

FEEDBACK

VOLUME 52 ISSUE 5

MAY 2007

MASSILLON AMATEUR
RADIO CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Ralph Bugg
K8HSQ

VICE PRESIDENT
Scott McCamish
N3JJT

SECRETARY
Dan Anastas
N8DZM

TREASURER
Anne Ballinger



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SHORT SKIP

Suprise ! Amateur radio operations in Iraq have been suspended indefinitely. This action has been attributed to the current internal security situation (aka civil war) in Iraq. The suspension applies equally to Iraqi and visiting foerign radio amateurs.

Aw shucks Bunky, there goes our hope for a YI DX QSO !

73 DE WB8OWM

MAY MEETING

The meeting for the month of May will be held at the Massillon Senior Center on May 4th 2007 at 8:00 PM.

April showers bring May flowers but you can bet the main discussion at the'ole Massillon Amateur Radio Club meeting will be about the upcoming Field Day events held this year on the weekend of June 23 & 24th. Time sure has a way of getting by us. It seems like we just had our Awards Banquet and now here it's almost Field Day! We will hold Field Day again at Petro's Park, but we will need some great ideas from the members on how to improve Field Day. Many of the details will have to be worked out over the next two months. If you are new to ham radio, I'm sure you will not want to miss this very important event. So much is to be learned; from operating HF to observing how to successfully work satellites, 6 meters, etc; all contest style. So be sure to mark your calendars for the weekend of June 23 & 24th, you won't be sorry!



MARC PROGRAM NOTICE

As of this writing, we do not have a formal program for the club meeting. It will however be an "eyeball" QSO evening. If you missed last month's meeting, then you missed one of the best programs we have had in a long time. I'm sure Scott, N3JJT has some other fine programs in the works for the rest of the year, but they will be hard to beat April's program !

FOX HUNT NOTICE

Please read the Fox Hunt notice on page 7 in this issue.

MARC MINUTES

April 6th, 2007

The Massillon Amateur Radio Club meeting was held at the Massillon Senior Center with 33 members and guests present. MARC Vice-President Scott N3JJT opened the meeting at 8:00 P.M. Our President Ralph was missing. The Pledge of Allegiance was given and a round of introductions was made.

Program

We started our meeting with a great program by Mel Vye W8MV who recently was on a DXpedition to Peter 1 Island, 3Y0X, last February, 2006.

Meeting

The March minutes were accepted as stated in the FEEDBACK with no changes or additions. Igor K8INN made the motion and Steve MD8MIJ seconded it.

MARC Treasurer Anne N8GAF gave the financial report.

Vice President Scott N3JJT gave the correspondence report. He had the usual newsletters from other Amateur Radio Clubs.

Committees

Classes – We have five people still attending the Tech. Classes.

Grant – Gary WC8W joined our grant committee along with Igor K8INN and Dan N8DZM.

Old Business

We need more volunteers to be Net Control for the West Stark Information Net. We have a few people interested but not committed yet.

New Business

Mike KD8ENV has donated two PIII Laptops in fine condition to the club

April 28th will be a MS Walk in Massillon, volunteers needed.

There will be a bike race in Akron June 10th. Akron is asking for additional help as this is a very large event.

Our next Safety Break is July 2nd – 8th. This is a week long event and many volunteers will be needed.

Our 50/50 drawing was won by Terry N8ATZ for \$22.50.

We also had a drawing for a brand new 2006 ARRL Handbook which was won by Steve WD8MIJ.

Minutes by Dan N8DZM

... Skywarn Spotter Review ...

Severe Weather Awareness Week here in Stark County unofficially started on the evening of Wednesday, March 21st as countless Amateur Radio operators and other Public Safety workers participated in our annual Skywarn Spotter Training Seminar. Each year local amateurs involved in the Skywarn Spotter program provide countless hours of community service by providing severe weather spotter reports to the Cleveland National Weather Service (NWS). Thanks to this training, spotters provide actual visual confirmation to the potentially severe weather seen by the NWS. Forecasters depend on these reports to issue Watches and Warnings for our area. The reports are relayed via Amateur Radio directly to the Cleveland NWS forecast office.

Hosted again this year by Stark State College of Technology and moderated by Tim Warstler, Director of the Stark County Emergency Preparedness Center. The seminar was presented by Cleveland Weather Coordinating Meteorologist Gary Garnet, KC8TJI returning for his eighth consecutive season.

The training seminar which covers the science of severe weather teaches spotters to observe cloud formations and the signs that severe weather is approaching. The course also covers spotter safety and how to report weather to the NWS. This year's program included some additional information from last years severe weather season.

This year's attendance was nearly 200, a new record for this program with nearly 100 first time guests who earned their Skywarn Spotter Certification. New spotters are issued spotter numbers which assist forecasters in locating the spotter's precise location. As usual nearly 50% of the crowd was comprised of area amateur radio operators. This was no surprise to EMA Director Tim Warstler who is well aware of the local ham operator's support to both the Skywarn program as well as his office. "This is a fantastic turnout", said Tim, "hams have always supported this program." "I'm always grateful for their assistance." Tim hopes in the near future to have area hams take a more active role in the operation of the EOC. "My experience is that they are extremely talented and very professional radio operators who can be a valuable asset to this office." Cleveland WCM Gary Garnet was also impressed by the turnout. "The amateurs of Stark County have always been strong supporters of the Severe Weather Spotter program, Stark County always rates as one of the largest groups for our Spotter Seminars."

Marvin Secrest of M & K Engraving was also in attendance again this year. Marvin is our exclusive supplier for Skywarn ID badges and was very busy throughout the seminar. The seminar concluded with both Tim Warstler and Stark ARES Emergency Coordinator Dave Beltz, WD8AYE thanking Gary for his excellent training program as well as area amateur radio operators and public safety agencies for the tremendous support they give to this vital community

program.

.. Tornado Test Results ..

As part of Ohio's Severe Weather Awareness Week, Stark County Skywarn participated in the Statewide Tornado Test on Wednesday, March 28th. At 9:50 AM local time communities were requested to activate their sirens as part of their early warning system.

As part of this test, amateur radio operators also tested their response by participating in a simulated emergency skywarn net conducted on the Stark Co 147.12 Mhz ARES Repeater. Net control Mike Lackney - KB8MIB logged 31 local stations covering central and western Stark County. Warning sirens were heard in nearly all areas with the full results reported to the Cleveland National Weather Service and to Tim Warstler, Director of the Stark County Emergency Management Agency.

Our thanks to everyone who took time to participate in Wednesday's drill especially our Net Manager Mike.

.. The Importance of Public Service ..

A recent article in our local newspaper discussed the progress that has been made by various Stark County agencies as they continue to prepare for the day when an emergency may strike our area. While Amateur Radio wasn't specifically mentioned in the article, I have reprinted a portion of it and added a few important comments about how Amateur Radio would be included if such an event were to strike our area. The full story is currently posted on the Stark Co ARES Website on the homepage, I encourage you to have a look at it.

.. It's Dayton Hamvention Time ..

May brings with it the beginning of Spring and more importantly the annual trek to the Mighty Mecca of Ham Radio, the Annual Dayton Hamvention. Celebrating it's 57th show this year on May 18, 19 & 20 – this is one hamfest everyone should visit. The last several years Dayton has made Hamvention part of an overall theme. This year's theme is "Local Clubs – The Heart of Ham Radio" and is meant to acknowledge the support that local ham clubs around the world provide to their communities and to amateur radio. They plan to have some plans for clubs at Hamvention but nothing definite has been decided.

So what is Hamvention ? It's forums where you can meet the authorities on nearly all facets of our hobby. It's 500 inside exhibit spaces where exhibitors show off their latest equipment that you can see and even operate. It's also 2,500 outdoor flea market spaces where everything and anything is available for sale.

Due to the overwhelming popularity Hamvention will once again sponsor ARRL Expo 2007. The expo will showcase all the many benefits of ARRL membership as well as the League's many activities. Two years ago I had my picture placed on a special Hamvention QST Magazine cover, just one the neat things that will be going on in the booth.

Another repeat feature this year at Hamvention will be streaming audio and video from the event from Tom, WA5KUB. This will be his 5th year to broadcast live video from their drive to Hamvention to 3 days in the fleamarket. If you can't make it to this years Hamvention then check out the next best thing at <http://wa5kub.com>. All of the great things that make up Hamvention are posted on their new website at www.hamvention.org.

I will be making my annual visit there both Friday and Saturday in hopes of getting at least one day without rain !. It's an amazing place, I hope you get the chance to make the trip if only for a single day. I'll be looking for you !

**73's for now, Catch you later..
De Terry – N8ATZ**

IN MEMORIAM

MARIE BALLINGER

Marie Ballinger, mother of Perry Ballinger, W8AU, age 91 years passed away on April 19, 2007. Services were held on April 27th, 2007 at First Church of Christ, Scientist in downtown Massillon. Internment services were held at the Western Reserve National Cemetery, Rittman, Ohio, joining her husband Robert, an Army Veteran.

Our sincere condolences goes to Perry and his family.

Aunt Tenna's Common Sense and Common Cents

Over the years, there have been many comments about antennas, location, and types. Often heard are opinions about band conditions from amateur radio operators using dipoles & verticals, to very extensive antenna installations. Many times, the band is not open or not in stable condition, and no matter what type of antenna is employed, it's just Common Sense to wait for another time. When the band does open, even a Common Cents approach of using a simple dipole can be effective.

Here are some basics for making a dipole: The length of a dipole in feet is equal to (468 divided by the frequency in MHz).

A few additional ingredients are: 3 insulators, coax, wire, connector, 2 trees, structure, or combination thereof.



The ARRL handbook or ARRL Antenna Book contains more information.

73 de Mike WA8MKH

**MEMORIAL
DAY MAY 28TH**



OLD TIME HAM RADIO



This picture was scanned from the photograph on the rarely seen dust jacket of the 1923 book "Radio Telephony for Amateurs" by [\(Charles\) Stuart Ballantine](#) (published by the David McKay Company).

The station in the photo is that of David Asbury, 3ADT, of Oak Lane, PA (a section of Philadelphia).

Several pieces of equipment may be identified. To the very right (on the table) is a Westinghouse RA/DA receiver, and to the left of the operator is a homebrew transmitter. Just above his head are two horn speakers. The small one on the right is an [Arkay](#), and to the left is a large homebrew horn.

Behind the Arkay horn is another receiver, probably homebrew, using plug-in honeycomb coils (resembling donuts) in sets of three. These coils were probably made by DeForest. Additional coils are stored on top.

On the wall is a Murdock [antenna switch](#), and power transformers for the transmitter.

(Thanks to Dennis, N8UDL for submitting this article)

Plasma TV — Mother of All RFI Producers

[Paul D. Sergi \(NO8D\)](#) on November 27, 2002

Have you noticed the big sales push by Best Buy (and others) of those plasma TV screens? You know, the ones whose prices have 4 digits in them. There are even payment plans where the price is spread over months or years to help you afford them. Many of these are going to be sold this holiday season.

Unfortunately, no one is mentioning the horrendous RFI that these things put out on HF.

I recently installed a CCTV system to keep an eye on my toys. The security company, ADT, suggested a Panasonic 42" Plasma TV/CCTV monitor since the light output was high enough that the pix could be viewed in broad daylight.

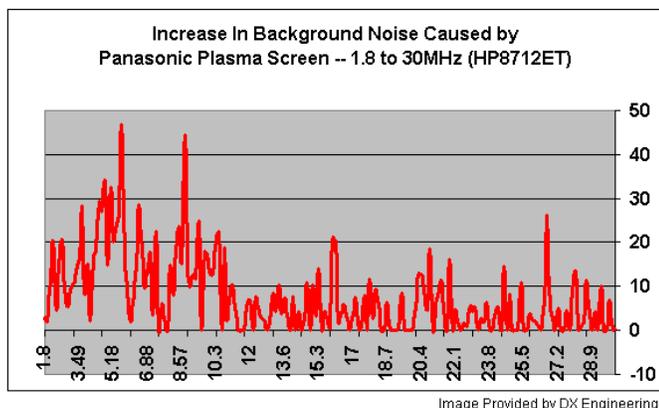
The morning after the installation of the plasma screen, I noticed a huge digital signal about 7.001 MHz and a few other places on the same band. Next, I checked 20 meters, then 15 meters. Same signal but a little weaker as I went up in frequency. Then, I looked at 80 meters - a gigantic noise at 3.505 MHz and other frequencies in the band. 160 meters was the same. What was this!

I did a little direction finding and found that it was coming from my house! Sure enough when I switched off the recently installed plasma display, the noise disappeared and I could hear the DX again.

The security company, ADT talked with Panasonic, who informed them that there was nothing that could be done. I owned it. I hooked up my HP Network Analyzer to see just how bad the problem was across the HF spectrum. It was unbelievably strong!

How strong was it? Below, is a graph that shows the noise output of the plasma TV on the HP Network Analyzer. Those numbers on the right side of the graph represent db above the ambient noise level here inside the house. Yes, that would be 50 db at the top. That's about 8 S-units!

Notice how the noise is the worst on the low bands, but the rest of the bands are impacted as well. Your new Super Duper Signal Sucker receiver will definitely find this baby on any of the HF bands!



How did I get this graph?

First, I turned the Panasonic OFF.

Then, I placed a 2m rubber ducky antenna about 10 feet from the front of the Panasonic Plasma display. I took a reading across the HF spectrum and saved it to a diskette file, which I then imported to an Excel file. This allowed me to graph the ambient noise of the area.

Next, I turned the Panasonic ON and repeated the test, again importing it to the Excel spreadsheet. After subtracting the ambient noise curve from the second curve with the screen operating, I obtained the noise produced by the screen alone.

So What?

So, you are now saying, "So what - there's a big difference between 10 feet away and the distance between me and my closest neighbor. I might not hear that thing at all." You are SO wrong!

I have a 40m antenna that is located a quarter mile from my house and the signal levels from the Panasonic Plasma screen are still S-3 to S-5. Plus, this is off the back of the unit where the signals are attenuated by the metal casing. The signals off the front are stronger.

I have a 4 square for 40m located about 150 feet from the side of the screen and my 'MP says it's S9+10db. So, unless the DX is stronger than that, you're likely to have a problem hearing them.

Let's look at some numbers

Just one Panasonic unit produces an S-3 raspy signal on lots of frequencies at 1/4 mile away from my antenna. How many houses are within a 1/4 mile radius from your house? 500? 1000? OK, now what percentage of those houses will have one of those super efficient raspy RFI generators by say, 2004? Let me guess at 2 percent. That means that you will have 10 to 20 of these things within the 1/4 mile radius of your station. Plus the prices are coming down which will result in a lot more of them. Got the picture?

The FCC will protect us, right?

This device, which is allowed to pollute the entire HF spectrum, is allegedly consistent with Part 15 rules; they say so right in the literature. It says that this device can't cause any licensed station any interference and it has to accept all the interference from licensed devices. Now all you have to do is get the rule enforced against all those people that surround you. Good Luck.

Some of the commercial airplane manufacturers are getting ready to use these things on commercial flights. The communication systems of the Friendly Skies are more concerned with VHF/UHF than the HF spectrum, so it's lucky for them that the spurious output of the screens is reduced as we go up in frequency. Even so, in order to comply with the regulations, some of the screen manufacturers have had to resort to a mesh over the front of the screen to form a sort of Faraday Shield that reduces the signals. Of course, this reduces the picture quality, too. So, don't expect your neighbors to start pulling the mesh over their screen to help you listen for the latest weak signal.

Apparently, the manufacturers don't think that those of us on the ground are worth the investment in shielding and the FCC backs them up with the limp Part 15 rules. Or maybe the Part 15 spawned the unthinking use of high voltage switching for a bright picture and RFI be damned attitude.

What can we do?

You could try one of the noise reduction boxes like the one made by MFJ or JPS but my experience has been that they require a lot of fiddling and retuning every time that you change frequency.

In any case, get ready for the RFI storm. It's forming right now at your local Best Buy and lots of greedy electronics manufacturers who don't mind polluting the spectrum while grabbing your money.

Is it true that if a device puts out a spurious signal on a certain frequency that it is susceptible to incoming signals of the same frequency? That's just a question. I'm not advocating anything.

Paul N08D

(Thanks to Rick, K8RIC for submitting this article)

=====> PLEASE SPARE US: THE FCC STRIKES AGAIN <=====

The FCC took what they described as an important new step to reduce QRM on amateur frequencies by setting standards for voice speeds. The docket #200-4U will become official in the Part 97 amateur regulations effective 1 April 2007.

Citing frequent complaints about "long, boring conversations" on the ham bands, especially 75 meters, the Commission moved to impose a new standard on voice operations requiring all conversations to be at a speed of "at least 200 spoken words-per-minute".

The Commission in its ruling was especially critical of what they called "long winded, often endless conversations by old men talking about their prostate problems and other needs to get up and go to the bathroom several times during the night".

FCC staffers say they have personally heard conversations about nothing that went for hours and tied up frequencies that could be used by faster talkers.

Official Observer stations have received instructions to listen to suspect conversations and count the number of words-per-minute spoken. Those QSOs which fail to meet the minimum speed requirements will be noted and the operators involved will receive Official Observer Advisory Notices encouraging them to follow the rules or risk receiving notice of apparent violation citations from the FCC.

Some hams in southern states complained the new regulation will impose a burden on them because they naturally talk more slowly than those up north. They are suggesting that frequencies be set aside for slow

speed discussions concerning favorite country music artists (particularly Don Williams), NASCAR, huntin' and fishin' (particularly bass and brim). FCC says it may consider that in future rulemaking.

In a separate press release, the American Radio Relay League said they are also concerned about two-meter operation where little is discussed except "full quieting and items to be picked up on the way home". The League said that sort of thing is boring and is usually spoken very slowly as well, far below the 200 words-per-minute minimum. The League suggested conversations on how to help raise more money for League activities would be especially welcomed and will be encouraged. Future issues of QST will contain special pull-out sections containing recommended topics for on-air discussion to brighten up QSOs.

(Thanks to Perry W8AU for submitting this article)

FOX HUNT NOTICE

Our next Fox Hunt will be Saturday May 12th at 3:00 P.M.. This is the CQ Magazines Foxhunting weekend. Hopefully we will have a good participation and I'll send in some pictures and details and maybe something might get published in CQ. Everyone is invited whether you're a club member or not. In fact even non hams may participate if all they are doing is receiving. So invite a friend to come along.

This will be a drive and find type. You will have to go mobile first to get to the general area and then get out and walk. There might be multiple Fox transmitters with this to keep it interesting.

The frequency of the Fox will be 145.62. So get your gear ready for some fun. Really not much is needed, many have had good success with just using a HT with the body blocking method. I like using different methods for comparison.

There are not many rules. The Fox will be within the Massillon city limits. You can use any method available. By yourself or with teams is OK also.

73'S de Dan N8DZM

MARC PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

THE 2007 MS WALK AT QUAIL HOLLOW STATE PARK, HARTVILLE, OHIO



Above Pic is Dan & Rodger coming from the pavilion.



Wade, WD8MIU and the QH Historian in front of the pavilion

Saturday (April 21) was the MS Walk at Quail Hollow state park. Wade WD8MIU, Dan N8DZM, Rodger KA8FTS and myself (Jason, KC8LIN) worked the event. Wade and Rodger manned the rest stops, Dan was at Lake Elementary school bus pickup and I was at the carriage house. We had an excellent day for the event with no rain anywhere. Had no medical incidents and about 300 walkers for the event.

THE 2007 MS WALK AT MASSILLON



Pictured above, MARC members assembled before the walk began



In photo above, MS walkers get drinks & snacks at the Lincoln Park rest area

It was a dark and dreary day, not to mention rainy and cold for the annual MS walk in Massillon Ohio on April 28th, 2007 just one week after the Quail Hollow walk. However this didn't deter MARC members from their assigned tasks or did it deter the nearly 500 walkers who showed up that day in spite of the inclement weather. No incidents were reported other than a couple of tired walkers who gave up at the half way point. MARC members who helped were: Jim WA8GXM, Tom KC8QOD, Rodger KA8FTS, Wade WD8MIU, Dan N8DZM, Don W8DEF, Linda K8MOO, Ralph K8HSQ, Scott N3JJT, Gary WC8W, Terry N8ATZ, Igor K8INN, and Jack N8LCS.

May 2007

W8NP Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
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<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">13</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 @ 1930</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">Mother's Day</p> <p>VE Test Session, Cuyahoga ARS, Ctc: Gary @ 216-642-8705, Town Hall, Independence, 0900</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">14</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">15</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 @ 1930</p> <p>Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">16</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">17</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 @ 1930</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">18</p> <p>Dayton Hamvention/ARRL EXPO 2006 Dayton ARA, Ctc Tim 937-276-6930</p> <p>West Stark Info Net - 147.180 at 2000</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">19</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">Armed Forces Day</p> <p>BD K8CP</p> <p>Dayton Hamvention/ARRL EXPO 2006 Dayton ARA, Ctc Tim 937-276-6930</p>																																																	
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<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">27</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 @ 1930</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">28</p> <p>BD WB8HHP</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">Memorial Day (Observed)</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">29</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 @ 1930</p> <p>Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">30</p> <p>BD KA8ZQH</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">31</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 @ 1930</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Jun 2007</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></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td style="border: 2px solid red;">23</td></tr> <tr><td style="border: 2px solid red;">24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Field Day, June 23 - 24!</p>		Jun 2007							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
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