

The Q-Match

The Newsletter of the Warren Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 809, Warren, Ohio 44482

Webpage - www.w8vtd.org Editor - pkozup@juno.com

September, 2003

A WORD FROM THE PREZ

WARA Ham Fest and Upcoming Events:

I hope you are reading this in the September Q-Match, however if not I apologize. It's been a busy month all around and I do not know where the time goes sometimes. I think we all experience that once and a while.

The WARA Hamfest, in my thoughts, was a great success. I will not go into any further detail, as I believe that the discussions at our meeting pretty much covered everything. Planning for next years Hamfest has already begun so if you're interested in helping out plan to attend one of the Hamfest Committee meetings as they are announced.

The year is going by fast but there are still some important WARA events left for everyone to participate in.

We have our banquet in the next few weeks, so I hope to see all of you there. More about that function can be found in this issue of the Q-Match.

New on the agenda is WARA's participation the ARRL 2003 Simulated Emergency Test. I have sent our request to participate to our Section's "Emergency Coordinator". He has forward the request on to both our "District Emergency Coordinator (James Miller, K8EIO) and our local Emergency Coordinator (Ernest Kyser, KB8QDX). I should be hearing from one of them soon so we can know how as a Club we can participate. The actual dates for the test are October 4th and 5th.

Next on the agenda for October is the annual "Jamboree on the Air". For those of you not familiar with JOTA it is a once a year event where Boy and Girl Scouts are given the ability, through Amateurs like ourselves, to communicate with each other throughout the world. We have been able to participate over the last couple of years and have had a good turn out with both the Scouts and Club members. I do not have the location yet as I am waiting for the Scout Master, Scott Johnson, to determine what will work best for this year. He has let me know that they do not have the Webelos Woods at Camp Chicagami until October 25th this year. This is where we have worked our JOTA in past years. So I hope to have some more news soon.

So there are a lot of Club activities coming up yet this year. I hope to see many of you participating in them.

73,

Your Prez, Bob, KC8PVB

Apologies

This month's *Q-Match* is very late due to the editor's other life. I apologize and promise to try to get the monthly issue out by the first club meeting each month in the future.

DAHDAH DIDIDIT DIDIDIDAHDAH

Hamfest 2003

While the numbers were down all around for the 2003 WARA Hamfest, as

President Bob has said in his column, it still has to be considered a success. We had about 800 hams attending, and the weather was great, the flea market was excellent, and many of us saw old friends we hadn't seen for awhile. This year's hamfest saw a number of new ideas put into effect, and they added to the day. These included a Motorcycle show, the first ever held by the club. While the number of 'cycles present was small, only about eight or so on exhibit, they represented a good cross section of types of cycles. It is hoped that with some more advertising before the event we will get a number of additional bikes on exhibit in the future. For the first time we held a Chinese Auction at the hamfest, and held a "make it and take it" session for XYLs and harmonics. While we believe that everyone who participated in our hamfest was a winner, some won prizes to help them stock up their ham shacks. We held two 50/50 raffles, and winners included Gary Grimes, KC8GAB, and Brenda McClain, K8BFM. The HT Drawing was won by Sam Wolfe, NV8L, of Cleveland. The main prize winners were -- \$500 Prize Walt Nussel, N8VKX, of Lewisburg, \$300 Prize Sherrell Wimer, N8UIN, of North Canton, and the \$150 Prize went to a former WARA member, Dennis Strock, N8PPE, of Leavittsburg. So, congrats to Renee, KB8SVF, the hamfest coordinator for a job well done. The club is already looking ahead to next year and anyone interested in working on next year's hamfest should not hesitate to attend a meeting of the hamfest committee -- keep your eyes open for the dates and times of the meetings.

Awards banquet

The annual WARA Awards Banquet will be held on Sunday evening September 21, 2003. This is the event at which we recognize those members who have contributed to the club by working at a major club activity such as Field Day, Hamfest, Net Control on the Wednesday night net, operating during club special event activities, etc. The dinner will be held this year at the Golden Gate Restaurant on Parkman Rd. The doors will open from about 5.30 PM, and dinner will be served at 6.00 PM. While dinner is free of charge to those who have worked at a major club function, held a club office, or worked at a continuous club activity through the year, there is a charge of \$13.00 or \$25.00 per couple for guests and for those who haven't met the qualifications listed above. If you're not sure whether you meet the above qualifications, contact the dinner organizer, Ada Simons, KC8MTZ, at 330 847-0005. Ada would also like to know whether or not you plan to attend, and asks that you contact her by Thursday September 18. Also, remember, if you know of anyone deserving of a SPECIAL award for an act or action performed during the past year you should contact the Awards Chairman, Peter Kozup, K8OUA and advise him. Peter can be contacted by phone on 330 847-0975, or by email at pkozup@juno.com. We're all looking forward to seeing you at the Golden Gate on September 21.

Classifieds

FOR SALE: 2 X 2-meter trunk mounts;
1 X 2-meter hole mount; both in working
Classifieds (cont. . . .)
Condition -- \$5.00 each.

1 Larson Dual Band 2 m / 70 cm mag mount antenna -- \$15.00.

1 MFJ Grandmaster memory keyer with instructions – make an offer. Call Chuck Simpkins, KA8FUP at 330 394-4123.

Happy birthday

You'd think that there'd be a lot of birthdays in September since that's the ninth month after a dark and cold January. But, we have only a few of them on our register. Don't know why! Still, that makes September birthdays extra special for the birthday boys and girls. We wish a very special birthday greeting to the following WARA members.

9/15 – Larry Durkos, N8WRT

9/16 – Velma Telford, Assoc.

9/20 – April Reisinger, KC8VUN

9/21 – Sandee Starr, Assoc.

9/26 – Dennis Carraher, N8IVE

9/30 – Andrew Shine, N8YR

I know my birthday list is somewhat dated and there may be members whose birthdays I've missed. If I've missed yours, why don't you send me an email and remind me that I need to update my birthday roster.

From the Repeater

Things are still going well with the repeater. Activity has been picking up and operations are good, for the most part.

The power supply for the link that is located at my house failed during a lightning storm. The link was off the air for a week or so. This link seems to be prone to lightning spikes. I plan to improve on grounding for the antenna. The major part of traffic on the repeater goes through the Newton Falls link and the main site receiver so this was no big loss of coverage of the repeater. The

North link actually contributes little. If we could come up with a better site, east or north of the main site, this would be an improvement. I don't think peoples' homes are the best locations as the two interfere with each other.

In discussions with one of the control operators it was pointed out that a few people are forgetting to identify when using the repeater. This is not good. I think we all sometimes get involved with the QSO and we may be driving as well, but we must strive to meet the FCC rules and regulations. Apparently some (a very few) have not identified at all. In discussions we decided the appropriate thing to do is turn off the repeater when it is not being used legally.

FCC rules say that "Control operators" and "license trustees" are also responsible. That said we ask that everyone go the extra step of identifying at the beginning of a QSO as well as every ten minutes and at the end of a QSO. If we are going to be responsible for the actions of the repeater then it is necessary to know that all is well.

It is that time of the year when band openings often occur in the mornings. Those of us who have been around for awhile know that this happens every year. For weak signal work, like two meter sideband, it is great. For repeaters, though, it becomes a nuisance. This is one of the reasons that many repeaters use PL Tones.

One cause of these band openings is "Ducting". As the nights get cooler and longer the ground becomes warmer than the air. Warm air gets trapped under cooler air. At the junction of these from the repeater (cont. . . .)

two air masses the density of the two is different, and radio waves get reflected back to earth. This is similar to light being reflected off the surface of water or glass when seen at an angle. Both light and water have a different density from the air so light waves striking at an angle bounce off. There are many different types of band enhancement. This is just one of them. Ducting is unrelated to things like Sporadic E openings that occur at slightly higher altitudes. Sporadic E is made up of electrically charged particles that bend radio waves. Skip on HF is the result of electrically charged particles in the F layer of the atmosphere (the ionosphere).

Dave, KZ8T,
Repeater Coordinator

Two meter net

Here is the W8VTD Wednesday night net schedule for the rest of September and October.

Sept 10 – Pete, K8OUA

Sept 17 – Andy, N8YR

Sept 24 – Fred, N9BSO

October 1 – Bob, KC8PVB

October 8 – Frank, KC8PUZ

October 15 – Pete, K8OUA

October 22 – Andy, N8YR

October 29 – Fred, N9BSO

Remember, if you'd like to try your hand at being Net Control, contact the Net Coordinator, Fred Olver, N9BSO, and let him know how you feel.

Ohio section news

SM: Joe Phillips, K8QOE, Fairfield, (to contact me, see page 12 in QST); ASM-NE: Bob Winston, W2THU, Cleveland; SEC: Larry Rain, WD8IHP, Mansfield; ACC: Brenda Krukowski, KB8IUP, Toledo; TC: Tom Holmes, N8ZM, Tipp City; PIC: Scott Yonally, N8SY,

Mansfield; OOC: Alan Cook, N7CEU, Newark; SGL: Reuben Meeks, W8GUC, Vandalia.

FOR THE SECOND TIME this year, ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, of Dallas, will be appearing in Ohio. He is the main Banquet Speaker for the Great Lakes Division Convention at the Findlay Inn and Conference Center, Saturday, September 6 (Jim Bridgewater of the FCC will be there as well). President Haynie will be at the Findlay Hamfest on Sunday answering your questions about League matters. Jim was in Ohio at the 2003 Dayton Hamvention.

PLEASE REMEMBER because the Great Lakes Convention being so close to our usual date, the Ohio Section Conference will not be held in 2003. But we will return in 2004 at the Ohio EMA facility in Columbus.

NEW 8TH CALL AREA QSL Bureau chief, Jay Slough, K4ZLE, has announced new procedures for the bureau. Please visit the new 8th call area Bureau page where changes in bureau operation is explained. This page is located at <http://home.fuse.net/jslough/w8buro.html>. And Jay thanks everyone for your assistance in making the hobby more fun for all of us.

JACK WAGONER, WB8FSV, Hilliard, Ohio (near Columbus) and one of this state's top CW operators, has retired from the position of State Traffic Manager after six years of service. He and his wife just adopted a Chinese baby and he expects busy days ahead. Thank you Jack for your service to the Ohio Section.

STM OFFICE DROPPED Mr. Wagoner also recommended the STM position be retired as well and the Section Manager

agreed. Both CW nets (Buckeye Net Early and Buckeye Net Late) and the statewide phone net (the Ohio Single Side Band Net - OSSBN) have been operating independently and will continue to do so. Traffic counts and honor roll points will continue to be collected by ASM John Haungs, W8STX, Cincinnati, as always. Three years ago Ohio wrote the OSSBN into the Ohio Section Emergency Response Plan under the leadership of Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator, Larry Rain, WD8IHP, Mansfield, and Assistant Section Manager Connie Hamilton, N8IO, who was Net Manager of OSSBN at the time. This move of traffic nets to be included directly in emergency communications has been recommended by the ARRL. Ohio was among the first Sections to complete this step.

OHIO SECTION CONGRATS (A) To the ARRL officials, lead by CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, for the nice defense of our 40 meter privileges at the 2003 Geneva World Radio Conference. Read about it in this month's QST on Page nine and starting on Page 40, and (B) To the newsletter "Feedback" of the Massillon ARC for its listing of Special Event Stations. Since this area of Ham Radio is growing, other newsletters should copy this membership service.

OHIO SECTION SEPTEMBER HAMFESTS AND CONVENTION; (6) Great Lakes Convention for all Ohio, Michigan and Kentucky ARRL members at Findlay Inn and Conference Center. For all the info, go to <greatlakes.arrl.org> and click on Convention; (7) Findlay Radio Club hamfest at Hancock County Rec Center.

For more info, go to <www.findlayradioclub.org>; (21) GCARA at Scarlet Oaks Career Center, Cincinnati. For more info, see www.cincinnatiamateurradio.com and (28) Hamfest Assn. at Cleveland. For more info, see www.hac.org. de Joe, K8QOE.

Mark your calendar

Remember to mark your calendar for these upcoming events.

- 9/20 – Breakfast Wayside Inn 9 AM
- 9/22 – Brunch Farmington Sr Ctr 11 AM
- 9/24 – W8VTD Net 146.97 MHz 9PM
- 9/27 – Lunch Covered Bridge Rest
Newton Falls 12 N
- 9/29 – Brunch Farmington Sr Ctr 11 AM
- 10/1 – W8VTD Net 146.97 MHz 9 PM
- 10/4 – Breakfast Wayside Inn 9 AM
- 10/4-5 – Simulated Emergency Test see www.arrl.org for details
- 10/6 – Brunch Farmington Sr Ctr 11 AM
- 10/7 – WARA mtg TCTC 7.30 PM
- 10/8 – W8VTD Net 146.97 MHz 9 PM
- 10/13 – Discoverer's Day – no school
for K8OUA
- 10/13 – Brunch Farmington Sr Ctr 11AM
- 10/15 – W8VTD Net 146.97MHz 9 PM
- 10/18 – Breakfast Wayside Inn 9 AM
- 10/18-19 – Scout JOTA; check mtgs for
details
- 10/20 – Brunch Farmington Sr Ctr 11AM
- 10/21 – WARA mtg TCTC 7.30 PM
- 10/22 – W8VTD Net 146.97 MHz 9 PM
- 10/25 – Lunch Covered Bridge Rest.
Newton Falls 12 N
- 10/26 – Daylight Savings Time Ends –
Fall Back
- 10/27 – Brunch Farmington Sr Ctr 11AM
- 10/29 – W8VTD Net 146.97MHz 9 PM
- 10/31 – Watch for Goblins and witches

DAHDAHDIDIDIT DIDIDIDAHDAH

