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Volume XXX, No 4

[www.w8lky.org](http://www.w8lky.org)

March 2017

Welcome to another issue of the Zero Beat. This is a Monthly newsletter devoted to announcements of upcoming news, & events of interest to members of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club. More information on the Alliance Amateur Radio Club can be found on our website at [www.w8lky.org](http://www.w8lky.org). I'm your editor, John, KD8MQ.

Unless otherwise noted, feel free to copy anything you see here for use in your club newsletter. All we ask is that credit to be given to the Zero Beat.

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## KD8MQ Rambling

K8OMO SK

Well, after 20 or 30 odd years of doing the Zero Beat, you'd think that I'd get used to doing Obits. It doesn't get any easier. This one is for Don, K8OMO. By now, you all are probably aware that Don passed away at 1PM on March 12th.

Don was a good friend to this club. He was even President for a while. There wasn't much that OMO didn't have an opinion on, and he wasn't afraid to share it. But he was a good friend, both to myself, and to this club.

At Don's request, the services were kept small, and private. Scroll down for both his obituary, and the leaflet from his service.

With that, I'll tie the ribbons on it, and say see you at the next meeting!

73,

(The following comes from the March 14th issue of the Alliance Review.)

## Donovan P. Whitaker

**Published: March 14, 2016 3:00 AM**

Donovan P. Whitaker, 70, of Alliance, went home to be with the Lord, his family, friends and favorite cat, Jasper, at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 12, 2016, at Aultman Hospital.

Born on March 28, 1945, in Columbus, Ohio, to Louis and Mabel (VanMeter) Whitaker, he lived in the Marlboro and Alliance areas for all of his life and attended Marlinton High School and received his GED from Canton South.

Don carried a great passion and ability to help others. He enjoyed his hobby of amateur radio known by his call of K8OMO. He was a member of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club, serving as past president. Other radio clubs included Skywarn, the ARRL Amateur Radio Association and Vibroplex Key Collector Association, among other ham clubs.

Don acquired his first ham license at the age of 15 and continued progressing over the years, helping many others get their license and enjoy the hobby. Don's other hobbies in his early years included racing his V-8 powered 57 MG to flying model airplanes with radio buddies and field days with the radio club. He also enjoyed riding his motorcycle with his ham radio on his side.

Don's working career consisted of 28 1/2 years at Monarch/Teledyne Rubber in Hartsville. After that, he started his own business of D&B Erectors using his 75-foot boom crane to set trusses, air conditioners and light poles for area businesses. He especially enjoyed using his truck to put up ham radio towers for friends and club members.

Don had a great love for his wife of 51 years, Cheryl A. "Sherry" (Coy) Whitaker, whom he married on Nov. 9, 1963, in Stephens Chapel at First United Presbyterian Church.

Other survivors include his son, Brian S. (Gail) Whitaker of Alliance; two granddaughters, Christine (Ed) Weisgarber of Massillon and Courtney Whitaker of Alliance; a great-granddaughter, Pearl Weisgarber; a brother, Louis (Marie) Whitaker Jr. of Alliance; and several nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents.

Private funeral services will be held. Burial will immediately follow at Mt. Union Cemetery.

Memorial contributions are suggested to Alliance Amateur Radio Club.

Arrangements are by the Sharer-Stirling-Skivolocke Funeral Home. Online condolences can be given at [www.sharerfuneralhome.com](http://www.sharerfuneralhome.com). (3-14-16)



Funeral Directors Since 1841  
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### *On Eagle's Wings*

*And He will raise you up  
on eagle's wings,  
bear you on  
the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine -  
like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm  
of His hand.*



## *In Memory*



*In Loving Memory*  
**Donovan P. Whitaker**  
March 28, 1945 - March 12, 2016

*Place & Time Of Service*  
Funeral Home Chapel  
Thursday, March 17, 2016  
10:00 a.m.

*Officiating*  
Rev. James McCurdy

*Interment*  
Mt. Union Cemetery

*Arrangements By*  
Sharer-Stirling-Skivolocke Funeral Home  
Alliance, Ohio

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## Meeting Announcement

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the alliance Community Hospital. Our meetings begin at 7:30, and are held in the Cafe Conference Room, which is just off the Cafeteria.

Before the meeting, feel free to join us for dinner at Frank's Alliance Family Restaurant at 428 E. State St., Also in Alliance. We meet there at 5:45.

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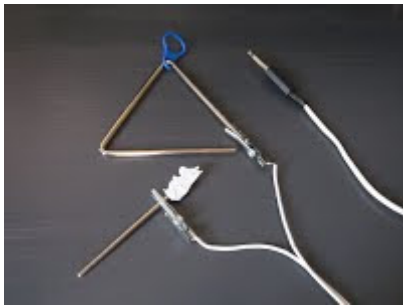
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## Alliance ARC To Hold Wacky Key Night In April



OK folks, the Annual Alliance ARC Wacky Key Night is coming up soon. Bring your wacky key to the April 13th meeting. Use your imagination. Just don't scratch the floor of the meeting room. Build a device which will key a code oscillator (provided). Simulated straight keys, iambic paddles, sideswipers; whatever! Any and all are welcome. The more elaborate or ridiculous, the better! We will provide several connector configurations for you to attach to your "Wacky Key," even alligator clips to your terminals if that's all you have. The WACKIEST KEY WINS!!

Put your silly alter ego to work and construct a Rube Goldberg device. Carry, drag, or wheel it in if you have to. No limits; just don't scratch the floor! Imagination, originality, and HUMOR are going to rule the outcome!

There are 3 simple rules:

1. Real, manufactured keys are prohibited.
2. It has to actually function by closing a circuit that will trigger oscillator audio.
3. It must be able to send your Callsign legibly, or just a simple "CQ." Need ideas? Here's a link:

<https://sites.google.com/site/oh6dccw/strangecwkeys>

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## March Minutes

Minutes for 09Mar16

At 7:30 PM Rex Simmons, NX8G, opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and the round of introductions. There were 16 members and 5 guests in attendance. There were three birthdays announced .

Due to the absence of Don, K8OMO, there was no report on the HF and Homeland Security nets. Tomas, KC8ZEH, gave a report on the 2 meter nets. John, KD8MQ, reported the 70 CM repeater is still in the works and will be operational by the next meeting. The search for a club station location is still on going according to Shawn, KD8ZEZ.

The secretarie's report was said to be published in the Zero Beat with one

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The treasurer's report was offered by May Ann, KB8IVS. It was moved by KD8MQ seconded by KD8RFZ to accept the report as read. Motion passed.

Old Business was started by asking for a volunteer to be Field Day Chairman. No response yet. Frank, WA8WHP presented a bill, which he had paid to

renew the equipment insurance. KC8ZEH moved and KD8RFZ seconded that it would be paid. Motioned passed. Rex, NX8G instructed Mary Ann, KB8IVS to write the check. It was determined that K8OMO had reserved the Silver Park JC Pavilion for our special event operation for Carnation Days to be held Saturday 20 August. John, KD8MQ volunteered to send the announcement to the ARRL.

New business started with the announcement that dues are due as of 01Apr. KD8MQ, announced about the proposal for the FCC to make our licenses lifetime. The FCC is inviting comments. There was a suggestion to activate Cuyahoga Ledges for National Parks on the Air. Some discussion followed. More on this later.

At 8:07PM KC8ZEH moved and KD8YFV seconded to adjourn. Meeting closed to Allow the program on 3D printers to proceed. It was enjoyed by all your reporter talked to.

Respectfully submitted by Frank, WA8WHP

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## 440 Repeater News

With completion of a work party a couple weeks ago, the club 440 machine is finally home! A crew consisting of Carl, K7CE, Eric, N8HHV, Ben, KD8KMQ, Dave, KD8RFZ, and myself (John, KD8MQ), descended upon the hospital on April 2nd to install the Diamond repeater antenna on the high roof at Alliance Community Hospital.

The repeater is on 442.350 with a + shift of 5 MHz, and a TX PL of 131.8 hz. The RX PL has been turned on and is on the same frequency of 131.8hz.

NOTE - The receive PL is totally optional. You do not need to use it to access the repeater. It's purpose is to reduce instances of the squelch opening due to commercial door openers, and other terrestrial interference.

The 440 repeater in the Alliance area began it's life at the home of Jim, K8LTG, when he lived on E. Cambridge St. When he moved to the farm, the repeater moved with him to Bandy Rd, in Smith twnbsp. After his passing, the repeater was willed to the club, and moved again to the K8OMO QTH on W. Beech Rd. 18 months ago, in hopes of adding some separation between it, and the 2 Meter machine, it was moved to my QTH on W. Mill St. When the tower leg split over the winter of 2014/15, the repeater was moved to a temporary location West of Alliance. It's current location is intended to be a forever home. The repeater is mounted safely in a bulkhead in the top floor of the Alliance Community Hospital. The repeater is running 20W through about 18' of LMR-600 to the antenna which is mounted at 1249' ASL.

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K7CE for all their technical help. Without their expertise, and generosity, this repeater would not where it is.

Good reports have been received from stations using HTs as far away as the Canton area. We're still getting a feel for the range of the machine, so please jump in and

use it.

The repeater control operators are the members of the club repeater committee.  
They are:

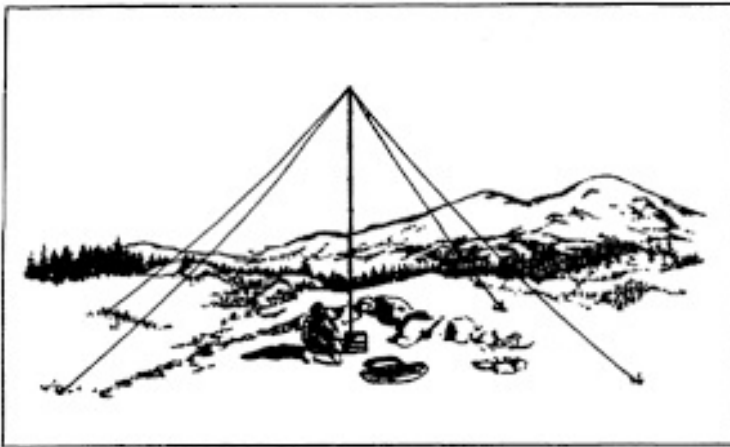
- John, KD8MQ
- Tony, KD8BBK,
- Ben, KD8KMQ
- Paul, K2ASA

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*Announcing the*

# ***"Ohio NVIS Antenna Day"***

*April 23, 2016*



Working with antennas has been an integral part of the Amateur Radio hobby since the first hams went to the airwaves. Having the 'right' antenna becomes even more important when we're acting in the interest of public safety! The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) organization in Ohio will put these two concepts

together in another "NVIS Antenna Day" activity April 23, 2016.

Last year, numerous operators, teams, and EOC's participated to find the best NVIS antenna to use across the Ohio Section. The differences weren't as dramatic as one might expect; those fashioned after the military AS-2259 cross-dipole configuration appeared to be the best but other designs worked nearly as well.

This is not really a contest, there is no score. The purpose is to have teams

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the NVIS antenna designs they think will work the best- then actually get together to build and try them!

**Starting at 10AM Saturday, April 23** teams begin making contacts to compare their antennas. They do not have to be at portable locations, but there should be

room for several antennas. This year, we're offering the concept of "anchor" stations around the state which will be in place to provide consistent signal reports to all who contact them. For example, Team A puts together a low-altitude G5RV. They contact Anchor A in Toledo, Anchor B in Dayton, and the Ohio EOC station ("The Sarge") for signal reports. They then either adjust their design, or try antenna number 2 contacting the same anchors. From their signal reports, they can determine right away which antenna is better and by how much! We don't have an "end time" set- because some stations had so much fun (and so many pile-ups) that they went on for quite a while past dark.

Our anchor stations' frequencies will be published, but stations can contact as many other stations as they can find for more fun. Like our VHF contest, this will allow stations to plot their coverage "footprint" to get a good idea of their capabilities for a real emergency.

After the contest, all teams file reports with their call and location, operators, number of contacts and most important, all antenna details- antenna design, height, specific comments, and pictures. Each station then can rank its top (3) antenna performers with comments and ideas. Pictures are very much encouraged! Our Marion County ARES team is sponsoring the event this year. They will compile the documentation, and narrow down the best performing antennas across the region - antennas we might all want to put in our 'go bags' as proven performers.

In something like a grid-down situation, our emergency communicating would not be limited within the boundaries of Ohio, so I'm asking our neighboring states to get involved with us! We would really like to make this a regional event with stations in their state EOC's and around the Ohio border to test their own capabilities.

We're hoping to make this a regional event in 2016!

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## Alliance ARC DX Contest Ends March 31st

Well, how did you do? The 2nd Annual Alliance ARC DX Contest is over. You have until April 30th to send me your log files.

Something new this year is that paper logs are not being accepted. Export your entire log for the period of October 1, 2015 - March 31, 2016 to an ADI file. e-mail it to me at [kd8mq1@gmail.com](mailto:kd8mq1@gmail.com). Most computer logging programs will export to ADI.

**You don't need to sort, or separate your contacts.** My logger will do all that.

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Logs will be judged according to ARRL DXCC Countries list, and scored electronically using N3FJP AC Log.



The recipient of the AARC DX award #1 was Rex, NX8G. Who will be the winner for AARC DX award #2?

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## Why You Should Get Your Extra Class License

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The Amateur Extra Class license is the highest class of license in the United States, and perhaps the world. Many hams—even hams that live outside the U.S.—aspire to pass the test and be awarded one.

There wasn't always an Amateur Extra Class license. The Extra class license, as we know it today, was created as part of the 1951 license restructuring, that also created the Novice and Technician Class licenses. (In 1951, the Novice license was the "beginner's license." To get a Technician Class license, you had to pass the written test that General Class operators had to pass.)

Although it gave an operator no additional privileges, to get an Extra Class license, one had to:

- \* Pass a 20 wpm code test (Generals had to pass only a 13 wpm code test).
- \* Pass a longer and more difficult written examination than the General Class exam.
- \* Have at least two years of experience as a licensed radio amateur.

Today, without the code test and the experience requirement, many hams upgrade to Extra Class as soon as they can. Some even pass the Technician Class, General Class, and the Amateur Extra Class exams in a single test session.

So, what's the attraction? Why should you upgrade to Extra?

One of the reasons that you should upgrade to Extra is that you get use of the entire 80 m, 40 m, 20 m, and 15 m bands. Portions of those bands, such as 3.6 – 3.7 MHz in the 75m band and 14.150 – 14.175 Mhz in the 20m phone band, are reserved exclusively for Extra Class licensees. Extra Class operators also have exclusive privileges in the CW portions of the 80 m, 40 m, 20 m, and 15 m bands. These are the frequencies where the DX stations hang out.

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administer General Class and Extra Class license exams. General Class operators can become Volunteer Examiners (VEs), but they are only allowed to administer Technician Class exams.



Another reason you might want to get an Extra Class license is to get a fancy vanity callsign. Only Extra Class operators can apply for 1×2 or 2×1 callsigns, such as W8RP or KT8K. A short, snappy callsign can help you work more DX or improve your contest scores.

Whatever your reason, studying for the Extra Class exam will open your eyes to many aspects of the hobby that you may not be familiar with. And, as you work your way through the material, you'll learn things that make you a better amateur radio operator and enable you to enjoy the hobby more. It's not easy, but in the end, an Extra Class license will help you have more fun with amateur radio.

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Dan, KB6NU is the author of the "No Nonsense" line of amateur radio license study guides, a prolific blogger ([www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com)), and an active CW operator in the Extra Class portion of the HF bands. If you have any comments, questions, compliments, or complaints, email him at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

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## FCC Seeks Comments on Petition to Grant Lifetime Amateur Radio Licenses

The FCC is seeking comments on a Petition for Rule Making (RM 11760 - available on the web at, <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=60001333714> ) that asks the FCC to grant lifetime Amateur Radio licenses. Mark F. Krotz, N7MK, of Mesa, Arizona, filed his request with the FCC last November. He wants the FCC to revise Part 97.25 of its rules to indicate that Amateur Radio licenses are granted for the holder's lifetime, instead of for the current 10 year term. Krotz noted that the General Radiotelephone Operator License (GROL) already is issued on a lifetime basis, and he maintained that not having to renew licenses would lighten the FCC's workload.

"It would be mutually beneficial for the FCC and Amateur Radio operators to update Part 97 to grant operator licenses for lifetime, Krotz said in his filing. "The FCC would benefit by reducing administrative costs."

In 2014 the FCC granted lifetime credit for examination elements 3 and 4, but applicants seeking relicensing under that provision still must pass examination element 2.

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Individuals may submit comments

(<http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/proceeding/view?name=RM-11760>) via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS).

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## Pioneer Amateur Radio Fellowship, Inc.

Dayton Hamvention 2016

Saturday, May 21, 2016 - 5:30 AM



Don't miss out on this year's PARF Bus Trip to the world's largest topical conference and product exhibition. Save on gas, parking, and walking by riding with us! Leave the driving to us and you can come and go to the flea market with your great purchases and leave them on the bus. The bus will be parked close to the flea market entrance.

**You can save \$10\* if you book before April 15th.**

The cost of the **Bus & Entrance ticket** to the Hamvention:

**\$70\* before April 15, 2016**

The cost of the **Bus Only** to the Hamvention:

**\$55\* after April 15, 2016**

(You will need to get your own Hamvention Entrance Ticket at gate \$25, or order by phone & have held at Will Call—possibly getting Advanced \$20 price.)

P.A.R.F. reserves the right to cancel this trip should a minimum of 22 riders not be secured by April 15th. If that happens, a full refund will be made. Otherwise, cancellation by you at any time results in a \$5 deduction of refund for handling.

We will take riders right up to departure that morning (if there are seats available) on a first come, first served basis.

**Departure time is 5:30 AM SHARP**, so please be on time so you don't miss the bus!

Parking will be in the back of the church.

There will be a stop for breakfast @ McDonald's and a dinner stop @ Golden Corral Buffet (out of pocket expense).

Transportation is being provided by the Crossroads Transportation Company.

This bus is a smoke free bus, so there will be no smoking permitted.

**To Order - Complete application & send with check/money order (payable to "PARF") to:**

Joy Spencer [KA8TDF](mailto:KA8TDF)

2101 Bigalow St

Akron, OH 44314

**Or call 330-745-5115**

E-mail: [KA8TDF@arrl.net](mailto:KA8TDF@arrl.net)

**Please supply a return e-mail address for your receipt confirmation.**

**Location of Departure\*\*:**

Akron Baptist Temple, 2324 Manchester Road, Akron, Ohio 44314

Located on Rt. 93 just north of Rt. 224

*\*\* The church is currently up for sale. We will keep you up to date should that happen and an alternative departure location is needed. (Rest assured, we will work to keep it within the local area.)*

Repeaters 147.135 & 146.610

**Please pass the word out to all of your ham friends & computer geeks.**

The above pricing does not include any tips...a hat will be passed for driver's tip.

[Please click here for an application form](#)

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## Swap & Shop

The following items are being offered by the Alliance ARC, for a variety of estates. If you have any questions, please contact Frank, WA8WHP at [wa8whp@gmail.com](mailto:wa8whp@gmail.com)

- Kenwood TS120S
- Heathkit Antenna
- Homebrew Tuner
- National NC300
- Homebrew 80/40 Tuner
- Craftsman 82012 VOM
- Magnavox Mike wih stand
- Box of panel meters
- Low Pass Filters (3)
- Homebrew Two meter SWR Bridge
- Homebrew AC cord with meter
- Quad Ant Tuner
- Coax jumpers
- ARRL Handbooks 57,69,94,09
- Heathkit HM-102
- Homebrew 813 (x2) 5 band amp
- Kenwood SM-220 Stn Monitor
- MFJ MFJ-962C Versatuner
- Heathkit SB-1400 XCVR/ PS
- Drake 2-B w/ Q Multiplier

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- MFJ MFJ-949D Versatuner
  - Uniden HR-2600 10 meter XCVR

- B&W      AP-10 10-40mtrs antenna
- VoCom      60watt 2m mobile amp
- Turner      T-454X Microphone for TR-4
- Heathkit   IO-12 Oscilloscope
- Yaesu      FL-2100B Amp
- Yaesu      FTDX560
- MFJ      MFJ-944 Tuner
- Heathkit   HM-102
- RCA      WV-98B VTVM
- Heathkit   IM-11 VTVM

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## Extra Elmer Net

The latest venture of the Alliance Amateur Radio club is the Extra Elmer Net. run by Frank, WA8WHP, it's a place to go to help you with your studying for the Extra exam.

The net runs each Friday night at 9 PM. Your net "MC" is Frank, WA8WHP.

If you are studying for your Extra, bring your questions. If you already have your extra, then you'r invited to check in and help to provide some answers.

For more information, Frank can be contacted at [wa8whp@gmail.com](mailto:wa8whp@gmail.com).

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## Officers

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Secretary - Frank, WA8WHP			wa8whp@gmail.com	330-206-2639		
Treasurer - Mary Anne - KB8IVS			kb8ivs@aol.com	330-936-4460		
Trustee (expires 2016) - Tony, KD8BBK			kd8bbk@aol.com	330-875-0085		

Trustee (expires 2017) - Howard, K8DXR	hmiller32@neo.rr.com	330-353-1888
Trustee (expires 2018) - Peter, N8IGZ	luckepb@me.com	330-206-6555

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