



FEEDBACK

VOLUME 66 ISSUE 3

March 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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MARCH MEETING

The meeting for the month of March will be held on March 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

Our speaker for the March meeting will be a virtual presentation from new Ohio Section Manager Tom Sly, WB8LCD.

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.

March Virtual Hamfest

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 inaugural 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").

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.

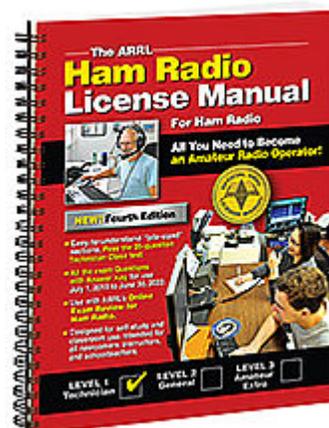
Each session will be 2 hours. Those interested should drop an email to w8au@sssnet.com, or call 330-705-8449 for a reservation.

OTHER NEWS

The MARC will once again sponsor amateur radio license classes starting on Wednesday, February 12th, 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 if you are interested in taking the class.

A General Class will also be conducted with Vern Sproat, KE8VS as Instructor. As in the past, Perry, W8AU will teach a code proficiency class as well. Additional information will be covered at the February meeting.



MARC W8NP Minutes February 5th, 2021 Meeting held at R.G. Klein Museum & on Zoom

Perry W8AU called the meeting to order at 7:50 pm at Rodney G. Klein Museum and Library, 22 Federal Ave NE, Massillon, OH 44646, and Zoom 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 January Annual 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.

Dan N8DZM read the Treasurer's Report which provided account balances. Dann N8DZM identified that PayPal is now set up in HamClub Online, and several members have already used this feature. As a nonprofit organization 2.2% is charged on the transactions, *i.e.*, 63 cents on \$15 membership.

Perry W8AU has a contract for the reservation for our Hamfest on Sunday, October 31, 2021. Currently, there is a down payment due to the Military Air Preservation Society (MAPS), which is to be paid out within the next few days.

Brent N8BAG made the motion to approve the Treasurer's report; Terry N8ATZ seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Don N8IVJ identified upcoming QSO parties around the country. Check on ARRL Website for more current information.

The FCC is watching for any illegal operation and would like the assistance of the HAMS to monitor and inform immediately of any found.

As of July 1, 2021, the new fee is \$35 for licensing with the FCC; more details can be found online.

Tom Sly WB8LCD is our new ARRL Section Manager and plans to speak on Zoom for the March meeting. In communications with Tom WB8LCD, it was stated we need to do an image change to attract future young members.

Other comments on the image change included the ideas of highlighting fun exercises, presenting learning experiences, and promoting opportunities for young members to support their communities.

Ohio Senate Bill 285 on Texting and HAM radio operation in a vehicle was presented at several hearings in the Ohio State Senate. The bill is still in the Senate.

Athens County Radio Association now digging out the Classic Rigs of the 50s and 60s and operating a net on 6 meter 50.4 MHz Sunday and Wednesday evening 5pm.

New Business:

Three classes are scheduled for at least 8 weeks starting 7pm to 9pm on Friday, February 19, 2021 at R.G. Klein Museum. The contact person for joining is Perry W8AU, phone 330-705-8449, for enrolling in the Technician, General, or CW code class. The classes should last for 8 or 10 weeks. The students are to purchase their own books.

Perry W8AU also confirmed those who enroll in the Technicians class and pass the test have free Massillon Radio Club membership for 2021.

Perry identified the potential of having a parking lot swap meet, flea market, or tailgate on the tarmac sometime this spring; details are to be discussed in the future. It was suggested taking a \$5 donation to setup. The date of activity is mid-April or later.

Brent N8BAG made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Terry N8ATZ seconded. The motion passed.

After the business meeting, Perry W8AU presented a recording of Professor Tom Perera on the [Antique Wireless Museum](https://antiquewireless.org/), <https://antiquewireless.org/> on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3A9hEdenz0U>

Reminder of future activities:

ARRL training class for two levels: Technician and General and one CW class. All of the start 7 pm February 19, 2021 at the R. G. Klein Stock Market Museum, 22 Federal Ave NE, Massillon, OH 44646.

The next meeting will be Friday, March 5, 2021 at 7:30pm. Due to COVID-19, the meeting will be on Zoom, as well as simultaneously, an in-person meeting with masks and social distancing. The meeting location is the R. G. Klein Stock Market Museum, 22 Federal Ave NE, Massillon, OH 44646.

Please, check for any additional information just ahead of the next meeting.

If you know of additional tower work or tower removal, please contact any of the following: Evan KE8IDH, Don N8IVJ, or Vern KE8VS. So, if you have some antenna work to be done, any of these can be contacted about your project.

Thank you in advance.

It's not a Begali, but....

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

One of the questions I'm most frequently asked is, "What is a good paddle for a beginner?" My usual answer to this question is to look for a used Bencher BY-1 at a hamfest or on one of the online venues. You used to be able to get them for \$60 or less. Now, however, there are few hamfests and the price has gone up. Now, used Benchers are close to \$80.

Another option that newcomers might consider is the [CW Morse](#) paddle (shown in photo below). They cost \$60 with a steel base (\$43 without), and are available from [3rd Planet Solar](#) and [Gigaparts](#). I purchased one recently, and used it for a couple of days. To be honest, I was prepared to hate it, but it actually works pretty well. It's not a Begali, but it's good enough that I'd recommend it as a starter key.

These keys are mostly made from 3D-printed plastic parts. You can tell this from the finish. While not as bad as some 3D-printed parts, they do look a little rough. I wouldn't be surprised if they go to molded parts, though, at some point. In high volumes, it has to be cheaper to mold the parts rather than print them.

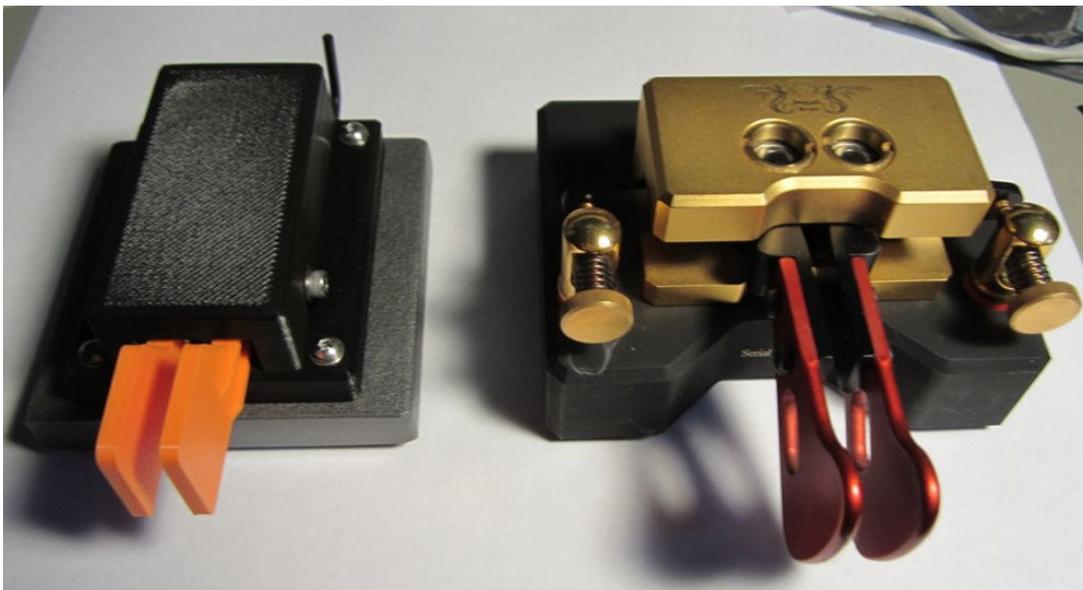
The key does have metal parts where it counts, though. The contacts are all brass, the base is made from 1/2-in. cold-rolled steel, and the levers pivot on sealed ball bearings. My key weighed 22.5 oz (1.4 lbs.), and was quite stationary on the silicone mat that I use for my keys. The Begali is, of course, a lot heavier at nearly 60 oz. (3.75 lbs.).

A spring between the levers provides the tension. Two screws allow you to adjust the contact spacing. Unlike the Begali, whose adjustment screws have a very fine thread to give you plenty of adjustability, these screws are standard thread screws. What this means is that it can be a bit tricky to set the contact spacing. The screws are spring-loaded to prevent the adjustment from changing, but the springs don't seem to be very beefy, and I can see where the adjustment might change after a lot of use.

The ball bearings give the key a nice action. During my tests, I had the speed cranked up to 23 wpm, and this key performed well at that speed. One thing I didn't like very much is that the arms tend to flex more than I

like, have with finger why I finger gali.

Over-quite key. bucks, one-of a netic tainly



but I actually the same problem the plastic Begali pieces. That's use the aluminum pieces on the Be-

all, though, I'm happy with this And, for sixty which is about fifth of the price new Begali Mag-Pro, I can cer-recommend this

key to newcomers getting [started in CW](#).



(Mar 1, 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-

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[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.

The COVID-19 pandemic-modified ARRL Field Day rules from 2020 will continue this June with the addition of a power limit imposed on Class D (Home Stations) and Class E (Home Stations-Emergency Power) participants. The news from the ARRL Board's Programs and Services Committee comes as many clubs and groups are starting preparations for Field Day in earnest. Field Day 2021 will take place June 26 – 27.

"This early decision should alleviate any hesitancy that radio clubs and individual Field Day participants may have with their planning for the event," said ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE.

For Field Day 2021:

Class D stations may work all other Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points. This year, however, Class D and Class E stations will be limited to 150 W PEP output.

An aggregate club score will be published — just as it was done last year. The aggregate score will be a sum of all individual entries that attributed their score to that of a specific club.

ARRL Field Day is one of the biggest events on the amateur radio calendar. Last summer, a record 10,213 entries were received.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

From the National Weather Service
As previously mentioned, we will not be able to conduct in person spotter training classes this winter and spring due to restrictions associated with COVID. Therefore, we will hold several virtual spotter training classes. These classes will be open to the public and free of charge. Please feel free to promote to your staff, spotters, amateur radio operators and to publicize to the citizens in your community. All of our classes will be conducted as live webinars with live Q&A. We will use the GoToWebinar software, which can host up to 1000 people for each session. These webinars will not be recorded. 6 webinars are currently planned in February and March, with different days of the week and diverse times represented. If the demand is high enough, we may consider a 7th webinar in April. All those who attend will need to register in advance.



Below are the links to the 6 scheduled classes: •

Spotter Webinar 1: Friday, February 19, 2021 (1 PM - 3 PM): <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8258577384418148110>

- Spotter Webinar 2: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 (7 PM - 9 PM): <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4105945167168648206> •
- Spotter Webinar 3: Thursday, March 4, 2021 (7 PM - 9 PM): <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8790359481726954766> •
- Spotter Webinar 4: Monday, March 8, 2021 (6 PM - 8 PM): <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5017422714408992270> •
- Spotter Webinar 5: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 (6 PM - 8 PM): <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8257513057162542350> •
- Spotter Webinar 6: Saturday, March 27, 2021 (12 PM - 2 PM): <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5687758669980329230>

March 2021

W8NP Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
Upcoming Events: 4/18 - TRARC 49th Hamfest and Computer Show McKeesport, PA	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> Massillon Amateur Radio Club Meeting. Stay tuned to 147.18 for location details!	<i>6</i> Silvercreek ARA, 10:30, Ctc: Stephen 440-381-8655, Sharon Center United Methodist Church, Wadsworth, OH 44281																																																																																																		
<i>7</i> Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 kHz, 2000	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> West Stark Info Net - 147.180 at 2000	<i>13</i> Warren Cty (PA) Hamfest, Ctc: Russ, 814-564-9202, Youngsville, PA																																																																																																		
<i>14</i> Daylight Savings Time Begins 02:00 Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 kHz, 2000	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> St. Patrick's Day	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> West Stark Info Net - 147.180 at 2000	<i>20</i> Spring begins																																																																																																		
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<i>28</i> Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 kHz, 2000	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Feb 2021</th> <th colspan="7">Apr 2021</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> <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>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td> <td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td> <td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td> <td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Feb 2021							Apr 2021							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	28							25	26	27	28	29	30	
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Please contact K8INN for updates, changes, or additions.

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

TO:

Club Officers

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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 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.