



# FEEDBACK

VOLUME 64 ISSUE 10

October 2019

## MASSILLON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OFFICERS

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**MRN NET Sundays at 8:00 PM  
3599.50 KHZ**

**WEST STARK INFO NET  
Friday's 8:00 PM 147.180 MHz**

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## OCTOBER MEETING

The meeting for the month of October will be held on October 4th, 2019 at 7:30 PM at the Massillon Senior Center, 39 Lincoln Way West. Doors will open at 7:00 PM .

Main discussion items for this meeting will be planning for our Annual Hamfest on Sunday, November 3rd at the Boy's & Girls Club of Massillon.

## LATE DARA NEWS

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) has signed a 5-year agreement to keep Dayton Hamvention® at the Greene County Expo Center. The agreement was announced on September 9 by Hamvention General Chairman Jack Gerbs, WB8SCT.

"It has been a wonderful experience working with the Expo Center team in the development of this agreement," Gerbs said. "With the 5-year agreement signed, the Expo Center and Hamvention can move forward with additional enhancements to the facilities."

Dayton Amateur Radio Association President Ron Cramer, KD8ENJ, said the DARA Board, in approving the contract, noted that the relationship with the Expo Center and Greene County, the City of Xenia, and Xenia Township "has proven especially rewarding."

Cramer said, "They all have worked hard to make Hamvention a success over the last 3 years.

## PROGRAM

The program for the month of October will be from the ARRL and will feature "Do It Yourself", DIY or what we call "Home Brewing".

It will feature some ham radio projects, along with some historical look back at earlier radio projects.

Speaking of programs, we would like to offer more programs during our upcoming meetings now that fall is approaching but we need some ideas from the membership.

Guest speakers, interesting videos, new radio reviews/reports, all would make a great program.

Send us some ideas and we will try to incorporate these during our fall and winter meetings !



## MARC W8NP Minutes Sept 6, 2019 Meeting at Massillon Senior Center

Perry W8AU called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.  
Nineteen people signed in for the meeting.

After the Pledge of Allegiance and a round of Introductions, Perry W8AU announced the speaker Dale Williams WA8EFK, Director of Great Lakes Division Director and member of ARRL Board.

Dale showed us pictures of the Headquarters in Connecticut and explained the function of all the departments and invited us to visit the facility and get a personal grand tour. Also described were current issues and availability of scholarships via supporting company donors.

We all thank Dale [WA8EFK](#) for his presentation.

Perry W8AU opened the business portion of the meeting.

A motion was made to not read the minutes and accept the report as in the newsletter by Bret N8BAG and by Jim WA8GXM seconded. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Dan N8DZM provided account balances for all accounts.

A motion was made to accept the report by Jim WA8GXM & Don W8DEA seconded. The motion passed.

Vern KE8VS as Secretary requested from all members who have not signed in online to **Ham Club Online** to do so prior to next meeting.

All you have to do is go to <https://www.hamclubonline.com/>

Near the top of the page in the Member login area click on "[\(Register New\)](#)" Place in your call sign, and follow the instructions.

Thank you in advance for logging in.

Perry W8AU identified Hamfests in the area and QSO parties.

See Ohio Section Newsletter for other area information at <http://arri-ohio.org/>

Remember to read information from the section identifying the use of ARES Connect is for all Ham Radio operators and note just for ARES members. <https://arri.volunteerhub.com/lp/oh/>

Old Business:

Perry W8AU, sent around the signup sheet for helping with Sugar Creek Parking Friday, September 27 and Saturday, September 28.

The Christmas Parade is the evening of Saturday, Nov 23. Assembly of the Units is 3:30 pm with the parade starting at 5 pm. About 22 people are needed to assist in assembly, staging crew, or parade marshals. Those that can assist please contact Perry W8AU.

Safety Service Director Barb, was informed of our equipment and the continued possibility of the VA using the facility.

There has been one auction identified with the KIKO being the auctioneer. See the details at <https://www.kikoauctions.com/upcoming/details/9978>. The second auction date has not been identified yet.

Terry W8ATZ and Jim WA8GXM are taking the Communication Trailer Saturday 28 at 11 am to 3 pm to the North Canton Safety & Preparedness Expo. Vern KE8VS volunteered to assist with possible help from the Stark State Amateur Radio club members. Afterward the event Jim Wa8GXM is taking the trailer to Sugar Creek to assist with parking.

New Business:

**Our is Hamfest Sunday November 3rd at the Massillon Boys & Girls Club. Setup is Saturday, November 2nd morning. Door prizes was discussed as being:** 1<sup>st</sup> Yaesu Ft-8900R Quad Band Hi Power FM Amateur Ham Radio Transceiver  
2M / 6M/ 10M / 70cm

2<sup>nd</sup> MFJ - 259C SWR Antenna Analyzer

with third prize to be determined in the future.

Terry N8ATZ identified we will need a one-day food permit to be able to sell donuts.

Mailing of postcards and tickets were discussed with more information coming soon.

Information of our November 3rd Hamfest is in QST.

F

## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

### The Prez Sez

#### ARRL VIP AWARD

Our prolific writer and circuit board designer and peddler, Mike Bryce, WB8VGE, was the center of attention last meeting as he was awarded the QST Cover Plaque Award for his article in July QST magazine and it was presented by the Great Lakes Division Director Dale Williams, WA8EFK. His article was titled, "The Vibro-Debugger" and was voted the best article for that month. It helps clear up the hardened sound of the bug's dot contact if it suffers from "contact bounce." It also contains a code practice oscillator. As Lucy used to say, You've done it again, Charlie



Brown!"

#### FINAL TRIP

From his trailer, to the Coroner, to the Beach City Funeral home, and finally the Western Reserve National Cemetery, the "Silent Mike" Remains of N8PII were interred, with a 15 minute ceremony consisting of a Service, Rifle salute, TAPS, and the Flag ceremony by U.S. Navy personnel in dress whites. Ex-Navy Seaman Russ McMahan "raised anchor" and sailed away over the horizon to his final destination. His tombstone will have the inscription, "Radio N8PII has ended it's run a little early."

#### Did You wear your Lederhosen?

The Ohio Swiss Festival has concluded for this year with our help. This two day affair involved using our HTs and our feet to enable visitors to efficiently park and attend the festivities. And we all had a chance to sample some excellent German food at locations down the midway.

Our volunteer numbers shrank a little by the hospitalization of Pat, KA8DAL, and the sudden OT work requirement of Brent, K8BAG, but we handled it well with all extending their scheduled time.

**Friday-Morning:**

Don-W8DEA, Bud-WA8KWD, Vern-KE8VS,

**Friday Afternoon:**

Fred-KD8SMO, Steve-KD8ACF, Vern-KE8VS,

Terry-N8ATZ, Wade-WD8MIU

**Friday Evening:**

Vern-KE8VS, Terry-N8ATZ, Wade-WD8MIU

**Saturday Morning:**

Fred-KD8SMO, Steve-KD8ACF, Wade-WD8MIU

**Saturday Afternoon:**

Wade-WD8MIU, Evan-KE8IDH, Don-N8IVJ,

Dan-N8DZM

**Saturday Evening:**

Wade-WD8MIU, Evan-KE8IDH, Don-N8IVJ,

Dan-N8DZM, Jim-WA8GXM, Terry-N8ATZ.

**And, last but not least: MARC Point of Contact**

Perry, W8AU, was there for two full days. Hard to leave when you're having fun. J

**Meeting Invitation**

Join us Friday night, October 6 for more info and a program featuring "something old and something new."

73, Perry W8AU

I met Russ in 1991 and in the last 28 years Russ made me a better person. Russ enjoyed talking to his family on the local repeaters—no Russ' real family didn't have their Ham license, but you and I know that our ham radio operators were his family.

We could all set around the table and discuss our QSO's we had with Russ and we would get some good laugh's and take away some good memories.

Many of you helped Russ one way or another, gave him a ride, gave him money, gave him an Antenna and installed it for him, took him out to dinner, etc. I thank you for that.

Russ at times was excentric, but that was Russ. He came to see me while I was in Aultman Hospital in December 2014 for my open heart surgery. He walked from Perry Heights to Aultman in the cold and snow to visit me.

Russ along with all the veterans in the same cemetery and those still walking around fought for our freedom and I thank them for that. I think that is the most important thing to me. Russ, Rest In Peace.

Thanks to the twenty some who attended the memorial service. Pat, N8NCZ video taped the service, so if you want to see it please email me and I will send it out to you.

God Bless and Thank You...

Wade, WD8MIU

## OTHER NEWS/ARES CONNECT

Continuing with our participation in National Preparedness Month, Stark County ARES participated in a two hour radio program hosted by the County EMA office and broadcast over local AM station WHBC that focused on plans our local government and public service organizations have put into place to serve citizens during a disaster, and on things the local populace can do in the event of a major emergency. The program was live streamed over the station Facebook page.

Guests included both Canton Hospitals, EMA Staff, police and fire officials and city health departments. Our county ARES was represented by EC Terry Russ, N8ATZ, and Assistant EC David Beltz, WD8AYE our liaison to the EMA office. We briefly discussed how we interact with local civil authorities and how we provide support communications during emergencies and our local Skywarn program.

The program is available for replay on the Stark County EMA Facebook page in the video's section.

Now, I want everyone to breakout your **2020 calendars** because I have 2 dates that I want you to mark on those calendars for events that are coming.

First, is the **Toledo Hamfest and ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention**. This is going to be a 2-day affair starting on **Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>** with a full day of forums & Maker Projects with a fantastic banquet and awards presentations as well. On **Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>** you can enjoy a super Hamfest sponsored by the Toledo Mobile Radio Association (TMRA) all located on the Owens Community College Campus.

The next date to mark down is **August 8<sup>th</sup>**... This will be the **DX Engineering Hamfest and ARRL Ohio Section Convention**. John, KD8IDJ will be announcing the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual ARRL Ohio Section Newsletter Contest winners and I will be announcing the newest inductee of the Allan Severson, AB8P Award. There will be numerous forums and great deals on all kinds of equipment and parts. If you thought they had a good hamfest this year, you ain't seen nothin' yet!!

OK.. Let's get down to really using this new system for everything that it's worth! New Volunteer sign ups have really slowed down lately and I know that we still have a bunch of folks that aren't signed up yet. I'm setting a goal for all of you out there. **Let's get everyone in the Ohio Section on ARES Connect before the end of this year!!!**

Do you need help with how to sign-up for an event or log your hours? How about you Administrators, do you have questions about approving your volunteer's hours or how-to set-up a recurring event? I've got the answer for all of you. I have a new webpage with step-by-step instructions on how to do those things and many more. I also have a "Hints and Kinks" section that has a lot of great information on how to do something or why something works like it does. Here's the page: <http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/connect/index.html> You can also find this link on the main page of the Ohio Section website as well.. It's just under the "Enter ARES Connect" link.

If you live in **Ohio** and you haven't registered yet, we need you to get registered now. We need you to only use this URL to get registered <https://arrl.volunteerhub.com/lp/oh/>. Using any other entrance to register will only slow down your registration process. Again, this is for those living in Ohio only. If you are an out of state person (not Ohio), you can simply change the **/oh/** to your 2-letter state designation. This will put you in the correct state for signing up. Now, I am starting to see folks creating more than one account because they can't remember their password from the one that they originally setup. Please don't do this. The system has a really good way of sending you a link to your email address so that you can refresh your password. If you are experiencing problems with getting to this link, contact me: [n8sy@n8sy.com](mailto:n8sy@n8sy.com) and I'll get it fixed for you.

We now have **1,229** registered and growing every day in the system. What's really interesting is as of this same date there are **11,579** registered in the entire country. This means that the Ohio Section makes up over **10.61%** of those registered. Here's a link to get you started... [http://www.arrl-ohio.org/SEC/connect/ares\\_connect\\_directions.pdf](http://www.arrl-ohio.org/SEC/connect/ares_connect_directions.pdf)

Please, don't just hurry through the questions, read them carefully, if you don't understand something, please ask me, I'm here to answer your questions.

## FT8 Is Reshaping Amateur Radio By **Dan Romanchik, KB6NU**

FT8 really is reshaping amateur radio. Even if all DXpeditions swore not to use FT8 bots (but you know they will), hams are moving to FT8 and related modes in huge numbers. Here are a couple of related items that I ran across yesterday.

The Summer 2019 edition of the Northern California DX Foundation newsletter included the following:

### **Why use FT8 mode in DXpeditions?**

FT8 is rapidly becoming the digital mode of choice for DXpeditions and here are some reasons why:

- Important for little pistol stations, especially in antenna-challenged HOA or high-noise neighborhoods.
- No other mode has the capability of working five different calls in parallel in the same sub-band with queuing.
- Very high rates possible compared to RTTY, which equals more ATNOs in the log.
- Easier to reach certain parts of the world under poor propagation conditions and weak solar cycles.
- Excellent mode for challenging bands like 6M and 160M.
- Still get credit for a digital QSO toward awards, etc.
- May attract new operators or revitalize older ones.
- Excellent mode for hearing- or speech-impaired hams.
- DQRM not a problem.
- Less stressful for DXpedition operators.
- Has tremendous remote operation possibilities.

Along the same lines, the ARRL has decided to reactive the Band Planning Committee. A news article yesterday notes:

In an effort to more effectively address HF digital technology issues, ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, has reactivated the ARRL Board of Directors' HF Band Planning Committee. The six-member panel, chaired by First Vice President Greg Widin, K0GW, will primarily focus on spectrum allocation issues that have gained increased visibility with discussions on accommodating automatically controlled digital stations (ACDS) — many employing Winlink email. The committee will also discuss operating frequencies for FT4, FT8, and other digital modes. Widin says the committee will meet next week to chart its course. Reactivation of the HF Band Planning Committee came out of discussions during the July 2019 ARRL Board meeting.

I really am of two minds on this. As my friend Jeff, KE9V, said on Twitter, "FT8 is an amazing software application that allows your personal computer to experience all the thrills and excitement of global two-way radio communications!" Note that he didn't say that it allows you to experience the thrill, but rather your computer. He decries the impersonal nature of FT8, and I have to say that I kind of agree with him on this.

## WHAT IS DMR ANY- HOW ?

DMR, Digital Mobile Radio is one of the faster growing communications modes around the country thanks to an influx of inexpensive mobile and handhelds showing up on the market. Reports from this years Dayton Hamvention indicated more DMR HT's were sold than in the previous three years. Add to this a growing number of DMR repeaters popping up all around the country, the infrastructure is in place to make DMR a fun and capable new communications mode.

Here in Stark County we have two DMR repeater systems in place thanks to club member Rick Dice, KG8DQ who funded the installation of both systems. One is located on the club's repeater site on Massillon's west side and the other at Mercy Medical Center in Canton. Currently about 15 members are DMR capable and I see the number continuing to grow as time moves forward. I have been active on DMR only the last year or so and still trying to fully understand this mode and learning it's basic principles. I currently own two mobiles and two handhelds which I think is enough.

I first became interested in this mode as a great enhancement to our ARES communications program. It's range is amazing thanks to interconnected repeater systems throughout the state and beyond. We currently have a DMR mobile radio installed at our county EMA office that provides solid communications to the state of Ohio EMA office.

If there is a downside to DMR operation it would be there is a rather complicated learning curve to it's operation and setup. In order to use a new DMR radio it first requires a program called a Code Plug. This is nothing more than a fancy name for the software file that gets loaded into your radio to tell it what to do.

Code Plugs are unique to the type of DMR radio you have. While you can create your own code plug, I strongly suggest you locate and download one created for use in our area. The ARRL Ohio Section website has multiple code plugs posted for our area. Rick Dice's website at ([www.kg8dq.com](http://www.kg8dq.com)) also has code plugs and is a great source of information on DMR

Operating.

You will also need CPS software in order to communicate between your computer and your radio. This CPS software is also unique to individual DMR Radio's. Once installed then you can use this program to install a Code Plug which contains all of the frequencies and files necessary to use your new radio. Remember I said there was a steep learning curve to DMR operation ?

Fortunately many of our club members are getting pretty skilled at setting up a new DMR radio and are more than willing to assist you in this endeavor.

Operating a DMR Radio is really no different than using a typical analog radio. The big difference is DMR radios are setup in Zones and Channels.

Like many other radio services, DMR has it's own vocabulary that you need to understand before you can fully utilize this mode of communication.

The best thing to do is to align yourself with a club or group active in DMR and learn from them on using DMR. I am just now starting to understand the principles of DMR but I still have a lot to learn.

Most of us here in Stark County use a code plug based on a channel and zone configuration based on Rick's Dice (KG8DQ) original setup. This helps ensure that we are all on the same configuration arrangement. It sure makes it easier to contact a fellow amateur.

Thanks to Jim, WA8GXM, we have a weekly DMR Net that operates on Massillon Local Channel every Monday night at 7:30 PM. This is a great way to figure out your radio and compare notes with other local DMR users.

There is usually a short get together before and after our monthly club meetings to learn more about using this mode and sort out programming issues.

You are also welcome to take part in a statewide DMR net on the Ohio Statewide Talkgroup 3139 on Wednesday nights at 8:30 PM.

Next month we will cover more details on this new mode, stay tune !

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Hamfest details are in full swing. At this month's meeting we need to fill all the normal hamfest positions - table reservations; ticket sales; prizes; security; club table; auction; mobile checkins; etc. These are important jobs that are needed for a successful hamfest. This is a total club participation event, we need everyone's help, not just a few volunteers. If not, it's time to get out of the hamfest business !

The October issue of QST has the club hamfest notification and I expect table reservations to begin filling up soon.. Also the League has once again donated four very nice gift certificates to use as main / door prizes. Main prizes should be on order and maybe we will get a few donated door prizes as well thanks to Universal Radio !

As always, we need volunteers to help with table setup on Saturday, November 2nd around 9:00 - 9:30 AM.

Final details will be worked out at the October club meeting. Please join us for both the meeting and of course we hope to see you all on Hamfest Sunday !

As I work on my column for this month, I realize that it's almost Autumn. The day's are shorter and the nights longer. The weather is cooler and the trees are changing already.

So what does all this mean to radio operators? For me, it means more time to devote to our hobby. It also means more time for my other favorite activity, project building.

And let's not forget about antennas. My G5RV is being replaced with an End Fed long wire that I hope to have up by Thanksgiving. I may purchase a new HF Rig to try out over the long winter. That's it for now, see you at the October meeting.

## UNIVERSAL RADIO



**ICOM**  
IC-7300



The **icom IC-7300** HF/6 meter 100 watt transceiver hosts new capabilities and technologies for its class. SDR architecture with brilliant color TFT touch screen provides real-time spectrum display with waterfall. Plus built-in tuner, voice memory, CW/RTTY keyer/decode and SD port.



**YAESU**  
FTdx1200



The **FTdx1200** provides sophisticated 160 to 6 meter operation with the latest 32 Bit high speed DSP technology. With three roofing filters, TFT color display, waterfall scope, built-in antenna tuner, IF shift/notch & more!



**YAESU**  
FT-991A



The **Yaesu FT-991A** does it all. HF to 70cm with 100W on HF/6m. Multimode including C4FM Digital, HF/6m tuner, stunning 3.5" color TFT touch panel with spectrum display and color waterfall. 3 year limited warr.



**CommRadio**  
CTX-10



The multi-mission **CommRadio CTX-10** SDR QRP transceiver covers 80-10 meters CW/SSB 5 or 10 watts. Receive 150 kHz to 30 MHz. Integrated battery and antenna tuner enhances portability. Optimized for low power consumption. Made in USA. Expected March 2018.

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*Quality Equipment Since 1942*

# October 2019

## W8NP Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																										
<b>Upcoming Events:</b> 11/2 Garc Hamfest, Georgetown, OH 11/3 MARC HAMFEST 11/3 WACOM Hamfest, Canonsburg, PA 11/16 - 11/17 Fort Wayne Hamfest and Computer Exp 11/23 Massillon Holiday Parade - 16:00		1	2	3	4	5																																										
		Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM		BD KBMOO	BD NBATZ Massillon Amateur Radio Club Meeting Massillon Senior Center, 1930 Doors open at 1900	Scioto Valley ARC Hamfest, Ctr. Room, 740-412-6184, Chillicothe  VE Test Session, Portage County ARS, 1000, Ctr.: Tom 330-389-6086 PCARS, Ravenna																																										
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																																										
Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 kHz, 2000		Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM	BD WD6A	BD NBGPC	West Stark Info Net - 147.180 at 2000	Northwest Ohio ARC Hamfest, Ctr. Room, 419-230-7977, Lima OH  Pakenburg/Wood County Hamfest, Ctr. Kenneth 304-679-3470, Mineral Wells, WV																																										
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Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 kHz, 2000	Columbus Day (Observed)	BD WD8MF Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM	VE Test Session, Pioneer AR Fellowship, 1900, Ctr. Room, 330-730-7765, Firestone Park Community Center		West Stark Info Net - 147.180 at 2000																																											
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Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 kHz, 2000		Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM			West Stark Info Net - 147.180 at 2000																																											
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Massillon Radio Net - 3599.5 kHz, 2000		Stark County ARES Net on 147.12 at 7:00 PM		Halloween																																												

Please contact K8DNY for updates, changes, or additions.

**Massillon Amateur Radio Club  
PO Box 73  
Massillon, OH 44648**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**TO:**

**Club Officers**

<b>President</b>	<b>Perry Ballinger, W8AU</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Don Rankl, N8IVJ</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Vern Sproat, KE8VS</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Dan Anastis, N8DZM</b>

**FEEDBACK Editor**    **Terry Russ, N8ATZ**

**Trustees**            **Terry Russ, N8ATZ**  
                             **Wade Huthmacher, WD8MIU**

**W8NP Trustee**        **Perry Ballinger, W8AU**

**W8NP Webmaster**     **Terry Russ, N8ATZ**

**Published by the Massillon Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 73, Massillon, Ohio 44648. The Club meetings are the first Friday of every month (except January) at 7:30 PM at the Massillon Senior Citizens Center located at 39 Lincoln Way West, Massillon, OH.**