

# The Q-Match

The Newsletter of the Warren Amateur Radio Association

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August, 2002

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## a word from the prez

### Trumbull County Fair & Packard Special Event

In last month's Q-Match I talked about how June was a great Amateur Radio month for our club and July was going to be too. Well it did not disappoint me at all. Starting out with the Trumbull County Fair, which ran from July 7<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup> and closing out the month with a good time at the Packard Auto Show "Special Event Station," July was a great month for local amateurs.

While the weather was pretty warm during both these activities, some would say actually "hot", many of you stopped by and visited or worked the stations on the air. And what a great way to show the community what Amateur Radio is all about. I counted on the fair log sheet about 28 club members working at our station and display at the fair, and many of you did so for more than one day. That is a good showing for our club. And we made a few contacts also with the log showing 23 contacts on HF.

I want to thank Donald Hall, Frank Bosak (KC8PUZ) and Lisa Eckenrode for putting things together for the Trumbull Fair. A very special thanks to Lisa for her help at the last minute, when Frank and Donald were lost in the woods. I think we can all agree that the three of them did a fine job for their first time on this committee.

For next year's fair we have already had a new volunteer to take over the

organization of the club's fair display. That lucky guy is Gary Grimes, KB8GAB. I know he will be asking this year's committee members for advice on making next years even better. One item I do wish to put in writing, so others and myself do not forget: is to "Bring A Ladder" to the Fair setup next year! Although we had a great time on Fair setup day trying to improvise a way to the roof, having our own ladder would have made things simpler. But not as much fun as placing Robert Wells on a pallet that was on top of a forklift. Did anyone mention that Robert is afraid of heights?

As far as the Packard Special Event Station (W8P) many thanks again to Gail Wells (KC8LRH) for putting it all together again this year. I am sure that Gail will fill us in on the total number of contacts we made and additional information on the cars and such. Look for some pictures on the WARA web site.

Even though the bands were not as good as they could have been we had a great time and stayed cool with water from both Gail and Chuck Simpkins ((KA8FUP). Chuck and myself even had a chance to perform some Amateur Radio troubleshooting! Of course some of the station operators were jealous of

## a word from the prez (cont . . .)

my electric fan, and I do promise to bring a second one next year.

So now we are into the month of August already. This summer is sure flying by. Next up will be WARA 45<sup>th</sup> Annual HamFest on August 18<sup>th</sup>. I hope for two things this year: That the weather will be great, and that all of you will be able to help out at this year's HamFest. Remember also that you can help the club with the setup the day before. Contact Renee McCaman (KB8SVF) for more information about setup times and location at either 330-847-8478 or by email at [mccaman@cboss.com](mailto:mccaman@cboss.com).

The summer excitement of Amateur Radio continues. Make sure to get out and be a part of it!

73,

Your Prez, Bob, KC8PVB

## Hamfest 2002

For decades the third Sunday in August has held a special place in the hearts of WARA members. That Sunday, is, of course, the annual WARA Hamfest. This year the third Sunday falls on August 18, and that is the day for this year's 2002 WARA Hamfest. Chairperson Renee McCaman, KB8SVF tells us that we will need to have as many members as possible present on that weekend to do the various jobs that have to be done for the Hamfest.

The location for this year's hamfest will be in a slightly different spot from previous years. While still at the Trumbull Campus of Kent State University, this year's hamfest will be held in the western wing of the university, the new building facing out onto Mahoning Ave.

Setup for the hamfest will begin on Saturday August 17 at about noon. This includes setting up tables, flea market

spaces, etc. As usual we will have the hamfest picnic the evening before the hamfest – see the article in this issue about the picnic. There will, of course, be many things to be done on the day by WARA members. If you want a particular job on the day, or while setting up, talk to one of the following people. Dave Walters, KZ8T is handling outside ticket sales. For inside ticket sales see Kaye Parise, N8WER. The club table, where you can sell some of your own gear, is being handled by Don Lovett, K8BXT. If you're a VE and want to help out during the testing, see Dennis Carraher, N8IVE. If you want to help sort out the flea market, see either Ray Solinger, N8HRZ, or Mike Yakopec, KA8WMF. There are obviously many jobs to do, and every bit of help will be needed for the day.

The flea market will open at 6.00 AM, and the main building at 8.00 AM. It should be pointed out that the hamfest will include a number of forums. At 10.00 AM the K8CX Callsign Blast – a CW copying contest, will be held. At 10.30 AM will be the K3LR Antenna Forum. At 11.00 AM the Storm Chaser Video will be shown.

For those interested in gaining or upgrading their amateur license, VE Exams will be held at 9.30 AM. Those wishing to test will need \$10.00, two different forms of identification, the original and photocopy of any current amateur license held, and any CSCEs held. The contact person for VE Testing is Dennis Carraher, N8IVE.

## Hamfest 2002 (cont . . . )

Door Prizes for the day include a first prize of an HF transceiver (the editor apologizes for not knowing the exact

model of the prize, but is assured that it is a quality rig), a second prize of a Dell Computer, and a third prize of \$200.00. The drawing for the main door prize will be held at 2.00 PM, and the winner need not be present to win. In addition, there will be hourly prizes from 10.00 AM through 1.00 PM.

The Warren hamfest has been a fixture on the local ham radio calendar for almost half a century. Its success is totally dependent upon the work put into it by the club members. If you've paid your annual dues and are therefore a member of the club, it is your responsibility to help out on the club's most important day of the year. If you need further information about the hamfest contact Renee McCaman, KB8SVF, at 330 847-8478.

## Hamfest picnic

Ada Simons, KC8MTZ, gives us the rundown on the annual Hamfest Picnic, which is always held on the Saturday evening prior to the hamfest. The picnic will begin at 5.30 PM and will be held at the hamfest site on the western side, that is, the Mahoning Ave. side, of the KSU Trumbull Campus. Everyone, including family members, is invited. Bring your own chairs and a covered dish, which might be a dessert or a dinner item. All else will be provided. For additional information contact Ada at 330 847-0005.

## Awards banquet

While we're talking about food, here's a reminder that the annual Awards Banquet is scheduled for September 22. This is the event at which we recognize club members who have contributed to the functioning of the club over the past year. The Awards Banquet will be held

at the Golden Gate Restaurant on Parkman Rd. on September 22, 2002, and more information will be coming closer to the date. The Awards Chairman, Peter Kozup, K8OUA, invites anyone knowing of a member who deserves an award to advise him, preferably by email. All information will be kept in strictest confidence. Contact Pete at [pkozup@juno.com](mailto:pkozup@juno.com). Contact Ada at 330 847-0005.

## Happy birthday

Here's wishing the following club members the very best on their special day in August. Happy birthday to each of the following members.

- 8/1 John Lightner, KB8UCY
- 8/2 Robert Meeker, KC8QZR
- 8/2 Stan Shrodek, KC8ULG
- 8/3 Lisa Eckenrode, Associate
- 8/4 Tresa Neely, KB8OVC
- 8/8 Frank Bosak, KC8PUZ
- 8/9 Lee Kerber, KA8RXW
- 8/13 Shirley Van Slyke, Associate
- 8/15 Dave Walters, KZ8T
- 8/21 Bill Caldwell, Sr., WA8ABE
- 8/22 Dick Eilers, K8JLK
- 8/22 Karl Gerlt, KF8MG
- 8/22 Charles Wright, KG8IG
- 8/22 Robert Meade, N8MJU
- 8/24 Sue Coe, KB8UXJ
- 8/26 Joe Shultz, WB8GVB
- 8/29 Bud Neely, KB8OMV

As usual we extend our heartiest good wishes for a super birthday to each of these members, and wish them ARL FORTY-SIX.

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## classifieds

FT707 HF transceiver, power supply, antenna tuner. Contact Peter

Kozup, K8OUA, by phone at: 330 847-0975, or by email at: [pkozup@juno.com](mailto:pkozup@juno.com).

R.V. related items for sale. Items are all new -- Windows various sizes, Vent louvers, Hub Caps for wheels, drinking water tanks, and other assorted items. All are at 1980 prices. Contact Karl Gerlt KF8MG by phone at 330 889-3890 or by email at: [heinz14311@netzero.net](mailto:heinz14311@netzero.net).

The following is some ham and other gear that may make the club table at the hamfest, but *Q-Match* readers get an early look.

Realistic 10 meter transceiver, 25 watt, new, never used -- \$170.00; Kenwood TS-50 transceiver, 100 watt cw,am, fm,ssb, new, in box, never used (requires 12 volt power supply) -- \$800.00; National NCX-3 transceiver 80-40-20 am, cw, ssb with matching NCX-A power supply & speaker and NCX-D mobile power supply -- \$180.00; National NCX-3 transceiver 80-40-20 am, cw, ssb, less p.s. -- \$100.00; Atwater Kent Model 45 receiver, 8 tubes, ac -- \$200.00; Back issues QST, full years, 1989,1993,1996,1998,1999,2000 -- \$3 per year; Echophone Commercial receiver, needs work - filter capacitor -- \$50.00; Hallicrafters S-38B receiver, works ok -- \$50.00; AEA PK232MBX packet controller w/ Packratt -- \$180.00; RCA transistorized Battery operated tape recorder, reel to reel, Model YHS-12E -- \$25.00; Panasonic VCR VHS -- \$25.00; Panasonic KX-P2023 Dot Matrix printer -- \$25.00; Panasonic KZ-P1180 Dot Matrix printer -- \$25.00; RC cabin cruiser, 50 inch LOA, twin screws, inboard fuel engines, electric start, less start battery and transmitter -- \$100.00; Boys bicycle, 24

inch, 10 speed, Concord Nitro -- \$20.00; Back issues, Antique Radio Classified, 50 issues, lot sale -- \$25.00. Items for sale by Don Lovett, K8BXT, phone: 330-856-2896, e-mail: [k8bxt@aol.com](mailto:k8bxt@aol.com).

## Members' news

Reno Principi, KA8LCW, is currently in the Cleveland Clinic after receiving a liver transplant last week. Reno is on anti-rejection medication but reports are that he is doing well. His room number is G8018 and he can be reached by phone by calling 1 800 223-2273, and asking for extension 41375.

## Two meter net

Here is the Net Control schedule for the Wednesday night two meter net.

August 7 – Bob, KC8PVB

August 14 – Frank, KC8PUZ

August 21 – Pete, K8OUA

August 28 – Andy, N8YR

September 4 – Fred, N9BSO

September 11 – Bob, KC8PVB

September 18 – Frank, KC8PUZ

September 25 – Pete, K8OUA

Interested in trying your hand at being a net control operator? Would you like to get a better grip on the callsigns of local hams? Want to try something different and be part of a long established ham tradition? Give your name to Fred Olver, N9BSO, and get put on the list of NCSs for the WARA Wednesday night net. I can guarantee that you'll never regret doing it.

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## Kudos

Can you imagine someone taking vacation time just so that he could be at the Fairgrounds to help look after the

club's fair display? This month's Kudos goes to just such a person. Gail Wells, KC8LRH, not only devoted considerable time to the WARA's Trumbull County fair display, but spent even more time looking after the Covered Bridges On the Air activity associated with the Newton Falls club (Western Reserve ARA), and with the WARA's special event station, W8P, at the Packard auto show. Gail and his wife Emily have put a lot of time and effort into making things happen in the club, and both deserve our Kudos for this month.

We can't let the issue go without also recognizing Lisa Eckenrode, who, as an Associate member stepped forward when she was needed and did a lot to make the TC Fair exhibit come off. Thanks Lisa, great to have you on our side.

## Repeater news

The last time I wrote an article we lost the transmitter for the Newton Falls link between writing and printing. So for a few weeks we were a single site repeater. The North link being without a preamp and low profile it contributes little to the coverage. The north link now has a preamp again and the Newton Falls link is back on. We also have a spare transmitter.

Our voting is about 80 to 90 % accurate. I believe the audio from our receivers is not totally flat. All the receivers are identical but since the link audio goes through two receivers before the voter any error is doubled. The voter then favors one receiver over another. This will be the next problem addressed. This has been a busy time of year for me and I have not tried to solve the problem.

Some operating tips for this month. Our repeater has a five-second tail. One second after a user stops transmitting the repeater controller generates a courtesy tone. Four seconds later, after the tail timer times out, the transmitter drops, assuming no repeater ID is timed out. This means our repeater stops transmitting five seconds after a user stops transmitting. This is the maximum allowed by the FCC. This is the way it has been since installation around 1980. Some repeaters have gone to a shorter tail. Amateurs wishing to break into a QSO often wait until the repeater drops to transmit. On our repeater this will not work well because users do not let the repeater drop in normal use. To break on our repeater it is easy to tell when a user unkeys their transmitter since a slight squelch tail can be heard. Then, there is one second until the courtesy tone. Nearly all users allow another couple of seconds before beginning to transmit. This is the time to break in. A breaking station should hold their microphone ready to transmit. As soon as they hear the user unkey they should transmit and announce their intention.

What the breaking station should say is not important. I've heard lots of opinions on this subject, but the important things are to be courteous and to the point. That said, here is what I read in an ARRL operating manual fifteen or twenty years ago, and this is how I break. For a break of no importance and no hurry, simply state your call and wait to be acknowledged.

## Repeater news (cont . . . )

If you have a need to break with some importance but not an emergency say



the word "break" one time and wait to be acknowledged.

If the matter is an emergency you should wait for the station to unkey, Say "Break, Break, Break." Three breaks is an emergency signal. However since most hams don't know this you might consider also saying, "I have an emergency."

Despite what I heard someone say on the air, the word break did not come from the Citizens Band. The Citizens band copied it from hams. We just don't add all that much "flare" to it.

A seldom-used feature of our repeater is "Voice-mail." A message can be recorded on the DVR (Digital Voice recorder) and left on the repeater. This might be used, for example, to leave a message on the repeater that the meeting had been canceled. To do this the procedure would be as follows.

is your message for?" Then leave your message. For example, you might say "WARA meeting canceled." The time for the message is short, only a few seconds, so be very brief. The repeater will say "Please leave your message," and you might say, The WARA meeting has been canceled because of the heavy snow."

To play a message back, enter a 4 touch-tone. Unkey and listen. The repeater will play the announcements of each message that have been left. If there is only one or the one you want to hear is the first one, you can retrieve it by entering 41 - touch-tone. If your message is the second one on the list then enter 42 - touch-tone, and so on.

To erase a message first play it. Then enter 4\*\* touch-tone.

73, Dave kz8t

Key the microphone, identify, (don't forget the three second timer.) enter 4\* unkey. The repeater will respond, "Who