8ZEH Tomas St. George president-pro-tem opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the round of introductions. There were 8 members and 2 visitors in attendance.

The HF and Homeland net reports were given by K8OMO. The Two Meter Net report was given by KC8ZEH. A report of the two meter repeater committee was given by K8OMO with some discussion about repairs. KD8MQ reported the web site, W8LKY.org is on-line and up-to-date. A report by WA8WHP on the Extra Elmer Net stated the net will be stopped unless there is more activity. Of the last three sessions, the first had two check-ins, the second had four and the last had none. KD8ZEZ reported there was a response from the city about the club station site indicating no progress so far. The secretary's report was stated the minutes were in the Zero Beat with one correction noted. The call sign of Dwight should have been KD8YFV not KD8TFV. Treasurer's report was not tendered as the treasurer was not present.

Old business was a report by KD8MQ that we had 121 contacts for Winter Field Day. WA8WHP stated there were no contacts on 6 Meters although there were two stations heard.

New business: The club's insurance policy for the equipment is due for renewal on 01April2016. As the password for the site is not available there is nothing that can be done at the present time. At 7:55 PM the break for refreshment was declared. At 8:00 PM it was moved by KD8MQ seconded by KD8ZEH that the meeting was closed. The program of your most memorable Amateur Radio moment was shared and enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted by WA8WHP Frank Sanor Secretary.

Social Media and Ham Radio

By Dan Romanchick, KB6NU

In the last ten years, there's been an explosion in social media. I've found some to be really great. Others, I haven't found to be to my liking. Here are my opinions on a few of the most popular social media websites:

- Twitter (twitter.com). I like Twitter. I have more than 3,000 followers on Twitter, and it's not only helped me sell more books, I've found out about a lot of great projects, and I've met and corresponded with a lot of great hams there. It's a lot of fun. If you have a Twitter account, follow me there. I'm @kb6nu.
- Facebook (facebook.com). I have a Facebook account and I even have a page for my study guides. I don't like using Facebook, though, and avoid it when I can.
- Reddit (reddit.com/r/amateurradio). Reddit hosts a very active amateur radio forum. What I like about Reddit is that these guys, unlike say the forums on eHam.Net or QRZ.Com are really interested in doing stuff, not just complaining or arguing. A lot of the hams on Reddit, and it's associated IRC channel (talk about retro!), #redditnet, have used my study guides, and apparently, I'm quite popular there.

* Blab (blab.im). Blab is an interesting concept. It's kind of like an interactive podcast. You can record the blab sessions and then post them to YouTube or your own website. When I suggested having a regular Blab session to talk about ham radio topics to my blog readers, they weren't very enthusiastic about it. Even so, I think that I'm just going to do it. Sometimes you just gotta go with your gut, and my gut says this could be fun and eventually popular. Blab is integrated with Twitter, so if you follow me on Twitter, you'll find out when I'm blabbing.

The biggest problem with participating on these social networks, of course, is that it takes a lot of time, time that could be used for building stuff or getting on the air. Even so, I would say that, overall, using them has certainly increased my enjoyment of amateur radio and has connected me to people that I probably would not have connected with otherwise.

What do you think? What social media accounts do you have? Which do you prefer? What have they done for you?

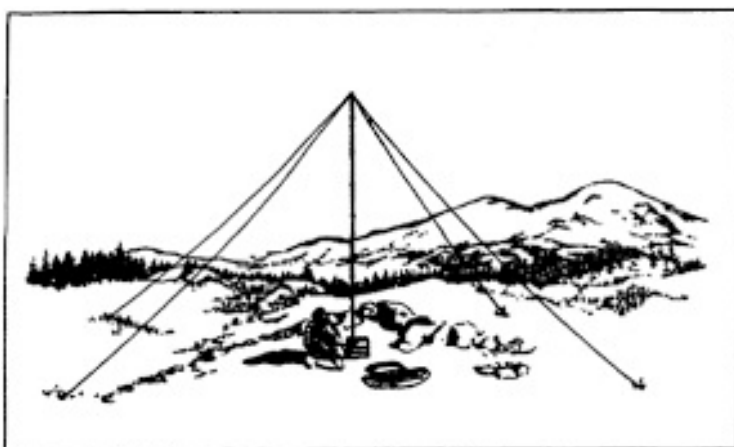
When he's not blabbing or tweeting, KB6NU likes to work CW, build stuff, and teach ham radio classes. He's also a prolific blogger (www.kb6nu.com) and the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (www.kb6nu.com/study-guides). If you have any comments, questions, compliments, or complaints, email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Announcing the

"Ohio NVIS Antenna Day"

April 23, 2016



Working with antennas has been an integral part of the Amateur Radio hobby since the first hams went to the airwaves. Having the 'right' antenna becomes even more important when we're acting in the interest of public safety! The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) organization in Ohio will put these two concepts

together in another "NVIS Antenna Day" activity April 23, 2016.

Last year, numerous operators, teams, and EOC's participated to find the best NVIS antenna to use across the Ohio Section. The differences weren't as dramatic as one might expect; those fashioned after the military AS-2259 cross-dipole configuration appeared to be the best but other designs worked nearly as well.

This is not really a contest- there is no score. The purpose is to have teams (counties, groups within counties, friends, even individuals) research and determine the NVIS antenna designs they think will work the best- then actually get together to build and try them!

Starting at 10AM Saturday, April 23 teams begin making contacts to compare their antennas. They do not have to be at portable locations, but there should be room for several antennas. This year, we're offering the concept of "anchor" stations around the state which will be in place to provide consistent signal reports to all who contact them. For example, Team A puts together a low-altitude G5RV. They contact Anchor A in Toledo, Anchor B in Dayton, and the Ohio EOC station ("The Sarge") for signal reports. They then either adjust their design, or try antenna number 2 contacting the same anchors. From their signal reports, they can determine right away which antenna is better and by how much! We don't have an "end time" set- because some stations had so much fun (and so many pile-ups) that they went on for quite a while past dark.

Our anchor stations' frequencies will be published, but stations can contact as many

real emergency.

After the contest, all teams file reports with their call and location, operators, number of contacts and most important, all antenna details- antenna design, height, specific comments, and pictures. Each station then can rank its top (3) antenna performers with comments and ideas. Pictures are very much encouraged! Our Marion County ARES team is sponsoring the event this year. They will compile the documentation, and narrow down the best performing antennas across the region – antennas we might all want to put in our 'go bags' as proven performers.

In something like a grid-down situation, our emergency communicating would not be limited within the boundaries of Ohio, so I'm asking our neighboring states to get involved with us! We would really like to make this a regional event with stations in their state EOC's and around the Ohio border to test their own capabilities.

We're hoping to make this a regional event in 2016!

Alliance ARC DX Contest Ends March 31st

Well, how did you do? Back in October, we began the 2nd Annual Alliance ARC DX Contest.

Just send me an ADI file containing all your contacts for the period from October 1st, 2015, through March 31st, 2016.

You don't need to sort, or separate your contacts. My logger will do all that. **sorry, Paper logs will not be accepted!**

Just send your log file to kd8mq1@gmail.com

Logs will be judged according to ARRL DXCC Countries list, and scored electronically using N3FJP AC Log.

The recipient of the AARC DX award #1 was Rex, NX8G. Who will be the winner for AARC DX award #2?

FCC Seeks Comments on Petition to Grant Lifetime Amateur Radio Licenses

The FCC is seeking comments on a Petition for Rule Making (RM 11760 - available on the web at,

<http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=60001333714>) that asks the FCC to

grant lifetime Amateur Radio licenses. Mark F. Krotz, N7MK, of Mesa, Arizona, filed his request with the FCC last November. He wants the FCC to revise Part 97.25 of its rules to indicate that Amateur Radio licenses are granted for the holder's lifetime, instead of for the current 10 year term. Krotz noted that the General Radiotelephone Operator License (GROL) already is issued on a lifetime basis, and he maintained that not having to renew licenses would lighten

"It would be mutually beneficial for the FCC and Amateur Radio operators to update Part 97 to grant operator licenses for lifetime, Krotz said in his filing. "The FCC would benefit by reducing administrative costs."

In 2014 the FCC granted lifetime credit for examination elements 3 and 4, but applicants seeking relicensing under that provision still must pass examination element 2.

Individuals may submit comments

(<http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/proceeding/view?name=RM-11760>) via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS).



Dayton Hamvention 2016

Saturday, May 21, 2016 - 5:30 AM



Don't miss out on this year's PARF Bus Trip to the world's largest topical conference and product exhibition. Save on gas, parking, and walking by riding with us! Leave the driving to us and you can come and go to the flea market with your great purchases and leave them on the bus. The bus will be parked close to the flea market entrance.

You can save \$10* if you book before April 15th.

The cost of the **Bus & Entrance ticket** to the Hamvention:
\$70* before April 15, 2016

The cost of the **Bus Only** to the Hamvention:
\$55* after April 15, 2016

(You will need to get your own Hamvention Entrance Ticket at gate \$25, or order by phone & have held at Will Call—possibly getting Advanced \$20 price.)

P.A.R.F. reserves the right to cancel this trip should a minimum of 22 riders not be secured by April 15th. If that happens, a full refund will be made. Otherwise, cancellation by you at any time results in a \$5 deduction of refund for handling.

We will take riders right up to departure that morning (if there are seats available) on a first come, first served basis.

Departure time is 5:30 AM SHARP, so please be on time so you don't miss the bus!

Parking will be in the back of the church.

There will be a stop for breakfast @ McDonald's and a dinner stop @ Golden Corral Buffet (out of pocket expense).

Transportation is being provided by the Crossroads Transportation Company.

This bus is a smoke free bus, so there will be no smoking permitted.

To Order - Complete application & send with check/money order (payable to "PARF") to:

Joy Spencer [KASTDF](mailto:KASTDF@arrl.net)

2101 Bigelow St

Akron, OH 44314

Or call 330-745-5115

E-mail: KASTDF@arrl.net

Please supply a return e-mail address for your receipt confirmation.

Location of Departure**:

Akron Baptist Temple, 2324 Manchester Road, Akron, Ohio 44314

Located on Rt. 93 just north of Rt. 224

*** The church is currently up for sale. We will keep you up to date should that happen and an alternative departure location is needed. (Rest assured, we will work to keep it within the local area.)*

Repeaters 147.135 & 146.610

Please pass the word out to all of your ham friends & computer geeks.

The above pricing does not include any tips...a hat will be passed for driver's tip.

[Please click here for an application form](#)

MARC Tech and Code Classes

The annual Tech and Code classes begin Friday, March 11 at 7 p.m. at the Massillon Senior Center 3rd floor. Tentative location at this time.

The Tech (beginners) Class and the Code Class will be independent of each other but take place at the same time.

been doing it for years. Tips, techniques, code shorthand, types of keys and keyers will be covered.

Classes will run each Friday evening for at least 8 weeks. The Tech exam can be taken after the conclusion of the class.

The Code class will not have an exam. When Individuals are capable of 5 WPM they can Move to the "on the air"MRN net on 3599.5 kHz every Sunday evening and also enjoy general operation on any CW band – both guaranteed to increase your speed.

Cost for class will be \$10 to help with half the facility rental. Club will cover half. Those interested in the Tech Class should drop an email to Gary at wc8w@sssnet.com or call 330-844-6371.

For Code Class registration email Perry at w8au@sssnet.com, or call 330-705-8449.

Swap & Shop

The following items are being offered by the Alliance ARC, for a variety of estates. If you have any questions, please contact Frank, WA8WHP at wa8whp@gmail.com

- Kenwood TS120S
- Heathkit Cantenna
- Homebrew Tuner
- National NC300
- Homebrew 80/40 Tuner
- Craftsman 82012 VOM
- Magnavox Mike wih stand
- Box of panel meters
- Low Pass Filters (3)
- Homebrew Two meter SWR Bridge
- Homebrew AC cord with meter
- Quad Ant Tuner
- Coax jumpers
- ARRL Handbooks 57,69,94,09
- Heathkit HM-102
- Homebrew 813 (x2) 5 band amp

- MFJ MFJ-962C Versatuner
 - Heathkit SB-1400 XCVR/ PS
 - Drake 2-B w/ Q Multiplier
 - Drake TR-4 w/AC & DC Pss
 - MFJ MFJ-949D Versatuner
 - Uniden HR-2600 10 meter XCVR
 - B&W AP-10 10-40mtrs antenna
 - VoCom 60watt 2m mobile amp
 - Turner T-454X Microphone for TR-4
 - Heathkit IO-12 Oscilloscope
 - Yaesu FL-2100B Amp
 - Yaesu FTDX560
 - MFJ MFJ-944 Tuner
 - Heathkit HM-102
 - RCA WV-98B VTVM
 - Heathkit IM-11 VTVM
-

Extra Elmer Net

The latest venture of the Alliance Amateur Radio club is the Extra Elmer Net. run by Frank, WA8WHP, it's a place to go to help you with your studying for the Extra exam.

The net runs each Friday night at 9 PM. Your net "MC" is Frank, WA8WHP.

If you are studying for your Extra, bring your questions. If you already have your extra, then you'r invited to check in and help to provide some answers.

For more information, Frank can be contacted at wa8whp@gmail.com.

Cleveland NWS Posts 2016 Skywarn Schedule

The latest Skywarn schedules from the Cleveland

Word comes via Dave, N8GOB that the Columbiana County Skywarn training(out of the Pittsburgh NWS office) will be held on Tuesday, March 22nd. The training begins at 6:30, and is held at the Columbiana county Career Center ([9364 OH-45, Lisbon, OH](#)).

Then, in Portage county, live training is coming up on April 13th @ 6PM. It will be held at the Maplewood career center, in Ravenna. [You can download a flier here](#) (TNX KB8UUZ).

Keep your eyes peeled for a possible training session in Stark County. We'll pass it along once we hear something.



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