



Zero Beat

Volume XXXV, no 1

<http://www.w8lky.org>

January, 2021

Serving the Tri-County area since 1986

Upcoming Club Programs & Events

January 2 - Club Breakfast

January 13 - Club Meeting
(On Air)

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

Club Breakfast

At 8:30am on the first Saturday of each month, we meet for breakfast at Don Panchos Restaurant (2105 W. State St, Alliance).

All are welcome.

Club Meeting

Our next club meeting will be held on January 13th 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.



President's Remarks

Oh my gosh, it looks like it did on Christmas Eve when I was a kid, snow everywhere. I attended my church (First Christian Church in Alliance)

Christmas Eve service just a few hours ago and it reminded me of the year we all just went through. I have my radio on and just heard our friendly greeting of "W8LKY Repeater". It reminds me of all the hard work that all of you have done in 2020. The warmth and generosity of everyone in the Alliance Amateur Radio Club has been just fantastic.

We had a very successful Radio Raffle Ways and Means project, and Joe "JEW" did a fantastic job of spreading the word of the project to any and all who would listen. When the Ham fest's started to be canceled one by one, Joe JEW stepped in and filled the void. We need to come up with a similar type of Ways and Means Project in 2021. Social Media is a huge help when it comes to these types of projects.

We want to thank everyone who financially contributed to the club's 2020 Holiday Fundraiser. Due to the special circumstances in 2020, the club's exec-

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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

7:30 PM 28.122 MHz (Olivia)
8:00PM 28.420 MHz (SSB)
8:20PM 28.100 MHz (CW)

Two Meters

9:00 PM 145.37 MHz W8LKY (-)

Presidents Remarks

(Continued from page 1)

utive committee decided to split the Holiday fundraiser into three(3) equal donations to Alliance Police Department and Alliance Fire Department Union and the Salvation Army. As most of you know, we were going to help the Alliance Salvation Army with their November 5 K fundraiser much like we do for the Carnation Grand Parade and the Alliance Rotary Club's Annual 5 and 10 K event on Labor Day. We provide Emergency communications. We also wanted to man the Red Kettles this year, but Covid 19 eliminate all those community service projects. We did received a push in donations in the final days of the project. We want to make sure that club members know that this is a one time event. We will return to the former format in 2021 Holiday Fundraiser, splitting the proceeds between the Alliance Police department and Fire Department Unions. The Salvation Army 2021 events will have their own events, 5K event and ringing the bell in the Christmas Kettle Drive.

We still remain in uncharted waters of the Covid 19 pandemic. But slowly and surely, we are seeing more light coming from the end of the tunnel. We need to remain patient, do what our Government leaders are asking us what to do. We will hopefully get back to our normal lives after everyone receives the shots of the Covid 19 vaccine.

We will soon announce the AARC Ham of the year for 2020. God bless you, stay well and safe. We are turning the corner into a new year 2021, We have achieved a lot in 2020, and we are about ready to open the door leading into 2021. Stay tune, and as they say, "The Best is Yet To Come"

73's

Ron KE8HCY

Free E-book About 50 MHz Ham Radio Band

**Capture the
MAGIC of
Six Meters**



The PDF book "Capture the MAGIC of Six Meters" by Jim Wilson, K5ND, is available for free download.

Have you ever wondered about the "Magic" of Six Meters?

It really doesn't take much on six meters — your existing HF+6 meter rig along with a simple antenna, even a dipole, will work. In this book you'll find out how I know that dipoles work along with how to build one of your own.

This book will also provide plenty of insight into how you, too, can "Capture the Magic of Six Meters." It covers propagation, equipment, software, antennas, awards and contesting, as well as assistance in finding the magic.

Download the free PDF from

<https://www.k5nd.net/2020/08/capture-the-magic-of-six-meters-ebook/>

Tom Sly, WB8LCD, Appointed as Ohio Section Manager



12/21/2020

Tom Sly, WB8LCD, of Kent, has been appointed as the Ohio Section Manager, effective January 1, 2021. Sly will assume the seat that incumbent Section Manager Scott Yonally, N8SY, is vacating to become Great Lakes Division Vice Director, after serving as Ohio Section Manager since 2014.

Sly was appointed by ARRL Radiosport and Field Services Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, after consulting with Great Lakes Division Director Dale Williams, WA8EFK. The Section Manager appointment extends through September 30, 2022.

Sly is an ARRL Life Member and has served as Ohio Section Affiliated Club Coordinator since 2017. He is past president of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) and has been a radio amateur since 1968.

AARC DX Challenge

Remember, the AARC DX Challenge begins at 0000Z on Wednesday, September 30th, and continues until 2359Z March 31st. It's similar to [CQ Magazine's DX Marathon](#). The challenge part of it is to see just how many different DX countries you can work in 6 months.

The rules are simple;

- 1) You must be a AARC member during the 6 month period.
- 2) All DX entities count once, Regardless of Band, or Mode.
- 3) All bands & Modes are eligible
- 4) You are on the honor system. Just send in your logs at the end, and we'll score them.

Questions or entries can be directed to [John, KD8MQ](#) at kd8mq1@gmail.com.

**Registration Is Open for Online Ham Radio University
on January 9**



HRU 2021

Saturday, January 9

"Spreading Ham Radio

Knowledge and Know How"

**"A day of education to share ideas, experiences,
knowledge and fellowship among Amateur
Radio operators"**



12/23/2020

With COVID-19 restrictions precluding an in-person gathering, the 22nd annual Ham Radio University (HRU) educational conference will be held as a virtual event on Saturday, January 9, 2021, from 8 AM to 4 PM EST (1300 – 2100 UTC) as a GoToWebinar online video conference.

Individual registration is now open for HRU's 14 informational presentations covering a broad range of amateur radio activities. Topics include amateur radio emergency communications; the basics of HF operating; communicating through amateur radio Earth satellites; remote station operating over the internet; software defined radios; HF and UHF digital communications, and using Raspberry Pi computers in amateur radio.

HRU 2021 will also serve as the online convention of the ARRL NYC-Long Island Section. Participation in HRU 2021 will be free, with a suggested donation of \$5. Advance registration is required for each presentation.

More information and how to sign up can be found at hamradiouniversity.org/

Reprinted from ARRL.org

Contest University to offer Free Propagation Summit

January 23rd 11AM-3PM

Contest University

On January 23rd, Contest University will be hosting a free Propagation summit. Are you like me, and find the propagation numbers a bit confusing? If so, then this is the event for you.

Sponsored by DX Engineering and Icom America, this webinar is being done via the Zoom platform. All you need to participate is a computer, or a smart phone. Of course, an camera, and microphone, or headset are nice to have, but not entirely necessary. I've participated in a few Zoom conferences this year, and I have to tell you that it could not be easier.

The summit schedule is as follows:

Presentations:

11 AM - "Update on the Personal Space Weather Station Project & HamSCI activities for 2021"
Dr. Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF

Noon - "Solar Cycle 25 Predictions & Progress"
Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA

1 PM - "Maximizing Performance of HF Antennas with Irregular Terrain"
Dr. James Breakall, WA3FET

2 PM - "HF Ionospheric Propagation"
Frank Donovan, W3LPL

Drawing for an Icom IC-705 donated by Icom America and DX Engineering; both CTU sponsors.
Winner must be present on Zoom to win

Solar-Terrestrial Data
25 Dec 2020 2200 GMT
 SFI: **87** SN: **25**
 A-Index: **8**
 K-Index: **0**
 X-Ray: **A7.6**
 304A: **107.7** @ SEM

Calculated Conditions

Band	Day	Night
80m-40m:	Good	Good
30m-20m:	Fair	Fair
17m-15m:	Poor	Poor
12m-10m:	Poor	Poor
Signal Noise:	S0-S1	

Click to Install Solar Data On your Web Site
<http://www.n0nbh.com>
 Copyright Paul L Herrman 2010

To register for this free CTU Propagation Summit Webinar, go to https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dflvFDxaTyakOWd_C7_puw

Winter Field Day January 30/31, 2021



OK, you know the drill; we practice our skills for those times that may be needed. That's why we set up for Field Day each June, right? But, as we are fond of saying, not all emergencies happen in warm weather.

So, we practice our cold weather skills by participating in such things as Winter Field Day. Usually, the AARC sets up something for Winter Field Day, but that's not going to happen this time, thanks to COVID-19.

So what will Winter Field Day 2021 look like to you? It will be whatever you make of it. Whether you are hunkered down in an ice shanty in your back yard, or roughing it in your nice warm shack, we encourage everyone to participate in some way.

To quote the rules, the purpose of Winter Field Day is to

To foster Ham camaraderie, field operation, emergency operating preparedness, and just plain on the air, outdoor fun in the midst of winter for American, Canadian, and DX Hams. Don't let those winter doldrums keep you locked up in the house... get out and play some radio!!

So, let's get out and play radio! If you participate, please make plans to not only submit your log, but list your club as the "**Alliance Amateur Radio Club**", so that our club score will be tallied from all entries.

Please **take pictures** as well! Submit them to WFD, but copy us on everything so we can post them in a future issue of the Zero Beat, and perhaps also on w8lky.org.

To learn more about winter Field Day, and to read the rules, Please go to winterfieldday.com.

See you on the bands!

How to prevent ESD damage

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Here are some tips from Keysight Technologies, one of the leading electronic test equipment companies, on how to prevent ESD from damaging your electronics.

USE A GROUNDED WRIST STRAP whenever you are handling equipment or boards. Using a grounded wrist strap prevents your body from building up charge and causing damage when this built-up charge discharges into your equipment or test boards. Make sure to connect that alligator clip to ground!

USE GROUNDED WORK SURFACES OR MATS for your boards. Do NOT use static generating or insulating materials as a work surface. Non-grounded mats and static generating/insulated materials can inductively charge boards, especially exposed ones. When connecting a charged board to equipment, the board can cause damage by discharging into the equipment's inputs.

KEEP CHARGED MATERIALS AT LEAST 0.3 METERS FROM EXPOSED ASSEMBLIES. This includes plastics, foam, or other materials that can build up charge. Having a charged material near an exposed assembly can inductively charge the assembly. The assembly can then discharge into the equipment's inputs.

DISCHARGE YOUR CABLES BEFORE CONNECTING THEM TO YOUR EQUIPMENT. Electrostatic charges can build up on test probes and test leads, so it's important to discharge them before connecting them to your test equipment:

Ensure your device is off.

Connect your cable to your device.

Attach a 50 Ω shunt to the open end of the cable.

Remove the shunt and immediately attach your device to your equipment. This prevents the center conductor of your cable from discharging stored charge into your equipment. A charged assembly can charge connected cables.

USE BOARD STANDOFFS AS NEEDED. In some situations, you need board standoffs to provide extra insulation for your exposed assemblies. This prevents your grounded mats from making unwanted connections on your board.

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NEVER USE "PINK" PACKING MATERIAL FOR BOARD TRANSPORT OR AS A WORK SURFACE. While many people think pink packing material is ESD safe, in most cases it easily builds up unwanted charge. Unless continuous, thorough testing is done, treat pink packing materials as charged.

CAP UNUSED EQUIPMENT INPUTS to avoid accidental ESD and physical damage. Damage often occurs by accidentally contacting equipment inputs. Capping unused inputs protects them from incidental ESD damage.

USE ESD-SAFE BAGS WHEN TRANSPORTING BOARDS. This protects boards from ESD damage while moving between ESD-safe locations.

DO NOT OVERDRIVE EQUIPMENT INPUTS. Start your testing at the least sensitive input setting and zoom in on your signal. Additionally, observe the maximum input levels for your specific equipment. The least sensitive setting is the most resilient, so starting there ensures that your inputs are at safe operating levels

After I posted this to my blog, Dave, N8SBE offered some further tips. He writes:

Grounded heel straps also help reduce static charge. Test them with a floor tester every time you put them on. The floor needs to be somewhat conductive—not metal, that’s a safety hazard—so use conductive wax on tiles, or conductive carpet to drain of electrostatic charges.

Keep materials, such as styrofoam cups, that form electrostatic charges easily away from your workspace. A styrofoam cup can generate thousands of volts.

Keep the humidity up in the workspace. That helps to keep static generation down as well.

I like to think that I follow ESD-safe procedures, but there are a couple of things here that I hadn’t thought about before. For example, I’d never really thought about discharging test equipment cables before connecting them. I think that’s a good tip

To learn more, go to <https://www.keysight.com/find/PreventESD>
=====

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 worrying about electrostatic discharge, he teaches online ham radio classes and operates CW on the HF bands.

The Amateur's Code

Paul Segal, W9EEA (1928)

1 - The amateur is considerate

He never knowingly uses the air in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others

2 - The amateur is loyal

He offers his loyalty, encouragement and support to his fellow radio amateurs, his local club and his national association, through which amateur radio is represented

3 - The amateur is progressive

He keeps his station abreast of science. It is well-built and efficient. His operating practice is above reproach

4 - The amateur is friendly

Slow and patient sending when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others; these are the marks of the amateur spirit

5 - The amateur is balanced

Radio is his hobby. He never allows it to interfere with any of the duties he owes to his home, his job, his school or his community

6 - The amateur is patriotic

His knowledge and his station are always ready for service of his country and his community

Paul Segal, W9EEA (1928)

AARC Nets

We run several nets during the week.

Homeland Security Net -

Each Tuesday evening at 7PM local time, we run the Homeland Security Net on 147.51 simplex. Your net manager is Dwight, KD8YFV.

Then, on Thursday night, we have four nets beginning at 7:30PM.

AARC Digital Net -

Our most recent addition is the AARCDN. It begins at 7:30PM each Thursday night on 28.122. Set the mode on your digital software to Olivia 8/500.

According to Net control Doug. KB8DNQ,

To check into the net:

"AARCDN de (your call), name. city, with or without a comment"

Then when making a comment or addressing the net use

"AARCDN de (your call) ' and then your comments.

For more information, contact Doug, KB8DNQ at kb8dnq@gmail.com.

Tri-county News, Training, and Information Net -

This begins at 8PM Local (0100 UTC right now), on 28.420 SSB. The Net manager is John, KD8MQ

W8LKY CW Net - The CW net runs immediately after the SSB net. You can find it at 28.100. The net manager is frank, WA8WHP.

Two Meter Net - The 2 Meter net starts at 9PM local on the W8LKY 2 Meter repeater (145.370 PL:110.9). Tune in early to get on the list, as they take early check-ins. Net manager is Tomas, KC8ZEH.

AARC Repeaters

2 Meters

145.370 (-) W8LKY
(PL - 110.9hz)
Echolink:

440 MHz

442.350 (+)
W8LKY
(PL - 131.8hz)

Nets

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(Olivia)

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(SSB)

8:30PM 28.100 MHz
(CW)

Two Meters

9:00 PM 145.37 MHz
W8LKY (-)

Minutes

Remember, our club minutes (with the financials redacted) can be found on our website at w8lky.org.

The treasurers report can be obtained by e-mailing the treasurer at kd8mq1@gmail.com

Ohio ARES VHF Simplex Contest - 2021

January 9th 10AM - 4PM EST



Again this year, Ohio ARES is running the VHF Simplex Contest. The purpose of this contest is to give operators an opportunity to improve their station and antenna capabilities, and test their 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. Since this contest is aimed at testing antennas, and determining coverage areas, no consideration is being given for backup power.

Here's the rules:

- Bands - All bands from 50 MHz up
We recommend the following frequencies:
50 MHz – Standard simplex calling frequencies Your QSO Points X 10 for six meters!!
146.49 (alternate 146. 46) for VHF UHF and above - Standard simplex calling frequencies
- Modes
ALL MODES are acceptable- it's your choice
Digital- using any mode generally accepted by NBEMS/ARES in fldigi.
(Default = Mt63 2K)

For more details of this really fun event go to: <https://ohsimplex.org/>



Editors Rambling

Hi everyone, Well, 2020 is almost behind us. Just a few more days. I have to say that with how bad this year was, it could have been so much worse. There was some good that came out of 2020 though. One of these that come to mind is how many folks got a break from volunteering for parades, races, hamfests, etc. This pandemic has been terrible, it's true. But it's been nice to have a bit of a breather this year.

So, we're ready to hit the ground running in 2021, right? No, not quite. The pandemic rages on; a lot of things are still cancelled, and people are still catching this. But, vaccine is in the process of being distributed to those who want it, and all indications are that some normalcy will begin creeping back in by the 2nd or 3rd quarter of 2021. Hopefully, we'll be able to get together for a club Field Day exercise in June.

Switching gears, Winter Field Day is coming up, but I'm still going to be social distancing at a park somewhere. I'll decide on my location as the event gets closer. I hope that each & every one of you participates in Winter Field Day, even if it's just for a short time

Looking at the 2021 Hamfest calendar today (Christmas Day), I see that the Tusco, and Mansfield Mid winter Hamfests are both cancelled. Elyria, Athens, Dayton, and Cleveland are still on. You can find more about these by going to w8lky.org, and clicking on the ARRL Hamfest Calendar link on the right side of the page.

Hopefully Santa was good to you this year. We got the FT-891 that had been on the wish list for several months. I've been using the heck out of it during December. And that's all I have for this month. 73 DE KD8MQ

Newsletter Information

The Zero Beat is a publication of the

Alliance Amateur Radio Club
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www.W8LKY.org