



FEEDBACK

VOLUME 61 ISSUE 4

APRIL 2016

MASSILLON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OFFICERS

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**MRN NET Sundays 8:00
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**WEST STARK INFO
NET
Fridays 8:00 PM 147.18
MHz (except 1st Fri of
month)**

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MARC APRIL MEETING

The meeting for the month of April will be held on April 1st, 2016 at the Massillon Senior Center at 8:00 PM. Doors open at 7:00PM for that “eyeball” QSO .

April showers bring May flowers except on April 1st when we will have a foot of snow —April Fools !!! (at least I hope it’s just a joke ! With Ohio’s weather , ya never know !) .

With the coming of the spring months that means we must firm up our reservation at Shriver park in Massillon, otherwise we will have Field Day at Petro's park shelter # 1. We have wanted a new location for some time now and Shriver seems to foot the bill! At issue is the overnight requirement for the club, we haven’t firmed that up as yet. We require that we stay there for a complete 24 hour period. A lot of planning is required for this new project for this year. Members are needed that can get things done!

Field Day for this year is the weekend of June 25th and 26th. Set up begins at 9:00 AM Saturday June 25, 2016. This notice is plenty early so you can begin to make plans for a weekend of fun and adventure. See you at the meeting !

MARC PROGRAM FOR APRIL

The program for the month of April will be a visit by ARRL Section Manager Scott Yonally N8SY. More on this in the N8ATZ column on page 4 of this issue. Flyer page 7.

Scott was first licensed in 1979 as a Novice KA8DWI (Yes he’s heard it all!) . The license plate still hangs on the wall of his garage! He upgraded in 1980 to General and 1982 he upgraded to Advance Class with the call KC8SS . In January, 2000 he upgraded to Extra Class (yes he had to pass the 20 WPM code requirement). He kept the Advanced call a short while. Friends convinced him to change to a Vanity Call K8SY, depicting his initials. His wife is also licensed with the call of KB8YPW. He says she’s one of those “quite”hams , you know a lot of listening and “0” percent operating!

He’s held many positions both locally as well as for the Ohio Section and the Great Lakes Division over his 30 + years as being a ham radio operator. He has enjoyed serving in all of these capacities. He is currently the Section Manager for the Ohio Section as well as serving as Assistant Director for the Great Lakes Division.

MARC Minutes March 4, 2016

President Ralph K8HSQ opened the meeting at 8:00 PM, and after the Pledge of Allegiance, there was a role call, with 35 persons present.

Motion to accept last month's minutes:

Ralph asked if there were any corrections or additions to the September Secretary's report that was sent to all members in "Feedback". No corrections being needed, Ralph then asked for a motion to accept the report. Motion by Patty KD8UXM, second by Perry W8AU. Motion passed.

Treasurers Report:

Gary WC8W then gave a detailed financial report for the club. Gary explained the expenses and receipts for the month of February. Motion to accept by Mike N8COM, seconded by Tony KD8UXK.

VP Report by Terry, N8ATZ

Terry mentioned that we received two newsletters, one from the Lake Erie ARC and another from the Dayton Amateur Radio Association. They are on the table for people to read if they desire.

Rex NX8G donated three copies of the National Contest Journal to the library.

The only hamfest this month is NORES on March 6th.

Skywarn will take place on April 6th. The location has not yet been determined. This time it will not be a Webinar, but will be presented by an "on-site" person from the NWS.

Terry announced that Ted K8TWA in conjunction with the Canton Amateur Radio Club is loaning us a four bay DB Products antenna and 140' of Heliac coax with connectors for use with the 147.18 repeater for the purposes of helping troubleshoot our noise problems. The equipment is in the position of Jim WA8GXM and will be put in place when the weather gets a little better. The loan is until November 2016.

Birthdays this month are Kip K8KIP, Mike KB8OTK, Gary N2VDT, Jack N8FEB, Don W8DEA and Jim WA8GXM.

We have confirmation from the Boys Club for our hamfest and the date will be Sunday October 23rd. Setup will take place on Saturday the 22nd. The ARRL will be notified of the date.

Announcements:

Shirley has a quantity of the peanut butter eggs available at the meeting for purchase after the meeting. Ralph announced that the NCJ magazines Rex donated will be going in the library located in the ham shack. This library is available to all the members. Members can access the library and check out any of the many books and manuals.

Tom Hammond will be giving his 3D printer program at the Alliance Radio Club meeting Wednesday. This program was presented at our club several months ago and was well received.

Vern KE8BYW announced that he is restarting the radio club at Stark State College and has weekly meetings on Fridays at 10:30 am.

Committee Report:

Ralph K8HSQ explained how and why he and Jim WA8GXM installed an external amplifier on the 147.18 repeater. This is to reduce the possibility of damaging the internal amplifier of the repeater. It has been reported by other Fusion repeaters that there have been failures when running on high power. By installing an

external amplifier and reducing the Fusion output from 50 watts to 5 watts should reduce the possibility of failure.

A power supply controller is being constructed to allow remote control of all the DC and AC power to all of the repeaters located at the repeater site.

When Don W8DEA returns from his FEMA assignment, he and Ralph K8HSQ will contact Affinity Hospital to determine if they have meeting rooms available for our use to conduct our meetings and training sessions in order to reduce our costs at the Senior Center. Suggestions were made for other locations in addition to Affinity.

Old Business:

Chris KD8TNF will update our QRZ web page with the new hamfest date. Chris has already updated the site with Field Day information.

Perry W8AU, indicated we will be using Shriver Park for Field Day. We are waiting for permission to use the park for the overnight period of the event.

New Business:

The Technician class will begin March 11th at the Senior Center unless another location can be found. The classes will run from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. On club meeting nights the class will start at 6:00 pm and run to 8:00 pm. The CW classes will run concurrently with the Technician class. There will be a \$10 charge for the classes because of our rental expenses at the Senior Center. Perry is looking into the possibility of another location for the CW classes. Lee KD8UEA suggested we check with the Veteran Service Commission in Canton for a meeting room.

With business concluded, Ralph asked for a motion to adjourn. First Rex NX8G, seconded by Mike N8COM.

Program:

The program was presented by Ralph K8HSQ and was a demonstration of viewing the output of a variety of members HT's with a spectrum analyzer.

Submitted by Ralph K8HSQ

NEW WHEELS

It was learned at last months meeting that Perry W8AU bought a new(er) Chevy cargo van. This is to replace an older van that has just about given up the ghost! The picture is of his older one he traded in (see what I mean?)

Welll- almost true !



... APRIL PROGRAM ...

Our program for the April meeting will be our annual ARRL Night and will be presented by Ohio Section Manager Scott Yonally, N8SY.

As always, Scott will bring the latest news from the ARRL including local updates from around the Ohio Section.

This is always an interesting and informative meeting you won't want to miss. Bring along all your questions and concerns for Scott !

Per our normal procedure, we will have Scott's presentation first after member introductions and our normal business meeting afterwards.

... SKYWARN SPOTTER TRAINING ...

Stark County EMA with the Stark Co ARES will sponsor our annual Severe Weather Spotter Training on Wednesday, April 6th at 6:00 PM. The training will be held at Jackson High School, 7600 Fulton Road NW, Massillon 44646. It will be held in the school auditorium. This event is open to the public, no pre-reservation is required. The training will last about 2 hours with one break.

The training will be provided by Michelle Sowers, Emergency Management Specialist and Meteorologist from the Ohio EMA.

All are welcome to attend, including Amateur Radio Operators, Public Safety, School and Hospital employees and of course the general public. The training will again discuss what severe weather is; identifying potentially serious weather patterns; and reporting this information to the Cleveland National Weather Service office. An electronic presentation with photos will augment training and assist in identifying cloud formations.



Please take advantage of this important and free severe weather training. Feel free to contact Stark County EMA at (330) 451-3900 or by email to (StarkEMA@starkcountyohio.gov) with any questions.

The training will be held following the State of Ohio Severe Weather Awareness Week (March 20th to 26th). This year's Statewide Tornado Drill is scheduled for 9:50 AM, on Wednesday, March 23rd.

... AMATEUR RADIO NUMBERS SOAR ...

Amateur Radio is alive and well! Growth in the US continued in 2015, with a record 735,405 licensees in the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS) database by the end of the year. That's up 9130 over December 2014, a 1.2 percent rise, continuing a steady increase in the Amateur Radio population in every year since 2007. In 2014, the Amateur Radio ranks grew by a net 8149 licensees. The figures, compiled by Joe Speroni, AH0A, on his FCC Amateur Radio Statistics web pages, exclude expired licenses that are within the 2-year grace period, and club station licenses. Compared with the same month 10 years ago, the Amateur Radio population in the US has expanded by 72,805 licensees – or nearly 11 percent.

As expected, the biggest growth by license class was in Technician licensees, which rose by 6570 in 2015. General ranks increased by 3079, and Amateur Extra numbers went up by 3496. The 2015 overall numbers faltered a little in April before rebounding in July. The introduction of a new General class question pool on July 1 appeared to have only a slight effect on month-to-month numbers in that license class. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said 2015 was another banner year for ARRL VEC-sponsored test sessions.

"For the second year in a row, we have conducted more than 7000 Amateur Radio

exam sessions in a year, an important milestone for the ARRL VEC," she said. "A total of 7358 ARRL-sponsored exam sessions were administered in 2015, compared to 7216 in 2014. The number of exam applicants was down slightly in 2015, compared to the previous year, and the number of examination elements administered also dipped slightly, she noted.

"Since 2014 was a record-setting year, the numbers of 2015 examinees didn't drop so much as return to more typical levels," she explained.

Somma pointed out that the ARRL-VEC also processed and filed nearly 10,100 license renewals and address changes for members in 2015. This is a free service to ARRL members.

Technician licensees still comprise a little less than one-half of the US Amateur Radio population. As of December 31, some 47,850 Advanced and 10,800 Novice licensees remained in the FCC database. The FCC no longer issues Advanced and Novice licenses, and their numbers continue to decline.

Once again, California far and away was home to the largest number of licensees among the 50 states, with 103,938 at the end of 2015, up from 102,735 at the end of 2014. North Dakota remained the state with the fewest number of Amateur Radio licensees, with 1510, up very slightly over the previous 12 months. Club station licenses in the US number 11,599, according to Speroni's web pages. — Thanks to Joe Speroni, AH0A; FCC ULS licensing statistics

That's it for this month, see you at the club meeting.

73's
Terry - N8ATZ

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Donovan P. Whitaker

Published: March 14, 2016 3:00 AM

Donovan P. Whitaker, 70, of Alliance, went home to be with the Lord, his family, friends and favorite cat, Jasper, at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 12, 2016, at Aultman Hospital.

Born on March 28, 1945, in Columbus, Ohio, to Louis and Mabel (VanMeter) Whitaker, he lived in the Marlboro and Alliance areas for all of his life and attended Marlinton High School and received his GED from Canton South. Don carried a great passion and ability to help others. He enjoyed his hobby of amateur radio known by his call of K8OMO. He was a member of the Alliance Amateur Radio Club, serving as past president. Other radio clubs included Skywarn, the ARRL Amateur Radio Association and Vibroplex Key Collector Association, among other ham clubs.

Don acquired his first ham license at the age of 15 and continued progressing over the years, helping many others get their license and enjoy the hobby. Don's other hobbies in his early years included racing his V-8 powered 57 MG to flying model airplanes with radio buddies and field days with the radio club. He also enjoyed riding his motorcycle with his ham radio on his side.

Don's working career consisted of 28 1/2 years at Monarch/Teledyne Rubber in Hartville. After that, he started his own business of D&B Erectors using his 75-foot boom crane to set trusses, air conditioners and light poles for area businesses. He especially enjoyed using his truck to put up ham radio towers for friends and club members.

Don had a great love for his wife of 51 years, Cheryl A. "Sherry" (Coy) Whitaker, whom he married on Nov. 9, 1963, in Stephens Chapel at First United Presbyterian Church.

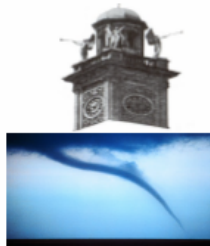
Other survivors include his son, Brian S. (Gail) Whitaker of Alliance; two granddaughters, Christine (Ed) Weisgarber of Massillon and Courtney Whitaker of Alliance; a great-granddaughter, Pearl Weisgarber; a brother, Louis (Marie) Whitaker Jr. of Alliance; and several nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents.

Private funeral services will be held. Burial will immediately follow at Mt. Union Cemetery.

Memorial contributions are suggested to Alliance Amateur Radio Club.

Arrangements are by the Sharer-Stirling-Skivolocke Funeral Home. Online condolences can be given at www.sharerfuneralhome.com. (3-14-16)



The Stark County EMA and Stark County Amateur Radio Emergency Service



Presents:

2016 SKYWARN TRAINING

Stark County & Ohio EMA with the Stark County Amateur Radio Emergency Service Club and National Weather Service Cleveland Office present our annual Skywarn Spotter Training.

This event will be held following the State of Ohio's Severe Weather Awareness Week (March 20th to 26th).

All are welcome to attend, including Amateur Radio Operators, Public Safety, School and Hospital Reps as well as the General Public.

SKYWARN Training is
Wednesday, April 6th at 6:00 PM

at

Jackson High School

7600 Fulton Rd. NW, Massillon 44646, in the Auditorium.

Pre-Registration is NOT REQUIRED

The training should last approximately two hours with one break.

This years training will again discuss what severe weather is; identifying potentially serious weather patterns; and reporting this information to the Cleveland NWS office.

An electronic presentation with photos will augment training and assist identifying cloud formations.

The training will be provided by Michelle Sowers, Emergency Management Specialist and Meteorologist from the Ohio EMA

Please take advantage of this important & free severe weather training.

Feel free to contact Stark EMA at (330) 451- 3900 or by email (StarkEMA@starkcountyohio.gov) with questions.

Please note the statewide tornado drill is scheduled for 9:50 a.m., Wednesday, March 23rd.

NPOTA News



Well, did you see the latest issue of the Ohio section Journal? then you know what the news is. turns out that we jumped the gun a bit. The league requests that we don't promote this until the NPS folks in Dayton give there approval to the Special Use Permit.

But, I can definitely ask for some volunteers. I need some folks to help supervise a Portable station in Dayton during the Hamvention. Your job in addition to supervising the operation of the station will be to be available to answer questions about the station, and Amateur Radio You'll be talking to Hams and non-Hams. I'd like to see enough volunteers that we can all spend some time at the Hamvention. An hour or two of your tie would be greatly appreciated.

I picked up a Nextbook windows 10 tablet to use for NPOTA activations. I'm amazed at how inexpensive these have become.

There's a blog post at onetuberadio.com that gives tips for chaser & activators. Here's the link.

Till next week, Good hunting!

73, DE John, KD8MQ

KB6NU COLUMN

Why You Should Get Your Extra Class License

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The Amateur Extra Class license is the highest class of license in the United States, and perhaps the world. Many hams, even hams that live outside the U.S. aspire to pass the test and be awarded one.

There wasn't always an Amateur Extra Class license. The Extra class license, as we know it today, was created as part of the 1951 license restructuring, that also created the Novice and Technician Class licenses. (In 1951, the Novice license was the beginner's license. To get a Technician Class license, you had to pass the written test that General Class operators had to pass.)

Although it gave an operator no additional privileges, to get an Extra Class license, one had to:

- * Pass a 20 wpm code test (Generals had to pass only a 13 wpm code test).
- * Pass a longer and more difficult written examination than the General Class exam.
- * Have at least two years of experience as a licensed radio amateur.

Today, without the code test and the experience requirement, many hams upgrade to Extra Class as soon as they can. Some even pass the Technician Class, General Class, and the Amateur Extra Class exams in a single test session.

So, what's the attraction? Why should you upgrade to Extra?

One of the reasons that you should upgrade to Extra is that you get use of the entire 80 m, 40 m, 20 m, and 15 m bands. Portions of those bands, such as 3.6 , 3.7 MHz in the 75m band and 14.150 , 14.175 MHz in the 20m phone band, are reserved exclusively for Extra Class licensees. Extra Class operators also have exclusive privileges in the CW portions of the 80 m, 40 m, 20 m, and 15 m bands. These are

the frequencies where the DX stations hang out.

Another reason to get your Extra Class license is that only Extra Class licensees can administer General Class and Extra Class license exams. General Class operators can become Volunteer Examiners (VEs), but they are only allowed to administer Technician Class exams.

Another reason you might want to get an Extra Class license is to get a fancy vanity callsign. Only Extra Class operators can apply for 1x2 or 2x1 callsigns, such as W8RP or KT8K. A short, snappy callsign can help you work more DX or improve your contest scores.

Whatever your reason, studying for the Extra Class exam will open your eyes to many aspects of the hobby that you may not be familiar with. And, as you work your way through the material, you'll learn things that make you a better amateur radio operator and enable you to enjoy the hobby more. It's not easy, but in the end, an Extra Class license will help you have more fun with amateur radio.

Dan, KB6NU is the author of the "No Nonsense" line of amateur radio license study guides, a prolific blogger (www.kb6nu.com), and an active CW operator in the Extra Class portion of the HF bands. If you have any comments, questions, compliments, or complaints, email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

April showers bring — Thunderstorms !! Don't forget to unplug valuable Amateur Radio Equipment !!

