

VOLUME 53 ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2008

MASSILLON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OFFICERS

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Thursdays 8,00 DKI 10	
\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	1,18
MUNZ	
MADNI KUET Tivo Thin 9.0	

8:30 PM 3.600 MHZ

Contents

Secretary's Report2
N8ATZ Column3
PUZZEL by KB8IMH & WA8MKH4
Short Story by WB8VGE6
Prez Sez9
Calendar by K8INN10

--- SHORT SKIP ----

December. Time to plan your January antenna projects (HI). Ice and snow are coming; do your prevention maintenance NOW. And remember, "No safety belt, NO climbing!"

May the eternal gift of CHRISTmas be with you and yours throughout the New Year and beyond.

73 de WB80WM

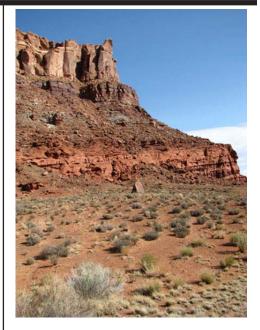
DECEMBER MEETING

Merry Christmas everyone! The next meeting for the month of December will be held at the Massillon Senior Center at 8:00 PM on December 5th 2008.

Hope to see a good turnout for this meeting as we will be electing a new Vice President, a new Treasurer and a new Trustee. At the nomination meeting last month we had no concrete candidates for these office's. According to our Code of Regulations, to be a candidate you must be at least 21 years of age, a General class or higher, and be in good standing for at least 3 years are eligible to hold office. Current Trustee's are responsible for determining the eligibility of each candidate. The new officer's will take office in January. Of course other "year end" business will be discussed at the meeting as well.

DUES ARE DUE!

It's that time of year again. The dues for the Massillon Amateur Radio Club are still only \$ 10.00 for a single membership & 5.00 for the XYL and \$ 2.50 student living at home! WHAT A BARGIN!!



Wow! In the picture above is typical scenery from Moab Utah. This month we are honored to present a short story from Mr. Mike Bryce, WB8VGE, a "World Renowned" author, published many times in the ARRL's QST and others. The story begins on page 6. Mike has written a short story of his adventures in the Utah dessert 4 "wheeling" & using Ham Radio along very scenic trails.

Thank you Mike

MARC MINUTES November 7th, 2008

The Massillon Amateur Radio Club meeting was held at the Massillon Senior Center with 30 members and guests present. The Pledge of Allegiance was given and a round of introductions was made.

Steve KD8ACF with a second by Byron KF8UN made the motion to suspend reading the minutes and accept them as printed in the Feedback. Motion Passed by voice vote.

Ann N8GAF our Treasurer gave the treasures report.

Rodger KA8FTS gave the V.P. report. Which included a J.O.T.A. report. There were 15 scouts that received their badges.

Committees

VE - VE session at the Hamfest resulted in 5 out of 8 passing.

Hamfest - Another successful Hamfest is done.

HamShack – Gary gave a report on the status of the HamShack. The rotor is working but the antenna is twisted due to hurricane Ike.

Old Business

The Massillon Christmas parade will be on Saturday November 22. We will need 20 hams to help out.

New Business

The rest area near Dover, New Philadelphia will be closed in May. We have a safety break scheduled for the weekend of Mar 20 – 22. Motion made by Perry W8AU and seconded by Mike KD8ENV sponsor the Mar 20 -22 weekend safety break. Passed.

Joe WD8BGW passed around a petition to keep the rest stops open.

We have a couple of nominees for next month's election. Scott N3JJT and Wade WD8MIU for Trustee and Dan N8DZM for Secretary.

The 50/50 was won by Ralph K8HSQ for \$23.00.

Mike KD8ENV and Steve WD8MIJ made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and of course everyone agreed.

Minutes by your Secretary Dan N8DZM

THANKS TO SCOTT N3JJT

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Scott McCamish, N3JJT for his leadership this past year as President of the Massillon Amateur Radio Club. Through his leadership 2008 was an "eventful" year. From the banquet in January to the Parade in November, Scott showed his presence and leadership. Because of a shift change in his employment he may miss most meetings next year but I'm sure his influence will be felt throughout the year. Rodger, KA8FTS, the incoming President will have a very large pair of shoes to fill. Thanks Scott!!

... Massillon Holiday Parade ...

he club has just finished assisting with the 54th An nual Massillon Holiday Parade which brings to a close the MARC public service season. We had another great parade with terrific club participation. This continues to remain the oldest public service event that is handled by the club and our responsibilities have grown over recent years to include many aspects of parade operation. The parade was rebroadcast over Massillon Cable TV and I hope some of you had a chance to view it. The club trailer looked great on the route and special thanks to Jim – WA8GXM for pulling the trailer in the parade.

In the early years of the parade, we provided only communications support to the Massillon JC's organization who handled the staging of all the parade units. When they disbanded, the city struggled to find volunteers willing to take on this task. Since the MARC handled communications support, somehow we got nominated to take on this responsibility as well. A few years later, Massillon Cable began filming the parade in conjunction with the Massillon High School Communications Department and again the club was called upon to assist with this part of the parade also. Last minute omissions or changes to the parade line up are passed on to the production crew so that the announcers can follow along with the parade units. We had experience with this as well as amateurs routinely handle staging activities including TV production control relay duties at the Hall of Fame Festival Kickoff Parade. The Holiday Parade has depended on this ever since.

Over the past several years the parade has been sponsored by the Downtown Merchants Association with President Donald Harwig serving as Parade Chairman. During this time and before the club has always been there to make sure the parade is properly staged and starts on time down the parade route. We have become an integral part of the parade and I wonder if they could pull it off without us.

I'm glad to report another successful public service event with very few problems thanks to our communications and parade skills. Over 41 years and counting Santa has arrived in the city in no small part thanks to the MARC.

Special thanks to the following club members for volunteering this year. They are; Wade – WD8MIU, Sarah – KC8ZCS, Scott – KC8ZCT, Gary – WC8W, Anne – N8GAF, Jim – WA8GXM, Terry – N8ATZ, Joe – WD8BGW (providing double duty as both amateur radio communications and his primary role for the Massillon Police Department), Igor – K8INN, Mike – KD8ENV, Rex – KD8ELX, Steve – KD8ACF, Don – W8DEF, Linda – K8MOO, Jason - KC8LIN, Scott – N3JJT, Carl – AB8CC, Mike – KD8ENV, Charlie – KB8STV and Communications Coordinator Perry – W8AU. Also assisting us this year from the Summitt Co ARES was Bruce Brown – KC8RKS. This event annually provides over 80 hours of community service.

.. MARCRADIO.ORG ..

MARCRADIO.ORG has again been a busy place this year with nearly 4,000 visits during 2008. Maintaining the site continues to be a labor of love with emphasis on the labor requiring several hours per week adding new material, removing obsolete material, archiving information and general upkeep.

As we discussed last month we have exceeded both our available bandwidth and space limitations for the site. I am currently working with Dan, N8DZM reviewing our options as we plan to go with a new hosting service for 2009 that will offer several enhancements including more storage space so that we won't have to remove or scale down the existing site. Hopefully this can be accomplished while still staying within the club budget for this club service.

The site was designed using Microsoft's FrontPage web authoring software. While this program is both a simple yet powerful program, the site tends to look best when viewed with Microsoft's Internet Explorer web browser. I know there are other internet browsers currently in use by many folks and with some the site doesn't look well when viewed using them. Short of redesigning the entire site, I'm not sure we can do very much to improve this problem with the other browsers but I intend to look into this during some much deserved R & R time at the end of the year. I'll keep you posted on what I find out.

.. FIELD DAY RESULTS ..

The ARRL has posted the official results from this years Field Day and the club's final score was 4,530 points on 1,104 QSO's placing us 92nd in the US in Class 2A. This was slightly down from last year but severe weather delayed us for about 2 hours this year while we dried out equipment. This year we even outscored the CARC by 340 points but they too experienced weather delays during Saturday. The Ohio Section continued it's tradition of high participation with 115 club's submitting scores, highest in the US. Another great job by the club and another terrific club participation event!

.. CLOSING OUT 2008 ..

As I put the finishing touches on my final column for the year I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a great holiday season. The club also had another very successful year with great participation from our many members during the many events we enjoyed this year. Safety Breaks, Field Day, Hamfest, as well as the fellowship we enjoyed during our club meetings all helped contribute to another great year at the MARC.

I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the terrific job by our club officers this year and the great assortment of club (continued on page 9)

AMATEUR RADIO (ANTENNA ITEMS) WORD PUZZLE

Below is a list of words Related to Antennas.

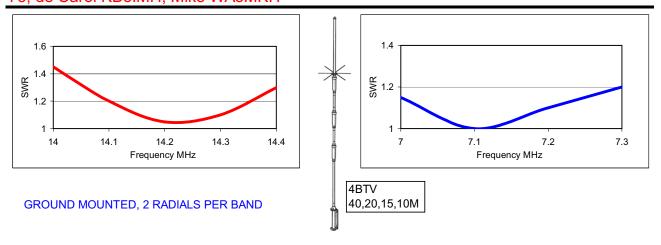
The words are located in the word puzzle vertically forward, or reversed. Letters are sometimes used m Multiple words are one continuous word in puzzle.

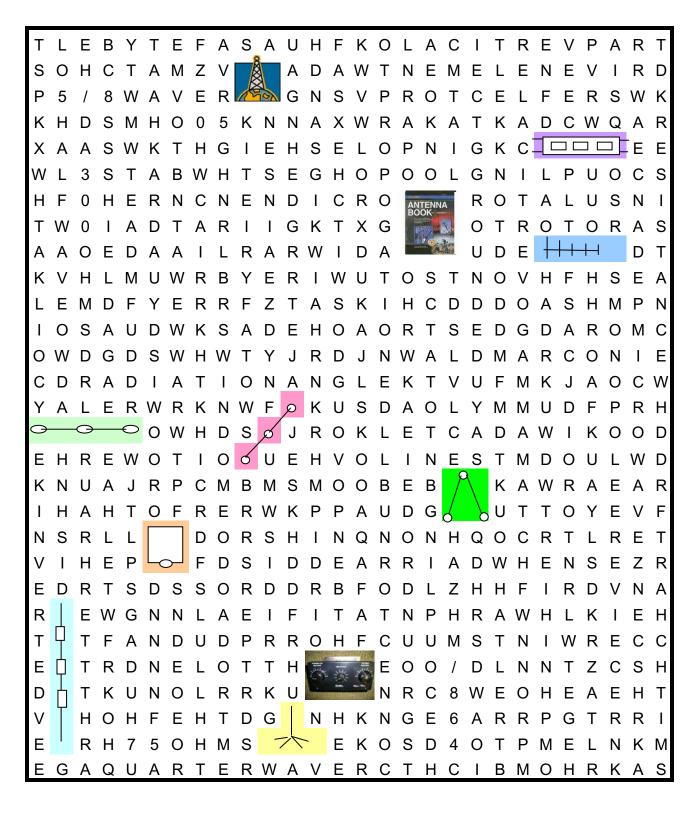
, horizontally, diagonally, ore than once.

Puzzle continues on the next page.

300 OHMS	END FED	MARCONI	SLOPER
468/MHZ	EZNEC	MATCHING	SMITH CHART
5/8 WAVE	FEEDLINE	MICROWAVE	SWITCH
50 OHMS	FOLDED DIPOLE	MONOPOLE	SWR BRIDGE
75 OHMS	FREQUENCY	MULTIBAND DIPOLE	TOROID
ANALYZER	G5RV	PHASED ARRAY	TOWER
ANTENNA	GAMMA MATCH	PROPOGATION	TRANSFORMER
ANTENNA HANDBOOK	GIN POLE	QUAD	TRAP VERTICAL
BOOM	GROUND LOSS	QUARTER WAVE	TRIBAND BEAM
COAX	GROUND PLANE	RADIATION ANGLE	TUNER
COIL	GROUND ROD	RECEIVER	TWINLEAD
CONNECTOR	GUY WIRES	REFLECTOR	UHF
COUPLING LOOP	HALF WAVE	RELAY	VERTICAL
DECOUPLING	HEIGHT	RESISTANCE	VHF
DELTA LOOP	HF	RF	WINDOM
DIPOLE	IMPEDANCE	RHOMBIC	WIRE
DIRECTOR	INSULATOR	ROTOR	YAGI
DISH	INVERTED VEE	SAFETY	Z MATCH
DRIVEN ELEMENT	LADDER LINE	SAFETY BELT	ZEPP
DUMMY LOAD	LENGTH	SHIELD	

73, de Carol KB8IMH, Mike WA8MKH





73 de Carol KB8IMH, Mike WA8MKH

Ham radio has always reminded me of a super market.

After you open the door and proceed down the isles, there are all kinds of things you can select from. Down one isle you'll find DXing, go a few feet more and you're into county hunting. Turn into the next isle and you'll find traffic handing and home brewing. No matter what you are interested in, this hobby of ours has you covered.

That's how this story begins. I've always had an intense interest in off roading. How many can remember my old CJ-7 holding the tower up at field day! But other projects always seem to get into the way of doing some "wheeling." As I enter the twilight of my life, I decided to open up more free time so Mike and Donna can have some fun.

Since we both have been doing a lot of camping and off roading it seemed reasonable to combine ham radio with our off roading adventures. We've crawled up Swiss mountain in West Virginia, ran riverbeds in Virginia, and done the rock garden at Paragon Park in Pennsylvania.

There's one place that we were going to go to— Moab Utah.

Where in the world is Moab you maybe asking? Well like the name implies, Moab is located in the southeast corner of Utah.

It's home to several national parks. From Arches national park a few miles up the road to Canyon lands parks a few miles down the other way. But what puts a smile on many a Jeeper is Moab is the Mecca of off roading. In fact, every year Moab is the home to the biggest gathering of Jeeps and off road vehicles in the world.

It's called the Moab Easter Jeep Safari. Held the week prior to Easter every year, the town of Moab swells to over 30,000 for a

week of

wheeling. Our

first time out, I

decided to

bypass Jeep

Safari so we went

in August.

At 1700 plus



miles one-way, and there's no way I am going to drive my modified Jeep TJ that far. Besides the 8 MPG it gets on the highway, by the time I got to Indiana, I would be peeing blood! No, the plan was to fly out and then rent a Jeep in Moab. There are quite a few Jeep rental places out there that will rent you a modified Jeep to tackle those red rocks of Utah.

Ham radio comes along

But this is story is about ham radio as well. I really wanted to set up a ham radio station out on the trail just to hear what our bands would sound like without all the noise caused by televisions, switching power supplies and computers we have surrounded ourselves with.

Low power is always better than no power

I have several portable HF transceivers that I could choose from for this adventure. It boiled down to either the Yaesu FT-897 or the Icom IC-703. In the end, the IC-703 won out due to its size and weight. The internal antenna tuner was a plus as well. For antennas, I designed a doublet fed with 300 ohm TV feed line. The antenna was lightweight and would cover 40-10 meters with



a homebrew 4:1
balun and the 703's
internal antenna
tuner. A 7.5 Ah SLA
battery would
provide power for the
whole shebang. Best

of all the entire HF station would fit into Icom back pak designed just for the 703. I tested the complete step while hiking on the Ohio-Erie canal. I worked all over the east coast and nailed a few W6's in the logbook as well.

I planned on CW operation as well as SSB. I also took my 2-meter HT, even though the nearest FM repeater was 70+ miles down the road. However that being said, I figure if I get into deep doo, having the HT would at least give one hope! Not wanting to check all that radio gear in with the airlines we were flying one, I send the radios to the bed and breakfast we were staying at via FEDEX.

It is said that every adventure beings with a first step, so on a early Friday morning we left Akron-Canton airport heading for Chicago. From there we arrived at the Denver International airport. We changed planes once more and we were off to Canyon lands Field. (It's too small to be called an airport!)

Welcome to Moab Utah!

Moab (38° 34'23.72 N 109° 33"03.18W.) It's about the size of Canal Fulton. There's about seven thousand souls living in the city. Moab experienced several boom and bust economic periods during the 20th century. The most significant was the uranium

mining period during the 1950s. Moab relies on the tourist trade today.

There are three things that immediately get your attention: It's hotter than all get out. And it's just incredibly breathtaking beautiful! While I figured I could put the Spanish I've had learned to good use, we found out quickly Moab was full of tourist from all over the world. German, French and Italian were the most popular languages heard during our staty. While I did manage to try out some Spanish on a couple we meet hiking, (they were from Madrid Spain) it seemed my wife and I were the only two that spoke English out there.

We stayed nine days and each one was filled to the brim with things to do. From white water rafting, hiking the slick rock, horse back riding and of course off roading with the ham radio gear. After we got settled in, I picked up the Jeep I had rented and we hit the trails.

Liquid gold—water!

Everyplace you walked into they asked if you had water. From the post office to the various shops, the greeting in Moab, "Do you have water?" Donna and I took with us five-gallons of water in the back of the Jeep. Water is free if you have something to put it in. You can get it from any of the Jeep rentals or hiking/biking shops. In fact, Farabee Jeeps, where I rented the Jeep from, also gave you free ice, as much as you wanted every day.

Moab is not only the number one place to ride your Jeep, it's also known for its world class off road bicycling! Mountain bikes are all over the place along with the hikers. The hikers and bikers can't carry enough water with them. Running out of water

n Moab can be a fatal mistake! With temperatures hovering 105° during the day, without water you're dead in two days.

The trails and a radio fubar

The primary reason we changed planes four times was to ride the off road trails. The first one we went on is the Gemini Bridges trail (38° 39.38'N 109°40.66' W) rated as "easy" from the Red Rock 4X4 club, I still may need surgery to get hunks of the front seat out of my rear end. Gemini Bridges trail is a shelve trail. They're just a glob of rocks that run around the mountains. One misplace wheel and it's a looong way down to the bottom.

So they we were. Over 30 miles out in the middle of absolutely nothing with a cell phone with no service, a HT with no one to talk to and my QRP 703.

But there was a major problem with using the 703. Something vital was need. There was something I forget to bring and had left them in Ohio. Trees! There's none what so ever out in the desert. No trees no antenna. So HF operation was a total washout.

Cryptobiotic crust

It's a black jagged crust you see everywhere in the desert. It forms a base for future plant growth and it's nature's first step to controlling erosions and reclaiming the land. It's extremely delicate and takes decades to form. If the BLM catches you on this stuff, they will beat you with a belt, and then throw you off a cliff! So not wanting to see if I could fly, I did not go off of the trail in search of tree to support the antenna.

As it turned out, the HT, that I did not feel I would need, was

used more than the HF
gear. I did manage to
QSO with several of the
hams that call Moab their
home.



With Gemini Bridges trail

under out belts we pointed our Jeep Rubicon towards the mountains and did Hell's revenge (38° 34.53'N 109° 31.37'W). Chicken corners (38° 28.92'N 109° 37.51'W) was next. I thought about running Metal Masher (38° 35.77'N 109° 41.62'W) since it is so close to Gemini bridges, but common sense (and a good dash of fear) talked me out of it. With names like the Widow maker and Mother-in-law hill on the Metal Masher trail cause me to rethink my abilities behind the wheel.

Lessons learned

It's the small things that always seem to get in the way. I never gave it any thought that my antenna would be rendered useless due to lack of supporting trees. Next time I'll have the problem solved. Next time? Yup! We will be back again August 2009. Only this time I'll have my version of the AD5X portable vertical ready to deploy.

Moab Utah was a trip that recharged my life. Between ham radio and the off road adventures, I feel a lot younger. In fact, my wife and I liked Moab so much, there's a good chance that when I retire, we may move out there.

Someone once said, "It's far better to regret the things you have done than to regret the things you never did." That being said, I have plans in the works for go ride the Rubicon trail in northern California. Of course I'll be taking ham radio with me

again. Only this time, I know there will be trees to throw

antennas into.

Thanks to Mike Bryce WB8VGE for this great short story & pictures !!!



programs we all enjoyed this year thanks to Vice-President Rodger Trompower, KA8FTS. The programs covered a wide range of topics from operating to technical to just plain FUN!. Just exactly what an ARRL Special Service Club aspires to achieve. Well done Rodger and thanks for a great season!

Very soon I will activate the Annual MARC Holiday Page on the club's website. Many of your old favorite's will be back plus a few new surprises this year. Special holiday music, light displays, gift ideas plus lots of other stuff!

Let me know if you have anything you would like to see included, I'm always looking for new ideas. It's our gift to you, the members of the Massillon Amateur Radio Club and the many friends and visitors who regularly visit the site each holiday season.

Happy Hanukkah, Feliz Navidas, and a Very Merry Christmas Season to you all!

Till next year..
De Terry – N8ATZ

Dec Prez Sez Date: Wednesday, November 26, 2008 10:26 AM

Hello one and all! Here we are, December is upon us, and by the time you read this Thanks giving will be behind us! This year has gone fast! It was nice to see everyone that came out to help with the Massillon Holiday Parade! In my opinion, I think this may have been one of the nicer parades yet. I heard alot of comments Saturday on how nice the parade was, although it was quite cool, it was still enjoyable.

Election time is here! So, with that in mind, be at the December meeting to vote in a new Vice Prez, Secretary, Treasurer, and a Trustee! I hope there will be plenty of nominees to choose from, to make the election interesting. I have heard a few rumors, but nothing in concrete as of yet!

Also, the Annual Banquet will be Saturday, January 10th, so please make sure you let Anne Ballinger know if you will be attending, and how many will be attending, so she can have a fair head count for the church crew!

With all of that said, I hope to see all of you at the December Meeting, Friday December 5th at 8 pm.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season!

de...ur Prez...N3JJT.....Scott

TO: OUR READERS OF FEEDBACK WHO RECEIVE THEIR NEWSLETTER VIA U.S. POST

I'm sorry to say that you will receive your newsletter "short" again this month. This time you will not receive the Calendar. I am very limited to just 10 pages (printed on both sides) that I can send out the newsletter and keep it under the required 1/2 ounce for the \$.42 postage stamp.

I try each month to diversify and bring you the most interesting articles possible. This month we are privileged to bring you the entire short story by Mike WB8VGE. Well something had to give and unfortunately it was the calendar.

This is all the more reason for those of you who have a computer to start receiving your newsletter via E Mail. You not only receive the entire newsletter but in full color with the utmost clarity available. If you have problems receiving E Mail, we have some very talented members who may be able to help you, just let your leaders know. Please let me know what your E Mail is & we will be glad to add you to the list! 73's de Gary WC8W Ed MARC Feedback

December 2008

W8NP Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Upcoming Events: Saturday, January 10 - MARC Annual Banquet! Sunday, January 25 - Tusco ARC Hamfest	1	2 Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930 Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM VE Test Session, Cuyahoga Falls ARC, 1900, Cte: Bruce Ferry, 330-929-2766, Stow-Monroe Falls Public Library, Stow	3	4 BD KD8BCA Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930 West Stark Info Net - 147.180 at 2000	Massillon Amateur Radio Club Meeting. Senior Center, Massillon, 2000	VE Test Sessions, Portage County ARS, 1000, Ctc.: James 330-297-7979, Center of Hope, Ravenna Silvercreek ARA, 0930, Ctc: Barry 330-925-1706, Rittman Public Library
L'anse Creuse Amateur Radio Club 36th Annual Swap & Shop, Mount Clemens, MI, k8hvi@arrl.net Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930	8 BD K8FUN	9 BD KB8FFC Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930 Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM	10	11 BD W8KXR Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930 West Stark Info Net - 147.180 at 2000	12 BD KC8ZEJ	13
14 Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930	15	Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930 Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM	17 BD K8HSQ	18 Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930 West Stark Info Net - 147.180 at 2000	19 BD W8SEC	20
21 Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930 Winter begins	22	23 BD KC8RKU BD KC8RPE Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930 Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM	24 BD N8DVS	25 Christmas Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930 West Stark Info Net - 147.180 at 2000	26	27 BD K8INN
28 Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930	29	30 Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930 Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM	31 New Year's Eve	Nov 2008 S M T W T 2 3 4 5 6 9 10 11 12 13 16 17 18 19 20 23 24 25 26 27 30	1 7 8 4 5 5 14 15 11 12 0 21 22 18 19	Jan 2009 T W T F S 1 2 3 6 7 8 9 10 13 14 15 16 17 20 21 22 23 24 27 28 29 30 31

Please contact K8INN for updates, changes, or additions.

MASSILLON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB P.O. BOX 72 MASSILLON, OCIO 44548

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TO:



VISIT US ON THE WEB AT; http://www.marcradio.org

75 Years in existence 1927-2002







President	Scott McCamish	N ₃ JJT	
Vice President	Rodger Trompower	KA8FTS	
Secretary	Dan Anastis	N8DZM	
Treasurer	Anne Ballinger	N8GAF	
Editor	Gary Kline	WC8W	
Trustees	Jim Farriss	WA8GXM	
	Gene Beckwith	W8KXR	
	Rich Ross	KA8ZQH	
W8NP Trustee	Perry Ballinger	W8AU	
W8NP Webmaster	Terry Russ	N8ATZ	

Published by the Massillon Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 73, Massillon, Ohio 44648. The Club meetings are the first Friday of every month (except Jamuary) at 8:00 PM at the Massillon Senior Citzens Building at 39 Lincoln Way West, Massillon, Ohio.