



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

Web page: <http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/> e-mail: W8BLV@QSL.net

President:
Don Urschel, WA8DTU
Vice-president:
Roy Dalton, N8LRN
Secretary:
Barney Taylor, N8HP
Treasurer:
Ron Spaulding, N8NQG

Activities Manager:
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Newsletter Editor:
Rick Slone, AF8T
Newsletter Printing:
Ron Spaulding, N8NQG

February 2008

Minutes of the January 21, 2008 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance

K8CM, N8DHW, WB8DPZ & Lois, WA8DTU, N8EH, W8EH, KD8GKL, N8HP, N8HRA, KI8I, W8ISZ, W8LKU, N8LRN & Eve, WB8MYT, KC8NHP, WD8NKQ & Barb, N8OZN, WA8PRA, K2RWP, AF8T, N8TFH, W8WCQ, KB8WKL, W8WLM, KC8WOF, N8YIG, Becky & Chris

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by the new president, Don, WA8DTU at 7:04 pm. He then introduced himself and Roy, N8LRN, as Vice President.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to accept them as published electronically was made by Carl, K8CM, and seconded by Bob, WD8NKQ. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8NQG, presented the treasurer's report, which reflected a membership 103 persons and 67 families at the end of December, 2007. The number of renewals for 2008 stands at 80 persons representing 55 families as of the meeting. Ron stated a willingness to take renewals after the meeting. In accordance with the changes in bookkeeping procedures recommended by

the 2006 Audit Committee and instituted by the Executive Board, Ron announced the fiscal standing of the Club as of December 31, 2007. Ernie, N8EH, 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 Dial repeater systems are operating in their normal manner.

Activity Report:

Lorie, W8LKU, announced that the February BCVHFA meeting would be held at the Butler County Sheriff's Office, and anyone attending should park in the main lot. She also announced that the Butler County ARES would meet in Room 127 of Butler Tech on February 13 at 7:00 p.m. She reminded those in attendance of the Dial Intercom net which meets on Thursdays at 9:00 pm by announcing that she had a check in from Greenville, South Carolina, via Echolink at the most recent net.

Classes and Exams:

Carl, K8CM, gave the education report. He announced that 11 students had attended the first meeting of the class to prepare for the Amateur Extra Class exam. The class will run for another 13 weeks (although class will not meet two of those weeks). The next exams will be on Feb 13, 2008, at Verity Lodge, Miami University Middletown.

Next Meeting: Monday February 18, at the Golden Corral

Old Business:

Carl, K8CM, gave a summary of the Twenty Second Annual Southwest Ohio Digital Symposium held Saturday January 12, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at Miami University Middletown and cosponsored by Dial and CCE of MUM. Carl announced an attendance of 70 to 80, unusually good weather for the event, a terrific technical program including one presenter from Michigan. Several in attendance expressed similar views on the program.

Bob, WD8NKQ, announced that the Audit Committee had met last Tuesday (with the exception of Art, N8PI, who was excused because of a family emergency) and found all to be fine with the meticulous records being kept by Ron, N8NQF. He suggested that Ron should be appointed "Treasurer for Life". There was a motion, but Ron managed to squelch it before it could be seconded.

New Business:

Ron, N8NQF, announced that Rick, AF8T, had put together the January Newsletter and complimented him on the fine job. He suggests that anyone having material for the newsletter should send it to Rick.

Ernie, W8EH, announced there was no news from Hamvention about the Club's sites – but that it was too early to expect to hear at this time.

Rick, AF8T, announced that the D-Star digital repeater is in a testing mode at a temporary location. Plans are to install it at the same tower as the 146.97 repeater. Carl, K8CM, asked if the D-Star repeater would complement the '97 or replace it. David, N8DHW, announced that it would supplement the '97 repeater. He indicated that a proposal for a grant to fund the completion the D-Star repeater and upgrade the '97 repeater had been sent to the Hamilton Community Foundation, who passed it along to Milford Township. There is an expectation that if Milford Township does not provide the grant, the Hamilton Community Foundation will provide financial assistance. Carl, K8CM, asked about the scope of the proposal. Dave indicated that full funding would include the labor of climbing the tower, installing the antenna and feedline for the D-Star system, relocating the current '97 antenna to the east side of the tower, upgrading the marker lights on the tower and providing funds for a DSL line to the D-Star repeater for high speed data communications.

Brian, KC8NHP, asked about the status of the antennas for Dial's repeaters, specifically the 220 MHz portion of the repeater. Ernie, W8EH, discussed the possibility of moving the antenna to an existing 40-foot tower when the water tower is torn down. David, N8DHW, stated that ARES is looking for more 220 MHz repeater systems for things such as administrative and hospital nets. He said that saving the 224.96 repeater would be greatly appreciated by Butler County ARES.

Rick, AF8T, asked about the status of the replacement radios for the 440 MHz portion of the W8BLV repeater. Ernie,

W8EH, indicated that he was getting closer to finding the 'round-toit'.

Announcements:

Rick, AF8T, announced hearing some 6-meter activity on the West Middletown repeater (147.315) including a QSO between operators in Batavia and Dayton.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Ernie, N8EH, and seconded by Wanda, W8WLM. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm.

*Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary*

News and Information

'08 was Great - SW Ohio Digital & Technical Symposium

By Jay Slough, K4ZLE

There are those who say Hams don't build anymore. There are those who say the hobby has lost its technical quest. Others say we are nothing more than appliance operators and have lost our interest in trying new things.

Experience over the past 22 years at the SW Ohio Digital & Technical Symposium disputes those claims. A remnant of the technically inclined exists. This year there were over 70 attendees, from at least four states, to hear a full program of well known speakers covering a wide range of technical topics.

The Dial Radio Club of Middletown, OH, the ARRL and Miami (OH) University continue to sponsor this symposium. Other past and present participating groups are TAPR, Ohio Packet Council and AMSAT. The history is quite simple. In the early days of packet radio, a few locals felt the need for a technical forum to explain, encourage and educate the ham population in the intricacies of this new mode. Emphasis has expanded to include practically any ham radio related technical topic. There is no admission fee and there is no distracting flea market.

The symposium was held Saturday, Jan 12th at the Middletown campus of Miami University. Here is a run down of this year's presentations:

1) The Ohio Section Technical Coordinator, Tom Holmes, N8ZM, led off with an excellent presentation on the fundamentals of digital communication techniques. Tom explained the basics of the different types of phase shift keying and the relationship between bandwidth and bit rate. During lunch, Tom demonstrated these concepts using some very high power test equipment.

- 2) Last year, Mike Murphy, KA8ABR, gave a presentation on work that was underway at the old Bethany, OH VOA site to place the 24' VOA dish in EME ham service. This year he was back with an update. He, Jim, N8ECI, and others have been successful in making EME contacts in the US and Europe with only 8 watts being fed into the dish. He discussed how they have cobbled together the station with a wide variety of equipment, from surplus electronic components to custom machined antenna and feed line fittings.
- 3) Larry, N8LP, next talked about Design & Manufacturing in the Internet Age. Larry manufactures and sells several fine amateur related products. He used his LP-100 digital vector wattmeter product as a case study for us. This product was recently the subject of a QEX article.
- 4) Bill Pollack, who is not a ham, gave an excellent presentation about Modern PC CAD techniques. He showed us how easy it is to use inexpensive or free software to design and layout our own professional looking printed circuit boards.
- 5) Gerd, WB8IFM, and Steve, K8UD, were there to represent AMSAT. AMSAT has participated in this conference for all 22 years. This year they did a historical overview of rockets and satellites as well as an update on what birds are up and what the near term future may hold for satellite communications.
- 6) In line with prior discussions on EME work, we had a fine overview of the WSJT cluster of programs by Tom, K8TL. Tom explained the suite of weak signal programs developed by Joe Taylor, K1JT. Tom has operated on every band from daylight to dark or DC to light and shared his EME experiences with us.
- 7) Our final presentation, and subsequent demonstration, was by Bill Kelsey, N8ET. Bill has been working on establishing a PSK Mail server node so he could get his email while on his sailboat each summer. Since work in this area is so cutting edge, Bill had been in contact with the developers right up until hours before the conference. He also talked about recent NBEMS developments.

Of course we had the ARRL forum where our Ohio Section Manager, Joe Phillips, K8QOE, provided his encouragement for technical involvement and mentoring. He challenged each attendee to spread the word, not only about the role of the ARRL technically but in all aspects of the hobby.

As you can readily ascertain, there was a lot of good material covered again this year. This was another informative conference and the organizers hope to continue sponsoring the event for years to come. It is always held in early January. Look for announcements in the major ham journals and watch the web at www.swohdigi.org. We hope you can attend in 2009. Even better, let Jay, K4ZLE, know what topic you would like to learn more about or one you would like to share with your fellow ham techies! (Jay's contact information may be found on the aforementioned web page.)

Plans are to make the materials available to symposium attendees for a nominal duplication fee. Those registrants who provided a valid email address will be contacted when details are finalized.

European Reciprocal Licenses Now Limited to Advanced and Extra Class Licensees

The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) has revised its table of equivalence between FCC amateur licenses and the CEPT license. Effective February 4, 2008, Recommendation T/R 61-01 (as amended) now grants full CEPT privileges only to those US citizens who hold an FCC-issued Amateur Extra or Advanced class license. This means that those US licensees who hold an FCC-issued General or Technician license are no longer eligible for full operating privileges in countries where CEPT-reciprocal operation had previously been permitted. US Novice class licensees have had no reciprocal operating privileges under the CEPT provisions. These changes are the result of a re-evaluation of US and CEPT license classes equivalence by the CEPT's Radio Regulatory Working Group at its meeting January 29-February 1, 2008 in Basel, Switzerland. The Working Group deals with numerous areas of concern including Amateur Radio, and is responsible for applications from countries to participate in T/R 61-01, as well as other Amateur Radio related issues. "Changes in the US license structures and examinations often have ancillary implications beyond the immediate impact upon the US licensees," said Dan Henderson, N1ND, ARRL Regulatory Information Manager. "While this CEPT change affects several classes of US licensees when they visit Europe and other CEPT signatory countries, it has no effect on their operating privileges at home."

Copied from: *The ARRL Letter*, Vol. 27, No. 5, February 8, 2008

ARRL DXCC Desk Approves J5C and E4/OM2DX Operations

ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, reports that the 2008 J5C DXpedition to Guinea-Bissau and the 2007 E4/OM2DX DXpedition to Palestine has been approved for DXCC credit. "If you had cards rejected for these operations, please send an e-mail to the ARRL DXCC Desk to have your DXCC record updated," Moore said. (ARRL)

ARRL to Offer Award for 6 Meter Operations

Attention 6 meter operators -- there's a new award to work toward! The ARRL Board of Directors approved a new award honoring the late Fred Fish, W5FF, the only amateur who worked and confirmed all 488 grid squares in the 48 contiguous United States on 6 meters. The Fred Fish Memorial Award will be granted to any amateur who duplicates Fish's accomplishment. Fish was a mainstay on the VHF+ bands for many years, having achieved Worked All States (WAS) on 6 meters through 432 MHz, as well as DXCC for 6 meters. He is widely regarded as a gentleman operator and one of the finest amateurs in the VHF+ community. ARRL Contest Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, will oversee this award. Kutzko, an avid VHF+ operator himself, said, "We hope the new award will increase 6 meter activity throughout the US and the world. We also hope it will lead to the activation of rare grid squares in the

US by encouraging the native ham population of a rare grid square to give 6 meters a try, as well as through so-called 'Grid DXpeditions.' We actively call on the 6 meter community to help educate VHF+ newcomers to the fun that is available on 6 meters." Complete details on the Fred Fish Memorial Award will be available soon. (ARRL)

County Radio System Targeted for Fall

By Josh Sweigart

Staff Writer

Monday, February 11, 2008

HAMILTON — Officials say all 14 towers are up for Butler County's new emergency communications radio system, and the system will go on line in October.

In an update to the county commission Monday, project manager Matt Franke lamented the project's early delays, adding "we are close and I believe we are on track."

He said the county will start this week ordering roughly 2,000 radios for emergency responders, which will cost about \$5.5 million.

The project's total cost has eked up to roughly \$34 million. County officials say it will not exceed the \$35 million in sales tax revenue set aside for it.

Of the project's 27 goals for 2007, Franke said they accomplished 20. Remaining challenges include getting licensed from the federal government for the frequencies the county wants to use.

Commissioner Gregory Jolivette asked Franke about efforts to get police and fire departments speaking the same language. Several fire departments have an "Engine Five" for example, and they'll need to know which jurisdiction they're talking about.

"They're just getting started on that," Franke replied.

"Essentially, you've had nine different radio systems operating in the county, with nine sets of rules and nine sets of languages."

Commissioners praised the project as an example of intergovernmental cooperation. In addition to improving radio coverage, the new system will bring the county's 21 fire departments and 14 police departments onto the same system.

Copied from: *Middletown Journal.Com*

Meeting Photos by Dave Williams N8DHW

