

Alliance Amateur Radio Club



Volume XXII, no 7

http://www.w8lky.org

July 2008

Serving the Tri-County area since 1986

AARC Summer fox hunt scheduled!

Well, The latest fox practice run has come, & gone. Now it's time to put those skills to the test in the AARC Summer Foxhunt. The starting line for this hunt will again be Glamorgan castle. Plan on arriving by 2 PM. The box will be turned on at 2:15 PM. We will be using 147.51 for a hunt frequency.

For this hunt the box will be deployed by itself. Once you find the fox, follow the instructions on the box, to mark your time/distance, and find the rest of the hunters. We won't be far away.

Hopefully, we'll have good weather this time. But, just in case, you may want to bring umbrellas.

AARC invited to operate from 7 Ranges

The club has been invited to set up a Amateur Radio Demonstration this October for the Boy scouts at the 7 Ranges scout camp, in Kensington. This would take place during the weekend for Jamboree On The Air, which will coincide with the scouts camporall. The date would be October 18th.

Are you interested in helping with this October Field Day type operation? It would be more of a PR type of operation, as we attempt to "sell" Amateur Radio to the scouts, and their leaders.

We'll be talking about this at the next meeting.

Flash drive warning!

I was planning to have this issue out the Monday before Field Day weekend. Unfortunately, my flash drive had some other ideas.

The Zero beat was about 75% complete, when I did a save. Unfortunately, the flash drive had other ideas. The resulting file was corrupted, and unusable. After speaking to tech support at Memorex, Their drives do not work well in all computers. Voltage and current requirements of flash drives vary, depending on manufacturer.

Apparently, Memorex & Dell do not work well together. I was left with a corrupted Zero Beat, and a TMP file that can only be resurrected if I spend large sums of money on a data recovery program.

Funny thing is that I've used PNY's, & SanDisk's for years with nary a problem. No more Memorex for this editor!

Field Day 2008!

Field Day is coming up this weekend. We are setting up at Marlington Middle School.

Look for full coverage, and pictures in the next ZB.

Meeting Announcement

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, July 2nd, at the Alliance Community Hospital, in the cafeteria conference room.

Please join us as we swap lies about how many Q's we worked at Field Day.

Meetings begin at 7:30 PM. We hope to see you there!

Before the meeting, some of us get together at 6 PM, for food, & fellowship, at Don Pancho's Tex-Mex Café (2105 W. State St.).

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Officers

President

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Editor

John Myers, KD8MQ (See above)

Ramblings

By John, KD8MQ

I apologize; I'm running terribly late with this issue. I had the electronic equivalent of "The dog eating my homework".

The Zero Beat was about 75% finished Sunday night, when my flash drive crashed, and I lost it all. I had backups to protect only the minutes, and the calendar. So, everything else had to be re-constructed from scratch.

For that reason, I lifted more material than usual from the ARRL Letter. Usually, I source some material from the letter, then paraphrase it. No time this month.

It's time to start thinking about holding licensing classes in the fall. Finding a classroom once a week is no problem. I hope that finding instructors will not be a problem. We have 2 months to advertise this. In between, there's Field Day, and Mile Branch Grange Fair (Should we decide to set up there). What do you think? Are you up for it?

You don't need to be a super ham, or have a doctorate in Physics, to teach. Just a desire to help.

What's in it for us? How about the advancement of our hobby, and some new faces at our club activities. It would also be a nice tie-in to the BSA Venture crew project.

I just spent the last 4 months doing a remodeling, and preparing our home for sale. Hopefully, by the end of summer, we'll be in a larger QTH.

See you at Field Day.

73, de KD8MQ

Meetings

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club meets on the First Wednesday of every month. Check the meeting announcement on page 1, for the location. 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

The Homeland security Net meets on the last Tuesday of the month, at 7:30 PM, on 147.51 simplex

Internet

Web: www.w8lky.org

E-mail: W8lky@w8lky.org

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 via e-mail to kd8mq@neo.rr.com

May Minutes

May 7, 2008

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held at the Alliance Community Hospital on May 7, 2008 at 7:30 PM with club President Jim Ferguson, K8LTG presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by introductions. There were 18 members present, along with Miriam Sanor.

President Jim called the club's attention to a newspaper article about the woodworking talents and generosity of member Dave, N8NLZ. Pastor Dave threatened to deliver a sermon if called upon to give a speech.

Club Secretary Don, AB8KV gave the Secretary's report, noting that the April minutes were in the newsletter and soliciting input from the members for any new ideas for Field Day publicity. The Secretary's report was approved on a motion from John, KD8MQ and seconded by Jerry, KG8RN.

Mary Ann, KB8IVS then gave the Treasurer's report. The report was accepted on a motion by Smitty, KC8TJQ and seconded by Howard, K8DXR. <u>Old business:</u>

Vice-President John, KD8MQ noted information on two items: Regarding the proposed fund raiser, there had been no change in the status since the last meeting, so no further discussion was held at this meeting. Also, he gave a rundown on the recent foxhunt and noted that the automatic "fox box" he had been working on was now nearly complete and could be used on the next foxhunt. He also reported that the newsletter had tentative schedules for future foxhunts as well as practice runs. The first practice run is May 11 from 2-5 PM.

John also noted that the Jaycee pavilion had been secured for the special events station during Carnation Days, and reminded the club about the Triathlon on August 17.

The balance of old business discussion revolved around Field Day, with a number of items up for consideration, including the questions of food and networking software. Rick, KC8SUI stated that he might be able to work a deal on obtaining subs from Subway. He would check on it and let the club know at the next meeting. Vice President John said that he would again get the drinks and also the port-a-pot. Miriam volunteered to bring cookies, and John and Howard would supply coolers to keep food items in.

The discussion concerning software tended to support the idea of using the same package as last year, with some additional work to iron out one or two difficulties encountered.

The club settled on a classification of 3A, noting that the GOTA rule changes implemented for this year would apparently require a either a newly licensed person to operate that station, or at least someone who had not operated such a station the previous year. Radios and antennas were available to at

least cover 40 and 20 meters, but it was noted that what was really needed was an adequate number of operators.

The Marlington middle school site has been secured. <u>New business:</u>

Rick noted that the Search and Rescue group he participates in would be involved in a water safety extravaganza on June 21. Operators were welcome.

The club was reminded that the Dayton Hamvention was coming up next weekend.

With no further new business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM on a motion by Smitty, seconded by Rick.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Don, AB8KV, Secretary.

June Minutes

June 4, 2008

The regular meeting of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club was held at the Alliance Community Hospital on June 4, 2008 at 7:30 PM with club President Jim Ferguson, K8LTG presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by introductions. There were 16 members present, along with Miriam Sanor and Tom Steele.

Club Secretary Don, AB8KV gave the Secretary's report, noting that the May minutes were not in the newsletter due to his submitting them too late to make the deadline. A copy of the minutes was available during the meeting and they would be published in the next newsletter. The Secretary's report was approved on a motion by Joe, KC8TAC and seconded by Howard, K8DXR.

Mary Ann, KB8IVS then gave the Treasurer's report. The report was accepted on a motion by Howard, K8DXR, and seconded by Smitty, KC8TJQ. Old business:

Vice-President John, KD8MQ commented about the recent fox hunt practice run. No one found the fox but the fox box, which he brought along for everyone to see, is functioning well. The next practice run will be held on June 14 between noon and 4 PM on a frequency of 147.51. The next actual hunt will be held in July.

Discussions about Field Day:

An answer about food from Subway is still pending, although it was suggested that 2-4 trays of subs would be an appropriate quantity, with pick-up scheduled for around 11 AM to 12 noon on Saturday with a 3day advance notice to Subway. President Jim stated that he would handle ordering the Subway food.

Howard, K8DXR said that he was planning to bring some type of food, but was still unsure about what it would be.

VP John reiterated that he would be bringing the pop and water and that the port-apot was ordered, with a confirmation call to be made the day after the meeting.

It was decided that the active stations would be concentrated on 40/80 meters, 20 meters and perhaps 15 or 10 meters depending upon propagation conditions. George's 20 meter beam would again be available, with Howard bringing it. Discussion concerning other antennas and necessary hardware then followed. The same networking software as last year is to be used, and those participating will need to have wireless networking capability for their laptops.

John then noted that for this year, the demonstration mode has been dropped, being replaced by an instructional or educational mode.

John then reported that during the recent meeting about the Triathlon, it was decided not to change the route for this year. However, it may change next year. The event is scheduled for August 17.

He also reminded the club that the Jaycee pavilion has been reserved for the Special Event Station during Carnation Days, for the August 16 date. The primary band will be 40 meters with other bands to be utilized as time and propagation allow <u>New business:</u>

Jerry, KG8RN then made note of several items.

The club has been invited back to the Mile Branch Grange fair in late July. This time, no payment will be required in order to participate.

The club missed a good opportunity to participate in the Knox Safety Day last fall. He felt we should make the effort this year and that the event would be held earlier, sometime in September.

He then reported that he had heard legislation had been introduced in Ohio concerning a PRB-1 law.

Don, K8OMO noted that there is an upcoming State Parks day, with amateur radio stations invited to set up in the parks and operate from those locations. He reported that Tony, KD8BBK had requested permission to use the club call sign for a set-up, probably at Quail Hollow. The date for this event is supposed to be September 6.

With no other business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM on a motion from Howard and seconded by Frank, WA8WHP.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Don, AB8KV, Secretary.

W1AW ANNOUNCES 2008 FIELD DAY BULLETIN SCHEDULE

Stations active during ARRL Field Day -- June 28-29 -- are eligible to receive 100 bonus points for copying the special Field Day bulletin transmitted by W1AW (or K6KPH on the West Coast) according to the schedule below. You must include an accurate copy of the message in your Field Day submission. The Field Day bulletin must be copied via Amateur Radio; it will not be included in Internet bulletins sent out from Headquarters and will not be posted to Internet BBS sites.

W1AW will operate on the regularly published frequencies. The special PSK31 bulletin will be transmitted on the regular W1AW teleprinter frequencies. **CW frequencies:** 1.8175, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675 and 147.555 MHz **Teleprinter frequencies (includes PSK31):** 3597.5, 7.095, 14.095, 18.1025, 21.095, 28.095 and 147.555 MHz **Phone frequencies:** 1.855, 3.990, 7.290, 14.290, 18.160, 21.390, 28.590 and 147.555 MHz

Friday

CW: 5 PM PDT, 6 PM MDT, 7 PM CDT, 8 PM EDT Teleprinter: 6 PM PDT, 7 PM MDT, 8 PM CDT, 9 PM EDT Phone: 6:45 PM PDT, 7:45 PM MDT, 8:45 PM CDT, 9:45 PM EDT CW: 8 PM PDT, 9 PM MDT, 10 PM CDT, 11 PM EDT

Saturday

CW: 7 AM PDT, 8 AM MDT, 9 AM CDT, 10 AM EDT Phone: 8 AM PDT, 9 AM MDT, 10 AM CDT, 11 AM EDT CW: 5 PM PDT, 6 PM MDT, 7 PM CDT, 8 PM EDT Teleprinter: 6 PM PDT, 7 PM MDT, 8 PM CDT, 9 PM EDT Phone: 6:45 PM PDT, 7:45 PM MDT, 8:45 PM CDT, 9:45 PM EDT

Sunday

CW: 7 AM PDT, 8 AM MDT, 9 AM CDT, 10 AM EDT Phone: 8 AM PDT, 9 AM MDT, 10 AM CDT, 11 AM EDT PSK31: 9 AM PDT, 10 AM MDT, 11 AM CDT, 12 PM EDT

Quote o' the Month

Never trust a Memorex flash drive! KD8MQ

Fox Hunt Practice Run suffers from power shortage!

The fox box was deployed for a practice run on June 14th, and worked flawlessly. . . . Right up to the point where the battery died.

I had some issues with the charger, which prevented the battery from getting a full charge prior to the practice run. A modification to the battery charging circuit is planned, and will be in place before the July 20th hunt. We deployed the Fox Box at noon. I drove around for a while, using the signal to test my tape measure beam. Just after I headed for home, and out of range, the box went into "Low-Voltage to a Radio Shack handheld mode". Of course, it rained soon after. By the time we returned to collect the box at 4 PM, it was totally dead.

But, checking the log, we found that two operators had

successfully found the Fox, and signed the log. That's a not bad, for a rainy Saturday afternoon.



"WE DO THAT" WITH AMATEUR RADIO

The third ARRL Public Relations campaign -- "We Do That - with Amateur Radio" -- celebrates the technology side of ham radio <http://www.helloradio.org/wedothat/>. According to **ARRL** Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, Amateur Radio means many things to many people. "What is it about Amateur Radio that arouses the interest of people?" Pitts asked. "You have the fun, friendship and hobby side. We showcased this side in 2006 with our 'Hello' campaign <http://www.hello-radio.org/hello/>. You have the emergency service side. We brought this valuable part of Amateur Radio to the public's eve in 2007 with 'Emergency Radio -- Getting the Message through for Your Family and Community' <<u>http://emergency-radio.org/</u>>. And now you have the technology and creative side. In 2008, we are capitalizing on this third prong, getting word out to the public that there is tons of stuff you can do with Amateur Radio." Unveiled at the 2008 Dayton Hamvention this past May, this new coordinated public relations effort shows the world the technological activities and creative imaginations that Amateur Radio's people love. Like the previous public relations campaigns, Pitts said, this is a campaign with several interlocking parts.

* Public Service Announcements

There are Public Service Announcements (PSAs) that commercial radio stations can utilize, getting word out to the public about the benefits that ham radio operators can provide. Check these out on the ARRL Public Information Officer Web site <<u>http://www.arrl.org/pio/</u>>; more will be coming out as the year unfolds. These mp3 files are easily downloaded and can be taken to local radio stations. "Many radio stations have a public service obligation they need to fulfill, and these PSAs are a great way for them to do so, while showcasing the neat things we do as hams," Pitts said. * Brochures

ARRL has created an attractive brochure that celebrates ham technology <<u>http://</u><u>www.arrl.org/brochures/</u>>. This brochure shows hams doing many exciting activities, from Green Radio -- Amateur Radio using renewable energy sources -to the search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI) through time and space itself. These brochures, in packs of 25, are available at no cost except for a small shipping fee.

* WeDoThat-Radio.org

A new special Web site has been created just for this campaign "Maximizing the strong points of the Hello-Radio and Emergency-Radio Web sites before it, WeDoThat-Radio.org <<u>http://www.wedothat-</u> <u>radio.org/</u>> uses some of the newer technologies similar to the blog format, allowing for easy topic additions and changes, even providing a place for visitors to ask questions," Pitts said. * Stickers

Let's admit it, hams and kids like free things and stickers are fun. So we made up a bunch to share. If you happen to have a presentation to students, it's a nice touch. These are "free while the supply lasts," Pitts said.

* "Talk on a Disk"

What began as an experiment in 2007 has since become a major success. The ARRL's "Talk on a Disk" was quickly snatched up and used by people making presentations to groups. This CD contains all the materials you need to make a good PowerPoint presentation before a non-ham group, including slides and supportive audio and video. "For 2008, we created a brand new 'Talk on a Disk' highlighting the technology campaign and coordinated with the brochures. It can make almost anyone look good in front of a group. Just follow the script! Or, you can modify it to meet local needs." said Pitts. If you have a presentation to make and want to talk about the technology of ham radio, please e-mail Pitts about it <a>apitts@arrl.org>.

* "Swiss Army Knife for PIOs" The 2008 "Knife," Pitts said, is actually a CD with all the basic forms and information a Public Information Officer (PIO) should need -- all in one place. "Last year, we produced more than 1000 of these and they were all snatched up," Pitts said. With audio and video files, documents in computer forms that PIOs can modify to meet local needs, as well as hundreds of pointers and ideas, the "Swiss Army Knife for PIOs" has become a mainstay for public relations work. Disks are available for PIOs by sending Pitts an e-mail <<u>apitts@arrl.org</u>>.

* Every Ham is a PIO

"There is a saying," Pitts said, "that all news is local -- and it is true. If there is not a local or personal 'hook' to a story, it does not make it into the news. Because of this, the Public Information Officers in your area are critical to the local perception of Amateur Radio." When PIOs take these materials and modify them for local use, it affects everything from antenna regulations to club membership levels. But it is not just up to the PIOs to achieve positive publicity for hams, Pitts said. "There is another saying, 'Every ham is a PIO.' When people become curious about Amateur Radio they turn to the first ham operator they find and that conversation is crucial to the future. All the brochures, TV ads, radio and news stories are of no benefit if that initial conversation with a potential recruit is not positive. PIOs can only 'bring the fish to the boat.' It is up to every ham to be ready to bring them in by taking the time and effort to make the initial one-on-one contact a positive experience. In the end, 'It takes a ham to make a ham.""

* Need Help?

There is a wealth of materials available on the ARRL PIO Web site for anyone to use <<u>http://www.arrl.org/pio/</u>>. Here you can find background information handouts for media, as well as all sorts of helpful files and tips. Each month, Pitts puts out "CONTACT!," an e-zine for ARRL PIOs that contains ideas. information and timely materials. The ARRL Public Relations Committee is also able to aid groups facing unusual problems or situations. These PR veterans have a wealth of knowledge you can draw upon. There is a public relations email reflector where PIOs from around the country share their problems, ideas and successes with other PIOs.

* It's Up to You

The energies that your club -- and you as an individual -- put into positive PR work will pay off for your radio future in many ways, Pitts said. "Go show the world that 'It's not just your grandfather's radio anymore."

July 2008 Happy Birthday to: K8CMI and WA89NEJ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
$\begin{array}{c c} June \\ \underline{S \ M \ T \ W \ T \ F \ S} \\ \hline 1 \ 2 \ 3 \ 4 \ 5 \ 6 \ 7 \\ 8 \ 9 \ 10 \ 11 \ 12 \ 13 \ 14 \\ 15 \ 16 \ 17 \ 18 \ 19 \ 20 \ 21 \\ 22 \ 23 \ 24 \ 25 \ 26 \ 27 \ 28 \\ 29 \ 30 \end{array}$		1 Canton ARES Net 7pm 147.12 N. Col. Cty Net 9pm 147.255 RAC Canada Day Contest	2 AARC Meeting 7:30pm	3 10 meter NRAUA- ctivity Conte- st (NAC) AARC Nets 8:00, 8:30, 9:00	4 Digital Pent- athlon (5) Independence Day MI-QRP Club July 4th CW Sprint	5 DL-DX RTTY Contest MI-QRP Club July 4th CW Sprint Original QRP Contest Summer Venezuelan Independence
6 DL-DX RTTY Contest KD8AMX Carroll Cty. Nets 8pm &9pm Original QRP Contest Summer QRP ARCISummer Homebrew Sprint Summer Homebrew Sprint Venezuelan Independence	7 Columbiana Cty. Train. Net 8pm	8 ARS Spartan Sprint Canton ARES Net 7pm 147.12 N. Col. Cty Net 9pm 147.255	9	10 AARC Nets 8:00, 8:30, 9:00 Massilon Net 147.18 8pm	11	12 FISTS Summer Sprint IARU HF World Championship NOARSFEST Ham- fest, Wellington
13 IARU HF World Championship KD8AMX Carroll Cty. Nets 8pm & 9pm SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	14 Columbiana Cty. Train. Net 8pm	15 Canton ARES Net 7pm 147.12 K8CMI - Jerry N. Col. Cty Net 9pm 147.255	16 MOON Contest	AARC Nets 8:00, 8:30, 9:00 Massilon Net 147.18 8pm NAQCC Straig- ht Key/Bug Sprint	18	<i>19</i> COLUMBIANA ARC VE, LISBON CQ World-Wide VHF Contest DMC RTTY Contest Feld-Hell Club Sprint North American QSO Party
20 CQ World-Wide VHF Contest DMC RTTY Contest KD8AMX Carroll Cty. Nets 8pm &9pm North American QSO Party RSGB Low Power Field Day (1) The Great Colorado Gold Rush Van Wert Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Van Wert	21 Columbiana Cty. Train. Net 8pm Run For The Bacon QRP Contest	22 Canton ARES Net 7pm 147.12 N. Col. Cty Net 9pm 147.255	23 SKCC Sprint	24 AARC Nets 8:00, 8:30, 9:00 Massilon Net 147.18 8pm WA8NEJ - Preston	25	26 IOTA SWL Contest RSGB IOTA Contest WRECS VE, BENTLEYVILLE
27 IOTA SWL Contest KD8AMX Carroll Cty. Nets 8pm &9pm Portage Hamfair '08 Hamfest, Randolph RSGB IOTA Contest WARREN ARA VE, NEWTON FALLS	28 Columbiana Cty. Train. Net 8pm	29 Canton ARES Net 7pm 147.12 Homeland Security Net 8pm 147.51 SIMPLEX N. Col. Cty Net 9pm 147.255	30	31 AARC Nets 8:00, 8:30, 9:00 Massilon Net 147.18 8pm	3 4 10 11 17 18	August T W T F S 5 6 7 8 9 12 13 14 15 16 19 20 21 22 23 26 277 28 29 30

Amateur Radio... When all else fails.

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

The AARC Wayback Machine

Here again are some of the highlights from the last 20 years of the Zero Beat. you can read them at <u>http://</u>www.w8lky.org/newsltrs/.

July, 1988, (editor N8IAK)

- ⇒ Pam announced that she was discontinuing the "Ham of the Month" feature, in favor of a "Spotlight on local Hams" feature.
- ⇒ On May 31, the Roadway terminal burned, sending a chemical cloud over the north end of town. Many people were evacuated, and lots of businesses closed for the day. (ed. note We could hear the sounds of cans popping o v e r a m i l e a w a y .) The local ARES group was not called out, however, the city began thinking seriously about putting together some emergency preparedness plans.
- \Rightarrow AARC members had assisted with communications for an aerobatic competition at Berlin Aeropark.
- \Rightarrow The club had been offered space to set up an

information table, and special event station during the Taylorcraft fly-in at Barber airport.

 \Rightarrow Planning was getting started for Novice classes to be held in the fall.

July, 1993, (editor N8LVO)

- \Rightarrow John, your editor gave a first person account of the bitterly cold spring fox hunt. Dan N8LVO, who was the fox for the hunt challenged that he would never be found. Don, K8OMO asked him what made him think anyone was looking for him?
- \Rightarrow OMO lost his tower to an early June storm.
- ⇒ We were putting together a covered dish dinner for Field Day 1993. Dave, N8NLZ volunteered to cook the evening meal, and breakfast the next day.
- \Rightarrow The Zero Beat received an excellent rating from the Amateur Radio News Service.
- \Rightarrow Current club membership stood at 43 members

(There were no July, 1998, or 2003 issues of the Zero Beat)