



Zero Beat

Volume XXXIV, no 8

<http://www.w8lky.org>

August, 2020

Serving the Tri-County area since 1986

Upcoming Club Programs & Events

August 1 - Club Breakfast

August 12 - Club Meeting
(On Air)

September 5 - Club Breakfast

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

Club Breakfast

We meet for breakfast on the first Saturday of every month. It's too late for August, but we'll hope to see you on September 5th at 8:30AM.

We meet at Don Pancho's, 2105 W. State St, Alliance.

Club Meeting

Our next club meeting will be held on August 12th at 7:30PM.

This months meeting will again be on our Two Meter repeater

145.370 with a PL of 110.9hz on the Transmit, and receive.



Presidents Notes

First of All, congratulations to W8LKY Newsletter "Zero Beat" for being honored as the NUMBER ONE NEWSLETTER IN THE Ohio Section

Newsletter Contest. Many thanks to John KD8MQ our editor and the many articles and photos of AARC activities submitted and shared in Zero Beat. AARC's Zero Beat plays an important part in keeping all the members and friends of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club up to speed on present and future activities of AARC.

AARC conducted another VE Testing session on July 13th in the pavilion of First Christian Church in Alliance. Many thanks to VE's: Rex NX8G, James KD8VT and Chris AC8VN for conducting the session. Adrienne received her Tech Ticket and her call sign is KE8PAM, welcome Adrienne to Ham Radio and AARC. David KE8IYN, Jeremy KE8NAU and Joe KE8KZJ upgraded to their General Ticket. I hear we are going to be more antenna and tower parties coming up after we get through the current heat wave.

Technically speaking, we got a great buy on a Commercial Kenwood Repeater. It is much like the one we had used for a month or two in the spring while our newer Yaesu repeater was on the bench for repairs and upgrades. We received great reviews from all the club

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AARC Meetings

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club meetings are temporarily cancelled due the COVID19 Pandemic. For now, our meetings are being held on our two Meter repeater. See pg. 1 for more information.

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 (-)

Presidents Remarks

(Continued from page 1)

members on the Commercial Kenwood Repeater on loan from Bob WB8OVQ and Karen WD8BIW. We had Voice ID's and other messages including the hourly time announcements. The opportunity came up to buy our own slightly used Commercial Kenwood Repeater, so we bought it and is now on line. The number of check ins for our Thursday Night Two Meter Net has been going up steadily. The PL tone is back on too.

We will continue to use the club's Two Meter repeater for our Virtual Monthly Meetings on the second Wednesday of the month starting at 7:30pm and accepting early check ins at 7:15pm. Our next meeting will be August 12th. We will continue to meet for breakfast on the 1st Saturday of the month at Don Ponchos at 8:30am, but just one small problem, they will only allow 20 individuals at any one event, come early for your seat with your fellow AARC members.

Wednesday July 29th, I got a real wake up call concerning COVID 19. I had an appointment for blood work at the VA Clinic in Canton. I thought this was going to be just like it always has been, pull in the parking lot and walk into the clinic and check in , BUT, as we would say years ago in the Air Force, Never happen GI. We formed a line of vehicles, drove up to the front entrance, checked in outside and had our temperature taken while still seated in our vehicle. Then and then only could we park our vehicles and proceed into the VA Clinic with face masks on. The rest o the appointment went well.

This current situation with COVID 19 is serious, But we will find ways to manage, control and return our lives to normal way of life. We need to remain calm, focused and do what we are asked to do. This is not the time to show and demonstrate indifference to logical procedures now in place to save lives, and most important your life and your love ones. Yes, I am aware there are exceptions to everything, but please help yourself, family and those who you come in contact have a chance to wake up tomorrow COVID 19 free

73's

See you in person or on the air
Ron KE8HCY

AARC Swap & Shop

Drake TR7 HF Transceiver	S/N 2598	\$630
Drake PF7 Power Supply	S/N 2591	Not working – goes with TR7
Astron RM35 Power Supply		goes with TR7
Drake RV7 Remote VFO	S/N 2813	\$100
Drake MS7 Speaker		\$ 75
Drake Wattmeter WH-7		\$50

****ALL ABOVE FOR \$800 OBO**

Drake L7 HF Amp	S/N 108
Drake P7 Amp	S/N 103

Both for \$950 OBO

Kenwood TS140S HF Transceiver S/N 0101448
Kenwood PS430 Power Supply
SP430 Speaker

All for \$250 OBO

All items were tested and working except for the PF7 power supply as noted. The prices are an average what was found on line.

WB8OVQ

Bob Warner

330-802-9562

warner@att.net

For Sale - Yaesu FT-450. This is not the D version. You can see the specs at <https://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/hamhf/0450.html>

This has been my camping/POTA rig for the last 4 years. I'm looking at the Yaesu FT-891, but I need to sell this one first. It comes with the hand mic, power cable, and the box. Works great on both CW & SSB.

Excellent portable, or first rig.

Asking \$400. KD8MQ E-mail: kd8mq1@gmail.com, Phone, 330-936-5021

Tech Classes Move Online

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



I've been teaching ham classes for more than a dozen years now. My specialty has been the one-day Tech class. In this type of class, you review all of the questions in the question pool with the students over the course of six to eight hours, and then immediately give them the test before they can forget anything.

I would hold these classes three or four times a year and regularly have 20 – 30 students in each class. The pandemic, of course, has put the kibosh on these classes. The last one I taught was in January.

Frankly, I was wondering if I'd ever teach one again. A little over a month ago, however, I was approached by a fellow in Portland, Oregon about teaching an online class for some folks that he'd corralled there. After giving it some thought, I said yes.

So, now, in place of face-to-face classes, I'm teaching online Tech classes. There are plusses and minuses to this approach. One negative is that I miss the face-to-face interaction with the students. On the plus side, teaching online allows me to offer classes more frequently. My first was in June. Last week, I completed the second class, and in August, I will teach a third class.

I have had to make some changes to the format. Making people sit in front of a computer for six hours or more seemed like cruel and unusual punishment. So, instead of a one-day class, the online class consists of four, two-hour sessions, spanning two weeks:

Session 1

- Electrical Principles
- Electronic Components and Circuit Diagrams

Session 2

- Radio Wave Characteristics
- Antennas and Feed Lines

Session 3

- Amateur Radio Signals
- Electrical Safety
- Amateur Radio Practices and Station Setup

Sessions 4

- Station Equipment
- Operating Procedures
- Rules and Regulations

This seems to be working out pretty well. I'm using Zoom, and most peo-

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Tech Classes Move Online

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

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ple have been able to attend without too much hassle. To simulate the whiteboard that I use extensively in the face-to-face class, I'm using the Autodesk Sketchbook program (<https://www.sketchbook.com/>) and sharing my screen with the Zoom meeting attendees. To write on the "whiteboard," I'm using a Gaomon M10K2018 drawing tablet.

Sketchbook allows me to build up a document in layers, and the result is kind of a hybrid PowerPoint presentation and whiteboard. I can make layers appear when I start discussing a particular topic and then write over them. For example, when I go over the questions that use Ohm's Law to calculate current in a circuit, I display the later with "E = I x R" and on a second layer, show how to calculate the answers to the questions

To take the test, students have to sign up for an online test session. Fortunately, several VE groups are offering online, remote testing. To sign up for one of these sessions, all students have to do is go to <https://hamstudy.org/sessions>. For the first two classes, the W5YI VEC scheduled a special test session.

I foresee teaching these classes monthly until the demand wanes. The next class will start on Monday, August 3. To register for the class, go to <https://www.kb6nu.com/product/next-online-tech-class/>. To find out when these classes will take place in the future, potential students can sign up for my mailing list by going to <https://landing.mailerlite.com/webforms/landing/m6l6t4>.

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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 teaching ham radio classes, he likes to operate CW on the HF bands, go for long walks around Ann Arbor, MI, and volunteer for Rotary Club service projects.

Cancellations

With the current Pandemic we've had to endure quite a few cancellations this year. Here's some of local interest:

DXE Hamfest - CANCELLED

Findlay Hamfest - CANCELLED

Cleveland Hamfest - CANCELLED

Massillon Hamfest - According to the Latest issue of the "Feedback"; newsletter of the Massillon ARC (Terry, N8ATZ editor), they are keeping their options open for the Massillon Hamfest at the Boys & Girls club location. A lot will depend on whether Pandemic regulations will permit it.

11,000+ Early Registrations For QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo!

Los Angeles, CA: QSO Today host Eric Guth, 4Z1UG, announced that the first QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo scheduled for August 8-9, 2020 has already registered over 11,000 hams. "Since the Expo is a completely new experience for the ham radio community, it's great that so many people are excited and already registered. And with almost 3 weeks before the event, the number of registrants continues to increase significantly every day", said Eric, 4Z1UG. For more information, go to www.qsotodayhamexpo.com. Attendance is free and there are early bird prize incentives (donated by sponsors) for registering by July 24, 2020.

This Expo is built on a live virtual platform commonly used by Fortune 500 companies and major universities. It's much more than just a Zoom meeting - the platform simulates a convention experience with an exhibit hall and booths staffed by live attendants, speaker auditorium, and lobby. Anybody can attend virtually with an internet connection and computer, tablet, or smartphone.

At the Expo, participants can take advantage of this technology in different ways.

There are 4 different speaker tracks on a variety of topics with plenty of great content for everyone. Speakers will present via video and have prepared excellent, engaging presentations. Speakers can also provide related material such as slides and white papers which attendees can download. Every session will have a Q&A where people can submit questions in real time via chat and then speakers will answer those questions using video or audio.

There are 30+ booths for attendees to visit. Exhibitors have many options to engage with attendees. For example, Elecraft has created professional video demonstrations of their latest transceivers. Each booth can provide downloadable content including videos, spec sheets, and manuals. Content can be saved by attendees in a virtual briefcase for reading later or emailing to a friend. Attendees can easily interact one-on-one with booth representatives via video, voice, or text chat using a system similar to Skype. While most booths will be staff during from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM PST on August 8 and 9, some Exhibitors will extend hours through their overseas reps.

The Expo organizers will attempt to integrate radio with the virtual platform by having DMR, Allstar, D-Star, and other talk groups available for hams to meet on the air around the Expo.

Said Eric, 4Z1UG, "the experience of a virtual Expo is not meant to replace in-person conventions. However, I strongly believe that virtual events in our industry are here to stay permanently. Given COVID-19 and its likely lasting

11,000+ Early Registrations For QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo!

impact on travel, especially given our demographic, this virtual Expo enables the ham community to continue coming together to learn and engage. It also provides an opportunity for those who have never been to an in-person event to participate in this amazing experience. Younger hams who have grown up with the Internet will feel right at home with our platform, making it easier for them to participate and find their place in this remarkable hobby.”

Attendees will be able to access all speaker presentations and Exhibitor booth content for 30 days after the Expo by simply returning to the Expo site.

Icom is the Expo’s Platinum Sponsor, along with Gold Sponsors: GigaParts, RT Systems, FlexRadio, RFinder, DX Engineering, Elecraft, RigExpert, and NCG (Comet Antenna).

For more information and to register, go to www.qsotodayhamexpo.com. Attendance is free and there are early bird prize incentives for registering by July 24, 2020.

Traffic-Handling Webinar Launches Ham Radio Learning Series

07/29/2020

A live presentation from ARRL North Texas Section Traffic Manager Aaron Hulett, K8AMH, inaugurated the new ARRL [Learning Network](#) on Tuesday, July 28. The webinar series features 30-minute presentations from experienced members covering a variety of amateur radio topics and interests. Hulett’s webinar, “Relay Stations and the Art of Traffic Handling,” introduced techniques and skills practiced by radio amateurs like himself who relay messages during emergencies, disasters, and other incidents that interrupt conventional telecommunications, including the internet. Through an overview of the ARRL National Traffic System, Hulett shared examples of preparing a radiogram and resources for finding traffic nets and other volunteers.

“Aaron hit a home run,” said Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, ARRL Product Development Manager and moderator for Hulett’s webinar. “His presentation was the perfect balance of knowledge-sharing and enthusiasm that will surely motivate other members to try their hand at traffic handling.” A [recording](#) of the webinar is available for members to view.

The webinars are hosted using GoToWebinar. Members are invited to ask questions during each webinar, and a 15-minute Q&A period follows each presentation for those who can participate longer. A [running list](#) of upcoming live presentations is available; and prospective attendees may register on the same page. ARRL members must first log into the ARRL website.

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Traffic-Handling Webinar Launches Ham Radio Learning Series

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Fun with Digital Signal Modes FT4 and FT8

Anthony Luscre, K8ZT

Thursday, July 30, 2020, 12:30 PM PDT / 3:30 PM EDT (1930 UTC)

HF Wire Antennas

George Cooley, NG7A, ARRL Life Member

Thursday, August 6, 2020, 12:30 PM PDT / 3:30 PM EDT (1930 UTC)

Introduction to Digital FM Modes

Korey Chandler, Sr., WA5RR

Tuesday, August 11, 2020, 5 PM PDT / 8 PM EDT (0000 UTC on Wednesday, August 12)

Introduction to Computer Logging

Steven Lott Smith, KG5VK

Thursday, August 13, 2020, 12:30 PM PDT / 3:30 PM EDT (1930 UTC)

Capture the Magic of 6 Meters

Jim Wilson, K5ND

Tuesday, August 18, 2020, 10 AM PDT / 1 PM EDT (1700 UTC)

The Sport of Finding Hidden Transmitters on Foot

Robert Frey, WA6EZV, ARRL Amateur Radio Direction Finding Committee

Thursday, August 20, 2020, 12:30 PM PDT / 3:30 PM EDT (1930 UTC)

Inderbitzen encourages other members to be considered for future ARRL Learning Network webinars by inviting them to complete a **Call for Speakers** form. "It's all about members helping members. What better way to grow greater participation in amateur radio!"

W8LKY Two Meter Repeater Update

This phase of the 2 Meter repeater upgrade is complete. Read on to the following page for more information on what we did, how it came about, and most importantly, where the heck is Echolink?!

AARC Repeaters

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(SSB)

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9:00 PM 145.37 MHz
W8LKY (-)

Minutes

The minutes from our meetings are now being posted to the website. You can find them at <http://www.w8lky.org/about-us/minutes/>.

73 DE John, KD8MQ



This is the top half of your Two Meter Repeater Cabinet. From top to bottom, you'll see:

The Yaesu DR1-XFR which is being retained at this time as a backup.

Below that is the Samlex SEC-1223 power supply which powers the repeater.

Then is the Kenwood TKR750 which is our main repeater. It has an internal controller, but we are using the CAT300 controller that you'll see in the next picture.



At left, we start at the top with the CAT300 repeater controller which provides the voice ID, time announcements on the hour, and other future features. Below that are the duplexers. Think of them as sharply tuned filters that allow us to run transmit/receive signals up the same feedline to the same antenna simultaneously.

W8LKY Two Meter Repeater Update

So, with all the updates, and repeater work happening lately, it would be a good idea to bring everyone up to speed.

Back in early May, we had a chance to buy a CAT300 controller for the repeater. The cost was covered by Tony, KD8BBK. I kicked in as well, but this was Tony's baby. The CAT 300 is much improved over the bare bones controller that comes with the Yaesu DR1-XFR repeaters. You can hear it on the air today. It's easy to program, versatile, and did I mention versatile? We've not even scratched the surface on some of the things this controller can do.

In order to marry this up to the Yaesu repeater, Bob, WB8OVQ loaned us his wife's Kenwood TKR750 repeater while he built the interface cable that allowed the controller to talk to the Yaesu. Unfortunately we lost the encoder signal that allowed us to monitor without having to put up with noise on the frequency. But an outboard encoder was ordered which would solve that issue. But, then a strange thing happened.

Once the word got out that the Kenwood was online, we began getting reports from you about how much of an improvement the Kenwood receiver was over the Yaesu. So, we filed that away; the Yaesu was married to the new controller. We returned the Kenwood to Karen, WD8BIW, and life went on.

A few weeks later, I'm browsing the swap & shop listings from Larry's List in Missouri, and found someone selling a TKR750 for \$400 plus shipping. I e-mailed the seller, and we negotiated a price of \$450 shipping included.

It arrived quickly, and Bob re-made the cable to connect the controller to the Kenwood, and all is back in business. At this writing, the repeater is running off the Samlex power supply hooked to the repeater's battery backup terminals. The plug for the main DC input arrived Thursday. We'll get the cable, and the backup batteries re-installed this weekend after the Zero Beat is finished.

So where's Echolink? It isn't back yet, but a better controller is a step forward. Quite frankly, I'm looking forward to taking a break before we begin interfacing Echolink controllers. The plan is to do an integrated controller/Echolink box. I can't give specifics yet, but we are working in that direction.

About half the cost of the upgrades so far have been covered by donations by club members. A request will be made at the next meeting for the balance to be paid out of the club treasury. But, you can help.

We are accepting donations to the repeater fund. You can mail tax-deductible donation to **P.O. Box 3344, Alliance, OH 44601**. Write "Repeater" in the memo field of your check.

You can also donate via the Paypal button on the club website (w8lky.org). Thanks in advance!





When you forget your foot switch, you improvise. Maybe I'll enter it in the wacky key competition someday.

Editor's Rambling

The last issue was written while at Mt. Gilead, in Central Ohio. I'm home this time, after making 269 contacts from the park (104 CW/165 SSB). The most memorable part of the trip was building a foot switch for the rig using only locally sourced materials. That'll teach me to forget my foot switch!

I knocked another park off my list in July of Ohio State parks that I want to activate. Conditions were not good at all; I only made 15 contacts, but Dillon SP is finished! I'll be back at Mount Gilead for the State Parks contest in September. Then, a couple weeks later, I'm planning a trip to activate 1 or 2 of the Lake Erie

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*The American Radio Relay League, Inc.
Headquarters, Newington, Connecticut*

Ohio Section Newsletter Contest

First Place

This certifies that

"The Zero Beat"

*has been awarded First Place in the
twenty-eighth annual Ohio Section Newsletter Contest.*

**ALLIANCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Editor: John Myers, K8SMQ**

*John Ross, KD8IDJ
Ohio PIC & Contest Manager*

Presented on 27 July, 2020

*Scott Yonally, N8SY
Ohio Section Manager*

Island state parks. To do that, I'm hoping to get the new HF rig sometime this month.

If you'd like to help in that endeavor, look at the Swap & shop in this issue. I'm selling my FT-450 that has served me well for the last 4 years. It's a great rig, but a bit bulky for a backpacking trip that I have planned to the Lake Erie islands. So, I have my eye on the Yaesu FT-891.

July was a busy month for the club. We have a new to us repeater, and held an outdoor, "Mask optional" VE session. Congratulations to everyone who passed, and thank you to all who put this together. Normally, I'd have more to report, but this isn't bad for the middle of a pandemic, I guess.

Five members submitted their Field Day entries in the name of the club. We'll see how the results come out in November. They'll be posted in the December issue of QST

On the air in August, we have the Ohio QSO Party coming up on the 22nd. This runs from noon to midnight. You can read more about the OHQP at <https://www.ohqp.org/>.

I do this newsletter each month not to win awards, or get compliments, but it was still awesome to get another certificate for the Zero Beat. When the results were posted in the Ohio Section Journal, I couldn't believe that we'd won again.

It's not the first time, but definitely the most surprising! Here's the rest of the awards.

- 2nd Place (1995)
- 1st Place (2000)
- 2nd place (2009)
- 3rd Place (2010)
- 3rd Place (2012)
- Honorable Mention for the Monday Morning Message (2014)

This is the 367th issue of the Zero Beat, and **my 192nd issue**.

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

Newsletter Information

The Zero Beat is a publication of the

Alliance Amateur Radio Club
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Alliance, OH 44601

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You can submit material to the Zero Beat via e-mail to zerobeat@w8lky.org

www.W8LKY.org