



Zero Beat

Volume XXXIV, no 1

<http://www.w8lky.org>

January, 2020

Serving the Tri-County area since 1986

Upcoming Club Programs & Events

January 4th - Club Breakfast
January 8th - Meeting
January 25/26th - Winter Field Day

[for other events, see w8lky.org](http://www.w8lky.org)

Club Breakfast

On Saturday, January 4th, we'll be having our monthly breakfast at Don Pancho's Tex Mex Café (2105 W. State St). We meet at 8:30 AM in the party room.

Club Meeting

Our next club meeting is coming up on Wednesday, January 8th.

We begin at 7:30 PM, at the Alliance Community Hospital, in the Cafe Conference room.

Our program will be a brief overview of Logging for your HF contacts

WA8WHP is again chosen Ham Of The Year

At our 2019 Christmas party, Frank, WA8WHP was awarded his 2nd Ham Of The Year Plaque. The first was presented in 2006.



Frank, WA8WHP, our newest Ham Of The Year

Frank's list of activities in service to Amateur Radio in General, and the AARC in particular is long & impressive.

From teaching licensing classes, to running the club's 10 Meter CW Net, he does a lot for the club.

Frank lives in Knox township with his wife, Miriam.

You can see pictures from the Christmas Party in this issue of the Zero Beat.

AARC Assists the Salvation Army



(l-r) Kenny, KE8NAT, and Dave, KE8IYN

Thanks to all who helped man the kettle for the Salvation Army on December 7th.

Thanks to you, almost \$200 was raised for the less fortunate in our community.

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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)

440 MHz

442.350 (+) W8LKY
(PL - 131.8hz)

Nets

Tuesday

Homeland security Net
7:00PM 147.51 Simplex

Thursday

Ten Meters

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

Two Meters

9:00 PM 145.37 MHz W8LKY (-)

President's Refection's : 2019 AND NOW 2020
Ron Rittenhouse, KE8HCY



AARC had a fabulous year in 2019. We secured the legal help of a local Attorney Group and they helped the club through the Hoops of legal items. We now have our 501C-3 Federal Tax Designation. We have our State Tax ID also in place.

After several years of uncertainty, of where we were going to have our Two(2) Meter repeater, the Two(2) Meter antenna is now 25 stories above ground at Two Hundred Fifty(250) feet off the ground or almost 1500 feet above sea level, with an operational coverage at almost Thirty Five(35) mile radius. We are almost doubling the number of check ins on our Thursday Night Two Meter Net at 9Pm. We repaired the 440 Machine and it is good to go also. So many of our members and other fellow hams have made this possible. All of us at AARC really appreciate the countless hours of planning, installing and testing the equipment and so many contributed their assets, time and knowledge to make this happen.

AARC continues to provide classes for new members and we have been successful in adding new members to our Roster. As I have been reminded many times, just getting your Amateur Radio Operator License is just the first step in this wonderful avocation called ham radio.

AARC was approved again as a Special Service Club by ARRL. We not only continued the tradition of providing Emergency communications for Alliance Rotary Club's Annual Castle Run held on Labor day but much more. For the second straight year we provided Emergency Communications for the Greater Carnation Festival's Grand Parade. We assisted the University of Mount Union's Cancer Awareness project by way of a donation. As the year of 2019 was drawing to a close, AARC also provided funds to help Alliance Police Department "Cops Helping Kids project", & we stood out in the cold ringing the hand bell for the Salvation Army Kettle drive.

AARC's new Web Site was just unveiled in early December, and it is a state of the art website with easy access with all the bells and whistles.

So someone would say, what's next in 2020? We are not slowing down but tweaking what we are already doing and adding more. We have the possibility of two(2) more community service projects which will be introduced soon to the membership of AARC for consideration and approval. We have found in both the Rotary Club's Castle Run project and the Greater Carnation Festival Grand Parade project, some AARC members work both and some additional AARC members join in helping to man the posts on these wonderful communi-

(Continued on page 4)

Z e r o B e a t

ty service projects. AARC would like to help all of "Our Kids and Adults alike." AARC will discuss, develop and implement projects, that will benefit from funds we raised at our annual Fund Raising event. We hope to find a way to help the Alliance Police Department "Cop's helping Kid's " and Alliance Fire Department's "Holidays Assistance Project" We want more License's classes, both Technician and General Classes. We will encourage all members to attend Sky-warn Classes this spring and summer,

But let us not forget why we assemble for Field Day Exercises the 4th weekend of January and June. We practice using our radio equipment and the skills each day, and we join other Amateur Radio Operators in what we do best, Talk or CW to other hams on the radio. We pray that the day will never come when we will have to use our skills and Equipment during a real emergency. But we will, and we are ready to answer the call, each and every one of us, we will Provide Emergency Communications

73's

Ron KE8HCY

President AARC

Alliance Amateur Radio Club W8LKY

The Decibel

By Frank Sanor, WA8WHP



The decibel, a very useful value and sometimes difficult to understand.

To begin, the formula is fairly simple. $dB = 10 \log(\text{power ratio})$. The simplest is a ratio of 2:1. The logarithm base 10 is the standard and in this case the log of 2 to the base 10 is .30103. to make it simpler lets call it 0.3. The value of the equation would then be $dB = 10 (0.3)$ or 3. Thus a ratio of 2:1 gives a dB of 3. So, if we double the power of a signal we have a gain of 3 db. If we cut the power in half we have a gain of -3dB or a loss of 3 db.

Other ratios can be computed with the use of a logarithm table. However, some are easy to remember.

- A change ratio of 4 is +/- 6dB. A change of 10 is +/- 10dB.
- A change of 100 is +/-20 db.

I will leave it to you to find the other dB values for ratios of 1000, 10,000 etc.

For voltage and current ratios the formula is slightly different. $dB (E \text{ or } I) = 20 \log(\text{voltage/current ratio})$. Thus, a double of voltage or current is +/- 6dB.

AARC Repeaters

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(PL - 110.9hz)

440 MHz

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9:00 PM 145.37 MHz
W8LKY (-)

HF Logging Program at January Club Meeting

For the program at the January club meeting, we'll have a short 15-30 minute program on Logging for your HF contacts. Originally intended to be just about the N3FJP program, I decided to broaden the scope a bit.

We're going to talk about the history of logging from 1980, when I was licensed up through where I'm at now. We may also dispel a few myths along the way. I'll touch on topics such as

⇒paper logging

⇒A brief run down of N3FJP AC Log

⇒LOTW, and others.

Obviously, it won't be possible to go in depth in such a short period of time, but we'll touch on all these subjects, and if there's enough interest, I'll consider doing a more in depth program in the future; perhaps on a Saturday morning. I hope you'll find it interesting.



Alinco DMR HT will be raffled off at the January Meeting

There will be a very special prize raffled off at the January meeting. Dave, KE8JLP has donated a Alinco DJ-MD5 to be raffled off.

The DJ-MD5 is a VHF/UHF Dual Band DMR HT. It's been out of the box only briefly since it was won in November 2018.

The most current model; the DJ-MD5T is currently listed on DX Engineering's website for a sale price of \$118.95.

So, bring some extra cash with you to the next meeting. You can help rebuild the club treasury, and maybe win a radio at the same time.

Zero Beat AARC 2019 Christmas Party



Zero Beat

AARC Presents \$685 Check to Cops Helping Kids program



(l-r) John, KD8MQ, Matt Shatzer, Tony, KD8BBK

Thanks again to your generosity at the November meeting, we were again able to do some good in the Alliance area.

On December 4th, we met with Mathew Shatzer; the treasurer for the Alliance FOP Lodge #73 to present your check for \$685.

The funds were a donation for the FOP's "Cops Helping Kids" program.

The program helps kids and families in the Greater Alliance area. The kids in the program get a bus ride to Walmart, where off-duty officers help them pick out some items for Christmas. Afterward, they enjoy a pizza party at the Christopher Columbus Society.

Winter Field Day



Winter Field Day is coming up in a few weeks. Always on the 4th full weekend in January, it never fails to disappoint. It's a fun event.

At the next meeting, we will decide between mounting a 24 hr. operation at the Tri-City Airport in Beloit, or a single day effort from the First Christian Church.

This is a busy weekend since the Tusco Hamfest is also that weekend. The premise of WFD is pretty simple. Set up & operate a station from a "non-traditional" location. In doing so, you will test skills that are good to have should they ever be called upon in times of natural or man-made disaster.

You can learn more about WFD at

<https://www.winterfieldday.com/>

AARC DX Contest Continues

In the last week, I've had a couple of inquiries about the DX Contest. It's fair to say that I believe we will have a race this year. That's awesome.

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.
- Countries count only once, regardless of band, or mode.
- 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. No need to weed out your non-DX contacts. The log-checking software will handle that automatically.
- Only .ADI files will be accepted. Most current logging files will create one. It does appear that QRZ.com will not export an ADI file unless you have a paid subscription, though.

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.

The complete rules can be found at

<http://www.w8lky.org/activities/aarc-dx-challenge/>

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

ARRL Debuts New Magazine

The new ARRL Magazine, [On The Air](#), aimed at the new or beginning operator, is due to launch in Mid-January.

As we stated last month, it's 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 arrl.org for league members.

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

Minutes

The minutes from our meetings are being added to the website. You can find them at <http://www.w8lky.org/about-us/minutes/>. All meeting minutes going forward will be posted here. I'll be working with Jeremy, KE8NAU to get as many of the previous minutes posted as possible.

I just received the 2019 minutes, and those will be added in the next few weeks.

Thanks for your patience as we get these all posted.

73 DE John, KD8MQ

W8LKY.org Is Being Revamped



As noted in the Presidents reflections, we are making some improvements to our club website. It's still under construction, but changes are being made almost daily. Some changes you'll see immediately, while others may not be visible.

The content from the previous site has been retained, but might be in a different spot. The most important tip for navigating the site is that the search box is your friend. It'll help you to find practically everything on the site.

Progress slowed a bit over the holidays, but once the newsletter and some other minor jobs are done, then I'll be back to work on it with a vengeance.

The deadline is to be completely up to date by February 1st. At that time, I'll be asking for your help to proofread. We're going to make a game of it. More on that next month.

Thanks to Joe, KE8KZJ for his observations. Being visually impaired, Joe has a unique perspective on the site. Accessibility is always a concern with any site design. There are online accessibility checkers that will point out where we need to improve. But, having a human to tell me what is working (and not working) is something I've never had before. Thanks Joe!

A this time, all PDF issues of the Zero Beat are on the newsletter page. I have a few issues that have never been scanned in. Those will be handled in 2020.

The minutes page is the most recent addition. All meeting minutes going forward will be posted here. I'll be working with Jeremy, KE8NAU to get as many of the previous minutes posted as we can.

Z e r o B e a t

Now for some under the hood stuff. Let's talk about the history of the club website.

We came online sometime in 1999, when we took QSL.net up on their offer of free web space & hosting for Hams. That first site was basic, done in a Microsoft Front Page. It was a good site, and might have lasted to the present day, if the load times hadn't gotten so slow. So, in 2004, we left, and bought the current domain of W8LKY.org. You can still see the redirect page for the old page at qsl.net/w8lky.

We've Moved

**Vamoosed...
Gone That-A-Way...
Exited, Stage Left**

Please note our new address:

www.W8LKY.org

Click on the link if you are not automatically
Redirected in five seconds.

Our QSL.net page
as it appears today



Our next page circa 2012

So, with free hosting from Doteasy.com, and a newly purchased domain, we moved the files over from QSL.net, and were back online. The site didn't look any different, except for the Doteasy logo which was at the top of the home page.

This worked well until 2012, when a change of hosting was necessary.

That's when the site took the form that you probably remember best. It was upgraded to a hosting account owned by Ben, KD8KMQ, and WordPress, a content management system, was installed.

Though the site looks different, WordPress is still in use to this day, and allows easy additions, and updates to the site.



Our next website (2012-2019)

With all the changes in the last 20 years, one thing hasn't changed. Our goal is still to create a site that you will visit often, and tell your friends about. If you see ways we can improve, please don't hesitate to let us know. 73 DE KD8MQ

THE AMATEURS CODE

by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE..... never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL..... offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE..... with knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station, and operation beyond reproach.

FRIENDLY..... with slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED..... Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC..... with station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

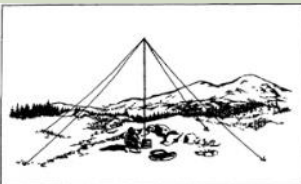
AARC to Hold General Classes

The AARC plans to initiate classes starting on 7 January 2020. They'll 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

NVIS DAY IS COMING!

Saturday, April 27, 2019 (10 A.M.–4 P.M.)

<http://arrrl-ohio.org/SEC/nvis.html>



Is your station ready to establish and maintain high-reliability communication with other stations around Ohio when repeaters, phone, and internet service are impaired? When infrastructure just isn't there, HF radio using Near-Vertical Incidence Sky wave (NVIS) propagation offers the ability to stay in contact on frequencies of 2–30 MHz for distances of about 30–400 miles.

NVIS Day is the ARRL Ohio Section event to test your NVIS antenna designs and builds. Join us on Saturday, April 27 to show how well amateur radio can keep Ohio communicating! This is not a contest: it's an event for Ohio stations to operate with other Ohio stations and understand how well they hear and are heard.

Wayback Machine

A Look back At The Last 30 Years Of AARC History

Here again are some of the highlights from the last 30 years of the Zero Beat. you can read most of the issues of the Zero Beat at www.w8lky.org.

January, 1990, (editors KB8GCE & KB8GCF)

- Tech/General classes were moving right along, with six students enrolled. They were being taught by Jim, N8DZA, and John, WX8G.
- Jim, KB8GHZ wrote that he had helped administer the code test to Mary Ann, KB8IVS.
- There was talk of requiring fees for Amateur Radio Licenses. Luckily, this idea had been sent to the dumper.
- At the AARC Christmas banquet, Jim, N8DZA received the first annual Ham of the Year award.
- Also at the banquet, Jack, W8WEN was awarded a nice plaque for winning the AARC DXCC contest.
- N8DZA was helping the kids at the YMCA to get their Ham licenses. They got a surprise when an anonymous benefactor donated a sum of money for a "Kenwood 440" rig, coax, antenna, and extras. *Ed. Note: I'm not sure if this refers to a 44MHZ rig, or a Kenwood TS-440.*
- It was announce that Dave KC3CL would take over as editor, beginning with the May issue.

(There was no January, 2000 issue of the Zero Beat)

January, 1995, (editor WX8G)

- At the most recent Christmas banquet, Larry, KE8VE was chosen Ham of The Year.
- It was announced that beginning in 1996, the Dayton Hamvention would be moving to the month of May. Some, including this editor had misgivings about it being so close to Memorial day. Hoo Boy, were we wrong!
- A new device called a "Hidden Fence" was on the market, and seemed to be causing interference.
- As of November, 1994, the Alliance Emergency Management Agency was dead.
- A Mid-Winter fox hunt was being planned for January.

January, 2005, (editor KE8VE)

- George, K3GP was named the AARC Ham Of The Year.
- Bill Bennett, W8ZZS became a Silent Key.
- The club website had moved to it's current domain at w8lky.org. sluggish response from the qsl.net servers were cited as the reason.

January, 2010, (editor KD8MQ)

- Larry, KE8VE was chosen posthumously as the 2009 AARC Ham Of The Year.
- A 2 Meter Simplex contest with stark county municipalities as multipliers had been proposed.
- There was a look back at 2009, and our club activities. The amount of activity was impressive!

Z e r o B e a t

January, 2015, (editor KD8MQ)

- We were preparing to set up at the Sebring Campgrounds for Winter Field Day.
- We were still waiting to present the Ham of The Year plaque, as the recipient was not at the Christmas Party.
- The ARRL Centennial QSO Party had wrapped up after a year long run. This was the Precursor to NPOTA (National Parks On The Air) program that was yet to come.



- K8OMO's SKN station is pictured here. It consists of a Heathkit VF-1, and DX-20. The receiver is a HBR 11 built by Jim, K8LTG.
- There was a article by Paul, K8IO on the real cost of those cheap RF connectors. (It is reprinted in this issue of the Zero Beat).

Ohio ARES VHF Simplex Day Contest

January 12 – 10AM through 4PM EDT

Hi everyone, the Ohio ARES VHF Simplex Day Contest is coming. Here's some info from the event website. You can learn more about this at

<http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/simplex-day.html>

The purpose of our annual simplex activity is to improve our station and antenna capabilities, and to test our coverage areas on simplex frequencies. These may be very important in times of emergency, when repeaters have failed and simplex is the only method of emergency communication. We are NOT giving any consideration for backup power- this exercise is aimed at testing antennas and determining coverage areas.

Bands

50 MHZ (Your QSO Points are worth X10!)
VHF/UHF and above

Modes

All modes

<http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/simplex-day.html>

The Real Cost Of That Cheaper RF Connector

By Paul, K8IO



Below are three pictures of an off brand elbow connector, I am sure we almost all have some elbows in our possession. This one was recovered off of a 30 W UHF continuous duty transmitter operating in the 450 MHz band. When the operator went to disconnect the cable this connector actually got so hot it burned his hand slightly. If you observe the spring you can see it's been very hot as indicated by its bluish tint. This is not how you do an RF connector! Besides the spring introducing a lumped inductance into the transmission line. It's not a very good conductor of RF either. There's a reason these connectors are a buck or two and Amphenol might get five times that.

Ever wonder why the finals on your rig mysteriously failed? Or, that re-



peater doesn't work worth a darn anymore? This just might be your culprit!

Be very careful when you buy some of the cheap stuff. Your good deal on a cheap connector might just cost you a lot of money in the long run.

As my mother used to say, don't touch that, you don't know where it's been.

73
Paul
K8IO



ARRL Reshapes its Podcast Offerings for 2020

12/16/2019

In conjunction with the launch of its new ***On the Air*** magazine, which is aimed at those just beginning their journey in amateur radio, ARRL is reconfiguring its podcast lineup.

Heading up the new schedule will be a free companion podcast to the bi-monthly *On the Air* magazine. The "On the Air" podcast will take a deeper look into select features and projects from the magazine. Each month, host and *On the Air* Editorial Director Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY, will offer additional resources, techniques, and hints to help less-experienced radio amateurs to get the most from the magazine's content.

In addition to the podcast, ARRL will introduce a free "On the Air" blog featuring curated content from the communicators and makers who are the driving force of amateur radio today. Curated by ARRL Product Development manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, the blog will highlight opportunities and activities available to new licensees. The "On the Air" blog is intended as an entry point into the world of amateur radio for those seeking original voices and perspectives. Readers will be **invited** to take part in the conversation by sharing their stories and experiences.

ARRL's current "***So Now What?***" podcast will cease production in January 2020, as the full complement of *On the Air* content is rolled out. The **catalog** of "So Now What?" episodes is available for listening or downloading.

In addition, "***The Doctor is In***" podcast, which has served more-experienced amateurs since 2016, will conclude its 4-year run on December 19, 2019. "Eclectic Tech," a new bi-weekly podcast designed to appeal to experienced amateurs, will launch in February 2020.

Hosted by *QST* Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, "Eclectic Tech" will highlight technical topics involving amateur and non-amateur technology, offer brief interviews with individuals involved in projects of interest to amateurs, and include practical information of immediate benefit to today's hams.

"The Doctor is In" co-host Joel Hallas, W1ZR, is selecting some of his favorite podcast episodes for re-broadcast in the interim between the end of production for "The Doctor is In" and the debut of "Eclectic Tech." The complete "The Doctor is In" **archive** is available on the ARRL website. Hallas will continue to answer questions about amateur radio in *QST*'s "The Doctor is In" column.

The "***ARRL Audio News***" podcast will continue to provide a weekly summary of news and activities within the amateur radio community.

K7CE SK



It is with great sadness, to write about the passing of Carl, K7CE. A couple inches in a newsletter barely does him justice.

Some of you may remember the "anonymous" person who donated hundreds of dollars of equipment to the club. Yep, that was Carl.

I'm told that in 2010, when the Hams from the Massillon club wanted to mount an expedition to activate North Bass Island. It was Carl who made a major donation to the project.

Whether it was donating a repeater antenna, or being there anytime we did repeater work, Carl was a great friend. RIP Carl.

KB8MNE SK



Just before Christmas, Bill, KB8MNE passed away. Bill was a member of the Salem & Lisbon clubs, and until recently, checked in occasionally on our 10 Meter SSB net on Thursday evenings.

You can read his obituary at <https://tinyurl.com/whapeok>

Former WA8JTT SK



Tom, WA8JTT passed away a few weeks ago. I never met Tom while he was active on the radio, but knew him through my business.

I believe that several years Tom had donated some equipment to the club. He was likely involved with the Tri-County club back in the 60s & 70s. Unfortunately not a lot of records remain from those days.

You can read his obituary at

<https://www.the-review.com/obituaries/20191214/thomas-e-syme>

KD8MQ Rambling

As you'll have heard by now, we lost Carl, K7CE over the holidays. The funeral was on the 28th.

I first met Carl in 1980, when he taught the Novice class that the Alliance city schools were offering in the Adult education classes. At that time, Carl's callsign was WD8OTZ. An accomplished DX'er, he changed it to K7CE presumably to give himself a leg up in the pileups for the new one.

At that time, he had just won the prize at a local Hamfest; a HT that was 3 times the size of a modern rig. He believed in giving back to the hobby. I remember riding with him to a hamfest in those days. He had a lunch bag with him that was full of ticket stubs to deposit when we got there. I think it was the Massillon Hamfest. Not sure of it was at the Nazir Grotto, or some other location.

This issue of the Zero Beat may be a bit shorter than the last two; with good reason. Of course the Christmas season takes some of the blame, but add to that, I've been working on a total revamp of W8LKY.org.

In the last month, the site & domain have been switched over to my business hosting account. This will be a good thing for the club. Since my commercial accounts cover my hosting costs, there's little or no extra cost to host the extra site here or there.

There will be a minimal yearly cost to the club for the domain, and a couple extras that you'll hear about in the next month or so.

I have to acknowledge Ben, KD8KMQ for hosting the site out of his own pocket for the last several years. You don't know how much of a deal the club has received.

And that's all I have for now. 73 All, DE KD8MQ

Newsletter Information

The Zero Beat is a publication of the

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www.W8LKY.org