



FEEDBACK



VOLUME 48

FEBRUARY , 2003

NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY MEETING

The meeting for the month of February will be held at the Massillon Senior Center downtown Massillon On February 7, 2003 at 8:00 PM.

This is the first regular business meeting for the new year. It is also the first meeting for our new President, Mr. Richard Ross, KA8ZQH to preside at the meeting. Mr. Jim Farriss, WA8GXM, will be at Rich's side as the new Vice President. Rounding our the Officer's for 2003, will be Linda Finley, K8MOO, as Secretary, Anne Ballinger, N8GAF, as Treasurer. The Trustee's for the new year will be:

Bob Kiplinger K8KIP
Gary Blagg KC8IHR
Don Wade W8DEA.



Our New President for 2003, Mr. Richard Ross,KA8ZQH

All of the new Officer's were installed at the January Awards Banquet on January 18, 2003. Oh! What a night it was! First we had a great dinner provided by the Perry Grange followed by the introduction by Saundie Becker, N8TZB, of our Guest Speaker for the evening, Ms. Betty Hall of the West Stark American Red Cross. Ms. Hall is the new Director of Disaster Services and gave a nice rendition of what she and the Red Cross are planning in the future. Thanks goes to Ms. Hall for filling in at the "last" moment!

The Awards presented to the 2002 recipients were:

Ham of the Year; Linda Finley K8MOO
A1 Operator Award Terry Russ N8ATZ
Public Service Award Perry Ballinger W8AU
DX Award Pete Wilder WD8PTW
Field Day Award Don Wade W8DEA
Technical Merit Award Dan Anastis N8DZM
Congratulations to all the winners!!



Our 2002 Ham Of The Year Linda Finley K8MOO

-SHORT SKIP-

Was glad to learn at the Awards Banquet that you enjoyed my last column of predictions. OK. Here's one more.... looking into my dusty vacuum tube crystal calibrator I see for 2003... A major power outage in the Clinton area as our past president Gene, W8KXR finally fires up the Gates BC 1T to put the "Voice of Radio Free Clinton " on 1.885 Mc.

!!! (HI)

73 de WB8OWM

MARC Banquet January 18 2003

MARC dinner banquet was held at the Perry Grange with 60 members and guests present.

A family style meal was served, then Gene W8KXR presented the awards. First he announced a surprise member was here, Igor KB8KEO from Connecticut.

Dale Storey KB8LWP of the Canton Amateur Radio Club presented Gene W8KXR with the 2002 Field Day Trophy.

Congratulations goes to the following people receiving awards.

Bob Rogers Field Day Award went to Don W8DEA.

Public Service Award went to Perry W8AU.

George Turkal A-1 Operator Award went to Terry N8ATZ.

Technical Merit Award went to Dan N8DZM.

Joe Turkal DX Award went to Pete WD8PTW.

Ham of Year Award went to Linda K8MOO.

Life Member Awards went to Doris WD8IKC, Steve WD8MIJ, and Jim WA8GXM.

There were some not so serious awards from "The Old Man", Bill North, presented by Perry W8AU.

The Dumpster Dipper Award went to KC8IHR.

The Phantom of Field Day Award went to Egor WB8KEO.

The DX Hog Award went to Pete WD8PTW.

The E-Mail Joke Award (candy kiss) went to Gary WC8W.

The DFers Duffers Award went to Rich KA8ZQH.

The Doctors of Radio Communications Awards went to Terry N8ATZ, Perry W8AU, and Jim WA8GXM. In other words they each received the DORK Award.

Door prizes were given and a 50-50 drawing was held.

Congratulations goes to Steve W8SEC for winning it for \$24.50.

The 2003 officers were introduced. President Rich KA8ZQH, Vice President Jim WA8GXM, Secretary Linda K8MOO, Treasurer Anne N8GAF, and Trustees Kip K8KIP, Gary KC8IHR, and Don W8DEA.

Minutes by Linda K8MOO Secretary MARC



..... THE 2002 PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT

2002 proved to be one of the most difficult and demanding yet most rewarding years here in the Stark County ARES. Participation in numerous scheduled public service events as well as one of the most severe weather seasons on record in recent years kept area amateurs quite active. By years end Stark County ARES had totaled over 1,000 hours of service, an all time record. I'm also pleased to report that much of that volunteer time was thanks to the efforts of many of you here at the MARC. All of you deserve many thanks for your continued support of community service. The complete report of last years efforts is currently posted on the Stark County ARES website and I would encourage all of you to review it. You can find it at <http://www.wd8aye.org>. Look for the link on the home page.

.... THE MARC EMAIL REFLECTOR

Did you know that the MARC has an email reflector ? How many of you actually know just exactly what an email reflector is ? Basically its a quick and simple way to send or post email to all subscribers at once using only a single email address. Kind of like posting an item on a bulletin board that other subscribers can read. What can you post ? Just about any general ham information, VE exam notices, almost anything can be posted. Once youre subscribed you will begin to receive emails anytime someone posts a message. Sending or posting is just as easy, simply compose a message and send your email to one address and the server will automatically resend it out to all subscribers. Currently the list is located on Yahoo and has less than a dozen members or so under the direction of list moderator Jim Zorger, N8AHO. Subscribing is pretty easy, just send an email to w8np-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. You will receive a return email requesting you to register at Yahoo to join the list. Reflectors are getting pretty popular, there are lists that cover just about any topic in radio. I subscribe to a few lists myself, ACC repeater controllers plus a PSK31 reflector. I just joined one on the Yeasu VX7R handheld. Log in and register on the w8np reflector and drop us a line !

.... ARES REGISTRATION UPDATE

During 2002 we made a strong effort to update Stark County's ARES Registration information. Long overdue, the last time this information was gathered many of you were not even licensed yet. In an effort to collect more accurate information, a newly designed registration form was developed that incorporated the type of

information that would prove useful in today's ARES program. This new form was officially introduced at last years Multi-Club meeting and again during Skywarn training in March.

Since then the results have been reviewed, sorted and studied and have been incorporated into a Microsoft Access database program. This has allowed us to review and easily update the records when necessary. We are happy to announce that as of January 1st, there are 45 registered ARES volunteers in the database. During 2003 we hope to add more names to that list. But just as important, is keeping the existing records up-to-date. Amateurs move, upgrade, change callsigns, etc. One way to maintain accurate records is to periodically complete a new ARES registration form. Another way could be to have all the registration records available on this website. Ideally, you could call up your own record and make any updates necessary, submit the changes and the record would update itself. This is possible and we are looking into this sometime later this year.

In the mean time, you can simply download a registration form from the ARES website, complete it and we will update the record manually. This way we can continue to keep our information current. This is the only way to keep a strong ARES program, something we are dedicated to providing. I want to thank you all in advance for your continued support of Stark County ARES, your community benefits from our services everyday !

.... COMPUTER SHOW TIME AGAIN

After taking a short break during the holiday season, the Peter Trapp computer shows are back in full steam for 2003. The show dates are February 15th in Cleveland and February 16th in Akron at the Tadmor Temple. Hours are from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm and cost is still \$ 6.00 per person. I usually provide a link to their website which gives directions and other details. Look for it on the clubs website on the home page.

73s till next time

Terry - N8ATZ

PRESIDENT'S DAY FEBRUARY 17



- - - Tectopics - 11 - - -

Winter Days and Day Dreams Or QRO on 160, Comic Cigars, and The Learning Curve

The last time the Station Manger over at the Big KXR toiled over his word processor, he reviewed some of the progress at W8KXR this past year, and ended the review on a hopeful note for the new year...already deep in Ham Dreams for where the adventures will lead in the weeks ahead. So this month I'll pass along a few notes I made while talking to the Chief, (that iserr..myself) and some of his 'Winter Day Dreams' and reflections as he finished up the last few days of the year.

When I caught up with him he was gazing out the window at the growing antenna farm with a satisfied smile under his beard, and muttering something about impedance points, dielectric constants, and other esoteric (read fancy) techy type mumblings.

He advised that some unexpected events occurred when the first of one of the "KXR Heavy Weights" went live back in late Dec/02. The event that triggered some late hour efforts by the engineering staff was the annual Heavy Metal Rally scheduled for 28/Dec. The event, chronicled in "Electric Radio Magazine" is designed for operations involving AM transmitters of any type, as long as they weigh over 250lb. Others with less beefy iron could join in the fun, but of course any such light weights wouldn't quite get into the flavor and spirit of this increasingly popular AM event.

So, what to do...time was running short! It would be a real nasty situation if the big KXR didn't participate in this event, especially since serious efforts have been poured into the QRO program by all members of the staff. But, the Gates broadcast transmitter is still recovering over in the rehab lab, having been moved out of 'intensive care' in late November. It just was not going to be possible for the Gates to make this year's party.

All was not lost though, because, as discussed last month, there are multiple side bars, corollaries, and extra small print as needed, that can be called upon to justify lots of gear...all in addition to the now famous "Rule of Two's." In this situation, with time running a bit thin, the engineering staff was called into emergency meetings and their efforts turned to another work in progress aimed for dedication to 160 meter AM service. The Chief issued instruction to accelerate start up of one of two T-368's residing at W8KXR.

The T-368, or "T-3" as it is more popularly known amongst Amateurs, is a 650 lb. machine that was designed and built by Barker and Williamson, back in the late fifties and early sixties...It's purpose was to replace another veteran, in the literal sense of the word, the BC-610 of WW

II fame. The BC610 was designed and built by Hallicrafters in the mid to late thirties, and because of the war, and because it was a real heavy weight, saw many hundreds pressed into service during the "big one." Many BC-610s are on the air and operational by the AM gang but, as time went on, it was replaced commercially by the T-368.

Now, to go back a bit, Barker and Williamson is, or was, well known in Amateur Radio and was known for producing up scale gear, the most familiar of which is the B&W 5100 and it's companion SSB generator. It was often the companion of the Collins 75A-4 in those magical days when SSB was first being adopted by Hams. There are many pictures of the B&W5100 and Collins 75A-4 combo in QST's of the era. I was friends with several Brasilians who operated them from Sao Paulo in the early seventies, when Missy Marilyn and I lived there. They were a highly coveted combo in a world where it was not easy to order such gear from a catalog or just run to the local big radio house and pick one up over the weekend! But those are stories for other times...

So the B&W heritage that produced some very classic amateur radio gear, designed and produced one of the currently most sought after heavy weight AM transmitters...the venerable T-368. Like most military gear, the T-3 was produced by several manufacturers, that included Bendix Aviation, the manufacturer of my number 2 example, and others...there were several series, that included up dates to minor items like relays, and some minor control circuitry, but all are sought after for use on the ham bands.

The T-3 uses a single 4-400A in the final and is modulated with a pair of 4-125's...with some modifications to the low level audio, mostly done according to easily standard mods available on the AM Window web site, these machines deliver a full 400 to 450 watts of carrier all day. When modulated to 100%, they deliver peak power (pep) of around 1500 watts...more than most of the current crop of light weight SSB linear amps can do...even for brief tuning times if u feel lucky and hold the key down while you get resonant.

Oddly, the T-3's were never really intended for pure AM service, but were configured for continuous duty RTTY. In typical military fashion, these big rigs were built to cover all the bases, so AM was included, but for strictly 'communications' quality audio, hence the great fun and effort by hams to do the mods and get them up to pure commercial grade sounds...They are big, with all the heavy chassis one would expect for service in the back of a truck, stashed in a transmitter closet on board ship, remote controlled if needed...in any climate. They are truly an example of rugged, highest quality design . . . what would one expect from un-limited tax dollars. And again to recover and operate these big guys, is the ultimate in recycling...especially as you and I already paid for these beauties...

In this particular case this example came from a good friend in Pittsburgh. He is an excellent engineer and did some modifications to the audio to bring it closer to

broadcast quality than it's original configuration...so it was mostly ready to go...

I added external relay controls to handle receiver muting and auxiliary antenna switching. The 28th was just a few days away, and mostly things were ready. There was a bad tube in the PTO (permeability tuned oscillator, yes just like an R390x or 75A-4), and some fan wiring that need a tweak. Coax was run to the station patch panel for connection to the 160 tuner, and all was ready...

But Murphy was ever present and lurking in an unexpected way...Christmas day, the Chief Op, got a scratchy throat! Then he got some shaky chills, and then more scratch, and cough. . .good grief! The guys on the BC-610/T-368 reflector had been coming down pretty hard on the engineering dept at W8KXR for not being on the air previously with the T-3, so there just weren't any excuses left!

Cough, cough, and all the rest...the Chief Op was receiving direct orders by Missy Marilyn for mandatory R&R, even as the rally hour approached . . . more coughing, and attendant snorting and bellowing....plus intake of nasty stuff, conjuring to the aspirin bottle and a few gallons of Coffee to keep things flushed and hydrated....Wow...only Murphy could have thought of this one...(glum)...

Finally, the hour approached and in true 'never say die' spirit, I grabbed the D-104 and joined a small round table just getting under way. These guys were running, believe it or not, a Gates BC-1T, another was on with a home brew rig running a pair of 813's that sounded better than broadcast, a light weight Valiant and BC-610. It was early in the evening and 160 had not really lengthened out yet, but contacts were made into southern Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania...Finally I had to sign due to my increasingly bassy sig...and nope it wasn't my T-3, my voice was disappearing somewhere around 200 to 800 cycles...with my apologies for the strange sounding T-3.

But, I made the rally and the crew is already looking forward to the next Battleship Anchor Event. Oh, and one final note. I mentioned something about 'comic cigars' in the title to this months report...well, remember, both the T-3 and the SSB station here are capable of 'well over' 1.5Kw. You might also recall the discussions of open wire feeders and the continuing experiments here with these highly efficient feed systems. So of course it had to happen...and it's still not clear which rig did it...but Missy Marilyn called me away from the rig a few days ago...and said someone was in the yard with a flash light!

With more details to follow...and a step up the learning curve...it seems I've reached the limit with regard to open wire spacers materials for the 600 ohm line...and yes, when they failed, Missy Marilyn thought she saw someone in the antenna farm with a flash light, a rather bright one at that! But more about that next time...and the details of "day dreams" for two additional wire antennas for QRO ops here at the "Big KXR."

For the engineering staff, winter is the time to make serious progress on a dedicated power supply for yet

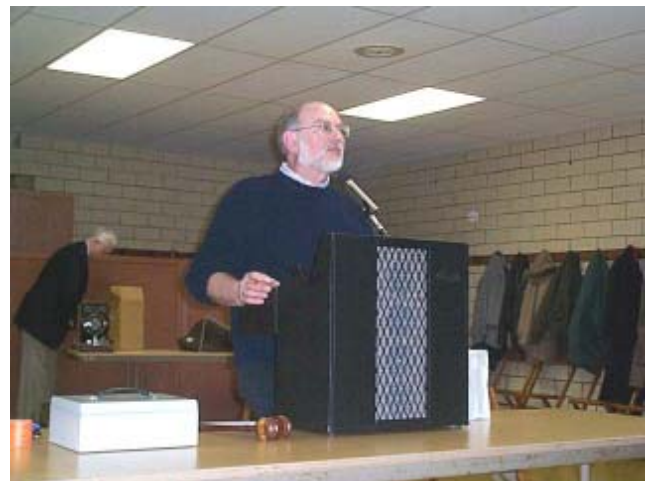
another Battleship anchor, connecting a second operating area patch panel system to the current op area, a centralized control panel to handle changing rigs and antenna switching for the multiple stations coming on line...and of course more clean up and initial rewiring of the Gates...Whew!...sure wish winter would last 'til July....Oops, just kidding!

Until the next edition of Tectopics, why not use these winter days for some day dreams and plan your next bodacious project? Or, get immediately to work at your bench and build something that makes your station unique and fun to use! Or even better, do both! But above all, have some fun, bring a good spirit to the contacts you make, and look out for each other in the true spirit of our magical hobby!

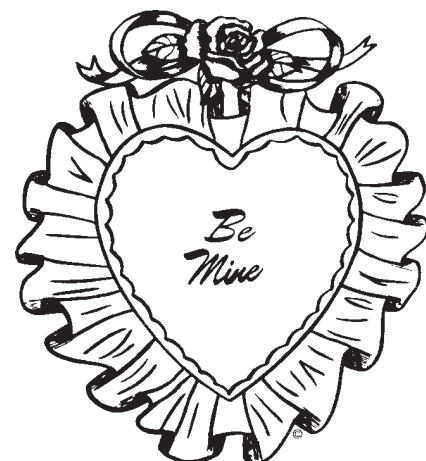
Form the "W8KXR Dispensary"

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W8KXR



Past President of MARC and author of Tectopics, Gene Beckwith W8KXR, at the podium at the Awards Banquet.



VALENTINE'S DAY FEBRUARY 14th

Fox Report

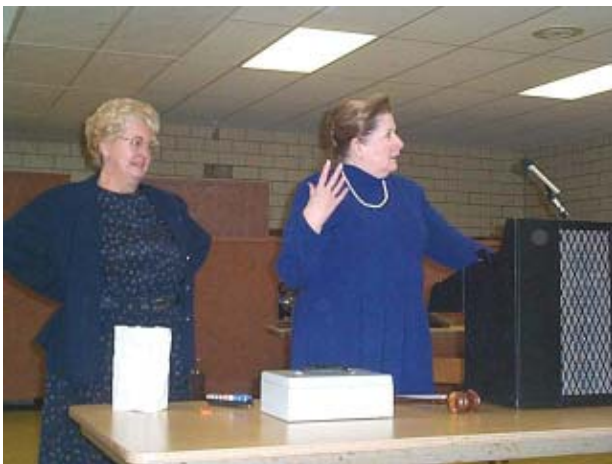
Last month was the first time that I got to hunt instead of hiding. Boy was that fun, I encourage everyone to try Fox Hunting as you get to see parts of Massillon you never thought existed while driving around looking for the transmitter. From now on whoever finds the Fox first will get to hide it the following month. This Month the Fox is going to be on a Saturday (February 8th), due to the Mansfield Hamfest on the 9th and many of the hunters are going to the hamfest. Normally the Fox Hunt will be the second Sunday each month at 2:00.

A new rule has been added. The Fox hunters are going to start together at the Senior Center's parking lot at 2:00. If you don't make it there in time, just start from anywhere. This will allow everyone to get together and compare strategies first. Use any means necessary to find the Fox either by yourself or as a team. The Fox will always be within the Massillon City limits. All are welcome to join in the fun including non-hams if they will not be transmitting and non-club members. Hope to see there,

Dan N8DZM



Dan, N8DZM, receiving his Technical Merit Award at the Banquet



Saundie, N8TZB, (left) and her Guest, Ms. Betty Hall of the American Red Cross at the Awards Banquet. Ms Hall introduced herself as the new Director of Disaster Services for the American Red Cross, West Stark Chapter.

ARRL NEWS

ARLP004 Propagation de K7VVV

ZCZC AP04

QST de W1AW

Propagation Forecast Bulletin 4 ARLP004 From Tad Cook, K7VVV Seattle, WA January 24, 2003

To all radio amateurs

Daily sunspot numbers and solar flux were down again this week. Average daily sunspot numbers for the week were down by over 43 points and average daily solar flux dropped by more than 37 points. Current geomagnetic conditions are unsettled to active, with the planetary A index for the past four days of the reporting period (through January 22) at 16, 17, 17 and 17. On Thursday it rose to 19, and it should stay unsettled for a few more days. The planetary A index for Friday through Monday is predicted at 20, 15, 20 and 15.

Solar flux should decline for a few more days. Flux values predicted for Friday through Monday are 135, 130, 125 and 125. Sunday and Monday should have the minimum solar flux and sunspot numbers for the near term, and then are expected to rise to a short-term peak around February 6 or 7.

Jim Tabor, KU5S sends along an offer to try a neat new program he's written for Windows. The program automatically checks current solar flux, sunspot, A index and K index numbers over the internet and displays them along with one-word summaries of solar and geomagnetic activity over the past 24 hours and the next 24 hours in a little window on your PC desktop.

It is called Geo-Alert Wizard, and is available for free trial with a license that expires May 20. You can download it at

<http://www.taborsoft.com> . Check out other tools that Jim has for radio propagation, and don't miss an article about Ioncap

propagation software at <http://www.taborsoft.com/w0omi/w0omi.shtml> . Also check out Jim's personal web site at

<http://www.wtrt.net/~ku5s/> .

Sunspot numbers for January 16 through 22 were 135, 150, 148, 168, 184, 167, and 152, with a mean of 157.7. 10.7 cm flux was 144.6, 141.7, 137.4, 130.2, 138, 133.6, and 129.5, with a mean of 136.4. Estimated planetary A indices were 7, 8, 12, 16, 17, 17, and 17, with a mean of 13.4.

**NNNN
/EX**

ARLD004 DX news

ZCZC AE04

QST de W1AW

DX Bulletin 4 ARLD004

From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT January 23, 2003

To all radio amateurs

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by Tedd, KB8NW, the OPDX Bulletin, 425DXnews, DXNL, QRZ DX, K8GG, OK1JR, The Daily DX and Contest Corral from QST. Thanks to all.

MADEIRA ISLANDS, CT3. Hermann, HB9CRV is here and will also be on the neighboring island of Porto Santo until February 12. He will sign CT3FN during the CQ WW 160-Meter CW contest. He will emphasize the lowbands during the rest of the time. QSL to home call.

CAPE VERDE, D4. Al, 4L5A will sign D4B during the CQ WW 160-Meter CW contest. QSL to home call.

TAJIKISTAN, EY. Look for Nodir, EY8MM to participate in the CQ WW 160-Meter CW contest. QSL via K1BV.

FRENCH GUIANA, FY. Didier, FY5FY and Herve, F5HRY will be QRV as FY5KE in the CQ WW 160-Meter CW contest. QSL via operators' instructions.

ITALY, I. Fabio, IT9GSF plans to be active in the CQ WW 160-Meter CW contest as IG9/IT9GSF from Lampedusa Island. QSL to home call.

MARIANA ISLANDS, KH0. Jun, WH0V will be QRV in the CQ WW 160-Meter CW contest.

ALAND ISLANDS, OH0. Ari, OH5DX will be QRV as OH0Z in the CQ WW 160-Meter CW contest. QSL to home call.

PAPUA NEW GUIANA, P2. Bernhard, DL2GAC is QRV as P29VMS from Tulun Island, IOTA OC-103. This is a new IOTA. QSL to home call.

NETHERLAND ANTILLES, PJ2. George, W8UVZ, Gary, KD9SV and George, K8GG should be QRV in the CQ WW 160-Meter CW contest as PJ2X. Outside the contest they are signing PJ2/homecalls. QSL contest call via W8UVZ and all others to homecalls.

FERNANDO DE NORONHA, PY0F. Bill, W5SJ will participate in the CQ WW 160-Meter CW contest as PR0F. Before and after the contest he may use PY0F/W5SJ and will concentrate on 30, 17 and 12 meters using CW and some SSB upon request. QSL to home call.

BANGLADESH, S2. John, KX7YT is QRV from Dhaka as S21YV from January 27 to March 2. Activity will be on 20, 15 and 10 meters using CW, SSB and PSK31. His operating times are from 1200 to 1600z daily. He may be active in the upcoming ARRL DX contests time permitting. QSL to home call.

AUSTRALIA, VK. In celebration of this country's national day, Australian amateurs may substitute the AX prefix January 26 and 27. The WIA Victoria will be QRV as AX3WI these two days on 20, 15 and 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL via operators' instructions.

INDONESIA, YB. Stan, OK1JR will be QRV as YE0X in the CQ WW 160-Meter CW contest from Jawa Island, IOTA OC-021. QSL to home call.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF. Bruce, K0BJ will be QRV as ZF2CM during the CQ WW 160-Meter CW contest. After the contest look for occasional morning operations using CW on the newer bands. QSL to home call.

NIUE, ZK2. Bert, PA3GIO is QRV as ZK2GI until January 26. Activity is on 20 to 10 meters using SSB. QSL to home call.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ WW 160-Meter CW Contest, REF French CW Contest, UBA Contest and the BARTG RTTY Sprint are all scheduled for this weekend. Please see January QST, page 97 for details.

NNNN
/EX



The MARC Executive Board for 2003 are (L-R) Rich Ross, KA8ZQH, President; Jim Farriss, WA8GXM Vice President, Don Wade, W8DEA Trustee, Linda Finley, K8MOO, Secretary; Anne Ballinger, N8GAF, Treasurer; Gary Blagg, KC8IHR, Trustee; and Bob Kiplinger, K8KIP, Trustee.

MARC AWARDS BANQUET PICTURE PAGE



Don Wade, W8DEA accepts his Bob Rogers W8NWR Field Day Award. Congratulations Don!

Now wait a minuit, Did these guys streak the Banquet in their underwear? No... they are recieving their Doctor Of Radio Komunication Award or the DORK Award. For flunking the ARRL CCEP exam--- twice !! Just ask Terry, N8ATZ, Jim, WA8GXM, and Perry, W8AU, the test is no "piece of cake" !



Doris Smith, WD8IKC, looks over her Lifetime Membership Award. Doris was one of three who won the award for 25 consecutive years membership. Congratulations to Doris, Steve Nevel, WD8MIJ and Jim Farriss, WA8GXM, who also won the Award!



Congratulations to Pete Wilder, WD8PTW, for winning the Joseph Turkal K8EKG DX Award.

For more great photo's from this year's Awards Banquet, be sure to check out the Club's Website at:
[http:// www.qsl.net/w8np](http://www.qsl.net/w8np)

February 2003

Monthly Planner

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9 Hamfest Mansfield Stark County Mutual Aid Net 146.520 11:30 AM	10	11	12	13 7:30 PM QCWA (Chapter 21) Net, 147.180 BD N8GPC	14 West Stark Info Net 147.180 at 8:00 PM	15																																																																																											
16 Stark County Mutual Aid Net 146.520 11:30 AM	17	18	19 BD K8LBZ Canton ARC Meeting 7:30 PM	20 7:30 PM QCWA (Chapter 21) Net, 147.180 BD N8DZM	21 West Stark Info Net 147.180 at 8:00 PM	22 VE Tests Canton,OH call Gary @330-837- 2927																																																																																											
23 BD KC8ILZ Hamfest Cuyahoga Falls,OH Stark County Mutual Aid Net 146.520 11:30 AM	24 BD KC8ILZ BD WD8MIU	25	26 BD N8VXT	27 7:30 PM QCWA (Chapter 21) Net, 147.180 BD KB8VHL	28 BD WD8BGW West Stark Info Net 147.180 at 8:00 PM																																																																																												

Please contact KA8ZQH to add,delete or change Calendar