

Grant Amateur Radio



Issue 5

Newsletter

May, 1999

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Hamfest Calendar

June 3rd
at 7:00pm



1999 GARC Officers

Pres.	Hal	KB8SUM
V.P.	Gordy	W8YGW
Sec	Al	WB8UJM
Treas	Jutta	N1WJM

Birth day Corner

5/7	KB8BDL	Charles
5/8	KC8HOJ	Randy
5/10	KC8DSP	Patricia
5/17	W8RCB	Richard
5/18	KC8CYZ	Erin
5/23	K8RJ	John

GARC MAY MEETING MINUTES

(W8UJM)The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. with a prayer by the GARC President, Hal KB8SUM. Motion was made by Al Norris to approve minutes of the April meeting, motion seconded by Dick. Motion carried. Hal asked for reports from officers.

TREASURER REPORT: Al Norris gave the treasury report for Jutta King because she was out of town. We have two new paid members. We paid \$105.00 for group insurance. New balance is \$3,291.00. Out of Petty Cash \$25.00 spent for gift certificate for Fox Hunt leaving a balance of \$14.21. Al Norris presented the bill for our Annual Christmas Gift to Harry Martin, our Repeater benefactor. The group stated that the expenditure was approved at a previous meeting and could be submitted to the treasurer. The bill was for \$101.90.

SECRETARY REPORT: Al Norris reported in his Secretary report that he had two correspondences for the membership. One was from Ben Metcalf's family and the other was from the secretary of the HoHo fund thanking the group for their contribution. The group accepted the report.

Hal reported on the first annual GARC Fox Hunt. The winners of the fox hunt were Jutta King W1WJM and Al Norris WB8UJM with Hal Pryor KB8SUM coming in a long second. Hal thanked Jeff N1DJS for his time and effort spent organizing the event. Hal presented a draft 1999 Annual Program for the club's review. The group reviewed the program and made several modifications. Hall will send the revised program to be included in the next newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS: Russ N8CGO presented the information that he had collected on the jackets, hats, and shirts. He brought the samples and passed them around for the group to look at. He will be revising the order form and anyone who wants to place an order needs to attend the June meeting with cash in hand. Attached is a copy of the price list submitted by Russ at the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Hal passed out proposed bylaw changes to the members. Members are to review these and be ready to vote on them at the June meeting. There was a discussion about paid members and what we could do to get members from last year to renew their membership. Dick suggested that we write a letter to these members to remind them. Hall will draft a letter for those members.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

LIMARC SAYS LETTERMAN SHOW "A BUST" FOR HAM RADIO

(ARRL)The hopes of a Long Island, New York, club to use their attendance on "The Late Show with David Letterman" to get some national exposure for ham radio were "a bust." That's how Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club Secretary Diane Ortiz, K2DO, described the group's experience May 3.

"We had a group reservation, but the pages and assistants at the show didn't let us sit together, so we were scattered throughout the theater in small groups," she said. "The audience was treated like cattle--herded from building to building and line to line."

She said the audience was instructed that if anyone "so much as held up a piece of paper" they would be immediately ejected. "So much for our 30 seconds of fame!" she lamented.

Despite their disappointment, the group still had an enjoyable time experiencing what happens in the production of a popular TV program. "We took some great pictures in front of the Ed Sullivan Theater of our group holding the LIMARC club banner before (happy) and after (sad) the show," she said.

About 20 LIMARC members made the trip into Manhattan for the Letterman show. "Many members of the audience on line with us got educated about ham radio from our presence there," Ortiz said. "They were jealous of our ability to talk to each other and keep track of what was going on!"

In sum, Ortiz called it "a pleasant social excursion and a learning experience. We got some great publicity for LIMARC and ham radio and we certainly have learned what questions to ask the next time we get invited to be part of a TV show audience."

QRN vs QRNN?

(ARRL)A member recently asked about the distinction between QRN and QRNN. A search of our QST database via the ARRLWeb Members Only page revealed the source of this made-up Q-signal. It appeared as a Stray in the August 1931 issue of QST: "W6KX suggests a new abbreviation,

QRNN, meaning man-made static, power leaks, etc. The difference between QRNN and plain QRN is that the former may let up in a short time, while the latter, when bad, usually lasts for some hours." Our Spring 1931 edition of the Callbook revealed that W6KX, since reissued, was held in 1931 by Keith LaBar of Hollywood, California. The term reportedly has limited currency today on the amateur bands and in SWL circles.



Hamfest Calendar

June 6

Wabash County ARC, Wabash, IN
Ralph Frank, KB9PLV
4010 N 700 W, Wabash, IN 46992
219-563-8487 or 765-833-7372
Fax: 219-563-8489
E-mail: wial@netusa1.net
<http://www.netusa1.net/~qrziota/>

Medina Two Meter Group, Medina, OH
Mike Rubaszewski, N8TZY
4264 Alpine Hill Ct., Brunswick, OH
44212-2166
330-273-1519

E-mail: m2mgroup@aol.com
<http://members.aol.com/M2MGroup>

Breezeshooters ARC, Pittsburgh (Butler), PA
H. Rey Whanger, W3BIS
120 Cove Run Rd., Cheswick, PA 15024
412-828-3694 (phone & fax)
E-mail: w3bis@freewwweb.com
<http://breezeshooters.net>

June 13

Northern Kentucky ARC, Independence, KY
Robert Blocher, N8JMV
PO Box 287, Highland Heights, KY 41076
513-797-7252

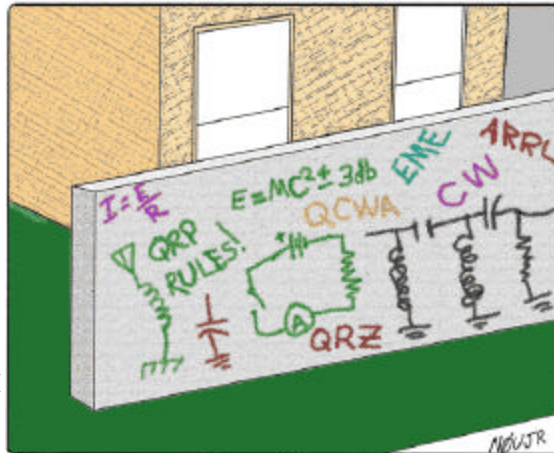
E-mail: nkarc@juno.com
Goodyear ARC, Akron, OH
Robert J. Taylor, KB8ZEC
845 Hampton Ridge Dr., Akron, OH 44313
330-836-3282
E-mail: rjtaylor@akron.infi.net

June 19

Milford ARC, Milford, OH
Chris Reinfelder, KB8SNH
3691 Charter Oak, Amelia, OH 45102
513-753-5066
E-mail: RAC_Reinfelder@FUSE.NET

June 20

Cuyahoga ARS, Macedonia, OH
Rich James, N8FIL
7620 Crestwood Ln., Northfield Ctr., OH 44067
800-404-2282
<http://www.cars.org>



Ham graffiti.

FCC DROPS AMATEUR ENFORCEMENT LINE IN FAVOR OF E-MAIL, US MAIL

(ARRL)The FCC says it now wants Amateur Radio enforcement complaints via e-mail or US mail and has discontinued its Amateur Enforcement Line (202-418-1184).

The FCC requested that amateur-related complaints be sent via e-mail to fccham@fcc.gov or via the US Postal Service to Compliance & Information Bureau, ATTN Amateur Radio Complaints, 1270 Fairfield Rd, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

The FCC instituted the telephone service last fall when it beefed up amateur enforcement under the direction of Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH. However, the FCC never intended to maintain the telephone service permanently.

The FCC said this week that complaints already filed on the telephone service will be acted upon, and anyone who has left a message will receive a return call from Commission staff.

Things to consider for field-day:

(N1DJS)Field Day takes some planning. So when you plan to visit an area site remember that the following has happened to make a successful field day.

1. Plan ahead; decide what rigs/antenna's you're going to take. Get it all together as long as possible before hand.
2. Get the entire crew together and assign who does what, who brings what, when they operate, etc. (Part of what I'm doing with these pages!)
3. Put up two antennas for each station if possible, preferably a dipole and vertical. Each has it's merit which you can exploit during the period. The skip from each type will "land" in different parts of the country, making more stations available to hear you, and makes up for Murphy's Law (when that wind gust rips your dipole to shreds). Also with two antennas, you have a greater chance that one will be a better performer. The ability to switch between them quickly is a plus. Put a dipole or an inverted vee up high and away from obstructions,with good coax, and good connectors, etc.
4. Have plenty of power. Pre-charged batteries and spares. Remember, Murphy is alive and WELL! (If anything can go wrong, it will).

Field Day *\feeld day* noun: 1) Competitive event where Amateur Radio operators set up radio equipment in the field to compete for score; 2) An event to test the readiness of Amateur Radio Emergency Communications; 3) A chance to meet new friends and test the limits of your favorite hobby.

5. Take a tool box, soldering iron, spare coax, connector or two, etc. Plenty of duct tape and rope, first aid kit, etc. OPERATING 1. Decide on your log keeping and dupe keeping beforehand, work out the bugs and learn how it works. Have a clipboard or folder for each band. This is sacred stuff; keep it organized. 2. Review the rules carefully and take advantage of all the bonus points, such as copying the W1AW message, public relations (short blurb in local paper), etc. Make sure you understand the scoring and the class of station. You can't change classes once you start (from a 2A to 1A because someone went home -sorry). 3. Assign somebody to be "in charge" to periodically review the logs, tally the score, and find errors/mistakes before it's too late. Also keeping participants informed of the score is a great motivator. 4. Work the search-and-pounce mode for the most part. It allows the less experienced operators to get the exchange info before calling the station. 5. Get everyone involved, hams and non-hams! Get the newer or less experienced hams involved. If they don't want to operate, they can help log, keep the batteries filled, pour the coffee, tote munchies, etc. This applies to the Old Timer's as well. Get everyone involved. Hamming is a fraternity and fun. The newer guys will never be ace operators if you don't introduce them to the many fun aspects of the hobby.

6. Dinner time is when people start disappearing if you don't feed them.

When the weathers good the operatin's easy as this Field Day 98 picture shows



Hamvention 1999 Grand Prize Winners!



1999 packed them in, which this picture of the Hara Arena Complex clearly shows

(DARA) At the end of a very exciting weekend, 20 lucky people won items from the Dayton Hamfest Grand Prize Drawing.

All winners were notified by mail. The Grand Prize winners were:

1. Yaesu: FT1000MP - all-mode HF transceiver with Enhanced Digital Signal Processing, 100 watt power output, CW electronic keyer, built-in Collins SSB mechanical filter Paul Kovac VE3HFM

2. Kenwood: TS-570S(G) - HF station with DSP and 6 meters with 16-bit AF-stage DSP, built-in keyer, automatic antenna tuner, RCP-2 radio control program Pete Crasher WB9DRB
3. Icom: IC-756 HF and 6 meter transceiver - all mode, Including RTTY, 5-100 Variable Watts of Power (5-40 W on AM), 101 memory channels Cleborn Woods KA1FDE
4. Icom: IC-746 HF, 6m, and 2m with IF-DSP, twin passband tuning, RF speech compressor, auto repeater duplex setting for 2 meters Tommy Hall
5. Kenwood: TS-570D Kevin Kesle N8VKX
6. Kenwood: TM-742AD - 2 meter/440MHz mobile, 101 memory channels & memory bank system, flexible scan and scan stop modes Ken Calderwood WG1MX
7. Yaesu: FT600 - Multi-Purpose HF SSB Transceiver with 100 watts power output, front mounted speaker, PC programmable Tom Ferrell N8QOQ
8. Kenwood: TM-V7A - 2 meter/440 MHz mobile with up to 280 multi-function memory channels Ryan Dodds
9. Yaesu: FT290RII - multi-mode 2 meter mobile transceiver Hideki Oba JR7HOZ
10. Alinco: DX70TH HF plus 6 meters, - mobile/portable/base all mode transceiver with speech processor, two VFOs plus memory option Raymond Schuneman W0DRU
11. Kenwood: TM-G707A - 2 meter/440MHz mobile with 180 Multi-Function Memories, Microphone, 6 Pin mini DIN connector for packet and ARPS Jonathan Hodgson, N8QPC
12. Kenwood: TH-D7A HT with 1200/9600 baud TNC, 144/430 MHz operation, 200 memory channels, built-in APRS operating software Jon Oldenburg
13. Icom: IC-T81A four band - 6m, 2m, 70cm, and 1.2GHz, hand held, plus mike and headset. Nathan Ciufu KA3MTT
14. Kenwood: TH-G71A 2m/440MHz 5 watt handheld Jim Cosgrove VE3JJI
15. Yaesu G-5500 Azimuth Elevation Rotator plus AMSAT Tracker Tuner Eric Varton N8MVN
16. Yaesu G-1000SDX rotator plus Kachina PC Card and S/W Jeff Austen K9JA
17. Yaesu: FT-290RII 2m all mode Transceiver Robert Birdsong KB4A
18. SGC: SG-230 Antenna coupler Sue St. Laurent KF5LG

1999 FIELD DAY BRINGS RULE CHANGE, NEW PIN

(ARRL)Participants in ARRL Field Day--the most popular annual operating event in the US and Canada--will encounter one significant change in rules for this year's event, June 26-27. Those using batteries to power their equipment now will be able to charge them while in use. The change affects all entry classes except Class D (home stations using commercial power; home stations using emergency power, including rechargeable batteries, should enter in Class E). In the past, only Class C (mobile) stations could charge batteries while in use. As previously, batteries must be charged from a power source independent of the commercial mains.

For the first time, the ARRL is making available annual Field Day pins to show your participation in the 1999 event. You don't have to make a minimum number of contacts or achieve a particular score level. You just have to participate!

Pins are \$5 each. Field Day groups are advised to collect the money for the pins and send a single order stating the number of pins needed to ARRL Contest Branch, ATTN: Field Day Pins, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. The League will ship the pins back to the club for distribution.

The first "International Field Day" was held June 10-11, 1933, billed as "just a test of portable equipment" for US and Canadian amateurs, according to former ARRL Communications Manager George Hart, W1NJM. Hart says then-Communications Manager Ed Handy, W1BDI, came up with the idea of Field Day, which now is in its 66th year. It was not until the second annual Field Day, in 1934, that Handy's Field Day writeup in QST raised the aspect of emergency preparedness.

Entries for Field Day 1999 must be postmarked by July 27, 1999. No late entries can be accepted. Participants should read the General Rules for ALL ARRL Contests (see <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/99/rules-all.html>), which include submission guidelines. All Field Day should include a Summary Sheet and Dupe Sheet as well as supporting information for

publicity, bonus point, and other information the rules require.

Field Day groups and participants are invited to submit their entries electronically via e-mail. As the rules state, the subject line should include the call sign used, the contest name and entry class. Send electronic entries to FieldDay@arrl.org. Paper entries go to Field Day Entries, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

For the complete 1999 Field Day rules, visit <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/99/rules-fd.html> or see the May 1999 issue of QST.

The perfect H-T for Field Day?

(ALINCO)Just when you thought modern H-Ts had included just a bout every feature conceivable, along comes Alinco with its new DJ-195T that includes--get this--an experimental "mosquito repel" feature. Alinco USA Branch Manager Katsumi Nakata, KE6RD, says the unit emits an electronic tone to keep the annoying insects away from the vicinity of the radio. "It's a feature we added just for fun," Nakata said. "The mosquito repel feature could make the DJ-195T the first radio capable of de-bugging a Field Day operating position," he added with a smile.

FCC's Riley Hollingsworth QRV on HF

(ARRL)The FCC's top amateur enforcer, Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, reports he's got a new HF rig and an auto-tune amplifier plus some new antennas at his Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, QTH and he's already been making the rounds of the HF bands, primarily on SSB. (He says he still has his old reliable Drake gear, too.) Hollingsworth said he expects to soon have HF receiving capability at his office to keep tabs on amateur activity directly. He's also been making the rounds of amateur clubs in various parts of the US as his schedule permits. He recently challenged ham club members in his native South Carolina to each get one new person into the hobby.

You Can Now Process SETI Signals At Home

(Via link, 22 May 1999) You can now participate in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence using your personal computer. All you need to do is download a simple screensaver software package from the SETI@Home project (for Windows, Macintosh, or Unix), install and let it run. The software downloads 300 kbyte signal samples and performs signal analysis. It takes 1 to 2 days of crunching to complete analysis of a 2 minute sample. I strongly encourage all Internet connected Amateur Radio operators to participate.

GARC APPAREL ORDER LAST CHANCE

(N1DJS)The Grant Amateur Radio Club Garment committee has selected the logos, selected the items to put those logos on and decided on the costs. Now it's up to you pick from the varied assortment.

Your last chance to get in on the initial order will happen with the clubs regularly scheduled June meeting. Samples will be available as well as representatives to take your order.

Why not make the June meeting and place your order so that you'll have a snaffy outfit for that next GARC outing.

To the victors go the spoils

(N1DJS)It was cold, it was rainy, it was windy. Just the kind of weather one would expect to have for a realistic search and rescue event.

To that end, the GARC sponsored a foxhunt to hone club lost/hidden transmitters skills. The foxhunt team consisting of W8UJM and N1WJM came through with shining colors, being the first to locate the fox (Hidden Transmitter). KB8SUM followed a close second.

The fox, N1DJS had set up his transmitter at the site of the Rankin House, near Ripley Ohio. Using every trick up his sleeve, he transmitted for one minute every ten minutes until all parties involved, had located him.

The winners were presented with a R&L Gift certificate on behalf of the GARC.

CINCINNATI HAMS RESPOND AS TORNADO STRIKES

(GCARA)The Cincinnati Section SKYWARN Weather Amateur Radio Net was in operation April 9 when a killer tornado struck the Blue Ash/Montgomery area of the city around 6 AM. Six people died as a result of the storm, which caused heavy damage and power outages. WARN, with its W8NWS net control site at WLW radio, quickly reported weather conditions and damage as it occurred and alerted police and emergency crews.

As a result, WARN Public Information Officer and ARRL PIO Michael Nie, KB8VMX, ended up as the live lead story on the 6 o'clock news on April 15 on Cincinnati's WKRC-TV Channel 12. The station's Chief Meteorologist, Tim Hedrick, interviewed Nie live on the value of severe weather spotters and especially ham radio spotters.

"I was shocked," said Nie. "All the press releases and business cards finally paid off." During the interview, Nie told how two local spotters used Amateur Radio to relay the first reports of a tornado on the ground, as they dove for cover in a ditch. Despite the close call, the spotters were not injured. (For more information on this event and on WARN operations, visit the WARN Web site, <http://www.warn.org>.)

The Queen City Emergency Net provided communication support on VHF with operators at various emergency operating centers, command posts, shelters, and disaster relief agency headquarters. QCEN is affiliated with the Cincinnati Red Cross and typically provides damage assessment and communication support for the agency. The storm also affected parts of Indiana and Kentucky.--Fred Stone, W8LLY; Mike Nie, KB8VMX.

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Mail to:

The Grant Amateur Radio Club Newsletter for May

