

FEEDBACK



AUGUST 2002

VOLUME 47 NUMBER 8



AUGUST MEETING

The meeting for the month of August will be held at the Massillon Senior Center in downtown Massillon on August 2, 2002 at 8:00 PM.

The meeting's main topic of discussion will be I'm sure will be this year's **RECORD** setting score!! As promised we will have the complete breakdown of the Field Day 2002 Scores here in the Feedback!!!

In the archives beginning with 1997 the total scores were:

1997	4,854
1998	3,164
1999	3,644
2000	5,728
2001	5,170
2002	5,868 !!! (estimated, final score.)

final score to be determined by ARRLContest Branch)

This terrific score is due in large part to the efforts of the CW boys, specifically Igor WB8KEO who had a fantastic year operating the CW station. The CW outscored the Phone station by a good margin. The CW station (HF using 10, 15, 20, 40, 80 meter bands only) made a whopping 771 QSO's where the Phone station using the same bands made 666 QSO's. With the help of the 6 meter, 2 meter, and GOTA Station, the phone station made 918 total QSO's and the CW station made 783 total QSO's.

The band breakdown is as follows;

Phone:	80M	40M	20M	15M	10M	6M	2
QSO's	86	115	232	233	31	42	29
CW:	285	308	95	83	7		

GOTA Station 5 CW contacts , 150 Phone contacts

- SHORT SKIP -



Attention Swan Radio Fans, "The Swan lives on !" Every Sunday at 2100 HRS. GMT on 14.250 Mc. There's even a Swan website (www.geocities.com/latemod97). You'll soon discover there is **NO** swan song for great thermoionic emissions radio gear. For more exciting info contact Jim Singleton , WA5BDR, (a master Swan gear guru) at 775 266-9586.

Indeed, " The Swan lives on ! "

73 de WB80WM

CONGRATULATIONS TO IGOR WB8KEO CW RECORD SETTER FOR FIELD DAY 2002!! We gotta get this guy some Help!!!



MARC MINUTES July 5,2002

The July Massillon Amateur Radio Club meeting was held at the Senior Center on July 5,2002 with 25 members and guest present.

MARC President Gene W8KXR called the meeting to order at 8:00 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was given with emphases on ONE NATION UNDER GOD. Then a round of introductions was made.

Gene W8KXR then asked to suspend the reading of the June Minutes. They were accepted as stated in the FEED-BACK by Gary KC8IHR and second by Dave WD8AYE. Motion was accepted and carried.

MARC Treasurer Anne N8GAF gave the financial report. She gave the regular report and the expenses of what it cost for Field Day. Motion was made to accept it by Sandra N8TZB and second by Gary WC8W. Motion was accepted and carried.

There was no correspondence report due to the absents of MARC Vice President Rich KA8ZQH.

Terry N8ATZ and Dave WD8AYE are looking for volunteers to be Parade Marshals for the Hall Of Fame Parade Aug.3,2002. Contact Dave WD8AYE or check out his web site at www.wd8aye.org

Charlie KB8STV gave his Emergency Preparedness report. He reported on SATERN, Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network. He had flyers on this topic for anyone wanting to learn more on this subject.

Gene W8KXR then asked Bruce AB8FB for his Library report. There was none for this month.

OLD BUSINESS

Perry W8AU said because of the 4th of July holiday there was no ARRL letter. He also said there were no other committee meeting held because there hasn't been any need.

NEW BUSINESS

Dan N8DZM said we need to be thinking of prizes for MARC Hamfest in October. He needs the information so he can get the tickets printed. Anyone with suggestions please attend the August meeting.

Gene W8KXR and Perry W8AU announced Massillon Amateur Radio Club will have their 75th Anniversary this year. A pizza party is planned for October 4th. Gary WC8W suggested a Special Event Station also to be planned. Look for more details later.

Gene W8KXR suggested a cleaning and work get together to help with getting the Field Day equipment in working order for next year.

Dan N8DZM wants to know if there is any interest in Fox hunting before our monthly meetings. He will be doing the program for next month. Come early to Fox hunt before 8:00P.M.

Perry W8AU suggested the need for an exhaust fan for the Shack. John K8LBZ offered one , if it can be used.

Gene W8KXR asked for the meeting to close at 8:50P.M.. Motion was made by Rick KC8LYG and second by Sandra N8TZB. Motion was accepted and carried.

Refreshments were served and congratulations goes to Dan N8DZM for winning the 50-50 for \$13.00.

Minutes by Linda K8MOO Secretary MARC

..... ARRL SET RESULTS ARE IN

The results of the 2001 Simulated Emergency Test (SET) are in and are currently posted in the July issue of QST magazine. I'm glad to report that after being omitted for the past several years, Stark County's results have finally been included. Overall Ohio posted excellent results, scoring 6th in overall SET participation with 1,969 points and 2nd in local net activity with 2,123 points. Here in Stark County under the direction of EC Dave Beltz - WD8AYE, our local net garnered 288 points, ranking 2nd in the State.

While not really a point generating contest, SET is an important training and participation exercise that demonstrates our continued public service involvement. Stark County has always had a strong ARES program thanks to strong leadership and a great core of active and dedicated members.

Mark your calendars for October 5 & 6, 2002 as the main weekend for this years SET. Details about any scheduled drills will be announced later.

.... FIELD DAY THOUGHTS

Thanks to lots of hard work by several loyal club members Field Day 2002 was another big success with everyone enjoying good company, really nice weather, lots of contacts, some especially great food and loads of FUN !. From setup Saturday morning to teardown Sunday afternoon, we enjoyed yet another great weekend communications exercise. Even "Murphy" stayed away during the weekend and gave us a trouble free event.

This year the CW station was relocated from the main pavilion to our safety break tent that offered a great view of the lake plus gave them a little more privacy. This also made room for the GOTA Station, or "Get On The Air" station which was a free extra station allowed this year to entice a more operators to participate in Field Day. This also gave members a chance to operate without holding up our "Big Guns". I saw a number of people trying it out over the weekend.

Although attendance seemed a little less than previous years, it didn't stop the pace of the weekend as all the stations were active most of the time.

A few visitors dropped by to see what all the commotion was about especially with the W8NP Blimp flying high over the park announcing our location to the public. A new twist to the blimp this year was our own "Blimp Cam", a small ATV transmitter was attached to the bottom of the blimp catching the beautiful summer scenery. A monitor was setup under the pavilion so everyone got a birds eye view of the Field Day site.

Of course what would Field Day be without the traditional Saturday night feast and thanks chef Dan - N8DZM everyone enjoyed steak on the grill with all the trimmings. A special taste of classic "Fair Food" was even provided thanks to Don - W8DEF who whipped up some fresh home made potato chips, fries and shoe string potato fries ! With full bellies everyone settled in for a great evening of operating and fellowship which made for another great club operating event.

Thanks belong to everyone who participated in this years event even if you only stopped by for a short visit. It's also the only time of year we get to see our good friend and Field Day Secret Weapon "IGOR", aka Igor Nikishin - WB8KEO who makes a special trip back to town each year to spend time with us at Field Day and rack up a bunch of CW contacts. Really Igor, you're welcome to come and visit anytime !!!!!

As always lots of great memories are generated with each Field Day and many of which are captured in "Kodiak Moments". A special thanks to Don - W8DEF, Perry - W8AU, Charlie - KB8STV, Ralph - K8HSQ and Denny - N8UDL who supplied me with lots of great pictures from this years event. I'm currently putting them together and hope to have them posted on the website soon on a special Field Days Memories Page together with a few from Field Days past.

Gary - WC8W is currently working on the official score to submit to the ARRL but I believe this years event rates a perfect 10 !!!

.... WEBSITE UPDATE

By the time you read this the clubs website will have surpassed 3,000 hits. That's means 3,000 different people have taken a look at our website, if only the home page. The counter only counts a person once, repeat visits will not trip the counter. I'm still amazed that it is being looked at about 5 times every day by someone.

I have noticed however that some days the site seems pretty slow. Initially it was due to the extensive photographs that grace its many pages but an extensive effort is currently underway to compress the photographs so that they will download very quickly. An example of this is the new Field Day page recently posted. The page loads quickly with small thumbnail pictures. Clicking on any picture will bring up a full screen image. Still, some of the time the pages load slowly is due to the overloaded server at QSL.NET. They have been extremely generous to us over the last 3 years that the website has been on-line, allowing us unlimited access to the site and continuing to provide additional space as the site has grown to over 80 Meg in size. They have done all this for an incredible low price - FREE. Knowing what it costs to maintain an internet

connection we have donated about \$60.00 per year to help defray the enormous expense this must generate. I am now convinced that the time has come to move to another commercial server that will allow a faster internet connection and one that will support a registered domain name. Those with cable or DSL lines may not notice any change but the vast majority of users still have telephone dialup. Prices are dropping every month and I'm sure we could find one at a reasonable price. Over the next few months Dan and I will research this and give you a report at a future meeting.

.... MORE CONTEST RESULTS

The results of the 2001 CQ WW WPX CW contest were recently posted in the April issue of CQ magazine and once again Byron Berger - KF8UN placed near the top with a score of 220,336 points on 347 contacts.

Later on in the season Byron also participated in the ARRL 160 Meter Contest and the results have just showed up in the August issue of QST magazine. While not quite as impressive Byron still managed a score of 12,714 points on 163 contacts which placed him in the top 10 in Ohio. Still not shabby considering 160 can be a tough band to score well on.

Congratulations Byron on two fine contest achievements !

73's till next time

Terry - N8ATZ



Jeff KC8KIX operating the GOTA station with help from Charlie, KB8STV. This station has helped get hams more active and attuned to "contest" style operations!

Tectopics -- 05 --

More on open wire line and how it's constructed. or Hang 'um High Real Cheap

Ok, ok, so you're interested in making some open wire feeders. There is an obvious resurgence of interest in this feedline technique, and if you doubt it, ur not reading recent articles in QST, and listening to the lower HF bands where open wire fed antennas are increasingly common. But, when you thought seriously about it, you realized the engineers over at W8KXR's digs were just a bit out to lunch. Neat idea about building the actual wire feeders with 'slippery insulated wire,' but those guys left out the most important part. The stuff's no good if ya' can't get it in the air and out of the way so the lawn can be mowed and one can walk through the yard without...well...how the heck do you hang the stuff?

Take a deep breath, and relax. The answer is too simple and almost really cheap. First start with the question of where does one get enough insulators to hang the two parallel feed lines? These little beauties, at least the real ones that are made of glass, or ceramic, are more scarce than summer time QSO's on 160 meters. Once again, it's easy and cheap, but pay attention to the following consideration.

Remember these feed lines may or may not have very high voltages, or very high currents on them, depending on where you are along the feed line. When using 'tuned' feeders, SWR is not an issue. The whole system, feeders and antenna, resonates and you might remember from an earlier 'Tectopics' that we never really worried about how long the lines are and we still have yet to loose sleep over that question of just how long the antenna is within reason. The station xmtr and rcvr never see anything other than a yummy 50 ohms. So, how about them insulators that keep the line in the air at potentially very high voltage or very high current?

Keeping with true Ham tradition, you make your own by using the same stuff we made the feedline spacers from. You can manufacture a lot of "suspension" insulators from an eight foot piece of half inch PVC. Again, cut some pieces, with a hack saw or whatever your favorite cutting trick happens to be, and make them four or five inches long. They are simply slightly shorter spreaders used to support the lines.

With the systems used in the prototype labs here at W8KXR, four inch PVC insulators are convenient, and have performed well at the four hundred watt level on the feeders. One consideration is that the longer one makes the insulators, the higher the supporting system has to be to keep them above head level. Give it some thought as you work up your installation. The next set, now in the prototype lab here, are being cut to six inches, mostly because expected power levels are going up this fall. Keep in mind this is Ham Radio, and experimentation is the foundation of our culture...so give it a try.

To finish up the insulators, cut them and drill the ends in the same way as is done for the spreaders. Make the hole larger than the wire you plan to use to "tie" them up on the supports. The same wire as used for the feeders is the cheap and natural choice. Cutting some pieces about twelve inches long to act as ties, with one end going up to the support, and the other for tying to a feeder spreader.

When you know where the lines will go, and they are generally roughed in, you can drill a second set of holes in the appropriate spreader, and place the suspension insulator in just the right location. If your engineering department is paying attention, they figured out that if you don't fasten the spreaders in place yet, they will still slide along the feed line and can be positioned exactly where they are needed for hanging the lines. It's so simple, and so cheap, not to mention that it works great, that you will immediately be selling the stock you just bought in that well know coax company. No wonder the market is a mess!

Ok, so far so good! You've decided you can handle the insulator question and can make them by the dozens as needed, but the big problem is what to hang this wondrously beautiful creation on when it gets to your yard and the moment of truth finally arrives to put it over your head. Well, this part is an engineering cake walk, a lot like tuning a modern "Sushi Box." It's just too simple.

But, there is one tiny, tiny feature that needs consideration, beyond the actual production and installation of the support system. For some folks, who might be somewhat less tuned to the great humor to be seen, and admired, in the creative genius of others, err, especially one's husband, the general topic of, "You ain't puttin' them thin's in our (translate 'my') yard!" Ouch!

This dicey diplomatic situation may require especially tactful intervention by your station's PR department. The solution to this phase of our highly efficient antenna installation development program is beyond the scope of this engineering advisory, and is left to the enormously creative imagination of individuals. Be strong brother, remember we're Ham's, right?

Now for the supports themselves. Engineering supports is also simple, cheap, and easily replicated. The support polls here at W8KXR are made from pressure treated two by fours. There are sketches of this technique in many of the ARRL handbooks. No originality here, it's been documented for years. If you need higher suspension for those really tall friends, assuming you still have any after this exercise, use longer two by fours to suit your individual needs.

The cross-arm is attached near the top of the two by four, and secured with a stainless bolt and an angled piece of metal strap to stabilize it. The length of the cross arm is not critical, and two versions are used here at W8KXR's HQ. One version has only a single arm, the second is a double arm in the sense it looks more like a conventional telephone poll. The double is used here, because there are two separate antenna systems in use and are being fed with separate feeders.

The straps were made from discarded metal shelving bracing salvaged from the junk box. Basically you will have created a miniature telephone poll. Heavy screw eyes are put in the cross-arm and provide tie points for the insulators you've just produced. Paint your favorite color, or let the wood age naturally.

That's about it. Make enough polls to support the feeders about every 20 to 25 feet and dig a hole about three feet deep to stand them in. Get them vertical, fill in the hole, and with each shovel of dirt, loudly extol the beauty of your creation to the gawking and usually clueless neighbors. Be especially attentive to your wife, who always has all the clues and who might be training that 'special' look on you at this very moment. You know, the one that only wives often conjure at these phenomenally creative engineering moments when your genius is in full view of the world!

The rest is easy, lift the feeder up, and 'hang em high.' Locate appropriate spreaders positions for tying to the insulators, adjust height, and tension to minimize sagging. It takes a bit of tinkering but, when your system is complete and ready to go, you will experience one of the greatest mysteries of Ham Radio which goes something like this; "I made it myself, it works great, looks like real stuff, is pure Ham Radio tradition to make stuff, and in spite of the popular 'me too, I bought it in box' mentality, you are a real engineer who operates and maintains the most efficient HF feeder system in the world of physics! Wow! How good can this hobby get anyway?

So, good luck and for one final plus, the exercise you get digging the holes for the polls will be worth a great deal of loot to you. Just think what you'd pay at a health club for this much fun and sweaty exercise. Ok, ok, ok! Just kidding . . . really. . . about the exercise part . . . I mean.

73 frm - - "Poll and Insulator Fabrication Dept."

de W8KXR



Here is Steve WD8MIJ, handling the phone station duties during Field Day. Rack 'em up Steve!!

ARRL NEWS

LATE BREAKING NEWS!!!!

Great Lakes Division Leadership Changes

In an unexpected move halfway through the Board meeting, George Race, WB8BGY, of Albion, Michigan, stepped down as Great Lakes Director. Race, 66, had served on the Board for 12 years. Prior to that, he'd held numerous other field organization positions over the years, including several terms as Michigan Section Manager.

Race said that while the vote to shift "Section News" to the Web did play a small part in his decision to resign, it was not the primary factor and he harbors "no bad feelings" that the vote went the other way. "My wife Barb and I just decided we needed some time for ourselves," said Race, who resigned in a letter to Sumner, who serves as Secretary to the Board. "There's life beyond the League."

Legendary within the ARRL field organization for his travels around the Great Lakes Division, Race said he's spent some 45,000 to 50,000 miles a year on the road on the League's behalf and "wore out three cars."

"I've enjoyed so much working with the membership and with the Board," said Race, who is the technical services supervisor at Albion College, where he's worked for nearly 35 years.

Great Lakes Vice Director Gary Johnston, KI4LA, of Edgewood, Kentucky, was declared the new director. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, has appointed Michigan Section Manager Dick Mondro, W8FQT, of Dearborn Heights, Michigan, to be the new Great Lakes Vice Director. The Great Lakes Director's and Vice Director's positions are up for re-election in the fall.

A successor is expected to be named soon to pick up the reins as Michigan Section Manager. [Note: Debbie Kirkbride, KA8YKK, is the new MI SM.]

(From <http://www.arrl.org>)

ARRL Great Lakes Division
 Director: Gary Johnston, KI4LA
ki4la@arrl.org

ARLD029 DX news

ZCZC AE29
 QST de W1AW
 DX Bulletin 29 ARLD029
 From ARRL Headquarters
 Newington CT July 18, 2002
 To all radio amateurs

This weeks bulletin was made possible with information provided by Tedd, KB8NW, the OPDX Bulletin, JE2HCJ, NC1L, WA7BNM, The Daily DX, QRZ DX, 425DXnews, The DXNL and Contest Corral from QST. Thanks to all.

MALTA, 9H. Igor, RN3OA and Jack, RW3QC are QRV as 9H3OA and 9H3QC, respectively, until July 31. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters. QSL to home calls.

EASTER ISLAND, CE0. Hisato, CE0Y/7K1WLE is QRV until July 24. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters, including the newer bands, using CW and SSB. QSL via JN1HOW.

AZORES, CU. CU9/G3KHZ/p is QRV until August 1 from Corvo Island, IOTA EU-089. QSL to home call.

PHILIPPINES, DU. In celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Philippine Amateur Radio Association, all DU stations may use the prefixes 4D70 and DZ70 for club stations until the end of the year.

KYRGYZSTAN, EX. Jur, EX8MDE has been QRV on 15 meters around 0200z.

SAN ANDRES AND PROVIDENCIA, HK0. Look for 5K0Z to be QRV until July 29 on all bands. QSL via DH7WW. Meanwhile, DK8YY, DL4JS and DL7ZZ are QRV as HK0ZZ using CW and SSB on 160 to 6 meters until July 29. QSL via operators' instructions.

ITALY, I. Nino, I2IAU is active as ID9/I2IAU from Lipari Island, IOTA EU-017, until September 15. He also plans to operate from other islands in the Eolie group. QSL to home call.

MINAMI TORISHIMA, JD1. JH1EFP is QRV from the JD1YBJ club station until August 6. Activity is on 17 meters using CW and SSB with varying operating times. QSL via operator's instructions.

MARIANA ISLANDS, KH0. Skip, JE2HCJ will be QRV as KH0/JE2HCJ/qrp from July 24 to 28 on all HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

SOUTH ORKNEY ISLANDS. Jose, LU1ZA has been QRV on 20 meters around 0800z.

DENMARK, OZ. Willi, DJ7RJ is QRV as OZ/DJ7RJ from Bornholm Island, IOTA EU-030, until August 2. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

CORSICA, TK. Claude, F5MCC will be QRV as TK/F5MCC from July 20 to August 7. Claude and Tony, TK5XN also plan to operate from Lavezzi Island, IOTA EU-164, and a few light-houses during that time frame. QSL TK/F5MCC via F3GJ and TK5XN via F2YT.

BENIN, TY. F5AOV, F5CWU, F5MOO and F1PJB are QRV from Grand-Popo as TY4DX, TY9F, TY7Z and TY6FB until August 14 on all bands. QSL via operators' instructions.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA, UA. A group of operators are QRV as R17PQ from Novaya Zemlya, IOTA EU-035, until July 31. QSL via UA1RJ.

BERMUDA, VP9. Mark, AA1AC will be QRV as VP9/AA1AC from Hamilton Parish from July 21 to 24. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The North American RTTY QSO Party, CQ Worldwide VHF Contest, Colombian Independence Day Contest, South Pacific 160-Meter Contest, AGCW QRP Summer Contest, W/VE Islands Contest, the Georgia QSO Party and the CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend. Please see July QST, page 85 and the WA7BNM Contest website for details.

NNNN
/EX

W8NP CLUB NEWS

The Canton and Massillon Amateur Radio Clubs will hold a VE Session at the Massillon Senior Center on August 31, 2002 at 9:00 AM. This session will also hold a first for the entire area. We are planning to present exams for the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Program (CCEP) Course Level's 1 and 2 as well as examinations for Technician, General and Extra Class. The examiners for the CCEP will be Don Wade W8DEA, Gary Kline WC8W, and Randy Phelps KD8JN. The exams will be held concurrently (however in different rooms). The examiners for the rest of the exams have not been determined as yet.

So if you are planning to take an exam soon perhaps you should consider this session as traditionally the August sessions are "not overly" crowded. I know of no other session in a 50 mile radius that is offering the CCEP exam anytime in the near future.

HAPPY 75th BIRTHDAY M.A.R.C !!!

Yes it's hard to believe but the Club is celebrating it's 75th year in existence.

According to our Club Historian, Perry W8AU, the club had it's beginning way back in 1927 when all of amateur radio was in it's infancy. Yes Bucky it was ALL CW back then!

A group of newly licensed amateurs including William North, W8NP got together, usually at one of the members home and decided to start a club where everyone could exchange stories of those "DX" contacts. Thus the beginning of The Massillon Amateur Radio Club!

A series of special events are to take place this year. Most are in the month of October. First we are planning to have a special meeting on the 4th of October. Tentatively we are planning a pizza party and a presentation of our 75th anniversary certificate. We hope to have Joe Phillips, K8QOE make the presentation. As you know Joe is the ARRL Great Lakes Section Manager. All members and their wives are cordially invited. The dinner is planed to begin at 6:00 PM with the regular meeting and ceremony to convene afterward. In order to know how much pizza to buy we must know how many will be attending so please let Linda K8MOO our Club Secretary know of your intentions.

Secondly we are planning to put on a Special Event Station on the air starting on October 3, 4, 5, and 6th. You can operate either from the Club or from your home station using the club's Call of W8NP (this is perfectly legal as you will be operating under the Club's license; just like Field Day). The frequencies will be on CW:

28.035, 21.035, 14.035, and 7.035 MHz.

On Phone: 28.360, 21.360, 14.260, and 7.260 MHz.

We plan to have a sign up sheet for anyone who wishes to operate and various times and frequencies will be available. Special Event Stations are operated usually in the evening hours except for the weekends. We plan to follow as well. A Special Event card will be available for your contacts. Each operator is REQUIRED to keep his own log with the time of each contact in UTC time, the frequency and the date plus any other information you deem necessary. After the event each operator will fill out the QSL cards for the contacts. We may even have a QSL card fill out night at the November meeting if anyone needs help in filling our QSL cards. I know this sounds trivial, but believe it or not some members have never sent out QSL cards!

So this is shaping up to be a very fun event for everyone. The month of October promises to be a very busy month, especially with the Hamfest at the end of the month!!

FIELD DAY REVISITED!



Here Jason KC8LIN and Jeff, KC8KIX and Perry assemble the HF beam antenna for the Phone Station



Head chef Dan N8DZM cooks those steaks to perfection!



MMMMMM Man that tastes good!!!



Perry W8AU and Jim WA8GXM prepare the W8NP blimp for launch.

I would like to thank Charlie Scherger KB8STV and Dennis Hamilton, N8UDL and Perry Ballinger, W8AU for sending me these great pictures that you see throughout this issue of Feedback. There were so many great shots that I didn't have room for them all!