



FEEDBACK

VOLUME 65 ISSUE 6

JUNE 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
ARRL News	5
Field Day Update	6
Calendar by K8INN	7
Back Page	8

JUNE MEETING

The June meeting of the MARC will be held on Friday, June 5, 2020. Due to the current health concern we will not have a meeting but will instead be virtual net meeting covering basic club news that will convene at about 8:00 PM on the club 147.18 Repeater.

Our program will be a Zoom meeting presented by our Ohio Section Manager Scott Yonally, N8SY who will update us on current League activities.

FIELD DAY UPDATE

The latest news from club president Perry Ballinger, 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 !

Venerable AO-7 Satellite Continues to Deliver

The nearly 46-year-old AO-7 amateur satellite made a remarkable contact possible on May 4 between Diego Feil, LW2DAF, in Buenos Aires, Argentina (GF05rk), and Tom Ambrose, ZS1TA, in Cape Town, South Africa (JF95fx). The contact spanned 4,329 miles across the South Atlantic, with both stations aiming at only 2 or 3 degrees above the horizon.

Both stations had been watching orbital predictions for several weeks, and times when both stations could "see" AO-7 at the same time occurred only occasionally. Electrical noise, particularly in Cape Town, had hampered earlier efforts, but on the morning of May 4, noise levels were low, and a perfect contact was possible with full call signs and reports exchanged.

In 2016, Dave Swanson, KG5CCI, in Arkansas, and Eduardo Erlemann, PY2RN, in Brazil, achieved a distance milestone on AO-7, completing a scheduled contact that covered a calculated distance of approximately 4,979.2 miles, which Swanson said was "way beyond the theoretical range of AO-7" and a feat that "the math said shouldn't be possible." —
Thanks to AMSAT News Service

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 April 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 identifying QSO parties coming up and to check the schedule on AARL site.

Reminded of the DMR nets:

Stark County DMR Net on Monday nights at 7:30 pm Jim WA8GXM is in charge of the net on the W8NP East and West Repeater TG 3139 89 Stark County link channel.

Statewide Net is Wednesday on channel 4 at 8:30 pm. Our district is 5. Ohio Statewide TG 3139 & other OH Regional TGs from Repeater / Hotspot Amateur Radio Operators [Amateur DMR Talk Group 3139](#) Stark county link channel.

Tuesdays are the Stark County ARES Net 7 pm 147.21 pl 110.9.

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

He reminded participants to fill in ARES Connect information because it all helps us in the bigger picture.

From ARRL there is now a new magazine, "On the Air". Making it a total of 4 digital magazines to view for ARRL members online.

SkyWarn class training on line NWS for further information <https://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov/SkyWarn.aspx>.

Don N8IVJ & Perry W8AU mention some flyovers in the area of the Thunderbirds and Blue Angels in honor of service workers during this pandemic.

Dave WD8AYE reminded us of the Talk Group number of 311070 and that some new connections were made for the repeater from connectors and cable from DX Engineering for a new configuration for the antennas used.

Old business:

Perry W8AU identified Ham Classes have been interrupted and postponed.

We are relying on Rex NX8G to let us know when testing can begin again. Also, information on new online remote examination information and how that is done.

Remote code training classes continue by radio using 2m and 10m bands.

New Business:

Field Day the last weekend of June is still on but we need to watch for any changes. Perry W8AU is planning on contacting the Trustees to let them know with practicing social distancing due to pandemic, we plan on doing field day at 3737 Harwick Park, Massillon.

The Ice Cream Social meeting was identified by Terry N8ATZ as being in July.

The Ohio Section Manager Scott N8SY is usually scheduled to attend that meeting; but is now schedule for our June meeting. So, we plan on having him either live or through radio and a zoom meeting.

Don N8IVJ mentioned it might be a good time now to make closer location reservations for a hotel for next year's Hamvention.

Perry identified he usually stays at the Camp Birch Boy Scout camp.

Jerry KE8OFO identified today being May 1st. "Mayday," being a distress call, got started in 1923 and was made official in 1948. It sounded like a French word meaning help me. Perry identified the SOS on CW key is to be run together without letter separators so the over all sound is nothing like you ever hear in code, so it is quite noticeable as a distress call.

Jim WA8GXM made the motion to adjourn; Brent N8BAG seconded. The motion passed by voice and a show of hands on Zoom with no objection.

The frequency was returned to normal operation.

Field Day Planning

Get Set Up for Digital Modes

You might want to explore one of the newer FT4/FT8 digital modes on 10 meters, 6 meters, or even the VHF/UHF bands. These modes offer an opportunity to make weak-signal contacts when band conditions often do not support voice communication. There have been reports of some great 6-meter openings in recent weeks, and these are likely to occur more frequently as the summer months approach. If you've never experimented with digital modes, perhaps this year is an opportunity to give them a try. Setup is relatively straightforward. You'll need a computer and a digital interface to connect the radio to the computer, and you'll need to download one of the digital mode software packages such as the free *WSJT-X* suite, which incorporates FT8 and FT4. Many modern transceivers have built-in support for digital modes, so in those cases, all you'll need is the proper cable to connect the radio to the computer's USB port. You'll need software that supports the ARRL Field Day exchange (*WSJT-X* version 2.0 or later, for example). ARRL's book *Get on the Air with HF Digital (2nd Edition)* is also a great primer for anyone beginning to explore the digital modes.

The Excitement of Ham Satellites

Another area you might wish to explore is operating via one of the amateur radio satellites, or "birds," as they're often called. Many hams have had success making contacts via the FM satellites by using a VHF/UHF handheld radio and a small handheld directional antenna, or a multi-mode VHF/UHF transceiver for the linear (SSB and CW) satellites. You'll only be able to work the satellites when they are overhead, so you'll need to know when they will be visible at your operating location. Visit AMSAT's *Online Satellite Pass Prediction* page to see which ones will be orbiting overhead, and at what times they'll be visible. You can find many satellite operating tips and resources on the **AMSAT website** too.

Club News

Kaleb Carey, Grandson of MARC President Perry Ballenger, W8AU was named Outstanding Senior Boy during a ceremony recently held at



Washington High School.

He is a member of the WHS drama club, Teen Court, Student Council, golf team and a National Honor Society Officer.

The Eagle Scout has plans to study molecular Biology in college before heading to medical school. He wants to help people

as a neurosurgeon.

Carey describes himself "endlessly curious when it comes to science, especially biology." When he's not studying or participating in extra-curricular activities, he can be found cooking, playing with his dog, reading or watching movies and playing strategy games.

ARES Connect Update

Many of you have been following the new Dashboard for the Great Lakes Division and have asked if I can break the numbers down to for the Ohio Section to the county level. After some thought and research I've found a way of getting a worthwhile report that is not only easy to read and understand, but one that can be very useful for everyone to be able to track the events and hours that they have participated in. The Dashboard gives the county name and the hours recorded for that particular county. If you want more details, you'll need to download the Excel file that will break it all down for you. You can take a look at all 88 counties and what they've been up to. Here's a link for you... <http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/ARES-Connect-County.html>.

KB6NU's HAM RADIO BLOG

Amid the coronavirus outbreak and people being forced to spend more time at home, people are using technology to bridge the physical gap and stay connected.

However, this is not new to amateur radio operators. From the early days of radio, “ham radio operators”, they are more commonly known as, have been using the airways to connect with other amateur radio enthusiasts.

Ham radio operators use the radio frequency spectrum to pass non-commercial messages to each other using a wide variety of transmission mediums such as voice, Morse code, television and as well as other digital modes.

Barrhead resident Jeff Attrill is one of the more than 7,900 operators in Alberta. In Canada, there are upwards of 70,000 hams.

Amateur radio operators are also often called upon to provide emergency communications.

“It is a great hobby,” he said, adding amateur radio operators come from all walks of life and age demographics.

The Town and Country This Week caught up with him shortly after he finished a conversation with another local ham in Westlock via VHF simplex.

VHF (very high frequency) is mainly a line-of-sight transmission, mainly used for local communications. Simplex refers to using one frequency.

Hams have also installed repeaters, located on high buildings, hills and mountains, to extend the range of their radios.

Although Attrill holds an advanced licence and is allowed to operate on the entire amateur radio frequency spectrum, his favourite method is VHF.

He noted most ham radio operators start out operating on VHF or UHF (ultra-high frequency) FM, which also uses line of sight communications through simple mobile or handheld radios, talking through repeaters.

The two closest repeaters in the Barrhead area are in Whitecourt and Stony Plain. There is also a repeater in Athabasca, as well as several repeaters servicing Edmonton and surrounding regions. The Stony Plain, Whitecourt and Athabasca repeaters are sponsored by the Quarter Century Amateur Radio Club based in Edmonton.

“The Whitecourt and Stony Plain repeaters are linked together and every Wednesday night there is a net, that any ham who can hit the repeater can check-in to,” he said, noting the net is quite informal. “On Wednesday [April 1,] we had 25 check-ins.”

Attrill noted for many people in the Barrhead and Westlock regions using their first radio, they might have a little trouble hitting the local repeaters, but with a little ingenuity and the help of another ham, they could build an antenna that would extend their range and easily reach the repeater.

He also noted as they gain experience, they might want to expand their activities. For example, he said, one of his favourite activities on VHF single-sideband is using atmospheric conditions to extend his range, noting he has talked to someone as far as Lethbridge. He has also relied on amateur radio satellites to extend his range.

Attrill added there are several other modes and subsections of the hobby for people to explore whether it be HF (high frequency) where hams use the ionosphere to bounce signals off for long-distance communication, contesting to transmitter hunting and building your equipment.

Federal Judge Okays Retrieval of Titanic Marconi Wireless Equipment



A US federal judge in Virginia has given permission to retrieve the ill-fated RMS *Titanic*'s Marconi wireless gear, which transmitted distress calls from the sinking ocean liner during its

maiden voyage. Judge Rebecca Beach Smith of the US District Court in Norfolk ruled that the radio gear is historically and culturally important and could soon be lost within the rapidly decaying wreck. The *Titanic* sank after striking an iceberg some 370 miles off the coast of Newfoundland in 1912.

“The Marconi device has significant historical, educational, scientific, and cultural value as the device used to make distress calls while the *Titanic* was sinking,” Judge Smith wrote in her ruling. She said the company would be permitted “minimally to cut into the wreck” to access the radio room.

David Concannon, a lawyer for R.M.S Titanic Inc., which the court has recognized as the steward of the vessel's artifacts, said the company would try to avoid cutting into the ship, noting that the radio room may be reachable via a skylight that was already open. More legal wrangling may lie ahead. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) contends that the retrieval expedition is still prohibited under US law and under an international agreement between the US and the UK.

R.M.S Titanic has said the radio transmitter could unlock some of the secrets about a missed warning message and distress calls sent from the ship.

“It tells an important story,” Concannon said. “It tells of the heroism of the operators that saved the lives of 705 people. They worked until water was lapping at their feet.”

In an April court filing, NOAA argued against the salvage effort, saying that any benefit to be realized from cutting into the vessel to recover the Marconi equipment would not be “worth the cost to the resource and not in the public interest.”

RMS Titanic sought permission to carry out what it called a “surgical removal and retrieval” of the Marconi equipment. As might be expected, the deteriorating Marconi equipment is in poor shape after more than a century under water. The undersea retrieval would mark the first time an artifact was collected from within the *Titanic*, which many believe should remain undisturbed as the final resting place of some 1,500 victims of the maritime disaster. The wreck sits on the ocean floor some 2 1/2 miles beneath the surface, and remained undiscovered until 1985. R.M.S. Titanic said it plans to use a manned submarine to reach the wreck and then deploy a remotely controlled sub to retrieve the radio equipment.

The ARRL Board of Directors recently voted to create a special Life Membership opportunity for individuals who are at least 70 years old. Starting on June 1, the Life 70+ Membership will be available to individuals who have turned 70 and have a combined 25 years of paid annual ARRL membership.

Life 70+ Members receive all benefits of an annual membership, including their choice of print magazine delivery (*QST* or *On the Air*), and digital access to these publications, plus the digital versions of *QEX* and *National Contest Journal (NCJ)*. In addition, each Life 70+ Member will receive a Life Member pin and a window decal and may purchase an exclusive Life Member plaque.

Qualifying members selecting this level of membership will enjoy the convenience of having to make a single payment for their entire tenure as an ARRL Member and not be subject to any future ARRL dues increase.

To apply for Life 70+ membership, individuals must complete the special Life 70+ Member application — available on June 1 — and submit proof of date of birth, if this information is not already on file with ARRL. The Life 70+ membership fee must be made in a single payment. Past membership dues payments will not apply toward Life 70+ Membership, but a credit will be applied for applicants who paid their dues in full between April 1 and May 31, 2020.

Life 70+ Membership Dues Rates

- \$750 US Life 70+ Membership



For most of us, ARRL **Field Day** 2020 is going to look quite different than it did in past years. Considering the impact of social distancing due to the pandemic, many radio clubs and large groups will not gather in their usual Field Day locations this year. Whether you are a seasoned veteran or a Field Day first-timer, there are many questions about how to participate in amateur radio's largest annual on-air event under these unusual circumstances. Here are some tips and suggestions to help you plan this year's operation.

Don't Forget 6 Meters

Remember, Field Day is a non-adjudicated operating event and not a "full speed ahead" contest.

It is also not an HF-only event. All amateur radio bands above 50 MHz may be used during the event too.

This includes 6 meters, which often offers significant propagation enhancements in the summer months around Field Day weekend, to help you make contacts. The band is available to amateurs holding a Technician-class license or higher. If you have an HF/VHF/UHF multi-mode transceiver, try making SSB, CW, or digital contacts on 6 meters. You don't need fancy beams or large antenna arrays. A simple vertical or dipole will allow you to experience operating on the "Magic Band."

Activities for Techs

One suggestion for clubs to consider in order to increase participation among their Technician-class members is to schedule specific times where these club members will monitor designated VHF and UHF simplex frequencies for Field Day activity. Keep in mind that the published national FM simplex calling frequencies should be avoided, and the use of repeaters is prohibited for Field Day contacts. This way, members who have equipment capable of VHF/UHF-only operation may be able to participate from their homes or vehicles. Your club can choose a list of frequencies and scheduled times in advance, and publish them in the club newsletter, or via email or other electronic means before the start of the event.

On the HF bands, Technician-class licensees have CW privileges on 80, 40, and 15 meters, as well as RTTY/data and SSB phone privileges on 10 meters. If you aren't a CW operator, try calling CQ on 10-meter SSB in the late afternoon and early evening on Saturday and see if conditions are favorable for long-distance communications. Try experimenting with a simple wire antenna for 10 meters. You might discover that the band can offer plenty of unexpected propagation.

Get Set Up for Digital Modes

You might want to explore one of the newer FT4/FT8 digital modes on 10 meters, 6 meters, or even the VHF/UHF bands. These modes offer an opportunity to make weak-signal contacts when band conditions often do not support voice communication. There have been reports of some great 6-meter openings in recent weeks, and these are likely to occur more frequently as the summer months approach. If you've never experimented with digital modes, perhaps this year is an opportunity to give them a try.

June 2020

W8NP Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																						
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> Massillon Amateur Radio Club Meeting. Anticipate a virtual net meeting covering basic club news that will convene at about 8:00 PM on the club 147.18 Repeater.	<i>6</i> Shiracreek ARA VE, 1030, Barry 330-925-1706, Sharon Center United Methodist Church, Masks Required																																																						
<i>7</i> Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 kHz, 2000	<i>8</i> BD K1FFA	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> West Stark Info Net - 147.180 at 2000	<i>13</i>																																																						
<i>14</i> Flag Day Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 kHz, 2000	<i>15</i> BD W8UQK	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> West Stark Info Net - 147.180 at 2000	<i>20</i>																																																						
<i>21</i> BD W8DEF Father's Day Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 kHz, 2000	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> BD KC8RPB BD KD8IN	<i>24</i> BD WD8MJ	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> West Stark Info Net - 147.180 at 2000	<i>27</i> Field Day! VE Test Session, Portage County ARS, 1600, Cic.: Tom 330-389-2026, Freedom Township Comm Park																																																						
<i>28</i> Field Day! Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 kHz, 2000	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	Upcoming Events: July 18 - NOARSFEST, Elyria July 19 - Somerset County ARC Hamfest, Somerset PA July 25 - HOF Community Parade, 1430		<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Jul 2020</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Jul 2020							S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14	15	16	17	18		19	20	21	22	23	24	25		26	27	28	29	30	31		
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Please contact K8NN 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

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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.