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CALENDAR

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BUY/SELL/TRADE

KB8PW's Goodies



**MAY 1, 6:30 PM
GEORGETOWN**

G.A.R.C.

BIRTH DAYS

- KB8BDL Charles 5/7/97
- KC8DSP Patricia 5/10/97
- KC8CYZ Erin 5/18/97
- K8RJ John 5/23/97



MAY, A DOUBLE FREE MONTH ?

(Editor) We've all done it. After all we're hams and we've got a lot of important stuff to say! So it's vital to say it quickly right? But is it so important if that quickness comes at a price?

What's the price you ask? What if, by not leaving enough pause time between transmissions, someone delayed your attempt to request lifesaving emergency help? The next time you feel the urge to apply pressure to a mike button, think about it for 2 to 3 seconds. It might be time enough for a new ham to jump in and make your acquaintance, or more seriously move someone 30 seconds closer toward help from us. Let's all make May, a double free month.

HAMFEST FLYER CONTEST

(KB8TQU)What do you want our Hamfest flyer to look like? Make up one! We will choose one at the May meeting. We will judge for the best one and award a prize for the one that is chosen.

Here are the things that should be on the flyer :

G.A.R.C. 4th Annual Hamfest in cooperation with (Other clubs that will be involved).

Date : November 22,1997

Time : 8am to 4pm +

Place : A.B.C.E.O. old high school bldg. in

Georgetown Ohio.

Tickets \$2.00 each

Admission \$2.00 or 1 ticket.

Free tables.

Major first prize (to be determined).

2nd & 3rd prize (to be determined).

Door prizes every 1/2 hour.

ARRL Affiliated.

Vendors, Flea market, Crafts.

Food & refreshments.

Talk in 146.730 Georgetown Repeater.

Handicap parking.

Loading & unloading zone available.

Fresh ideas generates interest, hope you will participate.



The countdown clock to Dayton 1997 has begun! Will this years Dayton bring out sunburns or umbrellas, a new rig or a used one? Lets hope for at least the weather that these previous Dayton Hamfests (pictured to the right) enjoyed.

It's not too early to start your Dayton lists, so start now and see you at Hara Arena for Dayton Hamfest 1997

BUY/SELL/TRADE

Kenwood TS-820-S 10-160. In very good condition. It also has a CW filter. A D104 microphone and a hand mike that needs a plug rounds out the deal. \$500.00 takes it home!

Can be seen at it's KB8PVY's Clough Pike location, or phone 528-0868.

G.A.R.C. MEETING MINUTES 4/3/97

(KB8PVY)The meeting was called to order by the President, John Pitcher K8RJ at 6:30 PM. A motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting minutes was solicited by the President. John KC8CYV, made the motion and was seconded by Rodney WD8CTX. Motion carried by the membership. Treasurers report by Dot KB8TQU. As of this meeting date, there is \$ 2,670.35 in the treasury. A motion to accept the treasury report was made by Ed KB8VKZ, and seconded by Rodney WD8CTX. Motion carried by the membership.

Field day discussion: The field day operation might be held at the old machinery grounds, located west of Georgetown. To be decided on later.

The Hamfest flyer will be chosen at the next meeting.

A Hamfest will be held on Saturday 4/5/97 at the Carl Perkins Center on Rt.32 in Morehead Ky.

Discussion on ticket sales for the hand held radio.

Upcoming Hamfest : To be held 11/22/97. A motion to run the Hamfest by our club was made by Jerry KB8PVY and seconded by Marty KC8CZD. Discussion, Motion denied by the membership. Motion dropped. A motion by Jeff N1DJS, and seconded by Rodney to allow other clubs to sell tickets and retain 50% of the proceeds on the tickets that they sell. Discussion, Motion carried by membership.

More phone patch discussion at the next meeting.

Discussion on emergency training: Gordy WB8YGW, detailed the instructions for emergency training and radiogram procedure. He explained that training can be heard on the HF bands. (3.972.5 at 10:30 am / 4:15 PM / 6:30 PM 7 days a week. Also the Ky. phone net on 3.960 at 8:30 PM / 6 PM.). A committee was formed for emergency training.

AMATEUR RADIO INFO

(KU8O)Here's some interesting info worth checking out, the QRP List available from Lehigh University. The QRP mailing list is open for discussion of any subjects relating to low power amateur radio operation. The essentials:

To get on the mailing list send the following text message to:
listserv@Lehigh.EDU

SUBSCRIBE QRP-L Your_Name Your_Call_Sign

Example message SUBSCRIBE QRP-L Russ Canter KU8O
Leave the Subject of the message BLANK or X if your system requires a subject

To get off the mailing list send the following text message to:
listserv@Lehigh.EDU

UNSUBSCRIBE QRP-L Your_Name Your_Call_Sign

A copy of a (FAQ) file is available in QRP-L/WELCOME.TXT.

Hopefully that's enough to get someone going. The list provides an open forum for people who want to discuss, question and answer topics on amateur radio. They encourage low power. Daily I received between 30 to 50 messages a day.

Gordy WB8YGW, Marty KC8CZD, Polly KC8CZB, Marie KE4MZP.

Break at 7:30 PM. Meeting back to order at 7:40 PM.

The color contest conclusion will be held on the radio. Send your total colors collected to, Sherwood Mortgage Company 100 TechneCenter Drive, Suite 112, Milford Ohio. 45150.

John K8RJ read an article taken from the Cincinnati Enquirer about the Ham Radio operators in this area assisting in the flood rescue efforts as they were thanking the operators for the assistance. (Editors note: See article elsewhere in this newsletter)

Jeff N1DJS, detailed the PL tone to be used for the 146.730 machine in the event of the capture effect of other machines. The tone is, 162.5 for listening only. (Editors note: Tone is on repeater output. The repeater does not require a tone on the input to use.)

More discussion on the Hamfest. Dot KB8TQU will coordinate forming the committees needed to run the Hamfest at the next meeting.

Jeff N1DJS suggested that the club officers submit articles for the newsletter.

A motion was made by Al WB8UJM, and seconded by Lisa KF4JNX, to purchase a subscription to CQ magazine and World Radio for Jeff N1DJS for the newsletter endeavors. Motion carried by the membership.

More discussion on CPR training.

Phone patch demonstration by Al WB8UJM.

Meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

CONTEST CORNER

May 01	AGCW-DL QRP Party
May 03-04	MARAC County Hunters Contest
May 03-04	10/10 International Spring QSO
May 03-04	Texas QSO Party
May 03-04	Connecticut QSO Party
May 03-04	Massachusetts QSO Party
May 03-04	ARI Int'l DX Contest
May 10-11	Nevada QSO Party
May 10	FISTS CW Spring Sprint
May 10-11	Georgia QSO Party
May 10-11	CQ Mir DX Contest
May 17	EU SPRINT Spring
May 17-18	50-MHz Spring Sprint
May 17-18	Baltic Contest
May 24-25	CQ W W WPX Contest

SCIENTISTS DISCOVER THE ATMOSPHERE HAS EARS!

(Editor)It's a particularly bad month and you've just gotten you third speeding ticket. Time to vent a little to your buddy on the repeater. The problem is, like or or not, law enforcement, county officials, fire departments and others you would never imagine are listening.

That's right, a direct line to all those people, and it's more than likely they're listening. Just ask the Hams that participated in the flood work on the Ohio River in March. When disaster strikes, John Q. Public turns their scanner to us quicker than the weather channel talks about tornadoes! Complaining about how crazy you feel some official is, might take a load off of your chest, but it could also alienate the very people we work so hard to try to make appreciate us. The club is constantly striving to show our value to the community in times of natural disaster.

So... the next time a county official issues you a ticket, spend your energy helping to get them a ticket, a ham ticket! After all, could a ham really ticket another ham?

UPCOMING HAMFESTS

May 2-3

Amateur Electronic Supply Superfest,
Milwaukee, WI
5710 West Good Hope Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53223
Gary Lofchie, KA9YTB 414-358-4088 or 800-558-041
E-mail: lofchie@aesham.com <http://www.aesham.com>

May 3

Owensboro ARC, Owensboro, KY
George Stokes, KD4CKT
1218 West 3rd St., Owensboro, KY 42301
502-926-4451
E-mail: wb4nh0@occ-uky.campus.mci.net

May 10

Medina 2 Meter Group, Medina, OH
Clarence Miller, WA8JLA
620 Oak St., Medina, OH 44256
330-725-4492

May 16-18

Dayton HamVention, Dayton, OH
Dick Miller, N8CBU
937-276-6930 (Box 8201)
Fax: 937-274-8369
E-mail: chair@hamvention.org
<http://www.hamvention.org>



May 25

Franklin County Hamfest, Hilliard, OH
Chris Lind, KC8BUO
PO Box 14281, Columbus, OH
614-267-7779
Fax: 614-263-7934

TELECOMMUNICATION DAY

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Council has chosen "Telecommunication In The Service Of Humanitarian Assistance" as the theme for 1997 World Telecommunication Day (WTD-97), a theme lying at the very heart of Amateur Radio. World Telecommunication Day takes place each year on the anniversary of the creation of the ITU, May 17, 1865.

PLAN NOW HAMFEST 1997

(KB8TQU)It's time to make plans for the Hamfest 97! We will form the committees at the May meeting. Your talents, hard work, determination, etc, made last years Hamfest a success. We can do it again this year if we follow the same pattern. What can we depend on you for?

Committee leaders have been chosen for some of the activities.

Prizes and tickets: Roy NL7FK and Al WB8UJM.

Talk in, parking, loading & unloading: Harold K8YGV & Gordy WB8YGW.

Facilities & Holding table: Jerry KB8PVY.

Flyers: Jeff N1DJS.

Refreshments: Dot KB8TQU.

Admission, membership: Marty KC8CZD.

Table arrangement: Roy NL7FK

Police (notification): Al WB8UJM

Shuttle service: John K8RJ.

V.E. testing and staff badges: Ray N8AGB

Prize recorder: Gordy WB8YGW.

P.A. system: Radio Shack.

Finances: Dot KB8TQU.

We need committee leader to handle the publicity, TV, Radio, Internet, News Letter, News Paper, Flyers, etc.

Donation to be solicited from vendors in the surrounding communities by all members.

Other areas to be covered:

Clean up, trash removal, rest rooms, and committee leader for crafts.

If there is any thing that has been over looked, please feel free to bring it to the clubs attention.

We always need new ideas and suggestions.

I can be contacted at:

Dorothy Silman (KB8TQU)
559 Clough Pike
Cincinnati, Ohio 45245
Phone: (513) 528-0868

I will have a new address and phone number after May 31 which will be in the news letter for May 97.

I sincerely hope that all of our club members will participate.

See you at the May meeting.

FCC OFFERS BETA-TESTING ACCESS TO HAM DATABASE

(Weblines) For a limited time, hams and others will have real-time access to the FCC's amateur database under a beta-testing program begun this week. The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau has made available to the public three of its database applications--at no charge--for approximately 30 days on a beta-test basis. Among them is the amateur application which allows real-time query capability of the ham radio database. Users can enter queries based on name, call sign, ZIP Code, state, club name, license issuance or expiration date or date ranges, and the native country of an alien operator living in the US.

The three applications will be available from April 8 until May 12 at <http://gullfoss.fcc.gov/beta.htm>. Comments on the three applications go to betacomm@fcc.gov. After the beta-testing period, the FCC will make the applications available for a charge of \$2.30/minute (the first two minutes of access will be free). The FCC plans to add additional applications to its beta-testing program as they become available. To enroll as an official beta tester and receive e-mail notifications about the program, send e-mail to khoutz@fcc.gov. For more information, call the FCC's Consumer Assistance Branch, 800-322-1117 or Technical Support, 202-414-1250. --FCC

FCC ISSUES CHANGES IN AMATEUR RADIO RULES

(Weblines) In response to three petitions for rulemaking, the FCC has adopted changes to the Amateur Service rules that--among other changes--will make it easier to obtain 1x1 call signs for special event stations and harder to get a club station license. Other amendments to the rules included in a Report and Order released April 1, 1997, will allow hams to append special designators either before or after their call signs--or both, and will recognize, but not require, the use of a session manager at volunteer examiner testing sessions.

The FCC declined to give examination credit for formerly held licenses, and turned down an ARRL request for a lifetime operator's license.

Under the new amendments, the FCC will allow a licensee to substitute a self-selected call sign from the block of 1x1 call signs for temporary use during a special event operation. The station must announce its regularly assigned call sign at least once an hour. The special event call signs will be coordinated and issued by outside volunteer entities, not by the FCC. The Commission will announce later when and how volunteer entities may volunteer their services. The chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau then would certify volunteer entities to serve as amateur station special event call sign coordinators, who would issue 1x1 calls from a common, online special event call sign database. By definition, a 1x1 call sign consists of a single prefix letter, K, N or W; the region number, 0 to 9; and a single suffix letter, A to W, Y and Z--750 call signs in all. The FCC turned down a suggestion that would have limited special event call signs to stations licensed to Amateur Extra class operators.

In proposing to increase the eligibility requirements for a club station license, the FCC said it was "important to determine that the applicant for a club station license is a legitimate radio club and not just a person seeking to acquire additional call signs." Under the rules changes, the FCC has raised the eligibility requirement from at least two members to a minimum of four. Applicants for a club station license must have a club name, a document of organization, management, and a primary ham radio purpose that's consistent with FCC rules.

Responding to a petition by the National Conference of Volunteer-Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC), the FCC said

VECs could elect to designate a session manager if they wanted to, but they would not be required to do so. The Commission's new rules recognize the VE session manager function but emphasize that the three volunteer examiners at a test session would still be held "jointly and severally responsible for the proper conduct of each examination administered."

Another change will allow hams to include a self-assigned indicator before, after or both before and after the assigned call sign when identifying. Current rules only permit using such indicators after the station's regular call sign. Self-assigned indicators include those used to indicate location or type of operation, such as /KP2 when operating in the US Virgin Islands or /m when operating in a vehicle. They also can denote participation in an unusual event or other atypical station operation, according to the FCC.

Citing mostly negative comments, the FCC decided against allowing exam credit for formerly held amateur operator licenses. The Commission also said "no" to the ARRL's suggestion that the operator license be valid for the lifetime of the holder. The FCC said operators would still have to renew their station licenses every 10 years and that it did not want to maintain a separate database to keep track of station license expirations.

The FCC announced all of the rules changes in a Report and Order, FCC 97-99, adopted March 20 and issued April 1. The amendments become effective 30 days after the Report and Order is published in The Federal Register.

STONE ON AND TUNE OUT

(Editor) It's there now and if all goes well you never even noticed it. I'm speaking of course, about the 162.5Hz tone that the 146.73 repeater now transmits on its' output. While normal ears shouldn't be able to hear this tone or notice any difference, radios with a tone decoder, can use this tone to effectively mask out other repeaters also transmitting on the 146.73 frequency. For info on how to configure your radio to take advantage of this tone, give a call to someone on the repeater or ask at the May G.A.R.C. meeting.

NEW , IMPROVED TRANSCEIVERS ON THE HORIZON

Yaesu's new FT-920 HF/6-meter transceiver will be available in early May, the company announced this week. The radio already is being advertised for sale in some overseas ham radio journals. Yaesu says the FT-920 will offer 100 W output on all bands; digital signal processing (DSP) in all modes (with auto notch and noise reduction); built-in antenna tuner, memory keyer and RS-232C level converter; and MOSFET finals. It's expected to retail for under \$2000.

ICOM has announced the IC-706MkII, with several improvements and additions to the popular tiny HF/VHF transceiver at the same price as the original IC-706. The MkII will offer

GCARA COMM EXPO

The Communications Expo (formerly the GCARA Cincinnati Hamfest) is a major show and social event of the fall season. It is held at the Kolping Society Center, at the intersection of Springdale and Mill Rds. north of the Cincinnati suburb, Mt. Healthy, OH. This is about 2 miles from the Interstate 275 and Ohio S.R. 127 interchange in northern Hamilton County, OH.

Dates for coming GCARA Communications Expos are:

Communications Expo 97 = September 21, 1997,

Communications Expo 98 = September 20, 1998,

Communications Expo 99 = September 18, 1999,

Communications Expo 2000 = September 16, 2000.

Communications Expo offers commercial exhibits and a large flea market for hobbyists in the associated communications technology areas. These include radio control aeromodellers, computer enthusiasts, amateur radio operators, etc. For information on Comm Expo 97, contact Paul Riedel, WB8NFT, at PNR280@MSN.COM.

FLOOD RADIO ASSISTANCE

(Mark W. Reising) As the communications manager of the Queen City Emergency Net (QCEN), the Red Cross-affiliated amateur radio club, I would like to thank all of the amateur radio (ham) operators and organizations who assisted in relief and communications activities during the recent floods.

In particular, I would like to acknowledge the assistance provided by the ham organizations in Adams, Brown, Clermont, Pendleton and Grant counties. These groups, while very busy conducting emergency communications for their respective counties, were always willing to provide communications assistance for the Red Cross efforts. In addition, QCEN also received help from the following: Amateur Radio Public Service Corps in Hamilton County, Butler County VHF Society, Dayton Amateur Radio Association, Central Ohio Amateur Radio Emergency Service and other groups.

It would be impossible to list all of the individuals who assisted in our efforts; however, I want to let everyone know that their service was invaluable. Communications Manager, QCEN

slots for two optional filters, a "sub" dial (to tune the second VFO or for RIT), 20 W output on 2 meters, a separate band change key, crossband split, band-stacking register, and better sensitivity outside the ham bands. The MkII should be available in May, according to ICOM. No retrofits are possible for existing IC-706s.

Ten-Tec has announced the OMNI-VI Plus, an upgraded version of its popular HF transceiver. The OMNI-VI Plus includes DSP noise reduction, low pass, auto notch and adjustable CW offset (with tracking sidetone) plus another filter position. A retrofit program is available for current OMNI-VI owners. The OMNI-VI Plus is priced at \$2585.

PRACTICE THY CODE

On-air Code Teaching and Practice: GCARA is again sponsoring Morse code teaching and practice on-the-air. Code teaching from the very beginning is from 8 PM-8:30 PM each Monday with code practice from 8:30 PM-9 PM (ending just before the start of the River Cities Net). The repeater frequency is 147.15+ MHz. Thursdays from 8 PM-9 PM features code practice on the same repeater.

AN ODE TO CODE

Contributed by Gary Spence VA2CK
Aylmer, Québec, cspence@synapse.net
Used With Permission.

We've all heard the cry "abandon the code!,
it's useless outdated, NOT a mod-er-n mode!"
So I said to myself, "could code's day really be over?
Best left for SKs' fer-til-iz-n' the clover?"

So off went my paddle 'n keyer to a museum,
so those curious of our "past" could drop in an' see um.
I then bought a computer and a box I was told...
would update my station, using all hi-tech modes.

It then was set up, all by my own hand...
the screen it lit up, et voilà Heard Is-land!
I switched to transmit to "talk with this gent"
but my screen read "sorry, can't copy 100%!"

"There's static, interference if you could hear it you'd agree...
if it ain't armchair copy we machines cry c'est la vie!"
It then said "there is as YOU know a way to get through,
it's called the code, and what luck for you!"

"You've learned this art, you "stuck it out"
'tis a valuable tool, there isn't a doubt."
"You've invested your time, and besides the code you did
learn,
possession of valuable skills must be... EARNED!"

So I say to you now don't get fooled when some say...
"Codes an' old dinosaur fadin' away!"
It's part of our past, present and future existence...
anti-coders prepare for "beaucoup de resistance"