

# Ottawa County Amateur Radio Club

September 2017

Greg Sanderson WD8OEZ, President - Gene Anderson WB8KKU, Vice President

Ted Poremski K8NWF, Secretary - Norm Bash WA8COB, Treasurer

## Hi, fellow hams....

I hope everyone had a great summer.. With fall approaching, more hamfests are just around the corner. A local favorite of mine and I sure of my of you fellow hams is the Findlay hamfest on September 10 at the Hancock County Fairgrounds in Findlay, Sponsored by the Findlay Radio Club. Doors open at 8:00 am for the general public and tickets are \$7:00 per person, under 18 is free. And let's not forget on September 23 in Cincinnati Ohio, the OH-KY-IN ARS is sponsoring their hamfest at the at the Aiken High School. Then on September 24 in Berea Ohio, the Hamfest Assn. of Cleveland Ohio is holding their hamfest at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds. Of course we cannot forget about the hamfests across the border up in Michigan. First up is the Adrian ARC is holding their hamfest on September 17 at the Lenawee County Fairgrunds in Adrian MI. Next is the General Motors ARC is having their hamsfest on September 23 at the Packard Proving Grounds in Shelby Township. Last is the October 7-8 the hamfest, sponsored by the Great Lakes ARA at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn MI. Let's get out there and support these local hamfest.

I read with great interest in this month's edition of QST, about the return of vacuum tubes, sort of, in the new design of transistors with a vacuum space filled helium designed in them. These new transistors may offer tolerance to high temperatures and ionizing radiation in harsh environments. Also, read an article in Nuts and Volts magazine about receiving data with web based short-wave radios and the different modes of communications hams are using to send data via their radios from around the world and your ability to use these web based radios to receive these ham communications where you may normally would not hear them. See everyone at the next meeting on September 14 at 6:30.

President, Greg WD8OEZ

## **REMINDER**

### **OCARC Meeting**

**Thursday, September 14th at 6:30 p.m.**

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It is a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country. The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on September 5, 1883.

It is appropriate that the nation pay tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership — the American worker.

The first governmental recognition came through municipal ordinances passed during 1885 and 1886. By 1894, 27 states had adopted the holiday and on June 28 of that year, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories.

When studying the history of Labor Day, two names stand out. One is Peter J. McGuire, a leading official in the American Federation of Labor and organizer of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners. The other is Matthew Maguire, a machinist from the Knights of Labor. The problem with declaring a single "founder" of Labor Day is that no one realized that a

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new national holiday was being born. It was only after the fact that people tried to pinpoint a single founding father.

However, in 1967, a retired machinist from Maguire's union stepped up and claimed that his union brother was, in fact, the true originator of the movement for a national Labor Day. An old newspaper article written nine years after the New York Labor Day parade titled "Labor Day: Its History and Development in the Land" claimed that the first Secretary of the Central Labor Union, Maguire, was the one who arranged the parade. The claim was supported six years later when the grand marshal of the New York parade of 1882 himself reminisced about how Maguire from the Knights of Labor had first suggested that the Central Labor Union call upon the unions of New York City to join together in a labor parade.

In 19th century America, there was already a tradition of having parades, picnics and various other celebrations in support of labor issues, such as shorter hours or to rally strikers. But most historians emphasize one specific event in the development of today's modern Labor Day. That pivotal event was the parade of unions and a massive picnic that took place in New York City on Sept. 5, 1882.

At that time, the labor movement was growing stronger. Many of the unions in New York prospered by joining together into one Central Labor Union made up of members from many local unions. On May 14, 1882, a proposal was made at the Central Labor Union meeting that all workers should join together for a labor festival in early September. A committee as appointed to find a park for the celebration. They chose Wendel's Elm Park at 92nd St. and 9th Ave. The date was to be September 5. By June, they had sold 20,000 tickets with the proceeds going to each local union selling them. In August, the Central Labor Union passed a resolution "that the 5th of September be proclaimed a general holiday for the workingmen in this city."

They were afraid that it was going to be a failure. Many of the workers in the parade had to lose a day's pay in order to participate. When the parade began only a handful of workers were in it, while hundreds of people stood on the sidewalk jeering at them. But then slowly they came – 200 workers and a band from the Jewel-

ers' Union showed up and joined the parade. Then came a group of bricklayers with another band. By the time they reached the park, it was estimated that there were 10,000 marchers in the parade in support of workers.

The park was decorated with flags of many nations. Everyone picnicked, drank beer and listened to speeches from the union leadership. In the evening, even more people came to the park to watch fireworks and dance. The newspapers of the day declared it a huge success and "a day *of the people*."

After that major event in New York City, other localities began to pick up the idea for a fall festival of parades and picnics celebrating workers.

## **ARRL finally realizes status quo isn't going to cut it**

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

An item in the July 2017 ARRL board meeting caught my attention. It notes that a committee of staff members was tasked with identifying the challenges facing ARRL and possible solutions. The August 3, 2017 issue of the ARRL Letter ran the following report:

"ARRL Chief Executive Officer Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, presented the report of six Headquarters staffers who had been tasked with identifying the challenges facing ARRL and devising feasible solutions. Specifically, the committee addressed market research findings that have continued to reveal that only a small percentage of new hams join the League, and only about one-half of new hams actually get on the air.

"The committee began with the premise that ARRL must act in order to remain relevant going forward. It proposed instituting a Lifelong Learning Program to focus on developing a clear developmental path for all radio amateurs, from newcomers to established radio amateurs. The committee recommended the creation of new programs and services to increase the knowledge base of newcomers in order to get them active, as well as programs to keep experienced amateurs up to date with changing technology and practice."

### **The board meeting minutes were a little more detailed:**

"Mr. Roderick yielded the floor to CEO Gallagher who presented the report of a committee of staff members tasked with identifying the challenges facing ARRL

and possible solutions. The members of the committee – Diane Petrilli, KB1RNF; Norm Fusaro, W3IZ; Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY; Debra Jahnke, K1DAJ; Steve Ford, WB8IMY; and Sean Kutzko, KX9X, joined the meeting at 9:20 AM, to present this report. Their findings show the importance to ARRL of getting newly licensed hams actively on the air and how that relates to continued growth of the organization. In order to achieve that goal, the committee proposed developing a lifelong learning department, which would address the needs of all amateurs with the focus being on developing a clear knowledge path for all amateurs. They proposed creating straightforward programs and services to enhance the knowledge base of new amateurs as well as to enhance their sense of community within the hobby.

“Another recommendation involved refocusing the priorities of the emergency preparedness department to address the current trends in public service.

“A third recommendation was to improve the value proposition of membership. The committee proposed doing a survey, which would include test material that is targeted to the interests of newer hams. The content would include a strong emphasis on serving communities, agencies, and partners; digital communications, and human interest. Projects would be simple. The survey would obtain information on new ham’s interests and needs in the hobby. The survey would also try to determine the delivery system that might best meet the newcomer’s desire for receiving this type information (print, digital, messaging, etc). The test material is proposed to be delivered to recipients in fall 2017.

“From the committee’s vantage point, the status quo is no longer adequate: we need to have a vision of the future and convey it to our current membership. If we do not convey the need to change the paradigm, the ARRL’s relevancy will not move forward.”

The good thing here is that the ARRL finally realizes that there are some serious problems. I’ve written about these in the past. I’ve challenged the ARRL to set a membership goal of 25% of the licensed amateurs in the U.S (<http://www.kb6nu.com/arrl-membership-is-25-asking-too-much/>). I’ve also encouraged the ARRL to play a bigger part in emergency communications research (<http://www.kb6nu.com/go-big-go-early-go-fast-smart/>).

Unfortunately, it appears that the ARRL is approaching this issue in typical ARRL fashion. That is, working on these issues in their little cocoon in Newington and then issuing these statements as if they expect everyone to just fall in line. I quote, “From the committee’s vantage point, the status quo is no longer adequate: we need to have a vision of the future and convey it to our current membership.” That approach is doomed to failure. Any “visioning” or strategic planning that doesn’t get the membership involved right from the start just isn’t going to work.

The ARRL HQ staff just doesn’t have the horsepower to pull this off properly. The staff is already pretty bare bones, and they still have to publish QST every month, keep Logbook of the World running, process thousands of license applications, etc., etc. The only way this is going to be a fruitful effort is if they get members—and lots of them—involved in this process.

If you agree with me, please let your director know. Contact your director and tell him that you want to be involved. The status quo of having the HQ staff not working with the membership “is no longer adequate.” That’s how we got here in the first place.

---Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the “No Nonsense” amateur radio license study guides and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. You can email him at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

**Monthly Meetings**  
**2nd Thursday at 6:30 p.m.**  
**at the Salem Twp. Hall**  
**11650 West Portage River South**  
**Road, Oak Harbor**  
**Talk in on 147.075 repeater.**

**OCARC ARES Net**  
**Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.**  
**ET on 147.075 repeater**  
**tone 100 HZ**

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**Weather Nets**

**Skywarn nets as needed**

on 442.250 repeater

100 HZ PL (note: this is new)