

The Q-Match

The Newsletter of the Warren Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 809, Warren, Ohio 44482

Webpage - www.w8vtd.org

Editor - k8oua@yahoo.com

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A word from the prez

A New Vision For Amateur Radio:

First let me say many thanks for the beautiful flowers that Sherman, KC8YHJ, sent on behalf of the Club. They certainly brightened up our day, and continue to do so each day since! I also want to thank the entire Club for your prayers, cards, and best wishes while my wife and I get through this medical situation. I hope that by the time you are reading this I will have some good news and that a treatment has been started. I am also very proud of how the entire Club came together to pickup some of the loose ends I left hanging since all this began. Events like the "March of Dimes" and our Clubs annual "QSO" party. All this really tells what the Amateur Radio family is all about.

Since spending time in waiting and hospital rooms has consumed much of my time recently I have been reading many Amateur Radio journals. I came across an interesting article in the March edition of World Radio. The article discussed that during a recent Net the check-ins were polled as to what they felt the future of Amateur Radio held. The answer may surprise you. This is what was said: "*There is great potential ahead for Amateur Radio, because among the young, cell phones, PDA's and the Internet are losing a lot of their initial appeal.*"

Why is this you say? Well SPAM has spoiled Internet email for most of us. I

know each time I check my email the majority that I receive is SPAM, most of it does not even know that I am a male! And that is after my anti-spam software has done its job. My anti-virus software is constantly finding and removing viruses in email also. With Packet Radio I have no such problems. I am assured that my Packet mail will reach the intended recipient, just as theirs reaches me. I know it will not get lost in SPAM nor will an ISP block it. And I know of no way that Packet messages can send or receive viruses. In fact in an article in the March QST it was discussed that there is new interest in High Speed Packet Radio for all the same reasons.

The second item that was stated to have taken much of glitter off of the Internet is the increasing effort of corporate America to begin to place tighter controls on the Internet. These controls encourage surveillance and suppression of what can and can not be discussed. In the future you may need to own you own "digital certificate" to identify who and what you are before "surfing" the Net. All of this is going to make some Internet users see the advantage of Amateur Radio as a viable communications medium. And Teenagers are now becoming more open to other modes of communications that are "SPAM" free and problem free.

A word from the prez (cont. . .)

As the author mentioned, maybe he is being too optimistic. But because of

these issues we can all remember to take the time to do some direct marketing of the joys and potential of Amateur Radio. Keep this in mind when someone complains to you about SPAM, receiving a virus, or who can not communicate through the Internet because their ISP is down.

73,

Your Prez, Bob / KC8PVB

Bill craiger memorial test

It's that time again folks! It's time for the annual Bill Craiger, K8UV, Memorial Two Meter Contest, to be held this year on Saturday April 17, 2004. This contest, named in honor of our former WARA President, involves working as many of the 25 Trumbull County townships as possible in a six hour period. The rules for this year's contest are found at the end of this issue of the *Q-Match*, as is a Dupe Sheet to keep track of stations worked. All you need to participate is a two meter rig, an HT with a "rubber duck" antenna would do, but a bit more sophisticated antenna setup would certainly help your cause. All contacts are made on two meter simplex and there are several categories for you to enter in. These include: Low power 5 watts or less, Medium power 6 watts through 24 watts, and High power 25 watts or more. Rover: any power. Out of County: any power. A Rover station is one that moves among two or more townships during the course of the contest. A rover vehicle may transport only one station using a single call sign. Rovers sign "rover" on phone contacts. Have a look at the rules of the contest, printed in this issue of the *Q-Match*, and if you have questions about the test contact either Bob Maurer, KC8PVB, or Peter Kozup, K8OUA, for further info.

The main thing is that we need entry stations, even if for only an hour or so. The more stations that enter the contest the more fun for everyone. This is our

club's only attempt at sponsoring a contest, and as many members as can should be on the air on April 17 to make it a worthy competition. Mark your calendar, charge your batteries, check out your antennas, and Good Luck!! CU in the contest.

Wara helps out in walk

Richard Bell, KC8TAP, reports that WARA members helped out by providing communications during a 5 km walk recently. The race was held on March 13, 2004 at 1:00 PM and was to benefit children's rehabilitation. The race sponsors contacted the Trumbull county ARES/RACES and asked for 4 or 5 communicators. County Emergency Coordinator, Ernie Kiser, KB8QDX, and Richard Bell, KC8TAP, organized the communications segment of the event. Richard issued a call to club members for help. And the W.A.R.A. put 12 people on the race course. Everyone had a good time, even though it was slightly chilly. Members who helped out on the day were: Ron -- N8TIO, Sue -- KC8VHC, Sherman -- KC8YHJ, Robert - - KC8QZR, Gail -- KC8LRH, Jerry -- ND8E, Allan -- KB8YWY, Frank -- WB8PHH, Ken -- KC8TML, Fred -- N9BSO, Henry -- KC8UVY, and Richard -- KC8TAP. Richard would like to thank all the W.A.R.A. members that assisted on the day.

Classifieds

FREE for the taking – I hate to throw out old ham radio magazines, but my XYL and harmonics insist that I do since we are moving. I have boxes full of old (1970's – 80's) ham magazines from DX Classifieds (cont. . .)

Locations, ie., Australia and the Pacific Islands. They are interesting to look at

and there may even be some technical articles that could be of use to enterprising homebrewers. Anyone interested can contact me at peterkozup@yahoo.com or by phone at 330 395-0975. I will try to bring some to club meetings (if I remember!!).

Peter Kozup, K8OUA

FREE Computers to Good Homes:

The company that I work for recently donated 13 computers, which were pulled from service, to further advance Amateur Radio. So I am offering these computers to anyone who wishes one for a \$10 donation to the WARA Club. The computers are fully functional and would make a good packet computer or can be used for station logging software. The computers specs are as follows:

- 486 Processor at 122 Mhz
- 250 meg Hard Drive
- Between 284Meg and 512 Meg memory
- Built in Modem
- Built in Network Card
- Built in Y2K Card
- 3 ¼ Floppy Drive
- MS DOS 6.22 Operating System (Should support Windows 98)
- No CD Rom (Will support one)
- No Keyboard or Montior
- Mini Tower Case

If you are interested please contact me Bob Maurer, KC8PVB, by email at rmaurer@sprynet.com or let me know at any meeting. I'll try to make sure I have some with me at each meeting.

Repeater news

Dave Walters, KZ8T, reports the following on our W8VTD repeater.

No changes to report, I hesitate to say this but, things are going well. Every

time I say this between my writing and the printing something goes wrong.

I would like to talk about some operating suggestions that may help the repeater users.

First, occasionally we post an information bulletin on the repeater using voice mail. This could work better. We are restricted to a few seconds for the name of the message, the main text is then left to be queried by users. The controller then plays name of the message, anytime a tail message is sent. When Sky warn was canceled for example. A message was placed on the repeater to help notify members. I was only able to say "Sky-warn cancelled." in the tail message. I then left some details in the message. Of course, the main body of the message was not heard by most.

If you hear voice mail announcements this is how to play the rest of the message. The "Voice mail" prefix is 4. If the repeater tail message indicates there is a voice mail a user can list the messages by sending a digit 4 Touch Tone. The Digital Voice recorder will then say the message names. If there is more than one they will be played one after the other.

To play the message the send a Touch Tone "4" and a number representing the order of the messages. Often there is only one. So the command would be "4 1".Key the microphone, identify, and send Touch Tones 4 and 1. The digital voice recorder would then play the message and its name.

Repeater news (cont. . . .)

If more than one message is present the command would be 4-1 for the first message, 4-2 for the second and so on.

To leave a voice mail the command is 4*. Hopefully you will be prompted but, the prompts often get lost in power glitches.

To leave a message; Key transmitter, send 4* un-key your transmitter. Key transmitter, speak the name of your message, un-key transmitter, Key transmitter and speak the main body of the message, un-key.

To erase a message; first play back the message, then key transmitter, identify, and send Touch Tones 4**.

Remember the controller does not accept Touch Tones for the first three seconds of your transmission. This mouse trap was installed several years back in order force people to identify. Once you start leaving a message you must finish.

A tip for breaking or joining a QSO. The repeater has a "courtesy tone" after the end of every users transmission. This tone is delayed one second from the end of the transmitting station. Our repeater has a slight squelch tail heard when users un-key. The courtesy tone is about half second in duration. These three items take about two seconds. This is your time to break or announce your intentions between other users of the repeater. This gives a potential breaker a two second head start on the next person to transmit. Breakers should hold the microphone ready to talk, not down and relaxed. As soon as you hear the transmitting station un-key, quickly key your microphone and speak your call.

If the breaking station waits for the courtesy tone or the repeater to drop the chances of "doubling" with the next station to transmit are greatly increased. The repeater audio is delayed .070 seconds. Most transceivers have a slight delay between when the operator keys and the phase lock loop locks up and enables the transmitter. These two factors increase the likelihood of two stations doubling. When using FM mode most of the time only one station is heard if two stations double, and the delays increase the odds neither station will be aware of the fact since neither can hear for that time short time period.

So if you have trouble breaking into a QSO remember you should share at least half the blame. The two delays should also be kept in mind for nets using repeaters.

Dave kz8t

Net control coordinator needed

The WARA is looking for a member to volunteer to be the Club's new "Net Control Coordinator". Fred Olver, N9BSO, is ready to pass the baton along after a very successful tenure as the Net Control Coordinator. During Fred's tenure he has revamped our preamble and the Net's format. The results of these changes has increased the participation of stations checking into the Net each week, and I know you will join me in saying "Thanks! And Job Well Done!" to Fred when you see him next.

If you are interested in being the Net Control Coordinator please contact Bob Maurer at rmaurer@sprynet.com or just speak up at the next meeting. In the

New net coordinator needed (cont. .
.) meantime here is the NCS schedule
for April and May.

April 7th – Pete, K8OUA
 April 14th – Andy, N8YR
 April 21st – Fred, N9BSO
 April 28th – Bob, KC8PVB
 May 5th – Pete, K8OUA
 May 12th – Andy, N8YR
 May 19th – Fred, N9BSO
 May 26th – Bob, KC8PVB

New skywarn session

As most of us know, last month's scheduled Skywarn training session was cancelled due to heavy snowfall and very inclement weather. So, it has been rescheduled for April 20, the date of the club's second meeting in April. The training session will be held in the KSU Trumbull Campus Technology Building. That building is the newest of the KSU Trumbull Campus buildings, and is the westernmost building on campus – near the soccer fields. The session will begin at 7.00 PM – PLEASE NOTE the change in both time and venue for this meeting.

Fcc items

Thanks to Fred, N9BSO, for the following FCC items of interest to hams. The FCC put the ARRL/NCVEC petitions out for initial comment on March 24, 2004. See the following FCC Public Notice. The 30-day clock starts on that date. Two other ham petitions were also filed.

Report No: 2651 Released:
 03/24/2004. CONSUMER & GOVERN-
 MENTAL AFFAIRS BUREAU REFER-
 ENCE INFORMATION CENTER
 PETITIONS FOR RULEMAKING FILED.
 CGB

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/atchmatch/DOC-245290A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/atchmatch/DOC-245290A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/atchmatch/DOC-245290A1.txt

RM-10870 -- Part 97 -- The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators -- (Filed By: Thomas R. Fuszard, 03/04/04) -- In the Matter of Amateur Radio Service Rules to Provide for a New Entry Level Amateur Radio Class.

RM-10867 -- Part 97 -- The American Radio Relay League, Inc. (Filed By: Christopher D. Imlay, 03/18/04) -- In the Matter of the Commission's Rules Governing the Amateur Radio Service to Implement Changes to Article 25 of the International Radio Regulations Adopted at the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference.

Thanks to W5YI, Chairman, NCVEC Rules Committee, for this alert.

Sunshine and sick

Emily Wells, KC8RAL, recently underwent a stress test at TMH after being diagnosed with water on the lungs. She is now at home keeping Gail under control and doing very well.

Renee McCaman, KB8SVF, had a heart catheterization at St. Elizabeth's recently, and is now at home – you know she's well as she's pestering her husband Ron.

Both Sue Wagner, KC8VHC, and Chuck Simpkins, KA8FUP, are coming along fine. Sue had knee surgery and Chuck, of course, broke his hip during the winter. Sue was heard on the air recently, and we should see Chuck back at meetings soon – two great signs.

Sunshine and sick (cont. . .)

Last, but not least, Marilu Maurer, the XYL of President Bob Maurer, KC8PVB, has begun chemotherapy. Bob tells me that Marilu has been feeling less pain recently. Good job Marilu!!

VE TESTING

A VE Testing session will be held this month on Saturday April 10, 2004. The session will be held at the Lions Building on Mahoning Ave. (Rt. 45) just north of the North River Rd. intersection. Sign in will take place from 12.30 PM, with testing to begin at 1.00 PM. Those being tested will need a copy of any licenses held, any CSCE's held, and a photo ID. Cost of testing is \$12.00. Any VEs, especially those holding Extra Class licenses, who can afford the time are more than welcome to come along and assist on the day. For more information contact Dennis Carraher, N8IVE, at 330 924-4342.

Happy birthday

When things go wrong they really go wrong, and that's what has happened to the editor's computer. For some reason, unbeknownst to me, I am unable to connect to the internet as I'm finishing this issue of the *Q-Match*, and therefore can not download the list of birthdays for this month. So-o-o, I'm going to have to wish all those who have an April birthday the very best of birthday wishes, but I can not publish their names and callsigns as I normally do!! So, with sincere apologies, I wish everyone with an April birthday the best of days. And, I will publish the names and callsigns in next month's *Q-Match* along with those who have May birthdays.

March of dimes 'thon

The annual March of Dimes Walkathon will be coming up this month, and our help in providing communications for the event is required. The event will take place on Saturday April 24, and will be held in the Packard Park complex. This has been a popular event both for participants and for hams over the years, and this year should be no different. We will need a number of hams for the morning, and anyone interested should contact either Bob Maurer, KC8PVB, or Gail Wells, KC8LRH to offer assistance. We will meet at the Packard Park Pavilion (just south of Packard Music Hall) at 8.00 AM. Please be sure to have your HT ready with batteries charged and extra charged batteries with you.

April calendar

4/3 Breakfast Wayside Inn 9 AM
 4/5 Brunch W.Farmington Sr Ctr 11 AM
 4/6 WARA mtg Grace Bptst Ch 7.30 PM
 4/7 W8VTD net 146.97 MHz 9 PM
 4/9 K8OUA begins Spring vacation
 4/10 VE Testing Lions Bldg Rt 45 1 PM
 4/11 Easter Sunday
 4/12 Brunch W,Farmington Sr Ctr 11AM
 4/14 W8VTD net 146.97 MHz 9 PM
 4/17 Breakfast Wayside Inn 9 AM
 4/17 Bill Craiger Memorial Contest 2-8 PM
 4/19 Brunch W.Farmington Sr Ctr 11AM
 4/20 Skywarn Training KSUTC 7 PM
 4/21 W8VTD net 146.97 MHz 9 PM
 4/24 Lunch Covered Bridge Rest
 Newton Falls 12 N
 4/25 20 Over 9 Hamfest Youngstown
 4/26 Brunch W.Farmington Sr Ctr 11AM
 4/28 W8VTD net 146.97 MHz 9 PM

WARREN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

THIRD ANNUAL BILL CRAIGER MEMORIAL TWO METER VHF TRUMBULL COUNTY TOWNSHIP QSO PARTY

GENERAL RULES:

1. Individuals and stations are limited to one entry per contest.
2. A transmitter, receiver, or antenna used to contact one or more stations may not subsequently be used under any other call during the contest period.
3. Stations may be worked for credit only once per band from any given township. This does not prohibit working a station from more than one township with the same call sign (such as a Rover).
4. Retransmitting either or both stations, or use of repeater frequencies is not permitted. 5. This prohibits use of all repeater frequencies.
6. Contest entrants may not transmit on repeaters or repeater frequencies for the purpose of soliciting contacts.
7. Use of the national simplex frequency, 146.52 MHz, or immediately adjacent guard frequencies is prohibited.
8. Contest entrants may not transmit on 146.52 MHz for the purpose of making or soliciting QSO's.
9. Only recognized simplex frequencies may be used, such as 144.90 to 145.00; 146.49, .55 and .58 and 147.42.45 .48, .51, .54 and .57 MHz on the 2 meter band.
10. A station located precisely on a dividing line between townships must select only one as the location for exchange purposes.
11. Rover: One' or two operators of a single station that moves among two or more townships during the course of the contest. A rover vehicle may transport only one station using a single call sign. Rovers sign "rover" on phone contacts.
- 12: Out of County: Any base station or rover outside of Trumbull County, but making contacts with stations in townships within Trumbull County.

CONTEST:

1. Object: To work as many amateur stations in as many different townships in Trumbull County as possible using authorized frequencies in the 144.00 to 148.00 MHz band.
2. Date and contest period: The afternoon of Saturday April 17, 2004. Begins at 02:00 PM and ends at 08:00 PM EST.
3. Entry categories: Low power 5 watts or less. Medium power 6 watts through 24 watts. High power 25 watts or more. Rover: any power. Out of County: any power
4. Exchange: Call, name, township. Rovers sign "rover" with exchange.
5. Scoring: QSO points count 1 point for each complete contact made with a station within Trumbull County. Multiplier: The total number of townships in Trumbull County worked. QSO points for stations within Trumbull County making contacts with stations outside of Trumbull County is .5. Final score: Multiply the number of QSO points by the total number of Multipliers for Final score.
6. Miscellaneous: Stations may be worked for credit from more than one township with the same call sign (such as rover).
7. Awards: Certificates will be awarded for the top scorer in the following categories. Low power, medium power, high power, rover and out of county.
8. Submission: All submissions must be turned over to KB8SVF, Renee McCaman, club secretary, no later than Saturday April 24, 2003. All entries must include a properly completed summary sheet.