

FEEDBACK

VOLUME 52 ISSUE 7

JULY 2007

MASSILLON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Ralph Bugg
K8HSQ

VICE PRESIDENT

Scott McCamish
N3JJT

SECRETARY

Dan Anastis
N8DZM

TREASURER

Anne Ballinger
N8GAF



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---SHORT SKIP ---

Bad news from down under. Seems the Wellington, New Zealand Amateur Radio Club's Quartz Hill station, ZL2QH may be going QRT - to make way for a power company wind farm. At present ZL2QH is a 240 acre antenna farm about 1,000 feet above sea level. For more info on this dream station check out the February 2000 issue of QST in our club library.

Bunky, I think sometimes "progress " isn't a good thing!

73 de WB80WM

JULY MEETING

The meeting for the month of July will be held at the Senior Center on July 6th 2007 at 8:00 PM.

The topic for discussion will be of course the results of Field Day. We will not have the final score ready for meeting time but it will be ready & published in the August edition of Feedback. As of this writing before Field Day, it looks like a great weekend is in store for all. The weather should cooperate; we have a new logging program and everything is coming into place. Anyway, I'm keeping my fingers crossed ! I am keeping room for some pictures and a brief description of each picture from Field Day for those of you who cannot make it to Field Day. They will be on page 7 of this issue.

Field Day is of course one of the major events of the year for Massillon members. Another major event is coming up the week of July 4th. Safety Break is now the top fund raiser for the Club. It will still be an ongoing event during the next meeting on July 6th. Without these funds our club cannot exist.

SAFETY BREAK 2007

The club will hold the second (and last) Safety Break this year during the Fourth of July week at the Southbound, Dover Rest Area of I 77 starting on July 2nd and ending on July the 8th.

This will be no easy task as you can imagine. Ralph K8HSQ has been really busy making phone calls and e-mail trying to line up enough help for this event. The complete schedule is printed on page 5 of this issue of Feedback. Most club members are pulling two or three shifts to help out.

If you have never volunteered for Safety Break, and would like to help. PLEASE call Ralph at 330/833-9481. Other members who find a little extra time please don't hesitate to call Ralph and volunteer your time. This is your club; help support it !



MARC MINUTES

June 1st, 2007

The Massillon Amateur Radio Club meeting was held at the Massillon Senior Center with 29 members and guests present. MARC President Ralph K8SHQ opened the meeting at 8:00 P.M. All officers were present and accounted for. The Pledge of Allegiance was given and a round of introductions was made.

The May minutes were accepted as stated in the FEEDBACK with no changes or additions.

Vice President Scott N3JJT gave the correspondence report.

Committees

Repeater – The power is very low on our UHF repeater.

Grant – Our grant request to the Massillon Community Civic Trust was granted for \$450 dollars to purchase an Yaesu rotor and a printer for the ECOMM Trailer.

Old Business

We need more volunteers to be Net Control for the West Stark Information Net.

Jim will put the Antenna and rotor back up at the Club after school's out. Soon.

New Business

Mike KD8ENV has donated a computer for use with the Winlink system at the repeater site.

Lots of help is needed for our very big Safety Break July 2 – July 8.

Next Fox hunt will be during Field Day around dinner time. Remember a covered dish for dinner. We will also have grilled hamburgers, hotdogs, etc.

Massillon is one of just four areas in the country to offer ARRL's Code Proficiency Program field testing headed by our own Gary WC8W. The first code proficiency test will be June 16th.

We have nine volunteers to help with the bike race in Akron on June 10th.

There was a bus accident involving the bus bus from Akron to Dayton Hamvention which included some of our own members on board.

The Kenwood 940 radio was discussed with no resolution.

We talked about the Hamshack and Byron was named the new Hamshack Czar to oversee the general operations of our Hamshack at the Senior Center.

The log program for Field Day was purchased and was demonstrated by Ralph with two laptops networked together.

50/50 was won by Charlie for \$16. He also donated it back to the club. Thank You Charlie.

Minutes by Dan N8DZM

... MARC Hams At Tour de Cure ...

Several Members of the MARC provided mutual aid communications assistance to the Summit County ARES by participating in the 2007 Tour de Cure Ride. Tour de Cure is a series of cycling events held in more than 80 cities nationwide to benefit the American Diabetes Association. The Summit Co event encompassed several individual rides ranging from a 25 K easy ride all the way to a 100 K (60 miles!) difficult ride.

Nearly 50 amateur radio operators took part in this major communications event with 10 operators participating from the MARC. Radio operators provided both logistical and medical support communications, shadowing race officials, riding with Medical Transport Units and many were positioned along the various routes to monitor rider movement. Tactical call signs were used due to the numerous positions covered throughout the route. Communications took place on the Summit Co UHF Repeater System with some areas covered using the Cuyahoga Falls ARC 147.27 Repeater. Some communications problems were noted due to the rolling terrain along the race routes. As with all events, some radio communications procedures need a little fine tuning, that is why we participate in these events to continue to sharpen our skills.

Summit Co Communications Coordinator Bruce Brown - KC8RKS reported some bicycle breakdowns and one minor medical incident occurred during the various rides all handled by amateur radio service volunteers.

Bruce wishes to thank all the volunteers for this years Tour de Cure Ride. Our local Communications Coordinator Wade Huthmacher - WD8MIU also send along his thanks for the Stark County ARES volunteers. They included: Carl Cunert - AB8CC, Mike Palmer - KD8ENV, Rex Simmon - KD8ELX, Dan Anastis - N8DZM, Igor Nikishin - K8INN, Richard Ross - KA8ZQH, Rodger Trompower - KA8FTS, Ralph Bugg - K8HSQ and Terry Russ - N8ATZ.

.. Hall of Fame Time ..

July puts Hall of Fame plans into full swing. While monthly planning meetings have been going on since January, we are now beginning to sign up volunteers to staff the many positions associated in the parade. I hope last years volunteers will once again help with the parades but we can still use additional volunteers. Changes that were made last year are still being fine tuned to help with parade route issues.

This year's event will continue to grow and expand on the changes introduced last year and amateur radio has again been asked to take a more active role in assisting with this effort thanks to our long time parade experience.

Initial volunteer announcements have already gone out to last years participants but we can still use additional help along the route. All it takes is a handheld radio and a desire

to help your community using our unique communications skills.

The Community Parade is Sunday, July 29th at 2:30 PM. The Timken Grand Parade is the following Saturday, August 4th. The Appreciation Party is on Friday, July 20th from 5:30 – 10:00 PM. Tickets are still available to attend.

The Hall of Fame Festival is the single largest public service event handled by Stark County Amateur Radio operators, please consider volunteering for this important community service event.

.. MARC in Memorial Day Parade ..

The MARC participated in the annual Massillon Memorial Day parade using our Emergency Communications Trailer decorated to suit the holiday with flags representing the Armed Forces along the front. Several of our honored club Military Service veterans rode in the back as Ralph Bugg K8HSQ pulled the trailer.

A special thanks to club members Perry Ballinger - W8AU representing the US Navy, his son Bob Ballinger - N8KXO representing the Marine Corps, Perry's grandson Brent Shriver - KC8EBE currently an active member of the USMC and Jim Farris - WA8GXM representing the Air Force Reserve.

**73's for now, Catch you later..
De Terry – N8ATZ**



MARC E-Comm trailer in the Memorial Day Parade. Ralph K8HSQ is at the wheel. In the back of the truck is (L-R) Bob Ballinger N8KXO; Perry W8AU ; Brent Shriver KC8EBE. Jim WA8GXM is also riding in the truck but is hidden from view; either that or Ralph hit one too many bumps !

(photo courtesy of Don W8DEF)

An Editorial

As most of you know, we have put a lot of money into new equipment for the E-Comm trailer. It has been necessary to maintain the excellence of communications for the club. And of course the community. Well there is another area in which we need to maintain and that is the club shack on the third floor of the Senior Center. It is in dire need of an upgrade or an extreme make-over if you will. In its present state, it's an embarrassment to the club! All of the radio's even when there are all there are old and difficult to operate (for someone who doesn't know the "quirks" of this type of equipment). I know I will get an argument on this statement, but the truth is the equipment well over twenty years old. In fact it was mentioned in the November 1986 issue of Feedback as being purchased at an earlier date (one was purchased I believe, a few years before 1986, the other was purchased at a later date).

The E-Com trailer is accessible only during special events however the club station is open every day and accessible 24/7 (with trustees keys). Should an event happen where we need the station, at present we could only provide 2 meters communications.

Did I open a can of worms? You bet I did. The station needs put back into an operational state and some new equipment would be a real Blessing! At present we can only provide five bands on HF. The Ten Tec Radios are great for Field Day but are not very useful otherwise. There is no split frequency operation, no FM or none of the other features newer rigs possess. Are the newer rigs expensive? I cannot believe the prices on some of the radios. I mean \$ 13,000.00 for a radio??? UNBELIEVABLE! But there are some more in line of what we could afford. The new Ten Tec Omni-VII, a great looking and FULL featured radio, with everything retails for around \$ 2850.00 and I'll bet the club could get a substantial discount. I am looking at longevity and performance; the experience we have had With Ten Tec is without question great. Those Argosy's have taken a beating and are still ticking in the past 20 or so years! There are of course cheaper radio's out there. All the manufacturers; Yaesu, Icom, Kenwood and Ten Tec offer smaller, multi - featured radios with mobile capabilities. Is this what we want? Many decisions are to be made by the club members in the near future.

We will have the Club station up and running very soon with the equipment we now have. This station is there for ALL members of Massillon Amateur Radio Club. The station is intended to be used by members who may not have a station at home and want to use it for fun, contesting, or to use it for emergency communications, provided all the FCC rules; and club rules, are followed precisely.

More food for thought.

73's de WC8W Editor MARC Feedback

IS IT A NO.....OR IS IT A GO ???????



THE WORLD AWAITS IT'S MELODIOUS TONE



Well the big Fox Hunt during Field Day went really great. There were many who participated and found the Foxes. There were two of them hiding. A few of the hunters were trying it for the first time with some help from some of the more experienced hunters. Looked like everyone had a good time hunting with prizes (leftover Dayton freebies) for all who found them.

The next hunt will be Saturday July 12th at 9:00 AM. I will be looking for a volunteer at the meeting to hide the Fox transmitter. As usual the the hunt will be within Massillon's city limits using 145.62 MHz. Any method may be used to find the transmitter. You may work in teams or by yourself. It really doesn't matter as long you have fun hunting.

The Fox hunts are always open to anyone who wants to participate.

Dan N8DZM

SAFETY BREAK SCHEDULE

(ED NOTE: Since Ralph K8HSQ put the schedule on the internet for ease of all to look at it, Pagemaker which is the program I use for the newsletter, doesn't like the file I had to place the information in the newsletter by rewriting it. Therefore it will look quite different from what the internet version looks like.)

Monday 07/02/07

10 AM - Noon Don W8DEF
Ed WA8DRT

Noon - 6 PM Jim WA8GXM
Rex KD8ELX

6 PM - Midnight Scott KC8ZCT
Sarah KC8ZCS

07/03/07 -Tuesday
Midnight -6 AM Mike KD8ENV
Ralph K8HSQ

6 AM - Noon Wade WD8MIU
Steve WD8MIJ

Noon - 6 PM Gary WC8W
Larry KC8RKU

6 PM - Midnight Rodger KA8FTS
Mike KD8FTO

07/04/07 -Wednesday
Midnight - 6 AM Ralph K8HSQ
Mary WD8CRL

6 AM - Noon Terry N8ATZ
Lynnette

Noon - 6 PM Mike KD8ENV
Rex KD8ELX

6 PM - Midnight Perry W8AU
Steve WD8MIJ

07/05/07 -Thursday
Midnight - 6 AM Ralph K8HSQ
Mary WD8CRL

6 AM - Noon Steve KD8ACF
Lenord KC8RPB

Noon - 6 PM Don KC8RPE
Dan N8DZM

6 Pm - Midnight Jim WA8GXM
Anne N8GAF

07/06/07 Friday
Midnight - 6 AM Matt K8MAT
Rodger KA8FTS

6 AM - Noon Wade WD8MIU
Steve WD8MIJ

Noon - 6 PM Gary WC8W
Larry KC8RKU

6 PM - Midnight Rick K8RIC
Jules KA8MMN

07/07/07 Saturday
Midnight - 6 AM Don KC8RPE
Jason KC8LIN

6 AM - Noon Steve KD8ACF
Bob N8KXO

Noon - 6 PM Terry N8ATZ
Lynnette

6 PM - Midnight Charlie KB8STV
Dave W8KAT

07/08/07 Sunday
Midnight - 6 AM Igor K8INN
Stephanie

6 AM - Noon Steve KD8ACF
Stan WA8NZE

Noon - 6 PM Rodger KA8FTS
Mike KD8FTO

6 PM - Midnight Don W8DEF
Perry W8AU

This is the complete list. If for any reason you cannot make your assigned shift or you are going to be late, PLEASE call Ralph at 330/833-9481 as soon as possible so he can appoint someone to fill your shift. Please allow plenty of travel time. From Massillon to the rest area takes about 20 - 30 minutes. Best route (from Massillon) is 21 south to I 77 south. Try to be at the site about 15 minutes early to receive any instructions. When finishing up a shift, please let your replacements know (via 2 meters) if any supplies are running low, such as ice, pop, etc; they may be able to replace them on the way down.

This is the longest Safety Break we have ever attempted. THANKS TO ALL OF YOU who volunteered your time.

THE ART OF QSLing

Many of you who are new to amateur radio and as such don't have a clue as to how to send and receive QSL's. Well there is a world of information out there both good and bad. So I am here to try and help you make some wise choices.

When first licensed you are "itching" to get that first QSL card in the mail but how, where, do you start?? Well first you have to start with your own QSI card. What design do you want, how much money do you want to spend? That seems to go hand in hand. You can spend a lot on cards or just a little if you want, they both seem to work as well. Most newcomers go for the really nice full color, glossy front cards. But before you pluck down your hard earned cash ask yourself, what am I going to do, am I going for every award out there, am I going to be a "serious" or a "casual" DXer or maybe a contester or even a "ragchewer". Most ragchewers don't QSL very much if at all. Casual DXer's also don't QSL as much. So if this is what you plan on doing then you won't have to spend a lot of money on cards. Pick out a modest card with your call and some other important information on the front, like your grid square, e-mail address etc. This can be the glossy card and it won't cost a vast fortune. Where you get into the "big" money cards is full color pictures of yourself in front of the station or a color picture of your city, etc.. Order about 250 cards and that should last you quite a while.

If you are planning to be a contester, or a serious DXer, then you will need 500 or more QSL cards on hand. The glossy cards will now cost a whole lot more. Consider a cheaper printed card. Pick out a card that has all of the information on the front. Your call (in big letters) name, address, the full QSO exchange, maybe a logo or two, etc.. Look at the picture below and you will see what I mean.



The image is a scanned image so some of the clarity leaves a lot to be desired but you should get the idea. I ordered about 1,000 cards printed and I have gone through about half of them in the last two years. Why order a card like this you ask ? Well think of it this way. If you do one contest, you could make upwards to a 1000 contacts or more in a single weekend ! Even if you only send out a third of them that figures out about 300 or more cards ! If you send out that many just the physical writing the cards can be a painful experience. If you have to flip each and every card over just

to write the exchange on them 300 plus times --- well you get the picture. Also think of the guy receiving the cards. He may very well be receiving thousands of cards every month and he really doesn't care if you send him one of "those pretty color" cards or the really cheap ones. He is only interested in the information you supply. He has to look up the contact, confirm the time, date, and of course your callsign. Then he has to write out the return QSL card. You can almost bet he will use some kind of computer label and just stick it on the card.

Now comes the really important information. If you want to send out these cards, what is the best method? If you were to send each card direct, you surly would have to be independently wealthy. A 1/2 ounce card, return envelope and some return postage (money or a IRC (International Reply Coupon) will cost 90 cents for the Air Mail postage, and the return postage can cost you up to \$ 2.00 for each card ! Depending on where the card goes, some DX requires \$ 2.00, or 2 IRC's(at 95 cents each) for a return card. There is a solution to this dilemma however. Just remember this magic word ----- Bureau. Yes QSL Bureau's can save you a bundle of cash. The ARRL QSL outgoing Bureau charges by the pound of cards. Private QSL handlers charge by the number of cards you send out. I personally use the latter as the private QSL managers send out the cards more frequently therefore you will get the cards back sooner. But don't be in a big hurry as both methods can be ungodly slow. Sometimes it can take years to receive cards back. The ARRL Bureau waits until they get a certain number of cards and then they send them out. This can take many months.

Incoming Bureau's are handled a bit different. Each card is sent to an area bureau. In this area it's the 8th area and they only handle cards with the letter 8 on them. Then they are further sorted by the first letter in your callsign suffix. In my case it's a W. The QSL manager who handles the W cards holds them until he has a certain number (postage weight) and then sends them on to you. Now you MUST have return envelopes on file with the Bureau and they MUST have return postage on them. Usually, at least two units of postage (stamps) are required on the return envelope. Of course the size of the envelope is required. They want a 5 x 7 1/2 " number 35 envelope. The manager will not of course foot the bill for the postage. If you do not have envelopes on file then the cards will end up ---- you guessed it in the round circular file.

Is there an easier way to all this madness? Yes it's called a computer. The ARRL now is accepting electronic versions of QSL's. They host a version called LOTW or Log-book Of The World. I can't really get into explaining this "new fangled" method as it would take much more space that I have and to be honest, I really don't know too much about it as I have not as yet signed up for it. I will sign up for it in the near future as the cost of QSLing is ever climbing. I hope I have shed a little light on this subject. The art of QSLing is as technical as learning propagation. It's a science in it's own.

73's de Gary WC8W

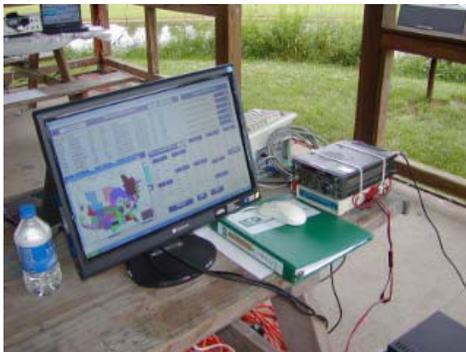
MARC FIELD DAY PICTURE PAGE



Sarah KC8ZCS helps Byron KF8UN with the RTTY station.



The "crew" helps erect the VHF/UHF antennas.



The new computer logging program. It seems to have worked out well. Live networking helps visitors view the "action".



Jason KC8LIN makes contacts on the phone station with the help of Bob N8DVS, on logging



Igor K8INN makes contacts on the CW station. What a Herculean effort he (and others) make every year on the CW station !



Michelle KC8ZEJ, getting ready to "hide the fox" with help of hubby Bob N8DVS. Another popular activity during Field Day !

(Thanks for the great pictures top; left KC8LIN; top right; Rick , K8RIC; center left K8RIC center right WC8W ; bottom left WC8W; bottom right; KC8LIN.)

2007 ARRL

Great Lakes Division Convention in conjunction with the 2007 Cleveland Hamfest

Date: Saturday, September 22, 2007 opening ceremonies at 11:30am

Location: Sheraton Independence Hotel, 5300 Rockside Rd, Independence, OH 44131

*We are very proud to announce our featured Banquet Speaker
will be Joel Harrison W5ZN, President ARRL*

Jim K8JE, ARRL Great Lakes Division Director will host the
Great Lakes Division Awards Ceremony

Top vote getting Seminars you ask for:

- Bob Heil K9EID and Chip Margelli K7JA, Heil Sound Workshop
- Speaker to be announced on Emergency Communications
- Bob Frey WA6EZV & Dick Arnett WB4SUV all about ARDF
- Tim Duffy K3LR "The K3LR Multi Multi Station"
- Jim Sanford WB4GCS Eagle Project Manager from AMSAT
- All about DX from beginners to Honor Roll Hams, seminars hosted by Tedd KB8NW, John K8YSE, Bernie W3UR, Don K8MFO, Bob K4UEE on VU7RD DXpedition plus a question & answer panel
- Wouff Hong ceremony after the banquet
- Hospitality room courtesy of CARS, LEARA & NODXA
- Card checking - DXCC , WAS, VUCC Low Bands & VHF Fri. 7 to 11pm & Sat. 1 to 3pm
- Please visit our sponsor tables Saturday 9:00am to 6:00pm



Joel Harrison W5ZN



Seminars only	\$25.00 advance - \$30.00 at the door
Banquet only	\$37.00 advance sales only
Full ticket	\$50.00 save \$12.00 advance sales only
Full ticket with a room	\$45.00 save \$17.00 advance sales only

Order your tickets on line now using a credit card or send a check!
Option: Reserved tables for 8 people may be requested with your payment

All Hams and those interested in becoming Hams are welcome.

Please attend the Convention to see what the ARRL has to offer.

Join the ARRL if you like what you see and hear!

Questions, ticket orders and latest news call 216-524-7711 - 216-524-1750 or goto:

www.2007gldc.org

July 2007

W8NP Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
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Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 @ 1930		Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 @ 1930 Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM	Independence Day	Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 @ 1930	Massillon ARC Meeting, Massillon Senior Center, 8:00pm	BD KB8AKD																																																	
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29	30	31	<p>Upcoming Events: 8/4 - Football Hall of Fame Parade 8/4 - Columbus Hamfest 8/19 - Warren ARA Hamfest</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">Aug 2007</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">S</th> <th style="text-align: center;">M</th> <th style="text-align: center;">T</th> <th style="text-align: center;">W</th> <th style="text-align: center;">T</th> <th style="text-align: center;">F</th> <th style="text-align: center;">S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <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> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <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> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> <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> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">19</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20</td> <td style="text-align: center;">21</td> <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> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">26</td> <td style="text-align: center;">27</td> <td style="text-align: center;">28</td> <td style="text-align: center;">29</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30</td> <td style="text-align: center;">31</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Aug 2007							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	29	30	31	
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<p style="text-align: center; color: #800000; font-weight: bold;">29</p> <p>Hall of Fame Community Parade, 1430</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 @ 1930</p> <p>Portage Amateur Radio Club Hamfair, Portage Co. Fairgrounds, Randolph, OH, Ctc: Joanne, 330-274-8240, VE Test Session</p>		<p style="text-align: center; color: #800000; font-weight: bold;">31</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 @ 1930</p> <p>Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM</p>																																																					

Please contact K8INN for updates, changes, or additions.