



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, N8EH

Vice-president:

Ernie Howard, Jr, W8EH

Secretary:

Barney Taylor, N8HP

Treasurer:

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Activities Manager:

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May 2006

HAMVENTION

Hara Arena

May 19, 20, 21

DIAL ARC Sites 3201, 3202, and 3203
(same as usual)

Field Day 2006

June 25 - 26

Smith Park, Middletown

Next Meeting: Monday, May 15, *Golden Corral Buffet & Grill*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

**Minutes of the April 21, 2006
Dial Radio Club Meeting**

Attendance

WA8DTU, KC8DUX, N8EH, W8EH, N8GGE, N8HP, N8HRA, KI8I, W8ISZ, W8LKU, N8LRN, KC8NHP, WD8NKJ, N8NQG, N8OZN, N8PI, AB8QB, K2RWP, AF8T, N8TFH, W8ULC, W8WCQ, KB8WKL, W8WLM, KC8WOF, KC8WRN, N8XQ.

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by Ernie, N8EH, at 7:00 P.M.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to accept them as published electronically was made by Bob, KC8DUX and seconded by Art, N8PI. The motion passed with two sympathy nay votes since Frank (WA8PRA) was not present.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8NQG, presented the treasurer's report which reflected a membership of 84 persons representing 54 families. Carl, K8CM, made the motion to accept the treasurer's report and, Barney, N8HP, seconded. The motion passed. This reflects an increase of 10 members over the March level.

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, provided the station report. The 440 MHz transmitter is on the air at full output on 444.825 MHz. Otherwise, the repeater status is unchanged.

Activity Report:

Lorie, W8LKU, gave the activities report and announced that Dave, N8DHW, has been appointed as the Butler County Emergency Coordinator for ARES. Ares membership is down, and many positions need to be filled. The next ARES meeting will be on May 10th in Room 229 of Butler Tech at 7:00 pm. All are encouraged to attend and participate. Also, the ARES net meets every other Tuesday at 7:30 pm. Again, participation is encouraged. Contact Lorie for more details.

Classes and Exams:

Beverly, N8GGE, reported that the next exam session will be held on the 19th of April at MUM. Also, a short duration upgrade from Technician to General class was briefly discussed. The class would likely have a full day of instruction on a Saturday, followed by a review session and exam on Sunday. No plans have been made and input is sought from the membership on this idea

Old Business:

Hamvention: The check still has not been cashed for the club's flea market spaces and early entry passes. All of the early entry passes have been claimed at this point. The May DIAL meeting will be on the 15th of May, just before Hamvention, and any last minute details will be discussed there.

Hamvention Food: This year food and beverages will cost \$10 per day or \$25 for the weekend. Reservations for food must be received by Ron, N8NQG, by noon on the 5th of May.

Trailer Cleanout: The yearly task of taking out the Field Day equipment to make room for the Hamvention stuff has been tentatively set for Thursday the 11th of May. Details will be put out on the Dial E-Mail reflector once plans are firmed up.

New Business:

Membership: John De La Croix, W8WCQ, was sponsored for membership in DIAL by Carl, K8CM. The motion to approve was made by Ron, N8NQG and seconded by Carl, K8CM. The motion passed unanimously. Welcome to John!

Field Day: Ernie, N8EH, gave a report on the Field Day planning meeting that he chaired at MUM. The numbers of stations and major antennas were discussed and planned out. Individuals or groups have been identified to provide each of the three stations (two phone and one cw), shelters for the stations, and shelters for the picnic. Several individuals volunteered to bring a 5 gallon can of gasoline, so that the generator can be run. There will be a meeting on June 15th at 7:00 pm at the Smith Park Field Day site to finalize plans for Field Day. While the setting up of stations, antennas or structures that house stations cannot begin prior to 2:00 pm on Friday, the picnic eating shelters and campers for those members wishing to camp overnight can be set up at anytime on Friday. Red, W8ULC, announced that he would again be cooking. This year he plans on having hot dogs and hamburgers on Friday evening for those who have helped with the afternoon's work of setting up antennas and structures.

Field Day Picnic: Lorie, W8LKU, announced that a head count for the picnic is needed by the 16th of June and that a final count by the 20th. She also announced that two propane grills were needed for cooking the food. Art, N8PI, offered two grills, provided they remain club property afterwards.

Field Day T-Shirts: Art, N8PI, asked about the status of Field Day T-Shirts. Art then volunteered Jodie, AB8QP, to take care of ordering and distributing the shirts if an interest exists. Ernie, N8EH, asked for a sign up sheet to be circulated so that members present could express their interest. Anyone wishing to order a T-Shirt should contact Jodie, AB8QP. The approximate cost will be the same as previous years – about \$15. An amount that is just large enough to pay for the shirt and shipping.

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

Announcements:

Ernie, N8EH, pleaded for more participation in the DIAL net that meets Thursdays at 9:00 pm on the 6.61 repeater.

Dave Williamson, KD8W, is in the Middletown hospital with pneumonia. We all wish Dave a speedy recovery.

Gordon and John announced and briefly discussed the Marblehead Light House convention coming up in August. They have gone before and found it very interesting.

Kelly, N8XQ, announced that he has been offered a summer internship with NASA this summer. He was given his choice of either the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, CA; the Goddard Space Flight Center in Green Belt, MD (essentially Washington DC) or the Johnson Space Flight Center in Houston, TX. The internship lasts for 11 weeks and will cause Kelly to miss his high school graduation ceremony. He has not yet decided which site to work at. CONGRATULATIONS, KELLY!

Adjourn:

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Willowdean, N8TFH, and seconded by Beverley, N8GGE. The meeting was adjourned.

*Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary*

Minutes of the March, 2006 Dial Radio Club Meeting

The meeting was called to order by the President, N8EH, at 7:00 p.m. on the 20th of March.

Members present: N8BH, K8CM, N8DHW, WA8DTU, N8EH, W8EH, N8GGE, N8HP, W8ISZ & Marg, WB8MVT, KC8NHP, WD8NKQ, N8NQF, WA8PRA, AF8T, N8TFH, KC8TXA, KB8WKL, W8WLM.

Since the newsletter has not been distributed, and the Secretary forgot to bring a printed copy of the minutes, no action was made to approve the minutes of the February meeting.

Ron, N8NQF, presented the treasurer's report which reflected a membership of 74 persons representing 49 families. Barney, N8HP, made the motion to accept the treasurer's report and Carl, K8CM, seconded. The motion passed with one dissenting vote – thanks Frank.

Ernie, W8EH provided the station report. The 440 MHz transmitter is still awaiting repair. The West Middletown repeater on 147.315 MHz seems to be experience occasional interference that might be due to railroad activity.

Lorie, W8LKU, gave the activities report and announced that ARES is going to provide communications for the Memorial Day Parade in Hamilton. Volunteers will be needed in order to

have a great outcome. Lorie will provide more details at later meetings.

Beverley, N8GGE, reported that the next exam session held on the 19th of April at MUM. The General Class Course is scheduled to begin on March 22.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Bob Rohrbach, WD8NKQ, was sponsored for membership in DIAL by Ron, N8NQF. The motion to approve was made by Ron, N8NQF and seconded by Ernie, W8EH. The motion passed unanimously. Brian Homan, KC8NHP, was sponsored for membership in DIAL by Don, WA8DTU. The motion to approve was made by Ron, N8NQF and seconded by Carl, K8CM. The motion passed unanimously. Welcome to Bob and Brian!

Ernie, N8EH, asked for a discussion of food for the upcoming Hamvention. A number of possibilities were discussed, after which, Ernie, W8EH made a motion to ask Judy and Ron (N8NQF) to again provide the excellent box lunches we have enjoyed in the last year. The motion was seconded by Lorie, W8LKU, and passed. In the ensuing discussion, the treasurer, Ron, N8NQF, revealed that although food generated a small surplus, the donations for sold items had resulted in a loss on the rental space of the Hamvention Flea Market sites last year. A motion was made by Beverley, N8GGE and seconded by Ernie, N8EH to set the Hamvention food rates at \$10/day or \$25 for the weekend – an increase of \$5 for those attending all three days. The motion passed. Ron, N8NQF moved to increase the requested donation from flea market sales from 5% to 10%. The motion was seconded by Carl, K8CM. Barney, N8HP, offered an amendment to the motion that those members renewing after the first of April be asked for 10% donations and those renewing before April 1 continue at last year's 5% donation rate. The amendment was seconded by Don, WA8DTU. The amendment failed by a vote of 8 to 5, while the motion to increase the requested donation passed by a vote of 8 to 6. In other Hamvention related discussion, the check for the spaces has not been cashed – which seems to be normal. Last year we received confirmation of the sites only a few weeks before Hamvention.

The President, N8EH, asked for a volunteer for the Field Day Committee. No one was forthcoming so he reluctantly agreed to chair the committee. W8EH again reassured the membership that DIAL is the only group that has a reservation on the area we normally use for Field Day. A short discussion of Field Day was held and the consensus was that we need to get Butler County VHF involved in the planning as well. The first Field Day planning meeting will be on the 29th of March at MUM – room details to be announced later. A message will be sent to the BCVHF reflector about the meeting since their meeting occurs after the first Field Day planning meeting.

Rick, AF8T, made an announcement about www.hello-radio.org, a website to promote amateur radio with the general public. He encouraged all to check it out.

Reservations for food at Hamvention need to be made and paid no later than Friday, May 5.

The Business Meeting was closed at approximately 8:20 pm.

*Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary*

Excerpts from "Weaver's Words - Hamvention® Edition"

In this issue --

- Have a Question?
- We won one! Legislative Action did it!
- Why does ARRL have its hand out so often?
- WAS through Logbook.
- Dayton Hamvention®
- Section Election Contested
- Overheard on the Bands
- My Travel Plans

HAVE A QUESTION?

I'm probably asking for more work than I can easily handle, but I'll do most anything for an ARRL member. If you have a question about ARRL that you'd like answered, send me an E-mail that contains it. I ask only that you pose serious questions and that you do your best to state your question in a manner that makes the intent of your question easily understood. If there is something you want to know the background for a League action, if you want to know the reason the Board considered a particular action, ask. If you want to know why I do what I do, ask.

I plan to include at least one question per issue of Weaver's Words for as long as the questions last. Neither the Board, our HQ staff nor I have anything to hide. I'll do my best to give direct answers to your questions.

WE WON ONE! LEGISLATIVE ACTION DID IT!

You may not have put the two subjects together to realize we won a great victory in the US House of Representatives, but we did. Your letters urging your Congressmen/women to support H. Res. 230 paid off.

No, H. Res. 230 has not been passed by the House. Instead, the basic provisions of this resolution were introduced as the Ross Amendment into the new communications act bill. This is even better than having the resolution passed. A resolution by the House or the Senate merely asks that something be considered. A Bill, on the other hand, is law and requires whatever action is indicated.

In addition to the tone set by your letters to your respective House members, letters to specific Congressmen got them to accept the Ross amendment.

The final battle has not been fought, though. Some time after the new bill has been assigned a number, you will be asked to write your Congressman, again -- this time to support the bill. As a matter of fact, I've just learned the bill has been assigned H.R.5252, but now is not yet the time to write. There are a number of things that go on within the House that need to shake out before the time is right. To be most effective, we need to wait until our experts on Capitol Hill give us the word to write. When this word comes, the more writers, the better.

Grassroots legislative action does pay off. The Ross amendment would not be part of the new communications act if it was not for our legislative activity! We have power and not all of it is directed through our antennas!

If you wrote on H. Res. 230, pat yourself on your back and know that I would personally be giving the pats if I could reach you. If you didn't write, please do so the next time the call comes out. There will be a next time and your letter can help.

Thanks.

QUESTION NO. 1. WHY DOES ARRL HAVE ITS HAND OUT SO OFTEN?

Members occasionally ask why ARRL sends so many solicitations for donations. The sentence that follows the question most often is a statement that we should live within the income from our dues.

First of all, I'm happy questions are asked. I fully believe having dialogue between the Great Lakes Division members and me is good and very desirable. The following is my attempt to answer this one. To the question.

The dues for ARRL membership are established essentially to provide the basic services of the organization. Just as is true of many similar organizations, our dues structure is not intended to cover all expenses for services your organization performs to support you and Amateur Radio. To speak bluntly, if my fellow Board of Directors members and I were to set a dues level that would cover the expenses for everything the League does, we would probably need to charge about \$100 per year.

Even though this figure could be justified very easily, I suspect that many current members would run away as fast as possible when the postman brought the next dues statement. You can imagine that our membership numbers would fall faster and further than a lead fishing sinker in a fish bowl.

On balance, we believe it is better to keep the dues low -- and \$39/year is low considering the benefits members receive -- and to ask for donations from members who are interested and can afford to support special programs, than to make the dues cover all necessary activities performed by ARRL.

Running a donation program has an added benefit. It offers choices to members. The choices? First, you have the choice to participate or not to participate in the gifting. Second, there is the choice of which program(s) to support -- to fight poorly-constructed BPL, to support all frequency defense efforts, to support WIAW, to support the education programs ARRL manages, to support . . . you get the idea. You can choose to support -- or not to support -- whatever you wish and still maintain your basic membership at a low cost.

One more fact many members may not realize is that they even have full control over whether or not they receive requests to donate. If receiving these requests disturbs you, all you need do is to send an E-mail to our very nice Development Officer, Mary Hobart, K1MMH (k1mmh@arrl.org) and ask her to take you off the Development mailing list of potential donors. I know Mary quite well from working with her at HQ and can assure you she'll remove you from the list without argument. She is far from being "Mary, Mary, quite Contrary!"; but don't tell her I think she is such a nice trooper.

So, what is the value of the ARRL donor program to each of us members?

1. It keeps dues for ARRL to a minimum.
2. It allows people who choose to do so to supplement their dues payments with donations that enable your League to support the membership and Amateur Radio in ways that would otherwise be impossible.
3. It does this in a manner that allows you and me to choose voluntarily if we will provide the added support and, if we do, to choose the projects and programs we support.
4. It allows your ARRL to pursue programs that strengthen Amateur Radio and ARRL.
5. Donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Fair enough?

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DAYTON HAMVENTION®

I'll be there. Will you?

If you make it to the Greatest Ham Radio Show On Earth this year, look me up. I'll be in the ARRL Expo area in the Ball Arena most of the time -- at the Grassroots Legislative Action booth. Friday morning will find me at the Grassroots Legislative Action forum at 9 AM in Forum Room 1, and after this is over at the ARRL Forum at 10 AM also in room 1.

These two fora, forums if you prefer, present great opportunities to hear in person from League leadership just what is going on and why it is going on. Considering the amount of misinformation being spread around the Internet about some ARRL actions, it might be still more important to realize this is a place where you can look the League President or other officials squarely in the eyes and learn what is NOT going on!

SECTION MANAGER ELECTION CONTESTED

For the first time in many years, there will be a contest in the Ohio Section election for Section Manager. I wish each of the contestants well. There is still time for additional candidates to file for the office; therefore, I will not give the names of the two, current candidates and give them a possible unfair advantage over anyone who decides to enter the race later.

I encourage each member in Ohio to understand the tasks assigned to the elected Section Manager and determine how well the respective candidates can be expected to fulfill these tasks. The SM responsibilities are outlined at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/sm.html>. The SM clearly has the power to mold the character of the ARRL Section he/she represents. It is up to the members of any Section that host contested elections to determine just what the character of their Section will become after the election is over. The Ohio Section is the one having an election this year. Kentucky and Michigan will have their turn in future years.

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*Jim Weaver, K8JE, Director, Great Lakes Division
K8JE@arrl.org; Tel., 513-459-0142; FAX, same*

Interim Editor's Comments

Jon, K8TNF, along with many who live in the communities served by Dial, has been impacted by the Lockout at A-K Steel. As a result, his XYL, Nicole, has taken a job outside of the home (caring for two small children is already more than a full time job) while Jon is getting his more time to bond with his children. Nicole is the person that normally edits this newsletter. As a result, someone needed to be foolish enough to try and get the news about our two biggest Club events of the year -- Hamvention and Field Day out to the membership. I guess I forgot to duck! In any case, I apologize for the choppy form, and lack of clever filler material that usually characterizes this document. This issue is pretty much a just the facts version.

The upcoming events -- Hamvention and Field Day -- are the most anticipated, radio related, weekends in my year. They are also the most physically exhausting weekends of the year. I hope that you share my enthusiasm for these events and participate as fully as you are able to make them a greater success for the club.

73, Barney, N8HP