



Triathlon Time!

This years Carnation Triathlon will be held on Sunday morning, August 12th — A date that does not conflict with any Hamfests.

- Portage– July 29th
- Warren– August 19th

As usual, we need volunteers to help out. The triathlon begins at 8:30 AM, and we will need about 12 operators for the morning. If you can be free that morning, please let me know As soon as possible. (my contact info is printed on page two).

The triathlon course is the same as last years, beginning at West Branch State Park, and ending at Glamorgan Castle.

For your convenience, a map is included in this issue. The Triathlon begins, when the swimmers go into the water, at 8:30 AM, and ends around 12:00– 12:30, at the castle. In between, the participants are asked to swim a 1000 Meter course, followed by a 25 mile bike ride, finishing with a 10 K run through the streets of Alliance.

Fair time!

This issue of the Zero Beat will hopefully reach you before Thursday, the 26th. We have set up a table at the Mile Branch Grange Fair. What we can probably use the most are some warm bodies to man the table, and talk up Amateur Radio. That doesn't sound so tough, does it? We'll be explaining Ham Radio to the public, while we recruit people for our classes.

Ideally, we would like to have two operators for the display for the entire run. The fair schedule is listed on page 7.

If you are able to donate some of your time during the fair, please call Jerry, KG8RN. His contact info is on page two.

Field Day 2001

OFFICIAL OBSERVER ADVISORY NOTICE

Radio: W8LKY your call was heard calling CQ-7D at 1813 UTC

Date: 23 June 2001 Frequency: 7152.00 kHz Mode: LSB Your RST: 59

The following is noted in the interest of maintaining Amateur Radio's reputation for good operating/practice:

1) FREQUENCY INSTABILITY 2) CHIRP 3) SPURIOUS 4) HARMONIC 5) HUM 6) KEY CLICKS 7) BROAD SIGNAL 8) DISTORTED AUDIO 9) OVER DEVIATION 10) OUT OF BAND 11) IMPROPER ID 12) LANGUAGE 13) CAUSING INTERFERENCE 14) CARRIER 20) OTHER

Remarks: When operating lower sideband, the dial frequency must be set at least 3 kHz above the lower band edge. In the case of 40 meters this would be 2153.00 khz. This would ensure that the entire signal will remain in the band. 492.302(b)

Please refer to FCC Regulation 97.305(a).... Please take a few minutes to determine what equipment factors or operating practices might have contributed to this apparent departure from the rule or the good amateur practice standard. The intent of this notice is to alert you to the above noted operating condition. NO REPLY IS NECESSARY. The undersigned ARRL Official Observer has fulfilled this helping role by simply alerting you, and is not required to reply to any correspondence. Thank you for your attention and any cooperative efforts to enhance the high standards of the Amateur Radio Service which we all share with pride.

Signature: [Signature] Call: W3WTD

Who the heck was operating 40 Meters at Field Day? For the life of me, I can't remember. Anyway, we got this QSL, for our efforts. We'll have the results in a later issue.

Meeting Announcement

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, August 1st, in the cafeteria of the Alliance Community Hospital. Talk-in on the K8LTG repeater on 145.37 MHz.

See you there

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Editor

John Myers, KD8MQ
(see above)

Editorial

By John Myers
(whatziscallthisweek?)

We'll, so far, no one has asked me what happened to the July issue of the Zero Beat. From that, I'll surmise that either no one reads it, or that you are OK with my summer publication schedule. I decided to take a couple months off.

As I write this, I'm killing time between classes. I have 1 ½ hours, before my last class. I've just come from the last session of College Composition, where I was learning how to write.

Well, I'm back on a normal schedule for the rest of the year, as I have all morning & Saturday classes. I'm looking forward to checking in on the nets, again. Also, sleeping 8 hours at a time will be nice.

Well, enough of that. How about this years Mall Show? It was pretty pathetic, wasn't it? Not only did we have it on the sixth worst weekend of the year, but, without K-Mart as a draw for customers, we pretty well sat around staring at each other. Adding to that was the confusion over who was in charge.

Don told us at the May meeting that he was **only** securing the mall, and ordering the tables – nothing else. So we can't really blame him. As it turned out, Don

(Continued on page 3)

Meetings

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club meets on the First Wednesday of every month, in the cafeteria of the Alliance Community Hospital. Talk-in is on 145.37 ®. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM. Visitors are always welcome.

Nets

Thursday is our "net night," with the following nets on tap:

Ten meters

CW @ 8PM on 28.400 MHz
SSB @ 8:30PM on 28.400 MHz

2 meters

9 PM on 145.37 MHz

Internet

If you'd like to check us out on the web, our E-mail address is:

W8lky@qsl.net

Our club home page is:

Http://www.qsl.net/w8lky

Newsletter Information

The Zero Beat is a publication of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 3344, Alliance, OH 44601

Unless otherwise noted, permission is freely granted to reprint portions of the Zero Beat, as long as credit is given to the author & source.

You can submit material to the Zero Beat either electronically, to kd8mq@qsl.net . I can read most word processor formats, but prefer your files to be in straight text, or Microsoft Word format.

We also accept handwritten copy. My address is to the left.

Editorial — Continued

(Continued from page 2)

was better than his word. At least **he** was on hand for the Friday night set up.

How many of you were like me, and assumed that someone would organize the show from there. Well, it didn't happen. Those who showed up, deserve a big hand for putting this together on the fly. After the show, we put together a Saturday work party to dismantle the antennas, and take them down from the mall roof. The turnout was anemic, to say the least. The entire job was completed by a two man crew – no one else showed up! Not only was this a horrible turnout, it was probably unsafe as well. If we decide to have another Mall Show, some changes must be made!

But, this is not to say that there weren't some bright spots to the Mall Show. To those who showed up, and donated your time that weekend, thank you - Your hard work, and dedication did not go unappreciated. We got a nice mention, with pictures, on WD8AYE's Stark County ARES Web Site. Who knows how many people became interested in Ham Radio because of Mall Show 2001?

Sorry, if I ruffled some feathers. I would be happy to print your rebuttal.

Now, on to the next sub-

ject – Field Day. My first Field Day was with the Alliance ARC, back in 1981. We set up at Butler-Rodman Park, on the west side of Alliance. In those days, There wasn't a whole lot out there, and it was almost like being in the country. If we got hungry, the Country Manor (now Country Kitchen) was across the road. If we wanted to go for a swim, Bill, W8ZZS rented a room at the hotel, next to the restaurant. We ran QRP, that year to take advan-

If we decide to have another Mall Show, some changes must be made!

tage of the times 5 multiplier. Of course, Mr. Murphy had to get his hand in. Dave, WD8QBG blew a fuse on his FT-101. I don't remember if he ever got it on the air that weekend, or not. Frank, WA8WHP brought his Ten-Tec Argosy, much to the consternation of Doug, KD8P. Seems Doug was hearing Key clicks from the Argosy, all over the band.

Now, here it is, 20 years later, and we are set up at

Marlington Middle School. This year, all the stations went up pretty easily, and without incident. The weather was almost perfect, with what rain we did have lasting only a few minutes. Yes, Mr. Murphy seems to have been exorcised, this year. Maybe he went to someone else's Field Day site, but he sure didn't make an appearance at W8LKY. The only problem that I'm aware of concerned what class we were to be operating. There was some confusion because I chose to set the class at 5A, in anticipation that everyone who brought stations would be on the air at the same time. Next year, we will make sure that this problem doesn't repeat itself. K8OMO advised that the 40 meter station resulted in a quick QSL from the OO. Seems they (Who was operating the 40 meter station, anyhow?) were operating just a bit over the edge of the band. Overall, this was one of the most enjoyable Field Days I've ever attended. How about you?

This issue of the ZB should be hitting your mailbox in time for the Mile Branch Grange Fair. How about stopping by the club booth and helping out for a couple of hours? I'm sure that whoever is running the booth would really appreciate a break.

Well, that's it for a couple months. Hope you have a great summer. DE KD8MO

My first SOS at NMO

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Permission is given to publish this piece as long as no monetary gain is to be made. Please notify me prior to publishing.

Editors note: The rest of the excerpts, as well as a lot of other good info, can be found at <http://www.radiomarine.org/>

In the following true narrative the ship's name and her callsign have been changed.

Part 6: My First SOS at NMO

As mentioned in an earlier part I always sat the 12 hour 500 kc night watch on my duty nights; I loved listening to the steady flow of calls from ships in far off waters. Even though we sat in the Central Pacific I would sometimes even copy a fluttery East Coast US shore station. Throughout the night I would hear ghostly signals, just above the noise level, that would fade in and out from who knows where. Our antenna consisted of a long wire that stretched over one mile in length, and NMO sat in a very electrically quiet region. We were able to copy any ship or shore station anywhere in the Pacific.

One evening, feeling a bit drowsy (0200 local!), I thought I was dreaming when I heard a long dash, a pause, another long dash, a pause, another long dash, a pause, Like an electric shock, adrenalin flooded through me at the speed of light - OH MY GOD - SOMEONE IS SENDING AN AUTO ALARM!

My eyes shot to the clock to time the dashes: 4 seconds on, 1 second off, 4 seconds on, 1 second off - those 12 long dashes almost froze me.

I yelled into the intercom to the chief "Auto Alarm on 500" knowing at the same time alarm bells were ringing on board every ship scattered around the Pacific within radio range of the distressed ship. Recall that when a ship-board operator goes off watch, ITU

rules dictate he leaves a receiver tuned to 500 kc with a decoder attached - if that decoder hears at least four 4-second dashes each with 1-second separation, relays in the decoder will clamp shut triggering alarm bells in the radio room, in the radio officer's sleeping quarters, and up on the bridge, to warn of a distress message about to be sent on 500 kc. Now, the two-tone AA used on the voice SSB MF distress/calling freq of 2182 kc was common: Fishing boat crews played them when they were drunk. But AA's on 500 kc are *never* sent except when a ship is in distress. This was the first one I'd heard since my radioman school days; I can't put into words the terror I felt while sitting out the ITU-required 2 minute wait

(recall that the ITU dictates every step the distressed vessel's radio officer takes: Auto Alarm, then the 2-minute wait [if possible] for off-duty ops on other ships, woken by their Auto Alarm receivers, to race to their radio shacks to copy the distress). 500 kc was now in an extended silent period (see part 2 or 3 [or 4?]). Someone started tuning up and was immediately pounced on by myself: "QRT SOS" was all I needed to send - dead silence. One of the Australian shore stations

was sending a CQ at the same time the AA went out - he must have heard the AA through his CQ for he stopped in mid broadcast. Nothing but an occasional static crash - dead silence. Throughout my brief 500 kc career there had never been a silence like this I thought. Then it came:

SOS SOS SOS CQ DE DJNK DJNK DJNK SOS BT MV PANAMA TRADER HULL CRACKED IN HEAVY SEAS MAJOR FLOODING 42-27N 42-27N 178-51W 178-51W NOW ABANDONING SHIP SOS BT MASTER AR K

Then came the 10 second-long dash (ITU: for direction finding). I was first - in A2 I sent:

SOS DJNK DJND DJNK DE NMO NMO NMO RRR SOS

and after me 500 kc was flooded with ships and shore stations sending sending the ITU response:

RRR SOS:
SOS DJNK DJNK DJNK DE NMC NMC NMC RRR SOS (San Francisco)
SOS DJNK DJNK DJNK DE NOJ NOJ NOJ RRR SOS (Alaska)
SOS DJNK DJNK DJNK DE NMQ NMQ NMQ RRR SOS (Long Beach, CA)
SOS DJNK DJNK DJNK DE KPH KPH KPH RRR SOS (San Fran.)

ITU dictates a strict format to follow in distresses - from now on every transmission must be proceeded with the SOS prosign along with KFS in California, NRV in Guam, a couple Japan shore stations; the radio operator aboard DJNK must have breathed a sigh of relief and taken some comfort knowing his message was heard by so many.

Once the RRR SOS replies ceased NMO took control; I asked the standard questions for situations such as this:

SOS DJNK DE NMO BT NEED FOLLOWING INFO NR OF POB (number of persons on board) CSE (course) HULL ES SS COLOR (hull and superstructure colors) NR OF BOATS (number of lifeboats) BOAT RADIO FREQS, EPIRB WX, WIND SPD ES DIR, WELL HT ES DIRECTION, CURRENT weather and sea data) BT SOS K

and DJNK patiently answered each. After getting these important answers I had the uncomfortable task of asking:

SOS DJNK DE NMO BT OM PSE CL KEY BEFORE U LV OK? K

(Continued on page 11)

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KB8GIA	Glady's	Wilson	6974 Rolling Ridge NE	Canton	OH	44721	

Picture Pages



As usual,
Jim, K8LTG
keeps the crowds happy
with his demonstration
of PSK 31

From the archives

15 years ago

From the June, 1986, club Newsletter Patti, N8FVU, & Larry, N8EWW, Hillier, editors

- A slate of officers had been elected for the newly re-formed Alliance ARC. They were: President, John Myers, KD8MQ; Vice President, Larry Hillier, N8EWW; Secretary/Treasurer, Patti Hillier, N8FVU. Our ARES Coordinator was Don, K8OMO. Hal Kelly, N8GTX, (now KE8II) was our correspondence chairman.
- Bylaws had been proposed, and were to be discussed, and voted on at the July meeting.
- The Alliance City Hospital was the home for the N8EWW repeater on 145.37.
- We were taking orders for club hats, jackets, and shirts.

10 years ago

from the September, 1991 Zero Beat, Pam Myers, N8IAK, editor.

- The club picnic was to be held on August 31st, at Silver Park.
- The Two Meter net gets a new name, and new manager. It is now the Tri-County News & Information Net, with John, WX8G, at the helm.
- Field Day was just a memory. We made 657 QSOs, with 302 CW, and 355 SSB.
- The water level at West Branch was at its lowest level in years. This made for an interesting swim during that years triathlon. At some points the swimmers were touching bottom on the swim course.

5 Years Ago

From the August/September issue of the Zero Beat, John Myers, WX8G, Editor.

- We were celebrating a rousing success at Field Day, with a grand total of 843 QSOs. These CW vs. SSB derby was in full swing, with the brass-pounders losing to the SSB guys. We had 625 SSB, and only 218 CW QSOs.
- The fox for the Summer hunt was Gary Grimes, KB8GAB. He managed to combine it with family picnic, to Quail Hollow. Official winner was John, WX8G.
- Ham Radio was woven into the plots of two movies in the summer of 1986. They were "Independence Day," and "Phenomenon."
- We included a roster, showing 39 members.



BIKE ROUTE

EXIT W. Branch parking lot to Alliance Rd
 R - Alliance Rd to County 18
 R - County 18 to Rock Springs
 L - Rock Springs to Rt 183/14
 183/14
 183 to Rt. 224
 R - 224 to Industry Rd.
 L - Industry
 Industry/Waterloo
 Industry to Price St.

R - Price to Reeder.
 L - Reeder to Rt. 619
 L - 619 to Abel
 R - Abel to Vine St.
 L - Vine to Sawburg Ave.
 R - Sawburg
 L - Main to Rockhill
 R - Rockhill to Glamorgan
 L - Glamorgan to
 Bike Run Transition

SEE MAP # 2

Z e r o B e a t Picture Pages



Jack prepares to shoot the computer



20 Meters was almost dead enough to put George, K3GP to sleep



Pull .. Two..three..four



Picturesque view of the Field Day site

Zero Beat



Lets build us an an-



Jerry, John, & Ron



Dan, WD8DAU



Don, AB8KV



Jack, W8WEN

My first SOS at NMO-continued

(Continued from page 4)

SOS NMO DE DJNK WILL DO OM

Every shipboard telegraph key has a switch which, when closed, will continuously cause the ship's radio to transmit. This enables rescue aircraft to home in on the distressed vessel using their

direction finding equipment. I had asked the op to close his key switch before he leaves the ship.

At the same time our AMVER computer was generating a printout of the locations of ships transiting the North Pacific: No ships were in DJNK's area! At least no AMVER reporting ships; it's possible there was a ship close to DJNK that wasn't sending us his AMVER position reports. A very slim possibility but a chance we couldn't ignore. I was ordered by our Rescue Center to send the DDD SOS, i.e. to relay DJNK's distress message from our 10 kW transmitter. In A2 I sent:

AUTO ALARM (12 four second dashes with a one second pauses)

then with my hand shaking, clenching the key:

DDD SOS SOS SOS DDD CQ DE NMO
NMO NMO SOS BT

DJNK's message

BT ANY SHIPS IN AREA DIVERT AND ASSIST SIGNED US COAST GUARD
AR DDD SOS K

Dead silence reigned for minutes that seemed like hours. An awful, awful feeling of helplessness overcame me as I sat in that chair with the entire NMO crew standing in silence - all of us knowing at that very moment men were perishing in an icy ocean...

Already we had aircraft in the air heading to DJNK's position so I notified him:

SOS DJNK DJNK DE NMO NMO BT

USCG AIRCRAFT LAUNCHED TO UR
POSN ETA 3 HRS BT HOWS UR
COND? K

SOS NMO DE DJNK HV TO LEAVE
SHIP NOW TU OM FER <high pitched
whine

His transmitter had emitted a - a scream - it actually screamed! I turned to the Chief asking "Is that...?" "Yes, the ocean water just flooded his radio room shorting out his transmitter and batteries."

I couldn't accept this - the man at that key couldn't have just perished! I sent:

SOS DJNK DE NMO

<silence>

SOS DJNK DJNK DE NMO

<silence>

At this point the Chief put his hand on my shoulder and only said, "He can't answer you - he's gone."

Throughout the night at 15 minute intervals I continued to send the Auto Alarm and the DDD SOS to no avail. At daybreak our aircraft reported seeing only debris: bales of hay, which was the cargo of DJNK; no lifeboats, no bodies, only debris.

Even to this day I sometimes hear, in my sleep, the scream DJNK's transmitter emitted that terrifying and horrible night. I pray the crew of that ship rest in peace.

End of Part 6.

Silent Keys

It is with heavy Heart that we report two Silent Keys in the last few months.

First, Steve Been, KB8RJA died in a traffic accident on April 27th. Steve was a friend of Jim (KB8GHZ - SK), and Gladys (KB8GIA), and attended the AARC licensing classes. I don't remember ever seeing him at a meeting, but, he, and his wife, Barb, rarely missed a club Christmas banquet. Our condolences go out to Barb.

(editors note - My apologies for the lateness of this report. I had intended to include it in the June edition, and just forgot)

This other late word comes that long time club member, Sam Simon, WB8ZQX passed away on May 13. I had never met Sam in person, but we spoke once, or twice on the phone. He was a longtime supporter of this club, joining in 1986.

Mile Branch Grange Fair Schedule

Wednesday, July 25	Setup (evening)
Thursday, July 26	4 PM – 11 PM
Friday, July 27 th	4 PM – 11 PM
Saturday, July 28 th	4 PM – 11 PM

August 2001

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																											
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Monthly Planner

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From other club newsletters

From the July issue of the Feedpoint, newsletter of the Carroll Amateur Radio Society, Dan Mutigli, N8LVO, Editor.

- The radio link has returned to the Carroll county sheriffs office. While they no longer have a dedicated radio position there, one can be set up very quickly, using a coax near the dispatchers room.
- Ralph McDonough, K8AN is resigning as District 9 ARES Coordinator, effective with appointment of his replacement.
- The Atwood Lake Triathlon/ Duathlon was held on July 22, with club members handling communications.

From the July issue of the ZARC Carrier, newsletter of the Zanesville ARC, Danny Grandstaff, KB8RIM, Editor

- The Zanesville club reports a membership of 43, and growing.
- This June, they assisted with GOBA (Great Ohio Bicycle adventure). They will be assisting in August with another bike tour – the Wilds ECO Bike Tours.
- They are trying to increase the use of their communications room.

From the June issue of the Feedback, newsletter of the Massillon ARC, Gary Cline, WC8W, Editor

- The Massillon club was offered the plum of safety break assignments. July 4th weekend. The double shift ran from mid-day Monday, through Sunday, July 8th.
- It was noted that, beginning in July, the BBC World Service will no longer broadcast to North America. The full text of the article can be found at on page four of the Massillon newsletter at <http://www.qsl.net/w8np/June%202001.pdf>