



FEEDBACK



VOLUME 53 ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2008

**MASSILLON AMATEUR
RADIO CLUB OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT
Scott McCamish
N3JJT
scottmccamish@hotmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT
Rodger Trompower
KA8FTS
hts@cannet.com

SECRETARY
Dan Anastis
N8DZM
ddan@sbcglobal.net

TREASURER
Anne Ballinger
N8GAF
n8gaf@sssnet.com

WEST STARK INFO NET
Thursdays 8:00 PM 147.18
MHZ
MRN NET Tue, Thur & Sun
8:30 PM 3.600 MHZ

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----- SHORT SKIP -----

WARNING: If you're planning a trip to Europe leave your Ni-Cad batteries at home. A recent EU (European Union) directive is in force throughout Europe prohibiting the importation and use of Ni-Cads due to their environmental hazard. So take your handheld, but leave your Ni-Cads at home, thus saving you a fine and a possible very unpleasant situation.

Can our own E P A be far behind ?

73 de WB80WM

NOVEMBER MEETING

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

So much has happened in the past month it's going to be hard to find space to write about them. First is the Safety Break that was held on the weekend of October 3rd, 4th & 5th. To sum up the results in a few words -- we did -- Fair. But OH OH please see the next column and pictures on page 5.

Next is the Hamfest 2008. Attendance was really good this year and it looks like we may have had record ticket sales . Dan N8DZM will make the final determination and will report at the meeting. Be sure to see the pictures and story on page 7.

We still have one "Public Service" event to do this year. Please read N8ATZ Column for details !

Hi Tim,

I got your E-Mail. Thanks for the interest in our very popular "Safety Break" program and our 177 Rest Areas.

At this time, the Rest Areas are scheduled to be closed approximately May 2009.

No plans are set for any new Rest Areas. If your group would like to apply for a "Safety Break" from now until May 31, 2009, please go ahead and submit a permit form.

I hope this answered your questions. Give my regards to Perry Ballinger of the Massillon Amateur Radio Club.

The above E-mail was sent to Tim KD8IOH from Teri Eichel ODOT "person in charge of the Safety Break Program" in reference to the status of the Dover I-77 Rest Areas. They are to be CLOSED next May . This means our biggest fund raiser is coming to an end and we will have to find something to replace it. Got any ideas? Bring them to the meeting !

MARC MINUTES

October 3rd, 2008

The Massillon Amateur Radio Club meeting was held at the Massillon Senior Center with 30 members and guests present. The Pledge of Allegiance was given and a round of introductions was made.

Byron KF8UN made the motion to suspend reading the minutes and accept them as printed in the Feedback and seconded by Mat K8MAT. Motion Passed.

Ann N8GAF our Treasurer gave the treasures report.

Roger KA8FTS gave the V.P. report.

Committees

VE – The next test session will be at the MARC Hamfest October 26th.

Hamfest - The various crews needed to run the Hamfest were formed. Setup will be 9:00 am Saturday, October 25th.

Old Business

The beam at the Senior Center needs repaired again after hurricane Ike.

Mike and Roger was with 803 scouts demonstrating hamradio.

New Business

Mike and Mike WA8MKH, KD8ENV have a finished pamphlet describing our club. Motion made by Mike KD8ENV and Seconded by Gary WC8W to accept the pamphlet and passed.

Mike KD8ENV seconded by Paul N8DJD to have 500 black and white pamphlets made. Passed.

MARC's newsletter the Feedback has won second place in Ohio for best newsletter.

The Massillon Christmas parade will be on Saturday November 22. We will need 20 hams to help out.

The 50/50 was won by Mat K8MAT for \$17.00.

Gary WC8W and Mike KD8ENV made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and of course everyone agreed.

Minutes by your Secretary Dan N8DZM

... Massillon Holiday Parade ...

Our final public service event of the year is of course the annual Massillon Holiday Parade. This year's parade is on Saturday, November 22nd and we normally need about 20 volunteers to assist with parade staging, TV and general communications support for the 80 or so units that will make up this year's parade. The MARC has been a part of this parade for over 30 years (if not longer – my memory can't go back that far!) making this one of the longest public service events handled by the club.

As in previous years we will once again have the clubs Emergency Communications Trailer as one of the parade units to remind area residents of our continuing support to the community. Club member Perry Ballinger, W8AU is communications coordinator for this annual event and is currently looking for volunteers to assist this year. Several members signed up at the October meeting but we still need additional volunteers. Please consider helping us and your community by volunteering for the parade. It's a great way to "get you in the holiday spirit" by welcoming Santa Claus into town. You are also invited to join us for our usual get together after the parade at one of the fine restaurant's in town. The sign up sheet will also be at the November club meeting or you can contact Perry directly at 330-832-8612 or by email to w8au@sssnet.com.

.. Ft Wayne Hamfest ..

Thanks to great scheduling many members of the MARC will also be able to attend the Ft Wayne Hamfest and Computer Expo the weekend of November 15-16 at the Allen County Coliseum in Ft Wayne, Indiana. The hamfest comes nearly six months to the day after the mighty Dayton Hamvention and is a great way to end out the 2008 hamfest season. At over 900 tables and 150,000 square feet of exhibitor space, this is one very nice indoor hamfest. It will include several forums, exhibits and features numerous commercial vendors including Alinco, Ameritron, MFJ, Yeasu and others.

Hours are 9 AM to 4PM on Saturday and 9 AM to 3 PM on Sunday. Admission is \$6.00 per person (good for both days) or \$4.00 for just Sunday. The Expo does charge \$4.00 for parking. A full 2 page flyer is available on their website at <http://www.acarts.com/hfmain.html> or www.fortwaynehmfest.com.

I have been a regular attendee of this hamfest for quite a few years and although their event has suffered the downturn that all hamfests as seen it's still a very nice hamfest and certainly worth the over 4 hour drive to Ft Wayne. This year we are lucky as it usually falls on the same weekend as our Massillon Holiday Parade making a trip on Sunday our only way to visit. I expect a full minivan load for this year's trip and I'm sure we have room for a few more, maybe even a car

convoy !. I'm sure we will be discussing it at the November club meeting with a flyer available. If you haven't been able to make a hamfest in a while, consider joining us for a visit this year to Indiana's largest ham radio, computer, and electronics flea market !.

.. ARRL November Contests ..

Are you in the mood to do a little contesting ? Then consider giving November Sweepstakes a try. Sweeps, as it is commonly known is a great opportunity to get on the air and work both US and Canadian stations. Sweepstakes can be a lot of fun for both new and not-so-new hams.

The contest exchange is fairly substantial and involves more than the standard five-nine signal report and your location. To qualify as a complete contact operators must exchange a serial number, category, callsign, check number and ARRL section. This makes for some good fun and great practice for emergency communications or message handling.

This year's Sweepstakes marks the 75th running of this premier W/VE contest and is really going to be something special. With lots of prizes available for all levels of participation, this is one operating event you will want to check out.

The CW Sweepstakes will be held on November 1-3 with Phone on November 15-17. Complete details of both contests are available on the ARRL website at <http://www.arrl.org/contests>.

.. ARRL EC Course News ..

The ARRL Continuing Education Program offers Emergency Communications training courses to prepare radio amateurs to serve our communities in time of crisis when other communications systems fail. The current program structure includes three levels of training. In order to keep the material in the Level 3 Course accurate and up to date, the ARRL will be revising the Level 3 curriculum. Dennis Dura, K2DCD, ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager, will be developing the new content. Expect the new material to be released during the first quarter of 2009.

Since the most recent version of the Emergency Communications Level 3 course was launched in 2006, there have been significant changes in the Federal government's programs and policies, as well as in other areas of emergency response environment. For that reason, they will be temporarily suspending new enrollments in the online Level 3 course effective October 1, 2008 while they update the course content. In addition, no field exams will be given for the current version of the course after the Oct 1st date. I will advise you of additional details once they are published by the ARRL.

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

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

From The Newsdesk of K8MAT.

Everyone; you may want to check your Checking Account Statements and Credit Card Bills. There is a new Scam going around that will bill your accounts \$ 9.85. Its a Company called Ingvercom out of Elizabethtown, PA.

When you call the Phone Number its had been Disconnected,. You are asked to call your Bank and tell them that this is a non--authorized charge to your card.

73's

Matt - K8MAT

TV Remote

Here is a neat little test.....

Testing Your Remote

Today, instead of the usual download, I have something else you all just have to see! The other day, I received a phone call from one of our readers. We were talking about testing a remote control and he told me about something I've never seen before.

So, tell me, have you ever had a remote control you knew just wasn't working properly? You know, you point it at the TV and press the buttons, but nothing happens. You try new batteries, but you still get no response. So, how do you know if the remote is broken or not? Well, that's what I'm going to show you today!

In order to test a remote, all you need is a regular digital camera with a screen on the back. Even a cell phone with a built in camera will work. And here's what you do!

First, turn on the digital camera.

Second, point the remote at the lens of the camera so that you can see the remote on the camera's digital screen.

Now, press a button on the remote and look at the camera screen. If the remote is working, you should be able to see a light blinking on the end of the remote. Again, if you see the light, the remote is working properly.

How does that work, you ask? Well, remote controls use in-

frared light to send the signal to your TV, but human eyes cannot see the light. If you look at the end of your remote, you will see absolutely nothing.

On the other hand, digital cameras pick up a lot more light. So, when you point the remote at the camera and press a button, the lens on the camera sees the infrared light and displays it on the camera screen. Cool, huh? Go and give it a try. I promise it works!

Submitted by Dennis N8UDL

Fest Report: Shelby, North Carolina Hamfest – 30-31/Aug/08 -

It is a tradition, like Dayton in certain respects, but one not quite as well known here in Northern Ohio, and of course, it is a bit further away. But, if you have not been to the Shelby Fest, you are certainly in for a real treat...and by the way, it is not actually in Shelby. Due to local circumstances, this western North Carolina event is now held in, Dallas, N.C. about twenty minutes east of the old location. If you're looking at a map, it is just west of Gastonia, for those who are not familiar with North Carolina.

The facilities are great, with lots of room for parking, and an easy few steps through the gate and into the thick of the tailgates and awnings that comprise a very traditional outdoor Ham Fest. There is plenty of room for campers too, with any size vehicle, including tenting...and I was told the camping facilities are open a week prior to the official Fest weekend. Of course, motel facilities are readily available, with details available on the web site for those interested.

A very neat feature I'd not seen before, was the availability of courtesy carts, one of which assisted me personally in picking up a near hundred pound R-390A "Heavy Metal" military receiver, and transporting it, with great congeniality, to my F350 out in the parking area. The gentleman who drove the 'golf cart' even assisted in helping me load my heavy treasure on board my truck. It was classic Southern Hospitality with true Ham Spirit mixed in for good measure.

The event was very well attended from a first-timer's view point, with many tailgaters and vendors covering a wide range of parts and gear. They occupied some covered, Fair Grounds type, shelters with others spread under ample trees for shade; indeed, a quite picturesque setting adding to the total charm of the event.

Marilyn and I were at the gate near 0700 hrs opening time on Saturday, and spent the early part of the day cruising and chatting with fellow Hams, as though we'd been there for years past. Marilyn also took advantage of the shade later in the morning, read and relaxed in the excellent weather, while I found the

R390A and some excellent professional quality bench test gear plus a sack full of parts.

If you should make the next Shelby event...be sure to take some portable chairs, and perhaps a snack for a break under the trees, before heading back to cruse the tables. For heavier fair, concessions are available.

Would we go back to the Shelby Hamfest? Would we recommend it to any one who hasn't been there? Absolutely yes! ...and if we can make it next year...we'll be looking for some of the friends we made...especially, a fine gentleman who asked us to sit a spell and who offered us cool drinks in red cups from his cooler, while we talked about Heavy Metal and the excellent facilities and cordial atmosphere of the Fest and it's new location...

**De Gene
W8KXR**



A Big surprise was in store for MARC members when we received our Safety Break permit from ODOT around Sept. 27th. Printed right on the front was a "rule" change that stated "No Tents Please" So if we wanted to do a Safety Break, we would not be permitted to use the club's "dinning" tent. In a phone call with Ed, WA8DRT, club treasurer Anne Ballinger N8GAF, learned that the Masonic Temple in Newcomerstown, Ohio had a "Safety Break" trailer for rent. This trailer was "home-built" just for Safety Breaks. And wow ! What a neat little trailer is was! As you can see in the pictures above and to the right you will agree it's a "sight for sore eyes". Built on a single axle camping trailer it's wooden structure was built with not only Safety Breaks in mind but occupants comfort as well. The "business " end or the front window can be raised and lowered as needed so during the night time it could be buttoned up and with the help of a electric space heater (included) everyone was "nice and toasty" inside! Plenty of storage space for supplies were built on three walls so we had no problem locating cups, coffee, etc. There was even enough room for our big cooler that held pop, water,

etc.. With such short notice some problems had to be solved on the spot such as how and where to place the antenna for Safety Break communications. Don W8DEF had a "brilliant" idea to use a swimming pool cleaner expandable pole as a mast and with the help of some bungee chords - we were in business!

Ralph, K8HSQ, and Gary WC8W picked up the trailer in Newcomerstown and soon discovered one of the "draw-backs" to the trailer. First it was heavy, (don't know what the weight was) and Ralph said it "pulled like a sled". As you can see there are no aerodynamics to the trailer and the wind caught it and held it back. But that was only one minor problem. It's a very well built trailer and we were very grateful to have it.

What about the future? It looks like we will not have Safety Breaks but there are other things we could do. With over 100 + members we should have many different ideas. Keep in mind a trailer such as this or a food vendor trailer (equipped) can start at around \$ 5,000.00 !



Let's Get on the Maker Bandwagon

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

About a week ago, I got an e-mail from a ham down in Texas who had attended the Maker Faire (makerfaire.com). "Makers" are people who love to tinker and make things. They even have their own magazine, Make (www.makezine.com).

He was amazed at the lack of any amateur radio content. He wrote, "The Maker Faire was unbelievable. Incredible stuff. Pedal powered carnival rides, robots, computer drive routers, kits. Outside of a table with a Vectronics kit, and a license manual, and a QRP book, the only radio stuff was from a pirate radio group."

I'm kind of amazed at this as well. It just goes to show how disconnected amateur radio is getting from the mainstream. These are exactly the kind of people we want to get interested in amateur radio, yet there was no one there representing us.

Ham radio needs to be at these events and get plugged into the "maker community." The Faire has not yet released attendance figures for this particular Faire, but more than 65,000 people attended the Faire held in May 2008. Dayton, with its attendance of about 20,000, looks anemic by comparison.

I blogged about this back in May (<http://kb6nu.com/why-cant-dayton-be-more-like-the-maker-faire/>). One of the things I suggested then is moving Dayton to some place like Austin. Seriously, if you were a new, young ham, where would you rather go, Dayton, OH or Austin, TX? Let's be real here.

And can there be a worse place for an event than Hara Arena? The parking lot, where they hold the flea market looks like a mine field, and it usually rains, making the flea market a wet, unpleasant experience. Is it any wonder that fewer and fewer vendors choose to haul stuff out there? Some of us older hams might fondly reminisce about the bargain we found while traipsing around wearing a trash-bag poncho, but a story like that is not going to resonate with new hams.

Please don't get me wrong. I don't mean to badmouth the Dayton Amateur Radio Association or the Hamvention. I actually think that they do a great job, all things considered. I'm just pointing out that if ham radio wants to again be part of the mainstream, we have to get with the program. Unfortunately, that program probably won't be at the Hara Arena.

Ham radio has got to figure out how to latch onto the Maker phenomenon. At the very least, the ARRL should have a booth at the next one, and in addition to all the books and t-shirts, they need to come up with some kind of demo or display to attract makers into ham radio. I don't know what exactly, but I'm willing to start talking about it.

This phenomenon might also be a boon for clubs who hold hamfests. Just as the computer craze turned ham swaps into ham and computer swaps in the 80s, perhaps ham clubs could turn their hamfests into a combination hamfest and Maker Faire in their communities.

As I said earlier, Makers are exactly the kind of people we want in ham radio. Let's go out and get them.

When Dan's not pontificating about ham radio, you'll find him working CW on 40m, teaching ham classes, or running for the ARRL Board of Directors. Read more by going to www.kb6nu.com. Send e-mail to cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

November Prez Sez

Well Gang, another MARC Hamfest in the books! I would like to extend a great big thanks to those who took time out of their weekend to come down to the Boys and Girls Club and help set-up, tear down, hold the VE Session and run the hamfest! Without YOU it would not be possible. So, hats off to all of you who came out! That, once again shows how much support this club brings to the table. I believe we may have had a bigger turnout than last year, it sure seems that there was a lot of folks in and out of the hamfest, plus toting things out as well!

Remember, at the next meeting, November 7th, put on your nomination caps and think about who you want to nominate for VP, and for trustee. It is that time of year again to have our election for the new VP and for a trustee. Nominations will be at this meeting, and the election will be held at the December meeting.

The next activity for MARC will be the Holiday Parade, Saturday, November 22nd. Volunteers are needed to stage and to be a Parade Marshall. This is a fun event to participate in, and also can be a lot of fun! Contact Perry Ballinger, W8AU, for more information, or be at the November meeting, I am sure he will give us better details then!

Well, that pretty much wraps up the typing from this ole' desk of mine for this month...Hope to see you at the next meeting! Take care for now, and 73...

de N3JJT....ur Prez

MARC HAMFEST IN REVIEW



Manning the club table is Scott & Sarah, KC8ZCT & KC8ZCS. The young couple brings a ray of new excitement to the hamfest. What a great job they are doing! Thanks Scott & Sarah !



Plenty of bargains can be found at the hamfest. I'm sure all are eagerly awaiting Dan, N8DZM' s report on the attendance this year. Nearly all the dealers reported good sales this year !



Thanks to volunteers like Terry N8ATZ and his wife Lynette, help make the hamfest a success. Terry, the table sales chairman said this year was a "sellout" of tables.



Speaking of volunteers, this year's auctioneer was Chuck Girt K8BBE from North Canton. Chuck stood in for Perry W8AU who was on vacation this year. Chuck did a very fine job; Thanks Chuck !

Ahhhh yesssss! What a hamfest it was this year. The weather was perfect; cool, not too cold and not too hot. Plenty of hams made the trek to the Massillon Boys & Girls Club on Duncan street in southwest Massillon on Sunday October 26th to look, to dream, to haggle with dealers and maybe come out a "winner" of some great piece of equipment. Speaking of winners, the MAIN PRIZE winners for this year were: 5th Prize: our own Dan, N8DZM; 4th Prize Richard Dolezal from South Euclid, Oh ; 3rd Prize; Kenneth Burkhardt N8PYR from Woodsfield Oh.; 2nd Prize; Ken Way, K8WAY from Wooster, Oh.; and First Prize went to: John Burdette, N8TX from Cottageville WVa. More "winners" came from our VE Exam where 5 out of the 8 who showed up to take the exam went home with a "new" (or upgrade) license. Congratulations to all of our "winners" !!!

(Thanks to Rick, K8RIC for these fine photos !)

MARC PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES: BOY SCOUT DEMO AND JOTA



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On September, 27th 2008 the "7 Ranges Scout Reservation" held their 2nd annual "Trailblazer Adventure Days". Tim Brand is the event activity coordinator. The Scout Reservation is located 4.5 miles East of Kensington Ohio. A long ways over, but a very nice place. There were 803 Scouts and Parents in attendance this day. The weather was just beautiful at 75 degrees.

He asked us to set up an Amateur Radio Demonstration Station along with others including a Nature Class given by our own KB8STV - Charlie, BB gun shooting, Archery, Fishing, Crafts, Fire Building, Black Powder Gun Demo, Trap Gun Shooting Demo, Tomahawk Throwing, Slingshot Shooting, Stark County Sheriff Identi-Kid and American Red Cross Station. This is just a few of the events going on this day.

MARC was well represented by N3JJT - Scott, KD8FTO - Mr. Mickey, WD8MIU - Wade, WA8MKH - Mike, KB8IMH - Carol and myself KA8FTS - Rodger. We had 3 stations setup and had many inquisitive scouts in attendance over a 7 hour period.

Unfortunately, the event was geared mostly towards the Weeblo Class of Scouts and they are not eligible for any Communication Merit Badges. Mr. Mickey - KD8FTO and myself - KA8FTS were able to get 3 older Scouts their Communication Merit Badges with the help of N3JJT - Scott.

All-in-all, it was a great day and we all had fun.

73's de KA8FTS - >(ô¿ô)<



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BRRRRRRrrrrr. Boy it sure was a cold day at only low 40's and a wind of at least 25 mph in an outside picnic shelter. On Saturday, October 18th, 2008, Mr. Mickey - KD8FTO and myself KA8FTS - Rodger set up an outdoor station for Boy Scout Troop 912" for JOTA, "Jamboree On The Air". Did I mention that it was cooold? This event is held every year by the Boy Scout Council of America and gives older Scouts the chance to communicate with other scouts around the world. They set up schedules and also make "pen-pals". There is a special patch for the JOTA Event. Did I mention that it was cooold? We were successful in getting 15 Scouts their 2008 JOTA Patch.

(story continued on page 10 for electronic version of Feedback)

November 2008

W8NP Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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We got to the Campsite, North Industry Sportsman's Club, at 7:30 AM. It was so dark a morning that we drove right past the scouts that were camping out for the weekend. We waited until 8:00 AM and decided to leave, thinking that we had been stood up. On the way out of the 1/2 mile long drive, we spotted the boys camp site. It had rained Friday so they decided to move their site to a less muddy area. They just forgot to notify us, hi hi.

All-in-all, it turned out to be quite a day. The kids have way toooo much energy for "two old codgers". Did I mention that it was coooold. The kids were running around without shirts and even wanted to go into the lake. The water was probably the warmest place to be? Did I mention that it was coooold. Mr. Mickey and I both were chilled to the bone. Did I mention that it was coooold.

We did get much interest from the kids and their parents about the upcoming MARC Tech Course to be taught in February. The info has been passed on to Instructor Gary - WC8W.

We both spent the next 2 days trying to get warm and stave off the "sniffles". I was told to gargle with "Jack Daniel's", but to swallow it instead of spitting it out. It may not help your cold, but after a few times you won't care, hi hi.

73's de KA8FTS - >(ô¿ô)<

WEAVER'S WORDS (excerpts)

Balloting in progress for Vice Director

Voting for Vice Director for the Great Lakes Division is in progress. Most Division members appear to have received their ballots; however, some may still be waiting for the US Postal Service to deliver theirs. Remember, the ballots were mailed by Bulk Mail. Times required for delivery of it are erratic.

If you do not receive a ballot by October 31, I encourage you to telephone Dave Sumner at 1-860-594-0303 or e-mail him at k1zz@arrl.org to request a replacement ballot be sent to you by First Class mail. Ballots must be received by noon on November 21.

Please review the candidates' backgrounds and vote. Be certain to place your ballot inside the "ballot" envelope and seal this in turn in the mailing envelope provided with your ballot. Ballots are to be mailed to the League's accounting firm, not to Headquarters.

What is the duty of the Vice Director? Article 5 of the ARRL governing documents specifies that the Vice Director has the power of "succession" (to become Director) in the event the Director becomes unable to serve. Otherwise, the Vice Director assists the Director (of the President) as requested and agreed.

Red Cross is demanding Intellectual Property agreements

Red Cross appears to be expanding its legal agreement demands. This time, a few chapters in Ohio are demanding radio amateur volunteers to sign away their rights to intellectual property developed while a Red Cross volunteer. The local chapters say this is another requirement of American Red Cross at the national level.

Signing away ones intellectual rights — rights to inventions or written "product" any of us develop — is a potentially serious action. Many of us sign intellectual property agreements with employers. They pay us and deserve to receive the rewards of inventions we develop at work and in some instances when we are not at work. But signing away our ownership rights for innovations we develop just because we operate a radio to help our community in an emergency? This seems to be going just a bit overboard.

If you are asked to sign an intellectual rights agreement, I encourage you to evaluate the agreement thoroughly before you sign it. Having it reviewed by an attorney either on your personal behalf or the behalf of your ARES unit or club would be a good idea. Depending on the wording of the agreement the agreement just might require you to surrender the rights to a "better mousetrap" over to Red Cross if you happen to develop one.

ARRL does not recommend you refuse to sign an intellectual property agreement with the RC. What we suggest is that you review carefully a request by anyone to sign your rights over to them. Personally, I would graciously decline to sign any of my rights away if doing this is not in my families' or my own best interest.

Jim Weaver, K8JE, Director ARRL Great Lakes Division 5065 Bethany Rd. Mason, OH 45040
E-mail: k8je@arrl.org; Tel.: 513-459-0142
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