

AARC Members Help Out In The 19th Annual Carnation Triathlon by John Myers, KD8MQ

What were you doing at 7 AM, on August 22nd? Well, if you were one of 9 operators who helped out with this year's Carnation Triathlon, you were probably wondering why this thing has to be held so darned early. Well, actually, it was a beautiful day for a race; almost nice enough to warrant getting up early for.

Nine operators volunteered 32 ³/₄ hours of their time to help the 135 triathlon participants to have a great time.

The Carnation Triathlon started a bit late this year at 8:42 AM, at West Branch St. Park, where the

swim was held. As the swimmers left the water, they mounted bic ycles for the ride into Alliance, where they began the run portion of the course.

Operators were positioned at the beginning & end of the pack of participants, as well as at most left-turn intersections. Operators were also placed at some intersections which were deemed especially dangerous. All went smoothly until about 11:45 AM, when we were advised by a couple, that their 15 year old son was lost on either the bike, or run course. While KC8ETZ took them to the Bike – Run transition area, to ascertain if the youngster had completed the bike portion of the course, Don, K8OMO, prepared to re-run the bike course, and search, if necessary.

After it was determined that the boy was on the run course, Sam, KC8ETZ proceeded to drive the run course, hoping to find him. At that time, the Race Director & Police Reserves were brought up to date on the situation. The boy was found, and brought to the finish line by the police reserves, a few minutes later.

The operators participating in this years triathlon were: KD8MQ, K8RLS, KC8ETZ, N8XTJ, KD6MPN, K8OMO, N8NLZ, AB8KV, KA8LKQ



Pe Olde Aleeting Announcement

The next meeting of the Alliance ARC will be on Wednesday, September 1st, in the cafeteria of the Alliance Community Hospital. Our meetings begin at 7:30 PM, and are an excellent opportunity for eyeball QSO's. Directions can be found on the K8LTG Repeater (145.370) See you there!

Officers

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Summer 2004

September is here already and Fall arrives in three more weeks. Didn't there use to be a season between Spring and Fall? Ha!

Actually, I didn't think it was such a bad Summer. The AARC had one of the best Field Days ever, and the Special Event and Triathlon came off without any problems. Bob, K8RLS reports:

We had 50 contacts for the Special Event in the Park. They were as follows: Two on 10-meters and one of those was WA8WHP as he was leaving. Seventeen on 20-meters One SSB on 40-meters Thirty CW on 40-meters The operators were K8OMO, Don; WA8WHP, Frank; K8DXR, Howard; KC8TAC, Joe: W8WEN, Jack; KD8MQ, John; K8RLS, Bob. There were 4 check-ins on 2meters. KC8LIN, Jason, visited the site. All the operators seemed to enjoy the sunny day in the Park. The Special Event had a lot of competition for the air-waves; the New Jersey QSO Party. the North American QSO Party, and a lighthouse contest. Next year we will pick a different day when the air is not so busy. Toward the end of the day, the drive started to fill with parked cars and visitors to the park. We had a few passers-by and a lot of

had a few passers-by and a lot of curious looks but no one stopped to see what we were doing. 73 Bob

The Special Event location in Sil-

(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

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You can submit material to the Zero Beat either electronically, to ke8ve@alliancelink.com, in person, or via snail mail. I can read most word processor formats, but prefer your files to be in straight text, E-mail, or Microsoft Word format.

August Minutes

ALLIANCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

August 4, 2004

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held at the Alliance Community Hospital on August 4, 2004, at 7:30 P. M., with Joe Young KC8TAC, vice president, presiding. Secretary David Glass W8UKQ kept the minutes. There were 18 members and one guest present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given, and introductions were made.

The minutes of the regular meeting for July were published in the newsletter. The total of the treasury balance was reported for the month. The minutes were approved upon motion by Howard KC8YIF, seconded by Jim K8LTG.

Mary Ann KB8IVS reported the treasury balances. The report was approved upon motion by George K3GP, seconded by Howard KC8YIF.

.Old Business: The Special Event is August 21. Set up at 9 AM. Operate 12 to 5 PM.

The Triathlon is August 22.

September, 2004

Volunteers are needed. Meet at the Castle at 7 AM. Swimmers start at 8:30 AM. Don K8OMO will be operating on his motorcycle.

The Hospital paid us \$** for the Homeland Security project.

At the Hamfest we received \$** for equipment that was donated to us.

George K3GP reported that our Field Day score is 3.544 points.

New Business: Don K8OMO moved that the repeater the club received from the Washington Township Fire Department be sold to Eric Gwynne N8HHV for \$**. The motion was seconded by Howard KC8YIF, and approved upon vote.

Rich McDaniel WB8TPG reported that the Robertsville School Building and grounds are available to groups to make use of it.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM upon motion by Frank WA8WHP, seconded by Jim K8LTG.

Respectfully submitted, Dave Glass W8UKQ, Secretary

Summer 2004

(Continued from page 2)

ver Park also provided an excellent spot for viewing the fireworks later that evening. Several Club members took advantage of the opportunity to enjoy the spectacular display, much of which wasn't visible outside the park.

Club members attended several local Hamfests and sold some equipment that was donated to the club. While Hamfest flee markets seemed to be doing fairly good and attendance was not too bad, large vendors aren't showing up much, any more.

John Bray, K8JDB moved to Ashburn, VA. Imagine that! Don, K8OMO sold much of John's collection of electronic gizmos at Portage and Warren Hamfests. John will be missed at meetings and on the air, but he is now close to his family.

Ray, K8DEN has been in Mercy Medical Center, but will be going home on September 1st. He has had several operations and reports that he is sore but feeling better in some respects. Ray will also be missed at the meeting this month. Send him a card.

20/9 will have a booth at the Canfield Fair, September 1st thru 6th. They will be handing out Ham Radio information, copies of their Newsletter and operating a Special Event Station. If you make it to Canfield this year, look for their booth.

THE WAYBACK MACHINE A complete 'phone station of this type could be built

ISSUE #9 by Bill Continelli, W2XOY

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If Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams, or Eugene O'Neill had been amateur radio operators, one of them certainly would have written a play about the VHF frequency allocation battle of the mid 1940's. For, except for sex, this event had all the elements of great drama---Power, Passion, Politics, Greed, and sudden twists and turns in the plot were the hallmark of this epic battle. It hastened the destruction of probably the greatest man in the history of radio, solidified the stranglehold of another in his quest for total television domination, doomed a viable alternative in the infant television industry, and gave birth to the predecessor of CB radio. Got your attention? Then let's open our Playbills and read the

CAST OF CHARACTERS

THE ARRL AND THE 50,000 AMATEUR RADIO **OPERATORS--**

Prior to World War II, hams were virtually the only major users of the "UHF" spectrum (as the frequencies above 25 Mc were then known). They had the use of the 10 meter band (28-30 Mc) and 5 meters (56-60 Mc) since the late 1920's, as well as a small slice of spectrum at 400 Mc. In the late 1930's, the FCC had allocated two new bands to amateurs--2 1/2 meters (112-116 Mc) and 1 1/4 meters (224-230 Mc). Except for 10 meters, most of the operations on these frequencies were done with very simple equipment. Modulated oscillators and superregenerative receivers were the mainstay of their activities. For those not familiar with this type of equipment, a modulated oscillator was a tube coupled to a tuned circuit directly on the desired frequency which was modulated by another tube. Since crystal control and frequency multiplication were not used, the resulting signal varied in both frequency and amplitude when the oscillator was modulated. The only way to receive such an unstable signal was with a superregenerative receiver. Invented by Major Edwin Armstrong in the early 20's, the "supergenny" was extremely sensitive, but very broadbanded. It gave off a loud "rushing" noise (like an FM receiver unsquelched).

with only 3 tubes--an important consideration for the Depression era hams.

Except for limited operation on the 112-116 Mc band in World War II under WERS (War Emergency Radio Service), amateur stations had been silent since December 7, 1941. Now, late in 1944, with the end of the war in sight and new VHF/UHF tubes in production for the War effort, the ARRL was making plans for more bands above 25 Mc.

MAJOR EDWIN H ARMSTRONG--

The unquestioned "Father of Modern Radio", Major Armstrong had experienced several setbacks in the 1920's and 30's, partly because of his secretive nature and uncompromising attitude. He had delayed in cbtaining his original patent on the regenerative detector, and when he did finally apply, he omitted the oscillating properties of the circuit. Lee De Forest challenged Armstrong on this invention by submitting a circuit of his own that he claimed he developed in mid-1912. Armstrong initially won, based on the fact that De Forest's design was basically uncontrolled feedback. When, however, Armstrong flaunted his court victory (by flying a flag with his patent number on it where De Forest could see it), and when Armstrong refused to grant De Forest a license to manufacture regenerative receivers, De Forest went back to court--and this time won. In two separate cases, the Supreme Court ruled that De Forest, not Armstrong, was the inventor of regeneration. This was bad enough, but then Armstrong lost another court battle. Although he had invented the superheterodyne receiver while in France in 1918, it was based partly on a crude, barely functional converter designed by a Frenchman. Despite the obvious superiority of Armstrong's design, the courts ruled against him again.

Desperate for a success to reverse these setbacks, Armstrong turned to the idea of FM. At that time, the late 1920's, the concept of FM was known, but it was widely believed that it was impractical, if not impossible. Armstrong, however, proved them wrong, and by 1933-34 had developed an operational, noise free, wideband FM system. He offered it to RCA, which had the first right of refusal. RCA, for reasons we will see in a moment, declined to fully develop FM, and Arm-

Zero Beat

strong turned to GE. In Schenectady, NY, he found an ally in W.R.G. Baker, a GE Vice President, who saw the potential in FM. With GE's help, he continued to develop FM, got the FCC to allocate a slice of the VHF spectrum for FM broadcasting (42-50 Mc), and set up his first FM broadcasting station-W2XMN in Alpine, NJ. With two other pioneer FM stations, W1XPW in Meriden, CT, and W2XOY in Schenectady coming on the air in 1939-1940, the new Yankee Network was up and running. Armstrong was convinced that, once the war ended, FM would completely replace AM as the broadcasting standard, and he wanted a large chunk of VHF frequencies to accommodate it.

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID SARNOFF AND RCA--

For the first forty five years of it's corporate life, RCA WAS Sarnoff and vice versa. From his humble beginnings as a telegraph boy and the wireless operator who copied the "Olympic" wireless signals about the doomed "Titanic", he had risen quickly in the Marconi organization, and was with RCA from the start. Sarnoff had watched the progress of his old friend Armstrong as he developed FM. However, he had other plans for RCA. Sarnoff was convinced that television was the future and radio was the past. Throughout the 1930's, he had poured millions of RCA's dollars into an all electronic television system, to replace the crude mechanical "spinning disk" sets that were in the experimental stage. By the late 1930's, he had a viable, all electronic system ready to go. On April 20, 1939, at the New York World's Fair, Sarnoff introduced commercial television to the world, using the slices of VHF spectrum that the FCC had set aside for experimental television.

Sarnoff's interest in the VHF frequencies extended beyond obtaining large allocations for television; he also wanted to minimize the frequencies available for FM broadcast. To him, radio was simply radio, an old technology made obsolete by television. He also realized that the public had a limited amount of disposable income available, and he wanted every spare dollar to be spent on TV sets, not FM radios. Sarnoff saw FM broadcasting as a serious threat to his beloved child, and he wasn't going to allow FM to gobble precious VHF frequencies that he felt rightfully belonged to television.

WILLIAM PALEY AND CBS--

Although only a supporting player in this drama, William Paley and his CBS Network almost changed the course of TV history, and, at one point, had both the FCC and the Supreme Court on their side. Paley, through the genius of Peter Goldmark, one of CBS' top engineers, had developed a working color television system with brilliant, lifelike colors more than a decade before RCA's color system was remotely viable.

In 1940, as CBS was looking for a way to get past Sarnoff and RCA's stranglehold of patents on their all electronic black and white system, Peter Goldmark came up with the solution. Going back to the 1920's and the mechanical spinning disk, Goldmark developed a hybrid electronic-mechanical system. Using the spinning disk (which CBS now called the color wheel) with red, blue and green filters, he scanned it with an electron beam. On the receiving end, a similar "color wheel" synchronized to spin at the same speed detected the color signal. On August 28 and September 4, 1940, CBS gave demonstrations of their color TV system to the FCC. The FCC was very impressed with the vivid, sharp clarity of the colors they saw on the screen. By contrast, RCA's color system was an embarrassing flop.

In addition to wanting television to start off directly with color, Goldmark was also convinced that the postwar TV frequency allocations should be on UHF, not VHF. In fact, CBS was so sure that their UHF color system would become the industry standard, that they had no plans to apply for any VHF TV license.

And so, the players in this drama wait in the wings for their cue to come out on the stage. How will they react to the FCC's first VHF allocations proposal, issued in late 1944? Who will live past ACT I? Who will make it to the final curtain call? "The Wayback Machine", with front row seats, will have the answers.

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Zero Beat AMATEUR RADIO..MY EARLY BEGINNINGS

My earliest interest in radio came when I was about 10 years old. My father paid \$20 for a used "Majestic" brand radio. This was a princely sum in mid depressions days. The farm wage was \$45 per month to care for a wife and 3 hungry boys. The radio was an endless source of entertainment for us farm folk.

One winter I had repeated bouts with ear infections and missed a lot of school. I spent much time listening to the afternoon soap operas that included "Old Ma Perkins." Even my mother would sometimes listen. Late afternoon brought the kid's programs with "Jack Armstrong, the All American Boy", "Orphan Annie" and another who offered a secret encoder ring with cereal box tops. Wow!

One day the radio refused to work. How sad! A call to the radio repairman promised to be too expensive. Finally, in desperation, I felt the tubes. One was cold! I cautiously pulled out the tube that had a big 80 on it. My father agreed to take the tube to the radio fix it shop on the way to the feed mill. He returned with a new tube. Using my new skills (?), I saw that two of the pins were larger than the others. I put the tube in place and behold...it

by David C. Hostetler N8NLZ

worked! This was the beginning of serious interest in radio, science and electricity.

Several years later, we moved to the village and I attended the "big" school. We had a science and math teacher who continued to hone the interest of us farm boys in something besides cows and pigs.

Then I met Don. W8MON who would become my first "Elmer." He was a college man, but worked in the local bank. When I wanted to know if he was on the air, I would tune that "Majestic" radio to the low end of the band and there was Don, calling "CQ 160". I often made a beeline for his house. His mother was a gracious lady and tolerated the interruptions. Don had a very impressive radio room. There was a huge rack that glowed, hummed and meters that danced. His receiver was big a "Hammarlund" with lots of knobs and dials. He would hold a light bulb with a loop of wire, near wire going to the antenna. It would glow brighter or dimmer as he tuned the transmitter. I did not understand, but it sure was impressive.

Don often let me assist him. Like the time he decided to put up a-new-160-meter wire an-

tenna. I got to hold the 2x4 out the car window on the way home. We measured that long wire 3 times to be sure it was the proper length. I got to climb to the roof of his big house and wire the 2x4 onto the chimney. I also was allowed to climb to the peak of a neighbor's barn and fasten the other end of the antenna. Don called "CO CO W8MON listening up and down the band." We were both pleased when the first CQ was quickly answered. All our work paid off. I often got to talk on the air. That was always a thrill.

W8MON's signal was heard on other radios. Once Bill Johnson was listening to him at the local grocery store. The owner called Don, who then said on the air. ."Bill Johnson you had better get home! " Bill was so upset he went home without his groceries.

This was the start of my interest in Amateur Radio that would not be completed for 50 years.

Editor's note:

I would like to thank David, N8NLZ, and John, KD8MQ for their material this month. And of course, Dave, W8UKQ and Bob, K8RLS who provide the minutes, event calendar and other items every month.

September, 2004

September 2004

Happy Birthday to: KC8HUV, KB8GIA, K8JDB, N8DA, KC8TJQ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August S M T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		1 AARC Meeting 7:30 CARROLL COUNTY NET 8:00PM 147.075	2 AARC NETS 8:00, 8:30, 9:00 QCWA Net 7:30	3 KC8HUV	4 AGCW Straight Key Party All Asian DX Contest, Phone IARU Region 1 Field Day, SSB RSGB SSB Field Day Russian RTTY WW Contest SILVERCREEK ARA VE, RITTMAN, OH	
5 DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	6 ARS Spartan Sprint COLUM. COUNTY TRAINING NET 8:00PM KB8GIA LABOR DAY MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint	7 Stark county ares net 7pm 147.120 K8JDB Northern columbiana ares net 9pm 147.255	8 CARROLL COUNTY NET 8:00PM 147.075 YLRL Howdy Days	9 AARC NETS 8:00, 8:30, 9:00 QCWA Net 7:30	10 MASSILLON NET 8:00PM 147.18	11 ARRL September VHF QSO Party CIS DX Contest, RTTY Swiss HTC QRP Sprint WAE DX Contest, SSB
12 ARCI End of Summer PSK31 Sprint CUYAHOGA ARS VE, INDEPENDENCE, OH N8DA North American Sprint, CW Tennessee QSO Party Western Pennsylvania Section Convention, Butler, PA	13 colum. county training net 8:00pm	14 Stark county ares net 7PM 147.120 CUYAHOGA FALLS ARC VE, STOW, OH MBIANA ARES NET 9PM 147.255	15 CARROLL COUNTY NET 8:00PM 147.075	16 AARC NETS 8:00, 8:30, 9:00 QCWA Net 7:30	17 MASSILLON NET 8:00PM 147.18	18 ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest Collegiate QSO Party QCWA QSO Party QRP Afield Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW South Carolina QSO Party Washington State Salmon Run
19 Greater Cincinnati ARA Hamfest. Cincinnati, OH North American Sprint, SSB	20 colum. county training net 8:00Pm	21 stark county ares net 7PM 147.120 Northern columbiana ares net 9PM 147.255	22 CARROLL COUNTY NET 8:00PM 147.075 TWENTY OVER NINE ARC VE, YOUNGSTOWN, OH	23 AARC NETS 8:00, 8:30, 9:00 QCWA Net 7:30	24 Massillon Net 8:00PM 147.18	225 Alabama QSO Party Arkansas QSO Party CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY KC8TJQ MAHONING VALLEY ARA VE, HUBBARD, OH Texas QSO Party
226 222 MHz Fall Sprint Fall QRP Homebrewer Sprint Hamfest Association of Clevel- and Hamfest, Cleveland, OH UBA ON Contest, 6m WARREN ARA VE, NEWTON FALLS, OH	27 Colum. county training NET 8:00PM	28 Stark county ares net 7pm 147.120 Northern columbiana ares net 9pm 147.255	29 CARROLL COUNTY NET 8:00PM 147.075	30 AARC NETS 8:00, 8:30, 9:00 QCWA Net 7:30	$\begin{array}{c cccc} \hline October \\ \hline S & M & T & W & T & F & S \\ \hline & 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 \\ 10 & 11 & 12 & 13 & 14 & 15 & 16 \\ 17 & 18 & 19 & 20 & 21 & 22 & 23 \\ 24 & 25 & 26 & 27 & 28 & 29 & 30 \\ 31 \end{array}$	

Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.

September 2004



Alliance Amateur Radio Club P.O. Box 3344 Alliance, OH 44601

News From the ARRL

BPL trials in Cottonwood, AZ are causing noise levels in excess of 60 db over S9 on the Ham HF bands. The ARRL has asked the FCC to shut down the field trials immediately and until the interference problems can be solved. So far there has been no response.

The ARRL is planning to ask the FCC to regulate the Ham subbands by bandwidth instead of by mode. They would like to hear your comments on this. The proposal and background information is available on their web site.

If you like to collect wall paper, you might like to look for stations transmitting their call followed by /135 in honor of Hiram Percy Maxim's 135 birthday anniversary. Maxim, founder of the ARRL, was born September 2, 1869. He died February 17, 1936. ARRL officials and lifetime members are eligible to append /135 to their call signs. The event will run from September 2 - 10. If you work 25 of the /135 stations you will be eligible for a certificate.

An airport hanger in Orlando, FL that housed the AMSAT laboratory was damaged by hurricane Charlie and must be torn down. While AMSAT didn't lose any equipment, they must now find a new location to store their equipment and are in need of emergency funds. They are looking for tax deductible contributions.

W8LKY is listed among the ARRL Field Day logs that have been received.

The Vanity Callsign fee has been raised from \$16.30 to \$20.80 effective August 10th.

If you haven't already found this web page, you might want to check it out. http://www. hampage.com/ It is a page with links to Ham related information. Check it out and then bookmark it for future reference.

Much more information on all these topics is available on the ARRL's website or in QST.