

HAPPY 2002 TO ALL

The Q-Match

The Newsletter of the Warren Amateur Radio Association
P.O. Box 809, Warren, Ohio 44482
Webpage -- www.onecom.net/wara Editor - pkozup@juno.com
January / February, 2002

Election of officers

The annual meeting of the WARA was held after the regular meeting on Tuesday January 15, 2002. The first order of business was the election of new officers for 2002. The election of officers was presided over by Director Andy Shine, N8YR. The officers elected, aside from the first year Director, were the same as for last year, and each was elected without dissenting vote. The newly elected first year Director was Don Bower, N8VCK. Don joins the second year Director, Andy Shine, N8YR, and the third year Director, Peter Kozup, K8OUA, to complete the team of officers. Thus, after the election the following individuals were duly elected as officers for the WARA for 2002 –
President – Bob Maurer, KC8PVB
Vice President – Dave Walters, KZ8T
Secretary – Renee McCaman, KB8SVF
Treasurer – Karl Gerlt, KF8MG
3rd Year Director – Peter Kozup, K8OUA
2nd Year Director – Andy Shine, N8YR
1st Year Director – Don Bower, N8VCK.

Following the election of officers the Annual Business Meeting was held. A committee to be made up of the President, Treasurer, and all three Directors was selected by President Bob to check the Treasurer's books as is outlined in the Bylaws.

We wish the incoming officers the very best in their running of the club for 2002.

Repeater Update

I am glad to be able to say the repeater is working fairly well. We have gone through a period where we had a lot of problems but, have overcome most of them. The repeater is running with two sites in open mode and one in PL (Tone access). We are still having some problems making the third site, located at my house, blend in. So, I keep it in PL. Our PL tone is 100Hz. The Northern site has been more benefit as a learning tool than as an aid to the coverage of the repeater system.

Our repeater has been like a bunch of hams. All of its components worked well alone, but did not work at all well together. Many problems that looked like voting problems turned out to be compatibility problems. A brief summary follows.

Much of the noise was caused by overload of the main receiver. We had a very hot low noise preamp on this receiver. The environment has too much RF for this. We tried 50% attenuation. This helped but did not solve the problem. We removed the preamp. Warren then became our best receiver, working well.

Repeater update (cont. . .)

We had an interfering pulsing signal of very short duration that when bringing up the repeater would reset the tail timer

every few seconds, thus holding up the repeater for long periods of time. To get away from this we programmed in a two-tenths second delay to turn on the transmitter and moved the north link frequency 5 kHz. The interfering signal is coming from the area of the GE plant on north Park Ave.

Voting problems were of three types. One the link transmitter had a two-tenths second minimum hang time on the transmitters. I put a NPN transistor in the transmitter keying line operated by the squelch to turn off the link transmitter as soon as the signal goes away. Another solution could be operating these receivers open squelch. We noted most of our receivers the squelch would momentarily blink off if the received signal were over deviated. Some receiver alignment took care of most of this. Some, very little, but some of this problem still persists. We returned the voter adjustments to factory standards rather than try to cover up other problems.

It was found the battery power supply for the Newton Falls link was and is causing a soft voltage regulation. I went to a much larger deep cycle battery, replacing the four year old car battery. I believe this voltage dropped low enough to cause instability in the regulators in the equipment. I still feel a power supply may be necessary.

Dave kz8t – Repeater Coordinator

Happy birthday

Best of birthday greetings to these members who have birthdays in January and February.

Jan. 1 – Josephine Wingrove, N8SYI
Jan. 10 – Jim Gabriel, WA8DXB
Jan. 11 – Tom Wright, KB8RMR
Jan. 11 – Dennis Gregory, WM3H
Jan. 12 – Pete Kozup, K8OUA
Jan. 13 – Donna Craiger, Associate
Jan. 17 – Don Bowers, N8VCK
Jan. 22 – Emily Wells, KC8RAL
Feb. 9 – Gail Wells, KC8LRH
Feb. 10 – Greg Chopko, N8IJD
Feb. 18 – Marie Wright, KC8CMT
Feb. 22 – Garrett Greene, K8RBX
Feb. 27 – Dale Voorhies, KB8IWC
Feb. 28 – Tony Swead, KG8TV
ARL FORTY-SIX to each of these WARA members on their birthdays.

Two meter net roster

Here is the net control roster for the W8VTD Wednesday night two meter net.

January 30 – Pete, K8OUA
February 6 – Bob, KC8PVB
February 13 – Frank, KC8PUZ
February 20 – Andy, N8YR
February 27 – Pete, K8OUA

As you can see, we are very short of Net Control Stations for the net. We have only four regular NCSs, and that is not enough. How about volunteering to put your call on roster – another two volunteers would mean that each of us would have to take NCS once every six weeks. Give Karl, KF8MG, a call and tell him that you'd like to try it out. It could end up being the highlight of your ham career.

Members around the traps

I heard from Kenny List, KB8NNA, recently, and his phone call put an end to my confusion (well, not all of my

confusion, but at least a bit of it!!). It seems that Kenny has taken his RV to Florida and is living the peripatetic life down south – at least for the winter. Ken will be joining the other million or so Americans who move around in their RVs as the urge takes them. When I spoke with him he was getting ready to take a trip to the Florida Keys. Ken told me that he had seen Charlie KG8IG, also now spending winter in Florida, and that he hoped to hook up with Don, K8BXT soon. Ken advises that even those with roving wheels can be reached by mail, and his permanent mailing address is: 4839 Cranberry Ave. NW, Canton, Ohio 44709. If you want to talk to him by phone, just dial 330 883-1001.

Closer to home it has been great seeing Slim, W8ANN, out at club breakfasts. He looks great. If you want to have a chat with Slim join him at the club breakfasts at the Wayside Inn on the corner of State and Leavitt Rds. in Champion on the first and third Saturday of the month at 9.00 AM.

NEWS FLASH – Ed Chopko, K8KAE, one of our club's long-standing members has just spent time in St. Elizabeth's Hospital following heart bypass surgery. He is doing well, and is hoping to be home by February 5.

NOARVS -- NORTHEAST OHIO AMATEUR RADIO VENTURE SCOUTS

The Northeast Ohio Amateur Radio Venture Scout Program is now accepting applications from anyone interested in radio communications.

The group needs five scouts and five adults to join in order to obtain a charter for the group and are asking club members who know of young people who might be interested to please help them out.

The program offers

- Classes to help scouts get a license in Amateur Radio
- An area to use and practice radio skills.
- Skills in building and maintaining radios and equipment.
- Skills in speaking and communicating with others.
- A new way to make some friends from other states and countries.
- A new hobby that will last a lifetime.
- Skills in emergency management and communications.

Any individuals interested will need to meet the following requirements --

- Be between 14 – 21 years of age.
- Have some interest in radio communications.
- Be able to travel to the Trumbull – Geauga county area.
- Be able to come to most meetings and events.
- Have some level of discipline.

The group is also looking for equipment that can be used in the program, and is asking for donations of the following sorts of equipment --

Multiband HF Radios, Multiband HF Antennas, 70cm – 6m Radios, 70cm – 6m Antennas, Packet Modem, Computers, a Tower, Coax, Rotors, etc. Anyone interested in becoming a radio venture scout or in helping the group get off the ground is asked to contact the Warren Amateur Radio Club at --

Scouts (cont)

Radio Venture Scouts

P.O. Box 809
Warren, Ohio 44483
NOARVS Is sponsored by the Warren
Amateur Radio Association.

Editor's comment

I enjoy doing the *Q-Match*! It keeps me in tune with what's happening with the club as well as with what's happening amateur radio wise. However, I am aware that the *Q-Match* has not been the most regular in its timing. While this does bother me, it is not likely to change in the near future. Therefore, I'm offering the position of editor to anyone who is interested in taking it from me. No, I'm not going to give it up unless someone with an interest in it comes along and tells me he wants it, and I definitely will not just drop it. The *Q-Match* has a long and glorious history with the WARA, and it should not be allowed to just drop its publication. However, it might be nicer if someone who is more dependable than I am was to take it on and possibly get it out on time. So, if you're interested in taking over the publication of our club newsletter, please just email or phone me and we can talk it over. Don't worry about hurting my feelings, I have three daughters, nothing can hurt my feelings! If you're not interested in taking it over, but do enjoy receiving it, don't fret, it will continue to come out, but probably not on time as it should. You can reach me at my email address – pkozup@juno.com, or by phone at 330 847-0975.

Classifieds

Pete, K8OUA, yeah, that's me folks, is still looking for a power supply to power his Ten Tec Pegasus transceiver. Pete is temporarily QRT (that means "off the air" to those of you who never learned

your Q-signals) because he has not power supply for either of his rigs. He is looking for a well regulated supply that can provide 20 amps at 12-14 VDC. Contact Pete by email at pkozup@juno.com, or by phone on 330 847-0975.

What's happening??

Some rather interesting special event stations will be operating during February.

Look for W7U, the special event station from Grantsville, Utah, sponsored by the West Desert ARC from February 8 – 24 for the 2002 Winter Olympics. Freqs include 28.400, 21.300, 14.250, and 3.768 MHz.

Try working K8LOD from 2000Z February 15 – 17 the special events station for the 13th running of the Michigan UP 200 Sled Dog Championship. Find them on 21.300, 14.225, 7.225, or 3.850 MHz.

How about the Mt. Vernon ARC, K4US, February 16 – 17 commemorating George Washington's birthday. Freqs include 18.080, 14.240, 10.110, and 7.240 MHz.

For more information on these and other special event stations in February see February QST, page 110 for details.

Arri news

Alan Cook, N7CEU, Newark will become the new Ohio Official Observer Coordinator for the American Radio Relay League on February 1, 2002. The announcement was made by Ohio ARRL Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE.

Alan, who for the past three years has been Emergency Coordinator

Arri news (cont)

(EC) of Licking County, will succeed Richard Kuns, KC8TW, who retired because of increased duties in the Cincinnati ham radio community.

Kid's Day January 2002

On January 5th the Ham waves were alive with the sounds of young men and women communicating throughout the world. To get in on the action I invited Frank Bosak, KC8PUZ, and Donald Hall over to the shack to participate in fun. We had everything tuned up for 20 meters ahead of time, so all that was left was to warm up the equipment and wait for the designated starting time of 18:00Z. While waiting, we talked about how we would work as a team with Frank and Donald alternating between working the radio and keeping track of the log. We opted to use the standard paper log book and transfer the information to the computer later.

When the time came we jumped on the air looking for our first contact. We did not have to wait very long before Frank made a contact with Heather. Heather was operating from the Red Cross Amateur Radio Club in Indianapolis, Indiana. She received her Technician's license in April 2001 and was doing great communicating with Frank and Donald. After exchanging signal reports and discussing "Lego's", and favorite colors Frank went on to another contact. The propagation must have been just right for the band as we soon had developed our own pileup. Stations fast and furious were calling us and soon all three of us were logging calls and checking QRZ for additional information.

In total we made about 24 contacts with the furthest station being Germany with a 16 year old boy named Andy. Another memorable contact was with

station WW8MM. The operator spent a lot of time talking to both Frank and Donald about radio and his experience. He also mentioned that he had the only call sign you could turn upside down and have it still say the same! HI HI

Some contacts were public locations like the Red Cross contact and the Space Museum we worked in Texas. This gave us a great idea for the next Kid's Day, which is June 15th, 2002. We thought for the summer event we would setup at a public place, perhaps the Scout building where we had JOTA last year. That way we could get some additional participants and expose more young people to the fun of Amateur Radio. I'll be contacting Dianna Gatz at the Scout Headquarters to see if this is feasible.

Over all it was a great time and a great experience for both the boys (and me), as well as the contacts they made. I also would like to thank many of the WARA members who also made contacts with us. I'll keep everyone informed about the next "Kid's Day" event as we get closer to that month.

Upcoming events

Feb 2 – Bkfast Wayside Inn 9 AM
Feb 4 – Brunch Frmngtn Sr Cntr 9 AM
Feb 5 – WARA mtg TCTC 7.30 PM
Feb 6 – 2 Mtr net 146.97 MHz 9 PM
Feb 11 – Brunch Frmngtn Sr Ctr 9 AM
Feb 13 – 2 Mtr net 146.97 MHz 9 PM
Feb 16 – Bkfast Wayside Inn 9 AM
Feb 18 – Brunch Frmngtn Sr Ctr 9 AM
Feb 19 – WARA mtg TCTC 7.30 PM
Feb 20 – 2 Mtr net 146.97 MHz 9 PM
Feb 23 – Lunch Covered Bridge Rest
Newton Falls 12 Noon
Feb 25 – Brunch Frmngtn Sr Ctr 9 AM
Feb 27 – 2 Mtr net 146.97 MHz 9 PM

