



# FEEDBACK

**VOLUME 55 ISSUE 6**

**JUNE 2010**

**MASSILLON AMATEUR  
RADIO CLUB OFFICERS**

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**MRN NET Tue, Thur, & Sun  
8:30 PM 3.60 MHz**

**CLUB REPEATERS  
147.18 & 442.850 MHz**

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



If you missed last month's meeting you missed my television debut (waiting in line for refreshments ) Seriously folks, Don, Terry and Jim had a great program on ATV. Speaking of debuts, included in this month's column is a " sneak peak" photo of Kenwood's newest HF transceiver. And remember, you saw it here first !

**73 de WB80WM**

### JUNE MEETING

The meeting for the month of June will be held at the Massillon Senior Center on June 4th, 2010 at 8:00 PM.

Well here it is June and another Field Day is in store for all MARC members at Petros Park, Located in Perry township ! Do you realize that we have been there since June, 1994 ? Thats 16 years ! Jim WA8GXM was President back then with Ken Kroninger, N8PIM

as Jim's Vice President. I took over the editor's job in October 1993! A little nostalgia there ! We have had some memorable Field Days there and look forward to another great Field Day, June 26 & 27th 2010 !! Directions to Petros Park on page 2 for our newest members !



### JUNE PROGRAM

Our Vice President has been really busy filling the time slots for our programs each month. This month he has scheduled Mr. Dennis Conklin, AI8P: PE, Senior Development Engineer, Goodyear Co. He will present the KP2D Contest Station.

KP2D is the contest station of the Virgin Islands ARC on the island of St Thomas. I am a member of the VIARC and their contest team. We are a specialty RTTY contest team. The station has a long and storied history of winning RTTY contests. After several of the major players moved away from St Thomas, the station went off the air. After a chance encounter with Tom Price, KP2E, I was invited to join the team and get the station back on the air. Starting in January of 2009, I joined the team, and we got the station running again, although with considerable difficulty.

(continued on page 2 )

# MARC MINUTES

## May 7, 2010

The Massillon Amateur Radio Club monthly meeting was held at the Massillon Senior Center Friday May 7th, 2010 with 27 members and guests in attendance.

Perry W8AU made the motion to suspend the reading of the minutes and accept them as printed in the Feedback. Seconded by Byron KF8UN. Motion passed

Gary WC8W gave the treasurer's report.

Wade WD8MIU gave the V.P. report on various newsletters, Tour de Cure, and upcoming hamfests.

### Committees:

North Bass Island – They will be heading up to North Bass Island May 22<sup>nd</sup> to check it out. There will be a 10 person limit the mini expedition.

Steering – Need one more person to sit on the committee.

### Old Business - None

### New Business:

Andrew WB8WFO made a motion to let the steering committee dispose of old junk that the club has been accumulating. Joe WB8BGW seconded. Motion passed.

Byron made a motion to make North Bass Island Expedition an official club activity. Terry N8ATZ seconded. Motion passed

Tour de Cure will be June 13<sup>th</sup>, volunteers are needed. Total 50 – 55 hams.

Not enough interest in helping with the Akron U concession opportunity in June.

50/50 was won by Russ N8PIL for \$12.50

### Minutes by Dan N8DZM

We did win DX Multioperator Low Power class of ARRL RTTY Roundup in Jan of 2009. My talk is an account of the process of restoring a contest station that was no longer functioning to operating status. This culminated this past January, 2010, when we re-established full 2 radio multi-single capability (and likely won the RTTY Roundup again).

#### BIOS

Ham since 2005; AEC Summit County ARES; Vice-President, Goodyear ARC; Education Coordinator, Cuyahoga Falls ARC - I teach Tech and General classes for them ; Secretary, Silvercreek ARA Member; Virgin Islands ARC, also member of KP2D contest team (RTTY contest team)

### DIRECTIONS TO FIELD DAY

FROM MASSILLON; State Route # 21 south to Navarre Road SW. Turn left onto Navarre Rd, follow to Perry Drive SW. Right turn onto Perry Drive to the Park (about 1/4 mile).

FROM CANTON; US # 77 south to Faircrest Ave Exit. Right turn onto Faircrest (about 3 miles), look for Timken Faircrest Steel mill. Just past the mill is Perry Drive right turn onto Perry Drive to the Park. To All: Entrance to the park is on the North side of the pond. Monitor 147.18 MHz.

## ... DAYTON HAMVENTION RECAP ...

A funny thing happened at the Dayton Hamvention this year, three full days of nearly perfect weather ! The great ham radio gods were sure good to us this year.

I usually spend two days at Hamvention hoping for at least one nice day to enjoy the outside flea market. Two great days were certainly appreciated and I took full advantage of my time enjoying both the inside exhibits and the flea market as well as a few forums.

Also this year I decided to take my new digital camera to capture a few Kodak moments and also fellow club members I ran into during the weekend. I also had the chance to meet several ARRL staffers including President Kay Craigie – N3KN, Chief Executive Officer Dave Sumner – K1ZZ, Public Service Specialist Steve Ewald – WV1X and the League's new Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Mike Corey – W5MPC.

They were all eager to share their views on our great hobby and equally eager to here from ARRL members on how they thought the League was doing. In all, I enjoyed talking with them.

I also attended the ARES Forum moderated by Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator Jack Sovik – KB8WPZ. Among the speakers during the forum were Mike Corey – W5MPC and ARRL Media & Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts – W1AGP. I took a few notes during the forum and as soon as I them together I'll post them on the club's website. I also hope to post the pictures on both the clubs Facebook Page as the website as well.

The rumor was that Dayton was better attended this year than last year although this always seems to be the case when the League holds their annual convention during Hamvention. None the less I saw lots of vendors and a pretty full flea market. I came back home with a few "goodies" and lots of great memories from another great Dayton Hamvention. I hope you got a chance to visit, if not why not make it a date to attend next year !.

## ... TOUR DE CURE ...

The Summit County ARES is currently seeking volunteers to participate in public service communications for the annual ADA Tour de Cure Bicycle Event which will be held on Sunday, June 13th from 6:30 am till about 2:00 pm beginning at Blossom Music Center.

Volunteers are needed to staff positions along the route along with additional needs. Please contact Summit County EC Walt Heeney, N8LJM at (330) 388 - 0083 for additional information.

## ... ARES SUMMER MEETING ...

The Stark County Quarterly ARES Meeting is currently scheduled for Thursday, June 3rd from 7:00 - 8:30 PM at the Stark County EMA Office.

A meeting agenda is currently being developed but will include a recap of the State ARES Forum held at the Dayton Hamvention.

Comments or agenda topics should be directed to Assistant EC Terry Russ, N8ATZ at (330) 837-3091 or by email at [truss@sssnet.com](mailto:truss@sssnet.com).

## ... IT'S ALMOST FIELD DAY ...

As 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 26 & 27 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 many 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.

That's it for this month. See you at the meeting !

**73's**  
**Terry – N8ATZ**

# U. S. Homeland Security CERT Warns Cyber Risks from Social Networking

**NEWSEMERGENCY TOPICS:** privacy invasion, cyber threat, personal security

## **RISK RATING: High**

The popularity of social networking sites continues to increase, especially among teenagers and young adults.

**The nature of these sites introduces security risks, so you should take certain precautions.**

## **[How to protect yourself now link](#)**

Social networking sites rely on connections and communication, so they encourage you to provide a certain amount of personal information. When deciding how much information to reveal, people may not exercise the same amount of caution as they would when meeting someone in person because

- the internet provides a sense of anonymity
- the lack of physical interaction provides a false sense of security
- they tailor the information for their friends to read, forgetting that others may see it
- they want to offer insights to impress potential friends or associates

While the majority of people using these sites do not pose a threat, malicious people may be drawn to them because of the accessibility and amount of personal information that's available. The more information malicious people have about you, the easier it is for them to take advantage of you. Predators may form relationships online and then convince unsuspecting individuals to meet them in person. That could lead to a dangerous situation. The personal information can also be used to conduct a social engineering attack . **Using information that you provide about your location, hobbies, interests, and friends, a malicious person could impersonate a trusted friend or convince you that they have the authority to access other personal or financial data.**

Additionally, because of the popularity of these sites, attackers may use them to distribute malicious code. Sites that offer applications developed by third parties are particularly susceptible. Attackers may be able to create customized applications that appear to be innocent while infecting your computer without your knowledge.

## THE EMERGENCY EMAIL & WIRELESS NETWORK

<http://www.EmergencyEmail.org>

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“ARRL Members Only Web site” <[memberlist@www.arrl.org](mailto:memberlist@www.arrl.org)>

## **Subject: Ohio Senate Bill 218 Passes On Ohio Senate Floor**

**Date: Friday, May 14, 2010 9:25 AM**

Yesterday, during the May12th session of the Ohio Senate, Ohio Senate Bill 218 (aka “PRB-1 for Ohio”) passed by unanimous vote, and will move on for consideration in the Ohio House of Representatives.

This bill, which will require local municipalities to provide reasonable accommodations for Amateur Radio antennae, passed the Senate with a 32-0 vote for passage.

The next step is for the bill to be entered into the House of Representatives, combined with existing House Bill 212 in the Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee, and voted upon before being sent to the Governor for signing into law. The bill will be entered into the House within the next 2 weeks.

State Government Liaison Nick Pittner, K8NAP said this is a great day for Amateur Radio in Ohio, and good news to have right before the Dayton Hamvention!

A video archive of the Senate session is now in the Ohio Senate website. [goto www.ohiosenate.gov](http://www.ohiosenate.gov), click on “Session”, “Session Video”, and the click the flash video for May12th. Senate Bill 218 begins at the 35 minute mark. The testimony given by Senators Tim Schaffer and Tom Sawyer will make you proud to be a Ham Radio operator.

**See you at Dayton!  
73, Frank KI8GW**

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ARRL Ohio Section  
Section Manager: Frank J Piper, KI8GW  
[ki8gw@arrl.org](mailto:ki8gw@arrl.org)



## MARC CLUB NEWS THE PREZ SEZ

CQ all M.A.R.C Starting last April 24th, the first meeting of the Steering committee was held at the Senior Center. This will be your committee to attend if so desired and to present to the committee your wants and needs for future activities you would like to see the club perform. Someday in the future I see this committees responsibilities encompassing other activities within the guidelines of the Massillon Amateur Radio Club. Such as Banquets, cookouts, Field Days, maybe ham fests, Special Events and whatever is on your mind. This hopefully will reduce the burden of 1 or 2 members doing all the work.

The purpose is to reduce our general meeting time down to less then three hours by getting as much information as possible, presenting that information at the general meeting on the first Friday every month, for a vote. Discussion should be minimum reducing our time at those meetings. So please be prepared to answer our questions. Help us help you get your ideas across to the members. It is important to tell you that the committee is in it's infancy and will probably be fine tuned as time goes by. It is every members committee to use for their ideas, reducing the stress of making a presentation before a large audience, as well as outside interests to present to the club their needs Future meeting times will be announced at our regular meetings

**73's AB8CC**

## SAFETY VESTS

At last month's meeting Bruce Brown, KC8RKS introduced how to obtain certified Safety Vests for use in Public Service events such as the Tour de Cure coming up this month on June 13th. It is highly suggested that a person wear one of these vests not only for high visibility but for your own protection as you would be close to high traffic areas. However it was stated at the meeting that the vest would NOT be used in the July Hall Of Fame Parade.

The vest is a highly visible, bright florescent yellow in color and has reflective tape front & rear, you can have your name and call printed on the vest. The cost for the vest is \$20.00, Cost for the lettering is \$ 7.50; total cost for the vest and lettering is \$ 27.50 ( \$ 3.50 additional cost for Mars call & name). Of course any additional lettering will be extra. The vest has plenty of pockets that can be very useful for various events. It has two pockets on the inside top for pens, paper; two pockets on the inside bottom L & R , to hold handhelds, etc..

Bruce will handle all the orders ( an order form is now being prepared) plus he will handle all the lettering. Vest cost covers all sizes up to and including 5XX.

The vest meets all or exceeds all ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 Performance Class -- 2 Qualifications Requirements and Bruce has a copy of all those requirements.

To order please contact Bruce at e mail: [kc8rks@yahoo.com](mailto:kc8rks@yahoo.com) (best method) or by phone : 330/351-8156. Bruce also recommends that you order the vest a little larger (perhaps one or two sizes) than normal so the vest will fit over clothing during late fall or winter events such as the Christmas parade in November, as anyone who has worked the parade can attest, it gets mighty cold sometimes !!

**73's de Bruce KC8RKS**

## Ohio QSO Party

The Ohio QSO Party - the premier Ohio operating event will be held on Saturday August 28, 2010 from local noon to local midnight. Every year during the Ohio QSO Party (OhQP) Ohioans light up the airwaves and make QSOs all over the world. In this event, Ohio stations are the "DX" and are sought after. Get on and call CQ, and experience the thrill of the world calling you! Event Basics: Ohio stations send consecutive serial number + county. Suggested frequencies are: CW: 3545, 7045, 14,045, 21,045, 28,045 kHz; SSB 3825, 7200, 14,250, 21,300, and 28,450 kHz. Full details and an operating guide can be found on <http://www.ohqp.org/>. We hope to hear you on the air!

Regards,

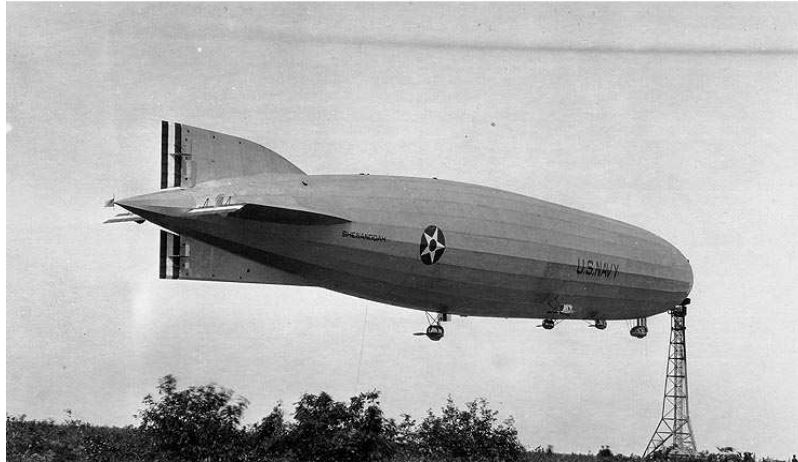
Kenny K2KW  
Ohio QSO Party PR Coordinator  
<mailto:kenny.k2kw@gmail.com>>[kenny.k2kw@gmail.com](mailto:kenny.k2kw@gmail.com)

## FLAG DAY JUNE 14th



## USS Shenandoah Airship Special Event – N8S

Photo # NH 98228 USS Shenandoah moored at NAS Lakehurst, N.J., circa 1924-1925



Plans are in the works for a special event to honor the USS Shenandoah Airship and her crew. This airship was caught in a violent storm over South Eastern Ohio on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1925. The main wreckage landed near the village of Ava, Ohio. The gondola crashed to earth just east of the main wreckage and this is known as Site 1.

The plans, so far, are to setup communications at Site 1 on August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and operate this special event for at least a 12 hour period. Travel time to the site is approximately 1 ½ hours, mainly driving down I-77 towards Caldwell, Ohio.

I have secured use of Site 1 from the property owner and the Caldwell Amateur Radio Club is looking forward to us operating this special event.

Massillon Amateur Radio Club has not officially voted to make this a club function. I wanted to present this information to club members via the feedback so if there are any questions, I might be able to answer them prior to our June meeting.

We are trying to add new events to our club and hope that everyone will try to participate and/or give us their thoughts or ideas.

For more information, please contact Tom, WD8MBE. E-mail: [wd8mbe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wd8mbe@sbcglobal.net)

## North Bass Island Expedition - N8B

### Site Survey



On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010, four members of the North Bass Island Expedition team completed a site survey trip to the island. They departed at 5AM Saturday and returned about 12 hours later.

The ferry trip from Catawba Island to Middle Bass Island took about 45 minutes. From there, Bud, a North Bass Island resident, transported us to North Bass. He took us on a tour of the island and allowed us use of his van to return to the school house and tour the island further if we so desired.

We were all shocked to learn that when the State of Ohio bought all that acreage several, about a dozen, houses were vacated. These buildings have been unoccupied and untouched since the purchase. Unfortunately, they will eventually collapse due to lack of up keep. The state will not even consider renting them out. It seems like such a waste.

Back to our site survey. The school house has a kitchen, restrooms and one big classroom. Both to the North and South, there are open fields which permit us to erect verticals on each end of the building. Also, directly behind the school is another large field which we will install a wire antenna.

The islanders have greeted us with open arms and look forward to our expedition in July.

We are still in need of donations to meet our \$500.00 budget. So far we have only received \$100.00. So if can spare a few dollars, the expedition team would greatly appreciate it. Any excess funds will go into a special expedition/special event fund. To donate, please make your check payable to M.A.R.C or Massillon Amateur Radio Club. You can either mail it to Gary, WC8W or Tom, WD8MBE, 235 Leonard Ave NW, Massillon, Ohio, 44646.



In today's excerpt - some commentators say that trains and telegraphs were the two most profound inventions of any age, since they collapsed time and distance more than any invention before or since. The telegraph also almost immediately brought with it the age of mass media:

“Samuel Finley Breese Morse was a painter, inventor, professor, unsuccessful politician, philanthropist, and entrepreneur. In 1832, as he sailed home to America from Europe, he occupied himself with the idea of a device that could communicate over great distances by sending electrical signals through wires. A bit more than a decade later, by 1844, he had a design, and he then coaxed the U.S. Congress to bankroll his invention. On Friday, May 24, of that year,

Morse gathered with assorted Washington muckety-mucks in the U.S. Supreme Court chamber to show how his contraption worked. Using his homemade code of dots and dashes, he transmitted a sentence, which was miraculously received by his colleague Alfred Vail in Baltimore, more than sixty kilometres away. A friend's young daughter, Miss Annie Ellsworth, had been given the honour of composing the historic message, and she had opted for the fashionably biblical ‘What hath God wrought?’ From the Book of Numbers, it describes God's blessing of the Israelites. In the context of Morse's invention, however, it might be taken with a whiff of irony. ... Morse's telegraph machine is rightly hailed for helping shrink the world, form enabling instant communication across entire continents, and a few decades later, for allowing messages to be transmitted around the world by transoceanic cable.

“It also revolutionized marketing. The telegraph followed on the heels of the European industrial revolution, and in North America, manufacturing had mechanized and expanded. Rural families had gravitated to cities to work in the fast-growing factories, which in turn churned out products for burgeoning urban populations. With the rise of railways through the nineteenth century, goods could be transported overland, en masse, to distant markets, resulting in more product choices in stores. And how did the telegraph fit into the picture? It allowed manufacturers to communicate instantly with newspapers in distant cities and towns,

buying advertisements to attract thousands of potential new customers.

“Barely a year after Morse dotted, dashed, and dotted his way into history, Philadelphia businessman Volney Palmer opined, quite rightly, that many manufacturers had neither the time nor the inclination to place ads in dozens - or even hundreds - of newspapers on a regular basis. Palmer offered his services as a sort of middleman, buying large amounts of space in several newspapers and then parceling and selling it to businesses, who would have to create their own messages. And so ... the advertising agency was born. ...

“Inspired by Palmer's success, like-minded advertising agencies sprouted up like daisies, buying and selling vast amounts of advertising space in distant markets to expansion-minded manufacturers. Big business and ‘mass’ advertising had come together in a union whose rumblings would be felt throughout the nineteenth century. Outfits like Proctor & Gamble and, later, Coca-Cola were pioneers in early mass advertising and rapidly grew to become international icons. Morse's gizmo did more than shrink the world; it set in motion a new era of big-league consumerism and allowed marketing to blossom into a full-blown industry.”

Author: Terry O'Reilly and Mike Tennant

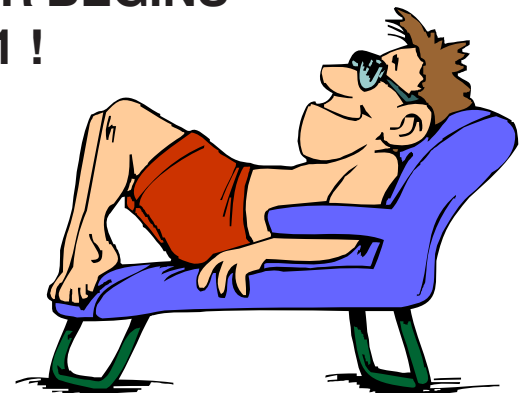
Title: *The Age of Persuasion*

Publisher: Knopf Canada

Date: Copyright 2009 by Terry O'Reilly and Mike Tennant.

(submitted by Igor K8INN)

## SUMMER BEGINS JUNE 21 !





# June 2010

## W8NP Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																								
<p>Upcoming Events:            July 17 - NOARSFEST, Lorain, OH             July 25 - Portage County Amateur Radio Club Hamfair, Randolph, OH</p>		<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930</p> <p>Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>VE Test Session, Cuyahoga Falls ARC, 1900, Ctc: Bruce Ferry, 330-929-2766, Stow-Monroe Falls Public Library</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Massillon Amateur Radio Club Meeting. Senior Center, Massillon, 2000</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>VE Test Sessions, Portage County ARS, 1000, Ctc.: James 330-297-7979, Center of Hope, Ravenna</p> <p>Silvercreek ARA, 0930, Ctc: Barry 330-925-1706, Rittman Public Library</p>																																																																																																								
<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Breeze Shooters Hamfest, Ctc: Robert, 412-366-0488, Butler, PA</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>BD K1FFA</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930</p> <p>Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p>																																																																																																								
<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Diabetes Tour de Cure 2009 Ride, Blossom Music Center</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Flag Day</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>BD WB0IQK</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930</p> <p>Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>																																																																																																								
<p><b>20</b></p> <p>BD N8XEO BD WD8KPO</p> <p>Father's Day</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>BD W8DEF</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930</p> <p>Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>BD KD8JN</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>BD WD8MIJ</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>FIELD DAY!</b> <b>Petros Park</b></p>																																																																																																								
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## Tech Test Gets a Little More Technical

By **Dan Romanchik, KB6NU**

Ever since the FCC dropped the code requirement and the Novice license exam, the Technician Class license has really been misnamed. Being the first license that most hams obtain, it really should have been called the Novice license. The question pool was arguably at the appropriate level for newcomers to amateur radio, being heavy on rules and operating practices, and perhaps a little light on technical topics.

That's about to change. On July 1, 2010, the question pool for the Tech test changes, and this version has noticeably more technical questions than the previous test. You could say that the Tech test is getting, errrr, a little more technical.

For example, the new question pool contains more questions about electronics components and their functions. In addition to that, examinees must also be able to identify the symbols for these components on a schematic diagram. This is a big change from the previous test, which had no diagrams at all. There are also more detailed questions about transistors and how they work.

There are also questions on how to make basic measurements with a multimeter how to troubleshoot basic problems that Technicians are likely to encounter. One question asks, "What two measurements are commonly made using a multimeter"? Answer: voltage and resistance. A follow up question asks, "What is the correct way to connect a voltmeter to a circuit"? Answer: in parallel with the circuit.

To make room for these questions, the committee dropped questions on operating practices and rules and regulations. In general, these are not big losses, but two questions that I was sorry to see go are the questions on the "basis and purpose" of amateur radio. I think these are very important for new amateurs to learn and keep in mind. (If you don't recall them, go to <http://www.arrl.org/part-97-amateur-radio> and review them.)

By the time you read this—or shortly thereafter—the new version of my No-Nonsense, Technician Class License Study Guide should be available. You can download it free of charge from my website, [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com). Look for the link in the right-hand column. It's currently in the hands of more than two dozen reviewers, who are proofreading it right now.

While it may not be in the initial release, I plan to include a section that contains links to websites that cover topics included in the study guide. That way, students can find more information on a topic, if they choose to do so. If you have any favorite websites that discuss making measurements with voltmeters or how to read schematic diagrams, I'd love to hear from you.

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When not updating his No-Nonsense amateur radio license study guides, you'll find him on 40m, 30m, 20m, and if we ever get any sunspots to stick around, 15m and 10m pounding brass. You may even hear him trying to get the hang of using the bug he bought at Dayton this year. You'll find his blog at [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com), and you can e-mail website suggestions to [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com)

## NPR: Amateur Radio is growing...

Date: Tuesday, April 06, 2010 1:32 AM

National Public Radio segment:

ON NPR...

The word amateur is often used as meaning not professional, the actual meaning is closer to unpaid. Even more interesting is the derivation of the word which originally meant "to love."

Only a few years ago, blogs listed ham radio alongside 35 mm film and VHS tape as technologies slated to disappear.

They were wrong.

Nearly 700,000 Americans have ham radio licenses — up 60 percent from 1981, a generation ago. And the number is growing. Ham radio will never have the sex appeal of the iPhone, but it does have a certain nerd appeal, says Allen Weiner, an analyst at the technology research firm Gartner.

"If it creates its own experience, that's really what's key here," he says. "If it just emulates an experience that you can get online, it's not going to grow."

Newcomers to ham radio include Helen Schlarman, 89, who has a compact, two-way radio in her home in suburban St. Louis. She looks up a friend across town by pushing the talk button, announcing the letters and numbers of his call sign (W-Ø-S-J-S), and then announcing her own (W-Ø-A-K-I).

Steve Schmitz's voice crackles through Schlarman's radio.

"Hi Helen, how you doing, W-Ø-S-J-S?" he says, ending his response with his own call letters. Many "hams," as they're known, hang postcards from global contacts on their walls, the way hunters show off deer antlers, but Schlarman's chats are mostly local. She says this hobby is perfect for an outgoing person who spends a lot of time inside.

"It's a different community," she says. "There [are] no stereotypes of age; it's just talking and sharing and enjoying."

Until recently, ham radio was declining as older operators died. Then the Federal Communications Commission phased out the Morse code test that many saw as a stumbling block to getting a license. Last year more than 30,000 new applicants signed up to become ham radio operators, according to Maria Somma, an official with the American Radio Relay League. (Some eventually learn the code later)

At a ham radio convention near St. Louis, the crowd swapping antenna parts and other equipment is mostly male, and over 50. But 15-year-old Jonathan Dunn is attending along with his father. He says Facebook and texting are fun, but making friends using a \$200 radio that doesn't come with monthly fees is more rewarding.

"With ham radio you can talk to new people, all kinds of ages, races, and it's just amazing what a little radio can do. Because no matter where you're at, if you have the right stuff and the right power you can talk to anyone," he says.

Jonathan's dad, Steve Dunn, says the polite chitchat between ham radio operators is good for teenagers. "If young people have the opportunity to communicate with a wide range of people, that instills a certain amount of confidence in their ability to carry on the lost art of small talk," he says.

Even the most die-hard hams concede that amateur radio will never be a mainstream hobby. With smart phones and other devices, people are more plugged in to the Internet than before. But people are still discovering the joy of communicating with a technology that's existed for nearly a century.

( submitted by Perry, W8AU, back in April 2010 ! )