

Grant Amateur Radio Club



Issue 1

Newsletter

January 1998



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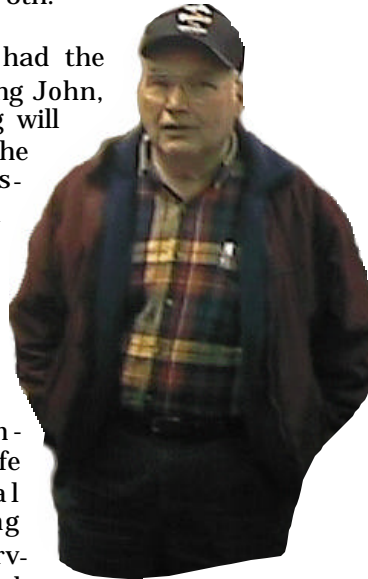


January 8th
at 7:00pm

(Editor) The last half of December brought with it the sad news that our friend and *on air* college John Cushing, KC8CYV passed away on December 8th.

Those of us who had the pleasure of knowing John, know that nothing will ever be able to fill the void that his passing has left us in our part of the amateur radio community.

He was a loved and respected member of his community and his life included several years of teaching and community service. In talking with



his wife, I learned that John derived much enjoyment from the friends he met through amateur radio, and for me personally, I will miss his morning walks during my

In Memory Of

John William Cushing

Date of Birth
April 16, 1938
Cincinnati, Ohio

Date of Death
December 8, 1997
Batavia, Ohio

Place & Time of Service
10:00 AM Friday December 12, 1997
St. Ann Church
370 S. 5 Street
Williamsburg, Ohio

Officiant
Father Bill Stockelman

Burial
St. Patrick Cemetery
Fayetteville, Ohio

Arrangements By
Thompson-Stevens Funeral Home
MLomb, Ohio

BIRTHDAY CLUB

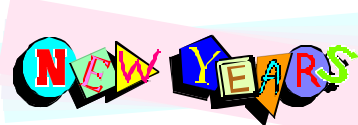
Name	Date	Call
James	1/1	KC8GRK
Kathie	1/2	KA8FCX
Stacey	1/12	W8JAS
Vivian	1/13	KB8WAE
Rob	1/16	KB8SCM
Kelly	1/16	KC8GYU
Debbie	1/20	KB8QNT
Jeffrey	1/25	N8OOA
Harold	1/27	K8YGV
Tracy	1/29	KB8SDL
Ansel	1/29	W8SZK
Galen	1/31	WD8DGK

1998 GARC CLUB OFFICERS

President -	Jeff	N1DJS
Vice President -	Lisa	KF4JNX
Secretary -	Jerry	KB8PVY
Treasurer -	Dot	KB8TQU

COOKIE TIME

(Editor) Kathie, KA8FCX steps up to the plate this month, with her plate of goodies for the January meeting.



AND THE WINNERS ARE...

(Editor) Vote counting was swift and furious at the December meeting and the end result was a juggling around of the officers.

For those of officers that have gone back to the private sector (that's how they describe George Bush), you've left large shoes to fill and the pressure will certainly be on, to carry on, and for those officers that continued on through the new year, keep up the good work!

More important, however, than any officer, is the input and direction, that you, the club member ship add and give. A club is just the sum of it's member ships participation. Let's make 1998 the year the Grant Amateur Radio club reaches new heights!

RESOLUTIONS...

(Editor) January brings with it a time of renewal. Why not a renewed commitment to amateur radio and the G.A.R.C. In 1998?

Bring with you, to the January meeting, and to our first January net, your Ham Radio New Years Resolution. It could be something as simple as attending all the club meetings in 1998 or 52 club nets, or as brave as committing to moving up a license class, or doubling your code speed, or chairing a GARC committee, or participating in field day, or a fox hunt....The sky's the limit, or in this case your will and your imagination!

BIRTHDAY CLUB COMPUTER ERROR..

(Editor) You all know how cankerous computers can be. Well it seems as though many of you were denied fame and fortune because of a programming error that left you out of the birthday club list in 1997. It took till December to find it, but thanks to KB8VLD's wife Shirley's message, you will no longer escape being listed in the 1998 birthday club!

PRESIDENTS VIEW

(N1DJS) Welcome to 1998! I guess my first question to the membership is; Are you sure you know what you voted for? I can tell you now that not even my wife voted for me. That should tell you something, but it's too late now!. (I'm not sure how mom voted, but I'm counting on her!)

Seriously, I'm not sure you voted for the best, but I guarantee that I'll do my best.

Just what is my best? I'm not real sure, but I do know as YOUR president, I'll listen and seriously consider every comment and concern. I have strong beliefs about some things and no idea about others. So where I have strong beliefs I'll passionately debate my point of view. But in the end when the debate is over, from all sides, majority rules, and I'll stand behind and support the club 100%

By the same token on issues where I have no idea and therefore no input, I'll stand clear and quiet. This doesn't mean I'm uninterested, just uninformed.

My club goals are (in order of importance):

1) To insure that the Grant Amateur Radio Club is an enjoyable club to be a member of.

2) To insure that the Grant Amateur Radio Club is an interesting club to be a member of.

3) To insure that the Grant Amateur Radio Club is an active club that helps all members grow in some Amateur Radio related way.

So.... Bring your exciting, enthusiastic, and constructive ideas to 1998. I want to see them, the club needs to hear them! To gether, let's make 1998 the best year ever!

FINAL GONE AT 21

(Editor) If you tried the 146.73 machine during the middle of December, then you know that the final amplifier gave up the ghost after around 20 years of service.

Thanks to the powers that be, a new final amplifier is in place and lets hope for another 21 years of faithful service. As your reading this, things should have long since been up and operational.

RADIOGRAMS 101...

(ARRL) Message handling can be fun and easy provided you feel like you know what your doing. So to help you, here is a little info on...

TRANSMITTING A RADIOGRAM

Transmitting the radiogram for the first time applies both to originated radiograms and radiograms that have been received for relay. Let's assume you have found a station to receive your radiogram, either by your own efforts to find one or as a result of having been told by a net control station to transmit it to so-and-so. You call him, he says he is ready to receive (QRV). A voice example would go something like this: "Copy message number fifteen, routine, KY1T ten, Newington, Connecticut two one five one Zulu, April twelve. Mrs. Judy Smith, one nine zero eight Moon Street north east, Albuquerque, New Mexico, eight seven one one two, telephone two nine eight six four zero eight. Break. Mother and Dad arrived home safely Sunday afternoon X-ray love. Break. Uncle George. End of message, no more". Phone operators use the proword "break" for separation of the address and signature from the text. It is in correct procedure to use the words "going to" preceding the address and "break and the text" preceding the text. Radiograms should be sent by voice not read. That is, reading puts emphasis on certain syllables and words, and this means de-emphasis of others. In transmitting a radiogram by voice, no word or syllable should be de-emphasized. Letting your voice fall at the end of a sentence as would be done in reading is poor practice in voice traffic work, as is letting your voice fall for unaccented syllables. You are not a broadcast announcer. Keep in mind that the receiving operator must put down what you transmit, completely and accurately. Avoid such inaptitudes during transmission as "Mrs., a married lady" or "Moon, opposite from Sun." They only confuse things and give a bad impression of our service. Avoid giving dates as "four, twelve, eighty-eight." Just say "April twelve" and forget the year. (We hope no message will be over a year old! Also, don't say "today's date." Spell all difficult or unusual words (e.g., "Ferrier, I spell F-E-R-R-I-E-R"). If the word is very difficult, unusual, or a group of letters not forming a word, spell it out using ITU phonetics (e.g. "NCOIC, I spell: No vem ber, Charlie, Oscar, India, Charlie.") Using phonetics excessively is poor procedure. Usually simply spelling the word is sufficient.

RECEIVING A RADIOGRAM

Some of the problems of receiving have already been touched on above. The principal rule to follow is do not, repeat do not assume you have received a part of a radiogram correctly if you are not absolutely certain. This is what causes most of the "garbles" in our amateur message handling. A single letter lost in a crash of static can completely change the meaning of an entire CW message, as can loss of an entire word by voice. Most operators are prone to "guess" and usually they guess right. But if you did not actually "copy" the missing part, it is taking a chance. It's best to

UP YOUR CLASS...

(KF8RC) Of license that is. The next test session in Maysville is February 14th.

Contact: Bob Drake, N4VGI
1011 West Second Street
Maysville, KY 41056
(606) 564-9838 or

Lucius Merrill Jr, KF8RC
3313 St. Rt. 41
Manchester, Oh 45144
(937) 549-3404
E-mail: Merrill@bright.net

Test sessions are held at the Maysville public works building, 668 Kenton Station Road, in Maysville

Sign-up at 9:30am, testing at 10:00am

make sure. Modern procedure, both on voice and CW, uses "break in." On voice this usually refers to "VOX" procedure in which the transmitting operator can pause long enough between words or phrases to let his VOX relay open, enabling the receiving operator to "break" if he misses something. arrive on Sunday. He would simply say "on" and the transmitting operator would repeat "Sunday and go on with the message. "Break-in procedure is strongly recommended for all radiogram traffic. If break-in is not used, it is necessary to get "fills." This makes it necessary for the receiving operator to note the parts missed and get the missing parts filled after the radiogram has been completed. On voice, simply ask for "word after..." or "word before..." or if more than one word might

Continued on page 3

have been missed, “between... and.” When break-in is not used, it is common practice for transmitting stations to repeat (on voice “I repeat,”) difficult words, letters or groups. Perhaps the second most prevalent cause of “garbling” of messages is poor handwriting. Many people cannot make out their own handwriting a day or more after it is written, and in some cases only an hour or so delay can erase the memory of what a scrawl is supposed to mean. The answer is to copy by typewriter or a personal computer. A little practice is all that is needed to be able to do this as easily as copying by pencil; usually it is faster, and always is more legible. If you must copy by hand, require the transmitting operator to send at a speed at which you can write legibly don't scrawl illegibly because you don't want to admit you can't copy that fast. Copy five words or groups to a line by hand, ten (5+5) by typewriter, to enable an instant “check of the check.” In fact, this is the origin of the word “check” for word count.

RELAYING THE RADIOGRAM

The rule is that received radiograms must be relayed or delivered within 48 hours after receipt. However, this is only a “counting” rule; for practical purposes, the rule is to relay or deliver the message as soon as possible after receipt. This means immediately if you have an outlet; otherwise, as soon as an outlet is available. The public is conditioned to “instant communication” and will be unimpressed with messages, even free ones, which are slower than the mail, and in some cases “slower than walking.” Relaying the message uses the same procedure as transmitting, but here are some principles that are applicable especially to relaying. For one thing, when you are relaying a message, its contents are none of your concern. You take no action and make no changes, nor any comments on its contents, except in making sure you receive it correctly and relay it in the same condition. Neither do you judge its importance, except on the basis of the precedence assigned to it by the originating station. If you disagree with the precedence assigned, your argument is with the originating station, not necessarily the one sending the message to you. Relaying stations are authorized to change the form of radiograms they handle, if in correct when received, but not the content. Even spellings that appear to be obviously in correct are best relayed exactly as sent; for all you know, the writer may have a purpose in spelling in correct. The best rule to follow in relaying is to relay the radiogram exactly as you received it, after making certain that you received it correctly. If the station sending it to you is the originating station, he may change it if desired; otherwise, no changes (except in form) should be made.

COUNTING RADIOGRAMS

All amateurs who handle traffic are invited to report their total message count monthly to their Section Manager. For counting purposes, traffic is divided into a few categories, as follows: Originated: Any radiogram originated by someone other than yourself, filed with your station for initial transmission on the air. Received: Every radiogram received by Amateur Radio at your station. This includes all messages received, whether received for relay or received for delivery. Sent: Any message transmitted from your station by radio to another station, whether such a message was initially transmitted from your station or was received from another station. Delivered: Any message delivered by you to the addressee, provided that the message was received at your station by radio and that the addressee is someone other than yourself. This delivery must be an off-the-air function (by telephone, mail-in-person, etc.) The traffic total is the sum of originated received, sent and delivered points. Note that in some cases the same message can be counted twice; for example, the same message received by radio and then relayed to another station by radio is counted both in the “received” and “sent” categories, while a message received by radio and then delivered is counted both in “received” and “delivered” categories. When transmitting or receiving messages in book form count one point for every three messages in the book, plus another point for any over a multiple of three. That is, a book of three messages would count as a single message, but a book of four, five or six would count as two, and a book of seven would count as three, etc. “Booking” of messages is a time-saving device for those who want to use it in the interest of efficiency. It is similarly perfectly proper procedure to separate booked messages into single messages if desired; that is, the transmitting sta-

SPUTNIK PS2 KEEPS GOING AND GOING

(ARRL Newsline) More than five weeks after its launch by hand from the Mir space station, the mini-Sputnik PS2 satellite beacon transmitter continues to beep away—the orbiting equivalent of the Energizer Bunny. Powered by just over three pounds of lithium batteries, the spacecraft's transmitter, on 145.82 MHz has been heard around the world and already has functioned longer than the original Sputnik 1 satellite did 40 years ago.

The Sputnik 40 Years project that led to the construction and launch of the satellite has been funded by private donations, and the program's sponsors say they “still have some small debts to pay.” The organizers are seeking six additional sponsors at \$6000 each. The satellite itself was built by students in Russia, while another group of students on France's Reunion Island built the transmitter.

A film and a book are in preparation, and Sputnik 40 Years expects to make presentations about the project at many national and international meetings, including the annual dinner of Aero-Club de France. For more information, contact Pignolet at 2 place Maurice Quentin, 75039 Paris Cedex 01, France; e-mail pignolet@francenet.fr.

Reception reports go to The Radio Club of Jules Reydellet College FR5KJ, 103 Rue de la Republique, 97 489 Saint Denis Cedex, Reunion Island. Requests will be processed after the satellite has expired. For more information, see <http://www.oceanes.fr/~fr5fc/sputnik.html>.

SAD DAY FOR THE VOA

(ARRL Newsline) Perhaps on your way to the Dayton Hamvention - sometimes you found it hard to keep your eyes on the highway when passing the Voice of America's Bethany Relay Station. The vast antenna farm off I-75 north of Cincinnati consisting of 14 rhombics and a huge Sterba curtain easily distracted most of us hams.

At one time among the most powerful short-wave stations in the world, the Bethany Relay Station was shut down a couple of years ago. Earlier this month the towers supporting the majestic Sterba curtain and other wire arrays came crashing down - to make way for commercial and recreational development (*Ed: Great another shopping center, just what we need!*) and a university

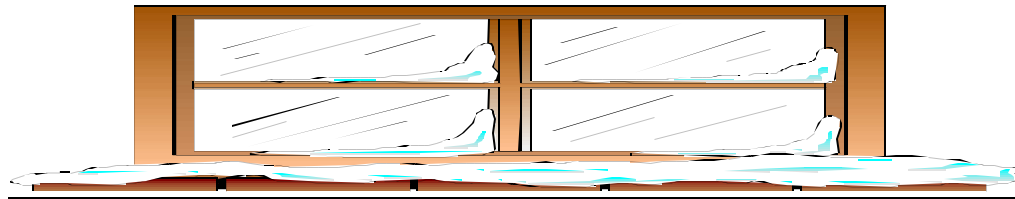
campus on the 625-acre site. Among those on hand to watch the spectacle was Tom Rupp, W8TCR, a VOA engineer for 26 years who retired in 1993.

VOA's conversion to a shopping mall.

Work will continue to remove the other towers and structures. Most of the towers will be pulled from the ground with a crane. Forty towers, ranging from 90 to 150 feet tall, will be salvaged. Crews will finish clearing the towers by February.

A report in the Cincinnati Enquirer quoted ham radio operator Joe Goforth, WB8NFJ, who lived less than a mile from the VOA site for two decades. "I used to talk to the engineers all the time," he told the paper, noting that VOA broadcasts sometimes interfered with his ham gear. "But I guess I'm a little disappointed to see it go," he added.

For a look at one of the Sterba curtain support towers coming down, see <http://www.palmtop.net/img/voa.jpg>. For more info on the Bethany Relay Station visit the Jim Hawkins' (WA2WHV) Radio Room, <http://www.exit109.com/~jimh/voaohio.html>. - thanks to Mitch Hamm, N8XS, and Jim Hawkins WA2WHV



Mir UPDATE

(ARRL Newsline) MIREX chief Dave Larsen, N6CO, reports that an announced crossband "experiment" involving *Mir* has been abandoned for now because of interference on 145.800 and 145.550. US astronaut Dave Wolf, KC5VPF, aboard *Mir* has been on 145.985 MHz FM simplex, but only occasionally. A space walk at the end of this month will check and—if necessary—repair the 2-meter/70-cm antenna that might have been damaged. The Kenwood TM-733 aboard *Mir* has been connected to the spacecraft's SAFEX repeater antenna. A new KAM dual mode packet radio terminal node controller (TNC) that was recently sent to *Mir* from the MIREX team was tested onboard *Mir* last week. The new TNC supports both 1200 and 9600 baud connections, and has a message buffer size of 100 kilobytes—substantially larger than that of the TNC previously in use. Until a suitable cable can be wired up and installed, 9600 baud communications will not be available. —thanks to Dave Larsen, N6CO

HAM RADIO MILESTONES

(ARRL Newsline) In a whimsical mood here's a lighthearted look at ham radio history. The original version of this was posted on the Contest Reflector a few months back.

- 4 Billion BC-- Earth is a swirling ball of flames. Propagation is extremely poor
- 1 Billion BC--First dry land appears. It is divided up into grid squares.
- 100 Million BC--Second patch of dry land appears. First DXpedition; DXCC credit disallowed because of questionable licensing agreement.
- 400 Million BC-- Flowering plants and grasses evolve. Rotary beam invented but sales stall for lack of suitable mounting structures.
- 300 Million BC--First tree appears and is immediately cut down, stripped of branches, placed in a concrete base and called a telephone pole. Beam sales pick up.
- 200 Million BC--More beams sold. Installer falls from top of pole. Safety belt invented.
- 100 Million BC--First Mountain appears. The repeater is invented.
- 50 Million BC--CQ is adopted.
- 4 Million BC--Humans replace swine as dominant species. The name ham operator hangs on, however.
- 3 Million BC-- Dugout canoe invented. Maritime Mobile Net formed on 14.313 MHz.
- 2 Million BC to 800 AD-- Nothing much happens for a long time. Santa Claus net created
- 900 AD--Chinese invent gunpowder. BY1AA is first "Big Gun" DXer.
- 1790 AD--Ben Franklin invents long wire receiving antenna. Ground switch invented.
- 1961 AD--Second repeater erected. First repeater group refuses to change frequency. First repeater coordinator

HEARTFELT THANKS

Please express my gratitude to the members of the G.A.R.C., for the beautiful flowers which were sent as a tribute to John. The outpouring of affection for John and sympathy for our family, means more than I can say.

Thanks and God bless.

Love,
Maggaret

G.A.R.C. XMAS CLUB/DINNER

MEETING 12/4/97

The members assembled for our Xmas Club/Dinner Meeting at Chief Logans Gap Restaurant in Ripley Ohio. There were 36 members and guests attending. Everyone had a good time and enjoyed the fine food that was furnished. Gifts were exchanged for all that brought them. Al WB8UJM was presented with a life time membership for all the help that he has given to us. The ballots were counted for the upcoming officers for 1998 and the results are :

President --- Jeff N1DJS
V. President --- Lisa KF4JNX
Secretary --- Jerry KB8PVY
Treasurer --- Dot KB8TQU

We all wished for a speedy recovery for all that could not attend because of illness. We missed them! The restaurant owner and staff were very cooperative and invited us back next year and any other time that we needed a place to meet. We thanked them for their hospitality.

Jerry Club Secretary KB8PVY

DEFOREST A.R.C. TEST SESSION

(WB8IOW) Starting in 1998 the DeForest A.R.C. will conduct test sessions by request rather than pre-scheduled in March, June, September, and December. If you, or someone you know wants to take a test call (937) 544-3763 and a test session will be scheduled.

THANKS FOR THEIR SUPPORT

Visit the following sponsors of our G.A.R.C. Hamfest during the coming months and tell them thanks for the help and support of the 1997 G.A.R.C. Hamfest!.

Kroger
Sears (East gate)
Stoudt Pharmacy
Krispy Cream
Sherwood Company
Battelles Catering
Dorothy Silman
Luca Lunch Box

Radio Shack (Georgetown)
Debc Electronics
Blue Chip Cook ies
Computer Companion
Homes R Us
R&L Electronics
J.C. Penny
Martins
A.R.R.L.
Mobil Com
Roy East
Auto Zone
ABCAP

CONGRATS TO KB8AMX

(WB8IOW) Congratulations to Eldon, KB8AMX, who won a full membership to the DeForest Amateur Radio Club for checking in to the most DeForest nets in 1997.



PACKET WEATHER

(WB8IOW) WB8IOW has almost obtained final approval for a new weather packet site to be located in Brown County. The project has been the works since March 1997. In fact, most equipment is now available from the National Weather Service. Provided will be a 440 Mhz, 11 element beam and a Diamond X-50 dual band vertical. The TNC and the 440 Mhz radio are included. Not provided is the 2 meter transceiver and the hard-line and fittings, and the power supplies. Some material will be donated (or loaned) by WB8IOW and N8SND. The hard-line and fittings will be supplied by the tower owner. Two two-hundred foot runs have been purchased along with the necessary 1/2" fittings.

WEATHER SPOTTER TRAINING

(WB8IOW) The annual DeForest severe weather spotter training is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 1998. The location will be the Ohio Valley Vocational School, West Union. The training is always open to the public so be sure to invite anyone you know who might be interested in severe weather spotting.

TORNADO PAGE

(WB8IOW) ARCH PAGING (formerly USAMOBILE) has made some engineering changes that will allow members of the South Central Ohio Severe Weather Net to receive early warning pages.

The new code will soon be available for any DeForest club member who wants to get the early warning pages. There have been a few glitches in the system and a few things still need to be worked out. So far, only WB8IOW, N8SND, and KA8EKC have the new pagers. Hopefully, the other DP&L hams who have alphanumeric pagers will be supplied a new pager in January, if the pager contract is renewed.

In any case, if you are interested in a pager for about \$6 per month for personal use, including early warning weather information, please contact WB8IOW as soon as possible. The pager would work in Adams, Brown, & Mason Counties area and Cincinnati and Dayton. They would have a long distance number, area code 513.

The pagers would be able to receive pages via the Internet, for no charge. Six dollars a month is less than 1/2 of what you'd normally pay for the pager rental. This is a special deal I am working on with ARCH PAGING; we need at least 20 people to sign up to get the spe

