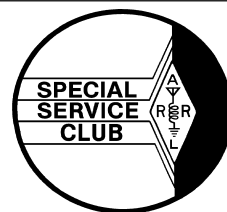


FEEDBACK



SEPTEMBER 2001

VOLUME 46 NUMBER 9



SEPTEMBER MEETING

The meeting for the month of September will be held at the Massillon Senior Center in downtown Massillon on September 7, 2001 at 8:00 PM.

Before I begin with this month's news I would like to explain last month's poor quality in printing. My Epson ink jet printer had a major print head failure and I had to replace the entire printer. In fact, it was cheaper to replace the entire printer than to have the old one fixed! I replaced it with two new printers. I now have a new HP 812 C Inkjet and a new HP 1200 series Laser printer. This issue is the first that will be printed with the Laser Printer. The better the master copy, the better the entire newsletter will be. I will still print the newsletter in color, but it will be available on the MARC Web Site (<http://www.qsl.net/w8np/>). Things do happen, thanks for understanding. de WC8W.

Can you believe it? Here it is September already and we will be discussing such things in earnest as the MARC Hamfest on October 28, 2001! Last month we reported on Field Day, and the Safety Break, now we are thinking Fall weather, coats, raking leaves and the biggest thing of all, SCHOOL starts. That means we have to watch for school busses, attending football games etc.! Where did the summer Go???

We have the month's of September and October meeting nights to finish the business of the Hamfest. Much work is still to be done! So plan on attending these meetings and let's make this year's Hamfest the best one yet! See you at the meeting!

SPECIAL SEPTEMBER PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT!

The MARC is proud to have Mr Larry Rain, WD8IHP - the ARRL Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) as our special guest speaker for our September club meeting. The SEC has responsibility to establish and maintain a section emergency plan and heads up the ARES program here in Ohio. Make sure to join us for our September 7 meeting and enjoy this interesting and informative program.



- SHORT SKIP -

No more BBC on my S-120 you ask? Relax Bunky, London is calling. Give a listen on 5.975 Mc. and 9.915 Mc. So relax, get a cuppa hot tea and enjoy.

There now, you see, nothing to get on about

73 DE WB80WM/G

Ed note: I am really impressed! this column arrived on 08/16/2001 all the way from ENGLAND! On time with four days to spare until deadline time! Jolly good show Skip!

LABOR DAY

September 3, 2001



MARC MINUTES

August 3,2001

The August MARC meeting was held at the Massillons Senior Center with 29 members and guests present. Present Don W8DEF called the meeting to order at 8:05 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was given and a round of introductions was made. He then asked that the July minutes be accepted as stated in the Feedback.

They were accepted by Jim WA8GXM and second by Pete WD8PTW.

The MARC treasurer Anne N8GAF gave the financial report. She gave the results of the very successful Safety Break. She asked for it to be accepted, it was by Jim WA8GXM and second by Don W8DEA.

Don W8DEF thanked everyone who helped in making the Safety Break the most successful one yet.

Vice President Gene gave the correspondence report. He had several newsletters from other clubs, everyone was welcome to read them.

OLD BUSINESS

Don W8DEF sent the Field Day article to Joe Phillips. Mr. Phillips replied back stating it was a great article and he was sending it on to the head office.

Gary WC8W had the Field Day official results. They will be on file up in the Shack.

Perry W8AU said He's working on the TV antenna for the Senior Center, hoping to have it completed in the near future.

Tim WB8HHP is getting the radio the Perry Police Dept. has donated to MARC to be used in the ECOM trailer.

Terry N8ATZ has purchased the new Packet radio. It will be installed before the next event.

Thanks goes to Gary WC8W and Steve WD8MIJ for painting the tower base on top of the Senior Center .

NEW BUSINESS

Perry W8AU and Don W8DEA are making plans to hold a Special Event Station at N. SIPPO Park for Massillons' 175th Birthday. Certificates will be given with contacts. More details will be given later.

Terry N8ATZ and Jim WA8GXM will report back on prices for a heater/air conditioner for the ECOM trailer.

Hamfest prizes were discussed. this years main prizes will be a Ten-Tec 6&2, an Antenna Analyzer MFJ, and 2 HTs. Motion was made to accept these purchases by Jim WA8GXM and second by Charlie KB8STV. A vote was taken and passed.

The meeting ended at 9:20 P.M.

Congratulations goes to Lynette (no call) for winning the 50-50 for \$15.00.

Minutes by Linda K8MOO Secretary MARC

..... My Ten-Tec Vacation Revisited

There's nothing nicer than a weeks vacation away from home in the Great Smokie Mountains especially when it includes a visit to Ten-Tec Inc in Sevierville, Tennessee. Last year I had the opportunity to visit Ten-Tec during their first annual Factory Hamfest held at the end of September. That was the good news. The bad news was the weather. Just my luck, I traveled over 500 miles to the south to find the same cold snow flurry weather we had around here !. This year I promised Lynnette we would go back to the Smokie Mountains when we didn't have to wear our winter parkas, and of course a return visit to Ten-Tec. Scott and the gang report that business is booming in the amateur radio division trying to keep up with demand for two of their current products, the Jupiter Transceiver and the VHF Multimode Rig called the Model 526 "6N2" rig. Orders for the VHF Multimode are so busy they're running about 5 weeks behind in production. I also had the chance to visit their guest operating shack well stocked with the latest in their equipment lineup. How's this for a shack, the Ten-Tec Jupiter, the Pegasus, the Omni VI Plus. Actually my personal favorite was the little Scout in the corner. Less "Bells & Whistles" but was a nice radio !. Of course I also played with their new Multimode VHF radio and made a couple of local contacts. Actually I had more fun just playing around with all those neat radios !. I promised the guys at Ten-Tec that I'd promote their upcoming 2nd annual Factory Hamfest being held this year on September 28 & 29. Door prizes, special sale prices on both new & used equipment, factory tours, plus of course the outside hamfest will make for another great event. They claim last years event drew over 1,000 hams from 21 states. To bad it's so far away (about an 8 hour drive), it sure would make for a swell radio road trip !. I took a few new pictures again this year, I hope to have them posted on the club website by the time you read this. Check them out on the "New Stuff" page. Oh yes, did I buy anything from Ten-Tec this time ? The answer is yes, and I will be having some great fun with my new Multimode "6N2" rig as soon as it arrives !.

.... WWW.W8NP.ORG ?

I know I've talked about it before but I think the time is right to register a domain name for the club website. I would like to have had MARC.COM, or .NET or even .ORG but they're all taken. I didn't say they were all in use, just that they're all taken. It seems a log or organizations are registering all the nice domain names that a lot of organizations want and for a modest fee will sell it back to you for your website !. Only a year or so ago we could have registered it for FREE !. Who would have guessed how popular it would become and that some people would find out a way to profit from it. Anyway, off my soapbox and back to the topic. Why register a domain name anyway ? For the same reason we have a club post office box. A domain name gives you a permanent street address on the world wide web. The counter on our website is up over 1,500 hits since it went "on-line" back in October 1999 and I think its here to stay. Yet registering a domain name isn't completely free either. These days it will cost about \$ 50.00 to register plus yearly renewal fees. There's nothing wrong with our present site at QSL.NET. In fact it has been a very good host to

us basically allowing us to setup and establish a website for free, asking only for a modest yearly donation to help defray expenses. I think it may be time for us to move up to our own unique name. Our callsign will probably be the only thing we may now be able to register. The website committee is still doing some checking and we'll let you know what we find out.

.... Kontest Kudo Time Again

The September issue of QST is out and its time again to recognize some area amateurs, both members and non members for some outstanding contest effort.

The 2001 Annual Rtty Roundup listed one familiar callsign, our own Bryon Berger - KF8UN who was listed with WB8YTZ for a combined score 37,145 points on 391 contacts. Nice job guys ! Does anyone still work this almost outdated mode ? You Bet We Do ! While its mostly done these days with computers and sound cards, I remember its hey days using old "boat anchor" Teletype machines. No fancy computer memory buffers to use during contests unless you were lucky enough to have a paper punch reader that you could at least make up saying "CQ Contest De N8ATZ" Yes, its still a very popular mode with this year making up 691 contest entries. Maybe it's time for me to try and fire up that old Model 28 KSR again !

One of the more popular contests each year is the ARRL 10 Meter Contest and last year was no different. Two familiar callsigns were spotted in the listings, each scoring well. John Schaffner - K8LN logged up 26,230 points on 115 contacts and Roger Grey - W8VE of the Canton Radio Club was in high gear racking up 93,280 points on 265 contacts. Another fine effort !.

I know many of you aren't contesters but it really does show a sense of accomplishment as well as a great way to keep you skills sharp. Not a bad way to rack up countries either if you're trying for DXCC status. To many times amateurs exhibit very poor operating skills on both HF and VHF bands these days. I think operating contests and becoming involved in public service events helps to increase our proficiency on the bands. We ALL could use a bit of this !

**Till next time,
Terry - N8ATZ**



TRUNKED RADIO

May 11, 2001 - A 16-year-old boy using a handheld radio and a computer allegedly sent Denver police cruisers and a helicopter to fake emergencies and called officers off legitimate 911 calls for more than a month before getting caught.

Police said Thursday that the teen managed to hack into the department's computer-controlled radio system, program his radio to transmit on the department's frequency from his Southwest Denver home and then took on the alias of Jerry Martinez, a fictitious Denver police officer.

Division Chief Steve Cooper said the teen talked to dispatch pretending to be the officer more than a dozen times from March to May, including a March 19 call for backup that sent patrol cars speeding with lights and sirens to the scene of a non-existent crash. About 8:30 p.m., the teen allegedly called police dispatch on his radio reporting a hit-and-run accident near West Jewell Avenue and South Sheridan Boulevard. He reportedly told the dispatcher that he was following the suspect at a high rate of speed. The dispatcher sent patrol cars to the area.

Detectives found their suspect with the help of the Federal Communications Commission and arrested him May 1. Cooper said the teen was charged with a dozen felony and a dozen misdemeanor crimes involving wire tapping, eavesdropping and telecommunication fraud. He is being held at the Gilliam Youth Services Center. Deputy Police Chief of Operations Dave Abrams said it's hard to estimate how much the teen may have cost the city in wasted manpower and equipment.

The police department plans to have experts review the security of their emergency radio system and will tell other departments across the country of the possible weakness in the system. "This is an officer safety issue, a public safety issue," he said. "You can't have someone out there broadcasting emergency calls; the potential is frightening. This kid had the ability to wreak havoc with our communications system."

The teenager was not satisfied with just the radio ruse, police said. On April 6, he allegedly took to the streets of Littleton dressed in a Denver police jacket and driving a truck equipped with emergency lights and his radio.

Angered by another driver, the teen reportedly attempted to pull the man over. The man refused, drove to his home and had a neighbor call police.

The teen first told Littleton police he was an off-duty officer, but later burst into tears and admitted that he had made the story up, according to Littleton police reports.

He was issued a summons for impersonating a peace officer, false reporting to authorities and unauthorized use of emergency vehicle lights.

On April 26, the teen allegedly called dispatch requesting information on three license plates, but this time police were ready for him.

Dispatchers kept him on the radio for an hour and a half, telling him that one of the plates he requested came back to a wanted person who was armed and dangerous. A FCC agent used special equipment to track the broadcast back to the teen's house during the conversation.

The agent spotted the teen standing in his front yard, talking into a radio. The agent confiscated nine radios from the home. The next day, a police informant called the teen and asked him to reprogram the informant's radio so he could listen to Denver police and transmit on their frequency.

On May 1, the teen brought the reprogrammed radio to the informant's house and was arrested. Police found a computer and other radio equipment in the basement of his grandmother's house.

Cooper said the teen's alleged penchant for talking to the helicopter when it was over his neighborhood and his mispronunciation of other officers' names tipped dispatchers off that they were dealing with an intruder.

Police have not determined how the teen allegedly hacked into their radio system. The police department's emergency radio system uses two sets of security identification codes and a computer to prevent unauthorized access.

"We have some guesses how he did it, but we're not sure," said Myron Kissinger, electronics technician supervisor for the police department's electronic engineering bureau.

In any case, the case gave police a scare. "He had the potential for causing a lot of problems," Kissinger said.

Brian D. Crecente, News Staff Writer

**73 until next month,
Jason Stroll (KC8LIN)
2001 Jason Productions**

**Jason A. Stroll
kc8lin@neo.rr.com**



QRZ DX - Special Report

Date: Friday, August 03, 2001 10:14 AM

Hello DXers:

Items of interest have been received that you should be aware of before the next issue of QRZ DX.

ELECTRONIC QSLING

Mentioned in the ARRL Board of Directors Meeting Report, the subject of electronic QSLing was addressed. Wayne Mills has issued the following ARRL Bulletin with further details of the program. Some of you have already seen this bulletin, but for those who have not, it is quoted here, in its entirety.

ARRL NEWS RELEASE

August 2, 2001

For Further Information Contact: Wayne Mills, N7NG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Logbook of the World

Fast on the heels of approval of the "Logbook of the World" by the ARRL Board of Directors, software design to support the electronic contact-verification program is continuing apace. ARRL Membership Services Manager and LOTW Project Manager, Wayne Mills, N7NG, said the ARRL hopes soon to make LOTW software modules available to vendors for incorporation into their logging programs. These modules are being developed as part of the Trusted QSL open-source project headed by Darryl Wagoner, WA1GON. (More information about the Trusted QSL project can be found at "sourceforge.net/projects/trustedqsl")

"We have been in touch with 15 or so developers of popular logging software," Mills said. "We're also looking at providing a basic, do-it-yourself program to get contact data to ARRL."

At the heart of the Logbook of the World concept is a huge repository of log data provided by operators—from individual DXers and contesters to major DXpeditions—and maintained by ARRL. Mills says the system will benefit big and little guns alike by providing quick QSO credit for awards offered by ARRL, and, it's hoped, for awards offered by other organizations as well.

Once it becomes available—which could be as early as the middle of next year—Logbook of the World will accept authenticated data directly from computerized logs via the Internet. "This is an e-mail based system that uses easy-to-obtain digital signatures for authentication," Mills said. "Once you get your digital certificate, a few keystrokes will do the trick."

Mills said the program envisions user access to the LOTW "confirmed database" so an operator can see what "matches" turn up—such as confirmation of new DXCC entities, states or grid squares. "We'll also publish a list of logs that have been submitted," he said, adding that operators may access the LOTW database once they've uploaded their own log data.

Heading up software development is ARRL Electronic Publications Manager Jon Bloom, KE3Z, along with Web Applications Developer, Mark Simcik, WA1VVB. Software specifications already have been established. Advising the project are Darryl Wagoner, WA1GON, Dick Green, WC1M and Ted Demopoulos, KR1G. ARRL staffer and well-known contesteer and DXer Dave Patton, NT1N, who conducted the original electronic QSL project study, is also assisting.

Mills said that he hopes to be able to announce a specific inauguration date for Logbook of the World within a few months, as the software design progresses.

73,

Carl, N4AA

: ARLD034 DX news

Date: Thursday, August 23, 2001 3:44 PM

ZCZC AE34
 QST de W1AW
 DX Bulletin 34 ARLD034
 From ARRL Headquarters
 Newington CT August 23, 2001
 To all radio amateurs

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by Tedd, KB8NW, the OPDX Bulletin, N5HHS, The Daily DX, QRZ DX, 425DXnews, DXNL and Contest Corral from QST. Thanks to all.

MONACO, 3A. Patrice, F5RBB, will be QRV as 3A/F5RBB from August 25 to September 3. Activity will be on 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 meters using SSB. QSL to home call.

CYPRUS, 5B. 5B/IZ8CCW and 5B/IT9SSI are active on 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters using CW and SSB until August 30. QSL both calls via IZ8CCW.

SAMOA, 5W. Atsu, JI3WLT, is QRV as 5W1SA for two years. QSL via JH7OHF.

CROATIA, 9A. Borut, S57GM, will be active as 9A/S57GM/p mainly on 40, 20 and 15 meters using CW from Losinj Island, IOTA EU-136, until September 1. QSL to home call.

CAPE VERDE, D4. Xara, CT1EKF, will be on the air signing D44TD for 40 days beginning August 25. He will put his emphasis on the activation of 6 meters. QSL via operator's instructions.

ETHIOPIA, ET. Silvio, IV3TRK, is QRV as 9E1S until September 4. He is active on all bands using mostly CW. QSL to home call.

MOLDOVA, ER. Special event station ER10MD will be active from August 25 to 30 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the independence of Moldova. QSL via ER1BF.

WALES, GW. Members of the Barry Amateur Radio Society are QRV as GB5FI from Flatholm Island, IOTA EU-124, on all bands using CW, SSB, PSK31, RTTY and SSTV until August 29. QSL via GW0ANA.

THAILAND, HS. Bruce, AA4XR, is signing HS0ZCY using mainly CW on 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters until September 6. QSL via WB4FNH.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA, P2. After his Australian operation, Ross, N5HHS, will be active as P29VB/qrp until September 3 on 40 to 6 meters. QSL to home call.

BANGLADESH, S2. 7M4PTE is QRV as S21YH until August 28 on 40 to 12 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

TUVALU, T2. Hiro, JA0SC, is QRV from Funafuti as T22SC using RTTY and SSTV until August 29. QSL to home call.

CHAD, TT. Chris, TT8DX, will be QRV from Moudoun beginning August 28. He will stay about one year. He intends to activate grid locator JJ88aa on 6 meters. QSL via F5OGL.

AUSTRALIA, VK. Ross, N5HHS, is active as VK4BRK/qrp on 40 to 6 meters. QSL to home call.

ANTARCTICA. During his spare time, Mark, VK4KMT, signs VK0KMT from the Australian Antarctic Davis Base, IOTA AN-016, mostly on 14180 or 18120 kHz from 0400 to 1000z. QSL via VK4KMT.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, ZK1. Gunter, DL2AWG, is active as ZK1AWG from Rarotonga, IOTA OC-013, until August 29. QSL to home call.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The TOEC WW CW Grid Contest, W/VE Island Contest and the Ohio QSO Party are all scheduled for this weekend.

Please see August QST, page 111 for details.

NNNN

/EX



ARLP035 Propagation de K7VVV

Date: Friday, August 24, 2001 12:15 PM

ZCZC AP35

QST de W1AW

Propagation Forecast Bulletin 35 ARLP035

From Tad Cook, K7VVV

Seattle, WA August 24, 2001

To all radio amateurs

Thanks to K9LA for writing last week's bulletin. Carl is very knowledgeable about propagation, and quite generous to fill in while your regular writer takes a week off. Be sure to see his monthly propagation column in Worldradio Magazine.

Another generous contributor is WA4TTK, who wrote and continues to improve his free Solar Data Plotting Utility that graphs the data at the end of this bulletin. If you use this program, since there are two weeks of data at the end of this bulletin, you will need to separate the data into two files if you want the software to import the data automatically. Since it looks for key words in the bulletin to do its magic, just save two versions of the edited bulletin, one with each set of data. Or, you can use the new FTP feature to get the data from ARRL. If you aren't currently running this software, download it from <http://www.craigcentral.com/sol.htm>.

Average daily sunspot numbers dropped 21 points from the first week of the month to the second, then rose 13 points this week. Average daily solar flux has been nearly flat for the past few weeks, at 150.5, 156.3 and 154.1. Flux values are currently rising, and are expected at 175 for Friday and around 180 for Saturday through Wednesday. Geomagnetic conditions are expected to be unsettled to active, with planetary A indices of 12 on Saturday and Sunday and 20 on Monday and Tuesday.

Over the past couple of weeks the most active day was Friday, August 17, when the planetary A index was 29 and the K index rose to 6. Alaska's college A index was 60, and the college K index was 7 over nine hours.

Currently the earth is exiting a high-speed solar wind stream flowing from a coronal hole on the sun. A new large sunspot is rotating into view on the sun's southeast limb. There is also a large sunspot forming on the far side of the sun, seen in an image generated by helioseismic holography.

Here are some path projections to some of the DX locations in this week's ARRL DX Bulletin ARLD034. They are plotted from Richmond, Virginia.

To Monaco, 80 meters 2330-0600z (best 0230-0400z), 40 meters 2200-0700z (strongest 0030-0430z), 30 meters 2130-0730z (best 2330-0530z), 20 meters 1830-0530z and 0930-1100z (best 2300-0500z), 17 meters 1230-0200z, 15 meters 1230-0100z, 12 meters possibly 1330-2330z, 10 meters possibly 1030-0000z.

To Cyprus, 80 meters 2330-0330z, 40 meters 2230-0430z, 30 meters 2200-0500z, 20 meters 2000-0530z, 17 meters 1900-0000z and around 0330z, 15 meters 1400-2300z, 12 meters possibly 1030-2230z, better chance 1530-2200z, 10 meters possibly 1130-2230z.

To Samoa, 80 meters 0500-1100z, 40 meters 0500-1200z, 30 meters 0400-1230z, 20 meters 0300-0800z and 1000-1330z, 17 meters 0200-0630z and 1130-1430z, 15 meters 1230-1400 and 0100-0500z, 12 meters 2230-0100z and 10 meters best 1830-2030z.

To Cape Verde, 80 meters 2300-0800z, 40 meters 2200-0900z, 30 meters 2030-1000z (best 2330-0730z), 20 meters open all hours, best 2330-0500z, weakest 1300-1730z, 17 meters 1000-0330z, 15 meters 1130-0230z, 12 meters 1430-2130z, 10 meters 1530-2000z.

To Bangladesh, 30 meters 2300-0000z, 20 Meters 2230-0100z, 17 meters 2230-0300z, 15 meters 1600-1900 and around 0000z, 12 meters possibly 1100-1930z, best 1800-1900z, 10 meters possibly 1300-1830z.

Sunspot numbers for August 9 through 15 were 157, 119, 151, 196, 141, 133 and 155 with a mean of 150.3. 10.7 cm flux was 163.3, 160.3, 165, 159.8, 151.5, 147.3 and 146.7, with a mean of 156.3, and estimated planetary A indices were 10, 11, 6, 14, 19, 12 and 9 with a mean of 11.6.

Sunspot numbers for August 16 through 22 were 171, 158, 148, 142, 172, 169 and 183 with a mean of 163.3. 10.7 cm flux was 142.6, 144.9, 156.1, 157.5, 156.1, 160.2 and 161.5, with a mean of 154.1, and estimated planetary A indices were 8, 29, 14, 12, 10, 14 and 17 with a mean of 14.9.

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**ARLB033 FCC Invites Comments on
ARRL's 60-Meter Petition
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2001 4:35 PM**

ZCZC AG33
QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 33 ARLB033
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT August 14, 2001
To all radio amateurs

The FCC has begun accepting comments on the ARRL's petition seeking the allocation of 5.250 to 5.400 MHz to the Amateur Service on a domestic (US-only), secondary basis. The Commission put the proposal on public notice this week and assigned a rulemaking number, RM-10209, to the proceeding.

Interested parties may comment on the proposal via the Internet or e-mail using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (EFCS), information on which can be found at <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>. Those commenting should reference "RM-10209" in their postings. Even if the FCC eventually okays the petition, it's likely to be several years before the new band actually becomes available.

In its petition, the ARRL told the FCC that the new band would aid emergency communication activities by filling a "propagation gap" between 80 and 40 meters, particularly for emergency communications during hurricanes and severe weather emergencies. The ARRL also said a new 150-kHz allocation at 5 MHz also could relieve substantial

overcrowding that periodically occurs on 80 and 40.

The ARRL has proposed that General class and higher amateurs be permitted to operate CW, phone, data, image and RTTY on the new band running maximum authorized power. No mode-specific subbands were proposed. If allocated to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis, hams would have to avoid interfering with—and accept interference from—current occupants of the spectrum, as they already do on 30 meters.

The ARRL said that its successful WA2XSY experimental operation between 1999 and this year demonstrates that amateur stations can coexist with current users and that the band is very suitable for US-to-Caribbean paths.

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/EX

**GCLIC release
Date: Thursday, August 02, 2001 4:26 PM**

LOCAL INTERFERENCE COMMITTEE SETS NEW DIRECTION

The Greater Cincinnati Local Interference Committee (GCLIC) will be changing its direction in the future, Jim Elmore, KC8FQY, new chairman has announced.

His announcement came at the annual meeting of the GCLIC during the Cincinnati OHKYIN ARS Hamfest forum on July 28. He also reemphasized the importance of monitoring efforts by local repeater clubs.

Training and support will be provided to all repeater clubs in the greater Cincinnati area so that individual clubs can provide the GCLIC with location and gathering of evidence data. Repeater clubs were encouraged to schedule training sessions during their regular club meetings. GCLIC activities will be shared with the amateur community in an open atmosphere while still maintaining confidentiality where it concerns individual amateur operators.

Joe Phillips, K8QOE, ARRL Ohio Section Manager, said to the group's representatives that the GCLIC is not an enforcement agency, but rather an aggregate collection of local expertise willing to help other local amateurs in an effort to avoid interference to others in the amateur service. He said 95 per cent of interference is caused by poor or indifferent engineering and not of malicious intent.

Bob Frey, WA6EZV, of Cincinnati will continue to serve as Vice Chairperson. Richard Kuns, KC8TW, (who is also Ohio OOC) will continue to serve as Secretary. Ernie Howard, W8EH, of Middletown was appointed to Supervisor of Investigations, reporting to the Chairperson.

For more information please contact - Richard Kuns, KC8TW
GCLIC Secretary rkuns@one.net

or Jim Elmore, KC8FQY Chairperson ke8fqy@arrl.net

-30-

From The Ohio Section Journal, Ron Griffin, N8AEH, Findlay, editor.

**In The Uncertain, Anxious Middle.
By Joe Phillips, K8QOE, Ohio SM**

His face would smile, then frown, then resmile - sometimes in just completing the same sentence.

Fred Osterman, N8EKU, is president of Universal Radio, Inc., or more well known in ham radio circles as the Columbus area candy store. Fred was reacting to that uncomfortable position he and other dealers (like R & L Electronics, Hamilton or AES, Cleveland) find themselves.

In the anxious middle between changing ham radio customer needs and wants and changing ham radio manufactures needs and wants.

A smile means optimism when certain customers at his Reynoldsberg store using retirement time to purchase new rigs and revisit new modes in the hobby by upgrading the home shack. A frown means pessimism while reading ARRL statistics which show one per cent of his potential customers are 25 years of age or less and it only rises to three percent at age 34. Economic future of ham radio? Shifts from good to rough quicker than a rocking chair.

In the good old days, oh, about 25 years ago, we had several small electronic stores in most major communities. Cincinnati had three in the early 70s. Then along came progress - a hobby with a less radio building philosophy and more manufactured completely wired transceivers and handhelds. That change and those 800 numbers in ham radio publications (like QST) have had a profound impact on the market. You don't have to be a Washington economist to understand that.

The small stores disappeared but a restructured Universal Radio, for example, still needed customers well beyond the Central Ohio area even when it became the only candy store in town. To go to the outside their city sales area, the marketing strategy calls for mailing catalogs across the US, purchasing ads in ham radio national magazines and the newest component - an Internet web site (Universal's is <www.universal-radio.com>).

Since the distant customer now became a major marketing strategy, Fred seems genuinely proud of his internet efforts. His contribution is to have the web site demonstrate as close as possible to actually trying the merchandise in the Reynoldsberg showroom. Computer screens display a rig's front panel and styling, another shows the rear sections for connectors, another displays all possible uses for the rig - and all is calculated to give a prospective customer as close to a hands on experience the computer screen can allow. In the actual Reynoldsberg showroom Fred has for inspection \$50,000 worth of equipment, parts and components when those who walk in for the actual hands on experience.

Then there are hamfests. Increasing costs and, even more important, decreasing returns at many hamfests mean fewer trips. As for Dayton Hamvention, the quick perception is that dealers like Universal make a fortune. No, says Fred, that's not the experience. With dozens of dealers jockeying for sales and the overhead expenses of being there, Hamvention is generally a public relations exercise - "it is important for us to be there, show the flag and support the show."

But as the economics of ham radio changes, he said his crystal ball has but 10 years of future in it. After that, who knows.

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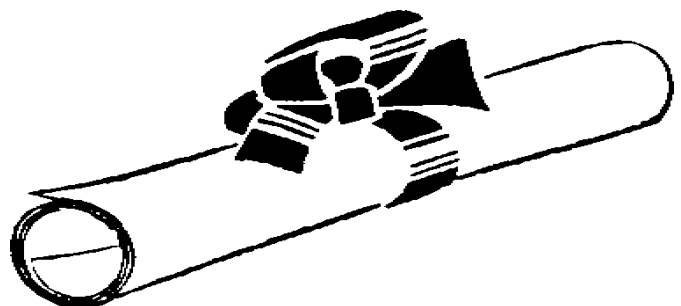
The third edition of The Art & Skill of Radio-Telegaphy by Bill Pierpont, N0HFF, is available free for the downloading from the Web <http://www.qsl.net/n9bor/n0hff.htm> in Word and in Adobe PDF format. This edition of the definitive international Morse code reference is aimed at those interested in telegraphy, those wanting to learn it or to improve their skills or those who just plain LOVE it. New material includes interviews with such well-known amateurs as former ARRL Communications Manager George Hart, W1NJM—the founder of the National Traffic System and still an active participant. There's also a special section by First-Class Operators Club member Jim Farrior, W4FOK, author of the well-known code practice program The Mill.

Canton & Massillon ARC VE Tests Results

The third VE Session of the year was held at the Senior Center on August 25, 2001. Although there were only four people to show up and take tests, they were ALL successful in their endeavor! All passed their tests. We had two new Technician Class, one new General Class and one new Extra Class. This gives us an unprecedented passing percentage of 100 % !

We had one person from Mansfield Oh, one from Galion Oh, one person from Dover Oh, and only one from the Canton/Massillon area. There were 12 VE's present to help with the paper work, about three times the number of examinee's. Those doing the grading were: Perry W8AU, Bruce AB8FB and John N8ZXB, with Jim WA8GXM doing the paper work. Thanks to all who showed up to help!!

The next scheduled exam date for the Canton/ Massillon Clubs is November 24, 2001 at the EOC.



September 2001

Monthly Planner

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