



# FEEDBACK

**VOLUME 58 ISSUE 2**

**FEBRUARY 2013**

**MASSILLON AMATEUR  
RADIO CLUB OFFICERS**

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WC8W  
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**MRN NET Tue, Thur, & Sun  
2030 ET 3.60 MHz**

**WEST STARK INFO NET  
Fridays 8:00 PM 147.18  
MHz (except 1st Fri of  
month )**

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## FEBRUARY MEETING

The meeting for the month of February will be held on February 1st 2013 at the Massillon Senior Center in downtown Massillon at 8:00 PM. Doors open at 7 PM for early "eyeball" QSO's.

This is the first meeting for our newly elected Officers We now have a full compliment of Officers for this year. President Mike, WA8MKH has some pretty good ideas that will enhance participation in club events and projects. Plus he has asked for and received ideas from members in which he will reveal at least some of the new ideas.

Our new Vice President likewise has some new ideas in mind to present to the membership in the way of inviting some guests in for presentations and demonstrations. We look forward to the new changes to "liven" up both meetings and programs!

## DUES ARE DUE

This is a reminder for those members who have not renewed their membership as yet. Dues for full membership and privileges are still just \$ 15.00 a year. Dues for the XYL and students is just \$ 7.50 for a full year.

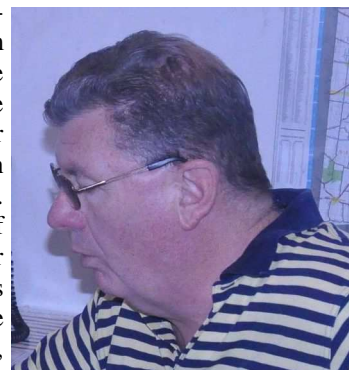
We are trying to make this task as easy as possible. That is the reason we have spread it out for 3 months. March 1st, 2013 (meeting night) is the absolute deadline to pay your dues. We will be forced to cancel your membership if not paid before.

You can pay by sending your Treasurer a check to Gary Kline WC8W, 6500 Highton SW, Navarre, Ohio 44662, or attend the February meeting and take care of this task. REMEMBER: We Do Not Want To Loose A Single Member !!

## RECAP OF MARC AWARDS BANQUET

If you missed the MARC Awards Banquet for 2012, then you missed an historic and an eventful evening. This was our first Catered meal provided by the Top of The Viaduct Restaurant which was held on the 2nd floor of the Senior Center. The meal was simply delicious ! Members have already expressed that we hold next years Banquet there! That of course is a decision yet to be covered.

The awards was as usual very fitting for the recipients. From Ham of the Year to the Award for Excellence in Photography . The Ham of the Year Award was won by Wade Huthmacher, WD8MIU.



## HAM OF THE YEAR, WADE, WD8MIU

The A1Operator Award was won by Robert Keller AC8GE The Field Operations Award was won by Russ McMahan, N8PII , and the Excellence in Photography was a "dual" award won by Terry Russ N8ATZ and Ralph Bugg K8HSQ.

Some of the "not so serious" awards have not been given out as yet so we don't want to spoil "the moment" for them by announcing them here in the newsletter ! Be sure to attend this meeting and get in on the fun that you missed at the Banquet !

## MARC MINUTES

### January 12, 2013

The Massillon Amateur Radio Club awards banquet was held at the Massillon Senior Center with 48 members and guests present. Dinner started at 5:58 p.m. Awards started at 7 p.m.

Les K8CP gave the invocation.

Dinner consisted of chicken, ham, green beans, mashed potatoes, gravy, salad, roll and pie. Catering was provided by Top of the Viaduct Restaurant of Massillon.

After dinner, former President Byron KF8UN, gave a brief speech thanking the club for all the help throughout the year. He presented the following awards:

**Excellence in Photography Award:** Terry N8ATZ and Ralph K8HSQ

**Excellence in Field Operations Award:** Russ N8PII

**George Turkal W8YHU A1 Operator Award:** Robert AC8GE

**William J. North W8NP Ham of the Year Award:** Wade WD8MIU

**Top Calling CQ Award:** Don W8DEA

**Misplaced Hamfest Banner Award:** Perry W8AU

**2012 MARC Hamfest Merit Award:** Don W8DEF and Linda K8MOO

**Top Dog of Buehler's Hot Dog Fund Raising Award:** Wade WD8MIU

After the Awards were given out the newly elected officers were sworn in by Byron KF8UN.

**President:** Mike Sciarini WA8MKH

**Vice-President:** Terry Russ N8ATZ

**Secretary:** Robert Keller AC8GE

**Treasurer:** Gary Kline WC8W

**Trustee:** Wade Huthmacher WD8MIU

Incoming President Mike WA8MKH gave a brief talk about the previous year and his hopes for the future.

Activities were completed at 7:40 p.m.

**New Member:** Shawn Dobson KC8TON of North Canton.

**50/50:** Won by Steve KD8ACE for \$33. Steve donated the winnings to the club.

**Respectfully submitted by Robert AC8GE**

#### OPPORTUNITY

Nancy Johnson, Director of the Massillon Senior Center has extended to us an opportunity to join them in obtaining Certified CPR Training. Time and date yet to be determined. The course is also conditional upon how many students sign up and weather she can find a "cheaper" Certified Instructor., otherwise cost for the 1 day course will be \$ 40.00 per person!

Please let me know if you are interested in obtaining your certificate and we will relay this information to Nancy. More information will be relayed to you by e mail as more information becomes available. Thank You

**De WC8W**

## ... PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT ...

**A**s a coordinating member of the Stark County ARES, each year I prepare a general report of all our public service activities. The report includes a listing of all scheduled public service events and any emergency or drills we participate in over the course of the year. The report is distributed to local public service officials, our local Emergency Management Agency and both Ohio ARRL Section ARES Leadership and League Headquarters.

The complete report is currently posted on the Stark County ARES website but I thought you might enjoy reading a short highlight from the report.

During the year the Stark County ARES provided communications support for nine scheduled community service events and one unannounced Airport Drill. This totaled over 650 hours of service by 130 amateurs. This represented an increase of over 27% from 2011. The report also includes a breakdown of all the events by hours worked.

I encourage you to spend a few minutes reviewing this years report and realize just how active we are here in Stark County. I believe you will be impressed at the commitment spent by many amateurs here in the county.

## ... CLUB PROGRAMS PREVIEW ...

One of my responsibilities as your new Vice-President is to arrange for club programs. We have been very fortunate over the last several years to have many fine programs. A number of club members came through with some great ideas and even helped arrange for speakers on a wide range of topics.

Our club is one of a very few that hold ARRL Special Service Status (SSC). As part of the requirements for this SSC, we are expected to have programs covering multiple facets of our hobby. We do this by having club programs of various topics.

Again this year, with input from club members and our other officers we are trying to arrange for programs on several topics which may include guest speakers, technical demonstrations, public service and hopefully some just plain fun stuff !

We are working on a variety of ideas and will give you a preview of what may be coming this year at the February meeting.

## ... NOTES FROM THE TIME MACHINE

...

As I noted in last months column, I am beginning this month reprinting club news from our early days. We have club records

that date back almost to the beginning of the MARC but my records start from October 1973. Let's see what we were up to back then...

The next meeting of the MARC will be held Friday, October 6, 1973 at the #2 Firehouse basement. Program chairman Gene Beckwith, W8KXR tells us that he will have an interesting bit of entertainment for us at the end of the business meeting. No preview, you will have to come to the meeting to find out!.

The regular refreshments, door prizes, and all those special things you are used to will be part of our usual club meeting.

Last months program, "150 years of Brass pounding" generously loaned to us from the ARRL was well received by those present.

The MARC Picnic at Happy Valley Farm (W8OOS) came off with a fair attendance considering it had no prior publicity in the newsletter. This was due to the fast scheduling of the event, thanks to the MARC Ladies Auxiliary. One interesting highlight was that W8NP/8 was set up using a simple wire tossed into a tree next to the pavilion.

October Hay Ride, time to go "Hay-mobile" at Happy Valley Farm with the lead tractor driven by Wid, W8OOS. The route will include our old Field Day site. The date is October 13, Saturday, beginning at 8:00 PM with a bonfire following. Bring your own weenies and marshmallows, cider will be provided.

The latest public service activity of the club was communications for the Stark Co Bike-a-thon in East Canton. We thought that it would be a chance for the Canton fellas to put something together but no volunteers came forward. Finally we got two members, Bob, WB8KLC, an energetic new ham in our midst and old dependable Bill, K8JZN. Six stations were used, and two relief operators. Thanks to WA8VEV coordinator, K8LBZ, K8GZT, K8HSQ, K8GJU and W8VYU. The service was successful, especially in the case of one 12 year old girl who required an ambulance when she fractured her leg in a fall.

That's it for this month....

See you at the next club meeting

73's  
Terry - N8ATZ



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## MARC President's Report

February 2013



Welcome to the Massillon Amateur Radio Club 86<sup>th</sup> Year. Thank You to **Byron Berger KF8UN** who led the club in 2012 and **Don Wade W8DEA** who was Trustee for a 3 year term. Our January Banquet was attended by 43 members and family. The meal was excellent and approved by all.



Congratulations to Award Recipients **Wade Huthmacher WD8MIU** (Ham Of The Year), **Ralph Bugg K8HSQ** (Excellence in Photography), **Terry Russ N8ATZ** (Excellence in Photography), and **Russ Mc Mahen N8PII** (Field Operations Award). **Don Finley W8DEF** and **Linda Finley K8MOO** were recognized for their contributions in providing meals for Field Day participants and working many events. A 2<sup>nd</sup> place Newsletter award was presented earlier to **Gary Kline WC8W** for quality Editing and Publishing of the **MARC FEEDBACK** newsletter.

Club officers and trustees who will serve the Massillon Amateur Radio Club for year 2013 are as follows:



**President:** Mike Sciarini, WA8MKH  
**Vice President:** Terry Russ, N8ATZ  
**Treasurer:** Gary Kline, WC8W  
**Secretary:** Robert Keller, AC8GE

**Trustee:** Mike Palmer, KD8ENV  
**Trustee:** Jim Farriss, WA8GXM  
**Trustee:** Wade Huthmacher, WD8MIU  
**Trustee, License:** Perry Ballinger, W8AU

We are pleased to welcome three new members who joined January 2013:

**KC8TON, Shawn Dobson, Canton, Ohio**  
**KI5UB, Robert Waldick, Keller, Texas**  
**WA8GLE, Steve Farhat, Akron, Ohio**

Congratulations to two Lifetime members (25 year members of MARC)

**N8LCS, Jack Wade**  
**KF8EB, Jerry La Rocca**

### 2012 SUMMARY

MARC is blessed to have a very long list of volunteers that helped with all the events:

- 22 Events
- 10 MARC Authors that submitted 39 articles to our newsletter
- 1 Editor and publisher that won 2<sup>nd</sup> place for the Feedback newsletter. (This was the second time this award was given to our club)
- 1 Webmaster who edits and maintains our web site
- 1 Twitter account manager
- 13 awards given to MARC Members
- 4 Main Photographers record most of the club events with many MARC members supplying additional photographs
- 18 Volunteer Examiners (some belong to multiple clubs)



# MARC President's Report

## February 2013

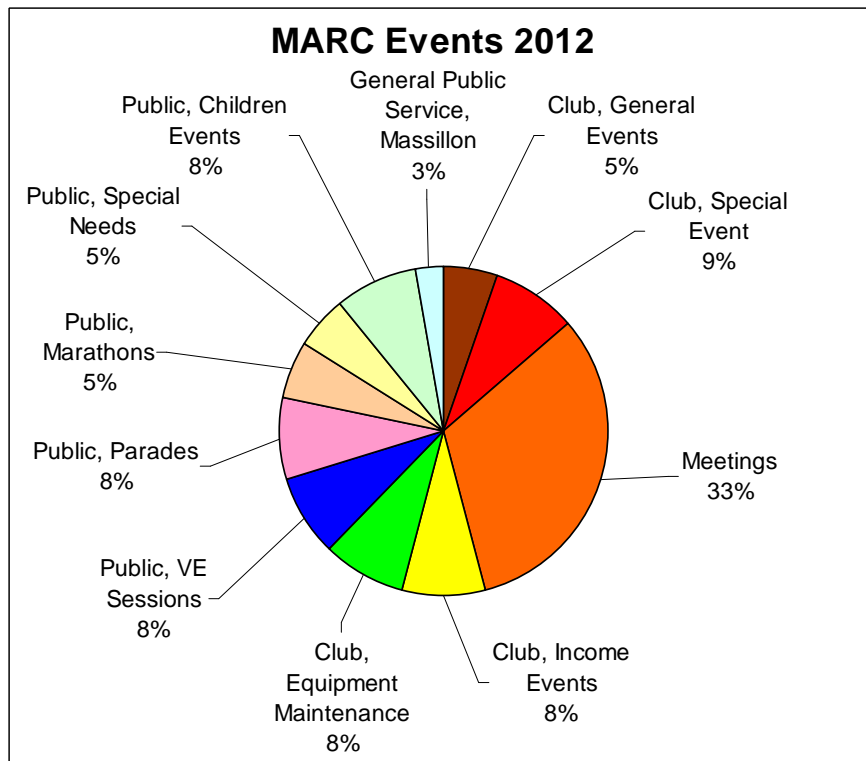
### Page 2



### 2012 Summary Cont.

Included in some of the MARC events is cooperation with Stark and other county Amateur Radio Clubs.

The following PIE Chart shows the percentages of MARC time allocation:



MARC contributions to public service & VE exams are a commendable 37 percent. Note: The public special needs examples are MS walks or Tour D'Cure (medical fund raisers).

Some of the events for 2013 are similar to 2012 such as the parades, field day, banquet, etc.

### The VE exam dates for this year:

- Feb 23, 2013 at the Stark EOC building on RT 62 east.
- May 11, 2013 at the Stark EOC building on RT 62 east.
- October 27, 2013 at the Massillon Hamfest, Massillon, Oh

I have received many new ideas from members that will be presented at the February 1, 2013 meeting for your consideration. Wish you well and God Bless.

**73 DE MIKE, WA8MKH**

## ARRL NEWS

### IARU Welcomes Two New Member Societies

Earlier this year, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) notified its Member Societies that two new national Amateur Radio organizations wished to join the IARU and would need to be voted in: the Federation of Radio Sport of Azerbaijan (FRSA) and the St Vincent and the Grenadines Amateur Radio Club (SVGARC). Ballots from all the Member Societies that responded were counted on November 1.



Based in Baku, Azerbaijan, the FRSA was formally organized on December 30, 2001. There are 50 licensed members of the FRSA out of a total amateur population of approximately 50 in Azerbaijan. The SVGARC is based in St Vincent, St Vincent and the Grenadines and was formally organized in 1951. There are 21 licensed members of the SVGARC, out of a total amateur population of approximately 134 in the country. Both organizations have confirmed to the IARU that they have the ability to meet financial obligations as a member of the IARU, are legally able to act in the furtherance of IARU objectives within their respective countries and will adhere to the Constitutions of both the IARU and its respective Regional Organization.

In order for a new national organization to gain IARU membership, there must be 53 affirmative votes from current IARU Member Societies. The Federation of Radio Sport of Azerbaijan received 60 affirmative votes and the St Vincent and the Grenadines Amateur Radio Club received 61. All Member Societies that voted did so in favor of admitting these national organizations to the IARU. There are now more than 160 IARU Member Societies.

*ARRL Letter 12-13-12*

### USPS rates increase later this month, yet again!

The cost of sending a 1-ounce letter in the US will rise a penny, to 46 cents, as of Jan. 27. Postcard stamps also go up one cent, to 33 cents. Rates also increase for Priority Mail & other services (including cost of mailing magazines), subject to final approval by the Postal Regulatory Commission.

USPS will also introduce a Forever Stamp for international postage, at a new standard rate of \$1.10/ounce for all overseas destinations. More info at <http://pc.usps.com>. This via the CQ Newsroom (Ye Ed had but forgot).

### ARRL Files Petition for Rulemaking with FCC to Create New MF Band at 472-479 kHz

At the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-12), delegates approved Agenda Item 1.23: a 7-kilohertzwide secondary allocation between 472-479 kHz for the Amateur Radio Service, with a power limit of 5 W EIRP (or 1 W EIRP, depending on location). Before this portion of spectrum is made available to radio amateurs in the US, the FCC must first approve its use and amend its rules to reflect the change. As such, the ARRL filed a Petition for Rulemaking on November 29, asking the FCC to amend Sections 2 and 97 of its rules and create a domestic Amateur Radio allocation at 472-479 kHz, conforming to the allocation status and limitations set forth in the international Radio Regulations. article in

*ARRL Letter 12-13-12*



## MARC TECH CLASSES TO START

It was announced at last month's meeting a new Technician Class will start this coming March 11th. Orientation meeting will be on March 4th, 2013 AT 7:00 PM at the Senior Center. This meeting will determine how many students we will have and will determine how many study books to order.

The classes will last for 6 weeks and will finish up the week of the VE Exams at the Sherriff's Office on May 11th, 2013. The only cost to students is the cost of the study material the ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, which costs about \$ 25.00 retail. We do get a discount on the book by just being a Special Service Club and of course buying multiple books.

Instructors for this session will be Gary WC8W, Terry N8ATZ and help from Tom KI4QQQ. For more information please contact : [wc8w@sssnet.com](mailto:wc8w@sssnet.com)

**Thanks de Gary WC8W**

( Reprint from last month's Feedback ! )



## CANTON/MASSILLON VE EXAMS ANNOUNCED FOR 2013

The Canton and Massillon VE Team (which includes the Alliance Club) have announced that the dates for this year's exams will be:

February 23, 2013  
May 11, 2013  
October 27, 2013

The February and May dates will be held at the EOC. Doors open at 8:00 AM and testing begins at 9:00 AM.

The October date will be at the Massillon Hamfest, Massillon Boys & Girls Club. Doors open at 8:00 AM and testing begins at 9:00 AM. The ARRL VE Liaison for all exams is Ted Armstrong K8TWA. For more information contact Ted At: [k8twa@live.com](mailto:k8twa@live.com).

## How Do You Choose an Antenna Analyzer?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

A reader recently e-mailed me:

"In the past you told me you started with the Autek RF-1, and later moved to the Palstar ZM-30. I am finally getting around to thinking about purchasing an antenna analyzer, but I am stumped by the choices. In order of increasing purchase price this is what I've turned up:

- \* Autek RF-1 - \$139.95
- \* Autek RF-5 - \$229.95
- \* Rig Expert AA-54 \$340.00
- \* Palstar ZM-30 \$399.99
- \* W4RT Electronics MiniVNA \$399.99
- \* Rig Expert AA-230PRO \$690.00
- \* Timewave Technology TZ-900S \$899.99

"How does one decide? Where does one go to find out the differences? Other than asking a fellow ham, how does one find out which one is the best antenna analyzer without paying an arm and a leg (unless the feature(s) so purchased are deemed worth the cost)?"

"Thanks! 73"

When I replied, I noted that he had actually missed several other good choices:

- \* Autek VA1 \$199.
- \* MFJ 259B - \$240.
- \* YouKits FG-01 \$250.
- \* Comet CAA500 \$450.

The Autek VA1 is actually the antenna analyzer that I first purchased. The MFJ 259B is arguably the most popular antenna analyzer on the market. MFJ has several other models with different feature sets. The YouKits FG-01 is a very cute, little analyzer with a small graphical display. It is made in China and sold in the U.S. by TenTec.

So, how do you choose just one from this list? Well, I think the first thing that you have to ask yourself is how you're going to use the analyzer. If all you're going to do is to check the SWR of your HF dipoles, then buy the Autek RF-1. Its the least expensive

Continued on page 10

## MARC BANQUET PICTURE PAGE



The new 2013 Officers take the Oath of Office from outgoing Byron Berger KF8UN. From L-R: Byron KF8UN, President Mike WA8MKH, Robert AC8GE Secretary, Gary WC8W Treasurer, Terry N8ATZ Vice President, and Wade WD8MIU New Trustee.



Pictured is Gary WC8W “trying” to fill in for Perry, W8AU who was absent this year with his “duties” of handling the not-so-serious awards. Well we got through it anyway! Some of the recipients were not present at the Banquet and the certificates will have to be handed out at a future meeting.

Thanks to Jeremy Graber KB8VHL for sending us these fine pictures



# February 2013

## W8NP Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																																
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<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">10</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3600 Khz, 1930</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">11</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">12</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Lincoln's Birthday</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3600 Khz, 1930</p> <p>Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">13</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">14</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3600 Khz, 1930</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Valentine's Day</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">15</p> <p>West Stark Info Net - 147.180 at 2000</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">16</p>																																																																																																																
<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">17</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3600 Khz, 1930</p> <p>Mid-Winter Hamfest, InterCity ARC and VE Session, Mansfield, Richland County Fairgrounds, Ctc: Danny, K8BSTK, 419-896-3603</p> <p>Swap-n-Shop, Livonia Amateur Radio Club, Livonia, MI, CTC:Mike, N8MR, 734-941-5043</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">18</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">President's Day</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">19</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3600 Khz, 1930</p> <p>Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM</p> <p>VE Test Session, Pioneer AR Fellows Hip, 1830, Ctc: Leonard, 330-608-2267, Akron Baptist Temple</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">20</p> <p>BD N8DZM</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">21</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3600 Khz, 1930</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">22</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Washington's Birthday</p> <p>West Stark Info Net - 147.180 at 2000</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">23</p> <p>VE Test Session, Canton ARC / Massillon ARC, 0900, Ctc: Ted (330) 495-0732, Emergency Mngmt Office, Stark County Sheriff Office/EOC, Canton</p>																																																																																																																
<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">24</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3600 Khz, 1930</p> <p>WASHfest 2013, Castle Shannon, (Pittsburgh, PA), Ctc: Carol Danko, KB3GMN, 412-884-1466</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">25</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">26</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3600 Khz, 1930</p> <p>Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">27</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">28</p> <p>BD WD8BGW</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3600 Khz, 1930</p>	<p>Upcoming Events:</p> <p>March 16 - Charleston WV Hamfest</p> <p>March 17 - Toledo Hamfest</p> <p>March 23 - MOVARC Hamfest (Gallipolis, OH)</p>																																																																																																																	

Please contact K8INN for updates, changes, or additions.

( KB6NU Column continued from page 7)

unit, is reasonably accurate, and is small and lightweight, making it easy to use outside where your antennas are located.

If you want to do some more serious frequency analysis, then you should be looking at the W4RT miniVNA or, if you have more cash, the Timewave TZ-900s. These instruments can help you do a lot more in-depth analysis of your antenna system. The software for the miniVNA, for example, will easily plot the SWR of a multi-band vertical antenna from 3 - 33 MHz.

Some antenna analyzers do more than just SWR. For example, what sold me first on the Autek VA1 and then on the Palstar was that they also measured reactance. So, you can use the antenna analyzer as an LC meter as well. Palstar also says that you can use the ZM-3 as a low-level signal source. While I have used my Palstar to measure inductance and capacitance, I have yet to use it as a signal source.

Next, you need to consider what bands you'll be using it on. Many antenna analyzers only cover the HF bands. That's a bummer if you like operating 6m, or like to experiment with VHF/UHF antennas. A friend of mine bought the Palstar antenna analyzer after talking to the company at Dayton. At the time, they said that they were planning to come out with a model that covered 6m, as well as the HF bands.

Unfortunately, they never did come out with a 6m version, and he was sorely disappointed. He ended up buying a miniVNA instead. The miniVNA can be used up to 170 MHz right out of the box, and up to 1.5 GHz with an optional extender.

Asking your fellow hams about the antenna analyzers they have is actually a good way to figure out what's best for you. If you ask nicely, they might even let you borrow their analyzers or come over and show you how it works on your antennas.

Reading the reviews on eHam is also a good way to gather information before making a purchase like this. You certainly have to take the reviews there with a grain of salt, but if several reviewers mention a particularly good or particularly bad feature of a product, then it's certainly something worth taking a hard look at.

If you're new to the hobby, starting out small and working your way up might be a good strategy. You could buy one of the less expensive models and get used to how they work, then sell it and make the leap to a more sophisticated unit. The way things are going, you should be able to sell your first antenna analyzer for at least 80% of what you paid for it.

The March 2012 QST contains an in-depth review of four analyzers (available online to ARRL members), including the Comet CAA-500, MFJ-266, RigExpert AA-54, and the Youkits FG-01. Each analyzer reviewed had various plusses and minuses. Even if the unit you are considering was not reviewed, the article provides a guide to the kinds of questions you should be asking as you go through the selection process.

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When he's not analyzing antennas, Dan, KB6NU blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, writes and publishes the "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, and just has fun with amateur radio. You can reach him by e-mail at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com), @kb6nu on Twitter, or on 40m CW many evenings.

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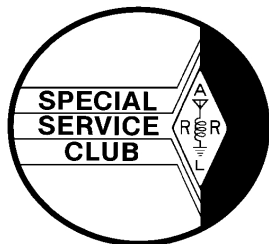
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