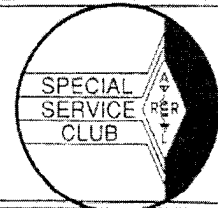




Zero Beat

Serving hams in the Tri-County Area



Volume 10 No. 5

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club-KB8YXT

May 1996

P.O. Box 3344, Alliance, OH 44601

Propagation

by Jerry Shore, AA8GY

There seems to be a great deal of interest in propagation information so here are some facts:

- Frequency Dispersion - Effects of the ionosphere are not widely discussed in the amateur periodicals. As a hams skywave passes through different regions of the ionosphere it will suffer doppler shifts. The signal fades as a result.
- When several propagation modes are present the strongest is usually so much more dominant than the other modes so that they have little effect.
- Typically there is a strong sporadic E reflection from a height of 110 km during the summer daytime at mid latitudes caused by the Es layer (sporadic E). Es screens the higher F layers when present. More about the Es on a later date.
- Sounding of the ionosphere may be performed by oblique, vertical, or reflection means.
- The doppler spread is rarely greater than 10 hertz and usually less than three hertz.
- Absorption- Is usually lower on winter days. On unusual winter days try higher frequencies. Not present at night.
- Fading - there are several sources of fading: being on the edge of the skip zone, absorption fading, multipath fading.
- Four regions: D,E,F1, F2
- D,E,F1 present only during day. F2 present 24 hours. Only F2 at night.
- Five Ionosphere variations -- Solar

cycle, Daily cycle, Seasonal, latitudinal, Height (varies with latitude and time of day).

- Solar Zenith angle, obliquity factor, critical frequencies,.... there is much more to discuss.
- Reference- Radio Communicators Guide to the Ionosphere by Leo McNamara and Roger Harrison, Australian Electronics Monthly, Oct. 1985 to Dec.1988.
- Reference - Real-Time HF Channel Parameter Estimation IEEE Trans. on Communications Jan 1986

Till the next newsletterPeace,
Jerry AA8GY

AUCTION THREAT TO HAM BANDS

Could our hams bands be auctioned off to the highest bidder as a result of spectrum utilization hearings no going on in Washington? The American Radio Relay League is taking action to see that this does not occur. We have more in this special report from Amateur News Weekly in Ohio:

What are the possibilities of losing our amateur bands? It may be greater than you think. The Congressional Budget Office in Washington, DC has started to evaluate the amateur radio

see Auction
page 3

Field Day 1996

June 16-23 is Amateur Radio Week! This annual event is an excellent opportunity to create public awareness, generate media interest and of course, publicize the culminating event: Field Day!

Setting up demonstrations, giving talks, or having your town mayor or state governor proclaim the week are just some of the activities hams typically do leading up to Field Day. Letting people know what the hobby is all about and the valuable service hams provide in times of disaster is the name of the game, and it's not too late to get started.

This years Field Day will be held on the weekend of June 22-23. We'll be setting up behind Marlinton Middle school, again. More info on our Field Day operation will appear in the June/July issue of the Zero Beat. Your Field Day Chairmen this year will be Scott Detloff-N18L, and Jim Ferguson-N8DZA. (parts of this article came from the ARRL Letter)

Continued on Page 6

Meeting Announcement

The next meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club will be at 7:30 PM, May 2nd, at the Alliance Community Hospital.

This months meeting will be held in the rear of the cafeteria. Everyone is welcome.

This month's program is to be announced.

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The Alliance Amateur Radio Club
meets on the first Thursday of
every month, at The Alliance
Community Hospital. Our meetings
are held in the back of the
cafeteria, and begin promptly at
7:30 PM. Visitors are always
welcome.

Editorial

by John E. Myers, WX8G

I just came back from the Skywarn training session. If you've not been there for a few years, You should check this out. The program was good, and I came away with the impression that I'd actually learned something. In keeping with the theme of the program, we are inserting in this months newsletter, a pamphlet which was provided by the Canton ARC. A big thank you goes to Mary Anne-KB8IVS for forwarding them to us.

This week was a red letter one for me. On Monday, our certificate arrived for the ARNS newsletter contest. We achieved another excellent rating this year. Then, on Tuesday, Joe Phillips finally caught up with me to award the certificate for Second Place in the Ohio Section Newsletter Contest. Joe is the Public Information Coordinator for the Ohio Section, and has been trying to catch up with me since October. Thanks again Joe!

The Zero Beat has moved. No, I've not change addresses, just altitude. The basement shack was no longer working out like I wanted. It only had two temperature settings (too hot & too cold). so, the computer is now back on the main floor, and the Ham equipment will follow just as fast as the trolls can move it up the stairs. So far, the upstairs shack seems to be working out exceptionally well. The only drawback is that now I'll have to keep it straightened up (Yuk!). I've never had a clean ham shack, so maybe this'll be a first. Come to think of it, I've never *seen* a clean ham shack. Is there such a thing?

Well, just two more issues to go after this one, and the new editor will be at the reins. Who will that be? I don't know. Maybe it'll be you. Give me a call, and I'll be happy to talk to you about editing the Zero Beat.

I won't make it to Dayton this year, since I wound up with Indians tickets for the same weekend. I guess you have to make sacrifices, though (HI HI). While it is true that no one has ever won an HT at Jacobs field, I doubt that anyone has ever witnessed a home run at Hara Arena. Oh, well. There's always next year.

Well, until next time, 73. DE WX8G

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Credits

Thanks to the contributors to
this months Zero Beat

KB8GHZ
KB8GIA
W8WEN
AA8GY

The Zero Beat is a monthly publication of the **Alliance Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 3344, Alliance, OH 44601**. Contributions to the Zero Beat are welcome, and can be given to any board member.

Articles can be submitted in hard copy, or as an ASCII file, on IBM formatted disk (3.5" or 5.25"). Direct transfer via Packet or modem, can be arranged by contacting KE8VE at 821-9808.

We can also use your pictures of club events. Forward them to KE8VE.

Submissions can also be forwarded as E-mail, to 75027,1342@CompuServe.com

Permission is freely granted to reprint portions of the Zero Beat, as long as credit is given to the author & source.

The editor & board reserves the right to edit all submissions.

HAM RADIO TWINS TO APPEAR ON TURNING POINT

Twin brothers Keith Heitzmann, KK5FE, and Jake Hellbach, KK5HY, will appear on the ABC Television news magazine Turning Point May 3. Jake and Keith, who live in Louisiana, were put up for adoption at birth. Adopted by different families, they lived only 15 miles apart, unknown to each other, until they met for the first time some 15 years ago at the home of Keith's adoptive parents. "As you can imagine, it was a very emotional meeting," Jake said. The brothers have been part of the Minnesota twin

study that is looking into genetic versus environmental influences on separated twins.

Jake reports the two studied together, passed their Technician tests at the same session, and later upgraded to General and Advanced about the same time. Both work in the computer field and used to work for the same company, which led to lots of confusion, Jake said.

Among other things, the Turning Point crew shot film of the pair attending the Lafayette (Louisiana) Hamfest. "You

get some pretty good prices when a television camera is over your shoulder!" said Jake. Of all the film that was shot, Jake said he hopes the program uses at least some of him and his brother on the radio. "I was glad that when it was my turn, I contacted a fellow in Cuba, so at least there was some DX on that night," he said.

Layout for this issue of the Zero Beat was done by preppie trolls. That's right, they've all shaved and gotten haircuts. They've sent out bunches of resumes and are just waiting for the job offers to pour in.

If you'd like to avoid having the trolls unleashed on an unsuspecting job market, then contact WX8G about becoming the new editor of the Zero Beat... Remember, a troll is a terrible thing to waste

Minutes of the April Fourth meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 7:36 PM, on April 4, 1996 at the Alliance Community Hospital. President Jerry Shore-AA8GY presiding, with minutes taken by David Glass-W8UKQ. There were 21 members and two guests present. The pledge of allegiance was given, and a round of introductions were made.

The minutes of the last meeting as published in the Zero Beat were approved on a motion by Jim-N8DZA, and seconded by Frank-WA8WHP.

The Treasurers report was given by Mary Ann-KB8IVS, and approved on a motion by Larry-KE8VE, and seconded by Dave-W8UKQ

Committees & business items:

Mall show Jim-N8DZA: No report

Newsletter John-WX8G: Next deadline April 13. A new editor is needed soon to take over after the next three issues.

Field Day: Scott-NI8L, and Jim-N8DZA will be cochairmen. Volunteers are needed.

Fox hunt: no report.

Hamfests: 20/9 hamfest will be held on May 26. (Probably at the Canfield Fairgrounds. ed.)

Classes Larry-KE8VE: Last class was held. One student is ready for testing.

- John-WX8G reported that the Zero Beat received an excellent rating by the Amateur Radio News Service. He pointed out that Larry-KE8VE, and Dianna-NOCALL do the proofreading each month. Congratulations to them.
- Jim-N8DZA reports receiving a QSL card from W8SPR.
- There was a short general discussion of Field Day. Dianna will contact Marlinton for permission to use facilities.
- A notice of renewal of registration with the Secretary of State of Ohio was received. Frank-WA8WHP will become the statutory agent for the club. It was moved by Dave-W8UKQ, and seconded by Jim-N8DZA. Payment of the \$5.00 fee was approved.
- A motion was made by Jack-W8WEN, and seconded by Jim-N8DZA to purchase a callbook on CD-ROM. The motion was approved.

The 50/50 drawing was won by Gordon-KB8UIV.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM on a motion by Frank-WA8WHP, and seconded by Jim-N8DZA.

Respectfully submitted,

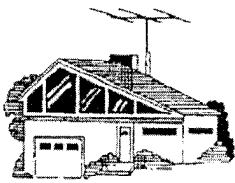
David L. Glass, Secretary, Alliance Amateur Radio Club.

Auction

continued from page 1.

spectrum as well as other services for its potential auction value. It is thought that this action has been brought on as a way to lower the Federal Budget Deficit. In the past the FCC has auctioned off segments of the RF spectrum as a way to settle disagreement between two or more entities wanting the same section of a particular band. The ARRL has supplied documentation to the Congressional Budget Office highlighting the positive aspects of amateur radio in such areas as emergency communications and other contributions to society in attempt to insure the amateur bands continued to be excluded from any further action. Amateurs should make sure that their congressmen and senators representing their area are aware of the full extent that amateur radio plays in their districts.

By the way. The American Radio Relay League is the only organization representing Amateur Radio that is taking an active part in these hearings. Other groups claiming to be a voice for United States hams have not even bothered to show up in Washington to make their voices heard. (TNX ARRL Letter)



Where's e's DX?

DX News

By Jack Bennett, W8WEN

North America

04/02/96 16:30 VE1VEI/M 14.034
04/05/96 02:54 FM5BH 1.829

Africa

04/04/96 04:50 3V8BB 1.824
04/06/96 14:11 J56CK 21.030
04/09/96 18:41 9Q5MRC 21.021
04/10/96 14:49 5Z4BZ 21.035

Europe

04/01/96 15:37 T77BL 14.022
04/02/96 16:05 DL7JU 14.035
04/02/96 16:17 F5JAV 14.035
04/02/96 16:41 EW3CW 14.026
04/03/96 03:42 SV8ZS 1.835
04/03/96 03:49 HB9ATA 1.830
04/03/96 17:36 UX1HA 14.019
04/06/96 04:17 YL2SM 7.006
04/06/96 14:17 5B4/DL8KWS 14.004
04/06/96 14:23 EM5DIG 14.017
04/06/96 14:42 DA1US 14.008
04/06/96 14:50 U3AJ 14.025
04/06/96 15:22 JW5HE 14.032
04/06/96 15:30 IA5/I4ALU 14.021
04/08/96 19:07 YP7CB 14.008
04/09/96 02:23 G3PQA 1.834
04/09/96 16:15 RU1AQ 14.008
04/09/96 16:45 UT8IZ 14.027
04/09/96 16:54 EW3LB 14.033
04/09/96 21:43 F5NOD 14.023
04/09/96 21:49 G3EGY 14.024
04/10/96 01:42 EI6IF 10.823
04/10/96 03:39 HA8BE 1.8335
04/11/96 02:49 HA8BE 1.8314
04/17/96 17:29 OK2HI 14.007

Asia

04/03/96 17:30 9K2MU 14.007
04/06/96 01:04 UA0YAY 14.0176
04/06/96 01:24 UA0AZ 14.031
04/06/96 15:11 HS7ECI 14.0386
04/09/96 01:27 UA0YAY 14.0255
04/09/96 01:34 RZ9UT 14.0236
04/09/96 01:46 UN5T 14.0186
04/09/96 14:35 HS1OVH 14.003
04/09/96 14:51 RA9WE 14.021
04/09/96 16:33 VU2RAK 14.011

Oceania

04/16/96 11:31 DP0EPO 14.015

ARLD019 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with info provided by Chris, G4BUE, John, WD8MGQ, Jean Michel, F6AJA, Yuki, JH1NBN, Mauro, I1JQJ, the Yankee Clipper Contest Club Packet-Cluster network and Contest Corral from QST. Thanks to all.

SEYCHELLES ISLAND, S79. Gerard, F2JD/5R8EN, is on this island for a week or two, though does not currently have a rig. If a radio can be secured, he will activate S79JD.

REUNION ISLAND. After his stay on Seychelles while returning to Malagasy, Gerard, F2JD/5R8EN, will visit Reunion and may operate FR/F2JD.

KERMADEC ISLANDS, ZL8. Ron, ZL2TT, reports a 40,000 QSO goal for the May 4 to 14 operation of ZL8RI. That's 4,000 QSO's per day. QSL via ZL2HU.

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, HC8. DF1VU, DL4VCG and DK5VP will be active April 21 to May 10 signing their home calls/HC8. They will run 700 watts on 40 through 10 meters while power is available, mainly between 1400 and 1800z. Battery operation may be possible at other times to allow them to run perhaps 50 watts. QSL via home calls.

KC4. Valentin, RU1ZC, will begin a three month tour and operate as R1ANZ in July. QSL via RU1ZC.

LEBANON, OD. F5PWJ will be active until September 30 as OD/F5PWJ. He operates both CW and SSB. QSL via F5PRR.

GREENLAND, OX. Terry, G3WUX, will be part of the Trans-Greenland Expedition July 10 to August 25 and will operate 14002 kHz CW and 14200 kHz SSB running 5 watts to a Windom antenna as OX/G3WUX/P. QSL via G3WUX.

VIETNAM, 3W. 3W5RS has been quite active lately, often on 40 meters. QSL direct.

YEMEN, 7O. Paul, F6EXV, is seeking permission to operate, though

negotiations are a tad slow. Paul remains hopeful, however.

BARBADOS, SP. David, VESVET, and Joe, VE3BW, will be QRV April 20 to 27 signing 8P9IJ and 8P9IK, respectively. QSL via home calls. Meanwhile, Bernd, DJ1TO, and Baerbel, DL7UTO, will be QRV April 24 to May 6 as 8P9IR and 8P9IU, respectively.

DODECANESE, SV5. Fred, SM7DAY, will sign SV5/SM7DAY/P from various islands May 25 to June 14. He plans to operate QRP on 20 and 17 meters. QSL via SM7DAY.

CAMEROON, TJ. Two Americans are QRV on all bands, CW and SSB, as TJ1GB. QSL via WA6SLO.

COCOS ISLAND, TI9. Yuki, JH1NBN, reports that a total of five operators will be active on HF as TI9X and TE9RLI on satellites from around April 27 to May 4. Frequencies mentioned include 1825, 3795, 7045, 14025, 14085, 14195, 15295 and 28395 kHz. Check for their 6 meter beacon on 50110 kHz. QSL via CBA of JH1NBN with SAE larger than 4 by 6 inches.

Quote of the month

Give a man a fish, and he'll eat for a day. But, teach a man to fish and he'll never work again.

Vaughn



May 1996

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">April</p> <p style="text-align: center;">S M T W T F S</p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</p> <p>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</p> <p>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</p> <p>28 29 30</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">June</p> <p style="text-align: center;">S M T W T F S</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p> <p>30</p> </div> </div>			1 Akron VE Exams- 330/733-4495 N8SYF Birthday	2 7:30 PM AARC Meeting	3	4
5 Akron VE Exams 330/733-4495	6	7 Canfield VE Exams 330/799-6832	8	9 8:30 PM Tri-County News & Info Net	10	11 Akron VE Exams 330/972-7677
12 KB8JBG Birthday Medina County Hamfest <i>Mother's Day</i>	13 K8DEN Birthday	14 N8EAD Birthday	15	16 8:30 PM Tri County News & Info Net	17 Dayton Hamvention N8MAA Birthday	18 <i>Armed Forces Day</i> Dayton Hamvention N.Canton VE Exams-452-4183
19 Dayton Hamvention	20	21	22	23 8:30 PM Tri-County News & Info Net Youngstown VE Exams-330/534- 1394	24	25 Canton VE Exams- 330/837-2927
26 20/9 Hamfest	27 <i>Memorial Day (Observed)</i>	28	29	30 8:30 PM Tri-County News & Info Net	31	

SCOUTS PUT A NEW TWIST ON TOWER CONSTRUCTION

During these weeks when thoughts turn to Field Day planning, you might consider inviting some Boy Scouts along to help with the antenna. On February 10 at special event station K2BSA/6 at Camp Pendleton Marine Base, scouts from Troop 319 of Huntington Beach, California, designed and built a 35-foot HF tower lashed together from wooden poles. Assistant Scoutmaster Mel Goldberg, KO6TF, said the scouts built the tower on its side, then 40 scouts pulled it erect using ropes. Then three scouts (what else?) served to rotate the structure as needed. The operation drew media attention, including a mention in the Los

Angeles Times and three regional papers. Kenwood provided HF gear for the event, and, Goldberg reports, 1400 scouts stopped by to visit.

The K2BSA/6 operation snagged 35 states and three countries in its eight hours on the air. One QSO was with an 84-year-old ham who had been an Eagle Scout in his younger days but was now partially blind and wheelchair-bound. Goldberg reports the man broke down when the scouts told him he'd always be an Eagle Scout and a friend of scouting.

A QSL certificate is available that shows the completed tower and all of the scouts on and around it. Pictures of the tower and the operation are on the

ScoutRadio site at <http://www.ccllc.com/bsa319/ham.htm> on the World Wide Web.

Goldberg cites a "conservative estimate" that 250,000 Amateur Radio operators are or have been in scouting. He said Troop 319 will operate as K2BSA/6 during the 1996 Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) October 18-20. Scout groups interested in using the official call sign of the Boy Scouts of America during JOTA can apply to Dan Dansby, W5URI, the K2BSA trustee, at 5805 Walla Ave, Fort Worth, TX 76133. Include an sase. Only one application will be granted per call district (and the sixth is already spoken for).

Short Circuits

- The Antique Wireless Association is now on the Internet. Point your browser to <http://www.ggw.org/freenet/awa/>. The AWA home page features a picture of the building housing both the Antique Wireless Association's, Radio Communication Museum and the Bloomfield, New York, Historical Society. Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, is the AWA museum's curator. The museum is devoted to research, preservation and documentation of the history of wireless communication. A wide range of historical communication equipment is on display, much of it still in working order.--James R. Frederick, K2GBR
- The absence of Don Whitaker-K8OMO from the April meeting did not go unnoticed. Word had it that he hurt his back. Someone in attendance remarked that perhaps he hurt

it pounding brass. HMM, perhaps Don took things just a bit too literally?

- Tad Cook, KT7H, reports no visible sunspots for April 5-10. He predicts this is the start of the sunspot minimum and that solar flux should bottom out later this year, instead of in early 1997 as previously estimated. The new cycle is projected to peak in April 2000 with an average solar flux of 192. Flux numbers, which have dipped below 70 in recent days, should rise above 70 for April 18-24, but drop below 70 after May 3.
- A special 9K5 prefix will be in use for Kuwaiti amateurs until May 7, 1996. The number 5 in the prefix is to call attention to the fact that POWs from Kuwait have been held in Iraq for more than five years.-Hamad Al-Nusif, 9K2HN

5 Years Ago

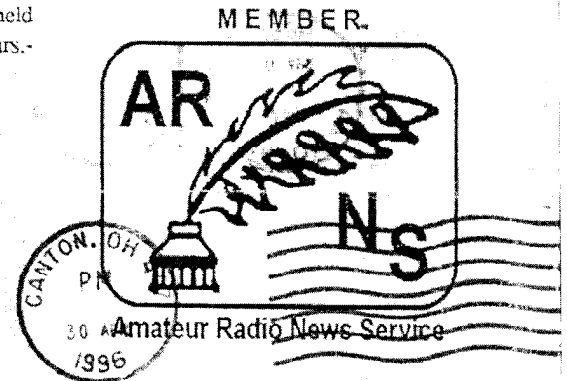
from the May, 1991 issue of the Zero Beat; Dave Buckwalter-KC3CL Editor

- Special elections were being planned to fill a vacancy in the office of President. Gary Grimes-KB8GAB had resigned due to personal conflicts.
- Dave presented an article on station grounding, written by Gary Coffman-KE4ZV
- August 28, 1991 was the date set by the FCC, for amateurs to vacate 220-222 MHz.
- In preparation for Field Day, we had an article on duping, by John Myers-WXSG. It was an amusing article in that it made mention of paper dupe sheets.

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