

DeFOREST

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - K8GE

PO Box 73 - West Union, OH 45693-0073

SERVING SOUTH CENTRAL OHIO SINCE 1974

FEBRUARY 2002

EDITOR: WB8IOW - Jerry S. Paquette

<http://www.qsl.net/k8ge>

The President's Shack

I was glad to see a good turnout at the Weather Spotters Training Class.

The presentation was done well.

I have repaired one of my satellite antennas and have picked up another contact or two. I also have my Packet up and running.

Hope to see everyone at the March,12 meeting. Will say 73 for now.

Ed KE8FK

DeForest ARC Meeting February 12, 2002

The meeting was devoted entirely to the annual SkyWARN training.

The speaker was Greg Tipton of the Wilmington office of the National Weather Service.

Greg made an excellent presentation by clearly explaining all the slides he displayed.

(What does the WARN in SkyWARN stand for anyway? The answer will be printed later in this newsletter)

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY March 12, 2002

ABCAP Senior Nutrition Center

Next door to the Sundry Store on the town square in West Union, Ohio

7:00 PM

West Union, Ohio

Across from the steps of the Adams County Courthouse

Following the business portion of the meeting WB8IOW will demonstrate a free computer text reader that speaks in several voices. [A CD with a copy of the program will be given away at the end of the presentation.](#)

DeForest A.R.C. Birthdays & SPECIAL EVENTS

03-08 KB8NSJ Larry Bennington
03-12 DeForest meeting 7 PM
03-19 KC8DDY Lyle Lambert
03-21 KF8RC Lucius Merrill Jr
03-21 KC8HFX Robert Kemphues
03-22 KC8LIA Karen Lambert
03-22 KB8YKM Imogene Seymour
03-27 KC8OVO Bill Cox
04-04 KB8NBI Jack King
04-05 KC8HTX Tristan Grooms
04-05 KC8LIC Ronald Buhr
04-06 KB8RYG Lawrence Lewis
04-06 GMCARA Test Session
04-09 DeForest meeting 7 PM
04-14 N4VGI Bob Drake

04-14 KC8LIE Sharon Buhr
04-15 Scott Rohrback
04-17 Carmen Payne
04-18 KD4PYZ TJ Whitehead
04-24 KB8SCW Nadine Lewis
04-27 KB8VPR Joe Rogers
04-29 KQ4TN Paul Whitehead

AMATEUR RADIO SATELLITES
K8YMI BOB HALLEY

The first of four amateur radio antennas (the VHF-UHF flexible tape antenna) was installed on the exterior of the International Space Station during a space walk on January 15th. The second antenna likely has been installed by the time you read this. In the original design of the Service Module of ISS, four pass-through connectors were included. The four antennas were taken to ISS last month after considerable testing at Orlando and at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Silver Spring, Md. There will be two separate Ham locations on ISS. Plans call for a 2 meter/70cm station to remain in the Cargo Block, and a second 2 m/70-cm station will be set up in the Service Module as will the HF station. The additional antennas will provide for some HF operation. Thanks to Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, Lou McFadin, W5DID and many others for their work to get these stations approved, to design and

build the antennas, to test for space worthiness and to get them to the ISS for installation. A detailed breakdown of the antenna installation, with pictures and diagrams, can be downloaded at:

<http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov/EVAS/amsat01.pdf>

At the AMSAT-NA Board of Directors meeting in January, approval was given to a new, low Earth orbit micro satellite project. This satellite will provide amateurs access using the 2 meter and 70 cm bands with only a hand-held transceiver. More details will be available on the AMSAT-NA web site soon. One preview that I read said that it will carry several receivers and high powered transmitters that will permit analog voice, 9600 baud digital store-and-forward packet data, PSK-31, 1200 baud AFSK APRS packet data, a PSK-31 experiment (28mhz up/70 cm down), uplink voice or data on 23 cm, 2 meters or 10 meters with a 70 cm downlink, and experiments with various simple, low-gain antennas. Optimistically, it will be launched in late 2003.

Please note that during the development of this satellite, work will continue on the design of the Eagle satellite (formerly referred to as JJ). Eagle, being a larger satellite, will be launched into a GTO (Geostationary Transfer Orbit) and will take longer to design and build. Hopes now are for a launch of Eagle in 2004.

Thanks have gone out to the AO-40 command team who very successfully operated the on-board GPS system, providing NASA with interesting data from AO-40. This is the first time data has

been received from a satellite outside the GPS ring.

John Magliacane, KD2BD, (the author of several well-known tracking programs) informed AMSAT that he has released the latest version of his PREDICT tracking software for use with LINUX operating systems. He outlined a number of improvements in the system. It can be downloaded from the AMSAT-NA web site.

At the recent AMSAT-NA Board meeting, Keith Baker, KB1SF, the immediate past president of AMSAT volunteered to serve as Executive VP, a position that was not filled at the October meeting in Atlanta. The Board unanimously accepted the offer. Keith lives in Xenia and many of you have met him at Dayton or other local hamfests.

Steve Grant, N8AJD, the AMSAT coordinator for Southeast Ohio died in early January. Steve was very active on the local scene setting up forums at smaller hamfests, making presentations to smaller Ham Clubs in southern Ohio and working at the AMSAT booth at the Dayton HAMVENTION. Steve was an avid ham, a willing volunteer and he will be missed by many of us.

Back in 1985, during trip to England, I had the opportunity to visit the University of Surrey, their center of small satellite design and technology. I spent most of a day with Dr. Martin Sweeting, G3YJO, who headed the program at the University. I remember him as a small, spry, energetic man with great enthusiasm for Amateur Radio Satellites. Recently, he was knighted by the Queen for his "services to microsatellite engineering" so now he is SIR Martin Sweeting. What a pleasant memory for me.

-73- K8YMI

2002 Dues Are Due
Must be paid by last
day of February to
avoid loosing some
member privileges

NEW NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

This month we welcome two newsletter sponsors.

The first to sign up was **AZZ Cardfile**, a computer program that acts like an electronic Index card file box.

The author is Antanas Zdramys LY1DL, an Amateur Radio operator in Lithuania. Read more in the next article, in this newsletter.

The second new advertiser is

JAGS Computer Parts

Owner: Amanda D. Syroney
Sales Manager/WebMaster:
Gregory B. Syroney

Gregory also has an interesting web page, **Southern Ohio Emergency Frequency List** at <http://www.bright.net/~jags>

Keep them in mind when you make your next purchases. We appreciate them as newsletter sponsors.

A SHORT STORY A SMALL PROGRAM

By WB8IOW

I guess since my first encounters with computers, the Timex-Sinclair with 2K of memory, and a cassette recorder for data storage and my Atari 400 and then the Radio Shack, Model III, both also using tape recorders, I have sought small

computer programs. My first hard drive was a Seagate 30 mega-byte drive in an 8088 computer. I was in hog heaven.

All those computers before (and the big \$\$ they cost) are just a memory. Now I have an old computer (2 years is old, isn't it?) and 15 giga-bytes of hard drive.

It amazes me that some programs take up so much space and yet I don't get the use of all their features. Kind of like my VCR, it can do all kinds of things, even display Spanish and French. All I use it for is basic recording and play back. Yes, my clock is set, I think.

I wanted an electronic Rolodex™ type program. I got on my favorite search engine, google.com and typed in electronic index cards. Over and over I saw references to AZZ Cardfile. I downloaded an early version and was impressed. It did all I wanted it to do, and then some. A little more searching and I found the current version and downloaded that.

Still, it is a small program, and just as important to me, doesn't mess with my system files like most programs feel they must.

I started using the AZZ Cardfile and was very impressed. So much so, I rank it up there with NoteTab and the CUTE programs, HTML and FTP.

AZZ Cardfile version 3.0 is not freeware. However, the unregistered version is fully functional and has no expiration date. The registration screen appears from time to time if you run the unregistered version.

There are many free files on the webpage collectively containing thousands of cards on the following topics:

PC Tech Tips, over 1300 cards; Aromatherapy and essential oils, 133 cards;

General recipes, over 4000 recipes and other useful information,

Aga recipes, over 1000 recipes and other useful information,

Electronics, over 2300 electronic related cards; Herbs, over 130 cards;

Christmas, over 100 recipes and Christmas ideas;

Bird Treats, this file is 182 cards of recipes for feeding your domestic birds. It contains recipes for all types of birds including a few for wild birds.

Old Testament, the first three books of the Old Testament;

Christmas Recipes, 125 detail Christmas Recipes;

Poems to Inspire by Nick Kenny;

Crafts, gifts, other goodies;

Pies, 400 pie recipes;

Business Letters, over 300 business letter samples;

any many more too numerous to mention.

Jerry WB8IOW will have copies of the download file, on 3-1/2" diskette at the next club meeting. Try it. If you like it register with the author, for \$12 and receive your unique password and registration number.

ARES Vests and Jackets

At the 2002 Annual Board of Director's Meeting, ARRL staff were tasked to research the possibility of developing a distinctive garment for

use by Amateur Radio Emergency Service volunteers, similar to those used by Red Cross volunteers.

If you had the opportunity, would you (as an ARES member) be interested in purchasing the vest with the ARES logo or the windbreaker (jacket) with the ARES logo.

Our preliminary investigations for vests and windbreakers indicate some of the following options and price ranges.

VESTS - Option A: Full zip, all fleece, nylon with microfleece lining (a high quality option), embroidered or screen printed. Retail \$40-50.

Option B: Reflective style vest, like the type you see police or runners wearing (a basic quality option). "Bib" style. Retail \$15

WINDBREAKERS (jackets)

Option C: Basic unlined windbreaker (a basic quality option). Retail \$30-\$40.

Option D: Kasha lined full zip windbreaker (a high quality option). Retail \$40-\$50.

If there is an interest we will discuss the topic at the next club meeting.

The WARN in SkyWARN stands for Weather Amateur Radio Net

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AZZ CARDFILE

AZZ Cardfile is a computer program that is as simple to use as a paper cardfile. You start with blank cards. You have empty "paper" sheets when you start a new card. Written by Antanas Zdrumys LY1DL, an Amateur Radio operator in Lithuania. Use for address books, recipes, poems, hobbies, crafts, etc. Home: <http://www2.omnitel.net/zdrumys/azzcardfile/index.htm>

Download latest version:

<http://www2.omnitel.net/zdrumys/azzcardfile/download.htm>

JAGS Computer Parts

130 Park Street
Peebles, Ohio 45660-1047
Phone: 937-587-8251

Owner: Amanda D. Syrone

Sales Manager/WebMaster: Gregory B. Syrone

Southern Ohio Emergency Frequency List

<http://www.bright.net/~jags>