



# FEEDBACK

**VOLUME 59 ISSUE 11**

**NOVEMBER 2014**

## MASSILLON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OFFICERS

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**MRN NET Sunday 8:00 PM  
3599.5 MHz**

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

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## NOVEMBER MEETING

The meeting for the month of November will be held at the Senior Center on November 7th 2014 at 8:00 PM and as usual the doors will open at 7:00 PM.

This is going to be a very important meeting. We will begin to take nominations from members for officers for 2015. I looks like we will have to nominate someone for the office of President, Vice President and Secretary. Also one Trustees office will open up as Jim, WA8GXM's, 3 year term will expire.

## NOVEMBER PROGRAM

For the month of November we will not have a formal program scheduled. Instead we will devote the evening to the election of Officers and after a short donut and coffee break we will begin the arduous task of nominating people for the various offices. The General Election will be in December. After which the newly elected officers will take office in January at the Awards Banquet meeting.

Term of office is one year with elections held every December. Officers can if they wish, can run for re-election. According to our Rules and Regulations , a candidate must be at least 21 years old and hold a valid Technician Class License. And be a member in good standing for at least 2 years.

Put your thinking caps on and nominate your friend or perhaps someone you think will make a good Officer or maybe volunteer your self! SEE YOU AT THE MEETING !!

## PROPOSAL

It has been suggested that we are taking too much time with our business meetings, encompassing boring "politics " within the meetings. Well yes there is just so much business we have to do each month but there is no reason we have to devote the entire evening to it. We can deviate from this and do what we are really good at and that is the "business " of Amateur Radio.

I have an idea that maybe we can do to perk up the meetings and hopefully instill some interest. We have a perfectly good station on the third floor that just goes to waste each month with no usage. I would like to see a GOTA style of operation, new operators or limited use operators (operators who may not have a station of their own set up yet) . Perhaps a "prize" for maybe the longest contact, or a prize for a "first DX contact " . Nothing fancy just something for the "fun" of it! This can be done in the 7:00 to 8:00 PM time slot or use the time after the meeting if no program is scheduled. We cannot do anything until next year anyway because the next two months are devoted to electing new Officers and the January meeting will be our Banquet month.

Then I would like to have a "all out Special Event " station put on the air for — Whatever good reason we can find to do; for next year. Perhaps the Summertime Kids Fest or whatever you pick out. Something local that ALL members can participate in. We could use the Senior Center Station or perhaps use the E-Comm trailer where it would not have to be pulled very far. YOU pick out the event! All suggestions will be considered.

See page 9 of this issue to see Wade's, WD8MIU, idea for an Elmer Program starting in January 2015.

## MARC Minutes October, 2014

President Ralph K8HSQ called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Ralph welcomed 2 new members to the club; Alan Looney, AC8RY and Gary Wood, N2DVT. The meeting was held without the Treasurer, Gary WC8W who could not attend, and Secretary, Robert AC8GE.

### Treasurer's Report

Terry N8ATZ filled in as treasurer, and read the treasurer's report that Gary prepared earlier.

Motion to accept.

First by Bud WA8KWD

Second by Perry W8AU

Motion passed.

### Motion to accept last month's minutes.

Ralph asked if anyone had any additions or changes to last month's minutes, and none being presented, asked for a motion to accept them.

First by Dan N8DZM

Second by Chris KD8TNF

Motion passed.

### VP Report by Terry N8ATZ

Terry noted the several periodicals that we receive from other clubs, and one note of interest was that the Canton radio club will be holding a general class course starting Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>. He also mentioned that the nearest hamfest that might be of interest to members is the Conneaut hamfest to be held on Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>. A list of numerous members having birthdays in October was read. Terry mentioned that the club was asked to acknowledge the passing of Ed Maluke K8COI. Perry W8AU agreed to send a letter of condolence on behalf of the club.

Ralph displayed the nice Plexiglas cover for our shack's Bencher key that was donated by Greg Bednar KC8GL. Greg will produce these for anyone at a cost of \$50, and also makes name tags for a nominal cost. Thanks Greg!

Mike WA8MKH gave a preliminary report regarding the Swiss Festival. He mentioned that we were short of volunteers, and that presented a few problems when people needed to take a break for lunch etc. We also had to cover some of the Tusco group's area when some of their volunteers failed to show up. That presented an opportunity to make some additional money, but stretched our people very thin. The final report of how much the club received is not yet complete, but Mike feels that we will make roughly what we did last year. A lot of discussion followed regarding how we can get better participation next year. Also, we want to be sure to be assigned the same parking lot that we did this year, because it is paved and striped, making it much easier to direct. Mike emphasized that this event was handled very professionally, and that it gives good PR for the club.

Perry W8AU mentioned that the annual BSOTA activity will be held at the North Lawrence Fish and Game club on Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>. Setup is on Friday, and plans are to be on the air all day Saturday.

### New Business

No new issues were brought up.

### Old Business

Wade WD8MIU discussed the proposed mentoring program. He has made a lot of progress in getting volunteers to teach kit-building, soldering and general knowledge of electronics. Meetings are set for Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, Mar. 7<sup>th</sup>, and April 4<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested, contact Wade for more information about locations and times.

### Hamfest

The rest of the meeting was a lengthy item-by-item report from Terry regarding the upcoming hamfest. Terry presented a detailed review of what is needed and who has agreed to provide each item. We can get our tables from the same source as last year, but next year we will have to find a different source. Shirley Treacle gave Terry some leads about an alternate supplier that we might use.

Ralph asked if there were any other items to discuss, and none being given, asked for a motion to adjourn.

First Bud WA8KWD

Second Wade WD8MIU

The meeting adjourned at 21:30

Steve Hall KD8ACF donated refreshments for the coffee and soda break.

There was no 50/50 drawing this month due to Gary's absence.

**Submitted by Fred, KD8SMO**

## ... STATE OF OUR HOBBY ...

The state of our hobby is again solid as so stated by the ARRL. New and upgraded FCC license stats continue to impress. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM notes that license activity levels remain elevated through the end of August. New licenses increased by an incredible 21 percent over the same period from 2013 (23,963 in 2014 versus 19,823 in 2013). Upgraded licenses were up by 16 percent over 2013 (7,488 in 2014 versus 6,490 in 2013). This continues to be great news for our hobby !

## ... 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 22nd and we normally need about 20 volunteers to assist with parade staging, Cable and logistical 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 over 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 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. We may even try operating on UHF for some portion of the parade. Don't forget your handheld and come on downtown to enjoy a great holiday parade !

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

Speaking of contesting, November is a big month for some amateur contests. The ARRL will again sponsor November Sweepstakes. This year marks the 81th year this event and will give you the chance to take part in this long running operating event. While the CW portion will take place over hamfest weekend, November 1 - 3, the phone portion will be the weekend of the 15 - 17th. Full details are in QST or and are posted on the League's website. Sweepstakes is known as the premier contest in the US and Canada. The event draws amateurs from all levels, from hard-core competitors to casual participants. If international DX is your desire then the CQ WW DX contest is the last full weekend

of November. Complete details on their contests are available on their website.

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!

## ... FT WAYNE HAMFEST ...

The Ft Wayne hamfest will be on the weekend of November 15 - 16 at the Allen County Coliseum in Ft Wayne, Indiana.

This hamfest comes nearly six months to the day after the mighty Dayton Hamvention and is a great way to end out the 2014 hamfest season. At over 900 tables and over 100,000 square feet of exhibitor space, it is a really nice hamfest. It continued to downsize last year but still has lots of great stuff on display. It still will include several forums, exhibits including commercial vendors and dealers offering Alinco, Ameritron, MFJ, Yeasu plus many others.

Hours are 9 AM till 4 PM on Saturday and from 9 AM till 3 PM on Sunday. Admission is \$6.00 per person but is good for both days or just \$4.00 on Sunday. A full 2 page flyer is available on their website at [www.acarts.com](http://www.acarts.com) or use [www.fortwaynehamfest.com](http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com).

I have been a regular attendee at this hamfest for many years when our local Holiday Parade schedule worked out for us. I hope some of us can attend again this year, it always depends on schedules and of course weather can be a factor as well but I've seen us brave the trip on some pretty nasty days.

If you haven't made a hamfest in a while consider a trip this year to Indiana's largest ham radio, computer & electronics flea market !

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

**73's  
Terry - N8ATZ**



## Twitter: another tool in the ham radio toolbox

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

It all starts innocently enough. You get a computer to do your logging, and before you know it, you're working digital modes. Then, you snake an Ethernet cable down to the shack or connect to your wireless router. Pretty soon, you can't do without having a browser window open to one of the DX clusters or ReverseBeacon.Net or QRZ.Com or all three simultaneously.

Well, now's there another Internet service that I can't do without down in the shack: Twitter! I get on Twitter all the time now when I'm in the shack, and I love it. It's truly enhanced my amateur radio experience.

One of the ways it's done this is by bringing me all kinds of interesting technical information. I not only follow @hackaday and @DIYEngineering, and @EDN.Com, but a bunch of hams who are doing fun things. I hate to list some, for fear of leaving some out, but I will give a shout out to @NT7S, @AA7EE, @mightyohm, @caulktel, @LA3ZA. There's even @HiramPMaxim (the P stands for "parody"). If you go to my blog at KB6NU.Com and search for "From my Twitter feed," you'll find links to some of the most interesting Tweets that have found their way to me.

I'm also following a couple of amateur radio retailers. Today, for example, @DXEngineering is offering \$55 off the RigExpert AA-54 Antenna Analyzer.

I also use it to get information about weather conditions and band conditions. For example, I follow @edvielmetti, who is KD8OQG. He's always tweeting about local severe weather. A Tweet from him gets me to turn on my 2m radio to monitor the local SkyWarn net.

As far as band conditions go, I throw out a Tweet, asking about band conditions, and in seconds, I'll get reports from my followers here in the U.S. and around the world. I try to do my part as well. When I fire up the rig, I'll Tweet out a report of how the bands seem to me.

While all of this is great, it's really all about the people. I currently have more 2,200 followers and I follow more than 900. I would never have met some of these hams if it wasn't for Twitter, and I have since worked several of them on the air after first meeting them on Twitter. Last May, we had a "Tweetup" at the Dayton Hamvention. There were at least 20 of us there. How cool is that?

Twitter isn't for everyone, but I'd encourage you to give it a try. I'm having a lot of fun on Twitter, and I think you will, too. If you do set up a Twitter account, please follow me, @kb6nu. If you mention that you read this column, I'll be sure to follow you back.

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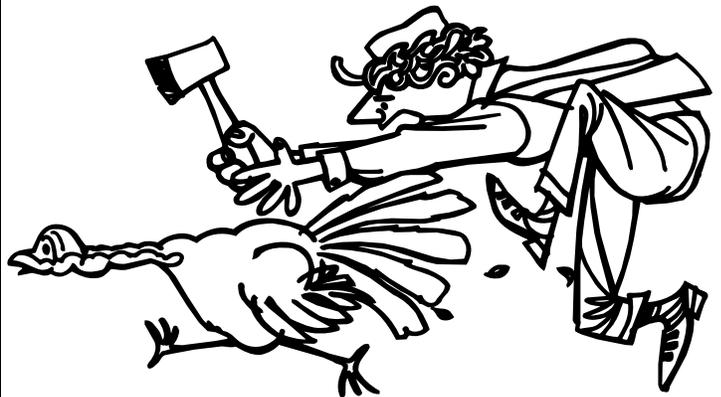
When not Tweeting about his latest amateur radio exploits, you'll find KB6NU working 30m CW or teaching ham radio classes. If Twitter isn't your thing, you can still follow him by reading his blog at [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com).

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*Celebrate Thanksgiving  
With Us!*



## ARRL NEWS

### SB QST ARL ARLB016 ARLB016 New Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Fee Set at \$21.40

The FCC has adjusted very slightly downward - to \$21.40 - its proposed Amateur Service vanity call sign regulatory fee for Fiscal Year 2014. In a June Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), the Commission said it was planning to hike the current \$16.10 vanity fee to \$21.60 for the 10-year license term. The FCC released a Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (R&O) in the proceeding on August 29, in which it recalculated the fee to \$21.40 for the 10-year license term. The \$5.30 increase still represents the largest vanity fee hike in many years.

The new \$21.40 fee does not go into effect until 30 days after the R&O is published in The Federal Register.

In the R&O, the FCC said it considered eliminating the regulatory fee for Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications but decided not to do so "at this time," because it lacks "adequate support to determine whether the cost of recovery and burden on small entities outweighs the collected revenue; or whether eliminating the fee would adversely affect the licensing process." The Commission said it would reevaluate this issue in the future to determine if it should eliminate other fee categories.

The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau sets the vanity call sign regulatory fee using projections of new applications and renewals, taking into consideration existing Commission licensee databases, such as the Universal Licensing System (ULS) database.

The FCC reported there were 11,500 "payment units" in FY 2014. The Commission said the vanity program generated an estimated \$230,230 in FY 2013 revenue, and it estimated that it would collect nearly \$246,100 in FY 2014.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable when applying for a new vanity call sign or when renewing a vanity call sign, although

some older vanity call signs are not subject to the regulatory fee.

NNNN  
/EX

### CQ Will Not Accept Logs from Stations in Crimea Using Russian-Issued Call Signs

[CQ](#) has announced that it will no longer accept logs for any CQ-sponsored contest from stations in Crimea operating with Russian-issued call signs. *CQ Magazine* said that "after considerable deliberation," it has decided to follow the lead of the US government and the United Nations and will consider the embattled Crimea region to be a part of Ukraine, "until such time as the political situation there is resolved." In addition, contacts made by others with Crimean stations using Russian-Issued call signs will be removed from contestants' logs without penalty. "No contact or multiplier credits will be given," the *CQ* announcement said.

"We fully realize that our action may very well disenfranchise several Crimean contesters who use Russian prefixes instead of Ukrainian prefixes," *CQ* said. "As regrettable as that may be, our action is consistent with international law, as well as with our own rules."

*CQ sponsors* several major international operating events, including the CQ World Wide SSB and CW contests. The first contest to be affected by the new policy would be the CQ World Wide SSB Contest, which takes place this year over the October 25-26 weekend.

## TIME CHANGE

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Don't forget that at 2AM, November 02 the time changes back to "normal" time.

We will once again be on Eastern STANDARD time. Now we "FALL" back one hour.



New York  
United States



London  
United Kingdom



Tokyo  
Japan

## Boy Scout Jamboree On-The-Air.

or...Field Day in the most severe way

Thanks to the BSA Troop 921 (Massillon/Jackson) campout serving as a host, we set up a portable field station at the North Lawrence Fish & Game campground Friday and Saturday, Oct 17/18. This was also the campout where the oldest level of Cub Scouts (Webelos) are invited to visit to see what it's like when they convert to the full Boy Scout program.

Friday's camp setup permitted selecting the site next to the lake for the best antenna location. It turned out to be on a peninsula sticking out into the lake, rather than in the woods surrounded by tall trees. The MARC pop-up tent used for Field Day CW was used along with the side curtains. (which were needed!)

Friday was warm and suggested a good weekend of activities for all. That is, until Mother Nature decided differently with an overnight temperature drop of over 35 degrees! We woke up to cold, wind and rain! Brrrr... And to add to that we had cold rain on and off all day Saturday!

Despite the bad weather we were committed to follow through with this operation and did so in the wind and rain, finishing the last phase of the setup Saturday morning with the raising of the center-fed antenna supported by a set of the Military Camouflage Net poles.

Next was setting up my 900 watt generator about 50 feet away (for minimum noise) and powering up the TenTec Triton 4 plus a 2 meter FM rig. Despite some big winds everything held up OK.

Now to get the Scouts over to start the Scout-to-Scout contacts..... but where were they?

Well, the Scouts we started with Friday were still there, but in their tents or around the campfire trying to keep warm! And to add a further insult, none of the Cub Scout groups showed up because of the weather! L Plus I was getting cold with two light coats not quite adequate for the temperature.. (had to call the xyl to bring out a winter coat).

While the rigs and antenna worked great on any band we checked, the darn generator would periodically stop, requiring us to run thru the wet grass and restart it. There was no real reason for this new generator to quit on us...but maybe the continuous rain pouring on it was a factor? L

As it turned out we were not able to get on soon enough to catch the European continent Scouts but did hear lots of Stateside, Canadian and Caribbean groups. Finally we coaxed a few of the 12 and 13 year olds to brave the weather and talk to some of their west coast counterparts, which proved interesting and fun for them.

When it came time to tear down the setup Saturday evening, we started hearing the Japanese Scout stations frantically calling for contacts on 15 meters. It was cute to hear them call "JOTA –

Jum-bor-dee" in their native accent.... but by then we had the station partially torn down and it was getting dark. By the time we packed away all the gear, antenna, cables, etc, we were using flashlights!

Those of you who are regulars at each year's club FD exercise, and know the rigors of setting up and tearing down, should have been with us to see just how comparatively easy you have it when the WX is good and there's lots of help. This operation was just a sample of doing it the "hard way," the way that lets you know if you are a REAL ham! J



**Top picture** : You can see the weather they had to put up with, overcast and cold temperatures. Antennas used can be clearly seen in this photo. A better shot of the tent and station can be seen in the bottom photo. Thanks to **Perry, W8AU**, for this story and photos. I hope he has warmed up by now !!

## HUMOR

### HOW TO GET A NEW RADIO PAST YOUR WIFE

*By Jim Pickett – K5LAD*

It's interesting to talk with hams and hear the many techniques of "marital negotiation" they use to convince their spouse that they need to make a purchase of a piece, or several pieces, of ham equipment. Typically, the buyer is the male and the one to convince is his wife but it might just as easily be with these roles in reverse. To listen to the processes used is almost as varied as the snowflakes in an Oklahoma snowstorm and as abundant as the grains of sand on the beach.

A recent discussion on an Internet reflector populated by hams brought to light a number of these techniques. Some almost define the popular quote, "it's better to get down and beg for forgiveness than it is to ask permission." This attitude had been used in literally thousands; perhaps millions, of instances and many of those have been oriented toward a ham radio equipment purchase.

It's important that the term "wasting money" be held to an absolute minimum when discussing the procurement of ham equipment, particularly new equipment. It's one of those terms that often rears its ugly head but should be suppressed at all costs. It will not appear again in this discussion.

Some clever hams use the system, 'My wife and I trade purchases for our hobbies.' This is the system where the two partners both buy what they want to satisfy their hobby needs but it is done on a one for one basis, i.e., she buys something, and I buy something. This becomes rather awkward if his hobby is ham radio and hers is collecting chewing gum wrappers or sewing needles. Unless the relative costs of pieces in the two hobbies are nearly the same, this system has a flaw that is bound to fester some day. Also, obviously, for this system to work, even if kept on a nearly equal basis, there must be an abundance of funds able to cover the costs of collections of items on both sides. That has seldom been the case with the folks I've run with during my lifetime so I mention it only with I as a distant observer and not one who has actually experienced it. If I have failed to mention all the complete details of this plan, it was due to my failure to actually live it.

Some men have used a system that involves a gift of jewelry just prior to the casual mention of the ham's requirement for a new antenna, transceiver, amplifier, or VHF/UHF talkie. This system is often very successful, as long as not used too often. It does, however, require a healthier than average checking and/or savings account so this one is certainly not for everyone.

One other system mentioned involved only buying physically smaller items, using the excuse that, "it's just one of those little do-dads." It's important, when using this system, that the ham practices the ability to have a good 'poker face' since presentation, here, is critical. There can easily be follow-up questions. Another technique, although not recommended nor encouraged by me, is to just buy an item and never mention anything about it, one way or the other. This falls into the category of 'it may work for now, it may work for several more times, but some day.....some day it will come back to bite you. It may not occur on the first or second time you try it but suffice it to say, some day it will catch up with you.

One man who was participating in the discussion on the reflector made an interesting observation. While several guys were talking about the tricks..... er, that is, the techniques they used to purchase a more costly piece of ham equipment in their family. His comment was, "Fortunately, I'm between wives at the moment, and don't have that problem." I believe his comment spoke volumes and needs no additional elaboration from me.

There were several hams who commented that their spouse was also a ham so they had no problems in spending family funds on 'family fun'. Perhaps ..... perhaps ..... however, I was reminded of a quote by

Abraham Lincoln who once said (paraphrased), "If you call a dog's tail a leg, how many legs does a dog have? Five? Nope. Just callin' a tail a leg doesn't make it a leg." Well just calling a spouse a ham doesn't guarantee unlimited purchases. Just because she's a ham doesn't always make high-dollar acquisitions a "shoo-in." When it actually happens you're truly a fortunate and happy ham.

Another technique used is the "I'm the boss" system. This involves the comments by Mr. John A. Ham who tells Mrs. Ham, "I earn all the money in this family and I'll spend the money like I want." Oddly enough, perhaps coincidentally, members from this group are seldom pictured on the Society Section of the local newspaper under the headline, "Mr. and Mrs. John A. Ham celebrate their golden wedding anniversary!" As a matter of fact, John A. Ham, is seldom seen shopping in the local Hallmark Card and Gift store while asking the clerk what is the anniversary gift typical for a 2nd year wedding anniversary. I would also suspect that male participants in this technique could provide other men with numerous tips on sleeping more comfortably on a living room sofa or perhaps sharing their sleeping space with a friend who is named, Fido. One quote I read on one of the reflectors said, "A wise man builds a comfortable dog house. With 240 volts available." Well said..... well said.

Actually, my favorite technique was one I saw back in the 1970s when I owned and operated a ham radio store in Broken Arrow. One Saturday a gentleman came in and was interested in purchasing a new Kenwood TS-520 HF transceiver. We negotiated the deal and he paid his invoice. I commented to him something about how I imagined he was anxious to get his new rig home and put it on the air. He looked at me seriously and said, "Oh no..... It will be at least a week or two before I'm able to fire it up. I'll take it over to my buddy George's house and unpack it completely. We'll stick it up in George's attic where it is pretty dusty." He continued on, much to my amazement. "Next weekend or so, while my wife is in the same room I'm in, I'll call George on the phone and say, 'Hey George; do you still have that old TS-520 I loaned you? Are you using it now? OK, well I think I'll come over and pick it up and use it here again."

He then said, "I'll go over and bring it back to the house without cleaning it up from its time in George's attic. I'll carry it by where my wife is seated and purposely blow the dust off." He then innocently questioned, "I wonder if this old thing still works?"

I've thought about that story many times in the years that followed. Now there's a clever ham. I can't say it would work for everyone and I certainly would never try that with my wife.

Perhaps there are other "techniques" in use but I dare not continue as it's nearly supertime at my house..... I hope.

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( Thanks to Charlie Scherger KB8STV for submitting this article. )

## ELMER PROGRAM

The ELMER Program Starts Saturday Morning Jan 17th 2015  
@ 9:00 AM -11:00 AM @ the Massillon Senior Center

### Here is the List of Programs for the Winter 2015

**Jan 17th 2015** KD8VT James will be showing us the correct way Grounding should be down in the Ham Shack

**Feb 7th 2015** N8CD John will be helping us put together a kit, learn the correct way to solder and walk away with an item that you can use.

**March 7th 2015** TBD

**April 4th 2015** TBD

I will be bring a sign up sheet for the Friday November 7th Massillon Club Meeting to sign up for the Jan 17th meeting and the Feb 7th Meeting. we need you to sign up so we can order Kit s etc.

Any other ideas for March and April please e-mail  
[wd8miu@gmail.com](mailto:wd8miu@gmail.com)

Thank You

Wade

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## Are knobs and buttons toast?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

In a recent column on EETimes ([http://www.eetimes.com/author.asp?doc\\_id=1324283](http://www.eetimes.com/author.asp?doc_id=1324283)), an old colleague of mine, Martin Rowe, says, Knobs and buttons are slowly on their way out. Get used to it. He's referring to the controls on oscilloscopes, but if he were a ham, he might just as well be talking about amateur radio transceivers, too.

We already see this happening in amateur radio. FlexRadio, and a couple of other companies, already make transceivers with no front panel controls. You must have a computer to use them.

Might we even start to see this with handheld and portable equipment? For example, how much cheaper could they make a Baofeng if to use it, you had to also have an Android or iPhone app to act as the human interface?

To be honest, I haven't really thought about this much myself. I'm enough of a dinosaur to still prefer buttons and knobs, but having to use on-screen controls certainly doesn't turn me off. Rowe claims, however, that as the old-timers retire (or in our case as older hams become SKs), younger engineers (or young hams) will expect every user interface to function like a phone or tablet. Don't believe me? Just wait.

I got several interesting replies to this idea on my blog. Bill, AD8BC says, "What would be fun would be an open-source mobile radio. I picture an RF deck with a Raspberry Pi and touch screen for control, the Pi would simply tell the RF deck where to tune and handle the interface and scanning functions, it would ship with a stock app, but you could make your own. Built in support for SDR stuff, packet, APRS, remote operation."

Most commenters, however, even the younger guys, still seem to prefer analog controls. Lucien, DH7LM, says, "I'm a newly licensed ham and I like both experimenting with advanced computer stuff like SDRs and the great feeling a real radio provides!" Grant, KJ6ZZD, says, "Knobs perform some tasks better than a screen can. Knobs provide some tactile feedback that a screen just can't."

So, what do you think? Are knobs and buttons toast, or do you think there's still some life left in analog controls?

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When not twiddling the knobs on his HF transceiver or relatively ancient Tek 2213 analog oscilloscope, you'll find KB6NU working on updates to his "No Nonsense" study guides or blogging about amateur radio at [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com).

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## FORMER OOC RICK SWAIN, KK8O NOW SILENT KEY

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It is with a very heavy heart that I announce the following Silent Key..

Richard Lee Swain - KK8O, 69, of Galion died Wednesday, October 15, 2014 at Galion Community Hospital. As most of you know Rick had been the Official Observer Coordinator for many, many years and just recently stepping down. Rick was also the Treasurer for the InterCity Amateur Radio Club and was very active in all aspects of Amateur Radio.

The family will receive friends from 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at Snyder Funeral Home Richardson Davis Chapel in Galion where services will be held at 11 a.m. with Pastor Seth Ellis officiating. Full military honors will be conducted by the United States Air Force and Galion Crestline Veterans Military Funeral Detail.

Burial will be at Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Richard's grandchildren's college fund in care of the funeral home. Snyder Funeral Home Richardson Davis Chapel in Galion is honored to serve the family of Richard Swain, and condolences may be made to them at

[www.SnyderFuneralHomes.com](http://www.SnyderFuneralHomes.com)

# November 2014

## W8NP Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																	
<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <th colspan="7">Oct 2014</th> <th colspan="7">Dec 2014</th> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td> <td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td> <td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td> <td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td> <td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td> <td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td> <td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>						Oct 2014							Dec 2014							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	26	27	28	29	30	31		28	29	30	31				<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 24pt;"><b>1</b></p> <p>BD KC8IHR</p> <p>Grant ARC Hamfest, CTC: Rodney 937-446-2338, Georgetown, OH</p> <p><b>MARC Hamfest Setup, 0900 at the Massillon Boys &amp; Girls Club</b></p>
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<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 24pt;"><b>2</b></p> <p style="color: red; font-size: 10pt;">Daylight Savings Time Ends - 0200</p> <p>MARC HAMFEST! Doors Open 8:00 AM, VE Test Session, 0900, Ctc.: Terry, 330-837-3091, Massillon Boys &amp; Girls Club</p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 kHz, 1930</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 24pt;"><b>3</b></p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 24pt;"><b>4</b></p> <p style="color: red; font-size: 10pt;">Election Day</p> <p>Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 24pt;"><b>5</b></p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 24pt;"><b>6</b></p> <p>BD N8LCS</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 24pt;"><b>7</b></p> <p>Massillon Amateur Radio Club Meeting, Senior Center, Massillon, 2000</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 24pt;"><b>8</b></p>																																																																																																	
<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 24pt;"><b>9</b></p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 kHz, 1930</p> <p>VE Test Session, Cuyahoga ARS, 0900, Ctc.: Gary 216-642-8705, Independence Old Town Hall</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 24pt;"><b>10</b></p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 24pt;"><b>11</b></p> <p>Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM</p> <p style="color: red; font-size: 10pt;">Veterans Day</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 24pt;"><b>12</b></p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 24pt;"><b>13</b></p> <p>VE Test Sessions, Cuyahoga Falls ARC, 1900, Ctc. Bruce 330-929-2766, Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 24pt;"><b>14</b></p> <p>West Stark Info Net - 147.180 at 2000</p>	<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 24pt;"><b>15</b></p> <p>Fort Wayne Hamfest &amp; Computer Expo, Ctc 260-579-2196</p>																																																																																																	
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<p style="color: #800080; font-size: 24pt;"><b>30</b></p> <p>Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 kHz, 1930</p>	<p>Upcoming events:</p> <p>12/6 - Sat. - Fulton County ARC Winterfest, Delta, OH</p> <p>12/6 - VE Test Session, Rittman, 0930</p> <p>12/6 - VE Test Session, PCARS, Ravenna, 1000</p> <p>12/7 - L'Anse Creuse Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Harrison Township, MI</p>																																																																																																						

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

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