



# Dial Radio Club



Middletown, Ohio

APRS Digipeater: W8BLV 144.39

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

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Vice-president:  
Roy Dalton, N8LRN  
Secretary:  
Barney Taylor, N8HP  
Treasurer:  
Ron Spaulding, N8NQG

Activities Manager:  
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU  
Newsletter Editor:  
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Ron Spaulding, N8NQG

April 2008

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## Minutes of the March 17, 2008 Dial Radio Club Meeting

### Attendance

K8CM, WD8DFK, WA8DTU, KC8DUX & Mary Ann, W8EH, KD8GXD, KD8GXE, N8HP, K18I, W8ISZ & Marj, W8LKU, N8LRN & Eve, WB8MYT, KC8NHP, WD8NJK, WD8NKQ & Barb, N8NQG, N8NRF, N8OZN, N8PI, AB8QP, K2RWP, AF8T, N8TFH, KD8W, W8WCQ, KB8WKL, KC8WKW, W8WLM, KC8WOF, N8XQ

### Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by Don, WA8DTU, at 7:02 pm who then asked everyone to introduce themselves to the group.

### Secretary's Report:

Barney, N8HP, announced corrections to the March Minutes to correct the attendance list and to place proper credit for the question of Field Day Chair. A motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to accept them as amended was made by Rick, AF8T, and seconded by Carl, K8CM. The motion passed.

### Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8NQG, presented the treasurer's report. He related that the 2008 membership is close to that of 2007. Barney, N8HP, made the motion to accept the treasurer's report and, Carl, K8CM, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported that the 440 MHz station is still off the air. The replacement is about fifty percent finished. The Echolink node has been moved over to 2 meters and the repeater timing adjusted. Otherwise, the Dial repeater systems are operating in their normal manner. Ernie announced the W8BLV and W8JEU licenses have been updated to reflect changes in the address of the trustee.

### Activity Report:

Lorie, W8LKU, continued the discussion of a tour of WLW for Dial members and guests. After some discussion, she said that she would try scheduling the visit near the end of April. After some discussion, it was decided that a Monday or Tuesday would better accommodate those in attendance. Lorie will make contact and schedule the tour.

There was also follow up discussion on getting speakers to present programs. Carl, K8CM, made a motion that Dial buy dinner for speakers (that do not normally come to Dial meetings). Bob, WD8NKQ, seconded and the motion passed.

Lorie reminded those in attendance of the Dial Intercom net which meets on Thursdays at 9:00 pm., and that the Butler County ARES meeting will be April 29<sup>th</sup> at Butler Tech.

Next Meeting: Monday April 21, at the Golden Corral

### Classes and Exams:

Barney, N8HP, gave the education report – since he was the last instructor to see the class. The Extra Exam Preparation class continues to flourish. Bob, K8RJH, has already upgraded to Extra.

### Old Business:

Hamvention – still no news. The original packet for the spaces has not been received, nor has the check been cashed. It is expected that the spaces will come before Hamvention starts.

### New Business:

Roy, N8LRN, announced that he would take the role of Field Day Chair, which was tossed towards him due to his absence last month. A general discussion of Field Day ensued. Topics brought up included: Will BCVHFA partner with Dial again this year? Yes. Will our chef, W8ULW, be cooking again? Yes. Will we need a larger budget for food and drinks? Probably. Ron, N8NQG, reported that we spent approximately \$225 last year and BCVHFA donated \$50. Will we spend more for gas this year? Definitely, but maybe not as much as for 2006. During 2007, the generator was run only during the Field Day operating period – consuming about 25 gallons.

Rick, AF8T, announced that he is a ring leader in a net that meets on both the internet and RF that includes several repeaters in various states. The net has had check-ins from amateurs in many countries. The net is on the “DoDropIn” Echolink server. A local RF link is on 146.535 MHz (simplex) with a 123 Hz ctcss tone in Westchester, OH. Rick asked about the possibility of linking W8BLV to that net for a few Saturday nights. Ernie, W8EH, thought it might work, however there might be problems. Rick, AF8T, moved and Barney, N8HP, seconded a motion to allow Rick to link W8BLV to the net for a trial period of 1 month. The net meets at 9:00 pm local on Saturdays.

‘Show and Tell’ – Ernie, W8EH, talked about the coupons for buying subsidized converter boxes for digital television. These boxes will be necessary next February for television that do not have a digital tuner and are used for over the air reception. Persons with satellite or cable do not need them. While Ernie has cable at home, he uses over the air signals when camping. Hence he researched the topic of the better box to get, and the best bargain. He showed his findings – a Zenith converter box that sells for \$50 at H. H. Gregg and cost him about \$10 after the coupon. This particular box has some features that other boxes do not provide – such as the ability to control the TV’s volume with the converter box remote.

### Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Lorie, W8LKU, and seconded by Bob, WD8NKQ. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm.

*Barney Taylor, N8HP  
Secretary*

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## **News and Information**

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### Amateur Radio License Exams 4/23/08

An examination session in Technician, General and Extra Class Amateur Radio Operator's License will be conducted on Wednesday evening, April 23, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. in the Verity Lodge, Miami University-Middletown, Middletown, OH

Doors will open for registration at 6 p.m. Please plan to arrive early as all registration activities must be completed by 7 p.m.

Applicants must furnish the original and one photocopy of their current license (if any), original and one photocopy of any certificates of successful completion of examination (CSCE) they may hold, positive (photo) identification, social security (TIN) or Licensee ID number (FRN), and the test fee of \$14.

NCVEC Form 605, Application for License, will be available at the test site. Advance registrations are recommended but not required; walk-ins welcome on a "space available" basis. Map to exam site and/or NCVEC 605 form available from K8CM for SASE. (Request electronic copy from k8cm@arrl.net)

Advance registration consists of a completed NCVEC 605, copies of your current license and valid CSCEs, and a check (\$14) made payable to the Dial Radio Club. Please enclose a note stating the class of license you will be attempting. Advance registrations should be mailed to: Carl Morgan, 3715 Rosedale Road, Middletown, OH, 45042, and must arrive no later than Monday, April 21. Please include your telephone number on your check.

Special examination accommodations must be requested at least two weeks prior to the test date.

Additional information may be obtained from Carl Morgan, K8CM, 513-727-3456.

## ARES Lends Support to Hepatitis Vaccination Clinic



(Robert Spratt, N8TVU; Donald Ferneding, N8LMJ; Loretta Urschel, W8LKU; Kevin Boyle, K8XB; Gerrald Dakin, W8ULC; Timothy Callahan, K9TGC. Photo by N8TVU)

When news of a hepatitis A outbreak alarmed residents of West Chester, Ohio last month, local officials sprang into action to inoculate more than 1200 people who had eaten at a local fast food restaurant; an employee with a confirmed case of the virus worked at the restaurant in March may have contaminated ice and other food items, health officials said. Inundated with more people than expected, Butler County Health Department and Emergency Management officials were overwhelmed with traffic, communication problems and general logistics of the event. When a second hepatitis A vaccination clinic was scheduled for April 5, officials called on local Amateur Radio operators to assist with communications, as well as traffic and crowd control.

"After the first vaccination clinic was swamped with people coming to get their shots, both the Board of Health and the Emergency Management Agency in Butler County realized they needed assistance," said ARRL Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator Frank Piper, KI8GW. "They had the super idea of bringing in the local ARES group and called on District Emergency Coordinator Robert Spratt, N8TVU, to organize some hams to come help out."

According to Spratt, officials at the first clinic could not communicate on their cell phones due to lack of coverage in the area. "Officials had only planned for about 800 people to show up to get inoculated. When they had more than 1200 people show up, they tried using their cell phones to call and get more vaccine, but they just wouldn't work." Calls made to 911 for police back-up to deal with unruly persons also had trouble getting through, Piper said.

Ohio has a statewide, secure, reliable public service wireless communication for public safety and first responders in place -- MARCS -- used by Emergency Management officials in times when traditional communications systems fail. "When Butler

County officials tried to use it at the first clinic, the system displayed 'OUT OF RANGE' or 'NO SIGNAL' messages on every channel," Piper said.

At the second clinic, eight hams from both Butler County and Hamilton County were on site and ready to assist. The clinic, located at a church, was scheduled to run from 10 AM-4 PM. The hams were ready for early crowds; at the first clinic, people were standing in line more than two hours before the doors opened.

"When the ARES team arrived, they established the parking lot area, the traffic flow patterns into and out of the church area and set up the required communications," Spratt said. "ARES members canvassing the complex discovered several other events were on going at the facility, including a funeral, fingerprinting for youth sports, a planning meeting for a summer carnival and a planning meeting for the upcoming soccer season. Soccer practice also added to the traffic and pedestrian congestion."

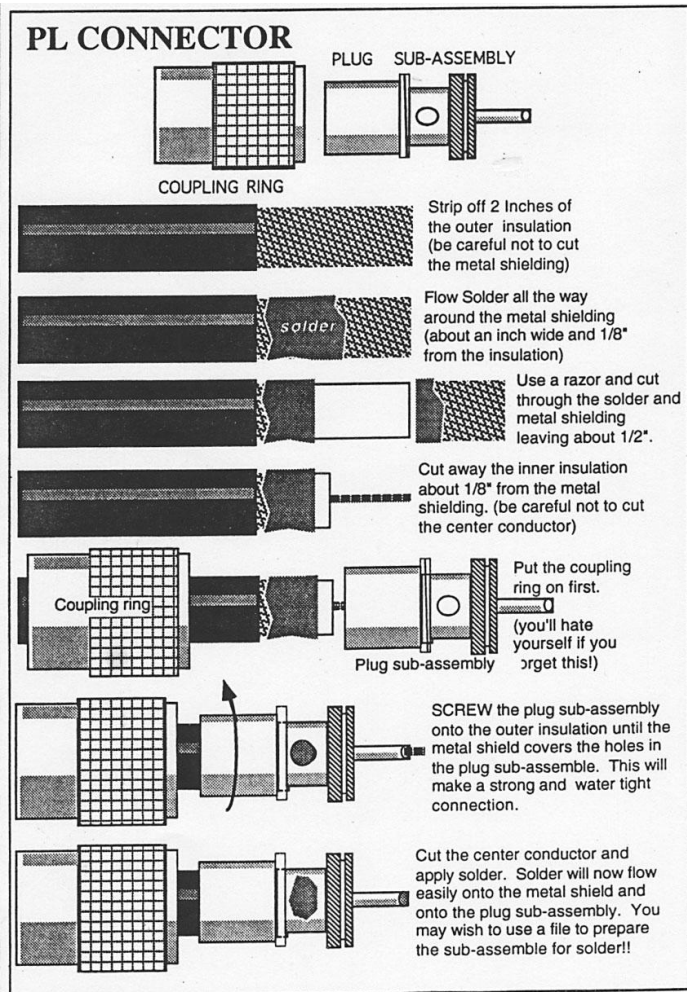
More than 225 people received hepatitis A vaccinations at the second clinic and directed more than 1200 cars around the property to their correct destinations on the property. The Butler County Health Department officials, clinic staff, the Butler County Emergency Management Agency, the West Chester Police Department and church officials thanked the ARES team for a job well done, all without any reported incidents. Spratt said that the Ohio District 4 ARES teams in Warren, Clermont, Hamilton and Butler counties have had prior Volunteer Reception Center and vaccination clinic operation training that "helped greatly in understanding and knowing what would be needed in the way of communications at the clinic, as well as security, traffic control and crowd control."

Spratt said that people coming to get inoculations "asked about who we were and who we were working for. We made some new friends in the community and recruited three or four people for the upcoming Technician classes. They thought what we were doing as volunteers was great and they want to become part of the team."

Piper concurred with Spratt. "In the Ohio Section, we have the Ohio Section Emergency Response Plan (OSERP). This is a small document compared to some ERPs I have seen. This document outlines how ARES is activated in the Section, who reports to whom and how communication flows. DEC Spratt and his team followed the OSERP pretty much to the letter, and it worked well. Many ARES districts have participated with their Regional Medical Response Systems in their assigned districts on tabletop exercises, as well as actual call-up drills. In February, District 3, under the command of ADEC Fred Stone, W8LLY, conducted a Pandemic Flu activation that extended over several days in February, including a real-time snow storm which affected the drill. This vaccination clinic this past weekend proves to all of us that ARES is vital to the emergency medical community."

According to the Centers for Disease Control, hepatitis A is a viral infection that attacks the liver and is spread primarily by close person-to-person contact or by consuming contaminated food.

### **Tech Tip - PL259 Assembly**



(submitted by K8CM)

### **W1AW to Celebrate World Amateur Radio Day as NU1AW**

Each year on the anniversary of its founding, April 18, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) marks World Amateur Radio Day. On this, the 78th anniversary of its inaugural meeting in Paris, the IARU dedicates World Amateur Radio Day to the radio amateurs, educators and administrators who use Amateur Radio to support technology education in the classroom.

While the actual date of World Amateur Radio Day is not until next month, ARRL staffers activated W1AW in the CQ WPX SSB Contest this weekend (March 29-30) using the IARU club call sign NU1AW. By celebrating the event, staffers hope to provide an opportunity for hams worldwide to put NU1AW in their logs, chase the WPX award and learn about HF propagation

as the world turns through day and night not once, but twice! Springtime propagation near the equinox is enhanced on the HF bands, even during the Solar Cycle minimum, so it's worth taking a listen even if the HF bands have been quiet lately.

This year's theme for World Amateur Radio Day is "Amateur Radio: A Foundation of Technical Knowledge." What better way to express the theme than by engaging in one of the largest international radiosporting events. ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, said, "If you haven't tried HF contesting or the WPX contest, the general format is to exchange a signal report (a simple '59' will do nicely) and a serial number (the number of the contact in the contest for you). The contest Web site spells out the way to compute your score, but the fun of this contest is to contact as many different prefixes as possible. For example, NU1AW counts as the NU1 prefix and KX9X counts as KX9. If you're new to HF, your prefix might be one sought after by those calling CQ! The WPX contest also features a 'Rookie' category for new radiosport folk, so be sure to send in your log as described by the rules - it's easy!"

World Amateur Radio Day is also an opportunity for publicizing Amateur Radio to the interested public that may not be familiar with ham radio activities. Radiosport is an excellent way to introduce our service to teachers and students, as well. Competitive activities are an important focus for students to take the opportunity to ask questions about how signals get "from here to there" while watching hams make rapid-fire contacts around the world or even making a contact or two themselves, Kutzko said.

"NU1AW is not expected to be seriously competitive in the event," Kutzko explained, "but will make every attempt to be on the air as propagation warrants, so we hope to hear you marking the day and making World Amateur Radio Day a part of your springtime ham radio operation." (ARRL)

### **Dayton Hamvention® Update**

We haven't any more news about our Hamvention® flea market spaces other than our check has been cashed, hopefully we will know more by meeting night.

If you have never attended the Hamvention® it is something every ham should experience once in their life.

For more Hamvention® information [www.hamvention.org](http://www.hamvention.org).

### **Looking for Help!**

If you have any suggestions on improving our newsletter please let me know. Any suggestions, news articles, items to buy sell or trade should be sent to me by the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month. Thanks, Rick Slone, AF8T, 3008 Roslyn Dr., Middletown, OH 45044. (513) 423-6655 [af8t@arrl.net](mailto:af8t@arrl.net).