



FEEDBACK



VOLUME 48

MARCH, 2003

NUMBER 3

MARCH MEETING

The meeting for the month of March will be held at the Massillon Senior Center on March 7th 2003 at 8:00 PM.

As we are coming out of a very harsh winter that has prevented many of us from doing much of anything, there are many things we need to accomplish this year. We need to set up at least two more Safety Breaks, another GREAT Field Day and make this year's Hamfest, the best ever. Several things are already happening. Jack Wade, N8LCS is soliciting for volunteers to help with this year's MS Walk - A - Thon, to be held in April again this year. Please see Jack to offer your services for our first Public Service event of the year.

Another event that will happen this month is Skywarn Training Classes. This "public" event is one that I cannot stress enough about. In the past two years, we have had severe weather in our own area. Tornadoes have struck in and around our community, causing thousands of dollars in damage. It's only by the Grace of God that there has not been any injuries, or perhaps good training? The Skywarn Training Classes will be held on March 26, 2003 at the Stark State College at 7:00 PM. You do not have to have to be preregistered for this class, and there is no fee involved, however you should have the training to participate in the Severe Weather Net on 147.12 MHz during alerts. The training is a perquisite to getting on the air and making a fool of yourself by saying "its sunshine here"! They need FACTUAL information, not hearsay. It's only human nature to want to participate during "emergencies", but this is where the training comes into play. They will teach you what the Control Op is looking for and what to report when asked. So plan on attending and becoming an "informed" Skywarn member!

- SHORT SKIP -

ATTENTION old timers ! Make plans NOW to work 5Y3GT or 5U4GT from the Full Wave Bridge at Octal Base April 1st !

No, ya don't have ta be nuts ta be a ham, but they say it sure helps ! (Hi)



73 de WB80WM

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY

MARCH 17th



MARC MINUTES

February 7,2003

The February Massillon Amateur Radio Club meeting was held at the Massillon Senior Center with 23 members present.

MARC President Rich KA8ZQH called the meeting to order at 8:00 P.M.. The Pledge of Allegiance was given and a round of introductions was made.

Rich KA8ZQH then asked to suspend the reading of the January minutes. They were accepted as stated in the FEEDBACK by Steve WD8MIJ and second by Sandra N8TZB.

MARC Treasurer Anne N8GAF gave the financial report for December and January. A motion was made to accept these reports by Don W8DEF and second by Perry W8AU.

Vice President Jim WA8GXM gave the correspondence report. He told of the 2 Hamfest to be held February. Mansfield on the 9th. and Cuyahoga Falls on the 23rd. He also had 2 tickets to the Madison Hamfest to be given away after the 50-50 drawing.

A QSL card from Egypt arrived, thanks goes to Byron KF8UN for making the contact.

OLD BUSINESS

Don W8DEA had a copy of the Diamond Certificate, he passed around. He is seeing to it they are mailed out.

Steve WD8MIJ suggested making reservations for MARC 2004 Banquet to be held at the Perry Grange again. Also a thank you card to be sent for the good meal served this year.

NEW BUSINESS

Terry N8ATZ reported on the MARC Hamfest flyers. He gave the price for having 1,000 flyers printed. He would like to have them done and put up in the Shack for members going to other Hamfest to take with them to distribute.

Jack N8LCS had a sign up sheet for the MS Walk that will be held on April 6,2003. Anyone wanting to help contact Jack, again this year it will be held at Quail Hollow and The Towpath.

Dan N8DZM said the Fox Hunt would be on Saturday this month because of the Mansfield Hamfest. Perry W8AU will be hiding it on February 8, 2003. Remember the first to find the Fox gets to hide it next month.

Dan N8DZM had another proposal for a By-Laws change. It will be given to a committee to review it and report back.

After refreshments the program this month will be an ARRL tape on ATV.

Absent Gary WC8W due to knee surgery, will be holding a VE session February 22, 2003, to anyone wanting to test.

Jim WA8GXM contacted the new Great Lakes Director Jim Weaver, he will be the speaker at the MARC meeting on May 2,2003.

The approved 2003 budget was on display.

Congratulations goes to me, Linda K8MOO for winning the 50-50 for \$15.00.

Minutes by Linda K8MOO Secretary MARC

.... GET READY FOR TORNADO AWARENESS WEEK

Here in Northeast Ohio the week of March 23 has officially been designated as Tornado Awareness Week and will be full of activities for area amateurs.

On or about Wednesday, March 26th at approximately 9:50 am area communities will promote tornado awareness by sounding & testing their local sirens that are intended to notify residents in the event severe weather enters Stark County. Although area Cable TV Companies provide an excellent notification system through their closed systems, there are still many residents who dont have cable making the local sirens their only means of early warning.

The drill, held under the direction of Stark County Emergency Preparedness Agency director Ed Cox, is routinely held in conjunction with Tornado Safety Week. Early warning and advanced preparedness is especially important with last years tornado touchdowns still in the minds of area residents.

The Stark County Emergency Operations Center will again be staffed during the drill and area amateurs will once again be asked to check in to the 147.12 ARES Repeater during the drill.

The day will conclude with our annual Skywarn Spotter Training Session held again at Stark State College of Technology. Beginning at 7:00 PM with registration, Cleveland Weather Coordinating Meteorologist Gary Garnet - KC8TJI will with Ed Cox host the training which will inform attendees how severe weather is formed and proper methods to identify cloud patterns and how to pass along their vital observations to the National Weather Service office.

Amateur Radio operators have always played a major role in Stark Counties Spotter program, as our unique communications systems permit real time observations to be instantly relayed to Cleveland NWS. This information allows forecasters to make more accurate predictions of the exact location and intensity of severe weather in our area. Many critical severe weather bulletins issued are thanks to the quick reaction by local amateur spotters.

All area amateurs are encouraged to attend this important Spring training program. Marvin Secrest of M & K Engraving will also be in attendance during the meeting, providing official Skywarn ID badges as well as other related products. Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, March 26th and make plans to join us for this important training.

.... HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FEBRUARY FOX HUNT

The February Fox Hunt was held Saturday, February 8th so as not to conflict with the Mansfield Hamfest. Perry Ballinger - W8AU, had the honor of hiding the Fox for this hunt, with Terry - N8ATZ, Don - W8DEF, Linda - K8MOO, Dan - N8DZM, Jason - KA8ZQH and Rich - KA8ZQH braving the low temperatures as Fox Hunters. After a mass start from the Senior Center, the hunt was on. Massillon's finest must be getting used to our event, as we hardly aroused any suspicious glances as the hunt eventually led us to the heart of the downtown area. Some skills are slowly starting to sharpen as both Don & Linda and Dan & Jason converged around the Massillon Public Library within about 30 minutes. After a little triangulation, some body shielding, frequency counter ranging and yes, a bit of luck the elusive fox was first found by Dan & Jason. Making the hunt a little more interesting, Perry had placed the Fox in a very inconspicuous white trash bag and placed it in a snow pile with only the antenna exposed !

Thanks to Dan's help, Terry and Don were pointed in the right direction to locate the Fox as it appeared both were suffering from the early signs of frostbite ! After some after hunt ribbing, the event was concluded and all adjourned for a hot beverage !

.... REVISED WEBSITE CONSIDERATIONS

I have asked Dan - N8DZM, MARC co webmaster to again investigate the possibility of moving the club website to a commercial server. Why make a change ? There are several reasons that would make changing a good idea. The biggest reason is

so that we can have our own registered domain name. One that would be more readily recognizable and help give us a permanent presence on the World Wide Web. I would like to have registered MARC.ORG but its already taken by a commercial entity. We are however looking at other combinations of MARC that would work.

Other reasons to change include greater storage space, better support, a faster web connection plus many other features that would allow us to expand our website. The cost would be about \$ 70.00 a year which is comparable to the \$ 5.00 a month donation we now use. Something we might want to discuss at the next club meeting.

73s till next time

Terry - N8ATZ

--- Tectopics 12 ---

“Day Dreams, and Learning Stuff “ Plus Skirts - - Dial Skirts That Is!

I'm surprised and amazed when I look at the number for this Tectopics...Gosh! . . .This is number twelve! Can hardly believe that the Documentation and Publishing dept. here at the Big “KXR” has written a full dozen of these ‘insightful’ commentaries regarding those wonderful Battle Ship Anchors and other exciting adventures here at the station. In case you would like to try your hand at writing some stuff for the monthly letter, and give me a break, you might be curious about how it's done, or maybe not?

In general, it takes about two hours from start to finish, including warming up the PC, attempting to be creative, spell checking, and sending these gems over to Gary WC8W. One question comes up repeatedly, from those who have a hard time writing their own address, or signing birthday cards. It goes something like this, “I don't have anything important to say...or, what could I write about, I just don't do anything worth telling about?” It's a standard answer and sounds like a good reason not to try, but it's not a valid excuse.

All kidding aside, it's not a bad question...and there are always attempts to explain how to write something, but actually there are no real easy answers. The Tectopics series is created

on the fly...that is, I haven't a zero grid drive clue until I put my fingers on the keys as to what is going to come out. It's scary but true...and is a common enough answer from anyone who writes, either professionally, or for fun (except for the grid drive part). So, sit down...get the processor started and start being a Ham...and a writer...There are an infinite number of topics to write about based on your own on going adventures in our game. Use a bit of imagination, a tiny bit of effort, and write about your unique view of our special hobby. Try it ... you might be good at it and find a new aspect of our hobby, and give me a break before I get a case of writer's block!

So, in the last edition, I advised that my six hundred ohm feed line actually ignited and burnt one of the PVC spreaders. Along with that incendiary event, a second spreader, about four feet away, developed very visible carbon paths, to the extent that it conducted and shorted the feed line. The clue that something had gone quite out of spec was that the in-line SWR monitor went from a very unexciting “0” (1:1) reading to well over any value you wanted when the watts began to flow...Not Good...The rig simply reacted by spiking huge plate current values...it normally loaf's at 200 ma and about 2800 volts...but when SWR went up...so did the plate current . . . to 500 plus ma . . .very exciting! No smoke in the shack ... it was all in the yard...with a great light show according to Missy Marilyn, who was by the way making a fresh batch of her famous ‘Sticky Buns’ in the W8KXR cafeteria . . . Err . . . she calls it our kitchen.

I mentioned a ‘learning curve’ last time, and that is what is most exciting here at W8KXR . . . I've talked a bit about open wire feeders in Tectopics and advised, one doesn't really care about SWR...the very efficient parallel tuned tank tuner takes care of business with no signal sucking toroids, so the rig always sees a nominal 50 ohms. Yet there is a curious feature of tuned feeders...they operate with current and voltage peaks “somewhere” along the feeder...well, when the Boat Anchors are delivering the goods, both current and voltage peaks can reach some very high values; hence, the need for efficient spacers and insulators out on the line.

The spectacular fire works simply found the high voltage point along the feed line and an insulator that had been compromised. If you were at the last MARC meeting, I had the toasted remnants on display. Apparently during the summer, some kind of flying critter had made nests in the end of the PVC and when their nest got wet...and when that insulator was at the HV point along the line...when modulation came up . . . well, you get the idea.

Rebuilding and up grading the spacers with caulking compound is the next step along the learning and development curve for the engineering dept.. And, is it worth it? You bet! The 160 sigs on both AM and SSB from the Big KXR are often as big as any on the band, especially when the going gets rough, but the real test of an antenna is; can it hear? And, Yep! It hears very well.

Very often, even though I am east of the main body of the nightly net check in's where the NC often is in Wisconsin or

upper Michigan...I hear most, if not all stations when other locals are having difficulty. Currently the band is naturally long, with Florida, Vermont, and Texas all in the round table...I can hear them all. So, the antenna is very efficient at these distances and time of day...and holds it's own with all but the biggest and tallest antennas down here on a frequency that is prowled by many one hundred watt rigs, but where very often, the super power stations are common. Once again...if ur frustrated with SWR...can't navigate a band from one end to the other without ur rig shutting down, give some thoughts to building a real impedance transformer..."tuner" that is...and try some 'roll your own' real feed line.

And what other activities are going in the engineering dept. during these wonderful winter months? Well, the latest project is to enroll in School...Good Grief!! You gotta be kidding! No one does that, do they? I mean ya gatta be nuts to do that . . . school? Yuck!

Well yes, I suppose so, if you are one of those who can't get on the air and worries and gets all in a fever about not having anything to do, or to talk about, when it comes your turn to 'chat' and contribute to the roundtable . . . well then of course, school is a bit of a challenge...and a disturbance in the force, just not cool if ur stuck in a rut.

But, if you a looking for ideas, want get out and meet some neat folks who know a lot of stuff you don't, but are eager to help you get some fresh ideas, then here is a very neat chance to have some big boy fun...and perhaps help yourself to bring back to life a desperately suffering rig that might even be a classic if you only knew how. Oh, and you'll have a lot to talk about too, that is different than the usual signal exchange and c u later om type QSO.

So, ok, what's the school gig? It's not really 'fun' is it? I signed up with the Adult Vocational Services school operated by Summit County School System in Akron to spend some time learning to operate an Engine Lathe...or more simply a Metal Lathe...It is the next step beyond your drill press for fabrication and repair of broken parts for, you guessed it, Real Radios and other broken things.

I found out about the school from KC8LYN's Mom. She did some research and provided a phone number. The rest was easy. I was told that, from time to time, hobby types show up looking for some informal instruction in machine operations, and was welcomed as an informal student, a little like auditing a college course. These informal students are guys like you and me, who are doing things like building and customizing engines for classic cars, fabricating parts for vintage cars, gun smithing, building model live steam engines, doing model railroading, and a variety of other hobby interests limited only by ones drive and imagination to be creative.

The folks who manage the school are outstanding and the cost is a total bargain to good to be true. For those who

would like more information, I've added the phone number of the school's director at the end of these notes.

I've spent these past winter weeks going two and three days a week, and so far have learned to operate two different types of lathes, turn and face chunks of steel for further shaping, cutting precision threads, make nuts for custom fit panel bushing, drilling center holes, drilling and tapping for custom stand off's and shafts, reaming for panel bearings, and of course reading micrometers, and a variety of other measuring instruments.

The instructor is outstanding with 20 years teaching experience and who has the patience of a true saint, which is a source for several other tales. Seriously, the experience is fantastic and I'm just finishing a customized dial skirt for my favorite R-390A.

Once you get a few basics, a whole world opens that was quite out of reach without this skill. For example, the famous R-390X series of military receivers I've often referred to here, were designed for serious heavy duty usage. One of the clues as to how much service one of these beauties has seen in it's un-restored form is the amount of wear around the main tuning dial. When heavily used, an operators fingernails automatically abraded the paint off the panel with the continual movement back and forth while micro tuning a spook signal. The main knob had no skirt (oops!). This trade mark wear pattern is affectionately called an 'eyebrow' and sometimes is yellow in color, where the gray paint has been worn into the cadmium based air craft type yellow primer below. I have a veteran Collins edition where even the primer is worn through to bare aluminum.

These radios never had dial skirts...so, of course it is a natural to custom manufacture one for one of my big pets. It is taking shape (emerging) from a three and a half inch diameter by four inch solid piece of mild steel that has been cut, shaped, drilled for bearing type tolerances to fit the main tuning drive shaft, and drilled and tapped for a set screw. A second piece is being machined so the skirt will have a natural step, or relief to it, to just comfortably fit ones fingers when the dial is gripped. The whole piece will be polished to a mirror finish, then primed and painted according to previous guide lines discussed here in Tectopics.

Too bad Art Collins couldn't have checked with Engineering over at the Big KXR for some real neat stuff for his classic designs! Wow...a one of a kind prototype to tempt and confuse the guys on the R-390X reflector, or maybe even the big market place over on 'The Bay.' I can see it now...what a stir it would cause..."Yep! Just found this skirted R-390A knob guys...looks like real military quality...might even be part of an unknown prototype....wonder if there are any other's out there? Real strange we haven't seen any others...gosh...what a find!...it's even stamped with a logo . . . KXR/03 . . ."

"Hmmm, lets see now...wonder what minimum bid I'll put on this one of a kind beauty...?" (grin, snort, and chortle)...

Ahhh . . . winter day dreams ...but, in this case the machine course and the R-390A dial skirt are very real. I'll bring the evidence to a club meeting in the near future, in hopes I can encourage some of you to reach out and try a new adventure, that fits nicely with our great hobby...it's up to you...make it what ever you want it to be, but remember to have some fun along the way.

From the "Machining and Drafting Dept" at the Big KXR,

De W8KXR

Phone number for Adult Vocational Services – (330) 761-1385 -

Ask for Mr. Chuck Hubiak – Director -

Instructor is Mr. Bill Bishop – Bill can also be reached the above number.

SK

FEBRUARY FOLLIES: 2 1/2 BLOCKS IN 1 HOUR, 15 MINUTES!

An alternative title might be: Fox builder finds Fox in record speed! (with a little help from a friend) :-)

February 8, Saturday, was a fine day for hunting. Contestants gathered at the Clubhouse for the 2 p.m. start time with Terry, N8ATZ, Don, W8DEF (with Linda riding shotgun), Dan, N8DZM, and Jason, KC8LIN (riding along with Dan). Two other contestants, Jim, WA8GXM and Rich, KA8AQH, intended to make it but were delayed. With the sub-freezing weather no one was in the mood to wait....

The Fox was hidden by Perry, W8AU, the winner of January's contest.

For a change, this time the Fox was not "miles" away, but just "blocks" away! Should have made for a quick, painless FIND, right? Nope!

While the "hider" waited and watched from a distance, the hunters started out with high hopes! A quick find was expected, but.... 15 minutes passed and no sight of hunters. 1/2 hour passed and an occasional glimpse of W8DEF's van..... 45 minutes passed, and a few more glimpses of Don's van..... But.....no one actually near the site!

One hour passes, and we are wondering if the lil' Foxy bugger will have enough battery to keep going.....

One hour passes.....

Surprisingly little chatter on the repeater, as the hunters are either lost or frozen by now.....?

But, no.... here come two bodies, tramping through the snow..... it's Dan and little buddy Jason.... (a two man team? Let's check the rules here.... hmmm.)

Dan and Jason get close. Begin to look in dumpster, go up and down ladder, back and forth... Dan has maxed out the signal on his HT and cannot adequately DF any longer.... BUT... Jason comes to the rescue with his hand held freq counter! The Radio Shack freq counter needs a strong signal to operate.... Voila! He sniffs out the Fox hiding under a snowpile behind an air conditioner compressor behind the Massillon Public Library! The combination of Dan's HT for long distance DFing and Jason's insensitive freq counter that will only operate if the signal source is almost next to it, has conquered Mount Snowpile! One hour, 15 minutes!

Dan and Jason retreat to Lincoln Way so as to not to give away the location, but curses!... Footprints! Nothing like snow to give away your travels! A minute or two later Don and Terry arrive (with Dan & Jason behind them) and they look around where the others have been.

Just who was in second place is unknown. Don's HT batteries have died and he is left with only the "eyeball" detector....

At this time, everyone is looking for the "hider." So W8AU comes out of seclusion across the street and joins the group to review everything and compare notes.

Dan defers to Jason as the "finder," although Jason could not have located it without "piggybacking" on Dan.... Next time Jason will have to bring his bicycle.... rain or snow! :-)

But, for March's Foxhunt, Jason will not need any transportation. He will be the one hiding the Fox!

Just how many miles did the hunters travel to go 2 1/2 blocks? Dan did volunteer that he went over to the west side of town to compare signal levels.... but it was too cold to stand around and ask everyone...

Perhaps they will confess during this month's meeting.....

In the meantime.... get your DF gear ready, charge those batteries, and get ready to hit the starting line! Another hunt is coming up!

W8AU



Jack and his "ferrets."

DFing got Jack to the building and his ferrets sniffed out the hidden TX visibly by running all over each floor of the building until they found the roof access.

Year was probably 1975. Winner is fella second from right, Jack Brunner, K8GZT, although it was a whole family effort + one. The "extra" guy is second from left and may not have been licensed at that time. (Guess who?)

L to R: Son Ron, Big Bozo Joe (WD8BGW), Son Steve, Jack and finally Susan, (WD8POV, I think?)

Location: Roof of Massillon Bldg, Lincoln Way & Erie. Frequency: 2 meters

E- MAIL ATTACHMENTS

Some of you have come to me and "complained" that when they receive their Feedback via E- Mail, that they cannot "open" the attached newsletter. Then they began noticing that they cannot open any attachments and began to wonder, "has anything happened"?

Well don't despair folks. It seems that you thought that upgrade that you made would be the "cure for all evils"! In fact, it is the problem ! But again don't despair, I have the "cure" !

After you install Internet Explorer 6 Service Pack 1 (SP1) of Windows XP SP1 (both of which include Outlook Express 6 SP1), access to some of your E- Mail attachments in Outlook Express may be removed.

To turn off the Option to use the Unsafe File List

To turn off the Do Not allow attachments to be saved or opened that could potentially be a virus option.

1. Start Outlook Express
2. On the **Tools** menu, click **Options**.
3. Click the **Security** tab, click to clear the **Do not allow attachments to be saved or opened that could potentially be a virus** check box under **Virus Protection**, and then click **OK** **Good luck !! de WC8W**

ARRL NEWS

ARLP009 Propagation de K9LA

ZCZC AP09

QST de W1AW

Propagation Forecast Bulletin 9 ARLP009 From Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA Fort Wayne, IN February 28, 2003

To all radio amateurs

Tad Cook, K7VVV is out of town this week, so Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, is filling in for him.

Solar activity during the reporting period February 21 through February 27, was very low to low. The largest X-ray flare was a C5 event on Saturday. There were no radio black-outs (R in the WWV announcement) or proton events (S in the WWV announcement) during the period.

Geophysical activity was quiet to active from Friday through Wednesday, and ranged from unsettled to minor storm on Thursday. There were no significant geomagnetic storms (G in the WWV announcement) during the period. The minor storminess on Thursday only lasted about 9 hours.

Solar Cycle 23 continues its descent. Cycle 23 peaked in April 2000 with a smoothed sunspot number of 121. A second peak occurred in November 2001 with a smoothed sunspot number of 116, which gave 6-meter aficionados worldwide F2 propagation. Cycle 23 is predicted to reach its minimum in the 2006-2007 time frame.

This weekend is the ARRL International DX Phone Contest. For the contest period, solar activity is expected to be low and the geomagnetic field is expected to be unsettled. This translates to generally decent propagation.

Cycle 23's decline will take its toll on 10-meters, though the East Coast should still have decent 10-meter openings into Europe and the West Coast should still have decent 10-meter openings into Asia.

But 10-meter openings from the East Coast to Asia and from the West Coast to Europe, along with openings to Europe and Asia from the Midwest, could be tough. So enjoy 10-meters while you can. This contest is also a good opportunity to work new countries for your DXCC award.

Sunspot numbers for February 20 through 26 were 66, 87, 53, 41, 44, 48, and 45, with a mean of 54.9. 10.7 cm flux was 118.3, 119.6, 106.6, 104, 102, 101.6, and 109.4, with a mean of 108.8. Estimated planetary A indices were 16, 13, 11, 11, 6, 5, and 16, with a mean of 11.1.

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ARLD009 DX news

ZCZC AE09
 QST de W1AW
 DX Bulletin 9 ARLD009
 From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT February 27, 2003
 To all radio amateurs

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by Tedd, KB8NW, the OPDX Bulletin, W5AJ, 425DXnews, DXNL, QRZ DX, The Daily DX, WA7BNM and Contest Corral from QST. Thanks to all.

BARBADOS, 8P. Tom, W2SC will be QRV as 8P5A as a Single Op/All Band/High Power entry in the ARRL DX Phone contest. QSL via NT1N.

MALTA, 9H. Alex, DL5SDK plans to be QRV as 9H3AS from Gozo Island, IOTA EU-023, from March 3 to 10. Look for activity on 20, 15 and 10 meters. QSL to home call.

CHILE, CE. Ferdy, CE4FX will participate in the ARRL DX Phone contest as CE4Y on 10 meters using high power. QSL to home call.

MOROCCO, CN. Look for W7EJ to be active as CN2R in the ARRL DX Phone contest as a Single Op/All Band/High Power entry. QSL to home call.

CANARY ISLANDS, EA8. Look for EA8/OH6XX and EA8/OH9MM to be active in the ARRL DX Phone contest as Single Op entries on 15 and 20 meters, respectively. QSL to home calls. Meanwhile, Martti, OH2BH will be QRV as EA8BH as an All Band entry. QSL to home call.

FRENCH GUINEA, FY. Look for F6FVY, F1HAR, F5HRY, F5MZM and FY5FY to be QRV as FY5KE in the ARRL DX Phone contest as a Multi/Single entry. QSL via FY5KE.

ITALY, I. Look for IR4X to be QRV in the ARRL DX Phone contest. QSL via IK4QJH.

JAPAN, JA. Operators JS6QVQ, JS6QVP and JI5RPT/6 will be QRV from the Daito Islands, IOTA AS-047, from March 4 to 11. They plan activity on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL JS6QVQ via JI5RPT, JS6QVP via JI5USJ and JI5RPT/6 to home call.

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS, KP2. Tony, N2TK will be QRV from WP2Z for the ARRL DX Phone contest. QSL via KU9C. Before and after the contest he is active as N2TK/NP2. QSL to home call.

LUXEMBOURG, LX. Robert, LX1RQ plans to be QRV as LX5A in the ARRL DX Phone contest as a Single Op/Single Band entry on 20 meters. QSL

to home call.

ALAND ISLANDS, OH0. Toni, OH2JTE will be QRV from the OH0B station during the ARRL DX Phone contest. He will be a Single Op/All Band entry with a SO2R setup. QSL via operator's instructions.

NETHERLAND ANTILLES, PJ2. AE9B, NW0L and WB9Z will be QRV as PJ2T from Curacao in the ARRL DX Phone contest. Before and after the contest they are active using their homecalls/PJ6 until March 6. Activity is on the newer bands and possibly on RTTY. Look for them on 6 meters on either 50110 or 50125 kHz. QSL via operators' instructions.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, V2. Robert, W5AJ will be QRV as V26P as a Single Op/All Band entry in the ARRL DX Phone contest. QSL via WJ5DX.

BELIZE, V3. Charlotte, KQ1F and Paul, K1XM are QRV as V31QQ from Turneffe Island, IOTA NA-123, until March 5. This includes activity in the ARRL DX Phone contest as a Multi/Single entry. QSL via KQ1F.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF. John, K0DQ will participate in the ARRL DX Phone contest as ZF2DQ as a Single Op/All Band/High Power entry. Prior to the contest, he plans on being QRV on 17 and 12 meters. QSL to home call.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL International DX Phone Contest, Open Ukraine RTTY Championship and the DARC 10-Meter Digital "Corona" Contest will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend. The Spartan CW Sprint is scheduled for March 4. Please see March QST, page 99 and the WA7BNM contest website for details.

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==>ARRL EXPRESSES CONCERNS ABOUT HAM RADIO IMPACT OF 70-CM CHANGES

The ARRL says two FCC-proposed actions could negatively affect Amateur Radio. One would substantially expand the geographical area in the US subject to power limitations on 70 cm. The other would deploy National Weather Service wind-profiler radars in the 448-450 MHz segment.

“The Commission has proposed two actions that have a potentially substantial adverse impact on a large number of Amateur Radio operators in this proceeding,” the ARRL said in comments filed this month in ET Docket 02-305. “In each case, the Commission can minimize that impact.”

In a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) late last fall, the FCC proposed on behalf of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to—among other things—more than double the size of the geographical area in New Mexico and Texas where amateurs in the 420-450 MHz band would be limited in power to protect military radiolocation service operations. Amateur transmitters in certain geographical areas already are limited to 50 W PEP “unless expressly authorized by the FCC after mutual agreement, on a case-by-case basis” between the FCC district director and the applicable military frequency coordinator—§97.313(f). The NPRM also reflects action by NTIA specifying the operation of federal government wind profilers in the band 448-450 MHz.

Acknowledging that the Amateur Service is secondary to government services in the band, the ARRL nonetheless asked the FCC to ensure that the affected zone in Texas and New Mexico “is minimized as much as possible, consistent with protection of military facilities.” The ARRL also requested the FCC to create “a streamlined procedure for case-by-case exemptions” from the power restrictions.

“It is difficult for ARRL to address the contention of the Army that amateur power in excess of 50 W PEP in the additional protected areas requested by the Army would cause interference to military radiolocation facilities involved in missile tracking,” the League said in its comments, “because the claim made by the Army is not substantiated by any technical information.” The proposed area would include all of New Mexico and all of Texas west of 104 degrees W longitude. The ARRL said it was “not intuitively obvious” that such a large restricted area was necessary.

The ARRL concluded that a 50-W power restriction was “not a substantial burden” on many FM repeater users but that it could mean lowering the outputs of some critical repeaters used for emergency and public service work or taking them off the air altogether. It also could affect so-called weak-signal, experimental and Earth-Moon-Earth operations, the ARRL said. More than five dozen repeaters in the affected region could be affected,

the League estimated.

Concerning the wind profilers, the League said it had understood that the National Weather Service—which operates the radars—would notify ARRL of their locations as selected. “Ideally,” the League said, “since the amateur repeaters are incumbent in the band now, the National Weather Service should select sites that minimize the effect on those repeaters.”

The complete text of the ARRL’s comments, the FCC NPRM and other documents are available via the FCC’s Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) site <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>. Click on “Search for Filed Comments” and enter “02-305” in the “Proceeding” field.

(From the ARRL Letter Vol 22 No. 09 February 28, 2003)

MARCH CALENDAR

On this page we usually reserve space for the month’s calendar. However this month we will not be presenting it. The calendar is created by Rich Ross, KA8ZQH and this month he is experiencing computer troubles. Rich has been doing a remarkable job on the calendar, and believe it or not, it takes a lot of work just to put it together. All the birthdays, events and meetings have to be placed on it and confirmed that the event is indeed correct.

We hope to bring you the calendar back next month. Rich seems to think his problems will be solved by then. Good luck Rich!

FINAL NOTICE: DUES ARE DUE !!!

This is it ! It’s crunch month and if you haven’t paid your 2003 Massillon Amateur Radio Club dues, we will be forced to drop you from the membership roles. This is something no one wants to do, but we have to draw the line somewhere ! The notice went out in December and most of you paid the dues at the January Banquet meeting, but there are some who are a procrastinator !

While you read this “Final Notice”, grab the ‘ole check book and write out the \$ 10 renewal for the year and send it to our Treasurer Ann Ballinger, N8GAF , 2468 Bellevue Ave SW, Massillon, Ohio 44647-7212. Even a phone call will “do the trick” @ 330-832-8612.

But above all please do not forget to renew. I’m sure you will want to continue your membership in the Massillon Amateur Radio Club for another year and not miss out on all the great activities planned !