



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

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Don Urschel, WA8DTU

Vice-president:

Roy Dalton, N8LRN

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Ron Spaulding, N8NQG

May 2008

Minutes of the April 21, 2008 Dial Radio Club Meeting

and, Lorie, W8LKU, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Attendance

KD8BCM, K8CM, WA8DTU, KC8DUX, N8EH, W8EH, N8GGE, KD8GXD, KD8HGE & Pam, N8HP, N8HRA, KI8I, W8ISZ & Marg, W8LKU, N8LRN & Eve, N8LWM, WB8MYT, WD8NKQ & Barb, N8NQG, N8NRF, N8ODK, N8OZN, K8RJH, K2RWP, AF8T, N8TFH, KD8W & Judy, W8WCQ, KB8WKL, KC8WOF

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported that the 440 MHz station is back on the air running a 30-year old GE Master II. The new repeater is working well, and people were encouraged to try the 440 side. There was brief discussion of what to do with the old repeater.

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by Don, WA8DTU, at 7:00 pm who again asked everyone to introduce themselves to the group.

Activity Report:

Lorie, W8LKU, announced that the tour of WLW would be on Monday, the 28th of April, at 710 Tylersville Road. She asked for a show of hands of those planning to attend and about a dozen people responded. She announced that people should park behind the transmitter building on the horseshoe.

Secretary's Report:

Barney, N8HP, announced corrections to the April minutes to correct the call of the Field Day chef, Red, W8ULC and radio station WLW. A motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to accept them as amended was made by Ernie, N8EH, and seconded by Carl, K8CM. The motion passed with two nay votes – Frank we miss you!

Butler and Hamilton County ARES members were activated to provide traffic control (and sooth ruffled feathers in general) at the hepatitis vaccination session that occurred in Westchester on April 5th. Approximately 225 persons were provided with the vaccine due to an earlier incident at a Butler County eatery. This was the first instance of an ARES activation for medical reasons.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8NQG, presented the treasurer's report. 2008 membership stands at 97 members representing 67 families. Barney, N8HP, made the motion to accept the treasurer's report

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 May 14th at Butler Tech. In room 127 at 7:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday May 19, at the Golden Corral

Classes and Exams:

Beverley, N8GGE, gave the education report and announced that Dial's education efforts are over until August since the extra preparation class has been completed and most of the students have upgraded. There will be no more education reports until the fall. Carl, K8CM, gave the summary of the recent exam session on April 23rd. The following was edited from an email sent by Carl to the Dial mailing list on the 29th of April, when the FCC database was updated and reflects those whose efforts were rewarded.

Congratulations to: Robert Pitts, KD8HGE, Bob Rohrbach, WD8NKQ and Ron Spaulding, N8NQG, who upgraded to Amateur Extra Class! Congratulations, as well, to 16 year old Andrew Mohr, KD8ILH, who earned his Technician license. Special congratulations to Ed Brinkman, AC8BI, who successfully passed **all exam elements** at one sitting – a first for a Dial Radio Exam session – at least as long as those present could remember.

Old/New Business: Hamvention

Hamvention – still no news. The original packet for the spaces has not been received, but the check been cashed according to Ron, N8NQG, Dial's Treasurer. Dial has not received any correspondence from Hamvention. Jim, W8ISZ, informed the audience that many of the problems apparently stem from a database incompatibility between the web 'shopping cart' and the internal bookkeeping causing some of the problems.. This seems to have impacted both Flea Market spaces and advanced ticket sales. It is expected that the spaces will come before Hamvention starts.

Ron, N8NQG made a motion that Dial provides free drinks for all Dial members at Hamvention since members will be on their own for food this year. This will include coffee in the morning, and soft drinks and water later in the day. As per recent practice all persons selling at the Dial flea market spaces are asked to make a 10% donation to Dial to help offset the cost of securing the spaces. In recent years, small surpluses on the food side have tended to offset low sales from the flea market. The motion was seconded by Carl, K8CM, and passed without dissent.

The topic of cleaning our club trailer for Hamvention was discussed. N8EH offered the use of his storage spot again this year. The cleanout was tentatively set for 6:00 on Monday May 5th. Ernie asked those attending to meet on Terry Drive near the entrance to the storage building. The topic of reloading the trailer and freeing Ernie's space will be discussed at the next Dial meeting.

The audience was reminded of the general schedule of "May Madness" – i.e. Hamvention weekend. The trailer will leave Ron's business at noon on Thursday. After stopping for a snack at McDonalds on Route 4 in Germantown, the group will

proceed to Hara Arena and set up the trailer, canopy, etc. The next three days will be long ones for those with early admission tickets – Leaving Ron's at "0-dark-thirty" (which is later this year than last) or Calvin's, WB8MYT, in Carlisle a bit later to arrive at Hara a little before 7:00 a.m. Those wishing to ride the '0-dark-thirty' group should check with Ernie, W8EH, or Ron, N8NQG. Dial members wishing to bring boxes of stuff to sell at Hamvention should contact Ernie, W8EH, or Ron, N8NQG to arrange a suitable drop off.

Announcements:

Field Day Chair, Roy, N8LRN, announced that he have the first Field Day meeting on site at Hara.

Carl, K8CM, asked that the VE's helping with the exam on Wednesday, April 23rd, should try to arrive at Verity Lodge, Miami University Middletown by about 5:30 and to be sure to bring their badge. .

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Ron, N8NQG, and seconded by Ernie, N8EH. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm.

*Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary*

News and Information



Ed Brinkman (now AC8BI), WA8DTU, N8HP and N8EH. Photo by N8NQG

AC8BI – From Scratch to Extra Class Amateur in One Session

Ed Brinkman came to the April 23rd Exam session sponsored by Dial Radio Club to sit for his Technician class license. A very few minutes later, Ed had finished his exam and passed Element

2, to earn his Technician Class license (at least once it was in the FCC database). Asked if he would like to try the General Exam, he indicated that he had not really prepared for that exam but would give it a try. A short while later, he had earned credit for Element 3, so that a General Class license would be coming. Ed was asked if he wanted to try the Extra exam. He initially declined but a little cajoling from the person holding the stirring stick (i.e. the Secretary) convinced him to try. This time Ed took longer to complete the exam and made use of his calculator. When the computer graded Ed's exam he had earned his Extra Class License. It is possible to say that Ed's scores were well above that required to earn credit for all three elements. It turns out that Ed is an electrical engineer by trade, which means that those nasty circuit problems were pretty easy for him. However, antennas, propagation, exotic modes, how to be a volunteer examiner, and the general FCC rules for the Extra Class exam are not things that any non-ham would be expected to know. Ed was bullied into having his photograph taken with the three VE's that gave him his CSCE (the written proof that he had passed) with the possibility of submitting the photograph to QST as a possibility for one of the 'Stray' entries. Congratulations again to Ed. *N8HP*

WLW Tour was a Big Success

From all reports received by me the WLW tour was enjoyed by all attending. Thanks Lorie for making it possible. *AF8T*



Photos by W8LKU, WA8DTU and WD8NKJ

To all Ohio Section Amateur Radio Clubs:

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) is proud to announce a new contest to be held on 6 September 2008. It is called the "Ohio State Parks On The Air" and an informational flier is attached. You can also find more information about the contest as well as the contest rules, forms, and FAQ's at <http://parks.portcars.org>.

The main goal of the contest is to get stations operating at as many of Ohio's beautiful State Parks as possible. We would appreciate it if you would circulate the flier to your club's membership and encourage participation in the event. If you have any questions you can contact me at kc8pd@portcars.org or Chuck Patellis, the contest chairman, at k8cmp@portcars.org.

Also included below is a brief item that we are requesting that you include in an upcoming edition of your newsletter to help get the word out about this event. We hope to hear you on the air!

73, Jim Aylward, KC8PD
V.P./P.I.O. PCARS
www.portcars.org

Ohio State Parks On The Air

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) is sponsoring a brand new contest this Fall to be held from noon to 8:00 p.m. local time on Saturday, September 6th. It is called Ohio State Parks On The Air and has the goal of having amateur radio stations operating from as many of Ohio's beautiful State Parks as possible. There are seventy-three State Parks throughout the state and they are easily accessible to all of us.

This is designed to be a fun eight hour event that allows contacts using any and all modes on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters as well as 6 and 2 meters. The multiplier for this event will be the number of State Parks that you work so it offers the challenge and the opportunity for stations in the Ohio Section to work other stations within the state.

Entry categories include low and high power individual and club stations operating from the parks as well as non-park stations either in Ohio or anywhere outside of Ohio. There will be a special award for the club whose members activate the greatest number of parks.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources has given its approval for this event. ODNR operates a wide variety of terrific parks with a full range of amenities around the state and you could easily make a weekend trip for this contest. Let's show some support for our state's natural resources and park system.

You can find complete information about the contest at <http://parks.portcars.org>, including the contest rules, all forms, and a list of FAQ's.

Please join us in participating in this event. We can all demonstrate how the Ohio Section can create a contest that can be easily duplicated in any other state or even nationwide by putting the national parks on the air.

73, Jim Aylward, KC8PD
VP/PIO PCARS
www.portcars.org

ARRL Legislative Action Program (Information used taken from the ARRL website)

As the newly appointed DLAC (District Legislative Action Chairman) I would like to familiarize you with what we are doing, where we're going and how you may help. This process has been proven in the field and at the present time seems to work the best as it is laid out.

What is the ARRL Legislative Action Program? The ARRL Legislative Action Program is designed to make it possible for ARRL members to promote and protect Amateur Radio through coordinated, legitimate political action at the Federal government level.

Why should I become involved in this program? Isn't talking with our Congressmen a waste of time? Federal Legislators frequently vote based upon their understanding of the wishes of their constituents. As a constituent, your opinion is important to them. *Elected officials view their constituents as "resources" and want to hear from them. They need input from their constituents to gauge positions on a piece of legislation and determine how it will impact the voters in their districts. As a licensed Amateur Radio operator, you can provide a valuable resource to your member of Congress. More often than not, the knowledge Legislators have of Amateur Radio is fairly limited. Therefore, your combination of being a constituent and a federally licensed operator can help make a difference by ensuring that your Congressman and staff receive the balanced information they need to make good decisions on Amateur Radio related legislation.*

How is this Program organized? *The ARRL Board of Directors (Board) selects legislation that is to be supported or opposed through the Program. The ARRL Chief Executive Officer (CEO) manages the day-to-day operations of the Program. The ARRL President monitors operation of the Program and reports on this to the Board and, between Board meetings, to the ARRL Executive Committee (EC). The EC ensures compliance with the policies of the Board during periods between Board meetings. Each ARRL Division Director is responsible for the operations of the Program in his/her Division. The Director may appoint a Division Legislative Action Chair (DLAC) to manage on his behalf. The Director or DLAC appoints, trains and manages one*

or more Legislative Action Coordinators (LAC) for each state in the Division. The LAC appoints, trains and manages Legislative Action Assistants (LAAs) to meet with Federal Legislators/Congressmen or with their legislative aides in their offices "back home." The discussions and the materials left after the meetings encourage Legislators to support laws friendly to Amateur Radio. Visits to Legislators' "home" offices are made only when requested by ARRL Legislative Action Program managers through Division officials. These visits may involve key Legislators or all Legislators. Depending on the specific situation, managers in the Program will be requested to have all members in relevant Divisions, states or Congressional Districts to write in support of the ARRL legislative position to their Federal legislators.

Who chooses which legislation we will support or oppose? The ARRL Board of Directors chooses the legislation to support or to oppose.

Who develops strategies and tactics for the Program? The ARRL President, ARRL CEO, ARRL General Counsel, ARRL Executive Committee and the Congressional Relations firm the League retains work together to develop strategies and tactics to be used in the Program.

Why doesn't the Program operate at the state and local levels of government as well as Federal? Each Section Manager (SM) is encouraged to maintain a program in the Section to support or oppose legislation at the state and local levels. A person known as the State Government Liaison (SGL) typically heads this program. The SGL position was established in Minute 20 of the July 1982 Board Meeting. Persons who participate in the state and local program may also choose to participate in the Federal program and vice versa. To learn more about this state and local program, contact your Section Manager at <http://www.arrl.org/sections/>.

I thought ARRL is a tax-exempt non-profit organization and that US IRS rules do not allow it to become involved in lobbying and the law-making process. *ARRL is a tax-exempt non-profit organization as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. As discussed in the "It Seems to Us" editorial in the August 2006 issue of QST, "What is prohibited [to us and other tax-exempt non-profit groups] is any involvement in a political campaign. Under the Internal Revenue Code, all section 501(c)(3) organizations are absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office. The prohibition applies to all campaigns at the Federal, state and local level, and violating it could result in revocation of tax-exempt status." Also explained in the August 2006 QST editorial, ARRL is allowed to promote or work against specific public policy issues. Issues we have found of significant interest to Amateur Radio include Federal legislation to control excessive interference from Broadband Over Power Lines, Federal legislation to protect Amateur Radio frequencies and Federal legislation essentially to ensure all amateurs are allowed to install an antenna.*

I have often contributed to and worked for one or more political candidates in my area. Do I need to stop being active in political campaigns if I work in the ARRL Legislative Action Program? *No, as a citizen of this country you are encouraged to speak and act for yourself in political campaigns if you wish. If you do this, what you need to do is to ensure that your participation in the political process is clearly understood to represent your own, personal position and actions, and not the position and actions of ARRL. When you act as a private citizen, be certain to wear your "private citizen" hat and not your ARRL hat.*

Who is eligible to participate in the Program? ARRL members who are willing to follow the guidelines of the Program are eligible to participate in it. Members who wish to become Division Legislative Action Chairs (DLACs), Legislative Action Coordinators (LACs) and Legislative Action Assistants (LAAs) need to participate in a brief training program before making calls on legislators.

I am not a member of ARRL, why can't I participate in the Program? We would like to be able to work with all amateurs to make this program as successful as possible; however, Federal IRS regulations place limits on the amount of effort ARRL as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, can devote to nonmembers regarding legislative affairs. We invite you to join ARRL and become a key part in this program. For information on ARRL, go to <http://www.arrl.org/aarrl.html>.

How do participants in the ARRL Legislative Action Program get information and materials needed to call on or write to US Representatives and Senators? *Background information on legislation, the names and addresses of "your" Congressmen, educational leave-behind leaflets and more that are needed to make visits to Congressional offices can be found at the Grassroots link on the Members Only area of www.arrl.org. This information is available to be printed out. Draft letters to Congressmen are similarly available at this same location.*

So, as you can see there is nothing too hard to do and it doesn't take a lot of time when we work together on legislation.

If you are interested in helping in this area here is whom you may contact. In Kentucky the Legislative Action Coordinator e-mail for your information is Patrick R Thrush, N4PRT at n4prt@hamtechtalk.com, in Ohio send it to Brent C Stover, WD8PNZ at wd8pnz@yahoo.com, and at this time we are in need of a Legislative Action Coordinator in Michigan. Until one is seated e-mail me NB4K with your information at nb4k@arrl.org.

If you have any questions on this feel free to call or e-mail me. We need our frequencies and this is just one avenue that we have to protect them.

73
John D. Meyers, NB4K DLAC
nb4k@arrl.org 689.472.6690

DIAL at Dayton Hamvention®

We will be taking the club trailer up to Hamvention next Thursday about noon. It is ready to be loaded with any items that you wish to sell at the club spaces. We need stuff to sell.

Contact me or Ron N8NQF if you have anything you wish to load in the trailer. It is at my work QTH right now but will be moved to Ron's in the next couple of days.

Also if you don't have a chair in the trailer, you may want to drop one off too.

The club spaces are 3201, 3202, 3203.

The club portable repeater is the same, 147.315 + with a PL of 100.0.

Ernie W8EH

Reminder: This year the club voted on BYOF (bring your own food). There will be cold soft drinks and ice chests for storing lunches at our flea market site.

Field Day / DIAL Picnic 2008

DIAL and BCVHFA will be combining efforts again this year for Field Day on June 28th and 29th. Ernie W8EH has secured our at last year's location at Smith Park and Roy N8LRN has been elected Field Day chairman. If you have any ideas for Field Day contact Roy.

We will also have our annual DIAL Picnic on June 28th at the Field Day site. If you are planning on attending the picnic please contact Lorie W8LKU.

I hope to see everyone there. *AF8T*

Butler County D-Star System Is On the Air

The Zoomtown DSL issues have been resolved and the server is now on line and we are connected to the rest of the world!

145.160 will be on the air around 8-9 P.M. Thursday May 15 thru Sunday the 19th for Dayton [Hamvention] - then we have to give that antenna back to the 146.970 machine until the climbers can get the antenna up on the tower intended for the D-Star system.

442.625 is fully functional now!

The 1.2 GHz stuff will not go on the air until we get the antenna up-and then only the data side will be on until we can get a set of 3 cans (RX-TX-TX/RX) for the 1.2 GHz side of the system.

If you have a D-Star Radio and have NOT yet signed onto the D-

Star system, you can go to the server in Butler Co-HAMilton, OH W8RNL at the link below and sign on. It will take a day to get approved for the system as approvals are done on a daily basis.

Thanks! Have fun with the newest technology on the market-brought to you by R & L Electronics, Butler County VHF Association W8CCI and Butler County ARES KD8EYB!

Here is the link: <http://www.rlham.com/w8rnl/index.html>

73!!!!

Robert Spratt N8TVU

FCC Looks to Raise Vanity Call Sign Fees

The FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM) on May 8 seeking to raise fees for Amateur Radio vanity call signs. Currently, a vanity call sign costs \$11.70 and is good for 10 years; the new fee, if the FCC plan goes through, will go up to \$12.30 for 10 years, an increase of \$.60. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934 (as amended) to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. Instructions on how to comment on this NPRM are available on the FCC Web site.

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 12 years of the current program -- from a low of \$12 to a high of \$50; the current fee of \$11.70 is the lowest the fee has been since the inception of the vanity call sign program. The FCC said it anticipates some 15,000 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units" or applications during the next fiscal year, collecting \$184,500 in fees from the program.

Vanity Fee Due for New, Renewal Applications

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal two years ago.

Those holding vanity call signs issued prior to 1996 are exempt from having to pay the vanity call sign regulatory fee at renewal, however. That's because Congress did not authorize the FCC to collect regulatory fees until 1993. Such "heritage" vanity call sign holders do not appear as vanity licensees in the FCC Amateur Radio database.

Amateur Radio licensees may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All radio amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing any application with the Commission. Applicants can obtain an FRN by going to the ULS and clicking on the "New Users Register"

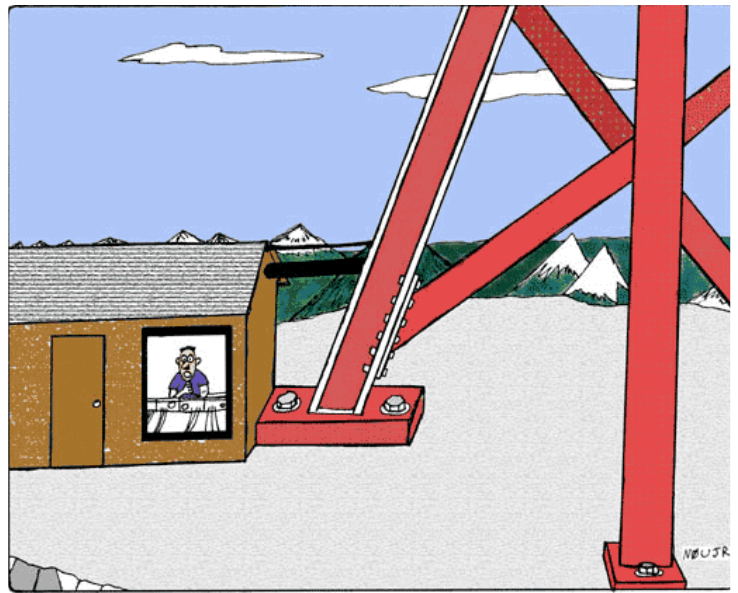
link. You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.

ARRL Processes License Renewals, Including Vanities

The ARRL VEC will process license renewals for vanity call sign holders for a modest fee. The service is available to ARRL members and nonmembers, although League members pay less. Routine, non-vanity renewals continue to be free for ARRL members. Trustees of club stations with vanity call signs may renew either via the ULS or through a Club Station Call Sign Administrator, such as ARRL VEC.

League members should visit the "ARRL Member Instructions for License Renewals or Changes" page, while the "Instructions for License Renewals or Changes" page covers general renewal procedures for nonmembers. There is additional information on the ARRL VEC's "FCC License Renewals and ARRL License Expiration Notices" page.

License application and renewal information and links to the required forms are available on the ARRL Amateur Application Filing FAQ Web page. The FCC's forms page also offers the required forms. *ARRL*



"Yes I really am running just 5 watts QRP...although I suppose I do have an above average antenna system..."

Cartoon by N0UJR