

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club POB 9944 Alliance Ohio 44681

Do you know where the term Zero Beat came from?

If I asked most of the newer members of the club they would probably say "It is the name of this tome". It is indeed the name of our beloved news' letter, however, the term has its beginning in the misty beginnings of our hobby.

Journey with me to those obscure days of W8WEN and W8UKQ, perhaps even farther, but I doubt it. In those days things were somewhat different. The TUBE was king! The transistor had not yet been invented! Indeed the snarl and snap of raw AC voltages had been only recently laid to rest! The power just to light one tube consumed more power than most of use in our modern day receivers. Now just imagine my friends, there were no transceivers!

The transmitter and receiver were separate units tied together with a high speed knife switch. OOPS! You probably haven't seen those for some time either! The very well to do Hams did have genuine Dow Key coax relays. We can imagine our Ham friend joyfully trying to separate a signal from the QRN (static). He finally locates a bloke he wants to QSO (talk) with. He gingerly closes the big key. The transmitter groans to life! *Nothing!* He is crystal controlled and the bloke he wants to talk to is at the other end of the band. Worse, the big Cleveland rock crushers are a lot closer! No QSO for our friend this night! The VFO has not been invented yet!

The VFO would allow our Ham friend to QSY (move) his transmitter all over just like a receiver! Time marches on. One bright sunny day our ham friend discovers the VFO! QST magazine extols the variable frequency oscillator. Imagine the excitement! In those days you couldn't buy this stuff. Our enterprising friend made his own using parts from the recycling pile, called junque piles in those days. Our friend did note the article was written by a Mr. Meisner who was to gain much fame and glory.

He managed to create a device that was impossible to keep in one place! It was the inverse of the phase locked loop. It never locked and it surely did loop! It was the auto VFO. It was certainly ahead of its time! The most fleeting thought would cause it to change in quantum leaps! You have some of the picture! These ole boys ain't too smart but they are our pioneers of sorts. They have driftier receivers and even driftier transmitters and they want to try to QSO *on A FREQUENCY!*

This is where the term Spread Spectrum was first invented. Hams tried to qualm the FCC's fears of the whole spectrum being one big Ham band by explaining the theory. Well, Sir, it was a problem how to put the transmitter and receiver on the same frequency! One dark night in the wee hours of the morning, someone made a fateful discovery! He discovered that as the transmitter moved across the receiver frequency there was a sound like a thousand howling cats. Much research took place as they tuned the cat.

Was the high pitch scream the best? Many Hams supported this theory. Perhaps the low menacing growl was better as supported by the mean DXers? Finally, the secret discovery! You must rock onto your intended victim, at no less than all the power you could muster. Then sweep across your victim with a *Howl, Growl, Howl.*

He is now completely at your mercy! The purists returned to the growl stage after at least three complete passes. The intended station could only grovel at your feet! He was in complete awe of such masterful finesse! Thus, was created the zero beat. After reading some of the editorials, we may presume that the spirit of the zero beat lives ever on!

73, LTG

Next Meeting April 3 at Alliance Hospital Cafeteria at 7:30 PM

ALLIANCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

March 6, 1997

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held at the Alliance Community Hospital on March 6, 1997, at 7:37 P. M., with Don Whitaker K8OMO, president, presiding. Secretary David Glass W8UKQ kept the minutes. There were 19 members and four guests present. The pledge of allegiance was given, and introductions were made.

The minutes of the last meeting as printed in the newsletter were tabled for approval because several members had not received the newsletter.

Mary Ann KB8IVS reported the treasury balances. The report was approved upon motion by Larry KE8VE, seconded by Jim K8LTG.

Old business:

Mall Show: John WX8G reported that the dates of the show have been set and reservation made for September 6 and 7. Bring in ideas for activities and displays. Recruitment will be stressed.

Field Day: Larry KE8VE will check on reserving the site at Marlinton Middle School. Don K8OMO will be a coordinator with John WX8G as well as others volunteering.

W8LKY QSL cards: No report. Tabled.

Rosters: No report. Tabled.

Public Information Officer: Jim K8LTG will work on the duties of this office.

New business:

Emergency Drill: There will be a state-wide emergency drill on Wednesday, March 12, at 9:50 AM. Don K8OMO will be NCS for check-ins on 145.370, and then will report into the net on 147.120.

Skywarn: There will be a meeting March 12 at 6:30 PM in the library in Akron. Also, there will be a session March 26 at 7 PM at Stark State University.

Testing: Jack W8WEN reported that 21 scouts in Salem are scheduled for testing.

Speed Dialing: Jim K8LTG stated that the repeater speed dialing codes have to be reset.

Show and Tell: Jerry KG8RN displayed QSL cards he received. Jerry KC8DKM brought a Vibroground instrument used by a power company to check ground resistance.

The 50-50 drawing was won by Jerry KG8RN.

A drawing for club pins was won by Mary Ann KB8IVS.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 P. M., upon motion by Jim N8XTJ, seconded by Dave W8UKQ.

Respectfully submitted, Dave Glass W8UKQ, Secretary

**Meet your members --
Member Profile:
W8UKQ**

Dave Glass was born in Beloit and graduated from Beloit High School. While in high school Dave heard of a program that would give advanced rank and delay induction until after graduation if one passed a written test in electronics offered by the Navy during WW2. Dave studied a book from the library and passed their test. After serving at exotic locations as Atlantic city Naval Air Station doing aviation electronics, Dave attended Mount Union College.

After obtaining a BS degree in Mathematics the Navy decided a little thing like Korea was deserving of Dave's attention. Alliance Clay Products latched onto Dave so he spent 20 years with them. Diebold then latched onto Dave for another 20 years.

So now lets talk about the real stuff - ham radio. Dave had a cousin who was a ham that he heard about from another cousin. Then after Korea the local Civil Defense and local ham club hooked up and offered a class in ham radio.

A novice license in 1954 led to a Technician license in 1955. The 6 meter band beconed and a handbook 12A17 + 2E26 transmitter with a 2-6J6 handbook convertor with help with tune up from Harry Pownell. Later when 2 meters became available he used a Benton Harbor lunchbox (ask W8WEN about this).

Today Dave operates a ICOM 735 on HF into a CB antenna - a Astroplane - on 10 meters.

For VHF/UHF fm he has a TH77A handheld. Dave has 53 countries and 46 states on 10meters SSB.

Well i got the important stuff - forgot to ask if he had a wife or kid(s)! -

R7 Cushcraft Vertical HF Antenna For Sale:

W8WZP sent the following description of an item he would like to sell:

Vertical antenna covers 7 bands including WRAC. 22 feet tall 12 pounds. Does not require ground radials.

Automatic band selection. Can be ground, roof, or tower mounted. Ideal for RV or base station operation. \$225.

Call Mike Pekar, 189 Green Garden Drive, Boardman, Ohio 44512.

E-Mail Addresses:

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Dave Buckwalter KC3CL -

Its Membership Renewal Time

AARC April 1997

Membership renewals are due in April. Your renewal entitles you to receive the newsletter and maintain your privileges in this organization. Please fill out the membership form elsewhere in issue and make checks payable to Alliance Amateur Radio Club and mail to:

Mary Ann Royer KB8IVS, 6255 Sandelewood Ave. N. E, Canton, OH 44721-3340

From the archives.....April, 1987

Reports from Mall Show...Dayton Hamvention...Club charter party...CW nets... Ham of the month Larry N8EWV...
Seven students passed their novice tests and one new technician...Ron KC8VG and John KD8MQ passed extra tests...
NEWS FLASH...Privileges for novice and extra classes were substantially revised by FCC...Note date...Hit...de
W8UKQ, Historian...

Astronomy??

Last year there was discussion of a possible telescope that might be available for the clubs' use. That and other related discussions has indicated a interest in telescopes and astronomy from some of the club members. As a result it seems that a discussion of astronomical related matters here would not upset many.

The library has a video tape starring a Mr. Dobson who appeared on one of the PBS Astronomy program series. The tape describes the home construction of a 16 inch aperture telescope. If you would like to buy the tape you could write Dobson Astro Initiatives POB 460915 San Francisco CA 94146-0915. The tape "Telescope Building with John Dobson" is available for loan at the library.

The book "Build Your Own Telescope" is also available from the library. To Build your own telescope a lense blank, tool abrasives, pitch and other materials are often required. A source of materials is:

A. Jaegers 11 Roosevelt Ave. Valley Stream NY 11581

or: Newport Industrial Glass 1631 Monrovia Ave. Costa Mesa, CA 92627

(from the internet). Other supplier address are on the net or available from myself. For reference a 6" Dobsonian is available from Meade for \$319 714-756-2291. Newport has a rough ground 4.25 inch lens kit with diagonal and includes aluminizing for \$66.25.

Another source is Willman-Bell POB 35025 Richmond Va 23235. A 6" mirror kit is \$84.95, a 6in pyrex blank is \$27.95 (2 are in kit).

The Akron Astronomy Club hangs out on the 147.09 machine or (Contact N8SGS). NBSH.

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

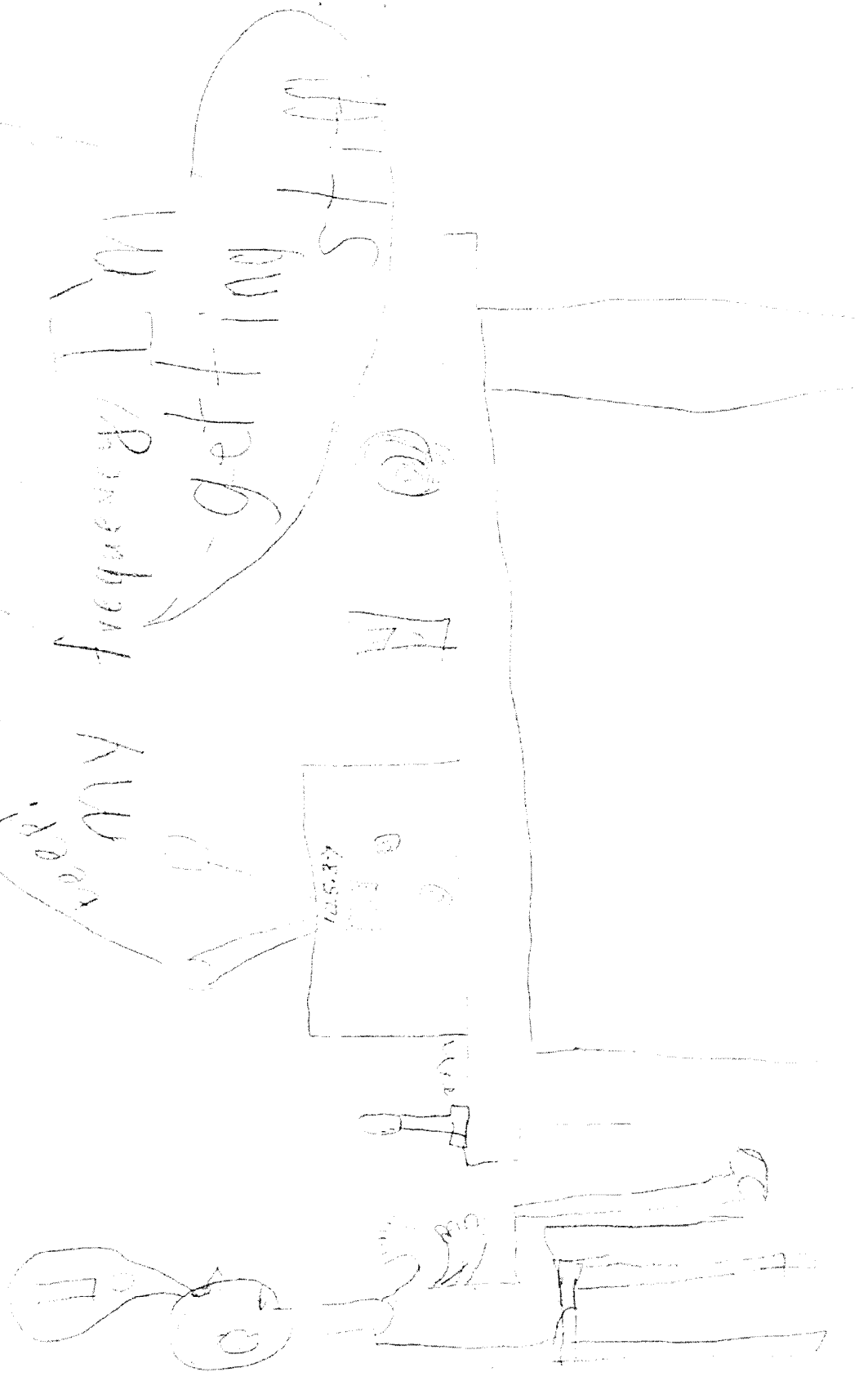
Well another month closer to the old summer blues HI. The weather will be beautiful and no one will be able to put up any antennas. It will be too hot and miserable to work out in that hot sun , getting burned and all that stuff, so guess will have to wait till the weather gets cooler to put up that tower or dipole etc. On another note remember "FIELD DAY" is coming up , so get your stuff together. Put together a box of things to take along ,tape, pocket knife, hammer,screwdrivers, jumper wires with alligator clips on the end , a hatchet(to chop fire wood), extra coax, gas for the generator, extension cords, power outlet boxes, portable lights(for desk top), mast pipe for the flag, tables to set equipment on, FOOD, tools like wrenches screwdrivers etc., plastic to cover equipment (in case it rains), tents, motor homes, BOOM TRUCK. THANKS now I don't have to bring as much! de omo

AMATEUR RADIO STATION K8OMO VOICE MAIL--1-330-935-2960--STANDBY FREQ. 145.370/ 442.350
REPEATERS REMEMBER THE CHOICE OF ONE (YOUR CHOICE) MAY NOT BE THE CHOICE OF ALL. OMO

could you change

my frequency I'm

- getting stuff



AARS April 1997

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Trustees Continued

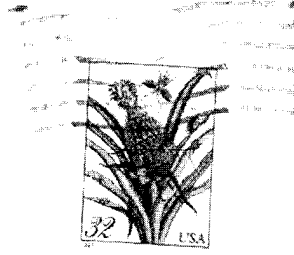
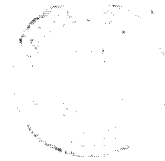
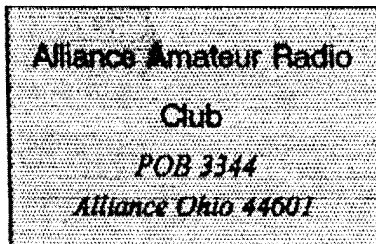
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Editor and Trustees reserve right to edit all submissions. Permission is given to reprint portions of *Zero Beat* as long as credit is given to author and source. Contributions are *extremely welcome* and may be mailed to editor. Please write a few words about what's happening with you and send to editor -- even if it is about astronomy, or rewinding BMW alternators.

R, 4-1-97



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