

The Q-Match

AUGUST IS HAMFEST MONTH

8/17/03

The Newsletter of the Warren Amateur Radio Association
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A WORD FROM THE PREZ

Club Team Work

Field Day 2003 looked to be a great success for the Warren Amateur Radio Association. I do not know what the final numbers for contacts were, but I am sure that Tom Roscoe / K8CX will be giving us an update as soon as it is available. We were able to operate as an "8A" club station with the members who attended and radios that we were able to setup. We also had a number of "out of town" visitors who stopped by as they heard the announcement on the W8VTD repeater (Thanks Dave--KZ8T).

We started some setup on Friday, June 27th with the successful movement of my trailer to the site. The task was aided by Karl Gerlt / KF8MG and Dale Bowen / W8SHR. And we did not get stuck !

The main Field Day setup started out early Saturday morning and ran right up to the starting time of 14:00 hrs EST. Some of the highlights of the setup were a 10-meter and 6-meter station, both with beams on a rotor, a 2-meter SSB station, and with the help of bow and arrow we setup a 10-meter through 80-meter dipole. We also built a Satellite 2-meter up / 70cm down array from the ground up, more about that later. This list does not include the impressive

antenna array already attached to Dale's shack ready to use.

One of my highlights of Field Day was the team effort of the Club's members who helped me with a project to build an automatic Satellite tracking antenna array. This was real Club teamwork and what Field Day is all about. Many thanks to all of you who assisted me with the project, especially our visitor from England who saved me from placing a clamp backwards. Through our members working together we found the elusive rotor terminal numbers, learned which way was truly "up", and had a successful "smoke test".

It is working together as a Club with a common goal of a successful Field Day, that makes it all worthwhile. So if you were unable to attend this year's WARA Field Day, be sure to make plans for next year. There is plenty to do, and lots of opportunity to work on your operating skills, as well as learn some new radio skills. Remember the goal of Field Day, (besides having fun) is to practice preparing for Emergency Communications should the need arise. And I was proud about how our

A word from the prez (cont. . .)
members worked together and had stations setup on the air quickly and in an organized manner. Check out the

results in this issue of the *Q-Match*, look for our Club's ranking in a future issue of QST, and you'll find some pictures on the WARA Web site soon.

73,

Your President, Bob, KC8PVB

Hamfest 2003

In case you didn't realize it, August is one of the most important months in our club's calendar. Each year on the third Sunday in August we put on our work gloves and get ready to rumble! It's Hamfest time. This year the Hamfest is on Sunday August 17 from 8.00 AM till 2.00 PM. So, mark the date on your calendar and get ready to come out to Kent Trumbull to do whatever you need to do to help out. We need every member's help on the day, and that includes YOU!! According to organizer Renee McCaman, KB8SVF, here is what is planned for Hamfest weekend.

* We will be setting up on August 16, 2003 at Kent State's Workforce Building (same place as last year) after the breakfast at Wayside Restaurant in Champion (Breakfast at 9:00 AM).

* WARA Covered Dish Picnic on August 16, 2003 @ 5:00pm at KSU Workforce Building. Please contact Ada Simons KC8MTZ at 330-847-0005 if you plan on attending and on what you are bringing.

* WARA HAMFEST is August 17, 2003 from 6am-2pm. Teardown and Cleanup will follow.

Just a few of the things we are planning are as follows:

Chinese Auction ~ Drawing being at 1:00 PM.

Motorcycle Show (His & Hers) Judging at 1:00 PM.

Two 50/50 Raffles will be held. The drawings for these will be at 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM.

An HT Raffle will be held, the drawing will be at 1:30 PM.

The Main Drawing will be at 2:00 PM.

There will be a "Make It & Take It" Class held from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

I NEED ALL OF YOUR HELP!! Please could you donate item/items for the Chinese Auction? If you could make up a basket that would even be better. Please bring it to the next meeting which will be August 5, 2003 or please give me a call at 330-847-8478 and I will be glad to come and pick it up. You can drop it off at my house at 317 Raymond Ave. N.W. Warren, Ohio 44483.

I also need HELP with the Chinese Auction Ticket Sales, the 50/50 Ticket Sales and the HT Ticket Sales. We will have a table set up inside for these sales near the extra Main Prize Ticket Sales. If you can help please contact me by phone at 330 847-8478, by email at mccaman@cboss.com or see me in person at a club meeting.

73,

Renee, KB8SVF

field day results

WARA Field Day organizer Tom Roscoe, K8CX, reports that the club's effort in this year's Field Day was very commendable. The club effort resulted in a total of 837 contacts which resulted in 2762 points. In addition, we scored Bonus Points for a number of activities on the day. Tom reports that these bonus points included the following: The GOTA Station made 100 QSOs which resulted in 100 Bonus Points.

Field day results (cont. . .)

Using 100% Emergency Power meant 800 Bonus Points.

The Public Information Table that was set up gave us 100 Bonus Points.

President Bob's Satellite QSO increased our result by 100 Bonus Points.

Using Solar Power gave us 100 Bonus Points.

Using a Non-Traditional Mode, in this case, ATV, improved our score by 100 Bonus Points.

Setting up a Portable Packet System gave us 100 Bonus Points.

We had a site visitation by a fireman which gave us 100 Bonus Points.

All of these resulted in a total score for the weekend of 4262 Points.

73, Tom...K8CX...

packard special event

As we have for the past several years, the WARA once again operated a Special Event Station at Warren's annual Packard Car Show held on July 26 and 27. The event occurred, as usual, on the grounds of Packard Music Hall, just behind the Packard Auto Museum. The event was again organized by Gail Wells, KC8LRH, ably assisted by his XYL Emily, KC8RAL. Gail advised us that two stations were set up on Friday July 25, using the call-sign W8P. Gail and Emily wanted to thank those members who assisted on the weekend. The following members signed in on the weekend – KC8RAL, KC8LRH, N9BSO, KC8VHC, KC8VHB, N8VOR, KC8PVB, KA8FUP, N8NVI, N8XXY, N8HRZ, WB8PPH, N8VCK, KA8LCW, KC8TAP, KB8SVF, N8TIO, KF8MG, KC8QZR, Associate members Shirley, George, Paul, and Jeannie.

We made close to 100 QSOs across the country on the weekend, from New

York to California and many points in between. Each station worked will receive a neat certificate when we receive its QSL card. As usual, each member who helped out on the weekend will receive a certificate too. It was found that 20 and 40 meters were the best bands and they were the bands most used. In addition, both Lisa, KC8VHB, and Sue, KC8VHC, made their first contact on the HF bands on the weekend. Well done to those YLs!

New skywarn group

Eric Hnanicek, KC8TJN, of Burton, has started a Yahoo group for District 5 Skywarn. Eric would like those interested in Skywarn and weather emergencies in general, to check out his site at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/geaugaskywarn/>. After the last few weeks of very extraordinary weather, it might pay us all to have a look at what Eric has started. For those of you who don't know, District 5 Skywarn includes Astabula, Geauga, Lake, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull counties. In other words, US!

September 11 echolink net

Thanks to Fred, N9BSO, for forwarding this information about the second 9/11 Echolink net to be held on Thursday, September 11. The net will be held to honor those who lost their lives and those who spent so much time trying to find survivors after that terrible act of terrorism against our people and our country. The day will start with the main EchoLink net servers opening at 6:00 AM EST and the directed net to begin that evening at 7:00PM EST. All EchoLink, IRLP and eQSO servers are

Sept. 11 echolink net (cont...)

invited to join at the times of their own choosing during the day to actively participate or just listen, but should plan to link no later than 7PM EST. Further instructions regarding how to link to the net will be forthcoming here on the EchoLink News Group before 9/11.

Last year's 9/11 net is still being talked about as being, without a doubt, the largest real-time gathering of amateur radio operators ever, and the organizers of this year's net are planning the 2003 net to be even bigger and better. The first net was so large that it strained the capacity of the EchoLink servers to handle the 1000+ stations that participated. This year, the improved "The Bridge" conference software will allow the 9/11 net to have virtually unlimited capacity. Ask your server operator / owner if he plans to link to the 9/11 net.

Do you know someone who operated in the original 9/11 operation in NYC? We are looking for hams, firemen, Police and other relief workers who would be guest speakers. Special speakers from such organizations as the ARRL and others will speak to the network -- as Jim Haynie, ARRL President did last year. If you know of a possible guest speaker, contact N2LEN (N2LEN1@aol.com) or K5JD (K5JD@arrl.net) and give them contact information. Put this 9/11 Special Event Net on your calendar now. Let us honor our fallen countrymen, the rescue workers and others by having the largest group of Amateur radio operators ever to assemble on the air.

Ohio qso party

The Ohio Bicentennial running of the Ohio QSO Party will be Saturday,

August 23, 2003. It runs from noon to midnight, local time. Activity will be on the low bands, 10 through 80 meters, CW and sideband.

Stations inside of Ohio can work anyone in the contest. Stations outside Of Ohio (anywhere in the world, and yes, we do get entrants from Europe most years) can only work stations in Ohio -- so we buckeyes are the hunted, not the hunters for a change!

There are numerous awards (certificates and plaques) available -- including >a club competition (club members compete for both individual and club awards).

We plan to activate all 88 counties, many with fixed stations, and many, if not all, with mobile operations. There should be plenty of activity for all 12 hours. Operate for a short time or the whole contest period -- whatever suits your time budget.

Full details are on the official OQP web site, www.mrrc.net/oqp. Past scores, a Quick Start guide to the OQP, an OQP e-mail list signup, and a regularly updated page showing planned activity county by county are all there for the surfing.

If you have any questions, they may be directed to af8a@arrl.net or jimk8mr@aol.com.

Thanks and 73,
de Gary, AF8A

nominations sought

The Great Lakes Division Convention, at the Findlay, Ohio, Inn on Saturday, September 6 (day before the Findlay Hamfest) will honor several worthy ham Nominations sought (cont. . .) radio operators in our Division (Michigan and Kentucky as well as Ohio). The

following information is a call for nominations for these honors. Note the August 15 deadline and nominations to go to Convention Chairman, Gary Johnston, KI4LA.

GEORGE S. WILSON III W4OYI GREAT LAKES DIVISION AWARD

The Radio Amateur in the Great Lakes Division whose lifetime achievement record merits recognition for outstanding contribution to the Amateur Radio Service. At the time of nomination, nominees must either have been licensed Radio Amateurs for at least 30 years and/or be at least 50 years of age. Emphasis is placed on service to others rather than self,

AMATEUR OF THE YEAR

The Radio Amateur in the Great Lakes Division whose outstanding record in the year preceding nomination merits recognition for contributions to the Amateur Radio Service. The Amateur of the Year, is an all-around Amateur whose activities, attitudes and achievements may serve as a guiding example to others.

TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Radio Amateur(s) in the Great Lakes Division whose technical excellence exemplifies "continuation of the Amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art" and whose attitude exemplifies the highest dedication to service to others and to science.

Technical achievement may be demonstrated through activities such as publications, research and development, creativity in hardware I, software I firmware systems design and implementation, technical instruction, application of advanced technology to public service communications.

Nominations should include the name, call and address of the nominee, as well as a one page statement of support. E-mail all nominations to the Great Lakes Division Awards Committee, Gary Johnston KI4LA, Chair, ki4la@arrl.org, or mail to 3056 Hergott Drive, Edgewood, KY 41017. The deadline for nominations is Friday, August 15th, 5:00 pm. Awards will be presented on September 6, 2003, at the Great Lakes Division Convention in Findlay, Ohio.

Happy birthday

As we do each month, we would like to wish the following WARA members a very happy and enjoyable August birthday.

8/1 KB8UCY ~ John Lightner
 8/2 KC8QZR ~ Robert Meeker
 8/2 KB8ULG ~ Stanley Shrodek
 8/4 KB8OVC ~ Tresa Neely
 8/3 KC8VHB ~ Lisa Marie Ecrenrode
 8/8 KC8PUZ ~ Frank Bosak
 8/9 KA8RXW ~ Lee Kerber
 8/13 Assoc. ~ Shirley Van Slyke
 8/15 KZ8T ~ David Walters
 8/21 WA8ABE ~ William Caldwell Sr.
 8/22 K8JLK ~ Dick Ellers
 8/22 KF8MG ~ Karl Gerlt
 8/22 KG8IG ~ Charles "Charlie" Wright
 8/22 N8MJU ~ Robert Meade
 8/24 KB8UXJ ~ Susanne "Sue" Coe
 8/26 WB8GVB ~ Joe Shultz
 8/29 KB8OMV ~ Ray "Bud" Neely
 ARL FORTY-SIX to our birthday girls and boys. If you notice an error in one of the listings, or if a call has been left off, please let the editor know.

Two meter net

Here is the W8VTD two meter net schedule for August and September. As we usually announce, if you'd like to try

your hand at NCS just let Fred Olver, N9BSO, know. Fred can be reached at creacher@onecom.com.

Aug 6 – Pete, K8OUA

Aug 13 – Andy, N8YR

Aug 20 – Fred, N9BSO

Aug 27 – Bob, KC8PVB

Sept 3 – Frank, KC8PUZ

Sept 10 – Pete, K8OUA

Sept 17 – Andy, N8YR

Sept 24 – Fred, N9BSO

If you haven't been on the net recently you might be surprised at how active it is. Why not join us on Wednesday night? You might meet some old friends there.

Ohio section news

AUGUST SECTION NEWS: For all the latest information on the Convention go to <http://greatlakes.arrl.org> and make arrangements through Jeanie Dalton. JeanieDalton@COMPUSERVE.COM There is free toll number for reserving rooms at Findlay Inn <1-800-825-1455>. Special room rates for this convention hold until August 15.

Among the many features of The Convention will be Division awards. TC Tom Holmes, N8ZM, is an Ohio representative on that committee (former ASM Mary Carpenter, N8OAM, is the other). Tom is seeking Ohio Section hams who have made exceptional TECHNICAL contributions to ham radio. Know any? Tell Tom quickly at n8zm@arrl.net.

With a Division Convention so close to our regularly scheduled Ohio Section Conference (usually the following week after the Findlay Hamfest), the 2003 Conference will be canceled. But it returns in 2004, on Saturday, September 11, 2004, at the Ohio EMA

Headquarters in Columbus as always. For 2003, the Ohio Section will hold a forum at the Findlay Hamfest where group reports and awards (The Severson and Newsletter Contest winners) will be announced.

Speaking of the Severson award, former Ohio SM and Great Lakes Division Director, Al Severson, AB8P, (SK) died in 1997. His leadership to the Ohio Section was so special, the Section annually awards the Allan Severson AB8P, Memorial Award to hams who make outstanding contributions to Ohio ham radio. Al's final resting place was determined recently at the wishes of his two children. In late June, his ashes were buried at the Western Reserve National Veterans Cemetery in Seville, Ohio.

The third edition (published 4 times annually) of the Ohio Section Journal will be mailed this month. Don't know what the OSJ is? Contact me immediately (check QST, Page 16 or k8qoe@arrl.org).

The OHKYIN ARS of Cincinnati will sponsor the Region Two Amateur Radio Direction Finding Championships, July 31 to August 2. Events will be mainly held at Miami University in Oxford. Thanks to Dick Arnett, WB4SUV; and Bob Frey, WA6EZV, for bringing this international event to Ohio.

Do not need to see the final results (in November, QST) to know that Field Day was a great success in the Ohio Section. There were 41 Field Day messages to the Section Manager which represents an 11 percent Ohio section news (cont. . .) increase over 2002. Especially pleasing was to see a large number of new Field

Day operations reporting such as Central Ohio ARES which has not had a Field Day in many years but did this year at a public park in Westerville. Great job all around for Field Day in Ohio.

For those entering the 12th annual Ohio Newsletter Contest, please note the Contest Manager and Ohio Public Information Coordinator, Scott Yonally, N8SY, has a new address. It is 258 Valley Hi Drive, Lexington, Ohio 44904-9792. E-mail address is the same (n8sy@arrl.net).

OHIO SECTION CLUB NEWS: Attention all clubs in Ohio: On September 6th the Great Lakes Division is sponsoring the ARRL Convention at Findlay, OH. It will be held at the Findlay Inn in downtown Findlay. Among the convention seminars will be a Clubs Seminar for all clubs to share what is happening with your club, problems, etc. and is organized by the Affiliated Club Coordinators for Ohio, Michigan and Kentucky. It will be very informative. Go the ARRL website and go to the Great Lakes Division web page for information for the convention, registering and hotel information. The latest date for registering is Aug. 15 so that the committee will have the accurate numbers.

OHIO SECTION REMEMBERS: Ron Gratch, WB8UND (SK), a professional night club standup comedian who performed gratis frequently for more than two decades at ham radio functions in Southwest Ohio. Known professionally as Ron Stewart, his endless putdowns of Norwood, Ohio, and miming act with a handheld will be remembered fondly by Cincinnati hams.

OHIO SECTION AUGUST HAMFESTS: (2) Ham O' Rama by Voice of Aladdin ARC, in Columbus. Info at <www.qls.net/w8fez> or write kb8kpi@cs.com ; (17) Warren by Warren ARA. Info at <www.w8vtd.org/> or write <mccaman@cboss.com>; (23) Portsmouth by Portsmouth RC. For information write <n8zw@falcon1.net>.

Morse code and me

For those of you who don't know it, the latest World Radio Conference decided to eliminate the requirement that hams have some proficiency in Morse to operate on the HF bands (that's 30 MHz and down for those whose experience is limited to 2 meters). As a result, two countries, the U.K. and Switzerland, have eliminated the need to pass a CW exam, and pundits predict that many more will follow. The FCC is unlikely to act on its own, but has already been petitioned by the National Conference of VECs to eliminate the Morse requirement (go to www.qrz.com for info). I guess I've seen it coming for years now, and I guess that soon no one will need to learn the beautiful rhythmic sounds of CW. I signed onto Echolink tonight, and expect to be able to talk to my friends in Australia by that mode soon. That'll be nice! It'll be like using the telephone, without the bills. I'll be able to keep up with them, their kids, and now even their grandkids. It'll be easy. But, it won't hold a candle to the first time I talked to a guy from Australia. That was at about 3.00 AM on 40 meters about 43 years ago. The man's call was VK3XB, Ivor Stafford from Box Morse code and me (cont. . .) Hill in the Aussie state of Victoria. I'd read that he was trying to get WAS by

working novices, so I stayed up late to see if I could hear him. I did, on the 40 meter novice band with my little National receiver. I called him with my Heathkit DX40 transmitter and when I heard my call in his slow morse just above the noise level, it was one of the most unbelievable thrills I've ever had. I'll never forget it! I met Ivor 20 years later when I lived in VK-land, and he showed me his logbook with my call in it. Neat! Many hams can relate to a story like this about a first DX contact. But, I wonder if such stories will be a thing of the past, what new hams will be telling their kids in the future.

Yeah, it'll be great to use Echolink to hook up with old friends down under, and, yeah, I know that in another ten or

about the past to my old friends using whatever the latest upgrade to Echolink is. But, I'll be thinking about what we've lost. And the saddest thing of all is that those who scream so loudly to get rid of the morse requirement, who want to make all communications so much easier, so much clearer, to remove the QRN (that's static gang!), won't have a clue what they're missing. Sometimes when things are changing, you need to take a good look at what you're giving up with the change. It's very easy to throw the baby out with the dirty bath water without even knowing it. Then, when the house is quiet and dull, it's too late to wonder where the baby went!

twenty years (and I hope to still be around then!) Morse will probably not be used by hams anymore. But, ya know what, when that happens I think I'll just sell my rig and spend my time talking