



Dial Radio Club



Middletown, Ohio

APRS Digipeater: W8MWO (MWO) 144.39

Repeaters: **52.21/53.21, 146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 223.36/224.96, 449.825/444.825**

Web page: <http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/>

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President:

Ernie Howard Sr N8EH

Vice-president:

Ernie Howard JR W8EH

Secretary:

Barney Taylor N8HP

Treasurer:

Ron Spaulding, N8NQG

Activities Manager:

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February 2006

Minutes of the January 21, 2005 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance:

AF8T, K2RWP, K8CM, K8PI, KB8WKL, KC8WOF, KD8W, N8DHW, N8GGE, N8HP, N8NQG, N8OZN, N8XQ, W8EH, W8GNV, W8LKU, W8MVN, W8WLM, WA8DTU, WB8MVT, and WD8DFK. Acknowledged guests were Jim Frey (W8ISZ) and Marj Frey.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by the Vice President, W8EH, at 7:00 p.m. on the 16th of January.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to suspend the reading of the past month's minutes and to approve them as published was made by Dave, KD8W, and seconded by Carl, K8CM. The motion passed

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8NQG, presented the treasurer's report which reflected a year ending membership of 110 persons representing 68 families. Again Dave, KD8W, made the motion to accept the treasurer's report and Carl, K8CM, seconded. The motion passed.

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH provided the station report. All of the repeaters are functioning except the 440 MHz unit which has a bad transmitter. Possibilities for obtaining another transmitter were briefly discussed.

Activity Report:

The Activities Director, Lorie, W8LKU, had nothing to report.

Classes and Exams:

Beverly, N8GGE, reported that the Technician Class Course had been canceled after having zero pre-registrations and no one appeared on the first night. The General Class Course is scheduled to begin on March 22 and the next exam sponsored by Dial will be on the 15th of February. Dave, KD8W, added that all of the Dial exams have been registered with the ARRL until early 2007.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Carl, K8CM, announced that he had updated the officers with the ARRL to maintain the club's affiliation in good standing. Ernie, W8EH, announced that updating the club's web page to reflect the new officers is pending. No information has yet been received regarding the club's flea market and early entry tickets for the upcoming Hamvention.

Guests Jim Frey (W8ISZ) and his wife Marj were recognized. We later learned that Jim had been a member of the Dial club during the mid 1950's.

Carl presented a summary of the 20th Southwestern Ohio Digital Symposium. In a nutshell, the weather was great (for a change), the attendance was excellent (74) representing 5 states, and the talks were very interesting and informative. Hank Greeb, (N8XX) has organized the symposium for most of the twenty years. He has

Next Meeting: Monday, February 20th, *Golden Corral Buffet & Grill*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

recently moved to Michigan and is looking for someone to take over his effort. Carl's full report is published in the current newsletter.

Finally, Ernie, W8EH, announced that the Smith Park site for Field Day has been reserved and confirmed. The difficulties with overbooking of Dial's area of the park that occurred last year are not expected to be repeated.

Adjourn:

A motion was made by Kelly, N8XQ, to adjourn, and was seconded by Lorie, W8LKU. While not actually present, one 'nay' was cast in honor of our perennial naysayer, Frank, WA8PRA.

Submitted by Barney Taylor, N8HP, Secretary

Newsletter Contribution

Anyone wanting to contribute to the newsletter please send it to Jon, K8TNF at jwslone@sbcglobal.net or at 513-464-3630. Also any suggestions on how to improve or what to include in the newsletter would be welcome.

20th Annual Southwest Ohio Digital Symposium

Great weather for the 20th Annual *SWOH Digital Symposium*! Even after various threats of accumulating snow for late Friday-early Saturday, we ended up with a cool January day of above-thirty degree temperatures.

The *Symposium* was held on Saturday, January 14 in Thesken Hall, Miami University-Middletown. The program was, again, under the able leadership of Hank Greeb, N8XX and a late-day attendance count put us at 74 attendees from Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, and Michigan.

Morning presentations included "*GnuRadio and the Universal Software Peripheral*" (John Ackerman, N8UR), "*Multi-Mile 2.4GHz Ham Band 802.11b Communications - A new record from the WiFi Shootout in Las Vegas*" (Andy Meng, N8MX and Brandon Schamer, KG4NVK), "*AMSAT News and Views*" (Steve Coy, K8UD, and Gerd Scherick, WB8IFM), and "*Using Echolink - The Nuts and Bolts of How it is Done*" (Tom Delaney, W8WTD).

After a Schlotzsky's catered lunch, punctuated with

various demonstrations of digital devices, techniques, and satellite technology, we settled in for the afternoon session.

The afternoon began with a presentation by our Great Lakes Division Director, Jim Weaver, K8JE. Jim reviewed a number of the current issues before the League and, candidly, discussed the pros and cons of each. Jim was followed by our Ohio Section Manager, Joe Philips, K8QOE. Joe discussed various accomplishments in the Section as well as the challenges facing our Section. Joe further asked that we frequently refer to the Ohio Section web page, <http://iarc.ws/ohio/>, for current and breaking information of importance to all amateurs in the State. Joe was followed by Gary Johnston, KI4LA, our Great Lakes Division Vice-director. Gary reminded us of the "new and improved" Division web site (<http://greatlakes.arrl.org/>) and asked that we refer to it often for newsworthy items from the Division.

Afternoon presentations included "*Winlink 2000*" (John Chapman, WB8INY); John is the Section Emergency Coordinator for Ohio. The final technical session, "*Practical Uses of APRS in Public Service Activities*" (Randy Allen, KA0AZS) concluded the technical portion of this year's Symposium.

The Symposium closed with a session, led by Hank, discussing future plans for the Symposium. Hank recently moved to Rockford, MI, and will be unable to continue in his role as program chairman. While no firm decisions were made, we are hopeful the Symposium will continue "under new management" for 2007 and beyond.

Many thanks to Ernie Howard, W8EH; Ron Spaulding, N8NQF; Dave Williamson, KD8W; David Williams, N8DHW and Kelly Wills, KC8ZJM for their help during setup, registration, and clean-up activities.

[K8CM]

Guest Speaker For February

For the meeting in February we will have Matthew Robbins as a guest speaker. The topic will be his ARDF adventures. He has attended many national and international contests.

[W8EH]

**JOEL HARRISON, W5ZN, ELECTED ARRL'S
14TH PRESIDENT**

ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, of Judsonia, Arkansas, will be the League's president for the next two years. He'll succeed Jim Haynie, W5JBP, who chose not to run for a fourth term in the uncompensated, volunteer post. Gathering in Windsor, Connecticut, for its annual meeting, the Board voted 10 to 5 to choose Harrison over ARRL Central Division Director Dick Isely, W9GIG, the only other nominee. Harrison, 47, said he believes Amateur Radio is looking at a different society--and pool of potential licensees--in the 21st century than in the past.

"One of the things we need to do over the next few years is realize that Main Street USA is not the Main Street USA it was years ago," Harrison commented after the vote. "We all remember those days when we became interested in radio and the magic that it provided to us. The magic is still there, but Main Street has changed."

Harrison says this means focusing on doing a better job of attracting the average person on the new Main Street of today "into the magic of Amateur Radio."

First licensed in 1972 as WN5IGF, Harrison says he's interested in virtually all aspects of Amateur Radio, from HF DXing and contesting to VHF/UHF/microwave and moonbounce. He's an ARRL Life Member. His wife, daughter and son all are Amateur Radio licensees. He'll become the League's 14th president since its founding in 1914.

Harrison said the ARRL's initiative to create an improved entry-level license also will be among his top priorities as he assumes office.

"It is imperative for the Amateur Radio Service that we have an entry-level license that provides a wide variety of privileges for an individual to get into radio and learn a little bit about all of it," Harrison said, adding that the League believes this approach will keep new licensees interested in ham radio.

Saying that the Technician ticket "is not attracting or keeping newcomers in its present configuration," the ARRL has asked the FCC to consider modifying the Technician license to provide limited HF phone, data and CW privileges.

Harrison also says he will promote the League's Petition for Rule Making (RM-11306) to have the FCC regulate Amateur Radio allocations by bandwidth. "Right now we do that by mode, and we're one of the few countries in the world that does that," he pointed

out. "We need to change that and move forward with this initiative of regulation by bandwidth instead of mode."

Related to that issue, the Board was expected to discuss the process of developing effective band plans to support the rule changes it's requesting in RM-11306. The Commission will accept public comments on the petition until February 6.

Harrison said he will continue and build upon the League's emphasis on Amateur Radio's emergency communication role--especially in improving its response to catastrophic disasters like Hurricane Katrina--and on Haynie's "The Big Project" initiative to get ham radio into schools, known formally as the ARRL Education and Technology Program (ETP).

"Whether or not it generates a large number of radio amateurs, it provides an introduction to Amateur Radio to kids," Harrison said of the ETP. "Having that awareness of Amateur Radio and what it provides is vital," because it imparts a broad-based knowledge of the service to tomorrow's citizens and policymakers.

The ARRL Board also elected Vice President Kay Craigie, N3KN, as First Vice President, succeeding Harrison, and Delta Division Director Rick Roderick, K5UR, to Vice President, succeeding Craigie. Both were unopposed.

ARRL Delta Division Vice Director Henry Leggette, WD4Q, will become Division Director. A new Delta Division Vice Director will be appointed.

In addition, the Board re-elected ARRL CEO and Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, COO Harold Kramer, WJ1B, Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, Chief Financial Officer Barry Shelley, N1VXY, Treasurer Jim McCobb, K1LU, Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, and International Affairs Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD.

All those elected will officially begin their new terms when the Board of Directors adjourns its current session.

The Board of Directors annual meeting was expected to conclude January 21. The Board will meet again in July.

[ARRL Newsletter]

**SHUTDOWN "IMPERATIVE" IN FACE OF
STILL-UNRESOLVED BPL INTERFERENCE,
ARRL SAYS**

After the operator of the Manassas, Virginia, BPL system failed to meet its own commitment to resolve complaints of interference to local radio amateurs, the ARRL again demanded the system's immediate shutdown. Writing on the League's behalf, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, told the FCC January 17 that Communications Technologies (COMTek), which operates the BPL system over the municipally owned electric power grid using Main.net equipment on frequencies between 4 MHz and 30 MHz, "has been given every opportunity" over the past 18 months to resolve interference complaints.

COMTek "is now apparently unwilling to voluntarily comply with its regulatory obligation to shut the system down," Imlay said, following a meeting January 17 between company officials and local radio amateurs. An ARRL representative also attended. Imlay said the meeting's outcome dictates "the urgency of the Commission's obligation to finally take action to stop the unlawful operation of the Manassas BPL system."

The League asserts that COMTek did not want to start the meeting with a local newspaper reporter present. Imlay said the company's "bizarre action" indicated that COMTek "was unwilling to subject itself to public scrutiny."

COMTek Vice President Walter Adams acknowledged at this week's meeting that its BPL system was causing harmful interference on Amateur Radio frequencies, despite its pledge to permanently notch ham bands by January 15, the League said. Even so, Adams "specifically declined to take any further steps to mitigate the interference," Imlay continued, calling COMTek's stance "totally unacceptable to the aggrieved licensees in Manassas."

In its letter, the League said it doesn't question COMTek's desire to eliminate the harmful interference. "However, the inescapable fact is that the Main.net hardware now in use in the city's BPL system is, and has been proven, incapable of being configured so as to function as intended without causing harmful interference to radio communication."

The League addressed its latest correspondence in the Manassas situation to FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division Chief Joseph Casey and to Katherine Power, an attorney in the division. Copies went to local radio amateurs George Tarnovsky, K4GVT, Donald Blasdel, W4HJL, and William South, N3OH, as well as to Manassas Journal newspaper reporter Jaclyn Pitts, COMTek and its attorneys, and the City of Manassas.

"Because COMTek has declined to do so

voluntarily, it is imperative that the FCC order the system immediately to cease operation, in accordance with §15.5(c) of the Commission's rules," Imlay's letter concluded, "and that operation not resume unless and until new hardware is installed that is capable of operating without causing harmful interference."

Less than a month ago, the League called on the FCC to shut down the Manassas BPL system in another strongly worded letter. That communication was in response to a November 30 letter from Casey, who'd suggested further cooperation between the complaining radio amateurs and the city-owned BPL system.

"These meetings have not produced any solution to the interference problem but have, instead, created the illusion that the problem is being addressed," Imlay charged in his reply. Ham radio complaints of interference from the BPL system date back to early 2004.

A petition the League filed earlier last fall seeks to have the FCC modify the Part 15 BPL rules it adopted in 2004 to embrace more mature BPL technology with substantially less potential to interfere. Among BPL systems more likely to be involved in stubborn interference cases, the ARRL said, are those using DS2 or Main.net technology that lack fixed, permanent notches in the ham bands. Utilization of such BPL technology, the League maintains, has resulted in "substantial, extremely difficult-to-resolve incidents of interference" from BPL pilot programs and deployments to Amateur Radio.

A copy of the League's January 17 letter is on the ARRL Web site
<<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/filings/Manassas-Complaint-Final-January-2006.pdf>>

[ARRL Newsletter]

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