

FEEDBACK



SEPTEMBER 2002

VOLUME 47 NUMBER 9



SEPTEMBER MEETING

The meeting for the month of September will be held at the Massillon Senior Center on September 6, 2002 at 8:00 PM. This will be an all important meeting as we will be making semifinal plans for this year's *Auction Fest 2002*. Most of the preliminary work has been done. The main prizes have been ordered and the letters to various manufactures have been sent. All that remains is volunteers to head up the very important committees to make this year's hamfest successful. We will be needing all the volunteers we can get to make the hamfest successful. So plan on attending this month's meeting, much more is going on.....

SAFETY BREAK

The last Safety Break for the year will be held on September 27, 28, and 29, 2002. The sign up sheet has made it's rounds at the last few meetings and has not been completely filled up as yet. As you know the Safety Breaks have become the major source for club funds. We can no longer rely on the hamfest for the majority of the club's funds. Attendance at most hamfest's have declined in recent years, even Dayton experienced reduced attendance this year. Hopefully we will not experience this expanding problem, but we have to remain optimistic.....

OCTOBER: 75th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS NEWS

At last month's meeting we announced events to happen during October for the Club's 75th Anniversary including a Special Events Station. We will have a sign up sheet passed around for anyone wishing to operate the station during the 4th, 5th and 6th, various bands and frequencies are available. Also please let Linda, K8MOO know if you intend to attend the "pizza" party dinner meeting on the 4th at the Club. A most interesting evening is planed, so I'm sure you won't want to miss this event!!!

- SHORT SKIP -

Interested in work'n a submarine ? While not exactly a " Hunt for Red October, " you can give a listen on 7.144, 14.058, 21.058, and 21.150 Mc. for the U.S.S. Pampino, NJ6VT, a large Balao class fleet sub. Give a listen or visit 'em on their web site at :

<http://home.attbi.com/~k6df>

Gud Luck and good fish'n

73 de WB80WM

LABOR DAY

SEPTEMBER 2, 2002



MARC MINUTES August 2,2002

The August Massillon Amateur Radio Club meeting was held at the Senior Center with 32 members and guests present.

MARC President Gene W8KXR called the meeting to order at 8:00 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was given and a round of introductions was made.

Gene W8KXR then asked to suspend the reading of the July Minutes. They were accepted as stated in the FEED-BACK by John K8LBZ and second by Scott W8JT.

MARC Treasurer Anne N8GAF gave the financial report. Motion was made to accept it by Skip WB8OWM and second by Scott W8JT.

Vice President Rich KA8ZQH gave the correspondence report. He had a lot of newsletters from other Amateur Radio Clubs. He also told of the upcoming Hamfest in Butler on Sept.8,2002.

OLD BUSINESS

The sign up sheet was passed around again for the Sept.27th.thru Sept.29th Safety Break. If anyone can help ,contact Rich KA8ZQH.

Gary WC8W gave the Field Day report on contacts that were made. Estimated score was 5,868 points. Last years were 5,170. We will have to wait for the ARRL for the official final tally. Congratulations and Thank You to all who participated.

Motion was made and passed to order Hamfest prizes about the same as last year.

Charlie KB8STV had no report on Emergency Preparedness.

Bruce AB8FB had no report on the Library.

Thanks goes to Skip WB8OWM for donating wiring and antenna books for the Library.

Perry W8AU said C.Q., World Radio and QST have been notified of dates and frequencies of the Special Event Station. That is MARC's 75th. Birthday. There will also be a pizza party at the October meeting so please let Linda K8MOO know if you can attend so we can order enough pizzas.

Jim WA8GXM and Don W8DEF will have more information on iron-ons and sew-on patches at next months meeting. They will be diamond shape with MARC on them. Charlie KB8STV also helped with this research .

NEW BUSINESS

Guest Mike WB8VGE said silent key Lauren Beck W8LB's tower needs taken down. Jim WA8GXM will contact Mrs. Beck and do this when the weather cools off.

Again a reminder when the weather cools off there will be an antenna and trailer cleaning, fix it get together at Jim WA8GXM's. We need to keep things in top shape for the next emergency or Field Day.

Mike WB8VGE said Ohio ARES power connectors standards have changed to Anderson Power Poles. He explained how they were used, they will not connect the wrong way. See him if you need more information, but MARC is checking into buying them. If they can get them at bulk rate,they will pass this savings onto the members.

Steve W8SEC said Paul Keller K8EJN mother passed away. It would be nice if everyone could send him a QSL card stating we are thinking of him. His address is Hospitality House 205 Rohr Ave. N.W. Massillon, Ohio 44646.

Gene W8KXR closed the meeting at 9:00 P.M.

Thanks goes to Dan N8DZM for picking up the refreshments. Also for the program on Fox Hunting he presented after the meeting.

Congratulations goes to Anne N8GAF for winning the 50-50 for \$16.00.

Minutes By Linda K8MOO Secretary MARC

..... MARC HAMFEST 2002

Hamfest 2002 is right around the corner and its time to put plans in high gear. With the main prizes decided we can now finish work on the final hamfest flyer. This will be the copy with the tearoff section for ticket/table reservations. Since the beginning of the year we have distributed about 1,000 generic flyers to as many hamfests as we could get to. Many thanks to those club members who volunteered to take flyers with them to area hamfests. In addition to that we have distributed flyers to both Amateur Electronic Supply in Cleveland and Universal Radio in Columbus. Since promoting our event is so important we are considering expanding our mass mailing to include several other areas. Perhaps into Cuyahoga County, an area rich in ham operators. Yet another idea is to send several flyers to radio clubs throughout the state. Yes, it will cost us a bit more but if we could achieve even a modest 3 percent gain in attendance it would be a big boost for us. For many years now our hamfest has been successful. Even in a tough economy we have held our own in the hamfest world. I have made it to several hamfests this summer and they are all down in size. While we may suffer the same fate this October, it won't be for lack of planning or effort. Soon letters will go out to all dealers and table vendors giving them an opportunity to secure their favorite spot for this years event. This has worked very well the last few years and I hope this years vendor crowd will be just as strong. Remember the club needs your help to make this event a success, volunteer your time !

.... 75TH ANNIVERSARY LOGO

Sorry I missed last months meeting, I was enjoying a nice train trip to Pittsburgh through some of the prettiest countryside you've ever seen. The trip included a great Riverboat dinner & dance along the Ohio River, something I think everyone should try. I would definitely recommend it to anyone interested in a nice relaxing weekend trip that's not too expensive. Anyway at the request of the club I will have a copy of the proposed 75th anniversary logo at the meeting for your review. Seventy Five years certainly is a milestone for any organization and a special logo is one way to commemorate it. Club patches were very popular at one time, I think I even have a few around here somewhere. I'll bet a few of you even have them on your favorite hamfest jacket. So maybe the time is right for a new patch, one that contains a special anniversary logo. I think both Don - W8DEF and Charlie - KB8STV have been checking costs and availability. A few possibilities for a new logo could be to use it on the newsletter and probably the website. What about all club correspondence and the hamfest flyer ? I would imagine we would use it as part of

our 75th anniversary special event station certificate. What ideas do you have ? Bring them to the meeting.

.... THE END OF AN ERA

Every year at this time I looked forward to a special event, the annual release of the coveted RadioShack catalog. The feeling was like the excitement of a ten year old looking through the annual J. C. Penney Christmas toy catalog. I would take an entire evening carefully browsing the many pages filled with the latest in big boy toys. First stop was always the Amateur Radio section, then on to the stereo equipment and of course let us not forget the great electronic parts section full of everything you would need for one of those winter weekend QST magazine projects.

It was a special time and one I will remember for a long time. So it is with a heavy heart I must report the end of an era. The great RadioShack catalog is no more. The last printing was the 2002 edition which was distributed last August. Alas a victim of a tough economy. With the speed at which products come and go, it became nearly impossible for Radio Shack to decide on which products to carry for the year and get the catalog out it time to supply those very items. An then the cost. In recent years you were supposed to buy the catalog for \$ 2.95, but I can tell you that this hardly ever happened. Even if you bought a 39 cent battery they usually gave you a catalog. Like most companies, especially the software suppliers, the paper catalog has become a thing of the past to be replaced by an electronic one usually in the form of a CD or an on-line catalog. The only way to browse RadioShacks inventory now is from their website. It is very large and has more items in it than their catalog could ever have displayed but its just not the same. I'll miss the excitement each year when the new catalog would come out. The feel of the paper, that new paper smell, the anticipation with each turn of the next page. Yes, the end of an era. Did you know that the first catalog was published around 1940 ? That's sixty-one years of electronic history. RadioShack was one of the first electronic retailers to carry a transistor radio back in 1959. A who doesn't remember the famous TRS-80 microcomputer released in 1977. All were there in the catalog to dream over.

By the way, did you know that ham radio was partially responsible for the name "Radio Shack". It's true, the name "RadioShack" is a nautical term that dates back to the invention of the radio at the turn of the last century. At the time, wireless radio equipment aboard ships was generally housed above the bridge in a wooden structure called the "radio shack." The founders of RadioShack thought the name appropriate for a new retail business that supplied electronic equipment to "ham" radio operators and ships' radio officers. RadioShack became known as the place to go for the latest technology, and it still is today. It's

estimated that 94 percent of all Americans live or work within five minutes of a RadioShack store. And an estimated one million customers visit RadioShack everyday and yes, I will continue to be one, just without the catalog. When was the last time you were there ?

73's till next time

Terry - N8ATZ

Tec Topics 06

Notes on 160 Meters at W8KXR

I've been a Ham for a long time... a real long time, but never had a QTH that was compatible with the generally large antennas need for the "Gentleman's Band," until my most recent nomadic pit-stop here at the "Digs." It has been a major objective for W8KXR's engineering department to develop an antenna and equipment to get on that mysterious low frequency band just above the frequencies where 'rock stations' and those odd stations that cater to the current crop of the politically correct who are consumed with 'sports'...yuck!

Well to make a usually long story not too long, the chief engineer at W8KXR read a lot of handbooks, checked a bunch of magazines old and new, then went to the Treasury Department (Missy Marilyn) for funding of the new antenna system and associated electronics.

Oops, not a good move. So, as often happens, engineering "volunteered" to reconsider its flawlessly innovative design, and opt for a more elegant and basic system, using a simple dipole and 'homebrewed' center mast with end supports that are a master piece of simplicity.

The antenna itself is made from a spool of number 12 solid copper, and yes it's insulated, and No, it makes no difference about the insulation. The dipole is 'roughly' 130 feet long each side of the center feed point and terminated in beefy ceramic insulators made by E.F Johnson. The length is not critical because of the feed system used. It is important that the two halves must be equal in length no matter how long they are. It's a matter of electrical balance.

The insulators, both for the center and for the ends, came from several recon missions to the summer 'fests.' One can usually get them for three to five dollars for a pair, but the quality is top notch, not the sorry little white plastic ones that pretend to be insulators; these Johnson's are the real stuff.

Next the mast is homebrew, with the following features. First criteria is that it's cheap! It is just short of forty feet at the peak, and made from treated 2x4x20 foot timbers. It takes three of these beauties, two for the bottom section the third sandwiched in-between those two bottom timbers, with an overlap of two or three feet. Spacer blocks and all stainless hardware bolts the whole thing together. Take a look at some of

the older Handbooks for details, and please do yourself a favor, use only stainless hardware.

The second major design criteria was the whole antenna had to be installable by myself, alone, with no help from my friends. The solution is simple and involves doing a bit of sketching of the guy lines, and where the 'dead men' or 'stakes' were to be pre-positioned. Once the layout was complete, stakes driven, and double checked, guy lines were added and roughed in, pre-placed on the ground such that once the mast was pulled up into place, the guy lines, with antenna top wire would simply be in place. The process was much like opening an umbrella. Once everything was measured, and positioned, the whole works simply assembled itself as the mast was drawn up and made vertical.

Some other mast details included setting it in an abandoned fifteen inch wheel, without its tire, from a scrapped '77 Pontiac. The wheel was painted black with spray paint, and set into the ground a couple of inches. It serves perfectly as a natural 'pocket' for the mast to sit in and keeps the foot of the mast up and out of dirt and water. It looks like it was custom made for the job and it was 'cheap' (still have three more!)

PVC brackets were pre-installed to support the 600 ohm ladder line that feeds the dipole. They have a forty five degree off-sets to fit between the guys that are positioned at 90 degrees. It was a bit of work the first time, to work out dimensions, but the next version will be easily pre-fabricate in the engineering lab here at W8KXR. Once the brackets were mounted on the mast, the feed line was laced into them while the mast was still on the ground. The feeders were carried aloft with the mast and was in place without further fussing around. Umm...very simple!

Keep in mind this was designed for a one man operation; just for the challenge I guess, and maybe just because I'm independently stubborn to a fault. But really, it's easy if you like to make stuff and pretend you're a real engineer. Once all guys were measured, dressed along the mast laying on the ground, and attaching the side guys to their stakes for lateral stability while hoisting, I hooked up the north set of guy lines to the bumper of my car, and pulled the whole thing up into place.

Caution: Serious Stuff Alert — Don't try to do this with a typical riding lawn mower. I know the pretty little thing cost more than your new linear, but trust my Engineering Department; you risk much painful devastation to your person trying such a technique. The mower is 'Not' heavy enough and could be down right dangerous, even though the temptation is nearly overpowering. Don't do it with a mower! You need weight and horsepower, especially if your doing this alone.

It is important to stand the mast up on a tall step ladder prior to pulling. Also dig a deep hole for the foot of the mast to tip up into. The hole is a key procedure. It keeps the mast from sliding forward and chasing you and your car when the pulling phase starts. But once ready, the whole thing was vertical in less than ten minutes, complete with feeders in place and ready to add the feeder on its support to the shack. .

(cont. next page)

Finally you ask, "Did the antenna work? You mean you didn't worry about how long the wires were, or how long the feeder was?" Of course it worked, and of course I didn't worry about how long it was, but that's some stuff for additional Tec Topics from the engineering files at W8KXR.

My transmitter was pleasantly surprised to see the usual 50 ohm load it was expecting! Receiving noise levels were down, and the Engineering Dept was smugly ready to start the next project.

But, to finish this story, the end supports were made from 20 foot sections of chain link fence top rail. These magical items are not free for the asking, much to my Engineering Department's procurement division's grievous disappointment. Yet happily, they are available from the 'do-it-all-yourself' places at very reasonable prices.

These 20 foot wonders of man's metallurgical skills are usually hidden from customer view, to satisfy some obscure marketing manager's penchant for not doing business. Please ask for them and don't take no for an answer from some guy wearing his cap sideways, and wearing what appear to be small microwave antenna loops hanging from his nose, tongue, and possibly other extremities of his person.

When installing the end supports, use two back guys to work against the antenna. You can assemble the end supports on the ground, and just set them up in place by your self. Not much heavy lifting here. They are stable and durable, when properly guyed.

Finally, the 'dead men' or 'stakes' to which the guys are tied, are the very heavy duty metal stakes used for electric fence wire. Do not compromise. Get the heaviest ones available with the large spade welded about 12 inches from the bottom. Drive them in so that the top of the spade is at least six inches below ground surface. Remember, you don't want them heaving out in freezing and/or rain softened soil, or being pulled out in a windy summer rain storm.

In summary, you can do all of this stuff, including the open wire feeder, yourself. It's neat to build something yourself, know it will work, and still come in under budget. Your Treasure (in my case Missy Marilyn) will bless your engineering finesse and most likely encourage you to revisit your Development Laboratory and get the next immensely insightful project underway as soon as possible!

Oh, I should come clean here. You ask, "Did you really put that mess together with not one bit of help?" I gotta fess up and promise never to over state the activities here at the 'Big KXR.' My treasurer, Missy Marilyn, did standby the guy lines, to make sure nothing did get snagged, while I inched the car ahead to pull this wondrous creation into existence. So, yea, I did have an 'observer' so to speak, or as I was crisply reminded, a 'project supervisor' just to make sure I "did it right."

73 From the guys in the "Mast Fabrication and Hoisting Department"

De W8KXR

ARRL NEWS

ELECTION NOTICE

Joe Phillips, K8QOE
Ohio SM

For Immediate Release

Three candidates have filed for Great Lakes Division Director in the fall election in Michigan, Kentucky as well as Ohio American Radio Relay League members.

Pending certification of petitions, the following candidates met the deadline for the office:

Paul Daley, WT8S, Canal Winchester (near Columbus).

Division Director Gary Johnston, KI4LA, Edgewood, Ky.

Jim Weaver, K8JE, Mason (near Cincinnati).

As there was no other candidate filing for vice director, the current Vice Director, Dick Mondro, W8FQT, Dearborn Heights, MI, was declared elected. Director Johnston had been Vice Director until the resignation of George Race., WB8BGY, in mid-July.

-30-

FIELD DAY NEWS

* Field Day 2002 received logs posted: The ARRL Contest Branch has announced that the logs submitted for Field Day 2002 have been posted on the Logs Received page <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/claimed/>> on the ARRL Web site. Click on "2002 ARRL Field Day" under "Other Reports." Contact the ARRL Contest Branch (n1nd@arrl.org or 860-594-0232) if you spot errors or if your entry is missing. The Contest Soapbox page <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/soapbox>> includes interesting photographs and stories from many Field Day groups. Feel free to share your group's photos and stories.

(note: W8NP did not submit Soapbox stories or photos, however we did make the list and you might want to check out the site for other club's interesting stories and photos!)

ARLD035 DX news

ZCZC AE35
 QST de W1AW
 DX Bulletin 35 ARLD035
 From ARRL Headquarters
 Newington CT August 29, 2002
 To all radio amateurs

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by Tedd, KB8NW, the OPDX Bulletin, SQ9FMU, The Daily DX, WA7BNM and Contest Corral from QST. Thanks to all.

ROTUMA ISLAND, 3D2. Stephane, J28VS is active as 3D2VS/p on all bands until September 5. Afterwards he will go to Suva. QSL via F6KHM.

ANDORRA, C3. Archie, C31BO has been QRV using RTTY on 20 meters around 1700, 1900 and 2000z.

PHILIPPINES, DU. Jon, DU9/N0NM has been QRV on 1828.3 kHz around 1000z and then around 1300z. QSL via W4DR.

TAJIKISTAN, EY. Rakhim, EY7AD is QRV from Khudjand, and has been active on 15 meters. QSL via operator's instructions.

THAILAND, HS. Wam, E20KIR has been QRV on 15 meters around 0130 and 0340z.

ITALY, I. IA5/DL5SAX is active from the Tuscany Island Group, IOTA EU-028, until September 4. QSL to home call.

WAKE ISLAND, KH9. Jake, N6XIV/KH9 continues to be QRV around 14265 kHz between 0700 to 0730z daily. He is here until mid September. QSL via K2FF.

MARKET REEF, OJ0. The QLF DX Team of LA5UKA, LA6YEA, LA8SDA, LA9VDA and LB1NE will be QRV as OJ0LA, OJ0RJ and OJ0/LB1NE from August 31 to September 7. Activity will be mainly on 160 meters and the lowbands using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL OJ0LA via LA9VDA, OJ0RJ via OH0RJ and OJ0/LB1NE via home call.

DENMARK, OZ. Five operators from the South Flanders DX Activity Group are active as OZ/ON6JUN/p from Aro Island, IOTA EU-172, until September 7. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters, with special attention

to the newer bands, using CW and SSB. QSL via ON4AFU.

POLAND, SP. To celebrate the holiday in the town of Tarnowskie Gori, radio club SP9KDU will be QRV as SN9TG from September 1 to 8. Activity is on all bands using CW, SSB and FM. QSL via SP9KDU.

CORSICA, TK. Rainer, TK/DL2RVL is active using QRP until September 14. QSL to home call.

UZBEKISTAN, UJ. Special event station UM9AA is active until September 5 to celebrate Uzbekistan's 11 years of independence. September 1st is the Independence Day of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Activity is on all bands. QSL via UK9AA.

CANADA, VE. Michael, VE3WMB will be QRV as VE3WMB/VE9 and activating five lighthouses on the Island of Grand Manan, New Brunswick from September 1 to 6. Activity will be around 14071 kHz using only PSK31 QRP. QSL to home call.

MEXICO, XE. To celebrate the 70th anniversary of Mexico's IARU Society, FMRE, amateurs here are allowed to use three special prefixes through December 31. Look for 6J1 for XE1 stations, 6J2 for XE2 stations and 6J3 for XE3 stations.

INDONESIA, YB. A group of Indonesian amateurs are active as YE2R from Karimunjawa, IOTA OC-186, until September 3. Activity is on 15 and 10 meters and possibly 17 meters, using CW and SSB. Three stations are QRV at the same time and activity for 12 to 18 hours a day is expected. QSL via YB2MTA.

IRAQ, YI. Peter, YI9OM has been QRV on 15 meters from 1730 to 1800z. QSL via OM6TX.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The YO HF DX Contest and Michigan QRP Labor Day CW Sprint are scheduled for this weekend. Please see August QST, page 87, and September QST, page 89, respectively, for details on both events.

**NNNN
/EX**

ARLP036 Propagation de K7VVV

ZCZC AP36
 QST de W1AW
 Propagation Forecast Bulletin 36 ARLP036
 From Tad Cook, K7VVV
 Seattle, WA August 30, 2002
 To all radio amateurs

Last week's rise in sunspot count couldn't last forever, and the numbers this week show a drop. Average daily sunspot count for the week of August 22-28 (Thursday through Wednesday, for the convenience of this bulletin schedule) declined 104 points and solar flux was down by nearly 38 points when compared to the previous week.

AA1LL wrote to ask if the renewed activity meant that there might be a third peak to cycle 23. I replied saying that I didn't think so, but this is just based on observation of past cycles. I don't know of any way to really predict it, except that it would be outside the standard variation for a sunspot cycle. You can visualize the shape of past cycles from 1700 to present at <http://www.wm7d.net/hamradio/solar/historical.shtml>. You can write to the author of this bulletin at k7vvv@arrl.net.

AA6YQ asks us to check out Prop View, a very interesting free program that is a graphical front end for IONCAP (Ionospheric Communications Analysis Prediction) at <http://www.qsl.net/propview/>. DXView (see <http://www.qsl.net/dxview/>) can be used with Prop View to automate the selection of targets, as well as control antenna rotators. Prop View can be used with the NCDXF beacons (see <http://www.ncdx.org/beacon.htm>) to compare predictions with actual on the air observations. This also works with SpotCollector (see <http://www.qsl.net/spotcollector/>), which gathers data from local PacketCluster networks, the DX Summit spotting network, and up to four additional telnet-accessible DX clusters. You can get these and additional software that works with Prop View at www.qsl.net/dxlab.

A pair of NOAA links for solar and geomagnetic data listings mentioned here in the past (and the source for 2/3 of the data appearing at the end of each of our bulletins) have moved. Occasionally NOAA moves these to another server, and then the old links don't work. The new URLs that do work are <http://www.sec.noaa.gov/ftpdir/indices/DGD.txt> for geomagnetic indices and <http://www.sec.noaa.gov/ftpdir/indices/DSD.txt> for solar data. The other 1/3 of the data at the bottom of these bulletins is from Canada's Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory at <http://www.drao.nrc.ca/icarus/www/current.txt>. The flux values presented here are the 2000 UTC daily measurements from the Observed column. 2000 UTC is local noon in Penticton, British Columbia, the location of the observatory.

The autumnal equinox is just a few weeks away. This is a great time for HF DX, as we pass from the summer season. Sunspot 87 is currently passing through an area where it is squarely aimed at earth and poses a threat for developing powerful X-class solar flares. The current prediction is for moderate to unsettled

geomagnetic activity over the next few days, barring any upset from sunspot 87. Solar flux is expected to decline over the next few days with Friday through Monday values around 170, 165, 155, and 150. Solar flux is expected to reach a near term minimum near 125 around September 7, and then bounce back quickly.

One final note before putting this week's bulletin to bed. This bulletin is received by readers from various sources, but you can see the complete text of this current bulletin as well as past editions at <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>.

Sunspot numbers for August 22 through 28 were 205, 207, 199, 136, 105, 133 and 87, with a mean of 153.1. 10.7 cm flux was 220.1, 224.5, 195.6, 178.6, 168.6, 161.4, and 163.2, with a mean of 187.4. Estimated planetary A indices were 11, 11, 11, 9, 18, 15, and 10, with a mean of 12.1.

NNNN
/EX

ARRL COMPUTER TROUBLES !!

* ARRL Computer System Upgrade to Cause Some Disruptions: A major computer system conversion at ARRL Headquarters will allow the League to better serve our members, but there will be some delays in service as we transition from the old system to the new one. Any membership applications, renewals or changes to membership records—such as address or call sign—that arrived after 5 PM EDT August 28 will not be processed until the new system is in operation next week. Club and examination information also will not be updated. In the meantime, all normal lookup features will remain available via the ARRL Web site, but the information will be as of 5 PM EDT on August 28. ARRL product and publication orders placed during the conversion period will be delayed by a few days. E-mail and FCC call sign lookup information will not be affected by the changeover. "Please bear with us as we work our way through the conversion," said ARRL Chief Operating Officer Mark Wilson, K1RO. "The staff is a little nervous about flipping the switch but excited about seeing all of the work and preparation that went into developing the new system turn into reality." ARRL anticipates that regular Web processing will resume by Friday, September 6—if not sooner. We apologize for any inconvenience during this transitional period. Further information on the changeover will be posted as it's available.

ECONOMICS

Last month the Club Secretary Ann N8GAF, informed me that the budget for the newsletter Feedback ... is over budget for the year (already) and therefore we must cut costs.

The allocated budget for the fiscal year is \$ 400. For the past few months we have had USA Quickprint do the printing, at a total cost of \$67/ 100 copies (1000 pages). Factoring in postage costs and the total monthly cost of printing the newsletter comes to \$ 104/ month.

This is due to losing our sponsor who took care of the printing. Costs have risen so much in the last year, it is impossible for them to produce a quality newsletter under the budget we now have. Everything from paper to ink costs have risen drastically. Regretfully, we now are faced with finding alternative methods of producing the newsletter.

We can partly remedy this situation by sending out the newsletter via E-Mail. We will cut by nearly 75% the costs of printing the newsletter. This means however that **YOU** will need to download the newsletter. You can either just read it on line or send it to a disk or my suggestions is to download it to a printer. That way you will have a permanent copy which can be easily stored in a file holder for future reference.

So if you have a computer and have access to an E-mail address **we need you address**. I have about 10% members e-mail address. Please send me your address as soon as possible (send to: wc8w@raex.com). For those who do not have computers, you will still receive their newsletters by U.S Postal mail. There is a definite advantage to receiving the newsletter by e-mail. The newsletter is produced (in original copy) in full color. You will receive the full color version. You will receive the newsletter about a week earlier, almost instantaneous from it's inception. It will be sent to you at no cost to you or the club. Because the e-mail version is sent via Adobe Acrobat, there is virtually no loss in quality. This means that pictures will have the same quality as the original, cartoons will now be legible etc. The only prerequisite required is that you have a copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader in your computer. This can be downloaded **free** from the ARRL's Web Site or by using the search engine and connect to Adobe Acrobat and look for the Acrobat Reader. The Club's web site also carries a guide to obtain Acrobat Reader. The Club's web site also carries the complete up-to-date version of Feedback. Please check out the web site at: <http://www.qsl.net/w8np/newsletter>.

Those of you who will receive the newsletter this month, please let me know if anyone has trouble downloading the newsletter. We will work with you to be sure that you receive it OK and in it's entirety. Please let me know about it's quality and ease of reading, or anything else you might think of.

73's de Gary WC8W
MARC Editor.

M.A.R.C. FOX HUNT ANNOUNCEMENT



Friday evening September 20th will be our first official Fox Hunt at 7:00 pm. The first couple of hunts will be easy with the Fox transmitter in plain sight (white box with a rubber duck on it) and no rules other than to find it. The Fox will be in Massillon city limits on low power, so the battery will last longer. Just get started from your home and try to find it using any means necessary. The battery should last about two hours giving everyone ample time to find it. You can be a team if you like or hunt on your own. This is just to help develop your skills before we try a hunt with common rules. I will be monitoring 147.18 during the hunt to help with clues etc.

Dan N8DZM



Fall begins September 23

September 2002

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<b style="font-size: 1.5em; color: #8B0000;">1 BD KB8STV BD N8GAF Stark County Mutual Aid Net 146.520 11:30 AM	<b style="font-size: 1.5em; color: #8B0000;">2 Sloppy Fist Net every Monday thru Friday at 9PM on 28.138	<b style="font-size: 1.5em; color: #8B0000;">3	<b style="font-size: 1.5em; color: #8B0000;">4	<b style="font-size: 1.5em; color: #8B0000;">5 7:30 PM QCWA (Chapter 21) Net, 147.180	<b style="font-size: 1.5em; color: #8B0000;">6 Massillon ARC Meeting	<b style="font-size: 1.5em; color: #8B0000;">7																																																																																				
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Please contact K8BZOH to add, delete or change Calendar