



FEEDBACK



VOLUME 52 ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2007

**MASSILLON AMATEUR
RADIO CLUB OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT

Ralph Bugg
K8HSQ

VICE PRESIDENT

Scott McCamish
N3JJT

SECRETARY

Dan Anastis
N8DZM

TREASURER

Anne Ballinger
N8GAF



Contents

Secretary Report -----2
 N8ATZ Column -----3
 Heathkit Humor-----4
 ARRL News-----5
 Repeater Etiquette-----6
 Holiday Parade -----7
 This & That -----8
 Calendar by K8INN -----9

-- SHORT SKIP--

Russia may be dusting off its old over-the-horizon radar system and offer it to the U. S. in hopes we'll not build a base in the Czeck Republic to detect missile launches from Iran.

Wow, Bunkey, just what HF contesters and DXers do NOT need - a return of the dreaded " Woodpecker. "

Meanwhile, Merry CHRISTmas and may all your amateur radio " needs " be under the tree CHRISTmas morning !

73 de WB80WM



DECEMBER MEETING

The meeting for the month of December will be held on December 7th, 2007 at the Massillon Senior Center at 8:00 PM.

Being the last meeting of the year, that means we will have the election of Officer's for 2008. The floor was open at last months meeting for nominations and some very fine candidates were nominated. So it looks like a really good and interesting election is in store for all members. Current Trustee's will be responsible for conducting the election and will determine the eligibility of each candidate. The new officer's will take office in January at the banquet. We need to elect a new Vice President (the current Vice President moves up to President as per our Code of Regulations), a new Secretary and Treasurer (if the current officers decide not to retain their office), and one new Trustee.

Of course other business will be discussed including any items old or new that needs to be cleaned up before the end of the year and the new officers take office in January. Sounds like a busy evening. See you there!

PRESIDENT RALPH BUGG K8HSQ

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Ralph for his leadership during 2007. Ralph has led us in a new direction with his expertise in the Winlink system. During his year in office we had accomplished many new feats including the longest Safety Break to date. He personally directed the staffing of the week long Safety Break. For his leadership he deserves a great big THANK YOU from the members of the Massillon Amateur Radio Club and thanks for a job well done !

DUES ARE DUE !

With the arrival of December that means that the dues for 2008 are now due!. Full membership in the Massillon Amateur Radio Club is still only \$ 10 for the entire year. Dues for the XYL are only an additional \$ 5.00 and dues for any student of a full member is only \$ 2.50. Avoid the rush and pay at the December meeting !

MARC MINUTES

November 2nd, 2007

The Massillon Amateur Radio Club meeting was held at the Massillon Senior Center with 39 members and guests present. MARC President Ralph K8SHQ opened the meeting at 8:00 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was given and a round of introductions was made.

Gene W8KXR made a motion and seconded by Rich KA8ZQH to accept the October Minutes as printed in the Feedback and passed.

Anne N8GAF gave the treasurer report.

Committees

VE – There were 11 people taking tests with 6 of them passing at the Hamfest.

Hamfest – We had a very successful Hamfest this year. The attendance was down slightly but was made up for with all but one table being sold. There was discussion about whether Club volunteers or helpers should have to pay to get into the hamfest. Issue not resolved. More handicap parking is needed. Also club helpers should not take up spaces the vendors need for parking. Incentives to bring more people to the hamfest (two for one, new licensee, children age increase, etc.).

Old Business

Hamfest tables were ordered. Tickets are printed, and fliers are on their way in the mail.

The patch panel for the shack was on display.

The Jamboree on the Air event was help at W8SSB's QTH with 8 Scouts and 4 Weeblovs(?) present.

New Business

Skip had bought extra tickets at the hamfest and did not win any of the major prizes.

A amendment to the code of regulations concerning the requirements to hold an office was presented. It will be studied by a committee and presented to the body for approval.

We had a discussion about changing the meeting start time.

We have several nominations for offices for next month's elections. More nominations from the floor can be made at the December elections meeting.

Roger Trompower KA8FTS for V.P., Don Guisinger KC8RPE for VP, Anne N8GAF for Treasurer, Dan N8DZM for Secretary, Rich KA8ZQH for Trustee.

Byron will host the sweepstakes contest at the Club Hamshack.

Massillon Christmas parade will be November 11th.

50/50 was won by Helen KA8ZWG for \$16.50!

Minutes by Dan N8DZM

... Massillon Holiday Parade ...

The club has just finished assisting with the 53rd Annual Massillon Holiday Parade which brings to a close the MARC public service season. It looked like 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 Ralph – K8HSQ for loaning us his pickup to pull 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 Kick-off 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 40 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, Dan – N8DZM, Joe – WD8BGW (providing double duty as both amateur radio communications and his primary role for the Massillon Police Department), Ralph – K8HSQ, Igor – K8INN, Don – W8DEF, Linda – K8MOO, Jason - KC8LIN, Scott – N3JJT and Communications Coordinator Perry – W8AU. This event provided over 80 hours of community service.

Now if we could only get them to move the parade up or back a week so we could go to the Ft Wayne Hamfest !

.. Field Day Results ..

The ARRL has posted the official results from this

years Field Day activity in the December issue of QST and the club's official score was 4,985 points on 1,183 QSO's placing us 81st in the US. We even out performed last years score by 112 points. That's not bad when there were 475 entries in this category. The Ohio Section continued to have the largest number of participants with 116 clubs submitting scores. A great job by the club and another great club participation event.

.. MARCRADIO.ORG ..

The club's website has been a busy place again this year with over 4,500 visitors during 2007. The webmasters try very hard to keep updated information on the home page and keep older articles available as a resource. Thanks to the few club members who send me interesting items that I post on the site for the clubs enjoyment. If you happen on an interesting story please drop me an email and I will add it to our website.

One such item is an interesting video that I received about MFJ Enterprises. I'll bet nearly every club member owns some piece of MFJ equipment but have you ever wondered where it comes from or how it's made ? The link I have posted on the home page will take you on a tour of the MFJ factory moderated by Richard Stubbs. It is very interesting and I think you'll like it. The video is available in several media formats but all are a bit lengthy. I would recommend a high speed connection to view it. Since I know several members don't have high speed service, I am going to burn a few copies onto a CD and will make them available at the next club meeting. See me if you would like one.

.. As We Bring The Year To A Close ..

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 very Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year. The club had another very successful year with great participation from everyone with the many activities we enjoyed again this year from club Safety Breaks, Field Day, the Hamfest as well as the fellowship during club meetings and the several programs we had this year. There will always be some disagreement within the club. With so many members it's only natural that we won't always agree on everything. But in the end I see that we always work out our differences and remain friends and enjoy each others company. This is yet another strength we have as an organization. Thanks for a great year and I'm looking forward to 2008.

Very soon I will again activate the Holiday Page on the club's website. I have found some items to post including some great holiday music, light displays from around our area, gift ideas, holiday food recipes, and some neat Christmas gifts that any ham would love to find under the tree. 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. (continued on page 8)

THE OLD MARRIED KIT RADIO FAMILY

Have you celebrated over 25 years in Amateur Radio ?



SB-401



SB-301

Ever wonder what happened to the old Married Couple **SB-401 Kit** and Spouse **SB-301 Kit**? The bands of matrimony were announced well over 25 years ago and they never drifted far.

Over the years, they aged very well and had a large family and relatives. **Antenna Kit** was quite a load on the family, but the resistive personality proved to be quite useful.



CANTENNA

The **Kit** family led a somewhat shielded life and had a well grounded education. They were in-tune to the world of ham radio, and had high potential. They were seen at a number of field days and emergency tests. They also liked contesting. For those who knew them, **SB-301** was a good receptionist but **SB-401** would do all the talking.

Some of the relatives are old Uncle **Phil Ter** who had a passive personality and knew how to deal with harmonics. He had the right connections. **Aunt Tenna** was a favorite match with her many combinations of recipes. A close relative, **SB-600** carried a lot of power, and went on to a new job as **Speaker** of the house.



SB-600

Another relative was **SB-102 Kit**. **SB-102** had a stable personality and is a combination of all the good features of the **Kit** family. **SB-102** often traveled and was heard from remote locations.

All marriages are not perfect as there were occasional heated mismatch arguments and quite a few 10 minute time-outs for old **SB-401**. With any aging process, and lack of activity, they sometimes visit the coilpractor for an alignment and occasional joint corrosion surgery.

The **Kit** family weathered some storms, but all in all they were a reliable couple, had some friends, became known world wide, and are the subject of many positive conversations. **They still get around to a few Hamfests !**

THE GOOD OL' DAYS !

73, DE MIKE, WA8MKH



SB-102

The High Quality KITS mentioned above were designed and sold by the Heath Company, Benton Harbor, MI, during the late 1960's through the 1970's.

ARRL NEWS

Motorola buys Yaesu

ZCZC AX07
 QST de W1AW
 Special Bulletin 7 ARLX007
 From ARRL Headquarters
 Newington CT November 5, 2007
 To all radio amateurs

Motorola USA has announced its intention to launch a tender offer to acquire a controlling interest in Vertex Standard Co, Ltd. Vertex Standard is the parent company of Yaesu. Motorola will own 80 percent of Vertex Standard; Tokogiken, a privately held Japanese company, controlled by current president and CEO of Vertex Standard Jun Hasegawa, will retain 20 percent, forming a joint venture. The total purchase price for 80 percent of the outstanding shares on a fully diluted basis will be approximately US \$108 million.

NNNN/EX

Ohio SingleSide Band Net

Date: Friday, November 09, 2007 11:26 AM

The Ohio SingleSide Band Net (OSSBN) will start at 6:15 pm Eastern Standard Time immediately and will continue that evening schedule until propagation improves. The frequency is still 3.9725 MHz.

This announcement was made by Ohio Assistant SEction Manager and OSSBN Net Manager Connie Hamilton, N8IO. Keep listening to the OSSBN for updates.

Recent propogation problems has the band going out about 6:45 pm and OSSBN cannot hold a net under those conditions. If you are a NetControl, use the afternoon callup as we need to move the traffic first. The evening comment round can be used if you wish after the regular net has been closed. That is up to the NCS.

If you have any questions, please send them to N8IO or one of the other net Advisory Board members or Greg Zahn, WG8Z the Assistant NM.

ARRL Ohio Section
Section Manager: Joseph J. Phillips, K8QOE
k8qoe@arrl.org

FCC'S RILEY HOLLINGSWORTH TO STAY



(Oct 30, 2007) — Riley Hollingsworth, Special Counsel for the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, has decided not to retire; he had announced last week that he would leave the FCC in January 2008.

“After spending the entire weekend thinking about the decision [to retire], it became more and more clear to me that it just isn't the right decision for me right now. There are several issues on the table that I want to continue to work through with the amateur community.” The Enforcement Bureau is the primary organizational unit within the Federal Communications Commission that is responsible for enforcement of provisions of the Communications Act, the Commission's rules, Commission orders and terms and conditions of station authorizations, as well as enforcement of Amateur Radio rules (Part 97).

(Thanks to the MARC website; www.MARCradio.org for this story.)

SB PROP ARLARLP050

ARLP050 Propagation de K7RA

Sunspots appeared over several days in the past week. November 24-27 had daily sunspot numbers of 15, 12 and 11. Otherwise, the Sun has been blank. In the previous reporting period, November 15-21, there were only two days with sunspots, and the daily sunspot numbers on both days were 13. The result is the average daily sunspot number from the previous reporting period to the current (November 22-28) reporting period rose from 3.7 to 5.4. There were no days with geomagnetic storms, and geomagnetic conditions should be quiet over the near term. The next recurrings solar wind stream is expected December 17. Expect more weeks of no sunspots, with occasional appearances for a few days at a time. The U.S. Air Force predicts a planetary A index of 5 for the next ten days. For the week, Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet geomagnetic conditions for today, November 30, quiet to unsettled December 1, and back to quiet conditions for December 2-6.

REPEATER PURPOSE AND ETIQUETTE (A reprint from 1998 to inform new users)

Repeaters came into existence for only one reason.... To increase the range of VHF/UHF mobile stations. Base stations were not normally included in this arrangement. Amateur home stations generally used towers (including vertical beams) and therefore did not need any assistance from repeaters, nor would the use of repeaters by base stations be an efficient use of spectrum. (Where you are actually using TWO channels to accomplish communications on ONE.)

Use of repeaters by base stations is hard to control, and it generally happens a certain percentage of the time. There are special cases where base stations outside of our local area would not be heard if they did not use the repeater. (K8LP Les, Chardon, OH) This is accepted and not to be discouraged. The Massillon ARC Club net on Friday evenings is also an example of this, with extended area stations checking in. But concern should be expressed when local base stations occupy the repeater for extended rag-chews when this could be accomplished just as easily on a simplex frequency, either the National 146.52, or one selected by mutual agreement.

The normal situation for hams using VHF/UHF is to use outside antennas on towers or poles, as would be done even on HF. This permits normal simplex operation to take place for up to 50 miles or more. If you are using a hand-held radio inside your house, you have to use the repeater to be heard, of course. But this is not something that you would do continually.

Many of us at home monitor our local repeater, since the stations we may wish to communicate with do the same. But keep in mind the "local station rag-chew" situations and try to avoid using the repeater for this. Switch to simplex. This not only saves wear on the repeater, but keeps the power bill down. The power company "Meter" tallies up those \$\$ much faster when the repeater transmitter is ON! You might say, "that's what I pay my dues for," but your dues barely take care of newsletter production and mailing.

Another area of etiquette is proper procedure. Sometimes a QSO is "broken up" when another station breaks in and disturbs the chain of thought. There is no hard and fast rule for this, but intentional "jumping in" on top of an ongoing conversation, is NEVER acceptable! Breaking in is a normal part of ham activity, but do it politely. And when it is done, please identify. Identification is an FCC requirement with a few guidelines. FCC rules state that you must identify every 10 minutes and at the END of transmission. However it's a good habit to ID more often than 10 minutes since this informs listeners who is using the frequency. Many of us know a friend's voice already but others don't. Another area to avoid is discussing politics or religion. Our users seem to know this already and naturally avoid doing so. We have our one common bond, Amateur Radio, and we stay away from divisive subjects.

The MARC repeaters (10, 2, & 440) have control operators who keep an ear on things (FCC rule). It's been extremely rare to have the control operator come on and correct someone and we want to keep it that way. The repeaters are here for utility purposes...to keep locals and mobiles in contact with each other and to pass information. They augment our more serious activity such as HF, DX, Digital modes, etc., but do not take the place of them. Remember, repeaters are an accessory under normal conditions, not our main activity. Emergencies are another matter, of course, and only then do repeaters become the main focal point.

So, to recap..... keep in mind the key words.....purpose.....and etiquette.....and have fun. You deserve no less.

(Ed: This is a reprint from August 1998 Feedback, edited slightly for today's new readers)

MASSILLON HOLIDAY PARADE



(Nov 24, 2007)
— The club has just finished assisting with the 53rd Annual Massillon Holiday Parade which brings to a close the MARC public service season. It looked like 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 Ralph – K8HSQ for loaning us his pickup to pull the trailer in the parade.

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Now if we could only get them to move the parade up or back a week so we could go to the Ft Wayne Hamfest!.

(Ed note: Thanks to Terry N8ATZ & MARC web-site for this story and to Jason KC8LIN for the picture)

NOTICE: VE EXAM SCHEDULE FOR 2008

The Canton/Massillon Amateur Radio Clubs wish to announce the new exam schedule for 2008. The dates will be;

February 23, 2008 at the EOC

May 10th, 2008 at the EOC

August 30th, 2008 at the Massillon Senior Center

October 26th, 2008 at the Massillon Hamfest

All exams start at 9:00 AM. Doors open at 8:00 AM to process paper work. Two forms of ID required, cost is still \$14.00 (as of this writing). Contact person is Gary Kline WC8W 330/837-2927.

(N8ATZ CLOUMN CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

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

Till Next Year, de Terry – N8ATZ

DONATIONS GLADLY ACCEPTED

Rick K8RIC, who is a volunteer and spokesman for the MAPS Air Museum are asking for any donations to the museum mainly consisting of old radio parts, tubes, equipment for the earlier part of the 20th century and of course the World War II era. All parts & equipment are of course tax deductible. So here is a good chance to clean out your basement and make a very worthwhile donation. Of course if you happen to have an extra P51 Mustang cluttering up your garage, they would really appreciate the donation!

If you have any extra time on your hands, take a tour of the MAPS Air Museum. It takes only about an hour but the time is well spent and I'm sure you will be glad you did!

LED SPREADSHEET

Mike WA8MKH, has come up with a final version of the formula/LED calculator spreadsheet. with some additional items added.

The spreadsheet is copyrighted and password protected. I do not wish to have the spreadsheet published on the web. However it can be emailed to the club members on the Feedback newsletter list. In this way, it will be easier to make corrections or additions in the future.

The LED section should be a good addition to the article published last month in Feedback. If a few people tryout the sheet before the meeting, I can answer questions at the club meeting next week.

73 Mike WA8MKH

**FROM ALL OF US TO ALL OF YOU, A
VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS !!!!!**

HUMOR

During a recent trip, my wife and I were on we drove around the back woods of East Texas. On one back road I saw a sign in front of a broken down shanty style house: "Talking Dog for Sale." Well I needed a break so I stopped to see what the deal was. I went into the backyard and see a nice looking Labrador retriever sitting there.

"You talk?" I asked. "Yep," the Lab replies.

Well after I got over the shock of hearing a dog talk, I asked "So, what's your story?" "Ah shucks there ain't much to tell. Is that a VUU screwdriver antenna on your truck out there?" "How did you know that," I asked?

The Lab looks up and says, "Well, I'm a ham radio operator. I got my Ticket when I was a young pup and in no time at all I had my 5 band DXCC in Phone and CW. The CIA heard about me and asked me to do some spy work for them. I would hang around the communications centers and, with my keen hearing, I could copy the transmissions. Because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping, I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years." Copying high speed CW all day really tired me out and I knew I wasn't getting any younger. So, I decided to settle down. I retired from the CIA (8 dog years is 56 CIA years) and joined a ham radio club. In fact I won first place in the Oklahoma QSO Party two years in a row. Then I had a mess of puppies and got away from Ham Radio for a while. I sure miss my radio. Why don't you buy me and I'll be your CW operator in the Texas QSO Party.

I said "let me see what I can do." I went back in and asked the owner what he wanted for the dog.

"Ten dollars," the guy says. "Ten dollars? This dog is amazing! Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?"

"Because he's a liar. He never did any of that stuff. He's just a No Code Technician."



December 2007

W8NP Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; margin-right: 20px;"> <caption>Nov 2007</caption> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"> <caption>Jan 2008</caption> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>						S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			<p style="color: red; font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;"><i>1</i></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">VE Test Sessions, Portage County ARS, 1000, Ctc.: James 330-297-7979, Center of Hope, Ravenna</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Silvercreek ARA, 0930, Ctc: Barry 330-925-1706, Rittman Public Library</p>
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<i>9</i> BD KB8FFC	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> BD W8KXR Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM	<i>12</i> BD KC8ZEJ	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> West Stark Info Net - 147.180 at 2000	<i>15</i>																																																																																				
<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> BD K8HSQ	<i>18</i> Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM	<i>19</i> BD W8SEC	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> West Stark Info Net - 147.180 at 2000	<i>22</i> Winter begins																																																																																				
<i>23</i> BD KC8RKU BD KC8RPE	<i>24</i> BD N8DVS	<i>25</i> Christmas Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i> BD K8INN	<i>28</i> West Stark Info Net - 147.180 at 2000	<i>29</i>																																																																																				
<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> New Year's Eve	<p>Upcoming Events:</p> <p>Saturday, January 12 - MARC Annual Banquet!</p> <p>Sunday, January 20 - Tusco ARC Hamfest</p>																																																																																								