



FEEDBACK



VOLUME 55 ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2010

MASSILLON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OFFICERS

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MRN Net Tue, Thur & Sun
7:30 PM 3.60 MHz.
WEST STARK INFO NET
FRIDAYS 8:00 pm

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--- SHORT SKIP ---

Ya know Santa, if I had a new rig for Christmas I know I could win the contest and bust thru those darn pile-up too.

But really the greatest gift of Christmas came in a manger. So let us not forget the reason for the season.

Merry Christmas to you and yours and good luck on that new rig



73 de WB8WOM

DECEMBER MEETING

The meeting for the month of December will be held on December 3, 2010 at 8:00 PM and of course at the Massillon Senior Center.

This month is our annual meeting, meaning;

1. All procedures, changes to our Code of Regulations are to be brought up and voted on.
2. Election night. All candidates for their particular office are to be nominated and voted on. We need to elect (this year only) a new Vice President, Secretary and two new Trustees.
3. Annual Banquet Reservations! Time is drawing near for our annual Banquet (see next column).

MARC ANNUAL BANQUET

The annual Banquet for all club members and guests will be held on **SATURDAY January 8th, 2011** at the Otterbein United Methodist Church, 6025 Shepler Church Ave SW. The doors will open at 5:00 PM (or earlier) with dinner to start at 6:00 PM. Cost will remain at \$ 12.00 per member, guest. The menu will consist of chicken, salsbury steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, vegetables, roll with butter and of course real dessert !

There will not be a regular business meeting for the month of January. We will present the "serious" award winners for the year, followed by the "not-so serious" award winners for the year. After which we will install the Officers for 2011.

Reservations ARE required as we will need an accurate count so we can let the staff at the church know how many meals to prepare ! Reservations can be made at the meeting or by calling WC8W 330/837-2927. Thanks !

MARC MINUTES

November 5th, 2010

The Massillon Amateur Radio Club monthly meeting was held at the Massillon Senior Center Friday November 5, 2010 with 30 members and guests in attendance.

Mike KD8ENV and Andrew WB8WFO made the motion to suspend the reading of the minutes and accept them as printed in the Feedback. Motion passed

Gary WC8W gave the treasurer's report.

Wade WD8MIU gave the V.P. report on various newsletters, and upcoming hamfests.

Committees:

Hamfest – Reports were given on the attendance at 385, table sales, complaints and praises.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Bruce suggested the club get name/call tags for the members to wear.

Scott N3JJT would like to have an Elmer program set up.

Cub Radio Shack committee will be Tom WD8MBE (Chairman), Mike KD8ENV, Byron KF8UN, Perry W8AU, Dick K8DA, and Andrew WB8WFO

Don W8DEA made a motion the club not accept more magazines the we already have. Byron KF8UN seconded the motion. Motion passed

CW classes announcement: CW classes will be starting 2nd Friday in February and continue every Friday

Officer Nominations are Mike KD8ENV trustee, Gary WC8W treasurer, Tom WD8MBE vice president.

50/50 was won by Don W8DEA for \$17.

Minutes by Dan N8DZM

... HOLIDAY PARADE ...

The Massillon ARC has just finished assisting with the 56th Annual 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 with our new decorations 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 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 43 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 their assistance with this years parade. They are: Charlie - KB8STV, Anne - N8GAF, Perry - W8AU, Linda - K8MOO, Don - W8DEF, Igor - K8INN, Tom - KC8QOD, Dan - N8DZM, Jim - WA8GXM, Terry - N8ATZ, Mike - KD8ENV, Steve - KD8ACF, Scott - N3JJT, Tom - WD8MBE, Sarah - KC8ZCS, Carl - AB8CC, Jason - KC8LIN, and Wade - WD8MIU. Club member Joe Herrick - WD8BGW also assisted in the parade both as a radio operator and in his full time job as Captain of the Massillon Police Department. This event annually provides over 80 hours of community service.

... WEB SITE REPORT ...

The club website has continued to be a pretty busy place

again this year with over 2,000 visits during the year. Maintaining the site continues to be a labor of love with emphasis on the labor requiring several hours each week adding new material, removing old and archiving certain material we want to keep and just general maintenance.

Because of numerous problems with our old hosting service, about mid year we were forced to look for a new host. As part of this problem we also had to drop our old website domain name, MARCRADIO.ORG. After some research we eventually went with Go Daddy, a very popular and inexpensive hosting service with a great track record for reliability not to mention a very sexy Indy Car Race Driver spokes person. Even better they are a US based hosting company and are very responsive when we have issues or questions. We adopted the new website domain name W8NP.ORG and also W8NP.COM. Either name will direct you to our current website. Efforts are ongoing to regain control of the MARCRADIO.ORG domain name but this will be a long process.

The service has been rock solid since the site went "live" and we have nearly unlimited storage space and bandwidth. This means the site can handle large amounts of traffic without slowing down or crashing.

We have continued to have problems with the search engine and over the upcoming holiday time, I hope to be able to debug the problem and get it back up and working again.

I hope you had a chance to visit the website often and enjoyed its many features including the YouTube video section. Over the year we posted over two dozen interesting videos nearly all radio related. I have received several comments from those who viewed a lot of them and they have submitted some ideas for new videos that I will be posing next year.

I am always interested in feedback from the members on the content of the website. We try to post everything the club is involved in including posting pictures as we can.

Also remember that the club also has a Facebook page where we also post items of interest that the club is involved in. The best part is that you can leave comments of your own to let others know how well you liked a club event or meeting program. It's a great way to express your ideas on the club. Please consider leaving us some comments once in a while, I assume we are always doing everything right unless we hear otherwise !

... FIELD DAY RESULTS ...

The ARRL has posted the official results from this years Field Day Exercise and the club's final score was 4,490 points on 1,183 QSO's placing us 79th in the US in Class 2A. Congratulations !, this is one of our best scores in recent years. It was a solid increase over last years score of 3,282 points

with 765 QSO's. Nice job everyone for another well organized and attended club event. If we keep this up, 2011 may well be the year when we will give that pesky Canton Amateur Radio Club a run for the top entry in class 2A !

... CLOSING OUT 2010 ...

As I put the finishing touches on my final column for 2010, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Holiday season. The club had another outstanding year with good meetings that included some great programs covering a wide range of topics and from what I hear, we are in for more great programs next year.

I continue to enjoy the fellowship during our monthly meetings and my kudo's to the club officers for working hard to keep our club strong year after year.

Very soon I will again activate the Holiday Page on the club website. Again this year I found some fun new items to post including more holiday music, video's gift ideas, some great holiday food recipes and some neat Christmas gifts that any ham would love to find under the tree.

The Holiday Page is our gift to you, the members of the club and the many friends and visitors who regularly visit each holiday season.

Take care and Happy Holidays. See you at the banquet !

**73's
Terry – N8ATZ**

New Stark County VE Liaison is Named

The Stark County Volunteer Examiner Group wishes to announce the new VE Liaison will be Mr. John Kalafice, W0OZZ who is replacing Mr Gary Kline WC8W who will "retire" after serving Stark County Hams for the past 14 years as the ARRL VE Liaison.

John is both a Canton and Massillon Amateur Radio Club member. John will assume duties beginning in January next year. Please refer any inquires to john@w0ozz.org

Farewell

Hello members:

This is the end of another year and the turning of a new leaf.

New officers will be inducted and I will be sitting on the side lines.

This year we have seen some new activity within the club. North Bass Island expedition, Shenandoah special events as well as field day, participation in the Hall of Fame parade, Tour de Cure to mention a few. Regardless of perception North Bass was no vacation. It was hard hot and dirty work and even only few could go it brought a lot of exposure to our club. I think you have not heard the last of an activity on North Bass so those that are interested keep an ear open for future events on NB.

Then Shenandoah followed after and that was an adventure equal to the North Bass trip just getting there was no small feat. For those that participated we know how remote that site is.

In any case it has been an adventure and I encourage those that have not yet served, SERVE! This club is only limited by it's lack of imagination and its lack of those to serve. It is not rocket science and not time consuming as you might think. But it is fun.

Thank you for letting me serve and I hope that it helped you be a little more proud of M.A.R.C. Bring us your ideas so that these programs can grow.

73's Carl AB8CC



THANKS FOR A GREAT YEAR CARL !

Hey.....Elmer!

Elmer; The person who nurtures the ham radio operator. A mentor or coach for the Amateur Radio Operator. Elmer; Someone who provides personal guidance and assistance to would be hams. The term Elmer first appeared in the March 1971 issue of QST.

I know the majority of us have had an Elmer or two in our midst as we grew up in the hobby of ham radio. I was fortunate to have 2 Elmers at the beginning of the hobby, which is now almost 20 years ago. I have since then Elmered a couple of folks into the hobby, well actually a few more than that! I was not just Elmered in 1991, but throughout the years I have been Elmered by many other hams as well! I am sure I will be Elmered again!

Have you ever answered a question for a new or seasoned ham, that had something to do with ham radio? Well, then you were an Elmer! Have you ever helped a ham build an antenna, install an antenna, then test it out? Well, you guessed it, you were an Elmer! That was easy, right?

Elmering can make you feel good about getting someone interested in the hobby. Not just getting someone interested, but carrying out the full run of interest, testing, passing, and getting them on the air. One of the best feelings, is seeing the person you Elmer take off into the hobby head over heels!

Elmering is not limited to helping out the newly licensed ham radio operator. The seasoned ham can be Elmered too! Maybe the seasoned ham has decided to take on a new mode of operation. For example; John Doe wants to learn more about PSK 31, and just does not know where to get started. So, the ham starts to search for someone that operates PSK 31! This search may be difficult for some hams.

Hence the new location for such information and right at your finger tips. Please welcome the new, "Elmers Corner". Elmers Corner will be a new location on the Massillon Amateur Radio Club Website! We will have a list of operators from the club, that will have their name, call sign, and email address available posted in the Elmers Corner. Along with their name, there will be a list of areas that these operators are willing to Elmer.

We as ham radio operators are responsible to make sure that any new prospective hams, and or newly licensed operators have access to all information needed to properly install, and operate their equipment. If we bring someone on board, we need to keep their interests in the hobby! We currently have 7 members of the club that has volunteered to be an Elmer. Tom, WD8MBE, Gary, WC8W, Carl, AB8CC, Wade, WD8MIU, Dan, N8DZM, Terry, N8ATZ, Scott, N3JJT. If you would like to add your name to the list, please do so! You can do this by sending an email to Terry Russ at : truss@sssnet.com. Please use Elmer in the subject, and include what areas that you would like to Elmer. It is up to us to keep this hobby moving forward. By providing the Elmers Corner for anyone that reads our newsletter, we just might make a difference in a hams life!

Is Ham Radio Dying?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

If you've been around ham radio for even a year or two, you've no doubt heard or participated in the debate as to whether or not ham radio is dying. The question is as perennial as the grass.

Recently, this was a topic of discussion on the ARRL PR mailing list. Allen, W1AGP, the ARRL's Media & PR Manager, generated a chart to show that ham radio is NOT dying. It showed the number of licensees in the U.S. every year from 2005 to 2009:

2005: 661,000
 2006: 655,000
 2007: 655,000
 2008: 662,000
 2009: 681,000
 2010: 694,000!

This chart as drawn a good example of how you can lie with statistics. The y-axis started at 640,000, so the rate of increase in the number of licensees looked quite dramatic. Even so, the good news is that the number of licensees is quickly approaching 700,000, and should surpass that number shortly.

[[An image of this chart can be found at <http://kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/chart1.png>, if you would like to include it in your newsletter.]]

Upon seeing this chart, Jerry, N9TU, did a little statistical analysis of his own. Of the 83 licensees in his zip code, nine are deceased and one has expired. There are four Novices, 36 Techs, 18 Generals, 5 Advanced and ten Extras.

From this data, he deduces, "If this is an average sampling of deceased members, expired members and

club licenses, there are roughly 90,000 fewer licenses than shown in the data nationwide. I have no clue of the error rate involved with my data. Your results may vary." My guess is that his zip code is probably pretty typical, and that his analysis is essentially correct.

There's also the question of activity. It's my guess that nearly half of all licensees are inactive, and that if we could figure out a way to activate those hams, then we'd really be able to say that our hobby is not dying. It's something worth thinking about, but there's certainly no easy answer to this problem. As Yogi Berra is purported to have said, "If people don't want to come out to the ball park, there's nothing you can do to stop them."

Overall, though, I think the numbers are headed in the right direction. Ham radio is NOT dying. Let's all keep up the good work.

When not pondering whether the reports of ham radio's death have been greatly exaggerated or not, Dan operates CW on the HF bands, teaches ham radio classes, and blogs about ham radio at www.kb6nu.com. All comments welcome and appreciated. E-mail them to cwgeek@kb6nu.com.



ARRL NEWS

On the Air: Warm Up Your Chilly December with the 2010 ARRL 160 Meter Contest

The [ARRL 160 Meter Contest](#) — an all-CW event — is tremendous fun! As the object of the contest is for DX stations to contact American and Canadian stations (and vice versa), everyone will be seeking *you* (especially if you live in a rare section like North Dakota, Nebraska or any of the rare sections from November's Sweepstakes contests).

In this contest, Alaska (KL7) and Hawaii (KH6) count as DX, as do the Caribbean US possessions (KP1-KP5) and all of the Pacific Ocean territories (KH0-KH9). According to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, if you don't have an antenna for 160, you should just load up whatever you have through an antenna tuner and give "top band" a try — even a 40 meter dipole through a tuner will make QSOs.

Since ARRL and RAC Sections are worth 2 points each *and* count as multipliers, the ARRL 160 Meter Contest is a good way to begin working — or finishing up! — your Worked All States ([WAS](#)) award. But don't forget about those DX stations — each DXCC entity is a multiplier and is worth 5 points.

The ARRL 160 Meter Contest runs from 2200 UTC Friday, December 3 through 1559 UTC Sunday, December 5. Logs must be [e-mailed](#) or postmarked no later than 1600 UTC Tuesday, January 4, 2011. Paper logs should be sent to ARRL 160 Meter Contest, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

PROPAGATION

Tad Cook, K7RA, reports: Sunspot numbers declined this week, and it looks like the average daily sunspot number will be less than half the value [reported last week](#). Solar flux was in the 90s a week ago and is now around 75. The predicted solar flux from NOAA/USAF shows levels continuing around 75 through December 1, and then rising gradually and returning to 90 around December 12-14; quiet geomagnetic conditions are predicted for the near term. This week's bulletin will be available as usual on Friday from the ARRL Web site, but it won't go out from W1AW or via e-mail until Monday, November 29. Look for more information on

the ARRL Web site on Friday, November 26. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the [ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page](#). This week's "Tad Cookism" is brought to you by The Beach Boys' [The Warmth of the Sun](#).

Amateur Radio in Space: Hams Invited to Listen for New Satellites

Five research satellites were carried to orbit on November 19 aboard a Minotaur V rocket from Kodiak Island, Alaska. All the satellites use Amateur Radio frequencies and hams have been invited to participate in their missions by monitoring and collecting data.

An artist's conception of the FASTRAC satellites separating after reaching orbit.

Two of the satellites are FASTRACs — relatively small "nanosatellites" — built by students at The University of Texas in Austin. They enter orbit as a single spacecraft, but then separate into FASTRAC 1 (known as "Sara Lily") and FASTRAC 2 (referred to as "Emma"). Both satellites use 1200 or 9600 baud AX.25 digital communication and transmit at 1 W output, so they should be receivable with omnidirectional VHF or UHF antennas and decodable by ordinary packet radio hardware and software. After their scientific missions are complete, the satellites will be reconfigured to function as digipeater relays for Amateur Radio use, as part of the Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS).

DX NEWS

3W - VIETNAM Sigi, DL7DF will be active as XV4SP from Phu Quoc Island Nove 26 - Dec 6th Look for him on 160 - 10 meters QSL to home call.

3W3B - Bruce is planning to be active from Danang starting Novemner 29. He will be there most of the year. QSL ONLY via E21EIC - NO eQSLing !

ZL8X - KERMADEC The team is doing a great job there and are active on several bands and modes at the same time. They plan on staying until December 5th. QSL via DJ2MX.

(Ed Note: With better propagation, these DX stations are easy to work. I worked the ZL8, both phone & CW, with only 100 watts; Byron, KF8UN, worked them mobile !)

ALL NEWS ON THIS PAGE COURTESY ARRL LETTER 11/24/2010

CONGRATULATIONS !!!

Twenty military veterans were inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame during a ceremony Nov. 5 at the Franklin County Veterans Memorial in Columbus. Honorees can include Ohioans from any branch of the military and all eras of military conflict. The 2010 inductees are:

James R. Bodmer: Hamilton County, Navy.

Glenn M. Cunningham: posthumous induction. Licking County, Air Force, Vietnam War.

Azariah W. Doan: posthumous induction, Clinton County, Army, Civil War.

Robert (Bob) Evans: posthumous induction, Gallia County, Army, World War II, former owner of Bob Evans restaurants.

Edward R. Fellabaum Jr.: Monroe County, Navy, Korean War.

John D. Guinn: Warren County, Army.

Robert W. Hudson: Knox County, Air Force, Vietnam War.

Eugene L. Inman Sr.: posthumous induction, Miami County, Army, Korean War, prisoner of war for three years, Purple Heart Hall of Fame.

David R. Medert: Ross County, Army, World War II.

Stephen E. Miller: Franklin County, Army, Vietnam War.

Robert J. Otterman: Summit County, Marine Corps, Korean War.

Leslie A. Peine: Stark County, Air Force, Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Richard G. Perales: Greene County, Air Force.

George F. Qua: Cuyahoga County, Army, Korean War Era.

Dr. Robert (Doc) N. Richmond: veterinarian, Morgan County, Air Force.

William B. Ruth: Franklin County, Army, World War II.

James G. Saunders: Madison County, Marine Corps.

William C. Smith: Franklin County, Army, World War II, inducted into the Military Hall of Fame for heroism in combat operations.

Nelson (Dean) Smittle: Hamilton County, Army and Air Force, Vietnam War.

Robert L. Thurman: Franklin County, Air Force.

Source: Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame

Congratulations to MARC member, Retired Lt Col Leslie Peine, K8CP on this very Honorable induction.

A little history on Les: He is a retired Chaplain from the USAF where his prior time was a Communications Electronics Officer. Les and his Father, 88 year old also named Les, K8LP, lives in Chardon Ohio. Both father and son used to keep in touch while the younger Les was in the service, stationed abroad, and of course stateside, by amateur radio! Les held several foreign call signs including DA2PL, IK7ICM. In fact they STILL keep in touch via Ham Radio. They can be heard almost daily on the 147.18 MHz Repeater. How neat is that ! Les is currently the minister for the First United Methodist Church in downtown Massillon.

Thanks to Scott N3JJT for this tip !

MORE CONGRATULATIONS

Also congratulations to our 2010 Hamfest main prize winners ! They are:

- 1st --- Terry Russ N8ATZ
- 2nd --- Carol Scarinin KB8IMH
- 3rd ---- Don Pernel WD8ROR
- 4th ---- John Myers KD8MQ
- 5th --- John Burdette N8TX (Cottageville, WV)

December 2010

W8NP Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																												
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<p style="font-size: x-small;">L'anse Creuse Amateur Radio Club 38th Annual Swap & Shop, Mount Clemens, MI, k8hvi@arrl.net</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930</p>		<p style="font-size: x-small;">Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">VE Test Session, Cuyahoga Falls ARC, 1900, Ctc: Bruce Ferry, 330-929-2766, Stow-Monroe Falls Public Library, Stow</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">BD K8FUN</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">BD KB8FFC</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930</p>		<p style="font-size: x-small;">BD W8KXR</p>																																																																																												
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<p style="font-size: x-small;">BD W8SEC</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930</p>		<p style="font-size: x-small;">Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM</p>		<p style="font-size: x-small;">BD KC8RKU</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">BD KC8RPE</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">BD N8DVS</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Christmas</p>																																																																																												
26	27	28	29	30	31	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Upcoming Events: MARC Annual Banquet!</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Sunday, January 30 - Tusco ARC Hamfest</p>																																																																																												
<p style="font-size: x-small;">Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">BD K8INN</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM</p>		<p style="font-size: x-small;">Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">BD KC8ZEJ</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; color: red;">New Year's Eve</p>																																																																																													

Please contact K8INN for updates, changes, or additions.

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