# FEEDBACK

**MASSILLON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT**
Igor Nikishin
K8INN

**VICE PRESIDENT**
Ralph Bugg
K8HSQ

**SECRETARY**
Linda Finley
K8MOO

**TREASURER**
Anne Ballinger
N8GAF

# Contents

## SHORT SKIP

You probably didn't read or hear about it in the national media, but the sole survivor of the recent West Virginia coal mine disaster is a fellow ham ! Ya. Randy McCloy, KC8VKZ is on his way to a slow recovery and I'm sure he'd appreciate a get well card from his fellow hams !

So get busy bunkey !

73 de WB8OWM

## APRIL MEETING

The meeting for the month of April will be held at the Massillon Senior Center on April 7th at 8:00 PM.

Have you been to a meeting lately? Have you noticed that there seems to be more people attending ? Well the answer is yes ! Our club is growing. We have just finished the new roster for 2006 and I am happy to report that we lost only 9 members last year, due to non-renual, however we GAINED 14 new members over last year leaving an all-time high of 90 members on the roles ! Some of the members dropped from the roles were family members that have graduated and left home or XYL's that lost interest. The numbers speak for themselves. We are doing something right ! Let's keep on doing it! You can see the entire roster (with phone numbers deleted) on the Club's website at www.marcradio.org . The entire roster will be available for your viewing at the meeting. Please look it over and let us know if there were any mistakes, additions or corrections that you want to the roster. We have a lot of "holes" on the roster such as missing birthdays, phone numbers, license expiration, or dates joined the club. ALL of this information IS necessary and is kept confidential .

## APRIL PROGRAM NOTICE

The program for the month of April will be a presentation on Drake radios and will be given by Jeff Covelli, WA8SAJ. He will need about an hour and will take questions during and after the presentation. He intends to also have a fair amount of equipment to display.

Jeff has gratefully e-mail to us his biography. It is very interesting reading. Be sure to read the biography on page 7 of this edition of Feedback.

## SAFETY BREAK

The first Safety Break of the year has been announced. It will be held on the weekend of May 12, 13, and 14th ( yes it's Mother's Day Weekend ! ) . As you know the Safety Breaks have become a major fund raiser for the Club, without them, we would have a hard time surviving these days. A sign-up sheet was passed around at the March meeting. Did you sign-up? You still have a chance to get the shift you want at the April and May meetings. Be sure to sign-up and help the club stay solvent !

# MARC MINUTES
## March 3,2006

The Massillon Amateur Radio Club meeting was held at the Massillon Senior Center with 41 members and guests present.

MARC President Igor K8INN opened the meeting at 8:00 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was given and a round of introductions was made. Motion was made by Jim WA8GXM and second by Tim WB8HHP to suspend reading the February minutes. They were accepted as stated in the FEEDBACK.

MARC Treasurer Anne N8GAF gave the financial report.

MARC Vice President Ralph K8HSQ gave the correspondence report. He had the usual newsletters from other Amateur Radio Clubs.

MARC 2006 Hamfest has been approved by the ARRL.

MARC Safety Break will be in the NORTH bound lane of Rt.77 below Strasburg on Mothers Day weekend, May 12,13,and 14th. Contact Anne N8GAF if you can help. Also don't forget baked goods are needed.

## OLD BUSINESS

Dan N8DZM said the fox hunt will resume in April.

Jack N8LCS said the MS Walk will be held April 29, 2006. If you can help contact him.

Gary WC8W gave the total count of those attending the MARC training classes. He is teaching the Extra Class, Don W8DEF teaching the General Class and Rodger KA8FTS teaching the Tech. class. Perry W8AU will be teaching the CW . Check with him as to when classes will start.

Gary WC8W gave the testing results held at the EOC.

Dan N8DZM gave a Suit Sat report.

Perry W8AU will check on the canoe race and report next month.

Terry N8DZM gave the Sky Warn training date. It will be held March 20 at Stark State. Wednesday March 29 at 9:50 A.M., will be check-ins for the sirens; if you can hear them check in on the 147.12 MHz repeater and give your location.

## NEW BUSINESS

Published in the March issue of QST by the ARRL an Honor Roll for those who passed all three levels of the ARRL Emergency Communications Course. There were 6 MARC members, Terry N8ATZ, Jim WA8GXM, Charlie KB8STV, Randy KD8JN, Don W8DEF, and Linda K8MOO.

Paul WB8YYJ was honored for being the oldest member of MARC, he is 91 YEARS YOUNG ! Thank you goes to Bob K8MGC for making a  call sign plaque honoring him.

Rodger, KA8FTS said there is a new repeater on the air, the frequency is 145.47.

Jack N8LCS needs a power point program explaining Amateur Radio to the Ohio Council to be held in October. Terry N8ATZ will consult with Dave WD8AYE, Stark County Emergency Coordinator on this matter.

Byron KF8UN had QSL cards he passed around for the contacts he made for himself and MARC.

Terry N8ATZ and Ralph K8HSQ will be giving a presentation on Win Link on March 26 at the Multi County Communication Center.

Jim WA8GXM said during Tornado Warnings, he and Terry N8ATZ will man Red Center, Regional Emergency Dispatch Center. Sam WA8YGR will go to Massillon Community and Gary WC8W will go to Doctors Hospital.

After refreshments Jim WA8GXM gave the program on Bio-Diesel fuel.

Congratulations goes to Wade, WD8MIU for winning the 50-50 for $23.50.

## Minutes by Linda K8MOO
## Secretary MARC

## … QST Honors ARECC Level 3 Achievers …

The March edition of the ARRL's Magazine QST currently lists the ARRL Emergency Communications Course Honor Roll. In it they honor those Amateurs from around the country that have passed all three ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications courses (Levels I, II, and III) through the end of 2005.

Several local amateurs are listed from here in Stark County and we offer our thanks and congratulations to the following amateurs for achieving Level III status and hope more will follow in 2006.

They are: N8ATZ-Terry Russ, W8DEF-Don Finley, WA8GXM-James Farriss, KD8JN-Randy Phelps, K8MOO-Linda Finley and K8RLS-Robert Steele.

All are members of the Massillon Amateur Radio Club except Bob - K8RLS who is a member of the Alliance ARC.

## .. Stark County Chapter Red Cross News ..

March was Red Cross Month. This year also marks the celebration of 89 years that the local Red Cross Chapter has served the local community. This celebration also serves to remind people of the recent merger of the two local chapters.

Last year, the Western and Central Stark County Red Cross Chapters merged to form the American Red Cross Stark County Chapter. Last August the chapter moved to a new location in Canton on Market Avenue. A satellite office continues to be maintained in Massillon near Doctors Hospital, providing services to the Western part of Stark County. In Stark County alone, over 1,000 residents have volunteered a cumulative 83,000 hours of service to the community. Additionally, this past year, the volunteers in the Emergency Services Department assisted 220 fire victims and provided mass care feeding to 1,300 emergency workers and disaster victims. The Stark County Chapter was also very active helping displaced victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Many members of the Stark County ARES are also registered volunteers of the Stark County Chapter and have volunteered numerous hours of service to the community. The Stark County Chapter is also one of the primary served agencies of the Stark County ARES and we provide communications assistance to them each year. We are currently working with them to expand our communications assistance by installing our new Winlink 2000 Emergency Communications System in the local chapter.

As they celebrate 89 years of Community Service we offer our congratulations and our commitment of support now and in the future. You can learn more about the Stark County Chapter of the American Red Cross at their website at http://www.stark.redcross.org.

## .. Local Winlink Update ..

The Winlink Page on the Stark County ARES Website has been updated recently to include some additional information and links to download the latest version of the Airmail program. We have also posted several Microsoft PowerPoint presentations and an Adobe Pdf file that covers basic Airmail installation and setup.

I am wondering if anyone would be interested in attending a Winlink Workshop? This workshop would be designed to assist local amateurs in setting up either a home or portable Airmail station. Maybe you currently own an old laptop and TNC and would like to try using the Airmail program but don't know exactly what to do. Maybe just some one on one assistance in getting everything setup.

If there is sufficient interest, I'm sure I could get permission from the Senior Center to host a workshop one evening. Let me know if this sounds like something you would like to participate in.

## .. 2006 MARC Roster Available ..

The 2006 MARC Club Roster has been completed and is currently posted on the Roster Page. The list includes both returning and new member as of March 1, 2006. Some existing members did not renew for 2006 and have been dropped from the list.

Make sure you have a look at the Roster Page and let us know if you find an error in your listing.

That's about it for this month,

**Catch You At The Meeting
De Terry – N8ATZ**



The author Terry N8ATZ, speaking at the Multi-County Meeting in Dover Ohio on Sunday March 26th. Terry and Ralph, K8HSQ gave a very fine demonstration on the Winlink System.

# NREN Training Topic 2-13-06

## Shared Facility Management – Repeaters and Digital Networks

During a recent discussion of digital communications issues, an incident involving the loss of an important node was raised. The node, located at the home of an ARES member, was shut down when he was absent for a couple of weeks to take care of some family matters. This incident raises some important considerations for emergency communications groups contemplating the design and installation of a digital radio network or repeater system.

### Government/Commercial Sites vs. Private Property

When an important repeater, node, BBS, or gateway is located at the private home of an individual, by definition, the site becomes vulnerable to a variety of personal difficulties. The owner or operator of the facility may pass away unexpectedly. He may suffer financial difficulties, such as the loss of a job. He may suffer a divorce or other personal difficulties, which result in the unannounced removal or decommissioning of the site with little or no notice.

A better option for these shared facilities is a commercial or government antenna site. Through the application of a suitable contract or memorandum of understanding (MOU), arrangements can be made for long-term "residency" and access by several qualified individuals. The sites remain stable. Contracts remain in force despite property sales. If problems occur at the antenna site, such as power disruptions or other reliability issues, sufficient pressure from the various commercial or government users is often adequate to secure quick resolution. Multiple users tend to monitor reliability and security closely.

When the Michigan Net, QMN began construction of a packet radio network, all nodes and BBS facilities were remotely located at commercial and government towers. This insured that the network remained stable and isolated from politics. The result has been a long-lived network serving the Radio Amateurs of Michigan. Such an approach is recommended for all emergency communications programs.

## A Single Entity

Digital radio networks and repeaters tend to be more stable when a single entity is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the system. While individual emergency communications groups should be encouraged to develop and refine their own local capabilities, broader network facilities are best managed by a single organization. This organization can be representative in nature, such as a Digital Radio

Committee staffed by representatives from various emergency services groups or nets, or it may be a single section net or e-comm group that provides oversight and management. The idea is to prevent conflict and encourage sufficient focus and follow-through to move ideas to implementation.

## Due Diligence

If an ARES or similar group is to offer e-comm services to local public safety agencies, there must be some assurance that the service is survivable and reliable. Therefore, repeaters, digipeaters, nodes, and similar facilities must be constructed and installed according to good engineering practice. This means:

o      Single, self-contained units with excellent ground, bonding, and surge suppression.

o      Commercial grade transmission line, properly bonded to the tower and facility ground system.

o      A tower, which meets RS-222E and similar standards for wind-loading, radial ice, and the like.

o      Emergency power in the form of float cells or an automatic generator with sufficient fuel reserves.

## Done is better than Perfect

Don Devendorf, W8EGI, once said "few good things have come out of a committee, with perhaps the exception of the QN-Signals and the King James Bible." In the case of digital networks, "techies" often spend countless hours arguing about the relative merits of modes, protocols, networking methods, and the like. Some of this can be very productive. However, without focus, clearly stated goals, and an understanding of economic and staffing limitations, such debates may do little more than sap productive time and energy. When deciding on protocols and methods to be used in a wide area network, consider these questions:

1.      What can the organization afford? All projects, public and private, must start with an eye toward economic feasibility.

2.      What is the return on investment? If interest in the project is low, and few volunteers are likely to develop the knowledge and skills needed to utilize the system, it may not be worth the effort.

3.      Is the organization trying to re-invent commercial infrastructure? It is difficult for a typical Amateur Radio organization to create a backbone or linking system that offers a level of reliability similar to that offered by the Internet, commercial paging systems, and the like.

4.      Can individual nodes and facilities be used in a decentralized manner? If part of the network goes away, will the rest remain operational?

5.      What protocol is inexpensive enough to permit participation on the part of small, rural, or community emergency groups?

One should approach all major projects with an eye toward interoperability. No single group is capable of managing and staffing response to a major natural disaster or terrorist incident.

Mutual Aid will be necessary, and those communicators arriving from outside the area must have similar capabilities. Modes such as basic AX.25 packet protocol and WINLINK offer the best options for interoperability in the current Amateur Radio environment.

## Backbones

The Internet and nearly universal e-mail service has raised expectations for digital facilities.  As a result, many digital committees and e-comm groups assume that amateur facilities must provide a level of service and speed consistent with that of the Internet.  However, backbones providing this level of service are expensive.  Instead of attempting to invest tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars in the creation of a statewide digital backbone, nodes can often be linked inexpensively and reliably via the Internet, with the local digital radio node or gateway providing the "last mile" of connectivity to the disaster area.  Hybridization offers tremendous potential for disaster communications work.  In a properly designed network, a node should continue to function for local communications even when the backbone is disrupted.

While it is true that the Internet is vulnerable to widespread communications disruptions, such as damage to fiber optic cables, telephone company central offices and the like, a well managed e-comm group should have alternatives available in the form of VHF and UHF-FM, High Frequency SSB, CW, digital modes, and the like.  As stated previously, a well managed emergency communications program should have a diversity of modes available!  The fact is, few, if any amateur radio groups are capable of creating a digital backbone, which offers a level of reliability consistent with or exceeding that of today's commercial infrastructure.

## Politics and Overlap

Unfortunately, there are individuals who are attracted to the emergency services due to an unhealthy need for "power and control."  While it has been said that "money is the root of all evil," in reality, money is simply a source of power.  As such, one might more accurately say "the desire for power and control is the root of all evil."

During the recent Super Bowl, an important digital node, which was being used for RACES communications failed.  The site had formerly been managed by our QMN organization. Unfortunately, a few years back the emergency management director for the county in which the node was located felt that it was a site in his county and he should have "control" of it.  As such, he took a pair of bolt cutters, cut the pad-lock, and confiscated our digipeater, in order to replace it with one of his own.  The result has been that this important facility is now off-air almost as often as it is operational.  Ironically, the QMN digipeater, which was so unceremoniously removed, continues its uninterrupted record of 100-percent reliability for the seventh year in a row at a new location.  Sadly, one man's need for "control" disrupted a network and resulted in a poorly managed site, which

failed when needed for a high-profile mission.

E-comm groups should recognize the reality that contractual disputes periodically arise, some individuals will not act honorably, and politics can result in a critical facility disappearing in the middle of the night!  As such, it is wise to have some overlap in repeater or node coverage areas.  This insures continuity of service if one system suffers a technical failure or if someone simply "steals" it!

## Summary and Preparedness Steps

1.      Try to locate repeaters or digital radio infrastructure at commercial, government, and relief agency facilities.  This insures stability and provides reliable access by several authorized individuals.

2.      Insure that all sites are backed by a proper contract or MOU.

3.      Be aware of liabilities.  For example, all FCC licensees at a site are responsible for failures to report outages of FAA Code Beacons, as well as any aviation accidents, which may occur as a result.

4.      Attempt to provide some degree of coverage overlap.  Redundancy promotes survivability and insures network coverage in the event of a dispute with a property owner or individual.

5.      Install remote facilities in accordance with good engineering practice.  Insure that the overall antenna site conforms to all applicable engineering standards.

6.      Insure that emergency power is available.

7.      Design networks and apply technology in such a way that a digipeater, node, or BBS remains functional for local communications even if the backbone goes away.

8.      Do not attempt to replicate inexpensive, readily available commercial infrastructure.  Instead, insure that decentralized, survivable alternatives are available in the form of basic modes and methods.

9.      Consider interoperability.  The network must be accessible to small and rural e-comm groups.  It must also be consistent with the portable capabilities of those e-comm groups, which may arrive from outside the area to assist in time of emergency.

10.   Remember!  Done is better than perfect.  Don't waste tremendous amounts of time arguing about technical nuances. Consider economics, available equipment, local skills and capabilities, and training issues, and then plan your digital radio network.

Sound management practices are the key to success.  They are more important than technology.  By applying some simple business management practices and insights to shared radio facilities, ARES, RACES, and similar e-comm groups will have greater success and better reliability.

**73,**

**Jim WB8SIW**

# POINT

## HISTORICAL NOTES

### "Repeater Appreciation Day"

Sometimes we assume all active amateurs know all about repeater operations in our area. However, when we stop to think about it, newcomers to ham radio are probably not familiar with the origins of our trusty reliable machines, since they began around 1970. Seems like yesterday, doesn't it?)

Considering the theories "voiced" about what goes on whenever a repeater "goes down" or gets noisy prompts a brief review of something that occurred with the "first" repeater in our area years ago.

Back in about 1970 after about 8 years of 2 meter FM simplex operation using converted Motorola or GE surplus trunk mount radios on the main channel of 146.94 mHz, the bold duo of Dick Morrison, K8GJU, and Ralph Bugg, K8HSQ (yeah, you know him!) established one at Dick's hilltop location off Deuber Extension south of Canton.

It transmitted on 146.76, and had an input at 146.34. You can see this was in the early stages of repeaters and the -600 kHz offset was not yet firmly established. Later on the input was changed to 146.16.

The principle behind repeaters was to enable "mobile" stations to communicate with each other at greater distances than possible with their car mounted antennas. Repeaters were never intended for base stations since home setups with antennas on towers were capable of distant communications already, and could also communicate with distant mobiles for the same reason.

When this repeater started becoming the local "watering hole" where base stations began using it regularly, the owners got concerned. They issued notices that the use of it for base station contacts was not acceptable. Base stations should go back to 146.94 simplex, they said...

When this continued they initiated the novel idea of "repeater appreciation day." They would shut down the repeater for one day (usually Saturday, as I recall) thereby causing the users to "think" a bit about their own actions that brought this on).

This happened maybe a half-dozen times, and maybe more. Later on Ralph got out of the repeater business, Dick carried on for awhile, and then he, too, sold out his interest. The repeater eventually switched to 146.79 due to a conflict with a Cleveland repeater, and 30 years later it still exists as the W8AL repeater, located presently at Frank's (W8TUY) farm on Baum street, North Industry.

So, what say, gang... should we bring back the "old days" in the form of "Repeater Appreciation Day?" After all, weren't things always better in the "good old days?"

## W8AU
# COUNTER POINT

Well Perry take a good look around; you must realize that things have certainly changed in the last 30 + years. People have changed, Opinions have changed and most of all equipment has changed. No longer are we using tubes for communication equipment. Back "in the good old days" yes things didn't last as long because of the internal heat brought on by using vacuum tubes. Now days solid state equipment is being used with better reliability, quality and longevity. Thirty years ago repeaters were located in people's homes because of the constant "tweaking" required and the owners didn't want to travel any distance to a repeater site just to turn a knob or change a tube that burnt out. Remember when you used to own the 147.18 MHz repeater and it too was located in your home? Why was it located there? Because it to was from "the old school " of repeaters, it had tubes, 1950's or just a little later-ish controller that had to be "kicked" now and then to get it to run. It was a very low profile repeater, barely heard beyond Massillon - REMEMBER?

Back in the late 70's and early 80's the Massillon Amateur Radio Club also was "low profile" barely had thirty members. There are many factors that determine weather an organization will succeed. One and probably most important is member participation. If you cannot get at least one third member participation in club activities, then the organization is doomed to die. Another of course is money. Club's need money to survive; money comes from members.

In our case a good repeater is necessary. People use the repeater, others listen to the conversations and soon they to join in the conversation. Thus making friends. These people make excellent club members. Thus enabling the club to grow and expand. This year the Massillon Amateur Radio Club boosts the largest membership in the history of the club. 90 members ! Quite a change from the 80's !

Do we have "repeater appreciation day"? You bet we do ! We appreciate the repeater <u>EVERY</u> day ! We should thank God we have people who use the repeater, make friends, and promote the Massillon Amateur Radio Club and its activities on the air through rag chews, nets, and when required emergency communications.

In my observations ( and I do LISTEN a lot ) most activity is early morning and evening; people going to and coming home from work (thus operating mobile) . Yes some base stations are involved with conversations. Some are from Canton, Akron, Medina and even as far as Chardon Ohio where a father and son can share family activities! We have expanded well beyond our community.

The present system we use , as good as it is could use some improvement. We should be soliciting for funds from present users and other fund raisers to make much needed improvements. First the controller needs to be

upgraded. The controller needs more functions, maybe link capabilities to 6 meters for use during Sky - Warn activities (listen mode only) this will enable the repeater to be a back - up for the ARES repeater, 147.12 MHz. We need a PL board that really works to help keep out strong distant repeaters especially during the fall months. This in itself has caused much controversy in the past, but everyone agrees that using the PL is a good idea. Everyone I know does have PL capabilities, it's not like we're leaving anyone out of the repeater system! The transceiver itself needs to be replaced with one that has more power, greater sensitivity so that mobiles on the "fringes" can better utilize the system. Yes all of this does cost money but from the benefits of having a "high profile" repeater system, far outweigh the cost. A good repeater system is not a luxury, it's a must !

### WC8W

## July 8, 2002;Jeff Covelli's Bio: "WA8SAJ"

1) Born October 22, 1950, in Cleveland, Ohio.
2) Grew up in the "Greater Cleveland" area.
3) Received my Technician License on my 15th birthday, 1965 as WA8SAJ.
4) Received my General License in 1968.
5) Graduated from Mentor High-School in 1969, and joined the Navy.
6) Received my Advanced License in 1971.
7) In the Navy for 4 years, 1969 to 1973. While I was in the Navy I worked the MARS stations, running phone-patches, etc. My full-time duty was Aviation Comm Tech 2nd Class Petty Officer, Test Pilot School.
8) Sales in commercial two-way radio (G.E. Commercial two-way).
9) Full time bench technician and assistant-manager for Amateur Electronic Supply Cleveland Store 1973 to 1977 and 1980. ( C.B. radio boom years)!
10) Dentron-Radio Engineering/Tech, (1977).
11) GTE/Sprint microwave, fiber-optics, etc. 1980's.
12) East Ohio Gas comm/tech for all their telecomm needs, most of Ohio area.(currently working there).
13) Received my Extra (light) License in 2001.

I really got interested in ham-radio back in 1960 when I was 10 years old. C.B. Radio was more interesting and at that time easy to get on. No test was required and folks where getting on like mad, since it was new to all that could afford a radio. I got my first Heath-Kit walkie-talkies in the following year 1961, and this was exciting to me, talking to all those folks on C.B.

Next I built my first shortwave Heath-Kit GR-64 (still have it). Got to know some ham's in the area and they encouraged me to get on the C.W. bandwagon, boy that was thrilling! I finally received my ticket in 1965, and got on 6-meters A.M. This was fine for awhile, then I got on SSB, wow this was more fun and the distance was better. I built many 4-400A homebrew amplifiers for 6-meters, all of them would do about 800 watts out!

The most fun in radio was working for AES in Cleveland, during that time, there was the "Big Truckers Strike" on the highways. This opened up peoples eyes to the C.B. radio. Not only did this cause folks to want CB radios, but it opened up a big door for the future of ham-radio. I thought at that time, this would have been the perfect time for the FCC and ARRL to get a "low code" license for voice in the HF bands, but to the dismay of us all, they decided to not do it! The market was the hottest thing to happen for the American Manufacturer and it all went down the tubes in 6 years.

The Drake, Swan, Atlas, Hallicrafters, gear were all running off the shelves like mad, now that was just the American Manufacturers, then the imports came, and really took the industry by storm.

I remember how hot the Yaesu FT-101 was during those years. AES in Cleveland alone, was selling the FT-101 at one per hour every week for a couple of years! The trading of old ham gear was the most fun in working at AES, I got to play with all the gear I could not afford. Trade-ins were rolling in at a feverish pace. Once a radio was traded, I would check it out, clean it inside and out. There were times when the front panel would get replaced with one from the manufacturer or I would send it up to the Milwaukee Store and they would repaint it and send it back like new. The radio then was aligned and put on the shelf for-sale, and in a couple of days it was gone, with a 10 day free trial and a 30 day warranty, plus a 6 month trade back towards a new radio, with the money refunded!

Folks tried everything to make the gear do what they thought it should do. Working on the bench for 10 to 12 hours a day sure makes you a good tech, after seeing what comes across the service bench. Not only do you have the normal problems that are caused by faulty or worn out components, the customer would get in and add his or her thoughts as to what the problem could be and they would add more complexity to the radio repair.

I do like working on the older gear, since you can really get into what is happening with the circuits. The new gear is a little magical, and you hope that you can bring it back to life, after replacing a part, that is if you can get a part. Many of the new radios have certain parts only made for a short run time and after so many years they cannot be found. The vintage gear has a thrill about it, that is hard to nail down, but the glow of the tubes is part of it.

The sound that comes out of the vintage gear is really hard to duplicate with solid-state, just very smooth audio.

Lately, I've been very busy part-time at home working on all the Drake gear, since the R.L. Drake Company no longer services the older gear. I also repair many of the other older gear Collins, Hallicrafters, Swan, Hammarlund, Atlas, Heath-Kit, Knight-Kit, etc that was made in the 50's 60's and 70's. I hope to retire from the Gas Company in a few years and just repair radios at home, boy what fun it is!

**Jeff Covelli/WA8SAJ**
**5368 Melody Lane**
**Willoughby, Oh 44094**

## THE GREAT CANOE RACE

Sponsored by Massillon Area Clergy Association.
To benefit construction of New Skate Pad for
Massillon Youth.

Saturday, June 3, 2006

Three Race Categories:

1.  8 miles from Canal Fulton to Lake Ave.

2.  3 miles from Crystal Springs  "  "

3.  Lake Ave Team-Builder sprint...2 canoes, 2 per canoe;
     running start to pick up canoe, launch at Lake
     Ave, go south to buoy, turn around - go 1 mile
     north to buoy, stopping along the way to retrieve
     flags, race back to Lake Ave and then take a trivia test.

4.  Lake Ave Sprint races:

a.  Mixed - Man/Woman
b.  Masters - Over 40 yrs old.
c.  Cruisers - Racing canoes
d.  Standard - Open class
e.  Greenhorn - Never raced before
f.  Novice - raced, but never placed 1-2-3
g.  Over/Under - Over 29, under 14
h.  War Canoe - 4 people over 14

Now, OUR PART:

1.  Comms at Canal Fulton park
2.  Comms at Crystal Springs
3.  Comms at Lake Avenue for logging
     and controlling traffic/parking.
4.  River Watchers every quarter mile
     for safety. (not sure we need 32
     extra hams, but we should try for
     at least every half mile = 16)

Total hams needed = 20

Time: 8:30 a.m. til ? (8 & 3 miles races
        leave from 9:30 'til 10:20 a.m.,
        arrive Lake Avenue 2+ hours later.

        Team Builder & Sprints may run longer.
        Expect to end by 3 p.m. or earlier.

Comm facilities:  Ecom trailer at Lake Ave.
                 Ideally we would use 442.85
                 repeater, or 442.85 mobile
                 repeater in Ecom trailer.

                 147.18 (or 146.955) will be

tested for possible use.

Comm coordinators: W8AU and K8CP

Sign-up at club meeting Friday.  Get your 70 cm. mobiles and HT's checked out.  We already know you have 2 meter gear.

p.s. =  for this and any public service event,
even Field Day, keep track of meal costs and
other expenses plus mileage, if you take tax deductions.

## CLUB ACTIVITIES

        Spring weather has sprung and so has the activities and Public Service Events. First Jack, N8LCS is still looking for help with the MS Walk slated for April 29th. The event is the first PS event fort the year. Be sure to sign up at the meeting.
        Next we have the Safety Break and VE Exams all on the same weekend. Safety Break starts on Friday, May the 12th, VE Exams are on the 13th (very busy weekend!). The following weekend is the Dayton Hamfest !
        In June we now have the canoe races, followed by the month of July the Hall Of Fame activities start. Looks like August we get a break and only have one VE Exam scheduled. Busy summer to say the least !



        Pictured above is our Vice President Ralph K8HSQ demonstrating the Winn-Link System to an "overflow" crowd at the Multi - County meeting on March 26th in New Philadelphia, Ohio. The meeting was well represented by Massillon Club members as well as other Stark County club members. This demonstration represents the 5th time the duo of Ralph and Terry, N8ATZ has given to other area clubs and organizations. The system will soon be installed at the area hospitals and Red Center to help in Sky-Warn and other  emergency situations involving amateur radio operators participation.

# April 2006

## W8NP Monthly Planner

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | **Mar 2006**<br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4<br>5 6 7 8 9 10 11<br>12 13 14 15 16 17 18<br>19 20 21 22 23 24 25<br>26 27 28 29 30 31 | **May 2006**<br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5 6<br>7 8 9 10 11 12 13<br>14 15 16 17 18 19 20<br>21 22 23 24 25 26 27<br>28 29 30 31 | | | **1**<br>April Fool's Day |
| **2**<br>Cuyahoga Falls ARC Hamfest Ctc: Ted, W8TTS @ 330-688-2013<br><br>Daylight Savings Time Begins<br><br>Massillon Radio Net - 3650 @ 1930 | **3** | **4** | **5**<br>BD W8AU | **6**<br>Massillon Radio Net - 3650 @ 1930 | **7**<br>Massillon ARC Meeting, Massillon Senior Center, 8:00pm | **8**<br>VE Test Session, Summit County Red Cross, Ctc: Bruce @ 330-929-2766, American Red Cross, Akron, 1400 |
| **9**<br>Massillon Radio Net - 3650 @ 1930 | **10** | **11**<br>BD KC8QOC<br><br>Massillon Radio Net - 3650 @ 1930 | **12** | **13**<br>Massillon Radio Net - 3650 @ 1930 | **14**<br>West Stark Info Net - 147.180 at 2000 | **15** |
| **16**<br>Massillon Radio Net - 3650 @ 1930 | **17** | **18**<br>Massillon Radio Net - 3650 @ 1930 | **19** | **20**<br>Massillon Radio Net - 3650 @ 1930 | **21**<br>West Stark Info Net - 147.180 at 2000 | **22**<br>BD KC8IIU<br><br>BD KC8NSE |
| **23**<br>Massillon Radio Net - 3650 @ 1930 | **24** | **25**<br>Massillon Radio Net - 3650 @ 1930 | **26** | **27**<br>Massillon Radio Net - 3650 @ 1930 | **28**<br>BD K8XAF<br><br>West Stark Info Net - 147.180 at 2000 | **29** |
| **30**<br>Massillon Radio Net - 3650 @ 1930 | **Upcoming Event:**<br><br>Dayton Hamvention, May 19 - 21 | | | | | |

Please contact K8INN for updates, changes, or additions.