



# FEEDBACK

VOLUME 66 ISSUE 2

February 2021

## 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**

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## FEBRUARY MEETING

The meeting for the month of February will be held on February 5th, 2021 at 7:30 PM at the R. G. Klein Museum, downtown at the corner of Erie and Federal Avenue. Doors open at 7:00 PM with meeting starting at 7:30 PM.

## PROGRAM

We could always use some ideas from the membership on any programs you would like to see. We still plan on having our annual ARRL Night that would feature new ARRL Section Manager Tom Sly, WB8LCD if health con-



ditions permit guest visitors.

## VE TESTING

The first VE Testing session will be held on Saturday morning, February 13th at the Stark County EOC on Route 62 in Canton. Registration will open at 8:00 AM with testing at 9:00. The cost for taking a test remained at \$15.00. Make sure you bring a copy of your license (if licensed) and a photo ID. Contact our VE Coordinator Rex Simmons, NX8G with any questions at (330) 832 - 0609 or by email to [nx8g.01@gmail.com](mailto:nx8g.01@gmail.com).

## February Hamfests

### [02/21/2021 - CANCELED - MANSFIELD MID WINTER HAMFEST](#)

**Location:** MANSFIELD, OH  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Sponsor:** INTERCITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
**Website:** <http://WWW.IARC.CLUB>  
[Learn More](#)

### [03/07/2021 - CANCELED - WINTERHAMFEST](#)

**Location:** Elyria, OH  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Sponsor:** Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society  
[Learn More](#)

## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

### The Prez Sez



### QRQ = Send Faster (and Smarter)

The annual Code Class begins 7 p.m., Friday, February 10, at the R.G. Klein Museum, downtown at the corner of Erie and Federal Avenue. Doors open at 7:00 PM with class to begin at 7:30 PM.

How to learn, practice, increase comprehension, and then sound like an OT that's been doing it for years! Tips, techniques, code shorthand, types of keys and keyers that allow you to send with one hand instead of two. (Nope, no keyboards unless you want to send over 50 wpm!)

Class will run each Wednesday evening for up to 10 weeks. After reaching the 5 wpm level you can graduate to the MRN net on 3599.5 kHz every Sunday evening and enjoy general operation on any CW band – all guaranteed to increase your speed.

So, to those new no-coders curious about the “original digital mode” and those who have let it lapse and want a refresher course, we're here to help.

Each session will be 2 hours. Those interested should drop an email to [w8au@sssnet.com](mailto:w8au@sssnet.com), or call 330-705-8449 for a reservation.

### Tom Sly, WD8LCD has been appointed as the Ohio Section Manager, effective January 1, 2021.



Tom Sly, WB8LCD, of Kent, has been appointed as the Ohio Section Manager, effective January 1, 2021. Sly will assume the seat that incumbent Section Manager

Scott Yonally, N8SY, is vacating to become Great Lakes Division Vice Director, after serving as Ohio Section Manager since 2014.

Sly was appointed by ARRL Radiosport and Field Services Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, after consulting with Great Lakes Division Director Dale Williams, WA8EFK. The Section Manager appointment extends through September 30, 2022.

Sly is an ARRL Life Member and has served as Ohio Section Affiliated Club Coordinator since 2017. He is past president of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) and has been a radio amateur since 1968.



**RadioShack®** is back as an online retailer of electronics, offering some parts in its inventory that largely consists of radios, batteries, telephone gear, drones, computer accessories, and even cameras. The iconic

company was recently purchased from General Wireless by Retail Ecommerce Ventures (REV).

No plans are in place to reopen RadioShack-owned stores, although some 400 brick-and-mortar outlets not affiliated with REV are operated by franchisees. REV, which specializes in online retail, has previously revamped the internet presence of such bankrupt businesses as Pier 1 Imports and Dressbarn, according to a news release.

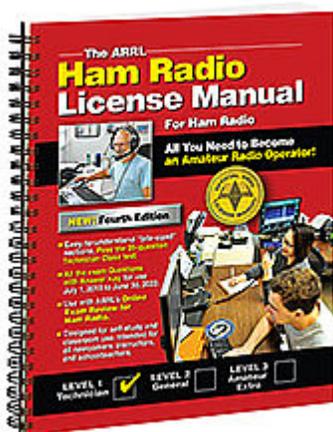
During its heyday, RadioShack has some 8,000 retail outlets and once offered some amateur radio equipment, including some popular handheld transceivers and a 10-meter transceiver. RadioShack came out of its second bankruptcy in January 2018 with 400 dealers, and online retail presence.

## OTHER NEWS

The MARC will once again sponsor amateur radio license classes starting on Wednesday, February 9th, 2021 at the R. G. Klein Museum. Class will start at 7:00 PM lasting for 2 hours. Classes will continue for approximately 10 weeks.

The classes will use the ARRL Technician Study guide. Additional details will be announced in January. The Technician Class instructor will be Terry Russ, N8ATZ. Contact Terry at (330) 837-3091 or by email to [truss@sssnet.com](mailto:truss@sssnet.com) if you are interested in taking the class.

A General Class may also be conducted if an instructor is available. As in the past, Perry, W8AU will teach a code proficiency class as well. Additional information will be covered at the February meeting.



## ARRL NEWS

The *2020 ARRL Periodicals DVD* is now available and includes the complete, fully searchable collection of three ARRL journals — *OST*, the official membership journal of ARRL, *OEX Forum for Communications Experimenters*, and *National Contest Journal (NCJ)*. In addition, the DVD includes source code for software projects and PC board patterns; Section News, and the ever-popular Contest Soapbox and Contest Results.

Search the full text of every article by entering titles, call signs, or names. See every word, photo, drawing, and table in technical and general-interest features, columns and product reviews, plus all advertisements. Print what you see, or copy it into other applications. System requirements: Microsoft *Windows* and Macintosh systems, using Adobe *Acrobat Reader* software.

[2020 ARRL Periodicals DVD](#) is available from the [ARRL Store](#) or your [ARRL Dealer](#). (ARRL Item no. 1274, ISBN: 978-1-62595-127-4, \$24.95 retail, plus shipping. Call 860-594-0355 or toll-free in the US, 888-277-5289. The *2019 ARRL Periodicals* is also available as a download in a [Windows Version](#) (ARRL Item no. 1274\_WD) and [Mac/Linux Version](#) (ARRL Item no. 1274\_MLD).



## Give Up On Emcomm ? By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Our radio club has had a pretty solid relationship with our county's department of public safety for many years. That has since begun to dry up now that they have a new communication system that seems to check off all their boxes. As a result, they aren't including us in real emergency situations like they used to and they're reluctant to participate in our emergency tests where we practice. In short, I think the marriage is about over.

I'm wondering how other EMCOMM-based clubs find themselves these days in terms of their relationships with local agencies. Is the love for amateur radio EMCOMM drying up everywhere? If it's not in your area, can you describe how it's going and what your club is doing to keep the idea alive?

I'm asking because as a member of our leadership team, I'm very close to recommending we just sever ties altogether in a formal manner and drop to one drill a year or every other year. The amount of energy our team puts into organizing one of these just isn't being reflected by the partners we're trying to serve and the juice just isn't worth the squeeze.

The responses to this post are all over the map. There were plenty who agreed with the original poster:

- "EMCOMM has been slowly dying for a long time."
- "I work in the agency that manages emergency systems for my city and ham radio emergency participation is a joke to them."
- "Ham radio as a service is dead. Let's all move on ..."

At the other end of the spectrum, there were these comments:

- "This is the opposite of my experience here in a rural, agricultural county in California. I don't get a sense that this is a trend."
- "We have 30+ members who have taken the ICS training and understand what our place ought to be: that is, assist when requested and stay out of the way."
- "Our local Emergency Management department utilizes Amateur Radio during emergency activations in several areas."

Even at the positive end of the spectrum, it's clear that emergency management has gotten way more sophisticated over the past couple of decades. For us to continue to serve, we are also going to have to be more sophisticated. I've said this before, and I'll say it again: Amateur radio needs something like AMSAT for emergency communications. That is to say an organization that is advancing the state of the art in amateur radio communications.

Along with that, we have to participate more fully with the emergency management community. That means going to their conferences and publishing papers at these conferences and in their publications. Maybe I'm not close enough to what's happening, but I just don't see that.

Along those lines, I think that while our Public Information Coordinators are doing a good job of getting amateur radio on the nightly news and into newspapers, someone should be concentrating more on raising our profile in the emergency management community. Most of the people watching the news aren't the people who are going to be making the decisions on how big or how small a role that amateur radio is going to play in their emergency management plans.



(Jan 5, 2021) -- The [QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo](#) will return March 13 – 14 for a full 48 hours, *QSO Today* host Eric Guth, 4Z1UG/WA6IGR, announced this week. [ARRL](#) is a QSO Today Expo Partner. Guth said the inaugu-

ral QSO Today Expo last August attracted more than 16,000 attendees, and he anticipates that the March 2021 event will be even more successful.

The upcoming QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo will feature new speakers and presenters, panel discussions, and kit-building workshops among other activities. Guth pointed out that attendees can log in from anywhere. While he anticipates a good turnout by those who typically attend such ham radio events, the virtual Expo also offers an opportunity for those concerned about pandemic travel restrictions as well as for those who don't typically attend in-person events.

"At our last Expo, we found that 60% of attendees don't go to in-person national conferences, and 40% don't attend state or local events," Guth said, noting that distance and the high cost of travel and lodging were the most oft-cited reasons.

[Registration](#) is required, and to help cover the costs of staging this event, there will be a charge to attend. Advance tickets are \$10 (\$12.50 at the "door") and include entry for the live, 2-day show as well to the 30-day on-demand period. At the Expo, visitors can:

Learn from a line-up of such well-known ham radio personalities as Bob Allphin, K4UEE, on "My Favorite DXpeditions to DXCC Top 10 Most Wanted;" Michael Foerster, W0IH, on "Using the Arduino in Your Shack," and Ron Jones, K7RJ, on "3D Printer Basics."

Take part in live virtual kit-building workshops. (Kits will be available for purchase and delivered to attendees in time for the Expo.)

Walk through the virtual exhibit hall to visit an array of amateur radio vendors and see live demonstrations of the latest equipment. This show will leverage newer video technology to provide a better experience for attendees to engage with exhibitors.

Those planning to attend the Expo may take advantage of new speaker calendar technology to create their own calendar of presentations in their time zones, which can be saved to a Google or Outlook calendar.

Registrants may return over the 30 days following the live event to catch speakers and presentations missed during the live period, as well as to explore and re-engage exhibitor offerings.

"The QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo has all of the familiar hallmarks of an in-person hamfest, including opportunities to connect and learn," ARRL Product Development Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, said. "Expect to bump into friends and well-known experts and personalities from throughout our worldwide ham radio community!" He explained that attendees visiting an exhibit or virtual lounge will be able to interact with other attendees in those settings.

FlexRadio is the Expo's Platinum Sponsor. Gold sponsors as of this time include Elecraft, RFinder, and CSI.

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## ARRL On the Purpose of Amateur Radio

For over 100 years amateur radio and [ARRL — the National Association for Amateur Radio®](#) — have stood for the development of the science and art of communications, public service, and the enhancement of international goodwill. Amateur Radio's long history and service to the public has solidified the well-earned reputation that "Amateur Radio saves lives."

Amateur Radio Operators, due to their history of public service, their training, and the requirement that they be licensed by the FCC have earned their status as a component of critical communications infrastructure and as a reliable resource "when all else fails."

Amateur Radio is about development of communications and responsible public service. Its misuse is inconsistent with its history of service and its statutory charter. ARRL does not support its misuse for purposes inconsistent with these values and purposes.



## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

In a January 5 [Public Notice](#), the FCC requested comments on whether the current 14 Volunteer Examiner Coordinators ([VECs](#)) are sufficient to facilitate the efforts of their accredited Volunteer Examiners (VEs) in administering amateur radio examinations, or whether up to five additional VECs should be authorized. The ARRL VEC is the largest of the 14 VECs in the US. Comments are due by February 5, and reply comments are due by February 19. After Congress authorized it to do so, the FCC adopted rules in 1983 to allow volunteers to prepare and administer amateur radio examinations, and it established the system of VECs and VEs.

“VECs introduced consistency into the volunteer examiner program by centralizing accreditation of volunteer examiners, coordinating the dates and times for scheduling examinations, and managing the various administrative tasks arising from examinations,” the FCC said. Authorized VECs may operate in any of the 13 VEC regions but must service at least one region. The FCC pointed out that some VECs now offer remote examinations.

“The Commission has long maintained 14 VECs and now seeks to consider whether they continue to serve the evolving needs of the amateur community, or whether there are unmet needs that warrant considering expanding the number of VECs.”

The FCC *Public Notice* provided questions for framing comments:

- Are the existing 14 VECs sufficient to coordinate the efforts of Volunteer Examiners in preparing and administering examinations for amateur radio operator licenses, or are additional VECs needed?
- What needs are currently being met, and which needs, if any, are not?
- If the FCC were to allow additional VECs, how many more would be needed to satisfy existing Amateur Radio Service license examination needs? (The FCC indicated that it will likely cap the number of additional VECs at five.)
- Given that VECs use a collaborative process to create examination question pools and volunteer examination administration protocols, would additional VECs enhance or hinder this process?
- How would increasing the number of VECs address the unmet needs, if any, of the amateur radio community, and what obstacles or complications could result from increasing the number of VECs?

## JANUARY MINUTES

### MARC W8NP Minutes January 8th, 2021 Meeting held at R.G. Klein Museum & on Zoom

Perry W8AU called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm at Rodney G. Klein Museum and Library, 22 Federal Ave NE, Massillon, OH 44646, and Zoom via WIFI for those not at the Museum. Social distancing was done due to the Corona virus pandemic. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by the group with Perry W8AU leading.

The minutes from the December meeting were distributed in the newsletter. Perry W8AU asked if there were any corrections and hearing none, the minutes were approved as published in the newsletter.

Perry W8AU read the Treasurer's Report for which Dan N8DZM provided account balances. Dave WD8AYE made the motion to approve the Treasurer's report; Dave KB8AKD seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Don N8IVJ and Evan KE8IDH identified upcoming QSO parties around the country. Check on ARRL Website for more current information. Winter Field Day is coming up January 30-31, 2021.

New Business:

Perry W8AU identified the dipole cable at the Senior Center has broken. The wire has been wrapped on the ground such that it is not in anyone's way. There needs to have a wire bug placed on it to splice the wire back together and protections on the wire so it will be more resistant to wearing through.

Don N8IVJ mentioned that the tower at the Senior Center could use some paint.

Perry mentioned also that the welding of the rails coming out of the winch room should be inspected.

Perry W8AU has a full size 20-meter antenna that needs a good home.

Two or three classes are in the planning for Fridays, 7pm to 9pm, the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of February, 2021 to be held at R.G. Klein Museum; watch for more information soon. The classes should last for 8 or 10 weeks.

Evan KE8IDH made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and there was a consensus to close the business meeting.

After the business meeting, the Annual Awards Program was conducted by Perry W8AU. Perry W8AU presented a recording of K2RS Glen Shepard. The recording was named *Some-where in Time CW Christmas Story*. Then the Awards followed:

Old Buzzard Award: Chis KD8TNF

Public Service Award: Wade WD8MIU

Ham Radio Rookie Award: Damien KE8NUF

Steeple Jack Awards: Evan KE8IDH and Vern KE8VS

CW Net Member Awards: Javan W8UA, Tim WB8HHP, and Don N8IVJ

VE Coordinator Plaque: Rex NX8G

Congratulations to all the award winners!

Minutes submitted by Vern KE8VS.

February

## W8NP Calendar

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Groundhog Day Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM			Massillon Amateur Radio Club Meeting (see bulletin for info)	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 kHz, 2000		Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM			Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM  Lincoln's Birth- day	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 kHz, 2000  Valentine's Day		Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM			BD Alexandria Bonillas  BD Shirley Treacle  Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 kHz, 2000	Washington's Birthday	Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM	BD WD8MIU		Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM	
28						
Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 kHz, 2000						

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

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**TO:**

**Club Officers**

<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**

**Trustees**        **Terry Russ, N8ATZ**  
                      **Wade Huthmacher, WD8MIU**  
                      **Fred Reed , KD8SMO**

**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.**