

The Q-Match

The Newsletter of the Warren Amateur Radio Association

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November, 2003

Meeting venue

Just in case you missed the mass mailing that advised us, please note that our meeting location has changed. We are still meeting at the same time, 7.30 PM on the first and third Tuesday of each month, but now our location is at the Grace Baptist Church at 5418 Mahoning Ave. in Champion, between Champion Street and SR 305.

Akron marathon

Six WARA members drove to Akron on October 11 to participate in the Akron Marathon. No, these stalwart communicators did not run in the marathon, they did what they do best, they helped, along with about sixty-five other hams, to provide communications for this event. The WARA members who participated in the event were Bob Maurer, KC8PVB, Renee McCaman, KB8SVF, Don Bower, N8VCK, Gail Wells, KC8LRH, Frank Safran, WB8PPH, and Richard Bell, KC8TAP. According to those who enjoyed this event it was very well organized and well structured. Most of those who participated are already looking forward to next year's event. In addition, the organizers of the event have emailed President Bob expressing their thanks for the assistance that some of our members provided.

Jota 2003

The 2003 Scout Jamboree of the Air was held at Camp Chickagami in Parkman again this year and was deemed to have been a great success. The club

had eleven members show up for the day, and provided communications for about twenty-one from a number of different troops, some from as far away as Canton. In addition to QSOs with a number of stations on HF, the scouts were treated to a display of Amateur TV, and some displays on the oscilloscope. Great job to those who participated.

Annual meeting reminder

As the end of 2003 is now showing it's time to think about next year, and with that comes the WARA annual meeting. The 2004 Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2004. Mark your calendar.

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License renewal online

President Bob sent this email around and we thought that some members might not have received it. So, here is information on renewing your license on the internet, compliments of KC8PVB. Note that some are guides to help you through the process. The easiest one looks like the "w5yi" group. Though they do charge \$6. Here are the URLs.

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>

<http://users.bestweb.net/~ocarc/article.htm>

<http://www.eham.net/forums/Licensing/1151>

<https://www.w5yi.org/Secure/Renew.htm>

Members around the traps

Cynthia Durkos -- It is with sincere regret and sadness that we announce

the passing of Cynthia Durkos, the wife of WARA member Larry Durkos, N8WRT. Cynthia unexpectedly passed away on November 1st after an illness. Larry and Cynthia have two daughters, Lindsey and Ashley. Besides Larry and their daughters she is survived by her parents and three sisters and a brother. We extend our condolences to Larry, Lindsey, and Ashley.

On a much brighter note our congrats go out to Robert (KC8QZR) and Pauline Meeker on the birth of twin boys and future WARA members. Nicholas Anthony, 7lbs 15 oz, and Robert Paul, 7lbs 14 oz, were born on October 16. Our congratulations and best wishes to mom, dad, and harmonics.

Garrett Greene, K8RBX, has moved to the Windsor House Nursing home.

November birthdays

The following members of WARA are celebrating birthdays this month. We wish them the very best on their special day – Happy Birthday!

Nov 2 – Harold ‘Buzz’ Firster, K8NTD

Nov 3 – Kay Parise, N8WER

Nov 6 – George Bennett, N8XKP

Nov 7 – Sue Wagner, KC8VHC

Nov 14 – Ed Chopko, Jr., K8KBB

Nov 15 – Jim Townley, K8SSP

Nov 15 – Jack Sullivan, KC8RJU

Nov 16 – Henry Snyder, KC8UVY

Nov 18 – Bob Moran, KC8FWQ

Nov 20 – Bill Kemp, KC8KBC

Nov 24 – Bill Eckenrode, N8VOR

Nov 24 -- Donald Hall, Associate

ARL FORTY SIX to each of these birthday members. And, remember, if I have your date wrong or have left you off the list please email me ASAP so that I can change my records.

Classifieds

FOR FREE: Hi!!! My name is Gidget. I'm a five-month old kitty. I'm orange and grey and don't use my claws on furniture. I like to be scratched and petted and I know where the bathroom is. I'm looking for a new home where there's lots of food, good people, and a nice place to sleep. If you think you might have room in your heart for me, you can reach my owner, Fred, at 330 898-2943. Think about it, I've had my shots and, honestly, there's nothing like a purring cat to warm even the hardest heart.

Thanks and have a great day!

Gidget

Ohio section news

SM: Joe Phillips, K8QOE, Fairfield, (to contact me, see page 12 in QST); ASM-NE: Bob Winston, W2THU, Cleveland; INTERIM SEC John Chapman, WB8INY, Gahanna; ACC: Brenda Krukowski, KB8IUP, Toledo; TC: Tom Holmes. N8ZM, Tipp City; PIC: Scott Yonally, N8SY, Lexington; OOC: Alan Cook, N7CEU, Newark; SGL: Reuben Meeks, W8GUC, Vandalia.

NOVEMBER SECTION NEWS;

The 1974 tornado destruction of Xenia, Ohio made such an impact on John Chapman, WB8INY, that he knew ARES emergency communications would be in his life for good. And he will put that dedication in his new task - Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator. Ohio ARRL Section Manager, Joe Phillips, K8QOE, has appointed John to be Ohio SEC to succeed Larry Rain, WD8IHP (SK) who became a silent key September 9, 2003. "This was the most Ohio section news (cont. . . .) difficult decision I've had in five years as SM because three outstanding DEC's

had applied." Said Phillips, "John Chapman is committed to continuing the great direction of Ohio ARES program which Larry Rain began." John, a Worthington native, was graduated from Ohio State in 1978 with a degree in Computer and Information Sciences. He began his lifelong fascination with amateur radio while operating in the radio shack of W8LT (the OSU ham radio station). He holds an extra class license, is a mentor on all three ARRL Emergency Courses and a Red Cross Instructor. He worked his way up the ARES ladder - first as EC of Franklin County and District Emergency Coordinator for District 7. John has served the last seven weeks as Interim SEC.

He and His wife, Judi, reside in Gahanna (Franklin County) with son, Austin and enjoys chasing DX (particularly QRP on camping trips), and SCUBA diving. But the 1974 tornado, where he was assigned in emergency communications had a permanent impact on him. "I couldn't believe the destruction once I saw Xenia - the full impact of that damage I'll never forget."

FROM THE ACC: Congratulations to the "PIONEER RADIATOR" as the winner of the Ohio Section Newsletter contest. Much hard work goes into the clubs' newsletters and in my book all the newsletters are winners.

Clubs, it is important that you UPDATE your club's information with ARRL.

This is to be done every year and your Special Service Club information needs to be renewed every two year. Remind your secretary or club president of this important item. Easily done online at the ARRL web site – www.arrl.org.

OHIO CLUBS NEWS...It was great seeing many club representatives at the Ham Club Forum at the ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention in September at Findlay. The Seminar attracted more than 45 attendees. A lot of great and useful discussion which gave myself (Ohio ACC Brenda Krukowski, KB8IUP) and Michigan ACC Sandy Mondro, KG8HM, many good ideas to help the clubs. Any ideas that you think would help other clubs such as meeting ideas, getting new members, etc., please let me know so that I can pass these ideas on to other Ohio clubs.

New officers for Toledo Mobile Radio Assn. are: Pres. Tom Swartz, KB8PAI, VP - Steve Bellner, W8TER, Treas., Chuck Ferguson, N8NIR and Sec. Randi Parton, KC8IVV. Also congratulations to TMRA on their 50th Anniversary as a club.

And finally, congratulations to those who were inducted into the Wouff Hong. This is a great honor and you will always remember this ceremony! Thanks to all who had some part in planning the ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention. You did a great job and we look forward to doing it again. (From Brenda.)

OHIO NON CLUB NEWS: Not in a club??? Now is the time to investigate what your local club is doing. Christmas parties, elections, next years plans are part of most Ohio club programs in December. Strong Ohio clubs means a strong Ohio section.

OHIO SECTION CONGRATS: (A) TO the Toledo Ham of the Year, Martha Ohio section news (cont. . . .) Hanna, K8AAC, named in September,

(B) TO all Ohio hams who followed Great Lakes Jim Weaver's, K8JE, advice and wrote letters opposing BPL. We are not a numerous group -- letters to the FCC and our local congressmen are more important for us to gain respect; (C) TO Terry Russ, N8ATZ, Massillon, for a complete and excellent report of the Findlay 2003 Great Lakes Convention in the newsletter, "FEEDBACK." Locally written articles makes newsletters stronger and more useful to the local membership; and (D) TO Mark Baker, WD8KPU, Milford, for his ARRL history articles in the "MARC NEWS" newsletter.

OHIO SECTION NOVEMBER HAM-FESTS; (8) in Georgetown (Brown County) on Ohio 125 (200 S. Green Street). Grant ARC is sponsor. Check the website at <www.grocities.com/garcohio>.

De Joe Phillips, K8QOE.

Now for the September traffic reports:
MEMBER TRAFFIC REPORTS - SEPT.
KX8B-185, N8IXF-169, AB8NI-142,
W8PBX-121, W8QIW-120, N8BV-112,
KA8CXG-91, N8OD-84, N8CW-78,
KD8HB-74, KA8FCC-72, W8STX-72,
KC8UTL-72, N8TNV-71, N8DD-61,
WA8SSI-55, N8IO-52, WB8HHZ-48,
KC4IYD-35, KI8IM-25, NS8C-25,
NY8V-24, KC8HTP-21, KB8SBK-19,
N8GOB-16, WB8SIQ-16, KC8TKB-16,
KC8VPA-16, N8YWX-15, K8PJ-15,
N8WLE-12, KA8WKL-14, N8EFB-7,
K8DST-4, WB8IOW-2, KC8KYP-3,
W8RG-3, K8WC-2, K8QIP-1.

QNI QTC QTR SESSIONS TIME FREQ
NM

BN (E) 144 45 433 30 1845 3.577
WA8ZGL

BN (L) 115 41 262 30 2200 3.577 NY8V

OSN 152 41 231 31 1810 3.708
WD8KQJ
OSSBN 1916 372 2024 90 1030, 1615,
1845 3.9725 N8OD

Two meter net

The WARA's Wednesday night is now down to only four Net Control Operators with the resignation of Frank, KC8PUZ, from his position. The Net Coordinator, Fred Olver, N9BSO, is looking for members willing to try their hand at running the Wednesday night net. If you're interested, contact Fred by email at creacher@onecom.com, or by phone on 330 898-2943. In the meantime, here is the schedule for NCSs for the rest of the year.

November 5 – Bob, KC8PVB

November 12 – Fred, N9BSO

November 19 – Pete, K8OUA

November 26 – Andy, N8YR

December 3 – Fred, N9BSO

December 10 – Bob, KC8PVB

December 17 – Pete, K8OUA

December 24 – Andy, N8YR

December 31 – Fred, N9BSO

Remember, if you can't make the net for a particular night that you're scheduled on, try to get a replacement, or let Fred know.

History of Remote Control

Five Decades of Channel Surfing

Thanks to Bob Maurer, KC8PVB, for this interesting look into a radio feature that most of us don't even think about much.

While doing some research for another project I ran across some interesting information of the history of the "Remote Control". Yes, those remote control (cont. . . .) devices we sort of just take for granted now a days.

The first remote control was developed by the Zenith Radio Corporation in 1950. It was called "Lazy Bones". It used a cable that ran from it to the TV set to operate the tuner through a motor. The user could move up and down channels or turn the set on and off. Although customers liked the concept, they complained that people would trip over the unsightly cable in the living room.

It was also suggested that the people wished for a remote control that could "mute" commercials. So the Zenith engineer's invented the "Flashmatic", which represented the industry's first wireless remote control. Introduced in 1955, "Flashmatic" operated by means of four photo cells, one in each corner of the TV screen. The viewer used a flashlight to activate the four control functions, which turned the picture and sound on and off, and changed channels by turning the tuner dial clockwise and counter clockwise. While it was a great idea there were problems because if the TV was located in a sunny area, the TV could turn itself on and off or change channels by itself.

So back to the drawing board. The engineers first thought about building a remote control that used radio. However because radio waves could travel through walls they were concerned the TV's in adjacent rooms would be inadvertently controlled. They then thought about using sound tones, but then thought against that as there could be interference from normal sounds around the house. And to make the design more difficult the Zenith Sales people were against using batteries in the remote control. If the battery went dead, the sales staff said, the customer

might think something was wrong with the TV!

One of the engineers suggested using "ultrasonics", or high frequency sound, beyond the range of human hearing. This was the first use of this type of technology in the home as a new approach for a remote control.

The transmitter used no batteries. It was built around aluminum rods that when struck at one end, emitted distinctive high-frequency sounds. The first version used four rods, each about 2.5 inches long. There was one for "channel up", one for "channel down", one for sound on-off, and one for the TV on-off. The rods were triggered by a mechanism similar to that of a trigger in a gun. The device was called the "Space Command" and went into production in the fall of 1956. It was the first practical wireless remote control.

The original Space Command remote control system was expensive because an elaborate receiver was needed in the TV set. The receiver used 6 vacuum tubes to pickup and process the signals. It also increased the cost of the TV by about 30 percent. It was however a technical success.

In the early 1960's solid-state circuitry began to replace vacuum tubes. Hand-held battery powered control units could now be designed to generate the inaudible sound electronically. I guess the sales staff lost their argument. This style of remote control lasted through the early 80's with more than 9 million ultrasonic remote controlled TV's were sold.

Remote control (cont. . . .)

By the early 80's the industry moved to what we use today" Infrared, or IR,

remote technology. The IR remote works by using a low frequency light beam, so low the human eye can not see it. Today this is still the standard used, and it is used for remote control of other consumer electronics too. Anywhere from fans to VCR's are using the IR remote control system. Some TV sets have remotes with over 50 buttons! So when you change a channel or turn the TV on and off just think about aiming a flashlight to do the same thing.

73,

Bob / KC8PVB

Some sectional rivalry

The Michigan and Ohio ARRL Section Managers will use the 2004 Dayton Hamvention as the prize for a wager on this November's Ohio State - Michigan football game at The Big House in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The two Big Ten football rivals play the 100th edition of their famous game Saturday, November 22. Michigan Section Manager Dale Williams, WA8EFK, and Ohio SM Joe Phillips, K8QOE -- depending on whether the Michigan Wolverines or the Ohio State Buckeyes win -- agreed to the following: The losing Section Manager will be the slave of the winner during all three days of Hamvention (Friday, May 14 to Sunday, May 16, 2004). This means -- (1) chauffeuring the winning SM to and from Hara Arena; (2) taking all the winner's purchases, including all boat anchors, to his car, and (3) paying for lunch at the Hara Arena for all three days.

Michigan SM Dale said of the wager, "Joe will wish he had never heard of football."

Morse requirement

The FISTS International CW Club has filed a FCC petition for rule making regarding a number of licensing requirements, including Morse code testing as a requirement for HF operation.

The FISTS proposal has been assigned the FCC rule making number RM-10811 and is currently in the comment period.

The period for public comments closes on November 8th.

You can comment by going to the FCC ECFS system and adding a comment to the FISTS petition on Morse and on raising the technical requirements for an amateur license. To do this go to:

http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/upload_v2.cgi

Type in the petition number RM-10811 in the upper left box and then fill in the boxes with your info and add a comment either pro or con that is appropriate to your feelings on the issues. Other points addressed by the FISTS petition include giving Techs full HF digital privileges in the Novice bands and updating the written exams in a number of ways. The full FISTS petition can be read at:

http://www.fists.org/FIST_FCC_Petition_8-30-303.pdf

christmas party

The WARA Christmas Party will be held at Hannah's Home Cooking Restaurant in Champion on December 6, 2003, beginning at 5.00 PM. For more info contact Ada Simons at 330 847-0005. This is the first time the club has held a Christmas party, and it should be a great time. Check the website or the Wednesday night net for more details.

