

The Q-Match

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL

The Newsletter of the Warren Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 809, Warren, Ohio 44482

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December, 2003

EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

The first meeting in December will be a most interesting and important one as we will have, as our speaker, James Miller, K8EIO, one of Ohio's District Emergency Coordinators. This meeting is scheduled too early for information to be included in this issue of the *Q-Match*, but watch for more information in the January issue. Emergency communications is, of course, one of the main public service functions of amateur radio, and we are all hoping that this presentation will give our club ideas on how to better prepare ourselves for emergency situations.

From the repeater

Two weeks ago a "large Gang" of hams showed up at my house and we put up a 40 foot tower for the link located at my house. This makes the receiving antenna at 50 feet and the UHF link transmitter antenna at 40 feet. This is about a twenty foot improvement over the mast pipes I had them on. If it does not blow down before I get it done it still needs some bracing.

The problem has been the link is not full quiet back to the main site. It seems to be full quiet now. However the link receiver at the main site still needs some work. I do hear the courtesy tone for the North link much more often now.

The North link is now contributing to the coverage of the repeater much more so than before. Filling in some of the distant signals. Even though the antenna is not very high, this is a very quiet area for RF noise and the link hears very well, unlike the area around the main site.

I have heard some comments a couple of times the repeater was off the air a couple of times. I believe the repeater was not off. I would suggest if someone tries to key the repeater and it does not come up check your settings and antenna. Even though I listen more than almost anyone. I occasionally still hear someone that heard something I did not hear. I am often a skeptic. There are four people other than myself that have the codes to turn off the repeater. They were all chosen because I considered them to be a cut above average and because they listen to the repeater. There is emergence power at the main site, and the links have batteries. The links will operate nearly a day on batteries. No one has told me they turned off the repeater because it was being operated illegally, and this would be the only reason it would be off.

I did hear someone use the "Touch Tone" test today without Identifying. However these stations come and go before we get a chance to react in most

From the repeater (cont. . . .) cases. Please try to remember not to become so distracted by your task you forget to ID. This is usually the case. Thats the best I can do on a tech tip for today. Dave kz8t

Club activities

The WARA is conducting several holiday activities designed to make the holidays more pleasant, not only for our members, but for the community as well. Activities Chairperson, Ada Simons, KC8MTZ, has a list of holiday activities for club members.

Operation Christmas Child involves members bringing a shoe box filled with toys for children, wrapped in Christmas wrapping, and marked on the outside for a boy or a girl and the approximate age of the child the gifts are for. These will be given to needy children both in this country and overseas.

The Food Drive sponsored by our hosts the Grace Baptist Church involves members bringing canned food and non-perishable food items to the two club meetings in December. These will be added to the church food drive and distributed to needy families for the holidays.

The WARA is also collecting used eye glasses and hearing aids as part of the International Lions Clubs efforts. The Lions collects these items, makes any necessary repairs and cleaning, and distributes them to people in need of these items around the world.

You can help in these club efforts to help other organizations help others by making your donations at any upcoming club meetings, or by giving them to Ada and John Simons. If you need more

information about any of these items, contact Ada at 330 847-0005.

Club christmas party

The WARA will be holding its first Christmas party **on Sunday December 14**, at the Grace Baptist Church on Mahoning Ave. (the location of our regular meetings). **Please note the change of date from the earlier post.** The party, designed to be a family affair, will be held from 4.00 – 7.00 PM.

Members are asked to bring a covered dish and a dessert of some sort (turkey and ham are being provided so a vegetable, potato, pasta or salad type of covered dish would be best).

We will also be exchanging gifts for those who wish to do so. These can be either “gag” type gifts (in good taste please, it is to be a family affair!) or more traditional type gifts if you prefer. The gifts can have an amateur radio or electronics theme if you prefer, but that is not necessary. Gifts should cost no more than \$10.00.

Ada Simons, KC8MTZ, our Activities Chairperson, asks that you notify her before the day that you are coming, how many guests you will be bringing, and what sort of covered dish and dessert you will be bringing. You can contact Ada by phone at 330 847-0005.

Wd8kfn silent key

Traffic handlers around Ohio were saddened by the news that Dick Fuller, WD8KFN, became a Silent Key on November 9. Dick had been Net Manager for the Buckeye Net Early (BNE) – one of Ohio’s two CW traffic nets -- for the past 11 years. He had served as liaison between the Ohio Single Side Band Net (OSSBN) and the Eighth Regional Net (8RN) for many years. Dick was a resi-

Wd8kfn silent key (cont. . . .)

dent of Zanesville, a graduate of Rutgers University, and had served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps during WWII. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

Echolink net

Thanks to Fred, N9BSO, for this post regarding a Ham Radio Help Group that many may be interested in looking into.

Ham Radio Help Group -- ALL are WELCOME! If you are new to Ham Radio, a current Ham wanting support on upgrading, or a Ham that would just like to help by supporting someone else directly, or by providing study material, then please give Ham Radio Help Group a look over. So far we have a great group of diverse folks from those new to Ham Radio asking questions to current Hams upgrading or giving advice! Here are a few facts about the group thus far:

-- 290 members and growing (old group over 600)

-- 4000 message posts in just a few months -- a very active group, so active we had to convert to another site.

-- Members giving and receiving FREE study materials.

-- Many members are getting their first Ham Tech tickets and just starting out -- sharing testing times and support of members passing tests is encouraged

-- The group has 4 moderators to motivate the group along and keep Spam out.

Sunday Group Chat Night and EchoLink Net - 8pm CST (open to all so even those that are not Hams can participate one on one and ask direct questions or meet members).

-- Many message posts on study help ideas, support, station building, basics, etc.

-- Check out our Calendar, Links, Database and Files sections also.

The main purpose of the group is to support those wanting to get licensed, upgrade, or to help with advice or passing study material along (no negative, no political posts -- support only).

This group is focused on promoting Ham Radio in a positive way so if this sounds like something you might be interested in please join in!

Go to <http://www.hamradiohelp.com>.

Two meter net

Here is the schedule for December and January for the W8VTD Wednesday night net. As usual, Fred, N9BSO, is looking for Net Control help. We keep asking for help, but we don't get much in the way of responses. Why don't YOU try it out? You can contact Fred at creacher@onecom.com.

December 3 -- Fred, N9BSO

December 10 -- Bob, KC8PVB

December 17 -- Pete, K8OUA

December 24 -- Andy, N8YR

December 31 -- Fred, N9BSO

January 6 -- Bob, KC8PVB

January 13 -- Pete, K8OUA

January 20 -- Andy, N8YR

January 27 -- Fred, N9BSO

The net has been pretty successful lately with a lot of activity and information being carried out. If you haven't checked in lately, why don't you try it out. Remember, 146.97 MHz each Wednesday night at 9.00 PM. EVERYONE is welcome!

Happy birthday

December would not be my favorite month for a birthday only because it comes too close to Christmas and the danger of receiving only one gift for both days. But, for these December birthday members it is surely the best month of all.

12/1 Fred Oliver N9BSO
 12/3 Bob Maurer KC8PVB
 12/3 Bob Schweinfurth KB8RHH
 12/10 Chuck Simpkins KA8FUP
 12/10 Charles Greeson KG8ZK
 12/16 Renee McCaman KB8SVF
 12/16 Ray Solinger N8HRZ
 12/17 Grank Fitzhugh KD8KJ
 12/17 Sherman Davidson KC8YHJ
 12/20 Fred Swartz WD8OPI
 12/25 Deb Murphy KC8NLX
 12/28 Dave Mellott KE8KT
 12/29 Oran Telford KC8AWS

The editor's list of birthdays was packed away as he is moving house. Thanks to Renee, KB8SVF, who, as usual, came through with this list. If there is a mistake on it or if a name has been left off, please advise the editor. To each of these December birthday members we wish a hearty and holiday filled ARL FORTY-SIX.

Ohio section news

SM: Joe Phillips, K8QOE, Fairfield, (to contact me, see page 16 in QST);
 ASM-NE: Bob Winston, W2THU, Cleveland; 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.
 DECEMBER SECTION NEWS;

** The Ohio Section (all those hams listed above who serve the ARRL Ohio membership) wish you the best for this holiday season and a successful 2004.

** In case you missed it, John Chapman, WB8INY, DEC of District 7 and since September, the Interim SEC was named Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator. John, a Worthington native, has been involved in emergency communications ever since the 1974 Xenia tornado destruction made a lifelong impression on him. 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. He is committed to extending the great work of his predecessor, Larry Rain, WD8IHP (SK).

** Ohio ARES has begun liaison with the Ohio Citizen Corps. associated with Homeland Security. Two counties began development conferences with Citizen Corps officials - in November at Youngstown (Mahoning County) and this month in Newark (Licking County). In future months, the EC of your county will announce OCC development conferences.

** Mark your calendars for 2004. Two important dates for the Ohio Section -- Saturday, April 24, 2004, for the ARES conference in Columbus and Saturday, September 11, 2004, in Columbus at the Ohio EMA Headquarters for the Ohio Section Conference. There was no 2003 Section Conference since the Division Convention was a week earlier.

** And don't forget to mark May 14-16, 2004 for the Dayton Hamvention at Hara Arena. A new chairman, new management team and a new contract are in place for the 2004 show. Check

ohio section news (cont. . . .)
 out the web site at
<http://www.hamvention.org> and
 write General Chairman Gary Des
 Combes, N8EMO, of Dayton for
 information.

OHIO SECTION REMEMBERS:
 Richard Fuller, WD8KFN (SK) of
 Zanesville, whose constant presence in
 Ohio Traffic Nets defined the word
 "dedication." For the last 11 years he
 was Net Manager for the Buckeye Net
 Early (BNE), one of two Ohio major CW
 nets and dependable liaison for over 20
 years, from the Ohio Single Side Band
 Net (OSSBN) to 8RN. "Dick was so
 faithful in bringing 8RN traffic to and
 from OSSBN no matter how he felt, on
 vacation or what," said Ohio Assistant
 Section Manager, Connie Hamilton,
 N8IO, the former OSSBN Net Manager.
 "His liaison work in traffic handling was
 as constant a presence we ever had in
 Ohio Traffic handling."

OHIO SECTION CONGRATS: (A) To
 Lake Erie ARC (LEARA) for more than
 \$600 donation to the League BPL fund,
 presented last month to Division
 Director Jim Weaver, K8JE; (B) To Dee
 Logan, W1HEO, of Mentor (East
 Cleveland area) for the colorful "Smoke
 Signals" newsletter; and (C) To
 Highland ARA of Hillsboro, a club which
 recently decided to continue its monthly
 newsletter - a difficult decision as they
 review the 2004 operating budget.

OHIO SECTION DECEMBER
 HAMFESTS: None are listed for the
 Ohio Section, as normal. But for all
 hamfest officials, we ask you make sure
 all ARRL paperwork is completed and
 your 2004 show is on the ARRL listing
 of Ohio Section Hamfests. Remember

your hamfest can be listed on the
 ARRL Web Site even if it isn't ARRL
 affiliated. Best idea - complete that
 paperwork for next year the day after
 your hamfest. You cannot begin to
 promote a hamfest too soon.

NOW FOR THE October traffic counts.
 OHIO SECTION INDIVIDUAL TRAFFIC
 - OCTOBER - 2003

N8IXF-284, KD8HB-265, KX8B-236,
 N8BV-198, W8QIW-161, KC8RXL-128,
 W8PBX-118, N8CW-115, KC8UTL-108,
 AB8NI-99, N8TNV-99, W8STX-95,
 W8FW-89, K8QX-81, KC8TKB-79,
 WA8SSI-75, N8OD-73, KA8SCC-71,
 NS8C-68, KB8SIA-68, KA8CXG-66,
 KA8WQL-65, N8IO- 64, WB8HHZ-57,
 KC8KYP-57, WB8FMG-53, N8YWX-51,
 N8WLE-47, KB8SBK-47, KC8VPA-46,
 N8EFB-43, KC4IYD-41, K8PJ-37,
 W8RG-37, NY8V-35, N8GOB-30,
 KI8IM-23, WB8SIQ-20, KC8HTP-19,
 W8RPS-15, WB8IOW-14, NC8Q- 9,
 N8DD-8, K8DST-2, K8QIP-1, K8WC-1

OHIO SECTION NETS TRAFFIC
 REPORTS - OCTOBER 2003

	QNI	QTC	QTR	SESSIONS	TIME
BN (E)	126	86	318	31	1845
BN (L)	127	58	296	31	2200
OSN	138	67	638	31	1810
OSSBN	1677	764	2861	93	1030, 1615, 1

OHIO SECTION PSHR - OCTOBER 2003
 N7CEU 32, 40, 30, 75, 0, 10, TOTAL = 187
 N8IO 40, 40, 20, 30, 10, 0, TOTAL = 140
 N8OD 40, 40, 20, 0, 0, 0, TOTAL = 100
 WA8SSI 40, 40, 20, 0, 0, 0, TOTAL = 100
 KC8UTL 40, 40, 10, 10, 0, 0, TOTAL = 100
 W8MMN 28, 12, 0, 30, 15, 0, TOTAL = 85
 73, Joe Phillips, K8QOE,
 Section Manager

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Annual meeting

The Annual Meeting of the WARA will be held prior to the second regular meeting in January, that is, on the third Tuesday of the month (January 20, 2004). It is at this meeting that we elect the officers for the following year. All members who wish to vote should have paid their dues for 2004 by that meeting, see our Treasurer, Karl Gerlt, KF8MG. If things go as they have in the past, a Nominating Committee will be formed at one of the December meetings and anyone interested in running for office or in nominating a member for an office should contact a member of that committee. Check the Wednesday night net, the webpage (www.w8vtd.org), or the next issue of the *Q-Match* to find out who the members of that committee are. If you would like to do something to help the club, why not consider running for office. We are always in need of members to fill elected positions, and you might be the one who leads the club into bigger and better things. Whatever you do, be sure to mark January 20 down as an important meeting date, and try to be there.

By-law reform

Club Vice-President Dave Walters, KZ8T, has been doing a great job of making club members aware of the club by-laws by reading and discussing one of the club's by-laws at each meeting. It has become obvious that there may be a need to reform the club's by-laws, and a committee headed by Dave has been formed to make suggestions to the

membership on by-law reform. If you have suggestions for this see Dave or Peter Kozup, K8OUA.

December calendar

- 12/2 WARA Mtg 7.30PM Grace Baptist Church— Spkr James Miller K8EIO on Emergency Communications
- 12/3 Wed night net 146.97 MHz 9 PM
- 12/5-7 ARRL 160 Mtr Contest see Nov QST
- 12/6 Breakfast Wayside Inn 9 AM
- 12/6 Sp Ev Stn N0W—Grand Junction CO—Nat'l Skywarn Day
- 12/6-7 Sp Ev Stn W3GR Hist Electronics Museum ARC—Pearl Harbor Day
- 12/7 Sp Ev Stn W5KID USS Kidd/Baton Rouge LA ARCs—Pearl Hbor Day
- 12/8 Brunch Farmington Sr Ctr 11 AM
- 12/10 Wed night net 146.97 MHz 9 PM
- 12/12-17 Sp Ev Stn W4B NC Sp Ev Gp Kitty Hawk NC—100th Annv Wright Bros First Flight
- 12/13-14 ARRL 10 Mtr Contest see Nov QST
- 12/13-15 Sp Ev Stn WX3MAS Nazareth-Bethlehem PA—Annual Xmas Greetings
- 12/14 WARA Xmas Party Grace Baptist Church 4-7 PM
- 12/15 Brunch Farmington Sr Ctr 11 AM
- 12/16 WARA Mtg 7.30 PM Grace Baptist Church
- 12/17 Wed night net 146.97 MHz 9 PM
- 12/19 K8OUA's Xmas vacation begins 4PM
- 12/20 Breakfast Wayside Inn 9 AM
- 12/20 Happy Hannukah
- 12/22 Brunch Farmington Sr Ctr 11 AM
- 12/24 Wed night net 146.97 MHz 9 PM
- 12/25 Merry Christmas
- 12/26 First Day of Kwanzaa
- 12/27 Lunch Covered Bridge Rest 12 N

12/29 Brunch Farmington Sr Ctr 11 AM
12/31 Wed night net 146.97 MHz 9 PM
12/31 Straight Key Night–See Dec. QST
12/31 Happy New Year