



Zero Beat

Volume XXXIII, no 2

<http://www.w8lky.org>

December, 2019

Serving the Tri-County area since 1986

Upcoming Club Programs

December

- Videos from You Tube (See story this issue)

January

- Logging with N3FJP

February

- Home Brew Night

(for future programs, see [w8lky.org](http://www.w8lky.org))

AARC Meeting Announcement

The December meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club is coming up on Wednesday, December 11th.

Our meeting begins at 7:30 PM, at the Alliance Community Hospital, in the Cafe Conference room.

This month's program will be a Impromptu collection of videos from You Tube. The subject will be "Recent DX-Peditions".

Before the meeting (5:30), we'll be gathering at Don Pancho's Tex-Mex Café (2105 W. State St) for dinner.

AARC Christmas Party

Our club's annual Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday, December 4th, at First Christian Church on West Beech St (the address is 1141 W. Beech St, Alliance). [Click here for directions](#)

Cost for dinner will be \$10. we'll be collecting at the door from those who've already submitted their reservations.,

The dress code mentioned in the last issue has been rescinded. If you have not submitted your reservation, you are still invited to come and be entertained by the Alliance High School group; the Jetsetters.

Afterwards, we'll be passing the hat for a donation for the entertainment. If you have any questions, you may contact Ron by phone at **330-821-5454**, or E-mail at rtritt25775@gmail.com

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AARC Meetings

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club meets on the Second Wednesday of each month at the Alliance Community Hospital. For times, and program information, check the meeting announcement in this newsletter, or check our website (see below)
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
(PL - 110.9hz)
-W8LKY Echolink node

440 MHz

442.350 (+) W8LKY
(PL - 131.8hz)

Nets

Thursday is our "net night," with the following nets held, beginning at 8 PM

Ten Meters

8:00PM 28.420 MHz (SSB)
8:30PM 28.100 MHz (CW)

Two Meters

9:00 PM 145.37 MHz W8LKY (-)

Homeland security Net

Meets at 7PM every Tuesday
On 147.51 Simplex

How to get “plugged in” to the amateur radio community

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

This morning, I found this email in my inbox:

"Thank you for your website and great content. I passed the Tech and General tests on Saturday, and I will be taking the Extra exam in November. Your "No Nonsense" guides were very helpful.

"I do have a question, though. How do I stay current on what's happening in the ham world? For example the CQ WW SSB contest was this weekend. How do newbies know this kind of thing? How do we find local or regional hamfests and other events?"

This is a great question. Like any special interest, it can seem daunting to get plugged in (pun intended) to the community. Here are a few of my suggestions:

Join the ARRL (<http://arrl.org/>). The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is really the place to start for information related to amateur radio, QST, the ARRL's monthly magazine, includes news about upcoming contests and ARRL-sanctioned hamfests. It also reviews new amateur radio products and provides a wealth of technical information.

In addition to QST, the ARRL publishes many email newsletters that members can subscribe to. For example, Contest Update is a biweekly newsletter that not only lists upcoming contests, but also includes tips on operating contests. The ARES E-Letter is a monthly public service and emergency communications newsletters. There are also email newsletters for ham radio instructors, those interested in DX, legislative matters, and satellite operation.

Join your local club. While the ARRL will help you keep abreast of amateur radio news and events nationally and internationally, if you want to know what going on in amateur radio in your area, you should join your local club. To find clubs near you, go to <http://www.arrl.org/find-a-club>.

Visit the WA7BNM Contest Calendar (<https://www.contestcalendar.com/>). This contest calendar has become my go-to resource for any and all contest information. This site provides detailed information about amateur radio contests throughout the world, including their scheduled dates/times, rules summaries, log submission information and links to the official rules as published by the contest sponsors. Its features include an 8-Day calendar, a 12-Month calendar, and separate calendars for state QSO parties, CW contests, and QRP contests. You can also get a weekly e-mail of contests taking place in an 8-day period (Monday through Monday), as well as a list of contests scheduled for the next week and a list of log submission information for recent contests.

Ham radio blogs. Blogs are also a good way to keep up with what's going on in amateur radio. I like to think that I do a good job of covering what's going on in amateur radio, but, of course, I can't do it all. That being the case, you might also want read other blogs. Other amateur radio blogs that you might want to check out include:

- The K0NR Radio Site (<http://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/>)
- QRP-When you care to send the very least (<https://w2lj.blogspot.com/>)
- Everything Ham Radio (<https://www.everythinghamradio.com/>)

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There are a bunch of other good ones out there. Find the ones you like and subscribe to them, so that you get a notification when new items are posted.

Mailing lists. Mailing lists are kind of old school, but if you have a special interest, chances are that there is a mailing list for it. For example, I own an Elecraft KX-3, so I subscribe to the Elecraft KX User Group mailing list (<https://groups.io/g/Elecraft-KX/>). Many amateur radio mailing lists are migrating to the Groups.io. To find a list, just click on the "Find or Create a Group" link at the top of the page. I just did a search for "amateur radio" and found 910 different amateur radio mailing lists.

Podcasts and videocasts. Podcasts are also another great way to stay up with amateur radio. I'm partial to the ICQPodcast (<http://icqpodcast.com/>) because I am on the panel once a month. The podcast not only includes a discussion of what's new in amateur radio, but also a feature, which digs a little deeper into a particular topic. Other great podcasts are Ham Radio Workbench (<https://www.hamradioworkbench.com/>), and Linux in the Ham Shack (<https://lhspodcast.info/>). Internet video shows that are worth checking out are Ham Radio 2.0 (<https://www.livefromthehamshack.tv/>), Ham Radio Now (<https://www.hamradionow.tv/home>), and Ham Nation (<https://twit.tv/shows/ham-nation>).

This is by no means an exhaustive list. If you have an amateur radio information resource that you find particular helpful, please let me know.

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and often appears on the ICQPodcast (icqpodcast.com). When he's not trying to keep up with ham radio, he likes to build stuff and operate CW on the HF bands.

Club Breakfast

On the first Saturday of each month, we sponsor a breakfast at Don Pancho's Tex Mex Café (2105 W. State St). We meet at 8:30 AM in the party room.

The next club breakfast will be Saturday, December 7th.

Join/Renew ARRL Dues via the Club

One of the benefits of being an ARRL Affiliated Club is the ability to accept ARRL dues through the club. The club retains \$15 for each new membership, and \$2 for every renewal.

We won't get rich off of this, but every little bit helps, right?

See the club treasurer at any meeting to take advantage of this deal.

AARC To Assist the Salvation Army

For the first time, members of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club will be supporting the Salvation Army of Alliance, by manning one of the familiar Red Kettles.

From 10 AM to 8 PM On Saturday, December 7th, we will be manning the **Save -A-Lot** location in the College Plaza. We are looking for volunteers to help that day. If you would like to help, please contact Ron, KE8HCY. You may contact Ron by phone at 330-821-5454, or E-mail him at rtritt25775@gmail.com

According to the November 16th edition of the Alliance Review, the Salvation army has already signed up 500 children to take part in their Angel Tree program They are also holding up another sign-up day to reach all of the families whose children had formerly took part in the Alliance Fire Department's toy drive.

AARC to Hold General Classes

The AARC plans to initiate classes starting on 7 January 2020. It will be held in the cafeteria conference room starting at 6PM. The classes will be over a 12 week time span and will be two hours a session. It is suggested the students bring a SD card or thumb drive with at least one gigabyte of free space to receive all the information needed to get the license. It can be used for home study and also holds the Technician class information as well as the General class. Contact Frank, WA8WHP for more information. He can be reached at wa8whp@gmail.com

ARRL Debuts New Magazine

Recently, the ARRL announced that they will be debuting a new magazine, [On The Air](#). Aimed at the new or beginning operator, it is not intended to replace, but rather supplement QST. You can opt-in to receive [On The Air](#) instead of QST print edition. But, both magazines will be available on arrrl.org for league members.

You can learn more at <http://www.arrrl.org/On-the-Air-Magazine>.

Drawing at November Meeting Breaks Record

The November meeting was one of our best attended of the year, as we held our annual drawing to Benefit the Alliance Fire Department Toy Drive.

Unfortunately, the news broke a couple days later that the Fire Department was ending their drive after 45 years. So, after conferring with the board of trustees, and the membership, it was decided to donate this years funds to the Alliance FOP Lodge #73 "Cops Helping Kids" project. According to Ron, KE8HCY, FOP 73 helps between 50-60 kids obtain necessary winter clothing, such as coats, boots, hats, gloves, snow pants and other essentials. They run several fund raisers internally and also receive outside funding.

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The project's cost is between \$9-10,000 annually. The off duty APD officers, assemble the kids on a certain day, transport them via bus provided by our local bus company to Walmart. The Police Officers help each kid pick out the items After all the shopping is done, the kids are bused to Christopher Columbus Pizza here in Alliance for a Pizza Party. The kids go home with new clothes and their tummies are full

Skywarn Recognition Day

SKYWARN™ Recognition Day was developed in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League. It celebrates the contributions that volunteer SKYWARN™ radio operators make to the National Weather Service. During the day SKYWARN™ operators visit NWS offices and contact other radio operators across the world.

This years Recognition Day occurs on Saturday, December 7th, and runs from 0000Z—2400Z. This is an on the air event. You can read the rules at <http://www.arrrl.org/skywarn-recognition-day>

AARC DX Contest Continues

The AARC DX Contest continues. In the last month since, there've been a couple major contests. Lots of DX was on the air, so hopefully the rest of you have had better luck than I in making time for the radio.

In the recent CQWW contest, I even saw reports of 10 Meters opening to South America. So, there's hope for you Techs .

In the month of December, don't forget the ARRL 10 Meter contest coming up on December 14/15.

To recap, the contest began on October 1st, and runs through March 31st. Even if you got a late start, there's still plenty of time to join in the fun.

Here's the wiki on how to enter the AARC DX contest.

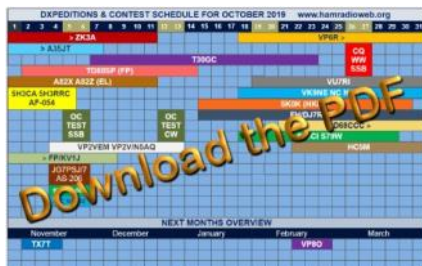
- You must be a member of the Alliance ARC as of April 1st, 2020 in order to participate.
- During the month of April, export all contacts from your logger for the date range of October 1st—March 31st, and forward file via e-mail to kd8mq1@gmail.com.
- Only .ADI files will be accepted. Most current logging files will create an ADI file. (It appears that QRZ.com will not export an ADI file unless you have a paid subscription.)

That's all there is to it. We'll score your entry, and declare a winner if there is more than one entry.

The prize will range from a certificate, up to maybe a mug, or hat or some other nice thing. The amount spent on the prize will be dependent on the number of entries we receive.

If you have any questions, please contact John, KD8MQ at the address above.

DX Calendar



As mentioned last month, I'll be posting the DX Calendar on the website each month. The calendar for December has now been posted at <http://w8lky.org/?p=3551>.

As other posts show up on the home page, the calendar is liable to disappear. So, if you're ever unable find it, just go to the site at w8lky.org, and type "DX Calendar" into the search box.

Repeater News

Well, it's been another quiet month in November. We are looking over the wish list for projects planned for 2020. For now, I'm planning for a relaxing holiday season.

President's Remarks

Welcome to back to Zero Beat. Since our last newsletter ARRC has been very busy, not only internally but externally serving the Great Alliance Ohio Area. We have witness the physical change from a 30+ footprint to a 250 footprint of our Two(2) Meter machine and about a 35+ mile radius of operations and some times further than that. The 440 machine likewise undergone repairs and now both the Two Meter and 440 machines are up and running. We have added new members and our training classes are doing well. We also have some members with dual memberships, with AARC and other near by Clubs.

Externally, our service to the Greater Alliance Area has increased from one project to two(2) projects (Alliance Rotary Club Castle Run and recently added Greater Alliance Carnation Festival Grand Parade project. One or two more smaller externally projects may be added in 2020.

The 2019 Christmas and Year End Awards and Recognition Dinner will be held on December 4th at 6pm sharp, it will be held in a great location and a fine meal served. The Program will be Alliance High School Jet Setters Group, paid registrations are due at the close at our November 13th Meeting. The event will be held at First Christian Church 1141 West Beech Street, causal business dress is requested.

As we enter into 2020, Many good things will be happening, Our club's image in the community is increasing, We continue to add new members, our programming both internally and externally is increasing. We need to get serious about sustaining club funding. We are planning on a raffle at the beginning of 2020 of a Base Transceiver Unit which should help to refurbish our treasury. We need additional Ways and Means events to really booster our financial position.

A long range goal is to obtain a location for a permanent club house location for

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ARRC. We are closer to realizing that than we were before, especially now that AARC has a 501C-3 tax exempt status. We have a long way to go, before we have a place of our own, but we will keep pursuing it until that goal is achieved.

We need each of you, my fellow members of AARC to help make our Club outstanding. I congratulate each of you for your past personal contributions to make AARC an Outstanding Amateur Radio Club!!

Winter Field Day

Winter Field Day is coming up on the 4th Full weekend of January. We are looking forward to another great event in 2020. The dates are January 25/6, 2020.

The premise for WFD is pretty simple; Emergencies happen in all types of conditions, not just during the spring, summer, and fall. Emergency communications in the winter bring a few twists & turns that are hard to imagine in the summer-time.

So, we are planning to set up at tri-city airport East of Alliance. We'll be touring the facility in the next couple weeks, and hope to have more information at the December meeting.

You can read the rules, and learn more about this event at their website (<https://www.winterfieldday.com/>).

CQ WW DX CW Contest



Score Statistics	
Total Contacts	350
Total QSO Points	978
Total Multipliers	166
Total Score	162,348
QSOs / Hr (Last 20 min)	33
QSOs / Hr (Last 60 min)	24

Well the summer is gone and winter is starting to settle in which means a little more radio time for me here at the KD8BBK shack. My interests in the hobby are many, from building antennas, DXing, contesting and just plain old gabbing on the airwaves. I have been working on one of these interests a little more these days and that is contesting. I use to think one had to make a great showing in order to be considered a contester, but that is not

true. The main thing is to just get on, make contacts and turn in your log no matter how many contacts you make. They all count.

The week before Thanksgiving was the largest contest that is on the air, CQWW DX CW contest. The frequencies are jam packed with all kinds of DX stations. This year I decided I was going to make a good showing. The contest started at 00:00 Saturday and ended 23:59 Sunday, so it is a long one. I sat down and was waiting for the event to start and I was off. Making contacts and racking them up and then all of sudden I started to get tired so after a couple of hours I went up and fell asleep on the couch only to wake up at 12:30 A.M. So I decided to come down and see what 80 meters was like. Well to my surprise it was ROCK-IN. I got the amp loaded up and begin working some great DX contacts. I was

able to find a sliver of a frequency to call mine and began to RUN calling CQ. I had stations coming in as quick as I could handle them. It got to be 3:00 A.M. and decided to hit the rack and get on the high bands in the morning.

I was able to catch some sleep and managed to get on 20 meters by 9:00 A.M. and was S&P and working a pretty good rate. I took a break long enough to go to Saturday evening church mass so I could stay up late Saturday night and do some 80 meters again. After returning from church I decided to work 40 meters and once again held a frequency and was running a good clip of stations per hour. This is where it gets new for me. I looked at my total contacts and I was at 195, not bad but not my best. So took a break and regenerated myself and got back on to try 80 meters. Well 80 once again was in great shape and once again was able to get an open frequency thanks to a station that bailed out. I was running a great clip again and was getting some really good DX stations but what was happening was that I was getting all new entities which means MULTIPLIERS. My score started to soar at a rapid rate and I was having a blast. I finished the contest with 350 contacts and score of 162,348 points. Not even close to come in the top 100 but definitely my best score in this contest and I was happy.

So my whole point here is to try out a contest and make it a personal contest not a world wide or country wide contest. Just try to do better then the last or just make it your first contest and say "Hey, I ran in that contest ". I guarantee you will have fun. Tony KD8BBK

Field Day Results

Well, the 2019 ARRL Field Day results have been published. They appeared in the December issue of QST. I should note that I am not talking about Winter Field Day. ARRL Field Day is held yearly on the 4th full weekend of June.

You can peruse this, and previous years results on the league's website (you do not have to be a ARRL member to view this) at <http://field-day.arrl.org/fdresults.php>.

Or, if you could care less about the results, and want to see the data, you can go to the results database at <http://www.arrl.org/results-database>.

To summarize, We have lots of room for improvement for this years ARRL Field Day. Especially if you are a new, or inexperienced operator, then Field Day is for you. Field Day is a great time to get your feet wet on the HF bands, and have some fun.

Wayback Machine

a look back at the last 30 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.

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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 (145.370) 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 to 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

November, 2014, (editor KD8MQ)

- Homebrew Night was scheduled for the November meeting.
- The election results were printed. The results were:
 - Pres: Ben, KD8KMQ
 - V-Pres: John, KD8MQ
 - Secretary: Tom, KD8JRK
 - Treasurer: Mary Ann, KB8IVS
 - Trustee (Incoming): Howard, K8DXR
- We were raffling off a Baofeng B-580T with the proceeds going to the Fire Department Toy Drive.
- Tony, KD8BBK had come in first place in the Ohio State Parks On The Air Contest.

Swap & Shop

Alpha 77DX with all of the Dick Byrd upgrades

These upgrades include the following:

- higher voltage plate transformer providing 4300 Volts idle
- 7500 Volt rectifiers
- 5000 Volt 35 μ f filter capacitor
- Wide spaced loading capacitors like are used in the 77SX
- All new step start components
- Large 10x38mm fuse holders
- All new electrolytic capacitors on timer & QSK boards
- LED lighting for the meters.

This amplifier has ZERO HOURS since being upgraded as it was my back-up amplifier. \$5000

ALPHA 77SX/DX factory Peter W. Dahl transformer \$550.00

YAESU FT-857D

radio is basically a new in box radio that was removed from the box to allow for the installation of the 2.3 KHz Collins SSB filter and the TCXO which allows for 0.5 ppm frequency accuracy. I also performed the MARS modification which allows for 1.8-30.0 MHz transmit.

After the accessories were installed a MH-59A8J remote control microphone was connected to the radio to test operation and confirm the MARS modification was working as expected. The radio was programmed with the various frequencies I planned to use. Then the radio was returned to the original box.

Since I had another FT-857 at the time I did not even touch the power cord. I will sell this radio along with the listed installed accessories and remote control microphone. Also included are the following;

ATAS-120A auto tuning mobile antenna with a large 3 magnet MFJ mobile antenna mount, ADMS programming software & cable, Nifty Guide quick reference guide and custom printed spiral bound manual with plastic covers.

About \$1500 invested selling for \$1100.00 cash only, No Trades.

"The Night Before Christmas" Ham Radio-style

Tw'as the night before Christmas, when all through the town,
the snowstorm was raging, the phone lines were down;
The wind it did howl, the tree limbs did crack,
I hope that St. Nick isn't forced to turn back.



The wife making cookies, the kids making noise,
while away in the shack, by my rig I was poised.
The finals were glowing, the mike gain was set,
I was chasing DX to see what I could get.

The bands were all empty, the frequencies clear,
except one lone station that sounded quite near.
He was calling CQ and my interest did pique,
When he ended transmission with the words,
"Old St. Nick".

I answered back quickly, I used great dispatch,
If this were St. Nicholas, good God, what a catch!
We exchanged information, it was really quite graphic,
then he came back and said, "I've emergency traffic!"

His reindeer were tired, his elves in a grump,
If he didn't land soon, then his sleigh he would dump. I
thought
very carefully, I thought very hard,
Then I gave him directions to my snow covered yard.

As he flew past my window, his hair like a mane,
He reined in his chargers and called them by name:
"Whoa, Anode! Whoa, Cathode! Whoa, Zener! Whoa, Diode!
Stop, Heater! Stop, Grid leak! Stop, Bias! Stop, Triode!"

You're flying too low! You're flying too fast!
Look out, you dumb reindeer, his antenna mast!"
So into the backyard the reindeer did drop,
St. Nick, the elves, and the sleigh went kerplop!

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Then at the back door, I heard this loud knocking,
"Open up in there, or I won't fill your stocking!"
As I turned off the light and was leaving the shack,
into the house Saint Nicholas came from the back--

His two-meter rig held to his hip with a strap,
"Hams do it in the shack" on the front of his cap.

The sack that he carried made his aged brow furrow,
and he handed me a card that read,
"QSL Via Bureau".

His clothes were all sooty, from his shoes to his vest;
I felt like a novice taking his test.
His fingers were calloused and from what I could tell,
this came from a straight key that Ill bet he used well.

I offered him coffee, I offered him smokes,
I tried easing the tension by telling ham jokes.

Then he nodded his head and raised up his thumb,
He smiled like an Elmer, did I ever feel dumb.

He grabbed up his sack and went straight for the tree,
and placed in it a large present for me.

When he finished his work, he stood up, took a bow,
then out the back door to his team he did plow.

But I heard him exclaim as he flew o'er the land,
"Beware the FCC, friend, we were both out of band!"

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DC Power Cords

Kenwood 4 PIN fused cord \$15

ICOM 6 PIN fused cord NEW \$20.00

KD8VT Call or Text to (330)-206-4909

30' Aluminum Free-standing Tilt-Over Tower

Full specs can be found at https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/376c20_8bc492f5edcc4ffe8e6fcba94e3aca7a.pdf
\$200.00

**Contact John, KD8MQ at 330-936-5021
or kd8mq1@gmail.com**

KD8MQ Rambling

Hi folks, it's me again. I'm still burning the candle at both ends with a blowtorch. But, it's been a fun few weeks. I've gotten into woodworking as a hobby/side job. That helps fill in the gaps in my time when the bands are dead.

Hanging out in the woodworking groups on Facebook, I've seen a lot of similarities between that hobby, and Amateur Radio. One similarity is the abundance of folks asking questions about what piece of equipment to buy.

Nothing seems to bring out the comments like someone asking for recommendations about a new clamp, or sander, etc. Then there's the debate over whether using a pocket hole jig is real woodworking. Sound familiar? Substitute "Handheld" for "Planer" in most threads, and you'd swear that you were talking to a group of Hams.

So, the leaves & outside stuff are handled here at our QTH. The 160 Meter antenna is set up for the season, and I'm looking forward to doing some contesting this winter. That is, when I'm not heading out to activate a State park.

So what trips your trigger? Whatever part of this great hobby you enjoy, make sure to find time to get out & enjoy it! If you'd like, send me an email, and tell me what gets you fired up. That's half the fun; sharing your hobby (obsession) with others.

See you next time. 73 all! DE KD8MQ

Newsletter Information

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