



# FEEDBACK

## Happy New Year

**VOLUME 54 ISSUE 1**

**JANUARY 2009**

**MASSILLON AMATEUR  
RADIO CLUB OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT**

Rodger Trompower  
KA8FTS  
hts@cannet.com

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Carl Cunnert  
AB8CC  
ccunert@yahoo.com

**SECRETARY**

Dan Anastis  
N8DZM  
ddna@sbcglobal.net

**TREASURER**

Joe Herrick  
WD8BGW  
josephherrick@sbcglobal.net

**MRN NET Tue, Thur, & Sun  
7.30 PM 3.600 MHz.**

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By WA8MKH

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MARC Classes

**----SHORT SKIP ----**

Look'n deep into my Knight Kit X-10 crystal calibrator I foresee for 2009:

- a. Advertising creeping into GPS displays. i.e, "Oops, you just passed Joe's Pizza Shop. " ( HI )
- b. Sunspots for the deserving - finally.
- c. Banks will begin classifying loans for top of the line transceivers as "Home Improvement Loans. "
- d. China's military will develop a powerful new over-the-horizon radar system.

By the way Bunkey, last year's predictions were 95% accurate.

All the best to you and your's in the New Year !

73 de WB80WM

### **JANUARY MEETING: SPECIAL NOTICE !!!**

The meeting for the month of January will be our annual Dinner Meeting at Otterbine Methodist Church on **January 10th at 6:00 PM**. Doors will be open at 5:30 PM for "eyeball" QSO'S before the dinner. For directions to the Church, please refer to the map on page 8 of this issue. You **MUST** have a reservation for this meeting as Anne N8GAF, (our outgoing Treasurer ) needs this information to pass on to the church so we will not have any conflicts as how many dinners to prepare. Please contact her at 330/832-8612 ASAP or before the 6th of January. The menu for the dinner will be Salisbury Steak, Chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetable, roll with butter and desert ! Following the dinner will be our Awards portion, both serious and the "famous" not-so-serious awards. After the awards portion comes the introduction of the new officer's of the Massillon Amateur Radio Club and swearing in ceremony. Quite a "fun" filled evening will be in store for all who attend ! **Don't miss it !**

## **MARC MINUTES**

### **December 5th, 2008**

The Massillon Amateur Radio Club meeting was held at the Massillon Senior Center with 36 members and guests present. The Pledge of Allegiance was given and a round of introductions was made.

Mike KD8ENV made the motion to suspend reading of the minutes with a second by Terry N8ATZ. Motion Passed by voice vote.

Ann N8GAF our Treasurer gave the treasures report.

Rodger KA8FTS gave his last V.P. report

#### **Committees**

Net – We are losing net controllers so the Net may be going away.

#### **Old Business**

The field day results are out. This year we finally beat the Canton club.

#### **New Business**

Banquet – The annual banquet will be Saturday January 10<sup>th</sup>, \$12. Please let Anne know by Tuesday January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mike KD8ENV submitted a change to the MARC Code of Regulations changing the 3 year requirement to hold office. Gary WC8W will chair the committee with Don W8DEF, Dan N8DZM, Perry W8AU, Mike WA8MKH.

Code classes will start Feb 20<sup>th</sup> 6pm to 8pm each Friday. February 23<sup>rd</sup> will start the Tech Classes for this year, every Monday for 15 weeks.

Joe WD8BGW starting the Community Inactivist Club. All proceeds for tonight's membership will go toward the new radio fund. \$66 was donated to the new radio fund.

Rodger KA8FTS with a second by Carl AB8CC made a motion to change the meeting night from Fridays to Thursdays. Motion failed.

Rodger KA8FTS with a second from Mike KD8ENV made a motion to change the meeting time from 8:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Motion Failed.

Election results: President – Rodger KA8FTS, Vice-President – Carl AB8CC, Secretary – Dan N8DZM, Treasurer – Joe WD8BGW, Trustee – Scott N3JJT.

The 50/50 was won by Bruce KC8RKS for \$20.

**Minutes by your Secretary Dan N8DZM**

## ... Welcome to 2009 ! ...

About a month ago I received an email from Hamilton Carter, KB0FNR who noticed our website and the fact that we provide assistance to newcomers who want to earn their Amateur Radio license. Hamilton indicated that he has created a website blog containing a set of free online exam practice tests that will help prepare folks for their license exam.

Within the practice tests, online study resources are provided for many of the questions. The list of resources available for each question is constantly growing because users can add their own favorite links to the study materials. Users can also track their test scores over time and see which elements are giving them the most trouble. Practice tests are available for Technician, General and Extra class. Each question provides instant results to let you know if you answered correctly. I have looked at most of them and they seem quite detailed.

If you would like to read a short review from previous users of the practice tests they are posted at <http://kb6nu.com/new-online-test/>. The Practice Tests website blog is at <http://copaseticflow.blogspot.com>. When I get a minute I will post the links on the club website on the VEC page.

## .. VEC Exam Fee Increase ..

Our ARRL VE Gary Kline, WC8W has set the VEC Exam test dates and locations for 2009 and they are currently posted on the club VEC page on the website. In case you haven't heard, the VEC Exam fee will increase in 2009 to \$15.00 effective January 1, 2009. The same fee increase will apply to the Emergency Communications ARECC Field Exams as well. This was a modest increase of only one dollar and was necessary to offset the increasing costs of maintaining this valuable ARRL Service.

## .. Ohio Section Journal ..

The Winter Edition of the Ohio Section Journal is currently posted for download on the ARRL Ohio website with a link provided on the home page of the club website. This quarterly publication contains current reports from many of the Ohio Section Cabinet and is a great way to keep up with current news from around Ohio.

I especially appreciate the comments from Assistant Section Manager Connie Hamilton, N8IO who attended our hamfest representing the ARRL. Connie had very favorable comments on our event. Thanks Connie for the kind words, lots of effort and work goes into our annual fall hamfest each year and it's nice to be recognized for our efforts.

## .. Club Banquet ..

Have you made your RSVP yet for our Annual Awards Banquet on January 10th ? I hope so, this is one of our great club events that is meant to include all of our members, their families and all of our many friends. The price is very reasonable, the food is great (including the desserts!) and we hope you will decide to join us this year. Complete details are posted on the club website or you can contact outgoing Treasurer Anne Ballinger, N8GAF at 330-832-8612 to reserve your spot !

## .. ARES News ..

At our last ARES General meeting last September it was decided that we would resume quarterly meetings in 2009. With that thought in mind, I am tentatively looking at a meeting on Thursday, March 5th at 7:00 PM. I haven't yet checked with Tim Warstler to see if the planning meeting room will be available but I'm sure something can be worked out. I'll have more on the date and time shortly. This date will put our meeting just prior to the spring Weather Spotter Training meeting which will also be in March, I believe on March 18th. More on this later on also.

I am in the very early planning stages, considering an agenda, possibly even a guest speaker depending on the weather. I'm always looking for discussion ideas, drop me an email with your thoughts, comments or even criticism's. Our goal is too make our local ARES program as good as it can be, I need your help to accomplish this task.

**Enough for this month, see you at the banquet  
De Terry – N8ATZ**



# Antenna Analyzer Basics

There are several manufacturers of antenna analyzers. The following instruments, MFJ 259, 259B, and 269 were available to use as examples.



The model 259 is the oldest of the three. The manual, copyrighted 1998, lists the available functions. Direct readings include Frequency, and Analog SWR and Resistance. The model 259 readings (plus a calculator), allow advanced functions listed in the manual: Measuring capacitance & inductance, Testing Baluns & RF transformers, Testing RF chokes, Velocity Factor of Transmission Lines, Impedance of Transmission Lines, Estimating transmission line loss, and adjusting tuners. Read the manual for more information. **Of the three models, the Model 259 (even though it is older) has the highest resolution and accuracy of the frequency counters. The counter displays to 1 Hz and is internally adjustable for accurate calibration.**



The model 259B is the next of the three. The manual is copyrighted 1998. The inside printed circuit board is dated 2002. Direct readings include Frequency, Analog and Digital reading of SWR, Impedance, and more in the advanced modes. The manual lists the same functions as the model 259 although now with built-in display as well as advanced functions such as: Magnitude of Impedance, Return Loss and Reflection Coefficient mode, Distance to Fault, Resonance, and Percentage Transmitted Power. Read the manual for more information. **The frequency counter does not appear to be adjustable and only has a resolution to the nearest 100 Hz. Calibration specification elsewhere on the web states that this counter is within 5 KHz. To obtain more accuracy, a suggestion is to compare this counter with an accurate counter at 2 meters such as 146.520 and note the difference. Determine a number to multiply the Model 259B readings to obtain a final accurate value. Then place a label with this multiplier on the case for future reference. This model contains a newer type of detector diodes that can be easily damaged if the instructions are not carefully followed.**

# Antenna Analyzer Basics, Continued



The model 269 is the latest of the three. The manual is copyrighted 2002. The inside printed circuit board is dated 2002. Direct readings include Frequency, Analog and Digital reading of SWR, Impedance, and more in the advanced modes. The manual lists similar functions as the Models 259 & 259B. An addition to this model is the 415 to 470 MHz range. The frequency counter does not appear to be adjustable and only has a resolution to the nearest 100 Hz. Calibration specification elsewhere on the web states that this counter is within 5 KHz. To obtain more accuracy, a suggestion is to compare this counter with an accurate counter at 2 meters such as 146.520 and note the difference. Determine a number to multiply the Model 259B readings to obtain a final accurate value. Then place a label with this multiplier on the case for future reference. The manual notes that this model contains a newer type of detector diodes that can be easily damaged if the instructions are not carefully followed. In addition, the manual lists (many times) the procedure before pressing the UHF switch to the on position. The owner installed a label next to the UHF switch to notify of the proper procedure.

The analyzers can be easily damaged if instructions are not followed. Here are some important guidelines:

- Antenna leads should be momentarily shorted together to remove static charge before connecting to the analyzer. When strong wind is blowing or when there is a storm, charges can build up on an antenna especially in low humidity environments. Do not use the analyzer during these conditions.
- Do not connect the analyzer to any antenna when there is a transmitter operating nearby, such as field day. Make all antenna adjustments before allowing transmitting equipment to be operated.
- Never apply any voltage to the input to the analyzers since the diodes can be very easily damaged.
- Remove batteries when analyzer is in storage. If in doubt when the analyzer will next be used, remove the batteries. When batteries are installed, store the meter with the back down, so if for some reason there is a battery leak; it will fall onto the back instead of onto the PC board.
- The older 259 battery side holding clips, made of metal, can short the battery pack. Install insulating paper between the battery and the metal clips.
- An AC adapter is recommended in place of batteries when possible

# Antenna Analyzer Basics, Continued

## Homebrew Accessories



A homemade adapter for checking antennas as well as traps and resonant circuits.

Use the type of RG58 that has a stranded center conductor. The overall length is approximately 1 foot but not critical. Suggest about 3 inch leads.

The clips can be connected to the antenna or parallel connected coil/capacitor combination.

Use heat-shrink tubing to insulate the shield.



The adapter in use checking a 20 meter trap. The clips are connected together, forming a loop.

Start with the lowest frequency. Slowly tune the analyzer for a dip in the SWR meter. Move the loop away from the coil about 1/2 inch at a time and repeat the procedure until the dip covers about 1/2 of the SWR meter red section. Read the frequency on the analyzer. This is the resonant frequency.

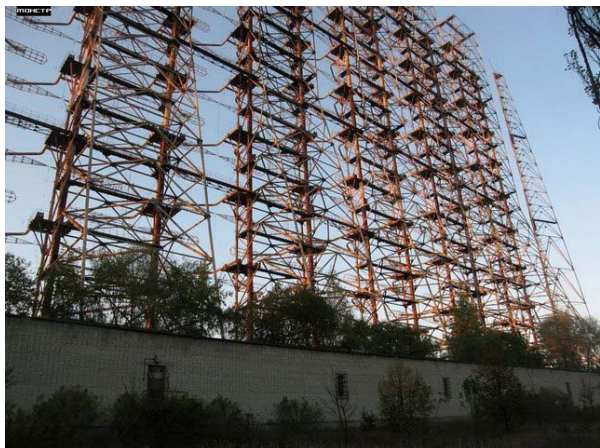
The adapter may work on other analyzers but has not been tested. The adapter simulates the function of the older grid-dip meters with reasonable results.

Careful study of the manual will help to protect your investment for many years.

The items covered in this article do not constitute endorsement of the products mentioned or the exclusion of items not mentioned.

73 de Mike, WA8MKH

## DOES THIS LOOK FAMILIAR ?



## DOES ANYONE KNOW WHAT IT IS ?

Besides a junk man's fantasy? This is actually the old Russian "Woodpecker" or the over the horizon radar system antenna's. This is what gave US and ultimately the world HF reception fits because of it's "unique" QRM during the late 1970's to the late 1980's.

The Russian woodpecker was a notorious Soviet signal that could be heard on the shortwave radio bands worldwide between July 1976 and December 1989. It sounded like a sharp repetitive tapping noise at 10 Hz giving rise to the "woodpecker" name. The random frequency disrupted legitimate broadcast, amateur radio, and utility transmissions and resulted in thousands of complaints by many countries worldwide. Starting in 1976, a new and powerful radio signal was detected worldwide and quickly dubbed the Woodpecker by amateur radio operators. Transmission power on some woodpecker transmitters was estimated to be as high as 10 MW EIRP. As well as disrupting shortwave amateur radio stations and broadcasting it could be sometimes be heard over telephone circuits due to the strength of the signals. This led to the thriving industry of "Woodpecker filters" and noise blander's.

(Editor's comment) I can remember this "problem" very vividly. Back then as a "newbie" I can remember trying to work "new" countries. During that period, there were more "list takers" and DX nets around than today. Sometimes you would wait for hours and when your time finally came, the "ole woodpecker" would start up and --- well, hit the "big ole switch" because you were done for the day ! Very frustrating to say the least. Today's DX hound just has to put up with a the occasional idiot "tunner upper" and other QRM. Of course the BPL threat is to be reckoned with and I hope our representatives also remember "when" !

(Thanks to Dennis N8UDL for the story & picture)

## KB6NU's Column for December 2008

Date: Wednesday, December 24, 2008 4:42 PM

All I Want for Christmas Is....When I was a kid, we had an album (remember records on vinyl?) that had a bunch of Christmas songs for kids. The song I remember most goes: All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth, My two front teeth, my two front teeth. Gee, if I could only have my two front teeth, Then I could wish you Merry Chrith-math (sang with a lisp). Seeing as how I've had my two front teeth for nearly 50 years now, and I pretty much have everything I want, I got to thinking about what I want for ham radio for Christmas this year. Here's what I've come up with so far. In no particular order, I want: - MORE SUNSPOTS! - the median age for ham radio operators to actually decrease this year. This means not only recruiting kids, but also younger adults. - the pessimists who are continually talking down ham radio to find new joy in the hobby and begin working to make it great. - the FCC to appoint someone as effective as Riley Hollingsworth to take over as the enforcer of the amateur radio service regulations. - the FCC to pay a little more attention to amateur radio regulations and not treat them as an afterthought. - the silliness on 75m phone and 14.275 MHz to go QRT. - the ARRL to work harder on making itself truly the "national association for amateur radio" and on increasing the percentage of licensed hams that are ARRL members. - to be able to brag about all of ham radio's "purposes," not only providing emergency and public service communications. According to Part 97, these are: \* advancing the state of the radio art; \* improving our technical and operating skills; \* expanding the number of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts; and \* enhancing international goodwill. - ham radio clubs to grow and thrive even in these tough economic times. When I asked this question on Twitter, I got a couple of answers that were versions of a couple of wishes above, but I also got a few more: - WORMT wants "all of us to get on the air more and act as good ambassadors for the hobby," and - NT7S wants the hearts of ham grinchers to grow a couple of sizes. - N!WBV wants redesigns for most ham radio websites. I pretty much agree with all three. Happy New Year! \_\_\_\_\_

When not waiting for Santa to decided if he's been naughty or nice, Dan, KB6NU, teaches ham classes and blogs about ham radio ([www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com)) ###

**HAPPY NEW YEAR  
EVERYONE! LET'S  
HOPE AND PRAY  
FOR A SAFER &  
MORE PROSPEROUS  
2009 !!!**



## No VHF SWR Meter? No Problem.

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I subscribe to a lot of amateur radio mailing lists. One of the most interesting is the HamRadioHelpGroup mailing list (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HamRadioHelpGroup>). Recently, a ham asked: Will a CB SWR meter work on a 2 meter ham radio??

Mark, K5LXP, replied: "Yes and no. I use a CB SWR meter to check 2M antennas all the time. There is a trick to it however."

"If all you want to do is check SWR on your 2M antenna, you don't necessarily have to buy a dedicated VHF/UHF SWR meter. What I keep in my tool bag for that is a cheapie \$5 hamfest special CB SWR meter. They really don't work well on 2M but there's a trick you can do that will net a reasonably accurate SWR reading on 2M with one of these meters. What you do is connect up the meter as usual, key the rig with the switch in the forward power position, set the adjustment for full scale. Now, without touching anything, swap the coax connections so that the rig is connected to the 'ANT' side of the meter, and the antenna is connected to the 'XCVR' side. The reading you see on the meter will be very close to your real SWR. The closer to 1:1 your SWR is, the more accurate it will be. It would be more convenient to have a real SWR meter or antenna analyzer if you do a lot of testing, but for a quick antenna check after a mobile install or whatever, the \$5 CB meters work OK."

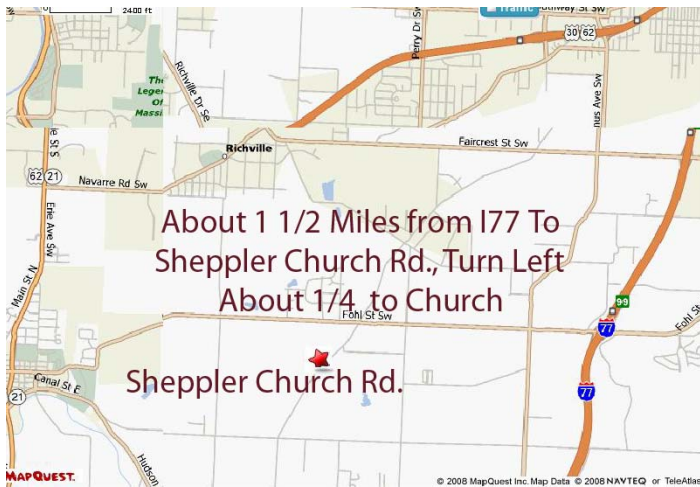
"The theory is relatively simple." "A basic SWR bridge is comprised of two couplers, each of which consist of a stripline or a pickup loop, and a detector diode. One coupler is used to detect forward power, the other reflected."

"At 27 MHz, the precision of the components required isn't too stringent. Just about any diode will work, and minor imperfections in the stripline or pickup coils won't impact the accuracy that much."

"But at 2M suddenly minor differences between the striplines, stray capacitance, and type of diode starts to matter. By using just one of the couplers for both the forward and reverse readings any error that exists in that coupler is the same for both readings and thus cancels out. It's unlikely it'll work at 440 however, it's just too much to ask to expect a true 50 ohm network and zero bias or hot carrier diode in a cheap CB meter."

"The absolute reading on 2M may still be somewhat inaccurate, especially at high SWR but odds are you don't care about that. All you're interested in is 1:1 or as close to it as you can get, and for that the \$5 meters will be good enough."

When I asked his permission to use this, Mark said, "I don't get the (Continued on page 10)



## DIRECTIONS TO THE MARC AWARDS BANQUET

Even though the Otterbein United Methodist Church is supposedly "in the middle of nowhere" it is really easy to find. If you are coming from Canton, take I 77 south to the Fohl Road exit. Turn right onto Fohl road and drive about 1-2 miles west and you will come upon a "blinking" traffic light at Sheppler Church road. Turn left and look about 100 yards and the church is on your right.

If you are coming from Massillon, take US # 21 south to the village of Navarre where the first traffic light is at Wooster Street. Turn Left onto Wooster street and you will be heading east. Continue on this route and you will pass a railroad track and enter into a "S" curve (and some steep hills). After the S curve you will be on Fohl Road. Continue until you come upon the SECOND blinking traffic light and turn right on Sheppler Church Road. Look about 100 yards and the church is on the right. Easy, right? Please refer to the map above and of course someone will be on 2 meters to help if you get lost. The doors should be open about 5 and will start to serve dinner about 6 :00 PM. See you there !

## DUES ARE NOW DUE

Just a reminder that the dues for the Massillon Amateur Radio Club are now due. And what better way to pay for them is to attend the annual Awards Banquet and pay for them all at once! Dues for a single member is still only \$ 10.00 a year. Dues for the XYL is \$ 5.00 and a student living at home is only \$ 2.50. Yes you still have plenty of time as we will not drop anyone until after the March meeting. Please note that the dues is to be sent to our NEW Treasurer, Joe Herrick, WD8BGW, 2615 Millersburg Road SW, Massillon, Ohio 446496-7336. If you are NOT planning to attend the banquet & while you are thinking about it, please send Joe a check now. Please remember We Don't Want To Lose A Single Member !!!!



# January 2009

## W8NP Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																												
<p>Upcoming Events:                      Sunday, February 1 - Winter HAM fest, NOARS, Elyria</p> <p>Sunday, February 15 - Mid-Winter Hamfest, Mansfield</p> <p>Saturday, February 28 - Canton ARC / Massillon ARC VE Test Session</p>				<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">Feb 2009</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td style="text-align: center;">M</td><td style="text-align: center;">T</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">T</td><td style="text-align: center;">F</td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td style="text-align: center;">13</td><td style="text-align: center;">14</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">15</td><td style="text-align: center;">16</td><td style="text-align: center;">17</td><td style="text-align: center;">18</td><td style="text-align: center;">19</td><td style="text-align: center;">20</td><td style="text-align: center;">21</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">22</td><td style="text-align: center;">23</td><td style="text-align: center;">24</td><td style="text-align: center;">25</td><td style="text-align: center;">26</td><td style="text-align: center;">27</td><td style="text-align: center;">28</td></tr> </table>		Feb 2009							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	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em;">1</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930</p> <p style="color: #800080;">New Year's Day</p> <p>West Stark Info Net - 147.180 at 2000</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em;">2</p> <p>Massillon Amateur Radio Club Meeting, Senior Center, Massillon, 2000</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em;">3</p>
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<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em;">11</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em;">12</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em;">13</p> <p>BD K8LP BD KA8FTS</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930</p> <p>Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em;">14</p> <p>BD KB8YKE</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em;">15</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930</p> <p>West Stark Info Net - 147.180 at 2000</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em;">16</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em;">17</p> <p>VE Test Session, Inter City ARA, 1300, Ctc.: Richard Fletcher, 419-886-2463, Richland Health Dept, Lower Level, Mansfield</p>																																												
<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em;">18</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em;">19</p> <p style="color: #800080;">Martin Luther King, Jr.</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em;">20</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930</p> <p>Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em;">21</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em;">22</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930</p> <p>West Stark Info Net - 147.180 at 2000</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em;">23</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em;">24</p>																																												
<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em;">25</p> <p>BD KC8ZCS</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930</p> <p>Tusco ARC Hamfest, Strasburg, OH, Wallick Auction House, Ctc: Kyle Quillen, KD8HDJ 330-231-6269</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em;">26</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em;">27</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930</p> <p>Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em;">28</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em;">29</p> <p>BD W8HOU</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930</p> <p>West Stark Info Net - 147.180 at 2000</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em;">30</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em;">31</p>																																												

## Passing of Barry and Wally

Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2008 2:42 PM

What we do with hollow state technologies and our love of working in the smoke of a soldering iron. The constant back-ache from lifting that anchor to the workbench for another round of tweaking, testing and modifying. The late nights spent trying to dig out that impossible to hear station from some island in the Pacific. The slow saunter through the flea markets and hamfests, looking for a forgotten piece of hardware from the 40's or 50's.

This is a love, a passion, that fewer and fewer people understand. As we grow older it is harder to find kindred spirits where the lure of the miniaturized transceiver and out-of-the-box performance have been re-defining the art into a mere commercial hobby. Eventually we all are removed from the face of the earth.

We can only hope that some remembrance of our words, our contributions, will pass on after we are gone to the next world. We hope not to be reduced to fading black-and-white photographs in a forgotten shoebox by our descendants. For the works of love that we have dedicated so many long hours to, we pray that they will not end up in a recycling bin of scrap metal or worse, parted out and sold on Ebay for some clearinghouse who buys up equipment at estate auctions, only to chop it apart to make \$50 in parts sales.

This is akin to having your cremated remains sitting on the fireplace mantle until eventually, our descendants forget who we even were.

To keep the art alive, to keep our works of love appreciated, we need to pass the passion on to future generations. We need to remember that thrill that we all experienced when we overhauled our first radio and the gradual noise of static filled the speaker. We need to involve the younger generations in our misunderstood obsession.

We need to be clear to those who survive us that on our passing, our works go along to those who would truly appreciate the artistry and elegance of a electro/mechanical wonder and can discover ways to improve upon what we have now.

Make it clear to your family of what your wishes are. Find and adopt a boy or girl who gets that gleam in their eyes when they see the filaments begin to glow. Make sure that we pass it forward.

**From: "Tisha Hayes" <tisha.hayes@gmail.com>**

(Thanks to Gene W8KXR for submitting this article.)

(Cont from page 8)

credit, I picked it up from an old-timer years ago." Well, Mark, you might not get the credit for thinking this up, but you certainly get the credit for passing it on. Thanks!

When not reading his e-mail, Dan likes to work CW on the HF bands. You can catch him around 7030 kHz or 3530 kHz. He blogs about ham radio at [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com).

(Ed note: This column was supposed to be included in the December issue of Feedback, however it was sent too late for publication.)

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## MARC ANNOUNCES TECH CLASSES & MORES CODE CLASSES

The MARC wishes to announce the formation of Technician Classes to start on February 23rd 2009. The classes will be held at the Senior Center from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM each Monday evening for about 6 weeks. Material needed for each student will consist of the ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, published by the ARRL. Cost for the manual will be around \$ 20.00. We get a discount for each book as we buy more than one and since we are a club. Otherwise they charge \$ 24.95 for individual purchases.

Perry, W8AU likewise announces the formation of Morse Code Classes to begin on February 20th 2009. Classes will likewise start around 7: 00 PM and will finish around 9:00 PM, however the classes will last until the student gets proficient in the speed he wishes to acquire. Most students from last year's class are regulars on the MRN net, held on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings (see page 1).

We are still looking for an instructor for the General Class. No one has shown interest in forming a class. There is much interest in the class however without a Qualified instructor, no class can be formed.

If you know someone interested in any of these classes, please contact Gary WC8W @ 330/837-2927 or Perry W8AU @ 330/832-8612. Students will be prepared for the May VE session which is to be held at the EOC (Sheriff's Office) on May 9th 2009.



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