

# FEEDBACK

VOLUME 52 ISSUE 6

JUNE 2007

## MASSILLON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Ralph Bugg  
K8HSQ

### VICE PRESIDENT

Scott McCamish  
N3JJT

### SECRETARY

Dan Anastas  
N8DZM

### TREASURER

Anne Ballinger  
N8GAF



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## --- SHORT SKIP ---

Many of us oldtimers got our start in amateur radio with shortwave listening. We were called " SWLers. " With our bands in the blahs, I've been SWLing. International shortwave broadcast are interesting and informative. A great source of times and frequencies is <http://primetimeshortwave.com/time.txt>.

Give it and your main tuning knob a whirl. You'll find it informative and great fun !

73 de WB80WM

## JUNE MEETING

The meeting for the month of June will be held at the Massillon Senior Center in downtown Massillon on June 1st at 8:00 PM.

Well it's here ! Field Day is June 23, and 24th. It will of course be held again at Petros park in Perry Township. For those of you who are new to the club and have never been to Field Day, the park is located just west of the Timken Faircrest steel plant on Perry Drive. The park is really easy to find. From Massillon; East on Lincoln way to Perry Drive. From Canton; west on Tuscarawas street (Lincoln Way into Perry Twp) to Perry Drive . Both directions go SOUTH on Perry Drive to Navarre Road. Continue south to the park which is on the right, come into the entrance and continue going "left" until you see the pavilion , ya can't miss all those antennas in the air!

We promise a great time will be had by all; either operating phone, CW, or just "observing." Dan, N8DZM says we will again have a fox hunt at Field Day. Something for everyone! Don't miss it !!!

## TOUR DE "CRUNCH"



A tour bus sponsored by the Pioneer ARC to the Dayton Hamvention had an accident on the way to the hamfest. Many on board were both Canton and Massillon ARC members. They were about 1/2 hour away from the Hare Arena when a stalled car in front started a chain reaction with the bus taking both front and rear damage from semi trucks. The bus driver was the only injury from the accident. He suffered both a broken leg and perhaps either a dislocated hip or it may in fact be broken. Emergency crews had to extract him from the damaged bus. All other 26 hams on board were OK. (Continued on page 7)

## MARC MINUTES

### May 4th, 2007

The Massillon Amateur Radio Club meeting was held at the Massillon Senior Center with 21 members and guests present. MARC President Ralph K8SHQ opened the meeting at 8:00 P.M. This time our Treasurer Ann N8GAF was missing. The Pledge of Allegiance was given and a round of introductions was made.

The April minutes were accepted as stated in the FEEDBACK with no changes or additions. Byron KF8UN made the motion and Helen KC8ZWG seconded it.

Vice President Scott N3JJT gave the correspondence report. He had the usual newsletters from other Amateur Radio Clubs. The TUSCO club is sponsoring a Van trip to Dayton this year.

### Committees

**Classes** – There was six people that took the classes. Hope they do good on the VE test Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Grant** – Another Grant was submitted to the Massillon Community Civic Trust. We should have the results in mid May.

### 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.

### New Business

Help is needed for the Memorial day parade with parading the ECOMM trailer.

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

Fox Hunt Saturday May12th at 3:00 pm.

Igor K8INN made a motion to purchase the N3FJP Field Day logging program at only \$10. Seconded by Rich KA8ZQH and passed.

Both MS walks in Hartville and Massillon went well. Thanks to everyone that helped in thses.

Mike KD8ENV said he would take over the grilling at Field Day. Remember to bring a covered dish for Saturday evening dinner at 6:00 pm.

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.

50/50 was won by Larry KC8RKU for \$16.

**Minutes by Dan N8DZM**

## Volunteers Needed for Tour de Cure

The Summit County ARES is currently asking for volunteers to provide communications support for the Diabetes Tour de Cure 2007 Ride held on Sunday, June 10th. The Annual American Diabetes Association Tour de Cure bike ride starts and ends at Blossom Music Center on Steels Corners Road in Cuyahoga Falls. Approximately 45 volunteers are needed. Assembly will be at 6:30 AM and most positions will need to be covered until about 3:00 PM. A mobile two meter radio is requested. Summit Co ARES provided several volunteers for last years Hall of Fame Parade and we would like to return the favor. This is also a great way to keep your emergency communications skills sharp. A link is provided on their website to sign up for this event. A direct link is posted on the Stark Co ARES website. Additional information is available by contact communications coordinator Bruce Brown - KC8RKS at 330-351-8156 or by email to [kc8rks@yahoo.com](mailto:kc8rks@yahoo.com).

## .. Dayton Hamvention Review ..

Did you make it to the Dayton Hamvention this year? I hope so. I saw quite a few club members there during Friday and Saturday. I can't remember a Hamvention with as nice a two day's. Moderate temperatures and no rain!. Mother Nature must have decided to give all hams a break this year, maybe it was her way of thanking us for all the community service hams provide each year across the country.

I enjoyed checking out both the main arena and the fleamarket. I was a little disappointed by the large amount of empty space on the inside as well as the large bunch of unsold fleamarket spaces. Yet another sign of the times for hamfests that may someday fade into a distant memory.

Even downsized I enjoyed looking at all of the neat new equipment (most of which I can't afford) and talking to the many who's who in amateur radio. I got the chance to meet NASA Astronaut Bill McAuthor, KC5ACR and listen to him talk about his ham radio experiences during four space missions and current ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN. I picked up a few things I wanted from some of the inside vendors and thanks to my wife Lynnette, I have two big bags worth of literature to look at this summer.

I spent a full day out in the flea market and picked up a few trinkets. I'm not even sure what one of them is, I bought it off two guys that looked a lot like the Blues Brothers so how can you go wrong!. It's a cross between a micro computer and a PDA. I'll bring it to the club meeting and see what you think.

The ARRL website has set up a short Dayton Hamvention page that covers some of the neat equipment on display plus some comments from other hams who attended this year's show. Have a look and you'll see what you missed. Well there is always next year!.

## .. It's Field Day Time ..

Yes, before we know it we will all be gathering at Petros Park to once again take part in ARRL Field Day. Webster defines Field Day as a "day devoted to outdoor sports and athletic competition, a time of extraordinary pleasure or opportunity." We definitely agree.

The weekend of June 23 & 24 has been designated as this year Field Day participation exercise and we will once again hold our annual event at the great Petros Park in Perry Township starting with setup Saturday morning at about 9:00 AM.

This is intended as a full club participation event and I hope to see many of you there. We have been fortunate for the past several years to have a very successful and enjoyable event and may club members will work very hard to make sure this year is just as great. Field Day weekend is a great way to understand nearly every aspect of Amateur Radio from emergency communications to contesting. One of our main goals is to make sure everyone gets a chance to operate regardless of their experience level. Any of our members will be happy to help you with operating over the weekend. You don't have to be a first rate contest operator or high speed CW Op to participate. The main goal is to come out and enjoy our event and learn about operating.

The last several years we have made it a point to concentrate on the educational aspects of Field Day. By the time the event is over Sunday afternoon, we hope you will have learned something new about the hobby. Then we can claim we have had a truly successful event regardless of the score.

And Oh Yes, did I mention the fun? That is the most important part of Field Day, although some would say the annual Field Day Feast is the best part!. Learning setup, assembling antenna's operating, logging are all part of the experience that is Field Day. I'm sure we will throw in a few other events like our annual Field Day Fox Hunt and who knows what else.

Speaking of logging, this year we will be using a new Field Day logging program over the weekend. The old program we had been using while a very nice and easy program to use did cause us to lose some contacts during previous years operating. The program we will be using this year should help to eliminate this especially since we will be using the clubs new laptop computers. If we have some time after the June meeting we will demonstrate the new program and how to operate it. Hopefully this will make it a bit easier come Field Day weekend.

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



**WHAT IS THIS ?  
WHY IT'S A WELL HIDDEN FOX !**

We had a really nice turnout for our CQ Magazine Fox Hunt Weekend event. The Fox transmitter was hidden in a corner of Massillon Community Hospital buried in mulch. Most everyone was able to find the general area of the Fox transmitter but only about half actually found the buried transmitter. Gary WC8W was actually the first to find the transmitter.

More Fox hunting fun is scheduled for Field Day either before or after dinner. There will be multiple transmitters hidden in Petros Park. The usual frequency of 145.62 will be used. Get your Fox Hunting gear ready as there will be lots of competition. Remember since you are only receiving, anyone can participate, even non licensed soon to be hams. Just an HT or handheld scanner with a signal strength meter is all that is needed (minimum) using the body blocking technique. More is just better. The website [www.homingin.com](http://www.homingin.com) provides much information on the art of Fox hunting.



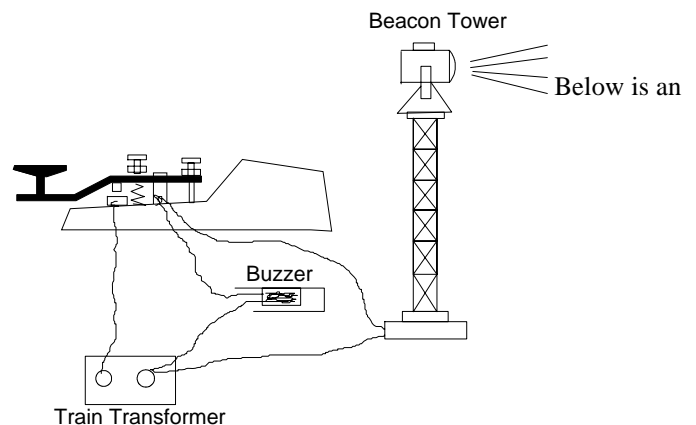
Nice turnout for the fox hunt. Participating were (L-R); Tom KC8QOD, Rodger KA8FTS, Dan N8DZM, Don W8DEF, Summer K9DOG, Linda K8MOO, Perry W8AU, Gary WC8W, and Scott N3JJT.



**One Track Mind  
OR  
Morse Code Train-ing**

Looking through some old train books, there was a reference to a Morse Code Lionel® train accessory. It consisted of an economy model CW key mounted on a (plastic?) housing with a built-in Buzzer. Also shown was a Beacon Tower accessory that could be wired in parallel to the Buzzer. When the key was pressed, the Buzzer sounded and the Beacon Tower lighted.

An estimate date of this accessory was around the 50's and early 60's.



approximate sketch of the circuit.

**73 de Mike WA8MKH**

# W2IK'S MANPACK

## FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE

**Featuring W2IK's New 2 Piece "Jiffy-Pole Antenna"**

*by Bob Hejl - W2IK all rights reserved*

This is an interesting package which incorporates all the radio equipment you'd need for an extended search and rescue mission. It's an updated version, for ham radio, of the military "man pack" which is used for field communications. The only difference is that it is very inexpensive to build. With my newly designed two-piece "Jiffy Pole" antenna you'll have extended range over any other walking whip antenna system. The battery pack, which acts as a counter weight to keep the pack in place, powers the HT radio in the pack for extended periods of comfortable operating. This is for serious search and rescue communications.

*Man Pack with "W2IK's Jiffy Pole" taken apart*



### MAKING "W2IK'S 2 PIECE JIFFY POLE"

**with the "Super Flex" whip**

The first part in building the man pack system is to construct the two piece antenna system. First, obtain a 1/8 inch X 36 inch length of brass rod from a place such as "Lowe's" or "Home Depot". This is a standard length that they sell. Take the rod and measure exactly 16 inches from one end and carefully bend it 90 degrees. Then bend it again at a point slightly LESS than 1/2 inch from the first bend. This will make the rod a "U" or hairpin shape with one side longer with the spacing between the rods LESS than 1/2 inch. The bottom of the "U" is the very bottom of the antenna. At a point about 9 inches from this bend, epoxy a non-conductive spacer between the rod lengths to hold them securely yet spaced evenly from each other. At the very top of the longer section, bend 1/4 inch of the tip back towards the other rod in a 90 degree angle. At the top of this bend, straightly solder a 1 1/2 inch 1/4x20 brass screw with the threads pointing up. The slot on the screw head should nest with the bend in the brass rod. Make sure that this is a nice, snug, clean solder joint. Use plenty of solder to do this. Now take a 4 inch piece of **thin wall** (PVC 1120/SDR-13.5 PR.315 PSI) 1/2 inch PVC tubing. Placing a snug-fitting washer on the brass screw, insert and keep it in the pvc until the end of the threads just starts to stick out the end. Epoxy the screw and rod section so it makes a nice seal with the pvc WITHOUT getting any epoxy in the threads and making sure the screw is vertical and centered in the pvc. After the epoxy has set, turn the assembly up-side-down and heavily epoxy the underside of the rod/screw. (See picture below of finished screw top)



After the epoxy has completely set, measure 1 1/2 inches from the bottom of the rod (where the “U” bend is) and solder a 4 foot length of either RG-8X or RG-58 cable with the shield soldered to the SHORTEST length of rod and the center conductor soldered to the longest run (the run with the brass screw assembly). See above pix



Above: Hairpin rod assembly with cable, spacer and top pvc/threaded screw assembly

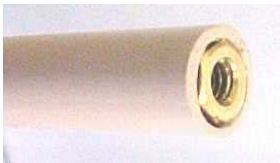
### “Super Flex” Whip Assembly

Putting the lower hairpin section aside for a while, now obtain a short telescoping fishing pole from a sporting goods store such as “Academy”. The one I purchased was a 10 ft. Fiberglass Crappie Pole by “Tomahawk” item number APP-10, 0040704 from Academy for \$ 7.99. It has no guides on it except the single one at the tip. Unscrew the bottom of the rod and remove the two top sections. These are the thinner sections that you will use to make your whip. Cut the top 3 inches from the thinnest section, as the wire you will be installing will not snake up this far.

Expoxy the hole (at the tip) that you’ve made by making this trim. Now cut off, from the bottom of the second (lower) section so that this section, when extended with the thinnest (top) section, is 38 inches. Remove the top section from the lower section by retracting it and add a thin film of epoxy to the lower, outer area of the top section and reinsert it and extend the section. After the epoxy has set, this will now hold the two sections firmly together.

Now cut a 36 inch piece of 22 ga, stranded, insulated wire and insert it into the whip assembly leaving 1/2 inch exposed at the end. At the end, strip the insulation off 1/8 inch and solder it to the rim of a brass 1/4-20 nut. snake the remaining wire completely into the whip so the nut rests flush at the edge of the fiberglass section. At the bottom of the whip, lightly sand about 2 inches so the epoxy you will be applying will adhere. Now get a 3 inch piece of 1/2 inch CPVC 4120 100psi - Tubing from the hardware store. This is much narrower than the 1/2 inch thin wall pvc tubing and will easily slip into it. Force the nut/whip assembly into this tubing until the nut is flush with one edge.

(see picture) With the rod as straight as possible, and as firmly pressing on the nut, drip quick set epoxy into the void at the top of this piece until it fills. (see picture) Fill any small voids around the nut edge as it seats with the cpvc, keeping the epoxy away from the threads. This finishes the top “Super Flex” whip.



LEFT: The whip section(cream and black) should screw deep into the lower “hairpin” pvc/screw assembly(white)



## Assembly Of The “Man Pack”

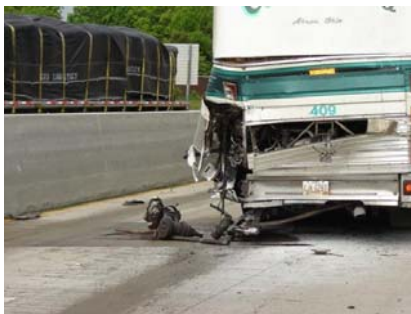
The gear I chose to create the “Man Pack” was based upon it’s shape. I purchased a “Thermo Bak 3 L” (Made by “Camel Bak” in various colors such as green # 20131) which is in reality a back-pack style water storage pack that contains a bladder for storing water while in the field. When you remove the bladder you are left with a deep pocketed pack that nicely fits a 3x6x2.5 inch, 12volt, 7ah GEL battery in the bottom. Fusing the line, I added a short power cable with a mating plug that allows me to use it with my ICOM T2H (Sport) two-meter HT. The cost of this HT about \$ 100. It has simple operating features and high power output making it ideal for this type of service. To make this HT work with an external power source, since it has no external power jack, I mounted a jack, regulator and diode in an empty AA battery case. This means that all I have to do is snap the modified battery case in place of the AA pack and plug in the power cable from the gel battery.

Since most in the field communications will take place on one frequency, whether it be to go to a repeater or simplex, I chose to have the HT stored in the pack right above the gel battery and locked on frequency. This keeps it off my belt and out of harm’s way. The lower section of the “Jiffy Pole” is secured to several rings on the pack with plastic wire ties (As seen in the picture at the top of the webpage). The coax cable slips into a pre-made hole at the base of the pack and plugs into the HT with the excess coax coiled up in the pack. I use a speaker mic which clips on a front strap. This allows me full use of both hands. The weight distribution is such that it has little stress on the body when you wear the pack for extended periods of time. I am sure that there are other backpacks that could be used, however, this pack seems made-like-a-glove for this use and it is well constructed. All you need to do is turn on the HT, screw in the “Super Flex” antenna top and you are set to go for several days of search and rescue. I have even incorporated a small “wall-wart” charger so when I’m not using the man pack I can easily charge the gel battery without removing it from the pack. There is also some small additional room in the pack for pens/pad/and even power bars. When not in use, you can unscrew the “Super Flex” whip and slide it into the pack. I am quite happy with the outcome of my creation and I hope you will be able to copy it’s design, especially my unique antenna system which is low cost yet durable.

Bob Hejl - W2IK

( Ed Note: We wish to thank Mr Bob Hejil for Reprint Permission from his web-site <http://hometown.aol.com/alonestaryank/MANPACK.html> for this very fine article )

(continued from page 1)



In the photo above, damage to the rear of the bus is clearly shown.

MARC club member Gene W8KXR stated “ We were very lucky, this accident clearly had the potential to become a real disaster. There was no spilled fuel, no fire. I cannot say enough for the professionalism of the Safety Forces that responded to the accident. We literally had to climb out of the emergency exits (windows) to exit

the bus”. The bus driver was pinned in the bus from the damage and had to be cut from the wreckage. He is currently in the hospital in good condition.

Upon learning of the accident, Dayton Hamvention committee members dispatched a RTA city bus to the scene to pick up the passengers and continue their journey to the Hamvention. This was done at no cost to the passengers. This was quite a nice jester by the Dayton Hamvention and the Pioneer ARC committee, sponsors of the bus trip couldn’t thank them enough for their generosity. The hams arrived at the hamfest around noon. A little later than they planned but still at least they made it. Everyone had a great time at the hamfest and they returned home with one heck of an adventure to tell everyone !

(Our thanks to CARC mmeber, Mike Lackney KB8MIB for the fine photos. More photos can be seen at; <http://www.starkham.com/news.php> )

## IN MEMORIAM PAUL AGNES WB8YYJ

We regret to inform you of the passing of MARC Club member Mr. Paul Agnes WB8YYJ, age 92 years. Paul was a lifetime resident of the Navarre, Ohio area. He was born on March 11, 1915 the son of the late John and Alene Agnes. Paul graduated from the Navarre High School, was a World War II Navy Veteran and was the former owner of Agnes Meats in Navarre. He was a lifetime member of the Navarre, VFW, Navarre Moose, Massillon American Legion and a MARC member for the past two years. Paul is survived by his wife of 69 years, Harriet F. (Nichols) Agnes, a daughter Betty Jane Geib, two sons Walter P. Agnes of Bolivar Ohio, and Daniel E of Navarre, five grandchildren and six great - grandchildren. He is also survived by a sister Wilda Gail of California and two brothers John H. "Shy" of Navarre and Bob Sonnhalter of Stow, Ohio.

There was a private service held by the family and burial has taken place in the East Union Lawn Cemetery in Navarre, Ohio. The family suggests contributions to the Navarre/Bethlehem Twp. Historical Society, c/o Robert Baker, 9100 Blough Ave SW, Navaarre, Ohio 44662.

Our sincere condolences to the family.

### MARC CLUB LEADS WAY IN CODE PROFICIENCY TESTS

The ARRL Morse Code Proficiency field testing is set to begin in June. This field test is being run only in the Great Lakes Division and only in four pilot - test areas. Now that demonstrating proficiency in Morse code is no longer required by the FCC, a number of amateurs and aspiring amateurs have indicated they would like to get in on the fun of Morse code. Now is their chance.

The field test will be run in the following areas. For information for dates and times, contact the persons indicated. For the Massillon Club contact Gary, WC8W at [wc8w@sssnet.com](mailto:wc8w@sssnet.com).

Lexington KY --Contact Fernie Williams -- [ke4mai@arrl.net](mailto:ke4mai@arrl.net)  
Brighton MI --- Jim Kvochick ----- [wb8azp@arrl.net](mailto:wb8azp@arrl.net)  
Akron-Canton- Massillon ----- [wc8w@arrl.net](mailto:wc8w@arrl.net)  
or ----- [wc8w@sssnet.com](mailto:wc8w@sssnet.com)  
Toledo Oh ---- Steve Walker ----- [kc8tvw@arrl.net](mailto:kc8tvw@arrl.net)

A few final tidbits of information;

There is no charge for this testing  
Successful candidates will receive a receipt to demonstrate they passed at the code speed taken.

The receipt may be submitted to HQ to obtain a nice certificate or an upgrade sticker for any certificate you already have. There is a fee for processing certificates and stickers. Code speeds will be from 5 through 40 wpm in 5 wpm increments.

Passing is based upon 1 minute of solid copy. The question and answer method will not be used.

The code proficiency runs will be managed by teams of ARRL VE's; however, these runs are in no way related to FCC examinations and do not provide FCC accreditation for code proficiency. The runs are simply for our personal pleasure to demonstrate accomplishment.

All are invited to join the fun !

# SALE

**Diamond mobile Antenna HV7A 10/6/  
2/440 \$45.00**

**Maldol HMC6S mobile Antenna 20/15/  
6/2/440 \$45.00**

## PHONE

Contact Rick, K8RIC @ 330/494-2589

**DON'T FORGET  
FIELD DAY  
JUNE 23, 24th**





# June 2007

## W8NP Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																	
<p>Upcoming Events:            July 14 - NOARSFEST, Lorain, OH            July 29 - Portage County Amateur Radio Club Hamfair, Randolph, OH</p>					<p><b>1</b>            Massillon ARC Meeting, Massillon Senior Center, 8:00pm</p>	<p><b>2</b>            VE Test Sessions, Portage County ARS, 1000, Ctc.: James 330-297-7979, Center of Hope, Ravenna            Silvercreek ARA, 0930, Ctc: Barry 330-925-1706, Rittman Public Library</p>																																																																																																	
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<p><b>3</b>            Breeze Shooters Hamfest, Ctc: Robert, 412-366-0488, Butler, PA            Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 @ 1930</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b>            Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 @ 1930            Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM            VE Test Session, Cuyahoga Falls ARC, 1900, Ctc: Bruce Ferry, 330-929-2766, Stow-Monroe Falls Public Library</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b>            Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 @ 1930</p>	<p><b>8</b>            BD KIFFA</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>																																																																																																	
<p><b>10</b>            Diabetes Tour de Cure 2007 Ride, Blossom Music Center, 0630            Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 @ 1930</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b>            Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 @ 1930            Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b>            Flag Day            Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 @ 1930</p>	<p><b>15</b>            BD WB0IQK</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>																																																																																																	
<p><b>17</b>            Father's Day            Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 @ 1930</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b>            Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 @ 1930            Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM            VE Test Session, Wayne ARC, 1930, Ctc: Elmer, 330-465-6206, Comm Center of Wayner County, Wooster</p>	<p><b>20</b>            BD N8XEO            BD WD8KPO</p>	<p><b>21</b>            BD W8DEF            Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 @ 1930            Summer begins</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b>            BD KD8JN            -----            -----            -----            -----            -----  <b>FIELD DAY!</b>  <b>Petros Park</b></p>																																																																																																	
<p><b>24</b>            BD WD8MIJ            -----            -----            -----  <b>FIELD DAY!</b>  <b>Petros Park</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b>            Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 @ 1930            Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b>            Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 @ 1930</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>																																																																																																	