



# FEEDBACK

VOLUME 65 ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2020

## MASSILLON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OFFICERS

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**MRN NET Sundays at 8:00 PM  
3599.50 KHZ**

**WEST STARK INFO NET  
Friday's 8:00 PM 147.180 MHz**

## CONTENTS

Secretary Report	2
Club News	3
KB6NU Comments	4
Club Website News	5
ARRL News	6
Calendar by K8INN	7
Back Page	8

## AUGUST MEETING

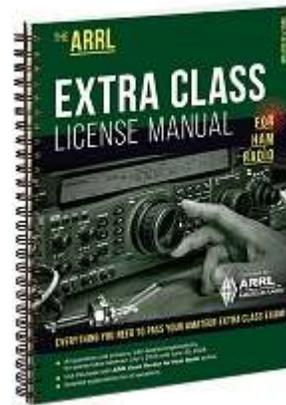
The August meeting of the MARC will be held on Friday, August 7, 2020. Due to the current health concern we don't know if we will be able to have a face to face meeting or will have a virtual meeting via the repeater.

## Extra Class Exams

The new Amateur Extra-class license examination question pool, effective from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2024, has been released and is available at the National Conference of Volunteer Coordinators (NCVEC) website.

The 2020—2024 Extra-class pool incorporates significant changes compared to the current 2016—2020 question pool, which expired on June 30. The number of questions in the pool was reduced from 712 to 622. The result was 239 modified questions, 49 new questions, and 139 questions removed due to changes in what was felt to be an abundance of outdated questions, while areas of new technology and subjects were added.

In addition, an effort was made to balance the difficulty level, removing or replacing some questions deemed too easy or too difficult compared to the



rest of the pool. The 2020 pool has 10 diagrams, which have been renumbered because the new question pool has two

fewer than the 2016 question pool.

The ARRL Extra Class License Manual for Ham Radio is your ticket to every privilege granted to amateur radio operators—all frequencies, operating modes, and power levels. It has all the questions and answers, with detailed explanations for the current Extra Class test.

The ARRL Extra Class License Manual new 12th edition spiral bound retails for \$39.95 and ARRL's Extra Q&A new 5th edition is \$19.95 are now available from the ARRL store.

## Birthday Greetings !

Jerry - KF8EB  
Doug - KD8RDY  
Paul - N8DJD  
Steve - KD8ACF  
Gary - WD8ICX  
Al - KE8EHE  
Thomas - KC8ZEH

## MARC W8NP Minutes July 3rd, 2020 Meeting held at Massillon Kiwanis Park &amp; Zoom

Several members were on Zoom 7:30 pm when the meeting.

Perry W8AU called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm at Kiwanis Park and Zoom WIFI was connected about 8 pm. Social distancing was done due to the Corona virus pandemic.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by the group with Perry leading.

The minutes from the June meeting were distributed in the newsletter, Perry W8AU asked if there were any corrections. A motion was made by Jim KA8BXM to accept as published and seconded by Paul KG7IRJ. The motion passed. as published.

Treasurer's Report: Dan [N8DZM](#) provided account balances.

Perry W8AU has made contact with the Boys and Girls Club of Massillon to have our Hamfest there about 4 months from now if permitted due to Pandemic regulations.

Perry W8AU identified Swiss Festival & parades in the area have been cancelled.

Money making options were explored.

A fundraiser at a restaurant usually require those attending to show a flyer or mention the club to the server for the club to get a percent of the bill. So the percent only comes from those the club invites.

Dan N8DZM identified the details of typical operation; members usually lose more money than what is gained from the percent returned to the club. Direct donations seem to be better option.

Amazon charity registration was mentioned as an option also.

Perry W8AU is to check out more on the topic of fund raisers.

Radio contests like the 13 Colonies on the air are operating; check the ARRL site for schedule.

Don N8IVJ gave a review of Field Day and how we were blessed with good weather. A spotlight was used to light up the US Flag and it also lit up the towers. Perry asked for a clarification of the log. Those who worked at home are to use "Massillon ARC" for the affiliated club name.

Dan N8DZM read the contacts made from the park site.

[Don N8IVJ](#) thanked Dan N8DZM for setting up the network cabling with RJ45 connectors. Dan N8DZM and Perry W8AU are to get together to send the information in from Field Day.

Don N8IVJ provided information on the DMR repeater and how Dave [WD8AYE](#) has been taking care of internet connections. The discussion continued for support to Dave WD8AYE for whatever the costs have been to keep the repeaters online. One of the two DMR repeaters when down, and Dave WD8AYE purchased one to replace it and is looking at some grants to cover the costs. More information is to be sought in this matter.

Gerry KF8RRY request assistance for taking a tower down the following a week from the following Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup> at 10 am; several members volunteered to assist. Jim WAGXM said he had help install the tower originally and provided additional information about the tower.

Jim WA8GXM made the motion to adjourn; Brent N8BAG seconded. The motion passed.

After the meeting the Ice Cream Social was held.

Thank you to all who assisted with the Ice Cream Social.

Reminder of activities forth coming:

It is uncertain, due to COVID-19 stay at home orders, if the next meeting will be on the air (and also with a Zoom meeting) for the Friday, August 7th, 2020, or if that next meeting will be at the Massillon Senior Center, 39 Lincoln Way West, Massillon, Ohio 44647; please, check for information just ahead of the next meeting date.

If Zoom is used V Sproat KE8VS is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: W8NP Amateur Radio Club & Stark State Radio Club meeting

Time: Every month on the First Fri, until Dec 4, 2020, 7 occurrence(s)

Aug 7, 2020 07:30 PM

Submitted by Vern KE8VS,

## Club Website Update

Thanks to assistance from Igor, K8INN, the club website is back up and working great. I have finished adding a number of items and the site is back current. The last items uploaded were pictures from this years Field Day exercise. Have a look at them when you get a chance.

As is typical of most websites, recent news items are placed on the home page. This is the main page you are directed to when you log onto the site. But, did you know that also on the main page are links to our many additional pages full of club information. Consider checking out the Current News page. This page has all of our recent and past items dating back to 2003. Everything from DX Engineering news, ARRL items, plus many other new stories.

When a current news item from the home page is more than 90 days old, it is moved to the Current News page where you can easily have a look at these older news items. Lots of great stuff posted here that we know you will like. Next time you are on the site, have a look at this archive !

#####

The Cleveland Hamfest is still on schedule for Sunday, September 27th at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds in Berea, Ohio. With most hamfests cancelled this year, this would be a great way to spend a late summer day. Full directions and information is available on their website at [www.hac.org](http://www.hac.org). Some great prizes and forums will be part of this annual show. Hope to see some of you there !

#####

The Ohio QSO Party is an opportunity for Amateur Radio Operators around the world to celebrate the great state of Ohio. This fun operating event is on August 22 from Noon to Midnight Eastern Time. The event is sponsored by the Mad River Radio Club. Full details are posted at [www.ohqp.org](http://www.ohqp.org).

## QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo



[QSO Today](#) podcast host Eric Guth, 4Z1UG/WA6IGR, has announced that the first [QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo](#) will take place Saturday

and Sunday, August 8 – 9. Attendance is free to all, [registration](#) is open, and there are early bird prizes for registering now.

Built on a live, virtual reality platform used by Fortune 500 companies and major universities, the ARRL-sanctioned hamfest will feature a lineup of well-known speakers. Guth and his team, including George Zafiroopoulos, KJ6VU, have assembled more than 50 of the best ham radio mentors in multiple tracks to address this conference from the virtual Expo's auditorium.

Presenters will include Ward Silver, N0AX, on grounding and bonding; Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, on DXpeditions, and John Portune, W6NBC, on building slot antennas for antenna-restricted locations. Demonstrations of new amateur radio gear will be presented, and attendees can speak with exhibitors via video/audio or chat, as well as interact with others online.

“This platform simulates a full convention experience, with an exhibit hall and exhibit booths staffed by live attendants, speaker auditorium, lobby, and lounges,” the announcement said. Guth, an ARRL member, decided to go forward with the virtual event after many in-person ham radio conventions were canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. ARRL will be among the exhibitors filling the virtual exhibit hall.

Attendees will be able to share ideas and network with each other via the virtual platform. Following the 48-hour live event, audio/video from presentations and resources published by exhibitors will remain available to registrants on demand for 30 days.

# KB6NU's HAM RADIO BLOG

## Securing PowerPole connectors

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

In preparation for this year's Field Day, I made a bunch of cables with PowerPole connectors to connect the solar panel, charge controller and batteries that I used. If you're not familiar with PowerPoles, you might want to [check out this YouTube video](#). They're really great connectors, and have become the DC connector of choice for many hams.

When I make up PowerPole cables, I normally don't bother trying to secure the two halves together, especially if you're using some decently heavy gauge wire. They fit together pretty tightly, and don't come apart easily. Even so, I think securing them together is a good idea. You can buy a little roll pin to insert between the red and black housings that is supposed to prevent them from coming apart, but many folks complain that the pin has a tendency to fall out. This not only defeats the purpose, but could also damage your equipment.

Securing them is the right thing to do, though, and I recently came across some great suggestions on how to do this in the daily digest that I receive from the [Elecrafft-KX mailing list](#). Here are the best tips from the thread, [Securing Anderson Power Poles](#):

Rudy K8SWD: You can thermally bond the red and black housings with a soldering iron like you are making little welds on both sides. Permanent (mostly) but it works better than the roll pins. Just clean the tip really good before soldering!

Dave K0CDA: [Anderson] also make connectors that are thermally bonded together in pairs. They do NOT come apart.

Don W3FPR: I use a drop of Super Glue on the junction of the plastic pieces. Warning – that glue grabs quickly, so slide the 2 pieces only enough to start the assembly, then apply the drop of glue and quickly finish sliding them together. I have never had ones prepared like that come apart, and I don't use roll pins. I will say one more thing – use only the genuine APPs. I have seen some knockoffs that do not mate well.

Greg KC9NRO: Take a hot soldering iron. Wipe the tip with sponge. Run the tip down both side of APP bonding the black and red sides together. Clean soldering iron tip and apply some solder to tip. That's how I roll. Never comes apart

Mike AI4NS: PVC cement will soften the plastic enough to bond them together. You can also get plastic welding rods, such as [Daindy Plastic Welding Rods](#).

Chuck a rod in a Dremel and weld them together. I have made plastic boxes and panels using this method.

Jack WD4E: Snip the cotton end off a Q-tip, cutting at an angle. Insert into hole made for roll pin, cut off excess, save remainder of Q-tip for next requirement.

Troy K4JDA: 2.5mm screws work well, stay in, and are easily removable.

Tom KB8UUZ: Fat tooth picks also work great. Jam it in, break it off.



## Maritime Mobile Service Network Comes to the Aid of Vessel in Distress

The Maritime Mobile Service Net ([MMSN](#)) on 14.300 MHz came to the assistance of a sailing vessel on June 25. MMSN control operator Steven Carpenter, K9UA, took a call on 20 meters from Ian Cummings, KB4SG, the skipper of the *Mystic Lady*, then some 40 miles east of Florida. Cummings reported that his engine had failed as he was attempting to return to his home port of Stuart, Florida. He not only had insufficient wind, but a strong current was carrying the vessel out to sea.

Cummings had been unable to reach any station via his VHF marine radio, since he was too far from the coast. Assisting in the call was Robert Wynhoff, K5HUT, also an MMSN net control operator. Cummings said his vessel, with one passenger on board, was drifting northwest toward the South Carolina coast.

“A major concern was that the vessel was heading directly towards a lee shore,” the MMSN reported. “Lee shores are shallow, dangerous areas which are a hazard to watercraft. Vessels could be pushed into the shallow area by the wind, possibly running aground and breaking up.”

Carpenter contacted Cummings’ family, who had already called the Sea Tow marine towing service. Sea Tow advised Carpenter to tell the captain to head closer to shore by sailing west, if possible. Carpenter told Cummings that if he was unable to get nearer to shore, he would notify the US Coast Guard, which was already monitoring the situation.

As the MMSN reported, “The *Mystic Lady* was able to make some headway, but it was very slow. Members of the MMSN made additional calls via landline to the captain’s family as to the ongoing status of those on board. The family was concerned but relieved that communication was established and that all were well.”

Several hours later, the captain advised that the wind had picked up, allowing him to head close enough to shore for Sea Tow to reach the vessel and take it back to port.

The Pacific Seafarers’ Net, which monitors 14.300 MHz from the West Coast after the MMSN secures at 0200 UTC, kept in touch with the *Mystic Lady* into the night while it was under tow.

The tired, grateful captain later messaged the net, “A million thanks to everyone last night who helped rescue us on 14.300. Everyone chipped in as we drifted north in the Gulf Stream 60 miles headed to a lee shore. The MMSN net control and several others stayed with us for hours, phoned people, and were immensely helpful.

## National Hurricane Center’s WX4NHC Annual Station Test is Successful



On May 30, operators at WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center (NHC), working from home, conducted the annual readiness check of the station and of other amateur radio stations and operators around the country

and world. WX4NHC is marking its 40th year of public service in 2020. Assistant Amateur Radio Coordinator at the NHC Julio Ripoll, WD4R, reported that five WX4NHC operators made 146 contacts with US and Caribbean stations.

Despite poor HF propagation, operators made contacts with stations as far north as Maine and as far south and west as Aruba and Curacao, Puerto Rico, and Texas. Operators also made many contacts using digital modes, including Winlink as well as Florida’s statewide SARNET UHF repeater network that connects 27 repeaters from Key West to Tallahassee. — *Thanks to the [ARES E-Letter](#)*

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## International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend



Registrations for this year’s popular International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend ([ILLW](#)) appear to have been largely unaffected by the current COVID-19 pandemic. The event will take place this year over the August 22 – 23 weekend. By mid-July, more than 200 entries had been received, and some 400 are expected to have signed up by the event weekend.

New to this year’s event is Corsica at Phare d’Alistro, which for ILLW purposes carries the French number of FR0030. Two lighthouses in Ghana will be on the air for the first time, as well as Buck Island Lighthouse in the US Virgin Islands (VI0001). Germany is well in the lead with 54 entries, followed by Australia with 29 entries, and the US with 27 entries.

This event is designed as a fun weekend to encourage exposure to amateur radio and lighthouses to the visiting public, and ILLW stresses contacts should be more than just an exchange of signal reports. All participants are urged to observe local COVID-19 safety guidelines. - VK2CE

## QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo Announces Full Lineup of Speakers



The first [QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo](#) Saturday and Sunday, August 8 – 9, has confirmed what it's calling "a packed lineup of over 70 great speakers" for the ARRL-sanctioned event. Attendance is free and [registration](#) is open.

Presentations will cover a range of topics, with two tracks focused on providing hands-on, practical advice for those just getting started in amateur radio. Steve Johnston, WD8DAS, will demonstrate basic soldering techniques for repairing equipment and building projects. Marcel Stieber, AI6MS, will offer an overview of common battery types, discussing the pros and cons of each — including battery chemistry, common uses and misuses, and everyday application tips.

For experienced operators, topics will cover new techniques, equipment upgrading, 3D printing, and more. Glenn Johnson, WØGJ, will attempt to answer the question, "Is 3 dB Worth a Divorce?" and cover a wide range of antenna topics. Jim Veatch, WA2EJJ, will explain how to build a QRP radio. In his presentation, "The Slot Antenna — Undiscovered Country for Most Hams," John Portune, W6NBC, will demonstrate how a satellite TV dish can be "slotted" to make an effective outdoor 2-meter or UHF antenna for use in antenna-restricted neighborhoods.

Prominent youth educator Carole Perry, WB2MGP, will moderate a lineup featuring amateur radio's future leaders. Audrey McElroy, KM4BUN, will speak on, "Getting Girls Involved in STEM, Specifically Amateur Radio!" while hot-air ballooning will be the focus of a talk by Jack McElroy, KM4ZIA, "Highly Flying Kids with HAB."

QSO Today's Eric Guth, 4Z1UG, says that one challenge to any ham radio convention, whether in person or virtual, is keeping the content of presentations from becoming overly complicated and overwhelming. "For our inaugural virtual Expo, we've made sure that there are great speakers for both beginners and experienced hams," Guth said. "We've asked all of our speakers to be laser focused on their topics while providing hands-on, practical advice." Each presentation will wrap up with a live question-and-answer session.

#####

The following candidates for seats on the [AMSAT-NA](#) Board of Directors have been found to have their membership in good standing and their nomination credentials in order:

- Howard DeFelice, AB2S
- Mark Hammond, N8MH
- Jeff Johns, WE4B
- Robert McGwier, N4HY
- Bruce Paige, KK5DO
- Paul Stoetzer, N8HM.



AMSAT will elect three voting members of the Board this year, with seats going to the three candidates receiving the greatest number of votes. Two alternates will be chosen, based on the next highest number of votes received.

Ballots will be mailed to AMSAT members by July 15. — *Thanks to AMSAT News Service via AMSAT Secretary Brennan Price, N4QX*

# AUGUST 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Massillon Radio Net 3599.5 kHz 2000 z	3 Stark Co DMR Net 7:30 PM	4 Stark Co ARES Net 7:00 PM	5 Statewide DMR Net 8:30 PM on TG 3139	6	7 MARC Club Meeting	8 QSO <i>Today Virtual Ham Expo</i>
9 Massillon Radio Net 3599.5 kHz 2000 z	10 Stark Co DMR Net 7:30 PM	11 Stark Co ARES Net 7:00 PM	12 Statewide DMR Net 8:30 PM on TG 3139	13	14 Stark Co Info Net 8:00 PM	15
16 Massillon Radio Net 3599.5 kHz 2000 z	17 Stark Co DMR Net 7:30 PM	18 Stark Co ARES Net 7:00 PM	19 Statewide DMR Net 8:30 PM on TG 3139	20	21 Stark Co Info Net 8:00 PM	22
23 Massillon Radio Net 3599.5 kHz 2000 z	24 Stark Co DMR Net 7:30 PM	25 Stark Co ARES Net 7:00 PM	26 Statewide DMR Net 8:30 PM on TG 3139	27	28 Stark Co Info Net 8:00 PM	29
30 Massillon Radio Net 3599.5 kHz 2000 z	31 Stark Co DMR Net 7:30 PM					

**Massillon Amateur Radio Club  
PO Box 73  
Massillon, OH 44648**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**TO:**

**Club Officers for 2020**

<b>President</b>	<b>Perry Ballinger, W8AU</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Don Rankl, N8IVJ</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Vern Sproat, KE8VS</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Dan Anastis, N8DZM</b>

**FEEDBACK Editor Terry Russ, N8ATZ**

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**Wade Huthmacher, WD8MIU Expires Dec 2021**  
**Fred Reed, KD8SMO Expires Dec 2022**

**W8NP Trustee Perry Ballinger, W8AU**

**W8NP Webmaster Terry Russ, N8ATZ**

**Published by the Massillon Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 73, Massillon, Ohio 44648. The Club meetings are the first Friday of every month (except January) at 7:30 PM at the Massillon Senior Citizens Center located at 39 Lincoln Way West, Massillon, OH.**