



# FEEDBACK



**VOLUME 56 ISSUE 11**

**NOVEMBER 2011**

**MASSILLON AMATEUR  
RADIO CLUB OFFICERS**

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**MRN NET Tue, Thur & Sun  
8:30 PM 3.60 MHz**

**WEST STARK INFO NET  
FRIDAYS 8:00 PM  
147.18 MHz  
(except 1st Fri of month)**

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**-- SHORT SKIP --**

Hey Bunkey, after last month's complaint in this World Class column about a lack of sunspots there were several very big solar flares and lotsa new sunspots. A coincidence of do you suppose Ole Sol reads this column? Perhaps. One can only ponder the notion ... (HI)



73 de WB80WM

### NOVEMBER MEETING

The meeting for the month of November will be held on November 4th, 2011 at the Massillon Senior Center at 8:00 PM.

This month's meeting will be an all important meeting for all MARC members. First I really don't know if the Hamfest Financial Report will be finished in time for the meeting. It is a lot of work to do in less than 1 week. I am dependent on all bills to be in and all moneys counted and categorized. I still haven't received the bill for the ticket & flyer printing! I should have everything ready for the December meeting.

This month also is the month we begin to take nominations from members for next year's Officers. Do you know anyone who would make a great officer for next year? Be sure to nominate them at the meeting. Voting for Officers will be held at the December meeting. Offices open are Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and one Trustee. This year's Vice President moves up to President for next year. See you at the meeting!

### NOVEMBER PROGRAM

The program for the month of November will be presented by our own Don Wade, W8DEA. Don will "touch" on the subject of FEMA, "otherwise known as the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Don is somewhat an "expert" on the subject as he has worked there, for the last 10 years. This has taken Don to many "far away" places such as Texas, the Gulf, Florida, Alabama, Kentucky, just to name a few. But it was certainly not at all a "pleasure" trip as he has seen devastation the likes we -- hopefully will never see!

On Don's last trip to the Cumberland Gap area, he had time on a Sunday, his day off to do some site seeing. He will have a power point presentation of this very beautiful and scenic area. He says that he went through a tunnel to climb up what is called Pine Mountain where you can see several states from the summit. I for one can't wait to see his presentation! See you at the meeting!

## MARC MINUTES

### October 7, 2011

The Massillon Amateur Radio Club monthly meeting was held at the Massillon Senior Center on Friday, October 7, 2011 with 23 members and guests in attendance.

After a round of introductions, Jim WA8GXM, with a second by Don W8DEA, made the motion to suspend the reading of the minutes and accept them as printed in the Feedback. Motion passed.

#### **Old Business:**

Annual Banquet - Byron KF8UN gave a report on his findings about possible venues. He will check into a few more leads before the next meeting.

Hamfest – Final preparations were made for the club's hamfest at the end of the month.

Technician Class – Gary WC8W reports that there are 5 students this session.

Canton 2012 Marathon Race – Volunteers needed for the half marathon on Feb 5, 2012 and the full marathon on June 12, 2012.

#### **New Business:**

Christmas Parade – Sign-up sheets available at next meeting.

Recruiting & Membership – Ideas were presented by Don W8DEA on how to encourage membership growth in both the club and ham community. Sam N2TJX offered to assist with Boy Scout and youth interaction. Don and Sam have started a committee, but looking for others input and assistance. Discussion ensued.

**Program:** Byron KF8UN gave a video presentation on the K5K DXpedition to Kingman Reef in 2000.

50/50 was won by Brooker KD8JNX for \$15, which was donated to the club radio fund.

Motion by Perry W8AU, with a second by Andrew WB8WFO, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

**Respectfully submitted by Robert AC8GE**

## ... BUEHLER'S EVENT ...

The MARC participated is a community fund raiser sponsored by Buehler's Grocery Store in Jackson Township on Saturday, October 15th.

This event involved the club staffing an outdoor grill selling hotdogs and drinks over a six hour period. Even though the weather was cold and windy, we were pretty busy throughout the day.

The club's Emergency Communications Trailer was on display to the public with an operating station that drew a few curious shoppers who stopped by for a look. Although sales were only moderate, it was a great public relations display for the club. We have already talked to the folks at Buehler's about participating in this event next summer when the weather should be a lot warmer !

Special thanks to the following club members who participated in this community event.

They were, Wade - WD8MIU; Terry - N8ATZ; Jim - WA8GXM; Perry - W8AU; Don - W8DEF; Don Wade - W8DEA; Steve - KD8ACF; Ralph - K8HSQ; Tom - KC8QOD; Mike - WA8MKH; and Pat - KA8DAL.

There is a link on the club's website that has some nice pictures from the Buehler's event thanks to Ralpf Bugg, K8HSQ. Have a look !

## ... HOLIDAY PARADE ...

Our last scheduled public service event of the year is of course the annual Massillon Holiday Parade. This year's parade is on Saturday, November 19th and we normally need about 20 volunteers to assist with parade staging, Cable TV support and general communications for the 80 plus units that generally make up this annual Massillon holiday tradition. The club has been a part of this parade for nearly 40 years making it one of the longest public service events handled by the club.

As in previous years we expect to have the club's EComm Trailer as one of the parade units to remind area residents of our continued support of our community. Club member Perry Ballinger, W8AU is communications coordinator for the parade again this year and is looking for volunteers to joins us on parade day. A sign up sheet will be passed out at the November meeting. Please consider helping us and your community by volunteering to help with this event. It's a great way to get in the holiday spirit by welcoming Santa Claus to town. Don't forget we normally get together after the parade at one of our local restaurant's for a late breakfast or early lunch.

If you don't make the club meeting contact Perry directly at

(330) 832-8612 or by email to [w8au@sssnet.com](mailto:w8au@sssnet.com). We will gather downtown around 8:30 AM to decorate the trailer and begin assembling parade units. Communications will take place on 2 meters either simplex or the club's 147.18 Repeater. Don't forget your handheld and come on downtown to enjoy a great holiday parade !

## ... OCTOBER CQ MAGAZINE ...

The October issue of CQ Magazine is their annual Emergency Communications issue and features a number of public service articles that are worth a look. The issue covers an in depth article on the various groups that amateurs would normally interact with during an emergency situation.

It also has some technical articles on battery life for handhelds and several good examples of Go Kits. It also has a detailed report on several of the tornado response involving amateur radio operators. Lastly it has an interesting report on why contesting can be a benefit to emergency communications response.

I indicated last month that the subject of Go Kits might prove an interesting club program and I still hope to include this during next years programs.

## .... CONTEST TIME ....

Speaking of contesting, November is a big month for some amateur contests. The ARRL will again sponsor November Sweepstakes. The CW contest is on November 5th to the 7th and Phone will be on November 19th to the 21st. Full details are in QST or and are posted on the League's website. CQ Magazine also sponsors a few contests between now and the end of the year. Point your web browser to [www.cq-amateur-radio.com](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com) to get ready for these. Fall can be a good time to get back into some operating and contests can be a fun way to brush up on the old operating skills !

**That's it for this month.  
See you at the meeting !**

**73's  
Terry - N8ATZ**

## President's Letter from WD8MIU

Well, my term as President is in the last Quarter of the game. I believe we have had a pretty good year. Last Saturday 10-15-11 we had our MARC Emergency Trailer over at The Buehler Grocery Store from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM. We had the following people who spent most of the day with us showing off the trailer and cooking and servicing Sausage sandwiches and Hot dogs. Thanks to the following people for their time on Saturday.

Jim	-	WA8GXM
Perry	-	W8AU
Don	-	W8DEF
Don	-	W8DEA
Steve	-	KD8ACF
Ralph	-	K8HSQ
Terry	-	N8ATZ
Mike	-	WA8MKH
Tom	-	KC8QOD
Patrick Quinlan	-	KA8DAL
Wade		WD8MIU

Please Mark these future dates on your Calendar

Friday Nights at 8:00 PM our Own MARC WEST STARK INFORMATION NET Saturday 10-29-11 at The Boys & Girls club at 9:00 AM to set up for the Ham Fest for the next day

Sunday 10-30-11 Massillon Hamfest We need volunteers to work the Ham Fest

November 4th Friday at 8:00 PM to discuss how the hamfest went and Look forward to the Holidays ahead.

Stomp the Grapes ½ Marathon in Hartville on Saturday afternoon Nov. 5th –We Need Volunteers-see Terry Russ at Club Meeting the night before to sign up.

The Christmas Parade, there will be a sign up sheet at the Nov Meeting.

Don Wade W8DEA has challenged the Members to help us figure out how to get more members under 55 years old and 55 years & Older. Come on MARC Members Help us brain storm how we can make this Happen!

It's Great to be a MARC Member in your Community!

**De WD8MIU  
Wade**

## Public service opportunity

Hi everyone,

The Stomp The Grapes Half Marathon is coming up on Saturday, November 5th, and we need operators. This years race course goes from the Maize Valley Winery, West through Hartville, around the perimeter of the flea market, and back to the winery. More information on the event, as well as a course map can be found at <http://www.stompthegrapeshalfmarathon.com>.

The Massillon Amateur Radio Club is handling communications for this one, and needs our help. Are we going to let them down? Of course not! operators will be needed from around 1 PM until approximately 5:30 in the afternoon.

If you can help, please respond ASAP to me with your sweatshirt size, and contact phone number.

I will then pass the info along to the Massillon club.

**From: "John Myers, KD8MQ" , Alliance ARC**

## DX ing

This little note is for all of us die-hard DXer's out there. Propagation has not been this good for some time now, like at least for the past five years now. AND there is some really good DX stations on the air now. New Countries such as ST0 and some of the "new" Caribbean countries. I won't go into as why they are new, but you know what I mean.

Now is the time to get the "ole rig out, dust off the cobwebs, stand back a few feet and fire up the 'ole amp and get ready for some of the best DX "in the world" ! I hope you did all this for the CQWW Contest held the weekend of October 28th & 29th. This is your chance to grab some of those countries that somehow slipped through and never got into your logbook. As everyone knows the CQWW is the "kickoff" of the DXing world as we head into the winter months where we welcome the warm glow of the amp's tubes and keeps the shack toasty warm. So good hunting and hopefully you'll log some great DX !

**73's de Gary WC8W**

## CALLING SANTA'S HELPERS

Ah, seems it was just like a couple months ago that we all gathered to welcome Santa into downtown Massillon ...and now it's time to do it again! Saturday, November 19 is the day and 10 a.m. is "zero hour!"

Our preparation begins at 7:30 a.m. when we decorate the Ecomm trailer (our Float) in Christmas apparel... roping, ribbons, wreaths, lights, and hook it to our big red "Rudolph" from the WA8GXM stable.



As before, we can use 12 helpers for staging and up to twelve more for Parade Marshall duty. (Some of you stalwarts do both, bless you)

Friday night's meeting will have the signup list ready and those signing on first will have their choice of location(s). Does that inspire you? If not, then the "after-event" lunch gathering will make up for it. (location to be announced)

I've lost count of the many years we have been a part of the Christmas Parade (about 40+) but we are the most important group. Without us there is no parade. See what happens when our value shows through? We become indispensable!

If everyone is able to use UHF, we can use the 442.85 repeater. Otherwise, 145.62 simplex will do, as it has for many years. Staging begins around 8:30, with Parade Marshalls in place 9:45.

If you can't make the meeting call me at 330-832-8612 and get on the list. As usual, you WILL have fun! Guaranteed! (or your money back!) ☺

73, W8AU

## ARRL NEWS

### FCC, FEMA, NOAA to Conduct First Nationwide Test of Emergency Alert System

The FCC, in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, will conduct the first nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) at 2 PM EST (1900 UTC) Wednesday, November 9. According to FEMA, EAS participants — broadcasters, satellite and digital radio and television providers, and cable and wireline video providers — "provide a critical public service to the nation as the resilient backbone of alert and warning when all other means of communication are unavailable."

### On the Air: 2011 ARRL CW Sweepstakes — Are You Ready?

Steeped in tradition and still as exciting as ever, the 78th Annual ARRL Sweepstakes offers US and Canadian operators a fun-filled contest opportunity again this fall. First up is CW Sweepstakes during the weekend of November 5-7. "Last year's CW Sweepstakes provided some great activity with a number of new regional and divisional records," said ARRL Sweepstakes Contest Manager Larry Hammel, K5OT. "But you don't have to have a huge station with large antennas to have fun in Sweepstakes. Maybe you have 100 W and a backyard dipole or vertical. Or perhaps the challenge of a 5 W QRP effort hits your hot button this year. You will be amazed at the number of stations you can work as you trade exchanges all over the continent." ICOM is the Principal Awards Sponsor for the ARRL November Sweepstakes.

ARRL News courtesy of the ARRL LETTER for October 27, 2011

# Scope Out the Ham Fest

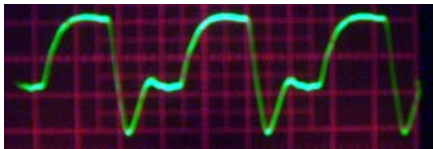
## Scope Out the Ham Fest

Are you interested in trying to find a scope (oscilloscope) for troubleshooting some stuff around the radio room? Before you buy, take a look at the displays below.

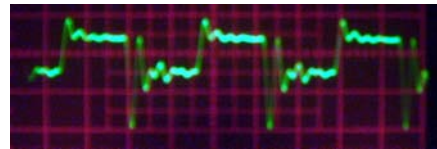


The following waveforms show the output of an oscillator running around 6.092 MHz. The same signal is applied to an oscilloscope using different probes and cables.

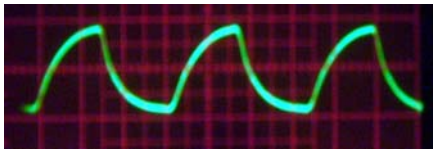
Which waveform is correct?



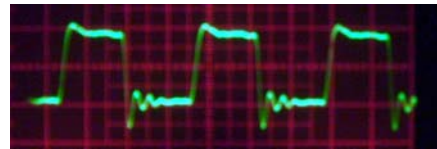
(A)



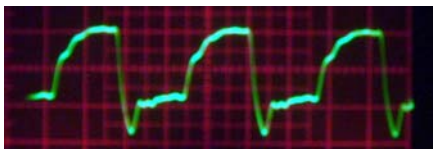
(B)



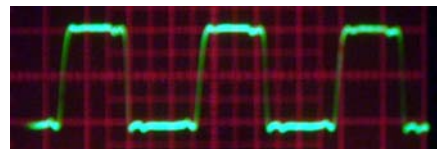
(C)



(D)



(E)



(F)

This shows the complexity in trying to do repair or calibration. In each case, the oscilloscope was displaying the correct waveform that was presented to the input terminals. The difficulty is in knowing which type of probe is necessary for this case. Each case requires a different setup.

(Experienced Guessing Helps).

Picture ( A ) and ( B ) used a low cost probe with ( A ) direct measurement and ( B ) with the probe in the 10X position (divided by 10).

Picture ( C ) and ( D ) used a higher quality probe with ( C ) direct measurement and ( D ) with the probe in the 10X position (divided by 10).

Picture ( E ) and ( F ) used a 50 ohm coax with ( E ) direct measurement and ( F ) with the coax terminated using a 50 ohm resistor at the input to the oscilloscope.

The picture ( F ) is the most correct signal since the signal should be a square wave.

Additionally, when using a frequency counter, only the coax & terminating resistor setup displayed the proper frequency. The other setups gave false readings due to the ringing on the waveforms, which gave multiple frequency components, so the counter display would not stabilize.



Instrumentation requires study and understanding before determining the correct model to purchase and use. Equally important with all instrumentation is the correct setup and, at least, basic understanding of the circuit in use.



Oscilloscopes come with a variety of specifications: A good model can measure from DC to the limit of your budget (bandwidth in MHz). The higher the bandwidth, the higher the cost. There are also digital models but beware, they are not the same. For example: If the specifications on a digital scope states 10 MHz, then at 10 MHz there will be only one dot on the screen. At 1 MHz there will be only 10 dots on the screen, etc.

There is more data at low frequencies. Digital scopes are sampled, that is (snapshots per second). Some scopes may appear to have more dots but they fill in data from multiple samples, however, it takes skill to determine if the data shown is accurate. A good feature of digital scopes is that they can store a waveform and some have printing capability or interface to a computer.

The Analog scope will give a reasonable display up to the limit of its bandwidth but at the top end, signals like square waves, will be rounded and look more like sine waves.

**NOTE: A digital camera can take a picture of the analog scope screen as shown in the pictures above. A light shield is necessary. Use the camera macro mode and disable the flash. Experiment with the trace intensity since digital cameras do not need much light. Keeping the trace intensity low will help with the sharpness of the picture.**



Oscilloscopes can be interesting and helpful for repair, calibration, and design, but suggest doing research before purchasing.

**73, DE MIKE WA8MKH**

## MARC PICTURE PAGE: MARC AT BUEHLERS



E-COMM getting ready for set up at Buehlers



Don & Don (W8DEA & W8DEF) looking over the "goodies" ( I think that is Steve, KD8ACF in the background, cooking, but I can't tell with the hat, & sun glasses on Sorry! )



Mmmmm Mmmmm Now that's what I'm talking about !



Ready for some customers! Wade, WD8MIU will have a full report on Buehler's at the meeting. Don't miss it!

All photos thanks to Ralph K8HSQ. More photos on his [https://picasaweb.google.com/k8hsq5/MARC\\_Buehlers2011?](https://picasaweb.google.com/k8hsq5/MARC_Buehlers2011?)



# November 2011

## W8NP Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																																
Upcoming event: 12/4 - L'Anse Creuse Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Harrison Township, MI		<b>1</b> BD KC8IHR Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930  Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930	<b>4</b> Massillon Amateur Radio Club Meeting. Senior Center, Massillon, 2000	<b>5</b> VE Test Sessions, Coshocton ARA, 1630, Ctc.: John 330-339-2110, Tuscarawas County Homeland Security & EMA																																																																																																																
<b>6</b> BD N8LCS <b>Daylight Savings Time Ends - 0200</b> Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930 WACOM Hamfest, Washington County Fairgrounds, Washington, PA 724-350-6745	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Election Day</b> Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930  Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5, 1930  VE Test Sessions, Cuyahoga Falls ARC, 1900, Ctc.: Bruce 330-929-2766, Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library	<b>11</b> <b>Veterans Day</b> West Stark Info Net - 147.180 at 2000	<b>12</b>																																																																																																																
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Please contact K8INN for updates, changes, or additions.

**MASSILLON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**  
**P.O. BOX 73**  
**MASSILLON, OHIO 44648**

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