



FEEDBACK

VOLUME 65 ISSUE 7

JULY 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**

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JULY MEETING

The July meeting of the MARC will be held on Friday, July 3, 2020. Due to the current health concern we don't know if we will be able to meet at the Senior Center or will have a virtual meeting via the repeater.

FIELD DAY UPDATE

The latest news from club president Perry Ballenger, W8AU is that we are still on schedule to hold Field Day but lots of unanswered questions on exactly how it will be conducted this year. Certain restrictions will still be with us and may have to be worked out.

I hope Perry will cover these items before Field Day weekend.

For now, your guess is as good as mine !



WB8VGE Wins the June QST Cover Plaque Award

Mike Bryce's article "Battery Sizing for Portable Operation" offered valuable information, not only for the upcoming ARRL Field Day, but for portable operating generally. Thanks to Mike's advice, readers will be able to avoid unpleasant surprises!

QST Cover Plaque Awards are given to the author or authors of the most popular article in each issue. You choose the winners by casting your vote online at www.arrl.org/cover-plaque-poll. Log in now and pick your favorite article in the July issue!



Mike Bryce, WB8VGE is a long time past member of the club. Congratulations to Mike for this great recognition !

MARC W8NP Minutes June 5th, 2020 Meeting held on the Air W8NP 2m, 147.180 & Zoom

Several members were on Zoom ~ 7:30 prior to the meeting. Some topics of discussion were setting up radios and repeaters. Jim WA8GXM identified the ATV repeater needs worked on, it went dead in the water a long time ago. Gerry KG8RRY offered to help, and Vern KE8VS would be interested helping also.

Alabama site 147.18MHz, DMR, 6m, 53.05 MHz, Jim's 443.675 MHz, 442.85 pl 110.9 29.164, 10m not on the air right now (split side repeater).

Drones were discussed for raising antennas, Flex Radio and transverter to attach to 147.18,

Perry W8AU called the meeting to order at 8 pm on the W8NP repeater & a Zoom session due to the Corona virus stay at home order.

Perry explained that due to being on the air there are certain parts of the meeting we usually do that would be omitted. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by the group with Perry leading.

There was a roll call for those present on the W8NP repeater by Perry W8AU.

The minutes from the May meeting were distributed in the newsletter, Perry W8AU asked if there were any corrections; hearing none, Perry declared the minutes stood as published.

Treasurer's Report: Dan N8DZM provided account balances as a paper copies; Perry identified they will not to be voice over the air, but those present were asked if anyone would like a copy, to request it.

The meeting continued with Don N8IVJ reminded us to look on the W8NP web site for the newsletter for current information and complemented the Editor Terry N8ATZ on the content of the Newsletter.

The US Federal Judge has okayed the retrieval of Marconi radio equipment from the Titanic ~ 2.5 miles under the surface.

Testing has started for Ham Radio License again so those ready for testing can start check times and sites for tests in the area.

There are some hamfests which are starting to be held again check AARL for those.

Work is being done to get Islands-on-the-Air and Parks-on-the-Air in the Log Book of the World.

Future QSO parties were identified. Members should check the schedule on AARL site.

Perry W8AU let Dave WD8AYE check in to identify a message from NWS Cleveland to report trees down and flash flooding from the current storms moving through the area.

Don N8IVJ continues with his report reminding participants to fill in ARES Connect information because it all helps us in the bigger picture and to make sure hours are registered within 5 days of the event.

Sunday nights the local CW Net Sunday evenings is at 8 pm on 80 meters 3,599.50 Khz.

Old business:

Jerry KG8RRY, asked about the Hall of Fame Parade, Wade WD8MIU and Terry N8ATZ identified, no decision has been made yet at this time so the assumption is that the parade would be held; but be alert for any changes. The HOF Committee is waiting on the NFL's decision.

New Business:

Field Day 1800 UTC, 1 pm EST Saturday, June 27 and running through 2059 UTC, 3:59 pm EST Sunday, June 28 is still on with the significant rule change for operation at home besides regular assembly.

Perry W8AU has contacted the Trustees to let them know we are planning on practicing social distancing due to pandemic. We have scheduled Field Day at 3737 13th Street, Harwick Park, Massillon, OH 44646 for only those who feel okay with coming out. If number of people warrant additional table with covering will be setup outside the pavilion 30 or 35 feet.

With the capability of members operating at home, we need to know who is planning on operating from home and those who plan to be at the Park. More information and instructions are to be passed in the email from Ham Club Online.

Dan N8DZM, is planning on setting up the software for the logging; but needs to have access to the Senior center to get the computer equipment. Perry W8AU will get access to the Senior Center.

Dan N8DZM suggested operators bring their own microphones and check the compatibility of the connectors with the radios to be used. Perry W8AU identified we will have disinfectant available and for CW you could bring your own key.

Jerry G8RRY, read the new 2020 rules of for **Field Day 2020 only, Class D stations may work all other Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points.**

Field Day rule 4.6 defines Class D stations as "Home stations," including stations operating from permanent or licensed station locations using commercial power. Class D stations ordinarily may only count contacts made with Class A, B, C, E, and F Field Day stations, but the temporary rule waiver for 2020 allows Class D stations to count contacts with other Class D stations for QSO credit.

In addition, for 2020 only, an aggregate club score will be published, which will be the sum of all individual entries indicating a specific club.

Hall of Fame Festival



(06/25/2020) Update from David Baker on the 2020 Enshrinement Festival including Enshrinement Week Powered by Johnson Controls.

Dear Volunteers:

Today we are making a difficult announcement: All events related to the 2020 Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival will be rescheduled for 2021.

This is the right decision for several reasons, first and foremost the health and welfare of our Gold Jackets, incoming Centennial Class of 2020 members, Hall and Chamber personnel and you, our great and much-appreciated event volunteers.

- We also must consider the most appropriate way to fulfill the first tenet of our Mission: *"To Honor the Heroes of the Game."* This decision meets that duty.

- While postponement of the 2020 Enshrinement Week Powered by Johnson Controls disheartens each of us, we are reinvigorated by the news that the NFL, the Dallas Cowboys and the Pittsburgh Steelers have agreed that the teams will play in the 2021 Hall of Fame Game, tentatively scheduled for Aug. 5, 2021. This year's game sold out in 22 minutes, and the enthusiasm for the game in 2021 will be equally high.

The game will kick off a spectacular week of events, including a historic first for the Hall: two Enshrinements over one colossal weekend.

Club Website News

For the first time in the nearly 20 year history of the club website, we experienced a total failure in the site and it shut down. This happened in the middle of May and despite all my efforts to correct the problem, I could not find the issue.

Finally with some help from our club computer expert Igor, K8INN that required a site visit to my place on a Saturday morning, he located the source of the problem, several errors in the site HTML code, the language of the site.

Fortunately not much content was lost and we were able to restore the site. Once the repaired site was uploaded back to the server we were back in business.

The site caused some issues several months ago and our website host, Go Daddy was able to find and correct the problem. The site was originally created using Microsoft FrontPage and had been working well. Go Daddy was concerned that we had not updated the site using a more modern web authoring program. When Go Daddy fully updated their servers, our problems began. I can tell you from personal experience that this would be a long and difficult process that I was trying to avoid !

Thanks to great work by Igor, coding problems were located and corrected. With the exception of this latest problem, the site has been a busy place with nearly 3,300 visits so far this year. This equals about 110 visits each week which tells us that it continues to be a good source of club information.

Maintaining the site is also an ongoing challenge with several hours devoted each week adding new material (continued on page 5)

KB6NU's HAM RADIO BLOG

In the May 2020 issue of IEEE Spectrum, there's an intriguing article by four engineers who claim, "The era of communications systems designed solely by humans is coming to an end." In the article, "In the Future, AIs—Not Humans—Will Design Our Wireless Signals," they say, "The reason is simple: rapidly escalating complexity." Of course, three of the four are associated with a company, DeepSig, that sell the AI tools to do this development, but I found this to be an interesting concept.

In the article, they describe their design approach and how they applied it to the signals sent via NASA's Tracking Data Relay Satellite System (TDRSS). They claim that using their AI-designed signals, they were able to improve the bit error rate by 42% from 5% to just under 3%. They do admit, however, that in both tests, they ran the system without any error correction, which would have reduced the bit error rate of the system.

My question would be is the effort (and the cost of the software) worth it? The article doesn't really give much detail, so it's hard to say. Also, the authors note that this work was just a proof of concept, meaning that they do intend on making improvement in the future.

So, is AI going to take over ham radio, and if so, when? I'll probably still be pounding brass myself in 20 years, but I certainly think AI is going to play a bigger part in amateur radio in the future. At least I hope so.

You gotta admit it's interesting to consider the ramifications.. For example, will an AI get the Ham of the Year award at Dayton in 2040? And, when will we hear the FT8 guys complain about AI being the death of ham radio?

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and often appears on the ICQPodcast (icqpodcast.com). When he's not thinking up new ways to enjoy Field Day, he likes to build stuff and operate CW on the HF bands.

Website News continued from page 3

Removing obsolete, archiving and general maintenance of the content.

Our hosting service continues to work well providing nearly unlimited storage and bandwidth.

Currently the site is about 7.0 GB in size including the many graphics, pictures and an archive of newsletters that stretch back to 2000. The total visits to the website since the beginning is now over 53,000 !

Don't forget the clubs Facebook Page is always available where everyone, member or not can post items of interest or comment on club activities. Let us know how well you liked a recent program or event. We are also active on Twitter and there is always something new showing up there !

Happy 150th Anniversary NWS !

Terry Russ, N8ATZ - Emergency Coordinator

Today's National Weather Service is built upon a long history of dedicated employees committed to their mission of providing data, observations, forecasts, and warnings of weather, water and climate events to save lives, protect property, and enhance the national economy.

As we celebrate our 150th Anniversary, and NOAA its 50th, we have much to document, collect, preserve, and share, along with our partners in the Weather Enterprise and the academic, research, and technology communities who have helped us along the way.

On February 2, 1870, the United States Congress passed a resolution requiring the Secretary of War “to provide for taking meteorological observations at the military stations in the interior of the continent and at other points in the States and Territories...and for giving notice on the northern (Great) lakes and on the seacoast by magnetic telegraph and marine signals, of the approach and force of storms.” The Resolution was signed into law on February 9, 1870 by President Ulysses S. Grant, and the precursor to the Weather Bureau and National Weather Service was born.

The new agency, called the Division of Telegrams and Reports for the Benefit of Commerce, was formed under the U.S. Army Signal Service. The new weather agency was placed under the War Department because “military discipline would probably secure the greatest promptness, regularity, and accuracy in the required observations.” Because of the long name, the agency frequently referred to it as the national weather service or general weather service of the United States.

Signal Service

The new weather agency operated under the Signal Service from 1870 to 1891. During that time, the main office was located in Washington, D.C., with field offices concentrated mainly east of the Rockies. Most forecasts originated in the main office in Washington with observations provided by field offices.

During the Signal Service years, little meteorological science was used to make weather forecasts. Instead, weather which occurred at one location was assumed to move into the next area downstream.



Volunteer Monitor Program Coordinator Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, said the program has recognized numerous radio amateurs with Good Operator Notices.

"One facet of the ARRL and FCC agreement that set up the Volunteer Monitor Program calls for ARRL to recognize especially good amateur radio behavior, in order to encourage compliance with FCC rules and further the efficiency of the Amateur Radio Service," Hollingsworth said. "Seventeen operators in 15 states received Good Operator Notices in the first quarter of 2020. The Good Operator Notices went to veteran operators as well as newcomers, including a 13-year-old in North Carolina for CW operation during the Youth on the Air Special Event, and a 14-year-old in Wyoming for SSB operation."

Hollingsworth also said that a 2-meter repeater operator received a Good Operator Report for establishing and managing a COVID-19 net in Pennsylvania, while other operators of various license classes received notices for everyday SSB and CW operation on the HF bands. Recipients were nominated on the basis of operation observed by Volunteer Monitors.

According to Hollingsworth, Volunteer Monitors reported 2,035 hours monitoring on HF monitoring, and 2,856 hours monitoring on VHF/UHF and other frequencies during May. Two cases were referred to FCC.

After kicking off on January 1, the new Volunteer Monitor Program ramped up to operational status earlier this spring, starting with a "soft rollout" that started on February 1, designed to familiarize Volunteer Monitors (VMs) with issues on the bands and to put into practice what to report – and what to ignore, based on their training.

VMs not only look for operating discrepancies, but for examples of good operating. Hollingsworth is using a system called *VMTRAC* – developed by a VM – to measure the work of VMs and determine instances that qualify for good operator or discrepancy notices, referral to the FCC, or follow-up with FCC requests to the VM program. – *Thanks to Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH*

July 2020

W8NP Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																								
Upcoming Events: Aug 8 - HOF Grand Parade 0800 Aug 15 - Clinton County ARA Aug 21 - VE Test - Pioneer AR Fellowship 1830 Aug 21 - 23 - West Virginia State Conv Aug 29 - Cincinnati Hamfest			1	2	3	4																																																								
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Please contact K8DN for updates, changes, or additions.

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

TO:

Club Officers for 2020

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

FEEDBACK Editor Terry Russ, N8ATZ

Trustees Terry Russ, N8ATZ Expires Dec 2020
Wade Huthmacher, WD8MIU Expires Dec 2021
Fred Reed, KD8SMO Expires Dec 2022

W8NP Trustee Perry Ballinger, W8AU

W8NP Webmaster Terry Russ, N8ATZ

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