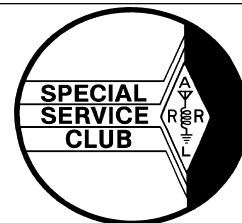


# FEEDBACK



MAY 2000

VOLUME 45 NUMBER 5



## MAY MEETING

The next meeting for the Massillon Amateur Radio Club will be held at the Massillon Senior Center in Down town Massillon on May 5, 2000 at 8:00 PM.

## MARC MEETING PROGRAM NOTICE

The program for the May 5, 00 meeting will be a demo on direction finding and Fox Hunting.

The Cuyahoga Falls ARC has fox hunting as a regular activity from April thru September. I had contacted them about putting on a Demo for our club and some of the members said they would do it.

In April, eight members of CFARC received letters of accommodation and Certificates for outstanding public service from the FAA/FCC for finding an RF interference at Cleveland Hopkins Airport, that was interrupting approach communication between the control tower and the aircraft.

Jim N8PXW told me that he uses a lot of equipment that he has made, either from kit form or plans off the Internet or books. They also make their antennas.

They will be bringing antennas, attenuators, radios, micro foxes, freq. counters and maybe a Doppler unit, and will demo in the parking lot or in the building.

It sounds like this will be a very interesting program, so come early as they will be at the start of the meeting, see you then.

**73's, Don W8DEF**

## Special Notice :

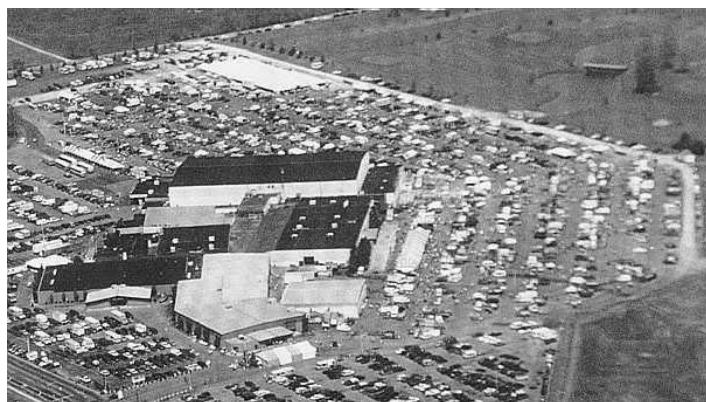
Jim WA8GXM, says that depending on weather , the club's EMT will be in the parking lot on display at the May 5th meeting. If we have rainy weather, however, he will not bring it to the meeting. All the latest improvements will be available for everyone to see.

## - SHORT SKIP -

ATTENTION DXers ! Arnie Coros, C02KK, host of a very interesting weekly DX program every Saturday evening at 2135 HRS, local time. Arnie's program, " DXers Unlimited," has it all, probagation, sunspots, DXpedition news, and etc. Every Saturday evening, at 2135 HRS. local time on 6.000 MHz. Next month I'll tell ya about Ernie's easy cure for T. V. I.

73 DE WB80WM

## LOOK FAMILLIAR??



**SEE YOU AT DAYTON ! MAY 19, 20, 21, 2000!!!**

## **April 30,2000**

### **MARC MINUTES**

The April meeting was held at the Massillon Senior Center, with 32 members and guests present. The meeting was called to order by Perry W8AU at 8:00 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was given and a round of introductions was made.

Motion was made not to read the minutes of last months meeting by Don K8DON and seconded by Rich KA8ZQH.

Treasurer Anne N8GAF was absent so Linda K8MOO gave the financial report, it was accepted by Tim WB8HHP and second by Kip K8KIP.

Don W8DEF gave the correspondence report. He told of upcoming hamfest in Ohio for this month. He also gave V.E. sessions for paper work only. He reminded everyone of the Tusco bus going to the Dayton Hamvention. Gave summary of ARRL letter of April 7th. it was less than 1 hour old. The FCC invites closer partnership with official observers. Perry W8AU explained what being an official observer is all about. Talked of the Dayton Banquet lineup, the comedy duo Smothers Bros. will perform Sat. May 20 at the Nutter Center. The key note speaker will be Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Jack N8LCS said he needed more hams Sunday for the M.S. walk.

Gary WC8W wanted to know if everyone had received their Feedback , that had paid their dues.

Doris WD8IKC told of the Buckeye Bells meeting in Canton at the Holiday Inn on April 30th.

Thanks goes to Dan N8DZM for bringing some computer parts to give away, and Skip WB8OWM for donating some books for the Shack library.

Terry N8ATZ gave report on meeting he and Jim WA8GXM had with Red Center. Red Center trying to get the city to purchase radio and antenna for the use in Sky Warn that the MARC will staff.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Perry W8AU gave ODOT report, could of had May 5th. for safety break, no one seemed interested.

Motion was made to purchase Automatic Antenna Tuner for the E-COM trailer for Field Day by Rich KA8ZQH and second by Gary WC8W motion was passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 P.M. for refreshments, then a video was given on Disaster Strikes was given by Don W8DEF.

50-50 for \$6.00 was won by Doris WD8IKC

**Minutes by Linda K8MOO Secretary MARC**

.... IT'S DAYTON TIME AGAIN ....

It's the month of May and to ham radio operators it's that time of year when an irresistible force makes us converge on Dayton, Ohio to awe in the splendor of 2,500 outdoor flea market vendors each bearing treasures beyond our wildest dreams. If that isn't enough how about an indoor arena unlike anything you have ever seen. If you've never been to the Dayton Hamvention, you're missing one of the greatest events in all ham radio. Just browsing the flea market is enough for some, taking all three days to carefully examine every potential buy. But Dayton is much more than just an enormous flea market; it an opportunity to see close-up and twiddle the knobs of new equipment from every major ham manufacturer there is. It's also about attending forums that cover just about every radio topic you can think of. It's all these things and many more. Banquets, get togethers, guest speakers, celebrities, and on, and on. If you're looking for an excuse to treat yourself - then this is definitely it. May 19, 20 & 21 is the date and Dayton is the place. I'm planning on spending at least part of the weekend there, it's like a mini vacation for me and if I'm lucky my tax refund will be here just in time to go along !. So pack your best walking shoes grab a hat and get ready to go ! Make sure you stop me and say hello, gabbing with fellow hams is one of the best parts of Dayton for me. See you there !

.... MASSILLON RED CENTER READY FOR SKYWARN ....

At last months club meeting we informed the membership that the Massillon Red Center had approached the club about becoming involved in the Skywarn program. The Red Center is a regional dispatching center for several police and fire departments. Bill Hannah, Director of the Red Center and Massillon Police Chief Mark Weldon decided the time was right to become involved in this important program, and knew that the MARC would play an integral part of that plan. This marks the first time that the club will have a working relationship with local law enforcement. After a visit to the Red Center by club trustee Jim Farriss - WA8GXM and Western Stark Skywarn Coordinator Terry Russ - N8ATZ, a proposal was sent to them detailing the equipment that would be required to participate in the Skywarn program. Within a few days we were given the go ahead to purchase a dual band radio and antenna. They will supply a suitable power supply and necessary feedline. The antenna will be placed on a mast just beside the building. Severe weather season is right around the corner and they are anxious to get up and going in this important program. Jim and I will initially man the center during weather warnings but we hope to get more of the club membership involved soon. We will let you know how we make out !

.... MARC ASSISTS IN MS WALK ....

Members of the MARC opened the 2000 public service season on April 9 by assisting with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's annual MS Walk at Quail Hollow State Park in Hartville

Out of stuff for this month. Till next time 73's N8ATZ

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## PRES PROSE

The spring rains (plus storms) are now here, and the lower frequency bands are getting noisier. All too soon the quiet DX conditions on 160 and 80 are leaving....did you get a chance to spend some of your winter nights in the shack listening for Europe on 160? You say you will do your DXing on ten meters instead? Aw, shucks, that's too easy! Anyone can work DX on ten..... it is much more of a challenge on 160! Oh, well, you can put it on your calendar for next winter....and it will be here sooner than you want!

Upcoming for our club will be preparations for our first I-77 safety break and Field Day. Which will be first is an unknown at this moment. We do know when FD is, but the safety break (for the Apr/May/June period) has not yet been assigned. The change in application procedure at ODOT is not as convenient as before, as applications now have to be submitted two weeks before the particular quarter desired, instead of doing them all on January 1 for the whole year. This may lead to unpreparedness if a date is awarded as early as two weeks after submission! I wonder how long this new method will be tolerated before the ODOT person that handles these applications & assignments asks that the old way be restored..... she didn't appreciate this year's change in the first place! I think I agree with her.

Field Day should see some new innovations, all in keeping with new rules. Some of the new ideas will be mentioned at the upcoming meeting, and if implemented will add a few points here and there to our overall score. Since the old Sweepstakes Trophy from the 1960's has been dusted off by the Canton ARC and reestablished as the FD Trophy, we have some additional motivation to excel in this annual event that we have been participating in since 1956. (in the modern era) By the way, can anyone tell me where the 1956 MARC Field Day was held? I will give you an obscure hint:

It would be impossible to hold it there today! Second hint: It was in Perry township. If we gave a prize for this answer, it might be unfairly biased toward the old timers since newcomers could only make a guess. So, scratch your heads a while and see what you come up with. The answer will be given at the meeting. Next month we will ask if you know the location of the 1957 FD site! (Whoever saves old newsletters will have an advantage.....)

Upcoming improvements for the ECOMM trailer include a new LDG automatic transmatch which will save the 'phone operator's sanity, as they will not have to search and search for that elusive SWR Null on 75 meters! The VHF police liaison radio, originally to be donated by the Perry PD from old stock, may not appear, so we will be working on our own version of it....a surplus GE Delta. The addition of the TV transmission/reception facilities will also add a new dimension as we continue to keep our public service capabilities abreast of the state-of-the-art.

Lastly, our program for this month, featuring "Fox Hunting," or Direction Finding, may stir up interest in an activity that MARC participated in close to 25 years ago. For about three years, we avidly chased the elusive "fox" with our 2 meter FM sets as they were at that time.....mostly converted Motorola and GE tube radios. After finding the "area" of the fox, we would then grab our "field strength" meters and stalk the critter to its hiding place! We found that each member tasked with "hiding" the hidden xmtr always came up with ingenious ways of concealing the thing and making the rest of us "work" for it. I remember it being hidden on the roof of the Massillon Building; 35 feet up a tree in a woods in Perry township; Right in the middle of the Tiger stadium parking lot, in the open, but not visible; Near (or in) the Jackson Twp Bog, causing some of us to wade through it.....and many more. We must have thought that we had about covered all that was to be done in DFing, as the interest faded. As it is a fairly inexpensive activity, and with current equipment small and light, including HT's, it may be eagerly picked up by a whole new audience in this era.....lets see what you think the program.

Until Friday, May 5.....

73, W8AU



## FIELD DAY IDEAS

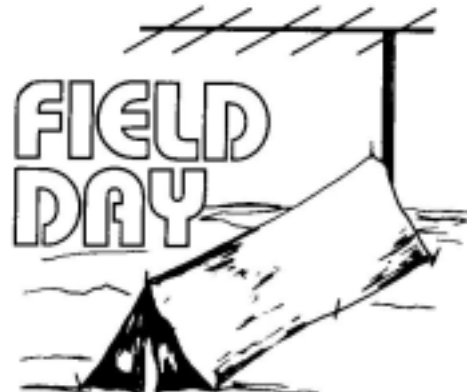
Since spring has arrived, there has been much discussion on such subjects as Field Day. At last month's meeting we discussed several ideas that the club should venture into this year. One such idea is slow scan television. Don, W8DEF, asked about an ARRL ruling concerning the extra points and how many contacts each would provide. The Official ruling is: 100 bonus points for setting up a demonstration of a nontraditional mode of amateur radio communications. This includes modes such as APRS, ATV, and SSTV. This bonus is not available for demonstration of a mode for which regular QSO credit is available (such as packet, PSK31, or other digital modes.) All that is needed is proof that we indeed set up a demonstration of ATV, DURING Field Day.

The other idea was to set up a satellite station. This is something we can do with very little effort. All that is needed is a program to calculate the approximate position of the satellites and the times that they will be overhead. Once we figure out this, then working someone is just a matter of using the appropriate equipment at the right time. All that is needed here is one contact, however, each contact is worth two points and does not count as another transmitter. If anyone has an expertise in any of these modes of communication, please let us know at the May meeting so we can begin to plan on attempting these projects. So far Perry W8AU, Don W8DEF, and Jim WA8GXM, have the necessary equipment for ATV, but we need someone with equipment for satellite. If none comes forward at the meeting, then perhaps we can purchase the necessary programs and antennas at Dayton.

Finally, I will need everyone who plan to use their laptop computers on Field Day to meet sometime in May or early June to install the Field Day Logging program and learn its operation. We do not want any surprises on Field Day!

What do you think?? Voice your opinion at the meeting ! See you on May 5th!

**73's de WC8W Editor, MARC**



From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT April 19, 2000  
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB022  
ARLB022 FCC says Generals not allowed in Advanced subbands

The FCC says newly upgraded General class licensees may not operate in the current Advanced class subbands under the new amateur rules. Bill Cross, W3TN, of the FCC's Public Safety and Private Wireless Division notes that no privileges changed for any license class.

The Advanced class license continues to exist under restructuring, which became effective April 15, although the FCC no longer accepts applications for Novice or Advanced class licenses. Current Generals do not earn Advanced class privileges until they upgrade to Amateur Extra class, when they earn both Advanced and Extra privileges.

The FCC also says General class operators may hold only Group C (1x3) or Group D (2x3) call signs, as it was under the old rules. Generals remain ineligible to apply for or hold Group B (2x2) call signs.

Newly upgraded licensees were cautioned to check the revised Part 97 rules carefully to make sure they're not operating beyond their privileges. FCC Part 97 rules are available on the ARRL Web site at <http://www.arrl.org/field/regulations/news/part97/>.

The FCC today released the Errata to its December 30, 1999, Report and Order on restructuring. The Errata incorporate minor errors contained in the original R&O and already made in the version of the new rules that appeared in The Federal Register earlier this year.

**NNN**

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## PROPAGATION NEWS

ZCZC AP16  
QST de W1AW  
Propagation Forecast Bulletin 16 ARLP016  
From Tad Cook, K7VVV  
Seattle, WA April 24, 2000  
To all radio amateurs

SB PROP ARL ARLP016  
ARLP016 Propagation de K7VVV

Sunspot numbers were up slightly this week, and average solar flux was down when compared to last week. Solar flux probably reached a short term low around Sunday or Monday, when the thrice daily readings for the two days were 157.9, 159, 156.7, 158.1, 157.9 and 157.1. Solar flux readings are taken daily at 1700, 2000 and 2300z at Penticton, but it is the 2000z reading that is the official solar flux value for the day. Sunday was the most disturbed day in terms of geomagnetic indices, when the planetary A index

was 23 and the K index went as high as 5.

Solar flux should rise over the next few days, going above 200 around April 24 and peaking near 220 around April 28 or 29. This should improve 10 and 12 meters, although the seasonal effects as we move toward late spring and summer will mean that the highest HF bands are not as interesting as they were at the equinox.

The forecast for the next five days, Friday through Tuesday, shows solar flux values of 185, 190, 195, 200 and 210. Predicted planetary A index for those same days is 12, 5, 5, 5, and 8. Geomagnetic conditions should stay fairly quiet, but April 29 could have unsettled to active geomagnetic conditions.

An AP wire service story this week talked about research reported in the May 1 issue of Geophysical Research Letters which uses data from the SOHO satellite to determine when solar activity on the other side of the sun may rotate into view. An increase in L-Alpha radiation accompanies sunspots, and it brightens hydrogen atoms in space. The SOHO satellite can detect these hydrogen atoms that are illuminated by sunspots from areas of the sun not currently facing earth, and researchers can predict when these active areas will rotate into view.

Sunspot numbers for April 13 through 19 were 190, 173, 177, 170, 166, 167 and 179 with a mean of 174.6. 10.7 cm flux was 164, 165.2, 163.7, 159, 157.9, 160.4 and 167.7, with a mean of 162.6, and estimated planetary A indices were 8, 5, 7, 23, 14, 7 and 12, with a mean of 10.9.

Path projections for this weekend are from Miami, Florida.

To Europe, 80 meters 2330-0530z (best 0230-0400z), 40 meters 2300-0630z (best 0030-0430z), 30 meters 2200-0800z (best 0000-0430z), 20 meters 2100-0700z and 0830-1000z, 17 meters 2000-0230z and 0830-1030z, 15 meters 1000-1530z and 1800-0130z, 12 meters 1230-2300z, 10 meters 1530-2030z.

To Southern Africa, 80 meters 2330-0430z, 40 meters 2300-0500z, 30 meters 2200-0530z, 20 meters 2130-0630z, 17 meters 2100-0230z and 0500-0630z, 15 meters 2100-0130z, 12 meters 2000-0100z, 10 meters 2000-0000z.

To South America, 80 meters 2330-1000z, 40 meters 2300-1030z, 30 meters 2200-1100z, 20 meters open all hours, best 0030-0930z, weakest 1430-1900z, 17 meters open all hours, best 2330-0730z, weakest 1530-1800z, 15 meters 1030-0630z, best 2330-0600z, 12 meters 1130-0530z, 10 meters 1230-0500z.

To the Caribbean, 80 meters 2200-1130z, 40 and 30 meters open all hours, best 0030-0930z, 20 meters open all hours, weakest 0630-0900z, 17 meters 1200-0400z, 15 meters 1330-2200z, 12 meters possibly 1530-2030z.

To Australia, 80 meters 0830-1130z, 40 meters 0800-1200z, 30, 20 and 17 meters 0700-1230z, 15 meters 0600-0800z, 12 meters 0530-0700z, 10 meters 0500-0630z.

To Japan, 80 meters 0930-1030z, 40 meters 0930-1100z, 30 meters 0830-1130z, 20 meters 0800-1230z, 17 meters 0600-0700z and 1030-1300z, 15 meters 1200-1330z and 0400-0530z, 12 meters possibly 2030-0200z.

**NNNN**

## DX NEWS

ZCZC AE18  
 QST de W1AW  
 DX Bulletin 18 ARLD018  
 From ARRL Headquarters  
 Newington CT April 27, 2000  
 To all radio amateurs

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

BHUTAN, A5. A number of operators are scheduled to be QRV from here starting May 3. The callsign to be used has not as yet been announced. They will be active until May 12. Operations will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via W0GJ.

CHINA, BY. Members of the Jiangsu DX Club will be QRV as BI4L from Changdao Island from May 1 to 3. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via BY4RSA.

ISLE OF MAN, GD. Ian, G0KRL, will be QRV as GD0KRL/p from April 30 to May 1 while on vacation. Activity will be on all HF bands using mostly SSB with some RTTY. QSL to home call.

ITALY, I. Special Millennium and Jubilee Year station IU0PAW is active until December 31. QSL via IK0SHF. Meanwhile, look for participation on International Marconi Day from IY4IMD on April 29. QSL via IW4EEG.

NETHERLANDS, PA. Club station ON4LAR is active until April 30 as PA6TXL from Texel Island on the IOTA frequencies. QSL to ON4CAO.

PALAU, T8. Look for JJ1DWB, 7N1KAE and JH8DEH, and one other operator, to be QRV as T88MT, T88YH, T88LJ, respectively, on 80 to 6 meters using CW and SSB from April 30 to May 3. QSL to home calls.

UZBEKISTAN, UJ. Fedor, UK9AA, has been QRV around 18074 kHz starting around 0100Z.

UKRAINE, UR. Special event call EMORSE is QRV until April 30 to celebrate the 209th anniversary of the birth of Samuel F.B. Morse. QSL via DJ0MAQ.

MICRONESIA, V6. JA3DAU and JA3HRV will be QRV as V63BJ and V63BD, respectively, from Yap Island from April 30 to May 3. Activity will be on 40 to 6 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home calls.

LORD HOWE ISLAND, VK9L. Ed, VK2INI, is QRV as VK9LEH from IOTA OC-004 on 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters using mostly CW until May 1. QSL to home call.

NORFOLK ISLAND, VK9N. Kirsti, VK9NL, is usually QRV around 18072 kHz at 0430Z.

VIETNAM, XV. A group of operators will be QRV from Cat Ba, IOTA AS-132. Look for XV5JY, XV5TK, and XV5VE from May 1 to 5 on 40 to 10 meters. QSL via JA1KJW, JA3MCA and JA8VE, respectively.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The Florida, Nebraska and Ontario QSO Parties, County Hunters Phone Contest, the North American High Speed Meteor Scatter Contest, and QRP to the Field, are all scheduled for this weekend. Please see April QST, page 100, and May QST, page 91, for details.

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**NNNN**

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## ARRL NEWS

### QUESTIONS CONTINUE IN RESTRUCTURING'S WAKE

April 15 has come and gone, but the flow of questions about Amateur Radio "restructuring" has only slowed somewhat in the intervening days. ARRL-VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, says the most common question these days is: "When can I expect to see my new license grant from the FCC?"

"The answer we give is three to four weeks from the test date, possibly sooner," Jahnke said. As a result of April 15-16 weekend testing and upgrade processing, the ARRL-VEC anticipates seeing 10,000 or more license applications over the next week or so. "We had some 250 sessions scheduled for April 15, and they average perhaps 50 applicants at each," Jahnke explained.

"Based on gut feelings and a crystal ball, we conceivably could now have 10,000 new Generals and 5000 new Extras hitting the airwaves at roughly the same time," Jahnke speculated. That's just based on the first day or two of upgrading and testing under the new rules.

Other burning questions have had to do with operating privileges. Several callers have wondered if Technicians who pass the 5 WPM Morse code test (Element 1) may then operate on the Novice bands. The answer is yes. Such licensees no longer get a new license class—it would have been Tech Plus under the old rules—but they have the same privileges as current Tech Plus licensees.

At present, while such Element 1 credit provides new privileges for the term of the license, the credit—at least for now—is only good for 365 days for upgrading purposes. The League has petitioned the FCC to make Element 1 credit permanent.

The FCC last week made it clear that General class operators may not operate on the Advanced class subbands, however.

Other callers have wondered if they may use a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination—CSCE—for an “old” amateur examination element under the new rules. In most cases, as long as the CSCE is not older than 365 days, it is still valid for equivalent element credit. For example, a Technician holding a CSCE for the “old” Element 3B (General written) may upgrade upon passing Element 1, the 5 WPM Morse code test, provided the CSCE is no older than 365 days. “An unexpired CSCE for Element 3B is valid for the new Element 3,” explained Brennan Price, N4QX, the newest member of ARRL Field and Educational Services. In addition, unexpired CSCEs for Elements 4A and 4B together still confer credit for the new Element 4 (Amateur Extra written).

“On the other hand, an unexpired CSCE for the Advanced Element 4A by itself will earn, at most, a hearty handshake,” explains Price, an experienced VE who’s been helping to handle the backlog of inquiries. “Element 4A is no good without Element 4B.”

#### RESTRUCTURING RECONSIDERATION PETITIONS ON PUBLIC NOTICE

The FCC has put on public notice five petitions for partial reconsideration of the Commission’s amateur “restructuring” Report and Order WT Docket 98-143. The list includes a petition filed by the ARRL. Interested parties may file opposition comments. The FCC does not solicit supporting comments for such petitions, and it’s under no obligation to consider them.

In addition to the League’s, petitions put on public notice April 18 were filed by Alan J. Wormser, N5LF, Frederick V Adsit, NY2V, and Michael J. Dinelli, N9BOR; by Fred A Duran, W4NKI; by Millard H. Qualls, K9DIY, and by Stewart Teaze, N0MHS. The petitions were put on public notice April 25 in The Federal Register.

The League’s petition, filed in mid-March, asks the FCC to continue to maintain records indicating whether or not a Technician has Morse code element credit. It also seeks permanent Morse element credit for any Amateur Radio applicant who has ever passed an FCC-recognized Morse exam of at least 5 WPM.

The Wormser, Adsit, Dinelli and the Qualls petitions also call on the FCC to rethink its plan to eliminate the “Plus” designation from the license class of Technicians who have passed the 5 WPM Morse code examination. Wormser et al say that essentially merging Technician and Tech Plus licensees into a single database would hamper enforcement.

Two petitioners also ask the FCC to retain the 20 WPM Morse code requirement for the Extra. Wormser, Adsit, and Dinelli contend the FCC’s December 30, 1999, R&O “unnecessarily reduces the speed of the Amateur Extra Class telegraphy examination as a way to avoid code waivers.” The petitioners

argue that the General class license with its 5 WPM code test offers “reasonable accommodation to disabled persons” claiming an inability to pass the higher code test. As an alternative, the petitioners suggest that the FCC allow applicants claiming an exemption “to certify their own impairment under oath.” Qualls requests retention of the 20 WPM test or at least a 12 WPM requirement for the Extra ticket.

Wormser et al also want the FCC to ban the practice of allowing applicants to retake a failed examination element at a single test session. Their petition says amateur applicants should be restricted to one exam session in any 24-hour period. It further asks the FCC to not extend exam element credit beyond the current two-year license expiration grace period.

The Wormser et al and Qualls petitions also ask the FCC to set the number of questions at 50 for the Technician and General class test and at 100 for the Extra test. Wormser et al further request that the FCC “retain sufficient question pool categories to maintain or increase the proportion of technical and theoretical questions on each written test.”

The Teaze petition calls upon the FCC to institute a new entry-level Communicator license class. Under his proposal, Communicator licensees could be no older than 16, must use fixed antennas no more than 20 feet above ground or above the building or tree they’re mounted on, and use not more than 2.5 W ERP. Channelized voice and digital operation would be in the range of 445 to 446 MHz. The exam would consist of “25 fairly simple questions.”

The Duran filing requests that the FCC elevate former “Class A” operators licensed prior to 1951 to Amateur Extra, instead of leaving them at Advanced class—something the FCC’s Report and Order specifically said it would not agree to do.

The window to file opposition comments to any of these petitions remains open through May 10. Replies to opposition comments are due 10 days later. Copies of all petitions may be viewed on the FCC Web site. Visit <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>, click on “Search the ECFS System” and type “98-143” in the “Proceeding” field.

#### ARRL WEB ACCESS DISRUPTED BY CYBER-VANDAL

Access to the ARRL Web site (<http://www.arrl.org/>) was disrupted early on Monday, April 24, when an unknown individual managed to hijack the League’s “arrl.org” domain name and redirect visitors to a bogus Netfirms site in Canada. ARRL system managers were alerted to the illegal modification within hours and had the change reversed. But the after-effects continued to reverberate across the Internet throughout the week, affecting access for some to the League’s Web pages.

The ARRL Web site itself was not “hacked,” and no ARRL files were damaged as a result of the vandalism. “Our domain was hijacked at Network Solutions,” ARRL Information Systems Department Manager Don Durand emphasized. “At no time was our Web server compromised.” Network Solutions is a company that registers Internet domain names.

"Network Solutions was promptly notified of the illegal change, and they, in turn, returned our record to the correct settings," Durand said.

Some who attempted to access the site Tuesday were greeted by an obscene message and the statement "Pirate radio 4 life baybee." In addition to affecting access to the site, the vandalism disrupted e-mail service to League staff and officials. Mail service also returned during the week as servers were updated. The ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service was not affected.

Durand said that while Network Solutions was alerted to the breach Monday morning, it takes up to 48 hours—and occasionally longer—for the various name servers on the Internet to update their records.

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, said the League intends to investigate the disruption through all possible means. Haynie promised that the perpetrators, if caught, would be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Durand said the League has beefed up its level of security at Network Solutions to help prevent a recurrence.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League—The National Association For Amateur Radio—225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Jim Haynie, W5JBP, President; David Sumner, K1ZZ, Executive Vice President.

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Kenwood TH79A Dual band radiowith (1) 1200Mah Nickel Cadmium battery, (2) 1200Mah NI-MH batterys, SMC-32 speaker mic, Kenwood KSC-14 Rapid Charger, Quick disconnect belt clip, Boxes and Manuals. All equipment is Mint and works perfect. Bob Kiplinger 5626 S. Wenger rd.,Dalton, Ohio 44618 1-330-857-5401 E-Mail [k8kip@valkyrie.net](mailto:k8kip@valkyrie.net) Will have at next meeting.

Radio Shack HTX-100 HF transciever.SSB **AND** CW, 25 watts of pure power! Works perfectly. Actually used very little, was purchased at the end of the last 11 year cycle. See Gary WC8W by calling 837-2927 after 4:00 PM weekdays or E-Mail: [wc8w@raex.com](mailto:wc8w@raex.com) , or at the next meeting. Asking only \$ 100 ! A steal at this price!!!

**LOOK**

**SPECIAL**

## SPECIAL NOTICE !!!

The Massillon Amateur Radio Club has just been informed that our application for one of this year's Safety Breaks has been approved. There is not a whole lot of time to prepare for the first one. Please clear your calendar's for the weekend of **May 12, 13, and 14, 2000**. This will be our first on of the year. Perry hasn't informed us of any other dates as yet, however I am sure we will find out very soon.

As you know the Safety Breaks have become a major source of income for the club's treasury. Everyone's help is needed. Please inform Perry as what shift you will want to work As of this writing, most of the shifts are open. If you have never worked a Safety Break please attend the May meeting and we will be glad to explain everything. Perry will have the sign up sheet at the meeting so be sure to sign it and get the shift you want.

If you are unable to attend this Safety Break you can still help by baking cookies or other baked goodies. The public loves them and people actually look for them. So please be sure to do your part and help with this worthwhile event!

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## Lending a "Hand"

On April 15, 2000, Don W8DEA and Gary WC8W drove 100 miles to Marrietta Ohio to help the Marrietta Amateur Radio Club with their VE Exams. We were asked to help by the Assistant Section Manager, Connie Hamilton WD8MIO because Marrietta lacked the necessary certified Extra Class VE's. Most of their VE's had moved away or lost their certification due to inactivity.

As you will recall, April 15 was not only income tax deadline, it was the date that the new FCC licensing rules went into effect. Needless to say, we were very busy. Don and I learned quite a bit about the new licensing procedures and paper work. The actual testing hasn't changed, but the paper work sure has! This was a learning experience all around.

There were about 43 people show up for paper work or to take exams. About 5 people took exams and the rest were "upgrades" because of the new licensing structure.

We would like to thank the Marrietta Amateur Radio Club for this opportunity to help and it will be beneficial for the Canton and Massillon Amateur Radio Club VE Exams on May 27, 2000.