

# FEEDBACK

VOLUME 51 ISSUE 7

JULY 2006

MASSILLON AMATEUR  
RADIO CLUB OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT**

Igor Nikishin  
K8INN

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Ralph Bugg  
K8HSQ

**SECRETARY**

Linda Finley  
K8MOO

**TREASURER**

Anne Ballinger  
N8GAF



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### SHORT SKIP

There are four bones in every organization.  
The wishbones:  
Wishing somebody would do something about the problem.  
The jawbones:  
Doing all the talking, but very little else.  
The knucklebones:  
Those who knock everything.  
The backbones:  
Those who carry the brunt of the load and do the most of the work.  
- Author unknown.

73 de WB80WM

### JULY MEETING

The meeting for the month of July will be held on July 7th at 8:00 PM at the Massillon Senior Center in downtown Massillon.

At this month's meeting we will review the events of the past Field Day events. As of this writing, Field Day has not happened as yet so I cannot comment on any event until next month's issue of Feedback. We will list all events, complete with pictures ( I hope! ) and of course the complete score and the number of contacts broken down into band by band categories !

Last year Field Day nearly turned into a disaster as "sideways" rain nearly destroyed equipment, but we were able to continue after drying out! Hopefully we will have "perfect" weather !

Of course Field Day will not be the only issue on the agenda. Can you believe it we must begin planning for this year's Hamfest 2006! Decisions must be made as to what equipment to buy as main

prizes and to select members as committee chairmen to head up the various committees. We will of course have the VE Exam at the Hamfest this year. All club members who are VE's and are not on any specific committee are requested to help with the exam.

Looks like a very busy evening at the 'ole club house !



Our Prez, Igor K8INN at the Canoe Races. Read all about it on pages 4 & 5.

## MARC MINUTES

### June 2,2006

The Massillon Amateur Radio Club meeting was held at the Massillon Senior Center with 30 members and guests present.

MARC President Igor K8INN opened the meeting at 8:00 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was given and a round of introductions was made.

The May minutes were accepted as stated in the FEEDBACK by Steve WD8MIJ and second by Byron KF8UN.

MARC Treasurer Anne N8GAF gave the financial report. She gave the Safety Break results and also the regular monthly report..

Vice President Ralph K8HSQ gave the correspondence report. He had the usual newsletters from other Amateur Radio Clubs. Thanked Byron KF8UN for MARC receiving a pin and certificate from ARRL for acheiving DXCC on RTTY mode for the Club. He also gave an update on the Winlink TNC's he is putting together.

### OLD BUSINESS

Gary WC8W gave the results of the VE session. Congratulations goes to everyone that passed. He needs more VE to help on testing days, if you wish to become an accredited VE, please contact him.

Perry W8AU discussed the canoe race to be held June 3.

Dan N8DZM gave the fox hunt report. Congratulations goes to Igor K8INN for finding it first. Now he will be hiding it on Field Day weekend.

Scott N3JJT gave the outcome of his Goodyear Safety Day event. Perry W8AU, Anne N8GAF, Don W8DEF and Wade WD8MIU participated in the demonstration. Everyone had a good time.

Perry W8AU, Terry N8ATZ and Jim WA8GXM announced the purchase of the ICOM 706 during the Dayton Hamvention, has not been completed yet. Hopefully this will be done by Field Day weekend.

Michele KC8ZEJ gave her report on the West Stark Information Net. It will resume in September. She had inquires about it even as far as West Virginia, but no helpers to run it.

Perry W8AU made proposal again to purchase HF filters for Field Day. Joe WD8BGW made motion with Steve WD8MIJ second to purchase them. A vote was taken and passed.

### NEW BUSINESS

Field Day news releases have been sent out to area newspapers. Food for Field Day was discussed.

MARC Hamfest ads have been sent to QST, CQ, Nuts and Volts and World Radio.

MARC welcomed newly licences guest Jamie KD8DQV. Also welcomed newest MARC member Tom Gill KC8QOD.

After refreshments Ralph K8HSQ gave the evening program on how to set up Win link.

Congratulations goes to Stephanie for winning the 50-50 for \$15.50.

**Minutes by Linda K8MOO**  
**Secretary MARC**

## ... Hall Of Fame Time ...

July puts Hall of Fame plans in full swing. While monthly planning meetings have been going on since January, we now begin signing up the many volunteers it takes to staff the parade's many positions. I hope last years volunteers will once again help with the parades, but this year we could use additional volunteers as parade organizers have fine tuned the route coordinators roles which created the need for additional ham operators this year.

This years event will include a major effort to help ensure the parade moves smoothly along the route and amateur radio has been asked to take a more active role in this initiative thanks largely to our strong communications skills and long time parade experience. Full details will be posted on the Stark County ARES website at [www.wd8aye.org](http://www.wd8aye.org) when they are complete.

Initial volunteer announcement emails have already gone out but remember to contact the parade communications coordinators to volunteer for the parade. All you need is your handheld radio and a desire to help out your community using your unique radio skills.

The Community Parade is Sunday, July 30th beginning at 2:30 PM with the Timken Grand Parade the following Saturday, August 5th beginning at 7:30 AM. Let me know if you can assist for either of these parades. Thanks a bunch !

## .. VEC Needs VolunTERS ..

Canton/Massillon VEC Exam Coordinator Gary Kline - WC8W is currently looking for additional volunteers to become Accredited Volunteer Examiner's (VE's).

The last few years several long time VE's have left the program and need to be replaced. Becoming a VE is free and easy. You simply go to the ARRL website, download and review the Volunteer Examiner's Manual in Adobe Pdf format. Once you have read the manual and completed the required application you are on your way to becoming an ARRL VE.

Once accredited, you will receive in the mail a laminated VE Badge and clip to wear at a test session. General, Advance and Extra Class volunteers are needed to help support the program here in Stark County. Contact Gary Kline - WC8W, ARRL VEC Coordinator additional information. You can reach Gary via email at [wc8w@sssnet.com](mailto:wc8w@sssnet.com) or phone to 330-837-2927.

## .. Winlink Update ..

On Thursday, May 25th Stark County ARES gave a Winlink presentation to the Summit County ARES. Presenters included Assistant EC Terry Russ, N8ATZ and Technical Director Ralph Bugg, K8HSQ. This marked the sixth Winlink presentation conducted by the Stark County Winlink Team. The presentation included our latest Powerpoint program on

the Stark County Winlink Initiative followed by a live Airmail demonstration. The meeting concluded with a short Q & A session.

The program was held at the new Summit County American Red Cross Chapter with about 30 Summit Co ARES members present. The program was very well received and much appreciated stated Summit Co ARES Emergency Coordinator Larry Fields, WD8ITF.

Larry indicated after the meeting that they would like to proceed with the installation of several TelPac Nodes in the downtown Akron area which should offer solid coverage in the Summit County area. We are planning another meeting with them in the near future to discuss logistics and frequency considerations in setting up the Telpac Nodes.

We also now have several new club members working on their Winlink stations including Tom Gill - KC8QOD and Bob Gill - N8DVS. They are using the Kantronics KPC-2 TNC's that the club has obtained and converted to Airmail use. We still have an ample supply of the TNC's to give out for those who would like to experiment with this new emergency communications mode. Just contact either me or Ralph Bugg - K8HSQ and we will be happy to fix you up and provide all the necessary software and training. We have even made a house call or two to get a few folks started.

## ..W8NP Earns DXCC Award

MARC Club Station W8NP was recently awarded yet another operating award, "DXCC" using RTTY. The formal announcement was made at the June club meeting.

The award confirms and recognizes QSO's with 100 countries using the old digital mode Radio-Teletype still popular today on the HF bands. The award was possible thanks to resident club DX'er Byron Berger - KF8UN who operated the club station during his spare time.

The award was presented to the club by President Igor Nikishin - K8INN and once a suitable frame is acquired will be permanently displayed in the club shack along with our current DXCC Phone award. Congratulations to the club with special appreciation to Byron on this great operating achievement !



**That's it for this month, see you at the meeting**

**!**

**De Terry - N8ATZ**

## GOODYEAR SAFETY DAY

On Friday May 26th Dept 465e held its 2nd annual Safety Day. This year I was approached and asked if the Massillon Radio Club would like to participate. After a quick discussion at one of our meetings, it was decided that we would. Attending and operating the ECOMM trailer was; W8AU, Perry, N8GAF, Ann, W8DEF, Don, and WD8MIU, Wade. The main topic of the day was Emergency Communications. The mast was extended and an inverted V was hung in the air. Four groups, (about 15 people each), throughout the day stopped and visited the trailer, along with many other activities scheduled at the Akron Test Facility. We supplied the volunteers with lunch, and after we wrapped things up for the day, I took the group on a tour of our test lab. All in all we had a great time, and again a big thanks to the volunteers for spending their entire Friday donating their time, and putting the Massillon Amateur Radio Club in the eyes and minds of others.

### 73's de Scott N3JJT



Pictured above; Scott N3JJT during the Goodyear Safety Day in the MARC E-Comm Trailer.

### HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY 4th



Helping out ( L-R) Anne N8GAF, Wade WD8MIU, and Don W8DEF, demonstrating the MARC E-CommTrailer's emergency communications equipment during the Goodyear Safety Day.



The Canoe race was under the "watchfull" eye of --Oh - Deer !

### THE GREAT AMERICAN (Massillon) CANOE RACE.

The Massillon Area Clergy Association's sponsorship of this canoe race brought back an annual event that MARC used to participate in from 40 to 26 years ago. At that time it was the "Canal Fulton Canoe Races." MARC was called upon for safety communications and we responded by using 2 meter FM at a number of locations along the Ohio and Erie Canal. (This parallels the river and is quiet water as compared to the river)

2 meters FM (not CW or AM) at that time was fairly new to ham radio. Begun in the early sixties with surplus commercial two way FM radio units converted to AC use and usually on one channel, 146.94 MHz, these boxes were heavy and all vacuum tube operated. 2 meter beams were used to enable our ten watt (big) radios to communicate down the river valley for at least 5 miles. (The canal did not have water in it all the way to Lake Avenue).

Needless to say, our efforts were always successful. We were, after all, pretty darn efficient technicians and communicators.

Fast forward to today... we revisit an old "battle ground," the Tuscarawas River valley! We have new technologies and new smaller, more efficient radio gear, repeaters, digital modes.... This should be a snap! We can use one of the many repeaters we have locally... maybe even the club's 442.85 machine that looks right over the river valley right at about Lake Avenue.

Think again! After two days of testing, it was found that the UHF machine could not handle the challenge. The nearest VHF repeater, our far ranging 147.18 machine, passes right over the valley and does not penetrate the deep gorge that is prevalent from north of Lake Avenue up to beyond Butterbridge road, south of Canal Fulton. The river is the "lowest" point in the county, obviously, and combined with the thick foliage, tends to attenuate RF very well. Hmmm....

We have to go back to basics... just like years ago. Since we do not have a lot of HF portables on 75 meters (that would use the ionosphere to reflect signals up and down the valley) we are back to what we do have... a lot of 2 meter gear, albeit much smaller and portable, thank goodness! 2 meter SIM-PLEX, revisited....

We used four equidistant mobile stations with beams along the 8 mile route, with six canoe based radio "monitor" stations using handi-talkies spaced at 1 mile apart. Since HT's cannot be heard far in the thick foliage river valley, at least one of the four mobile stations WILL hear the HT's as they report race progress and these reports can be relayed to the Lake Avenue Headquarters where we have the club's ecomm trailer with the 58' pneumatic mast and beam.

Voila! Success. No failures, no upended canoes, everyone safe and dry! (Except for the sporadic light rain) We are so good at this we will probably have to do it next year! (The price of success)

Many thanks to our stalwart members, especially those that were still "young at heart" enough to work out of a canoe for up to 3 hours!

Canoe based operators:

Michele Gill, KC8ZEJ (easy work for her)  
Big Joe Herrick, WD8BGW (yes, believe it)  
Jason Stroll, KC8LIN (after arm twisting)

Dan Anastis, N8DZM (no challenge...)  
Anne Ballinger, N8GAF (a canoe adventure!)  
Barry Heiks, KC8QOE (last minute recruit)

Canal Fulton Start point:  
Scott McCamish, N3JJT (me in a canoe? never)  
Perry Ballinger, W8AU (what can I say?)

Butterbridge Rd crossing:  
Gary Kline WC8W, (me in a canoe? Yuk Yuk)

Crystal Springs Start point:  
Rodger Trompower, KA8FTS (me in a canoe, I'm outa here!)  
Wade Huthmacher, WD8MIU (can I help?)

Lake Avenue HQ:  
Jim Farriss, WA8GXM (pusha da button, da mast she go up)  
Igor Nikishin, K8INN (Mr. Congeniality)

Those that stayed for the Noon to 3 p.m. sprints from Lake Avenue up 1/4 mile and back:  
Perry W8AU  
Scott N3JJT  
Wade WD8MIU

Those that were signed up but could not be there:  
Terry N8ATZ (heaving his cookies)  
Jack N8LCS (anyone heard from Jack?)

And....memories of those who participated years ago:  
WD8CIB Smitty (deceased)  
WA8NZE Stan (still here)  
K8LBZ John (yep he's here)  
K8HSQ Ralph (can you believe it?)  
WB8HHP Tim (kid with lotsa hair)  
W8AU Perry (different hair color)  
Sorry for missing the others.



Canoeest under the "real" watchful eye of Wade WD8MIU. Pictures courtesy of Rick K8RIC. Thanks Rick! More pictures on page 8.

**73,**  
**Perry, W8AU**

## WEAVER'S WORDS - 6M SKIP OPENINGS ARE HAPPENING

- We won a big one in the House
- Manassas, Virginia
- Board Meeting
- You asked: Why an ARRL Visa Card?
- No Prophet After All
- A pain in the back
- New DX Country Criteria

(REPLY ONLY TO K8JE@ARRL.ORG.)

Quite a bit has happened since my last issue of Weaver's Words so here is another one to bring you up-to-date.

### WE WON A BIG ONE IN THE HOUSE

The US House of Representatives, this is. On June 8, the US House overwhelmingly passed HR 5252, the Communications Opportunity, Promotion and Enhancement (COPE) Act of 2006. Otherwise known as the rewrite of the US Communications Act, HR 5252 now goes to a conference committee where it will be reconciled with what will likely be a substantially different Senate rewrite of the Act. The Senate bill is still being hammered out.

The beauty of HR 5252 is that it contains a requirement the FCC review its BPL rules within 60 days and report back to the House. The Commission would be required to assure the House that BPL systems would not cause interference to FCC-licensed operators whose frequencies are also used by Part 15 (including BPL) devices.

The BPL-review wording in this bill was added and passed thanks to a combination of the fine work of ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, the rest of the Legislative Action management team and Arkansas Representative Mike Ross, WD5DVR who introduced the BPL control amendment . . . and ARRL members who wrote and otherwise contacted the US House members from their Districts, urging their support of an adequate BPL control clause in the bill.

With the battle in the US House won, the ARRL Legislative Action effort concerning BPL legislation has turned to the US Senate. We are working to get wording similar to that in the House bill included in the developing Senate bill. ARRL members who's Senators sit in key positions regarding the Senate legislation have been asked to contact these senators. This grassroots effort can be expected to spread to the entire Senate as progress occurs on the upper house's rewrite of the Communications Act. Keep your computers and pens warmed up; ready to write to your Senators when you are asked to do this.

The effort aimed at fighting flawed BPL systems the past several years has been worth the effort. Skeptics among us feel otherwise. This is their privilege. The facts, though, show they are wrong.

First of all, indiscriminate development of flawed BPL systems countrywide has been delayed substantially thanks to ARRL. There can be no doubt that the League and you members who enlisted in the grassroots program caused this delay. There has been no one else leading the fight.

Secondly, as an obvious result of the strong fight against interference-causing BPL systems, several planned and even existing BPL trials were dropped. Newer systems that have been brought online and that are planned seem to involve BPL systems that are not problematic. We'll need to see about this, of course.

Finally, provided we continue our success on the legislative front and achieve a strong BPL position in the Senate rewrite of the Communications Act, the threat of rampant interference from BPL should gone forever. The ARRL goal of getting resounding support from the FCC to keep interference from Part 15 devices will have paid off. We will still need your help, so please be ready.

### MANASSAS VIRGINIA

The FCC Enforcement Bureau has finally been allowed to chime in on the horrendously noisy BPL system run by Manassas, VA. The Commission wrote to operators of this system saying they need to come into compliance with the provisions of Part 15 of the FCC rules. This means the system must discontinue interfering with Amateur Radio signals soon or it may be shut down, summarily. The enforcement letters also mean the ARRL has won a big one with the FCC.

The city's own data show the system is operating well beyond required limits.

The final lesson to be learned from the enforcement action is that the FCC Enforcement folks will not tolerate interference to licensed services by poorly designed and poorly-executed BPL systems. This is something would-be operators of BPL systems will need to consider before they pony up the money needed to develop a system.

### BOARD MEETING

As I've done in the past, I'm letting you know the ARRL Board of Directors meeting will be July 21 and 22 in Newington, CT. I'll leave on July 19 to participate in the quarterly Administration & Finance Committee meeting on the 20th. If there is anything you'd like me to check on at these meetings, let me know.

## YOU ASKED: WHY AN ARRL VISA CARD?

Sometimes I love to answer questions with a question, so my answer is "Why not?"

Actually there are two very simple reasons to have the ARRL Visa card. First, the Card publicizes Amateur Radio and to a lesser extent, ARRL. Second, by using this card, members provide additional financial support to ARRL.

The publicity aspect is easy to understand so I won't go into it. What about the added financial support?

For every dollar charged on the card, ARRL gets a small reward. It isn't much, but with hundreds of members using the card, the extra dollars add up to a worthwhile total. In addition, each card issued brings a one-time reward to ARRL - sort of a finder's fee if you will. When one considers that no one is forced to get one of these cards and no one is forced to use one, this is one of the win-win situations I've talked about before.

The bottom line to this is that if any of us wants to use a credit card and if there are no particular disadvantages to the ARRL Visa Card over other cards, we may as well use the ARRL card. Using it brings rebates to the user and a slight income to the League. Might as well use it as most any other card . . . provided you are going to use a card of any sort.

## NOT A PROPHET AFTER ALL

A number of you caught my spelling error in the discussion of profit from the sales of books and the like. Somehow or other, I turned the word profit into the word prophet the second time I used it in the item. Don't know how this happened, but it did. A couple of you were kind enough to assume I was trying to be clever, but this wasn't it. I just goofed!

A couple of you asked how it could be that ARRL, a CFR 501.c.3 not-for-profit organization by IRS standards, is allowed to make a profit. For you who haven't been involved in non-profit groups, there is no prohibition against these groups making money. The issue is relatively how much they make and how they use it. If you doubt this, consider the amount of money the Heart Association or any other major non-profit, charitable organizations have brought in each year. One purpose of a non-profit usually is to make money to help finance the operation it supports.

## A PAIN IN THE BACK

First off, I'm healthy and alive in Mason, Ohio. As is true of most people who've gotten past 39 years old, I'm having a bit of a problem, though. I may need back surgery to correct a spinal issue. I've had this procedure previously, and it went very well. There is one additional area in the lower back that requires attention. The problem occasionally gets in the way of my traveling as much as I'd like and

had done previously. I hope any additional surgery is over and the back problem is resolved by the end of this summer. In the meantime, I'm cutting back a little on longer distance auto trips. I'm still getting around and I'll still make the Board meetings.

I've scheduled a trip and haven't advised you it has needs to be cancelled, it is still on my calendar.

## NEW DX COUNTRY CRITERIA

If you missed the recent announcement, the DX Advisory Committee (DXAC) and the DX Desk at HQ combined forces to develop a new rule governing the acceptability of territories as new countries. For details, go to <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/06/14/100/?nc=1>. The new rule replaces the one that was dropped by the Board of Directors several months ago.

Also related to DX, Montenegro recently voted to become a separate country. It will automatically become a new DX entity upon receiving a radio prefix from the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) or acceptance into the UN - whichever occurs first. To qualify for credit with Montenegro, QSOs must occur after one these options has occurred, not before.

On a similar theme, during the recent processing period, the Awards group at HQ processed 8 applications for Worked All States (WAS). Six of these were submitted via the Logbook of the World (LoTW). Look for LoTW to be able to support other ARRL and non-ARRL awards in the near future. For us who QSL to a large extent to receive credit for awards, the use of LoTW will save considerable money. . . and time. For those of us who occasionally want to receive hard copy QSLs as souvenirs of special QSOs, we can still exchange these, but at the higher cost incurred with them. Incidentally, the instructions for using LoTW are being rewritten to simplify them still further.

**This is all for now. GL, 73, Jim**

Jim Weaver, K8JE  
 Director, Great Lakes Division  
 Chairman, Legislative Action Committee  
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 Mason, OH 45040  
 K8JE@arrl.org; Tel., 513-459-0142; FAX, same  
 ARRL, the Reason Amateur Radio is!  
 Members, the Reason ARRL is!

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ARRL Great Lakes Division  
 Director: James Weaver, K8JE  
 k8je@arrl.org

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# MARC Picture Page, Goodyear Safety Day and Great American Canoe Race



Visitors “check” out MARC E-Comm trailer at the Goodyear Safety Day Expo. The E-Comm’s pneumatic mast is fully extended as can be seen in this picture.



Perry W8AU demonstrates the E-Comm’s finer points to visitors on Goodyear Safety Day.



Above , Jim WA8GXM assumes duties as NCS during the Canoe Race. Bottom left is the MARC E-Comm trailer with the “K8RIC mobile” parked in front. Bottom right is Rodger KA8FTS relaying “traffic” back to NCS at the Canoe Race.



# July 2006

## W8NP Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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Massillon Radio Net - 3650 @ 1930		Independence Day		Massillon Radio Net - 3650 @ 1930	BD KB8AKD Massillon ARC Meeting, Massillon Senior Center, 8:00pm	Summit Co. Red Cross, 1400, Ctc: Bruce Ferry, 330-929-2766, Akron - American Red Cross																																																																																				
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Massillon Radio Net - 3650 @ 1930  North Hills ARC Hamfest, Pittsburgh, PA  VE Test Session, Cuyahoga ARS, 0900, Ctc: Gary, 216-642-8705, Town Hall, Independence, OH	BD N8TZB	Massillon Radio Net - 3650 @ 1930		BD WC8W Massillon Radio Net - 3650 @ 1930		NOARSFEST - Northern Ohio ARS Hamfest, Lorain Co. Fairgrounds, Ctc: Thomas, 440-930-9115																																																																																				
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30	31	<p>Upcoming Events</p> <p>Aug 5 - Ham "OH" Rama, Columbus Hamfest</p> <p>Aug 12 - Northwest Ohio ARC Hamfest, Lima, OH</p> <p>Aug 20 - Warren ARA Hamfest</p>																																																																																								
Massillon Radio Net - 3650 @ 1930  Portage Amateur Radio Club Hamfair '06, Portage Co. Fairgrounds, Randolph, OH, Ctc: Joanne, 330-274-8240, VE Test Session																																																																																										

Please contact K8INN for updates, changes, or additions.