



Dial Radio Club



Middletown, Ohio

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President:
Don Urschel, WA8DTU
Vice-president:
Roy Dalton, N8LRN
Secretary:
Barney Taylor, N8HP
Treasurer:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

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

June 2008

Minutes of the May 19, 2008 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance

WD8DFK, WA8DTU, KC8DUX, N8EH, W8EH, N8GGE, W3GP, KD8GXD, N8HP, N8HRA, KI8I, W8ISZ & Marg, W8LKU, N8LRN & Eve, WB8MYT, WD8NKQ & Barb, N8NQG, N8NRF, N8OZN, KF8PD, N8PI, WA8PRA, AB8QP, K8RJH, K2RWP, AF8T, N8TFH, KD8W, W8WCQ, KB8WKL, KC8WOF

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by Don, WA8DTU, at 7:00 pm.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to accept them as published was made by Ron, N8NQG, and seconded by George, W3GP. The motion passed with one nay vote – Frank, it's good to have you back.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8NQG, presented the treasurer's report. 2008 membership remains at 97 members representing 67 families. Barney, N8HP, made the motion to accept the treasurer's report and, Mark, WD8DFK, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ron also submitted a preliminary report for Hamvention expenses. New this year was a 'Club Table' where the proceeds

went directly to the club's treasury. This table provided about \$90, which is the amount that Hamvention income exceeded expenses. Otherwise, the 10% donation from items sold, just covered the cost of drinks, ice and renting the spaces.

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported that "nothing has changed".

Activity Report:

Lorie, W8LKU, reminded those in attendance of the Dial Picnic held around 6:00p.m. on the Saturday of Field Day. A request was made for people to let Lorie know if they could bring a working gas grill to the picnic in order to get food out in a more timely fashion. Those attending are asked to notify Lorie as to the number of participants in their group, and to bring a covered dish for sharing. There will be no attempt to coordinate the dishes – just bring something and a hunger. The deadline for letting Lorie know the number is one week before Field Day.

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 June, 11th at 7:00 p.m. at Butler Tech. in room 127.

Classes and Exams:

Beverly, N8GGE, had no report, since activities are not held during summer.

Next Meeting: Monday June 16, at the Golden Corral

Membership:

Ron, announced that he had a membership application for Art "Buck" Randall, KD8AUK, sponsored by Ed, KF8PD. Ron, N8NQF, moved and John, W8WCQ, seconded a motion to approve Buck's membership request. The motion passed unanimously. Welcome to Dial, Buck!

Old/New Business: Hamvention

Roy, N8LRN and Ernie, W8EH, decided that the trailer would be reloaded with all of the stuff needed for Field Day on Thursday the 29th of June. Those wishing to work should meet at Ernie's place of employment at 6:00 p.m.

New Business: Field Day at Smith Park, Middletown, OH

Note: Field Day is runs from 2:00 p.m. on the 28th of June through 2:00 p.m. on the 29th of June for operations. Preparations cannot be begun before 2:00 p.m. on Friday the 27th of June. Dial will again be in the same location as the last few years – just west of the canal and north of the main entrance, off Tytus Avenue, into the park. Our reservation has been confirmed, and campers will be allowed to stay overnight Friday and Saturday.

Most of the rest of the meeting was taken up in discussions about Field Day, which Roy, N8LRN, the railroaded Field Day Chair, tried to ride herd. Again, Dial and BCVHFA will join forces for fellowship during Field Day. We will again be running class 3A, with two phone stations and the cw tent. BCVHFA will be responsible for providing one of the phone stations. Dial members will provide the equipment for the other two stations.

At least three 5-gallon cans of gasoline will be needed to keep the generator running overnight. KD8W and N8NQF volunteered to bring a can. Other persons willing to bring gas should contact Roy. Dial will reimburse for the gasoline provided receipts are provided.

Much of the discussion centered on whether to try and run a GOTA (Get-On-The-Air) for unlicensed individuals and generally inactive (on HF) licensed hams to operate under a different call. There was much discussion – sometimes several at any given instant, replete with reading selected verses from the Field Day rules. Jim, W8ISZ, seemed to be leaning towards being the GOTA 'Coach' if things fall into place. Discussion seemed to indicate that from about 3:00 p.m. to dark on Saturday would be the prime time to have the GOTA station operational due to the visitors to the park and the guests at the picnic. More serious discussion concerned the antennas for the GOTA station, and the problem of interference that plagued a previous attempt to run a GOTA station. The ultimate decision on GOTA will be made at the Field Day preparation meeting that Roy, N8LRN, announced would be held before Field Day.

Dave, KD8W, asked when the setup activities for Field Day would begin. By the rules, no station related activities can be performed prior to 2:00 pm on Friday the 27th. However, we are free to erect the canopy for the picnic, and those camping at Smith Park overnight are free to set up their camping equipment. Roy, N8LRN, expressed a desire to have the two towers bases erected and ready to receive antennas by 3:30 p.m., so that we can finish in time to enjoy the food provided for dinner.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Lorie, W8LKU, and seconded by John, W8WCQ. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm.

*Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary*

News and Information

Field Day Invitation

Please consider coming out to Smith Park during the Field Day weekend. Some of us will be there from about noon on Friday until about 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. There will be plenty of work to do in setting up/tearing down the shelters, stations, towers, etc. There will also be ample opportunity to sit and have "eyeball QSOs" with lots of hams and hopefully a few interested non-hams. There are lots of discussions going on during the day and evening. Usually two to 4 people are operating/observing a station. There will be many more present that set under the shelter, by the portable fire pit, etc and tell tall tales.

The picnic usually draws about 70 or so people, and eating begins around 6:00 p.m. Some bring lawn chairs; others sit on picnic table benches. Sometimes it rains, but most years it has not (at least for the picnic).

There are plenty of opportunities to operate. The usual path for an inexperienced person is just to sit and observe for a while, then move up to the logging chair and log the contacts while learning the 'flow' of a Field Day exchange. Then they swap seats with their 'coach' and begin to make contacts while talking into the microphone and being reassured by their coach.

The operating becomes more laid back later in the evening. The down side is that most of the easily worked stations have already been worked. The late night to early morning shifts are often interesting. Once the bull session dies down and the 'moral support' types head off to bed, the dyed in the wool hams try to operate during that time when we are meant to sleep.

Sometimes even these strong willed operators fall prey to 'the sand man' as they awaken with computer key cap impressions on their foreheads. Starting around 5:00 to 6:00 a.m. the early risers come out of their campers and start cranking up the

contacts – like working Hawaii on 40 meters using a ladder for an antenna.

Dave, KD8W, is particularly looking for an insomniac that copies code even while trying to sleep to operate during the late night to very early morning shift. Failing that, anyone wishing to pull a stint in the CW station should let Dave know, so that he can plan his cat naps so that he can cover that time frame. *N8HP*

Picnic Reminder

Don't forget to contact Lorie Urschel W8LKU if you are planning to attend the picnic. Please let her know how many you will have attending so she can plan the logistics. You should bring a covered dish and lawn chairs everything else is provided. Please contact Lorie by 6/21/08 at dishgirl222@sbcglobal.net, on the Thursday night net or by phone at 746-743-9540.

No More 'Nice Quiet Funeral'

Ron, our Treasurer, formerly known as N8NQF, traded in his old call sign for a vanity now that he is an Extra. Taking bold steps in choosing a new call, Ron came up the very imaginative call, N8QF, for 'quiet funeral'?? I guess Ron is tired of being nice. Seriously, congratulations to Ron on the new call which is a payoff for all the hard work he put into upgrading. *N8HP*

Note: Ron also has a new e-mail address. It is N8QF@cinci.rr.com . *AF8T*

Bob Rohrbach has a New Callsign

The FCC has granted Bob a new vanity callsign . NR8R replaced his old call of WD8NKQ. Congratulations Bob. *AF8T*

Local DStar Repeater Update

We finally got the antenna installed! The 2m and 1.2 antenna is at about the 250' level. The 70cm antenna is at about 290' level.

The 2m and 70cm portions of the D-Star repeater is working at close to full potential. There will be some minor tweaking as time progresses, but we should be at expected coverage.

We have decided to wait on the 1.2Ghz triplexer to put the 1.2 side on the air. The last expected ship date was 6/17/2008. We expect to have it installed by the end of the month.

The additional memory was installed in the server on 6/5/2008. This allowed us to install Dplus. Dplus has a lot of exciting features. Echo, conference linking, etc.

Again, please give thanks to Butler County VHF association, Butler Co ARES and Icom. Without them this would not have been possible!

Thanks and enjoy!

Roger Smallwood N8EKG
R&L Electronics

WEAVER'S WORDS - New Survey Special

This is a special addition of Weaver's Words. Its primary purpose is to obtain your input on holding division-wide Internet/telephone conferences.

- Division-wide Internet and telephone conferences?
- Great Lakes Division Scholarship Winners.
- A brief poll - results.
- Classes in good operating practices.
- Congratulations to DHHSARA.
- Good show, HARA.
- New look for Internet publications.
- Vice Director candidates.
- Tentative schedule.

+++ Division-wide Internet and telephone conferences? +++

What is your opinion?

The technology is available to permit us to hold Division-wide Internet/telephone conferences involving hundreds of members simultaneously. These conferences would permit a greater exchange of thinking between Division members and Division leaders. I've been looking into developing such a conferencing system for the Great Lakes Division. I would like to learn if you believe I should proceed with them.

The conferences would variously be among Division members. They could include one or more guests as well. Guests could include ARRL officers, ARRL HQ staff or other personalities of interest to Amateur Radio operators. We could field questions from members and share information among Division members on a person-to-person basis. These conferences also could help members provide input into planning for future events.

To express your opinion, please send an e-mail to me. Type YES, I'M INTERESTED in the subject line of the heading if participating in a trial of these conferences. Type NO, I'M NOT INTERESTED in the subject line if you have no interest in participating in the trial conferences.

If you have suggestions, questions or comments, please place these in the body of the e-mail.

You know the drill. Send your message to k8je@arrl.org.

+++ Great Lakes Division Scholarship Winners +++

I am very pleased to announce the follow GLD amateur who

have been awarded ARRL Foundation Scholarships for 2008:

Michael Volz, W2NRL, East Lansing MI. Earl I. Anderson Scholarship - \$1250.

Jacob Wagner, KD8CDC, Rocky River OH. Dayton Amateur Radio Association Scholarship - \$1,000.

Thomas Fielitz, KC8YAK, Smiths Creek MI. K2TEO Martin J. Green Sr. Memorial Scholarship - \$ 1,000.

Janet Ruminski, KC8WGT, Beaver Creek OH. The David W. Misk, N8NPX Memorial Scholarship - \$1,500.

John Shipp, KC8TPN, Saint Bernard. OH. The Thomas W. Porter, W8KYZ, Scholarship Honoring Michael Daugherty, W8LSE - \$1,000.

Kayla Check, N8KAY, Independence, OH. The Carol J. Streeter Scholarship - \$750.

Kathryn Ankenbauer, KD8AHA, Portage MI. The YASME Foundation Scholarships - \$2,000.

A substantial number of scholarships are available through ARRL each year. Most scholarships and programs are directed toward young. In addition, the League offers Technical Awards to recognize technical service, innovation and microwave development.

Information about ARRL scholarships and awards is available at www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/instructor/instructor/grants.html.

+++ A brief poll +++

In the last issue of Weaver's Words, I asked if you believe ARRL should "ban" the practice that many contesters have of issuing 59 or 599 signal reports automatically, rather than to give individualized reports based on the actual signal quality they hear. I asked for a YES or NO vote on a ban. I also asked for YES voters to outline a way to enforce the ban.

Here are the result of the poll and the takeaways I have from it:

- 205 members responded.
- 150 (74%) of these voted a flat NO.
- 6 (2% of these voted a flat YES.
- 40 (24%) of these in effect voted that the contest exchange should be changed to include information other than a signal report.

I wonder how many of the 150 who voted NO, would have voted to change the contest exchange to avoid the signal report if I had offered this possibility. Nonetheless, I interpret your NO or YES vote that suggests changing the report to avoid signal reports was a vote to move ARRL away from being claimed to support false signal reporting.

Thanks for your help. I apologize for improperly wording the questionnaire.

One additional point on the subject of banning false signal reports: These reports are not illegal. FCC has no rules concerning signal reports. In addition, ARRL has no enforcement power. It would be virtually if not totally impossible for ARRL to ban this and any additional legal practices.

+++ Congratulations to DHARA +++

Congratulations to the Dixie Heights High School ARA for becoming affiliated with the ARRL. The affiliation was formalized this past March and it was presented in a brief ceremony at the school on May 30 by Vice Director Gary Johnston, KI4LA and Kentucky SM Jim Brooks, KY4Z.

+++ Classes in good operating practices +++

Congratulations to the Cuyahoga ARC for offering training in good operating practices to students and new licensees. This is one of the best ways there is to instill good operating in hams. As you know, I feel it is important that we provide training in good operating practices to new hams.

Thanks to other clubs that offer this training as well.

+++ Good show, HARA +++

No, not HARA as in the home of the Hamvention(r), instead, in this instance HARA is the Hiawatha ARA of Marquette, MI. The "good show" is for their thoughtfulness to give the local public library a set of ARRL manuals and books in an effort to promote Amateur Radio. Similar "good shows" go to other clubs who have done this, but have gone undetected beneath the radar beam here in SW Ohio.

ARRL gives a special price to clubs that make similar presentations to local libraries.

Incidentally, one of the presenters in Marquette was HARA President Lou Gembolis, KG8NK who also is the Michigan Legislative Action Coordinator. Lou is looking for a few good ARRL members who are willing to help by making occasional visits to offices of US Representatives and Senators in Michigan. The visit would be in support of legislation that benefits Amateur Radio and the public. Please contact Lou at kg8nk@arrl.net if you would like to volunteer or to learn more about this program.

+++ New look for Internet publications +++

As you may have noticed, the ARRL Contest Rate Sheet has a new look and name -- the ARRL Contest Update -- News and Techniques for the Active Operator. This biweekly e-letter is just the first in a series of upgrades in League Internet offerings that will appear during coming months. The ARRL Contest

Update also is essentially the first to appear in HTML format as well as in plain text. With HTML, it is easy to insert "eye pleaser" photos and other plain text no-no's so keep your eyes open as things develop.

+++ Vice Director candidacies announced +++

Sitting Vice Director Gary Johnston, KI4LA has indicated he plans to file for re-election later this year. He will apparently have opposition from close friend John Meyers, NB4K. John is former Kentucky Section Manager as well as being the Division Legislative Action Chair (DLAC) for the Great Lakes Division. I wish good luck to each of these men.

+++ Tentative Schedule +++

NOTE: Beginning with this month, appearances made by John Meyers, NB4K, in his capacity as the Division Legislation Action Chair will be listed in the Tentative Schedule.

16 Jun: Conneaut ARC, Conneaut, OH - John
21 Jun: Milford (OH) Hamfest - Jim
29-30 Jun: Field Day - Jim
Jul QST-noon 8 Aug: Nominations open for Director/Vice Director 10 Jul: Mahoning Valley ARA, Youngstown - Jim 11-13 Jul: Michigan Summer Outing, Lupton - Jim, John 17 Jul: A&F Meeting, Newington - Jim 18-19 Jul: Board Meeting, Newington - Jim, Gary 22 Jul: Quarterly GLD Teleconference 1 Aug: Massillon (OH) RC - Jim 10 Aug: Central Kentucky Hamfest, Lawrenceburg - Jim 15 Aug: Genesee County RC, 75th Anniversary, Flint, MI - Jim 13 Sep: OH Section Conf, Columbus - Jim, Gary 21 Sep: Cincinnati Hamfest - Jim, Gary 23 Sep-1 Oct: Director/Vice Director ballots mailed 7 Oct: OH-KY-IN ARS (Cincinnati) ARRL Night - Jim 12 Oct: Michigan State Convention, Kalamazoo - Jim 28 Oct: Quarterly GLD Teleconference 21 Nov: (Noon) Deadline for return of ballots; ballots counted 22 Nov: (By end of day) Candidates notified of election results

2009

1 Jan: (Noon) Newly elected/re-elected Director and Vice Director replace the present Director and Vice Director.

73,

Jim Weaver, K8JE, Director
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Members - The Reason ARRL Is!

Ernie Helton W8MVN (SK)

Carl Morgan K8CM reported that Ernie Helton W8MVN passed away Monday June 9th at 8:30 AM. No further details were available at time of print.

Ernie was a former employee of R.L. Drake, a past member of Dial, a member of the ARRL's A1 Operators Club, QCWA and Fists among his many other affiliations.

Ernie will be sadly missed. *AF8T*

Hamvention '08 Photos

Photos by KF8PD, WA8DTU and W8OFU



