



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

January 2008

Minutes of the December 17, 2007 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance

K8CM, WD8DFK, WA8DTU, N8EH, W8EH, KD8GKL, KD8GXD, N8HRA, K18I, W8ISZ & Marg, W8LKU, N8LRN & Eve, WB8MYT, KC8NHP, WD8NKQ & Barb, N8NQG, N8OZN, WA8PRA, K8RJH, K2RWP, AF8T, N8TFH, W8ULC, KD8W, KD8W, W8WCQ, KD8WKL, KC8WOF, N8XQ & Stephanie Turner

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by N8EH at 7:00 pm.

Immediately after the call to order Ernie, N8EH, turned the floor over to Ernie, W8EH, who demonstrated the ease of making contacts through the AO-51 satellite by contacting N5ZML in Jackson, MS from within the Golden Corral and in spite of the relative inability of Barney, N8HP, to point the antenna in the proper direction. Ernie used a Yaesu FT-880 mobile rig, a battery, and an Arrow satellite antenna. He passed out a three-page handout to those interested.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to accept them as published electronically was made by Ron, N8NQG, and seconded by Carl, K8CM. The motion passed with two nay votes.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8NQG, presented the treasurer's report, which reflected a membership 103 persons and 67 families. Barney, N8HP, made the motion to accept the treasurer's report and, Roy, N8LRN, seconded. The motion passed.

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported the backup repeater for W8BLV has been moved from the Breiel water tower to a new Verizon tower. The Breiel water tower also holds the antenna for the 220 MHz portion of the repeater. Only one antenna was provided on the Verizon tower, so the fate of the 220 MHz portion is uncertain.

Red, W8ULC, passed on information about a tower site the county is taking over and indicated that anyone interested should contact Dave Waddell.

Activity Report:

Lorie, W8LKU, reminded those in attendance that the Dial Intercom net which meets on Thursdays at 9:00 pm. Also, she stated that Butler County ARES nets would resume on January 8, 2008 and the next ARES meeting will be January 18, 2008.

Classes and Exams:

Beverly, N8GGE, gave the education report. For the first time in several years, Dial will again offer a class to prepare for the Amateur Extra Class exam. The class will start on January

Next Meeting: Monday January 21, at the Golden Corral

16, 2008 and run for 14 weeks (although class will not meet two of those weeks). The next exams will be on Feb 13 and April 23, 2008. She reported that at the last Dial exam session, seven persons attempted to earn their first license or upgrade and six were successful.

Old Business:

Ernie, N8EH, turned the floor over to Carl, K8CM, who announced that the Nominating Committee had a slate of candidates consisting of: Don, WA8DTU, for President, Roy, N8LRN, for Vice President, Barney, N8HP for Secretary, Ron, N8NQG, for Treasurer and Lorie, W8LKU, for Activities Director. Bob, WD8NKQ, moved that nominations be closed and Bob, K8RJH, seconded. The slate was elected by acclamation. The service of last year's officers was recognized by applause.

Ernie, N8EH, issued a statement of gratitude to the membership for the ease of discharging his duties.

New Business:

Carl, K8CM, reminded the audience of the upcoming Southwestern Ohio Digital Symposium to be held at Miami University Middletown in Thesken Hall on Saturday, January 8, from 8:00 until about 4:30. Further information about the symposium can be found at www.swohdigi.org. Carl asked for volunteers to arrive shortly after 7:00 to help with set up, registration and so forth. Carl volunteered Rick, AF8T, to serve as talk-in and Rick graciously accepted. *Editor's note – this is a very good technical conference and will likely have something for everyone – even though it is held on the coldest day of winter!*

Announcements:

Rick, AF8T, announced that club member Dick Dunnihoo, K8CI, had earned DXCC Honor Roll status with 332 countries. Congratulations, Dick!

Brian, KC8NHP, has an IBM Pavillion CRT monitor that is 'free to a good home'. He also offered up belated thanks to all veterans.

Ernie, N8EH, reminded those in attendance that the next Dial meeting will be on January 21st at the Golden Corral and wished everyone a Very Merry Christmas.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mark, WD8DFK, and seconded by Lori, WA8DTU. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

*Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary*

News and Information

Extra Class Ham Radio Course

Beginning Wednesday evening, January 16, the DIAL RADIO CLUB will offer a twelve-week class to prepare a candidate for examination in Amateur Extra Class amateur radio operator license. Meeting on the Middletown Campus of Miami University, this class will meet in Verity Lodge on Wednesday evenings, 6-9 pm.

Theory instruction will begin January 16 and conclude April 16. Class will not meet the evenings of February 13 and March 19. An ARRL/VEC examination session will be scheduled at the conclusion of the class on the evening of April 23. (Note, Morse code proficiency is no longer a requirement for any amateur radio operator's license).

Although there is no charge for the instructional portion of this class, students should be prepared to purchase a license training manual and supplies (approximately \$20-25) for use in class.

Class enrollment will be limited to twenty students. For registration and/or additional information, please contact Beverley Taylor, N8GGE, by phone [513-423-3165] or e-mail [taylorba@muohio.edu].

Solar Cycle 24 Beginning? Yes says Spaceweather.com

SOLAR CYCLE 24: Solar physicists have been waiting for the appearance of a reversed-polarity sunspot to signal the start of the next solar cycle. The wait is over. A magnetically reversed, high-latitude sunspot emerged 1/4/08: It marked the beginning of Solar Cycle 24 and the sun's slow ascent back to Solar Maximum.

<http://www.spaceweather.com/>

Radio Ham Claims Record-Breaking QSO Score

A Macedonian radio amateur, Z35M, has claimed the largest number of QSOs as a single operator in the 21st century.

He has submitted a proposal to Guinness World Records to add a new category of 'Largest number of contacts for 5 years in a row'. He claims 140,000 QSOs in the period 2001 to 2005.

His all-time total since 1984 is a massive 320,000 contacts. His best year was 2001, when he made 43,300 QSOs, a European single year record.

(GB2RS News - Courtesy of the RSGB, Southgate ARC News)

OnStar and Analog Sunset

As of February 18, 2008, cellular telephone companies will not be required to provide analog service. Some users of OnStar in-vehicle communications service will be affected as OnStar has indicated it will not support analog systems after December 31, 2007.

OnStar-equipped vehicles have one of three types of equipment: analog-only, analog/digital-ready, and dual-mode (analog and digital). OnStar advises that analog-only equipped vehicles (generally, cars older than 2003 models) cannot be upgraded and that OnStar service in such vehicles will not work after December 31, 2007. Analog/digital-ready equipped vehicles must be upgraded in order to work after December 31, 2007. (Dual-mode equipped vehicles will continue to work after December 31, 2007.)

To determine the type of OnStar equipment in your vehicle and whether your OnStar service will work after December 31, 2007, contact OnStar. You can contact OnStar by pressing the blue OnStar button in your vehicle, calling OnStar toll-free at 1-866-579-7726 (have your OnStar account number or your vehicle identification number available), or visiting OnStar's Web site at <https://myonstar.com/adt.os>. Enter your vehicle identification number to determine if the transition affects your vehicle.

Johnston Calls Dropping Morse 'Snake Oil'

One of the nation's most respected radio hams says that the new code free licensing system is a failure.

Writing in the January issue of Worldradio Magazine, former FCC rules man John B. Johnston, W3BE, says that it's looking as if the wonder cure to the so-called CW barrier was just old-fashioned medicine show 'snake oil' and about as effective.

Johnston, is currently President of the QCWA and won the Radio Amateur of the Year award for his plain language rewrite of the Part 97 rules while employed at the FCC.

He quotes two reports made at last summer's conference between the nation's Volunteer Examination Coordinators and the FCC that shows almost no growth that can be directly attributed to dropping Morse testing. He says that the month to month influx of newcomers has remained relatively constant. He also says that the factual result is internal to the hobby where there has been an upgrade movement by Technician class hams to General and Extra now that the Morse test has gone away.

Johnston offers no cure for the slow growth trend in today's ham radio. He just notes that dropping Morse has not had any significant impact on drawing newcomers in.

His complete article begins on page 18 of the January issue of Worldradio Magazine. (ARNewline, Worldradio, Southgate ARC News)

Saint Barthelemy New DXCC Entity

The ARRL DXCC Desk is pleased to announce the addition of St. Barthelemy (FJ) to the DXCC List, making the island entity number 338 with an effective date of 14 December, 2007. Cards with contacts dated December 14, 2007 or after will be accepted for DXCC credit. New card submissions for St Barthelemy will not be accepted until January 1, 2008 in order to allow time for administrative adjustments.

The "event date" that caused St. Barthelemy to be added to the DXCC list was December 14, 2007, the date the US State Department Fact sheet was updated by the Bureau of Intelligence and Research. This update added St Barthelemy to the List of Dependencies and Areas of Special Sovereignty with its Administrative Center in Gustavia, qualifying it under DXCC rules in Section II -- 1 Political Entities (c).

French St Martin (FS), while also added to the List of Dependencies and Areas of Special Sovereignty, will remain on the DXCC List, but it is now considered a Point 1 Political Entity under the same classification as that of St Barthelemy.

Please direct any questions you may have about St Barthelemy, St Martin or the DXCC program to the ARRL DXCC Desk at, dxcc@arrl.org. (ARRL)

New Prefix for Bosnia-Herzegovina Officially Announced

In response to a request from the Ministry of Communications and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina in August, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) withdrew the call sign prefix allocation T9A-T9Z for Bosnia and Herzegovina and made a new allocation, E7A-E7Z.

Election Results

President, Don Urschel, WA8DTU; Vice-president, Roy Dalton, N8LRN; Secretary, Barney Taylor, N8HP; Treasurer, Ron Spaulding, N8NQF; Activities Manager, Lorie Urschel, W8LKU. Thanks to the 2007 officers for their service.

DIAL Meetings for 2008

DIAL meetings are held at the Golden Corral Buffet, 3350 Village Drive, Franklin (Middletown), Ohio. Dinner at 6 pm, meeting at 7 pm. Talk-in on 146.61(-) PL 77 Hz.

January 21 st	February 18 th	March 17 th	April 21 st
May 19 th	June 16 th	July 21 st	August 18 th
September 15 th	October 20 th	November 17 th	December 15 th