



Dial Radio Club



Middletown, Ohio

APRS Digipeater: W8BLV 144.39
Repeaters: 52.21/53.21, 146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 449.825/444.825
Web page: <http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/> e-mail: W8BLV@QSL.net

President:
Bob Rohrbach, NR8R
Vice-president:
Dave Williamson, KD8W
Secretary:
Barney Taylor, N8HP
Treasurer:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

Activities Manager:
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Newsletter Editor:
Jason Mossbarger, KD8GXD
Newsletter Printing:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

January 2011

Minutes of the December 20, 2010 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance

KD8CPV, WA8DTU, W8EH, N8GGE, N8HP, KI8I, W8ISZ & Marg, W8LKU, N8LRN, NN8M, WD8NKJ, WA8PRA, N8QF, NR8R & Barb, KB8WKL, N8YFQ & Linda

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by Bob, NR8R, at 7:02 p.m.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the November meeting as published was made by Ron, N8QF, and seconded by Gordon, KI8I. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, presented the treasurer's report. 2010 membership concluded with 83 members representing 62 families. Barney, N8HP, made the motion to accept the treasurer's report and, Dave, N8YFQ, seconded. The motion passed with 1 nay.

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported that "everything's still working". He added that the repeater coordination form had been filed with the Ohio Repeater Council.

Activity Report:

Lorie, W8LKU, reminded those in attendance of the net on the 146.61 repeater on Thursday nights at 9:00 pm.

Classes and Exams:

Beverly, N8GGE, reported that the Extra Class Exam Preparation course will begin on the 17th of January at Verity Lodge, Miami University Middletown. She stated that 4 persons had contacted her about the course and that teaching schedules had been sent to instructors. The next Dial exam session will be in February.

Old Business

Ernie, W8EH, reported that he had unsuccessfully attempted to purchase Hamvention Flea Market spaces via the web.

New Business

Bob, NR8R, appointed a committee consisting of Roy, N8LRN, Bob, NN8M, and Ernie, W8EH to audit Dial's financials records and report to the membership in 2011.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 17th, at the **Golden Corral**

Jim, W8ISZ, announced the slate of candidates for 2011 consisting of the 2010 officers. Bob, NR8R, asked for nominations from the floor. Jim moved and Bob, NN8M, seconded a motion to close nominations. *The train chugged out of town as the slate was elected by acclamation. Choo-Choo!*

Bob, NR8R, announced that he had spoken with the management of the Golden Corral and that Dial meetings were on the calendar for the upcoming year.

Adjournment:

Lorie, W8LKU, moved and Roy, N8LRN, seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed with all ayes, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm. *(the starting time of the November meeting)*

*Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary*

News And Information

New Amateur Radio Bill Introduced in Congress

01/10/2011

The *Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act*, which died at the end of the 111th Congress, has been reintroduced in the 112th Congress as [HR 81](#). The sponsor is Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX-18). The new bill -- which was introduced on January 5 -- has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Rep Jackson Lee first introduced the bill -- [HR 2160](#) -- in the 111th Congress in [April 2009](#). It gained an additional 41 co-sponsors but did not progress out of the committee of jurisdiction. A similar bill introduced in the Senate -- [S 1755](#) -- made it all the way through that body in December 2009, but likewise was not taken up by the House. The objective of the bill -- which is supported by the ARRL -- is for the Secretary of Homeland Security to study the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief and to identify and make recommendations regarding impediments to Amateur Radio communications, such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations.

“We are hopeful that this early start will lead to success in the new Congress,” commented ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ.

ARRL

Aim High in the ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes

01/13/2011

VHF operators will be on the bands in force the weekend of January 22-24 as the [ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes](#) hits the airwaves. This contest gives the VHFer in all of us a chance to do some contesting during the winter months.

According to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, January may not seem like the ideal time to hold a VHF+ contest, but sometimes he said, the propagation gods like to surprise and confound. “There have been plenty of QSOs made via sporadic-E in the colder months this winter, including a surprise opening from the Midwest and Western US to Australia and New Zealand just this week! QSOs on other forms of enhancement exist as well, thanks to tropospheric ducting and auroral propagation. Because of the advent of [WSJT software](#), making QSOs via meteor scatter in the wee hours of the morning on 6 and 2 meters has never been easier. There are plenty of opportunities to make long-haul QSOs on the VHF+ bands in January.”

Kutzko said that getting on the VHF bands is easy. Technician class licensees have permission to use all amateur bands above 50 MHz and the antennas for VHF frequencies are smaller than their HF counterparts. A dipole for 6 meters is less than 10 feet long and most modern transceivers come with 50 MHz built-in. So why not string up a dipole for 6 meters and see what you can work?

While most contest QSOs will be made using SSB and CW, Kutzko advised amateurs to remember FM simplex: “Numerous stations enjoy 2 meter FM simplex QSOs, especially if you live near a large population center. Just be sure to keep the national 2 meter calling frequency of 146.52 MHz clear of contest activity. Don’t neglect the higher bands, since 222 MHz, 432 MHz and 1.2 GHz and up will see activity this weekend, too.”

The [2011 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes](#) runs from 1900 UTC Saturday, January 22 through 0359 UTC Monday, January 24. Participants can submit their Cabrillo-formatted logs via [e-mail](#). Paper logs may be sent to ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. All logs must be postmarked no later than 0359 UTC Thursday, February 24, 2011.



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Ron Spaulding, N8QF

Activities Manager:

Lorie Urschel, W8LKU

Newsletter Editor:

Jason Mossbarger, KD8GXD

Newsletter Printing:

Ron Spaulding, N8QF

February 2011

Minutes of the January 17, 2011 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance

K8CM, KD8CPV, K8CWF, N8DHW, N8EH, W8EH, KD8GXD, N8HP, N8HRA, W8ISZ, W8LKU, N8LRN & Eve, NN8M, WB8MTY, WA8PRA, N8QF, NR8R & Barb, N8TFH, W8WCQ & Ginny, KB8WKL & Barbara, N8YFQ

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by Bob, NR8R, at 7:02 p.m.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the November meeting as published was made by John, W8WCQ, and seconded by Carl, K8CM. The motion passed with one nay.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, presented the treasurer's report. 2010 membership concluded with 83 members representing 62 families. Ron also presented the Fiscal Health report required of the treasurer at the start of a new year that provides the full financial assets of Dial to those in attendance. Ron also stated that the number of renewals is down by about 20 members compared to last years ending membership. He has sent second notices to those who have not yet renewed.

The audit committee consisting of Roy, N8LRN, Bob, NN8M, and Ernie, W8EH, reported that they had completed their study of last year's books and that the finances were in order except that Dial spent more money than it took in.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's report and to accept the report of the audit committee was made by Carl, K8CM, and seconded by Dave, N8YFQ. The motion passed unanimously.

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported that "everything's still working". Carl, K8CM, reported that Echolink is also still working.

Activity Report:

Lorie, W8LKU, reminded those in attendance of the net on the 146.61 repeater on Thursday nights at 9:00 pm.

Classes and Exams:

Beverley, N8GGE, reported that the Extra Class Exam Preparation course will begin on the 12th of January at Verity Lodge, Miami University Middletown. Beverley asked for a volunteer to be the instructor during one of the meetings in mid-March. The next Dial exam session will be on the 23rd of February.

Old Business

Ernie, W8EH, reported that he had confirmation of the Dial spaces for Hamvention, but did not have a 'warm and fuzzy' feeling about the process. Hamvention will be 20-22 May.

Next Meeting: Monday, February 21st, at the Golden Corral

New Business

The primary topic of the new business was the loss of membership and the fact that Dial slightly overspent last year's income. Carl, K8CM, asked how many members use the general membership (non-repeater) at the \$12 level. Ron, N8QF, gave a number of 12 to 15 for last year after a quick look at the records. Possible remedies consisting of removing the general membership level to increase revenue or removing the telephone line for the autopatch on the W8BLV repeater to save money were discussed. Ron pointed out that Dial had lost 5 or 6 members last year to Silent Keys.

Carl, K8CM, offered to contact general membership (\$12) members to see if elimination of that category would result in a non-renewal of their Dial membership. Ron, will provide Carl with the names.

Although the autopatch is seldom used these days, the telephone line is also used for controlling the repeater. Ernie, W8EH, asked for a notice of discussion of the autopatch to be included in the next newsletter so that members not in attendance at the January meeting had the opportunity to voice their input. *See the section later in the newsletter for a more complete discussion.*

Bob, NR8R, inquired about what can be done to get more people to become members of Dial. The bad economy and the aging membership of radio amateurs nationwide is causing the membership to be much like the representative ham's hair – thinner (in number) and grayer (due to aging). No solutions were offered.

Bob also thanked Ron, N8QF for his good work as Treasurer of Dial.

Adjournment:

Lorie, W8LKU, moved and Jason, KD8GXD, seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed with all ayes, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.

*Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary*

Discussion of Possible Elimination of the Autopatch on the W8BLV (146.61) Repeater

As discussed in the minutes, Dial overspent its membership and donations income slightly during 2010. The membership was down by about 10 to 15 people compared to 2008 and 2009. There were some non-trivial repair expenses for the 146.61 repeater, but other expenses were normal. A cost cutting measure that was brought up at the January meeting was

to remove the telephone line for the autopatch since it is used very infrequently. This line is used frequently to control the repeater, update messages, reset the controller and so on. Ernie, W8EH, wanted all members of Dial to have input on the question of whether the autopatch (and remote control of the repeater) have outlived their usefulness.

The telephone line costs about \$25 per month or about \$300 per year. The line is a non-commercial line, otherwise, it would cost much more per month. Ron, N8QF, and others voiced a pretty certain opinion that, if Dial relinquishes the telephone line and later decides to reinstall a telephone, it will have to be a commercial line at \$60 per month or more.

Discussion from the floor asked Ernie, and Carl, K8CM, how often the telephone was used to control, reset and update the repeater and how much of a hardship would be placed on them if the phone line was to go away. Loss of the telephone line would require taking a notebook computer and going to the repeater site (during the hours that we have access - mostly normal business hours) to do many things that can be done via the telephone. While both Ernie and Carl indicated that the telephone line is not absolutely essential, it does tend to reduce the load of the two individuals that do the lion's share of the work to keep the W8BLV repeater up and running. The tone of comments from the audience seemed to be in favor of keeping the telephone line (and hence, the autopatch) in hope of keeping Ernie and Carl to maintain the repeater.

No decisions have been made. Anyone with input should contact either Ernie, Carl, or an officer to have their input considered. At this time no date has been set to make a decision.

This section was authored by Barney, N8HP.

Dial Exam Session

An examination session in Technician, General and Extra Class Amateur Radio Operator's License will be available on Wednesday evening, February 23, 2011, 6:30 PM. in the Verity Lodge Miami University-Middletown, Middletown, OH.

Doors will open for registration at 6 PM. Please plan to arrive early as all registration activities must be completed by 7 PM.

Applicants must furnish the original and one photocopy of their current license (if any), original and one photocopy of any certificates of successful completion of examination (CSCE) they may hold, positive (photo) identification, social security (TIN) or Licensee ID number (FRN), and the test fee of \$15.

NCVEC Form 605, Application for License, will be available at the test site. Map to exam site and/or NCVEC 605 form available from K8CM for SASE.

Special examination accommodations must be requested at least

two weeks prior to the test date.

Additional information may be obtained from Dave Williamson, KD8W,

For your convenience, talk-in will be available on 146.61 (-600), 77Hz PL

Astronaut to Be Guest At Hamvention

Doug Wheelock, KF5BOC, will be attending the [2011 ARRL EXPO](#) -- part of the [Dayton Hamvention®](#) -- as a special guest of the ARRL and [AMSAT](#). While at Hamvention, Wheelock will share his experiences about using Amateur Radio in space. Wheelock spent 163 days in space, with seven weeks as ISS Commander; he returned to Earth in November 2010. While on board the ISS, he, along with fellow astronaut Shannon Walker, KD5DXB, participated in the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARRL ISS](#)) program. Together, the two made 22 ISS-to-school and ISS-to-camp QSOs.

During his last few weeks in space, Wheelock sent down a note to [Johnson Space Center](#), asking to increase the number of ARISS contacts from one per week to two a week during his last month on the ISS. According to ARRL ARISS Program Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, Wheelock said he enjoyed the contacts with children, calling them “priceless.” White said that the ARISS Team quickly reviewed the list of schools on the ARISS waiting list and set up contacts for Wheelock.

In his off-time, Wheelock -- who has described ham radio as “a fun way to stay ‘connected’ with planet Earth” -- squeezed in some casual contacts from NA1SS with earthbound hams -- surprising or exciting all of them, leading to some positive media coverage. ARISS reports that he made some two dozen general contacts each day he was on the air, and the program now finds itself running low on QSL cards.

“It was totally unexpected, on my way back from a shopping trip!” Erik Janssens, K5WW, of Texas said of his contact with Wheelock, who was using call sign NA1SS. “Exhilarating!” A new ham, David Pruett, KF7ETX, of Oregon, posted an informative and well-received [YouTube video](#) of his lucky contact with Wheelock. [Wheelock even made his own YouTube video](#), giving a guided tour of the ISS. The video features him making a few ham radio contacts while passing over North America (the ham radio portion of the video begins at the 10:38 mark)



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Newsletter Editor:
Jason Mossbarger, KD8GXD
Newsletter Printing:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

March 2011

Minutes of the February 21, 2011 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance

K8CM, WA8DTU, N8EH, W8EH, N8GGE, N8HP, KI8I, W8ISZ, W8LKU, WB8MYT, KC8NHP, WD8NKJ, WA8PRA, N8QF, NR8R & Barbara, N8TFH, KC8TXA, KD8W, W8WCQ & Ginny, KB8WKL, W8WLM and guest John M.

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by Bob, NR8R, at 7:03 p.m.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the November meeting as published was made by Ernie, N8EH, and seconded by Carl, K8CM. The motion passed with one nay.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, presented the treasurer's report. 2011 membership stands at 75 persons representing 53 families. Ron stated they are currently 9 non-renewals, and that he expects 4 to renew. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Barney, N8HP, and seconded by David, N8DHW. The motion passed unanimously.

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported some feedback from the membership on the issue of the phone line connected to the repeater. However, in light of the news of the pending purchase of WPFB by WNKU, this may be a moot point. The new management places a specter of uncertainty regarding the continued use of the WPFB tower for the Club's main repeater. After some discussion the consideration of whether to remove the phone line was postponed until the sale of WPFB is approved by the FCC. *Ernie did not say "it's workin'" but it appears to be.*

Activity Report:

Lorie, W8LKU, reminded those in attendance of the net on the 146.61 repeater on Thursday nights at 9:00 pm.

Classes and Exams:

Beverley, N8GGE, announced that the next exam session will be on Wednesday March 23rd at Verity Lodge, Miami University Middletown. She said that six students are participating in the Extra Class Exam Preparation course that will resume the week after the exam.

Carl, K8CM, announced that BCVHFA has decided to stop its Saturday morning exams due to a lack of attendance (6 examinees during the last 6 months), and that Dial might wish to consider alternate schedules, such as some exams on Saturday. He thought we might be able to gain access to Verity Lodge,

Next Meeting: Monday, March 21st, at the **Golden Corral**

MUM on Saturday mornings if we choose to schedule exams then.

**160M Antenna Matcher for
80M Loop-WD8NKJ**

Old Business

Carl, K8CM, reported that Ron, N8QF, had forwarded him the names of the 11 Dial members at the \$12 level of membership, and that he had either contacted directly or by mail all of them inquiring as to whether removal of the \$12 level would affect their decision to renew their Dial membership. He received 7 replies. Five said that it would not make a difference, while one thought that it would cause a non-renewal and the last was undecided. Extensive discussion followed with the decision to wait and see how the budget stands up during the 2011 year. *(Carl, K8CM, checked the records and the last membership dues increase was approved by the membership on Oct. 20, 1997, when the \$12 and \$26 levels were created. Ed.)*

Ernie, W8EH, reported that his credit card has not been charged for the Hamvention Flea Market spaces which makes him less 'warm and fuzzy' than last month. Ron, N8QF, reported that he had been charged for his spaces.

New Business

Ernie, W8EH, announced that he had requested the forms to secure our usual operating area within Smith Park for Field Day.

David, N8DHW, addressed those in attendance with his ARES cap on. While retaining ownership Dial had previously allowed the ARES group to take possession of the Dial 220 MHz repeater, for use as a hospital net for Butler County during emergencies. At other times the repeater would be open for all to use. Since Dial lost the 220 antenna when the old Middletown water tower was demolished, this seemed to serve the best interest of the club and community. David requested that Dial consider transferring the coordinated frequency pair from W8BLV to KD8UID (BCARES) through the Ohio Repeater Council. Carl, K8CM, asked if the repeater would be linked to any other repeaters, and David replied that the repeater may be linked to other hospitals in the county. After discussion, it was decided that Dial is very unlikely to desire another 220 MHz repeater and that transfer of the frequency pair was reasonable. Ernie, W8EH, moved and Carl, K8CM, seconded a motion to transfer to BCARES the coordinated frequency pair on 220 MHz. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

Lorie, W8LKU, moved and Beverley, N8GGE, seconded a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed with all ayes, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.

*Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary*

This system requires an adequate RF ground, as the antenna operates as an End Fed 1/2 Wavelength wire, when on 160M. I have the box mounted (and grounded) to my grounded metal tower, at the 20 Foot level. Any changes to either ground conductor length, or ladder line length from the matcher to the antenna will require some adjustments of turns numbers.

Please note that this box may be located some distance from the actual loop antenna feed point, the ladder line exiting the box, is part of the radiating antenna system on 160M. Excellent results have been obtained, with a 200 foot sloping loop FED at the 50 foot level, and ladder line dropping to the box at ground level. This 50 foot ladder line paralleled a metal tower on 12 inch standoff arms.

The box has a relay on one end that sends the normal 10-80M 450 Ohm ladder line feed straight through with the relay off. (Not Energized).

The photos show two different configurations:

Original configuration (IMG1)

On 160M, One Leg of the loop antenna is fed by a dedicated coax cable through a 500pf cap. When energized, the relay connects this end of the loop antenna to the junction of the 500pf cap, and the inductor to ground. (The 500pf cap is made from two .001 uf silver mica caps in series)

The opposite leg of the loop antenna is connected to an external 300 pf air variable cap to ground via the second relay pole. The two blue wires that exit the picture go to this cap, which is mounted in a separate box. I used a modular telephone cable for relay power.

The inductor is made from WHITE PVC pipe, and #14 enameled wire. This PVC pipe has an OUTSIDE diameter of about two inches. I believe it is sold by inside diameter, which makes it 1-1/2 inch Schedule 40 PVC. The number of turns can be counted in the photos, but may be different in other antenna installations. I have filed insulation on every other turn, and pre-tinned them to be able to solder taps on the coil while experimenting.

There are two sections on the inductor, in the first photo, (IMG2) I was simply not using the second half...it has a shorting wire across it (ground is on the right).

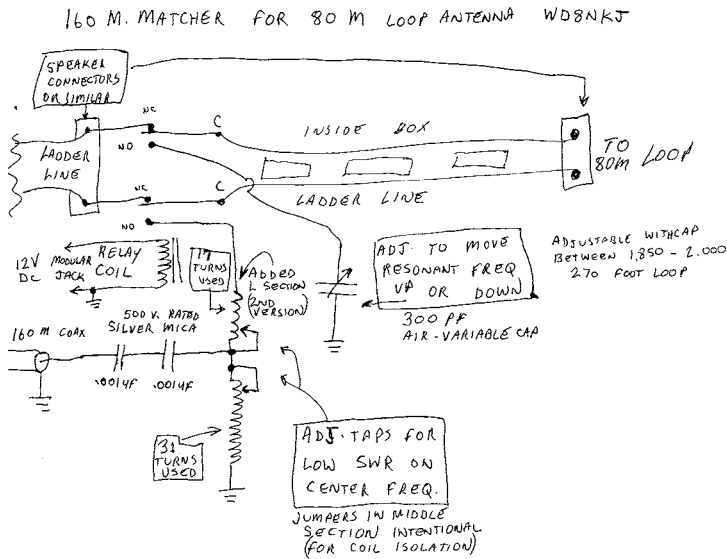
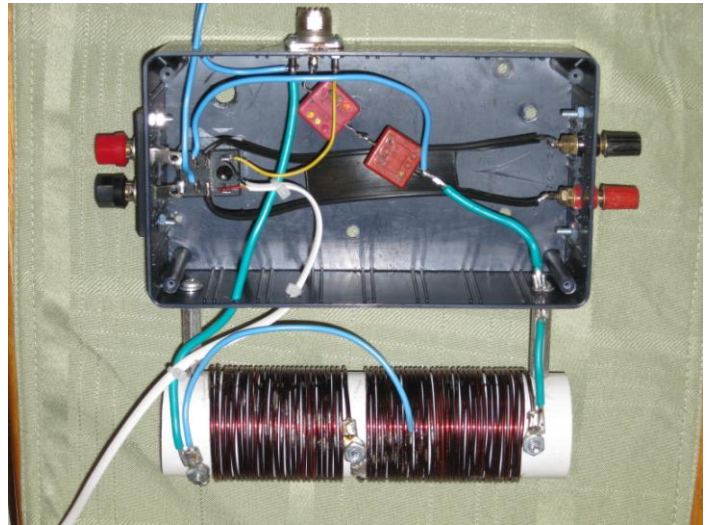
I later wanted to be able to tune the lower half of 160M, so I added the second half of the inductor in series with the antenna to convert it to an L network. Note that I also reversed the grounded and hot end of the inductor. (IMG2) It handles 1KW CW on 160M with no heating of the inductor, or caps.

Not obvious, is the fact that the two coils are **MAGNETICALLY ISOLATED** by distance, as well as shorted turns in the middle (Short blue jumper wire).

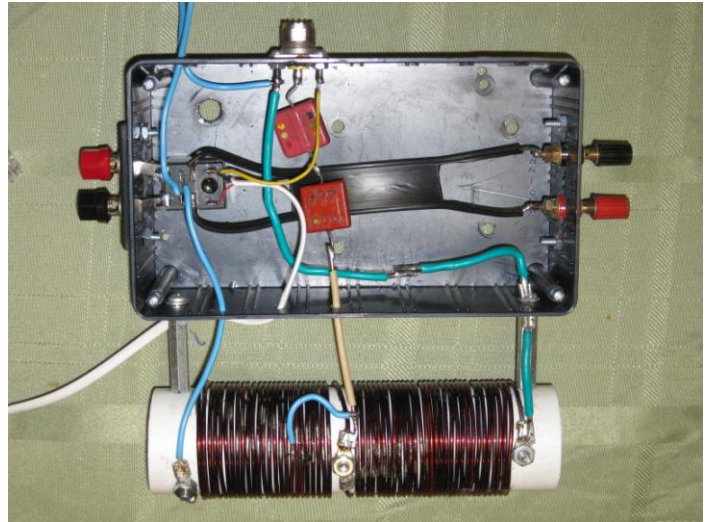
This system uses the 80M loop antenna as an end fed wire on 160M. Think of it as an end fed Zepp bent in a circle, with a variable cap to ground on the opposite end. Adjusting this cap moves the center resonant frequency between 1850 and 2000kHz.

It also makes the antenna system more broad banded, and less susceptible to local noise, by lowering the overall impedance. This has been a fun project!

73 Mark WD8NKJ



IMG2



IMG1



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April 2011

Minutes of the March 21, 2011 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance

K8CM, N8DHW, WA8DTU, KC8DUX, N8EH, W8EH, N8GGE, N8HP, N8HRA, KI8I, W8ISZ & Marg, W8LKU, NN8M, KC8NHP, WD8NKJ, N8OZN, N8QF, NR8R & Barbara, KD8W, KB8WKL & Barbara, W8WLM, N8YFQ & Linda

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by Bob, NR8R, at 7:02 p.m.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the November meeting as published was made by Ernie, W8EH, and seconded by Brian, KC8NHP. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, presented the treasurer's report. 2011 membership stands at 75 persons representing 53 families. Ron stated that he is about ready to remove the names of those that have not renewed from the mailing list. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Ernie, W8EH, and seconded by Carl, K8CM. The motion passed unanimously.

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported "no change from last month" regarding repeater status.

Activity Report:

Lorie, W8LKU, reminded those in attendance of the net on the 146.61 repeater on Thursday nights at 9:00 pm.

Classes and Exams:

Beverly, N8GGE, announced that the next exam session will be on Wednesday April 13th at Verity Lodge, Miami University Middletown. She said the Extra Class Exam Preparation course is winding down.

Old Business

Ernie, W8EH, reported that his credit card has finally been charged for the Hamvention Flea Market spaces. However, there was a surprise in the cost due to more desirable (and hence more expensive) end spot.

Ernie also reported that the Field Day reservation for Smith Park is being processed, and that this year's application was longer than previous years, and that the Health Department had taken notice of the fact that campers spend the weekend in the park.

Next Meeting: Monday, April, 18th, at the Golden Corral

New Business

Dave, KD8W, announced that having an examination session at the Field Day site seemed to be viable and that “we should do it”. (*However, it has not yet been scheduled in the exam database. Ed.*)

Carl, K8CM, announced that he has a copy of the program “Stand Up for Standing Waves”, and, if there was interest, he would arrange to show it at Verity Lodge, MUM on the Wednesday following the exam. He asked for a show of hands and several people responded affirmatively.

Brian, KC8NHP, asked those in attendance to support of the ARRL’s position regarding the potential loss of the 440 MHz band to create a new band for first responders. Several others commented in support as well.

Ernie, W8EH, asked Barney, N8HP, to comment on his “new wallpaper”, after some stalling Barney admitted that he had received a certificate for the ARRL International DX Contest CW on the 20 meter band. Barney’s score was significantly lower than Ernie’s (who entered in a different category). Ernie commented that the scores and certificate had been reversed the previous year.

Adjournment:

Ernie, N8EH, moved and Dave, N8YFQ, seconded a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed with all ayes, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm.

*Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary*

Standing Up for Standing Waves

Beginning at 6:30 PM, on Wednesday evening, April 20, we will have a showing of "Standing Up for Standing Waves", a world class antenna and transmission line demonstration, by Bill Hays. The showing will be in Verity Lodge, Miami University - Middletown, and is expected to run about 1 hour and 40 minutes.

If you've never seen the live demonstration, and you're interested in standing wave theory (or, maybe, just don't understand it), this is the program for you.

Carl <> K8CM



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Activities Manager:
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU
Newsletter Editor:
Jason Mossbarger, KD8GXD
Newsletter Printing:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

May 2011

Minutes of the April 18, 2011 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance

K8CM, N8DHW, WA8DTU, N8EH, W8EH, N8GGE, KD8GXD, N8HP, N8HRA, W8ISZ, KB1KDW, W8LKU, N8LRN & Eve, NN8M, N8QF, NR8R & Barbara, KD8W, KB8WKL & Barbara, W8WLM, KC8WOF, N8YFQ

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by Bob, NR8R, at 7:01 p.m.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the November meeting as published was made by Ernie, W8EH, and seconded by Carl, K8CM. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, presented the treasurer's report. 2011 membership remains at 75 persons representing 53 families. Ron stated that he had removed the names of those that have not renewed from the mailing list. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Carl, K8CM, and seconded by Barney, N8HP. The motion passed unanimously.

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported "no change from last month" regarding repeater status. Carl, K8CM, reported that Echolink is 'working phenomenally' after reducing the buffering to give a quicker response over Echolink.

Activity Report:

Lorie, W8LKU, reminded those in attendance of the net on the 146.61 repeater on Thursday nights at 9:00 pm. She also noted that Ed, KF8PD, had checked in two weeks ago via Echolink from Mississippi.

Classes and Exams:

Beverley, N8GGE, announced that classes are over until fall. She also gave an update from the most recent exam session where 4 persons earned amateur licenses for the first time – 3 Technicians and 1 General.

Old Business

Hamvention:

Ernie, W8EH, reported that he had paid the extra fee for the more desirable end spot, but the packet had not yet arrived.

Ron, N8QF, announced that those going to help with setup at Hara would leave Wilson Schramm Spaulding Funeral Home at noon on Thursday. Departure will be at 5:30 am on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from the same location.

Next Meeting: Monday, May, 16th, at the **Golden Corral**

Lorie, W8LKU, agreed to purchase the snacks consumed by Dial members at Hamvention. Thanks Lorie. In a similar vein, Ron announced "there will be donuts". George Forman was rumored to make a guest appearance as well.

Trailer cleanout was set for Wednesday May 4th at Ernie's (W8EH) place of work at 6:00 pm. People are requested to bring their chairs for Hamvention at that time so they can be properly packed into the trailer.

Items for sale at Hamvention can be brought to the trailer cleanout. The trailer will remain there until the 16th or 17th. At that time it will move to Ron's (N8QF) establishment.

Those in attendance were reminded to bring their own lunch if they did not wish to purchase food onsite at Hamvention.

Field Day:

Roy, N8LRN, learned that he had been reappointed Field Day Chair based upon his success herding cats (and a great job for the last several years).

Ron, N8QF, reported that he has the proof of insurance form needed before final approval for the Smith Park use during Field Day.

New Business

Bob, NR8R, thanked Dave, N8YFQ, for bringing a slide show of images that he had taken at the World Trade Center disaster during 2001. The images were deeply moving.

Adjournment:

Carl, K8CM moved and Jason, KD8GXD, seconded a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed with all ayes, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm.

*Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary*

ARRL Expo At The Dayton Hamvention

05/09/2011

ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, reports that plans for a plethora of DX activities at the **ARRL EXPO** -- part of the 2011 **Dayton Hamvention**[®] - are wrapping up. "We are excited about the activities that will be taking place," he said. "Visitors to the EXPO will see a lot of activities relating to DX, including DXCC card checking, a chance to drop off QSL cards for the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau and even an expanded International Amateur Radio Union (**IARU**) area." The Dayton Hamvention will take place May 20-22 at Hara Arena, located near Dayton, Ohio.

Global Friendship in the ARRL EXPO

The IARU area -- led by IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, and IARU Secretary Rod Stafford, W6ROD -- will feature various IARU Member-Societies. The Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (**DARC**), the Japan Amateur Radio League (**JARL**), the Qatar Amateur Radio Society (**QARS**), the Radio Association of China, the Chinese Radio Amateur Club and the Radio Society of Great Britain (**RSGB**) will be on hand within the ARRL EXPO. "The impetus for hosting the international exhibits was the 2011 Hamvention theme of *Global Friendship*," explained ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. "Representatives from the **IARU** will also be on hand to greet visitors. The IARU works with its Member-Societies throughout the world -- important work that further underscores international goodwill as a fundamental principle of the Amateur Radio Service."

Representatives from JARL will be accepting applications for certain JARL awards (AJD, WAJA, JCC, ADXA, ADXA-Half and Fuji), as well as the IARU's Worked All Continent (**WAC**) and 5-Band WAC awards at the JARL table within the ARRL EXPO. Amateurs who qualify for these JARL and IARU awards will be issued the certificates right on the spot. JARL staff member Masa Ebisawa, JA1DM, will also be checking applications for other JARL awards; certificates for these awards will be mailed from JARL Headquarters *after* Hamvention.

Applicants for JARL awards do not need to have the QSL cards with them; a list showing the call signs of stations worked, date, band and mode (or other data required by each award) of the contacts is sufficient. Applicants will need to sign and attach to the application a statement that the QSL cards of the contacts listed are in their possession and that the items are correctly listed. Applicants may use a **DXCC Record Sheet for their QSL card list**. The JARL award fee is \$16.

JARL will also be accepting applications for the **IARU Region 3 Operating Award**. JARL will forward these applications to the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters (**NZART**), which administers the award. NZART will then send applicants their award certificate with any endorsements *after* Hamvention. To be eligible for the IARU Region 3 Operating Award, hams must present the completed application, listing at least seven contacts from entities in IARU Region 3 whose amateur societies are Member-Societies of the IARU. These countries include Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, China (PRC), Chinese Taipei (Taiwan), Fiji, French Polynesia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Macau, Malaysia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Pitcairn Island, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Vanuatu and Vietnam. Applicants must also have at least one QSO with one of the following: the US Territories in the Pacific from Guam, Northern Marianas, American Samoa, Wake Island, Baker Howland Group, as represented by ARRL, or the Chago Archipelago (VQ9), represented by RSGB. No QSL cards are necessary, but only contacts made after April 5, 1982 are eligible.

There are 35 available entities for the IARU Region 3 Award. Hams who present seven QSOs will be awarded the Basic Award. Hams who present 15 QSOs will be achieve the Silver

Endorsement, while those who present 20 QSOs will receive the Gold Endorsement. The award fee is US \$4 or four IRCs.

Ebisawa will be glad to answer questions about JARL activities, including reciprocal licensing procedures. Check out the JARL website for [more information about JARL awards](#).

ARRL Card Checking and Outgoing QSL Bureau Services

A new feature to ARRL EXPO this year -- a large QSL Card Wall -- will be located near the international exhibits. "We're encouraging all attendees to bring a QSL card to affix to the wall," Inderbitzen said. "If you don't have QSL cards, please bring a postcard from your hometown. Together, we'll have fun eye-balling QSLs from around the country -- and around the world!"

ARRL staff and DXCC Card Checkers will once again offer full DXCC card checking and award applications this year at the ARRL EXPO. They will also be able to check applications and QSLs for the Worked All States (WAS) and the VHF/UHF Century Club (VUCC) awards. Applications will be limited to 120 cards (more cards will be checked as time -- and volunteer Card Checkers -- becomes available).

ARRL members will be able to drop off their QSL cards to be sent through the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau. If you have QSLs that you would like to send through the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau (your QSLs going to foreign stations -- no US-to-US QSLs, please), you can save the shipping cost to ARRL by bringing them to Dayton and the League will transport your cards to the Bureau in Newington.

In order to take advantage of this exciting benefit, all of the standard QSL Bureau rules must be followed: Cards must be sorted by DXCC country, they must go to countries where a bureau exists and you must be an ARRL member to use the Outgoing QSL Bureau. Patton said that hams utilizing this service do not need to box the cards, but they should be wrapped with rubber bands; ARRL will weigh the cards on-site in the ARRL EXPO area.

The rates are **\$6** for the first .5 pounds of cards or portion thereof. Keep in mind that approximately 75 cards weigh .5 pounds. The rates increase to **\$12** for one pound, and then **\$6** for each additional half-pound. For example, a package containing 1.5 pounds of cards should include the fee of **\$18**. A package of only 10 cards or fewer costs just **\$2** and 11-20 cards are **\$3**. Members can pay for this service via check, cash or credit card.



Dial Radio Club



Middletown, Ohio

APRS Digipeater: W8BLV 144.39

Repeaters: 52.21/53.21, 146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 449.825/444.825

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

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Bob Rohrbach, NR8R

Activities Manager:
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU

Vice-president:
Dave Williamson, KD8W

Newsletter Editor:
Jason Mossbarger, KD8GXD

Secretary:
Barney Taylor, N8HP

Newsletter Printing:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

Treasurer:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

June 2011

Minutes of the May 16, 2011 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance

K8CM, N8DHW, WA8DTU, N8EH, W8EH, N8GGE, N8HP, N8HRA, W8ISZ, W8LKU, N8LRN, WD8NKJ, N8QF, NR8R & Barbara, KC8TXA, KD8W, W8WCQ & Ginny, KB8WKL, W8WLM, KC8WOF

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by Bob, NR8R, at 7:00 p.m.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the November meeting as published was made by Ernie, N8EH, and seconded by Jim, W8ISZ. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, presented the treasurer's report. 2011 membership remains at 75 persons representing 53 families. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Barney, N8HP, and seconded by Carl, K8CM. The motion passed unanimously.

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported "no change from last month" regarding repeater status. Carl, K8CM, reported that Echolink is continuing to work well.

Activity Report:

Lorie, W8LKU, reminded those in attendance of the net on the 146.61 repeater on Thursday nights at 9:00 pm. Lorie also announced that emails would be sent to club members after Hamvention asking for the number of persons coming to the Field Day picnic, so she can purchase the appropriate amount of meat, drinks and utensils. She would like your input on or before the 20th of June.

Classes and Exams:

Beverley, N8GGE, reminded those in attendance of the exam session at Smith Park during the start of Field Day. Bob, NR8R, added that he now has VE credentials to help with exams. *Please encourage anyone wishing to get a license or to upgrade to come to Smith Park to license, participate in Get On The Air (GOTA) or just to talk and observe amateur radio operators in action. Secretary.*

Next Meeting: Monday, June, 19th, at the Golden Corral

Old Business:

Hamvention:

Ron, N8QF, announced that those going to help with setup at Hara would leave Wilson Schramm Spaulding Funeral Home at noon on Thursday. Departure will be at 5:30 am on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from the same location. They will then proceed to Calvin's (WB8MYT) home and pick up the more northern component. From there they will go to either the Sunoco station in Carlisle or McDonalds in Germantown, and then to Hara Arena. He reminded those in attendance of the request for a 10% donation of sales to help offset the Club's expenses for obtaining the Hamvention spaces.

George Foreman is expected to make appearances near lunch time. Lorie, W8LKU, has the coffee pot and will check it out. As usual, "there will be donuts", but maybe not as many as past years.

Those in attendance were reminded to bring their own lunch if they did not wish to purchase food onsite at Hamvention.

Field Day:

Roy, N8LRN, asked Mark, WD8NKJ, if he could bring his compressed air potato canon again this year.

Lorie, W8LKU, announced that "ALL FOOD WILL BE OFF THE TABLE BEFORE DARK THIS YEAR!". She apparently does not like to eat after raccoons and squirrels.

Ernie, W8EH, announced that the permission from the city is finally complete. Every camper must have a fire extinguisher in order to set up at Smith Park. Ernie also stated that he had tested the Club's big generator about two weeks ago, and it worked well.

Secretary's note: Field day will occur at Smith Park, Middletown on the 24th through the 26th of June. Camper setup will probably begin mid-morning of the 24th. Picnic shelter setup will likely start just after noon. Antenna, station, and station shelter setup will start at 2:00 pm on Friday.

Assistance from Club members (or any other volunteers) is most needed in the 2:00 to 5:00 period on Friday and Sunday – these are the times we setup and takedown the antennas and towers.

There is a lot of good fellowship and operating opportunities on Friday evening for those that wish to visit a while.

New Business

Art, N8PI, has inquired whether the Club would have interest in taking possession of the large Army tent that we used for the first couple of Field Days at Smith Park. After some discussion – mainly centered on the amount of space needed to

store it, the effort to put up the tent and the increased age of the membership – the consensus was that the tent is not appropriate for us old geezers. Thanks to Art for the offer.

Beverley, N8GGE, reported that a friend who lives near WPFB had heard from a neighbor that WPFB plans to remove several buildings near the transmitter site.

Carl, K8CM, announced that the new Butler Country Radio Club is having a visit from N5UP, the founder of E-QSL, on the 12th of September. It is likely that the talk will be on the west side of Hamilton for those interested in learning more about E-QSL.

Dave, KD8W, announce that Mary Anne Youch is back in the hospital after complications from her recent bypass surgery. He asks that members should keep Bob and Mary Anne in their thoughts.

Adjournment:

Carl, K8CM, moved and Ron, N8QF, seconded a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed with all ayes, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

*Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary*

NEW PRODUCTS THAT DEBUTED AT DAYTON

One of the most exciting things at the Dayton Hamvention each year is the introduction of new products. This year was no exception. From HF transceivers to receivers to test equipment to station equipment, there was a plethora of new products just about everywhere you turned.

Read more here <<http://www.arrl.org/news/new-products-at-dayton-2011>>.

ARRL FIELD DAY

Now is the time to start getting information out to the public about your ARRL Field Day <<http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>> activities. ARRL Field Day -- the largest on-the-air operating event -- is the one of the best opportunities of the year for showing our Amateur Radio capabilities to the public. ARRL Media and Public Information Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, notes that the ARRL has made many media materials available for local use. "Our visibility to the public is important in antenna, band preservation and texting issues, so we encourage you to use this opportunity to showcase what Amateur Radio can do," he said. Download an audio PSA that can air on your local radio stations here <<http://www.arrl.org/public-service>>

Next Meeting: Monday, June, 19th, at the **Golden Corral**

[announcements](#)>. Get a press release, a government proclamation template and invitation letters that you can use to invite your local officials to your Field Day site here <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2011/2011_FD_PR_info.pdf>.

Find high-definition video files suitable for airing on your local television stations here <<http://p1k.arrl.org/pub/pr/>>. Get more information on ARRL Field Day, including the 2011 ARRL Field Day logo and operating tips here. More info, the logo and tips are here <<http://www.arrl.org/current-contact-issue>>. Find a Field Day station near you here <<http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator>>. ARRL Field Day is June 25-26.

Next Meeting: Monday, June, 19th, at the **Golden Corral**



Dial Radio Club



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Newsletter Editor:
Jason Mossbarger, KD8GXD

Secretary:
Barney Taylor, N8HP

Newsletter Printing:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

Treasurer:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

June 2011

Minutes of the June 20, 2011 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance

K8CM, N8DHW, WA8DTU, N8EH, W8EH, N8GGE, KD8GXD, N8HP, N8HRA, KI8I, W8ISZ & Marg, W8LKU, N8LRN, NN8M, WD8NKJ, N8OZN, WA8PRA, N8QF, NR8R & Barbara, KD8W, W8WCQ, KB8WKL, KC8WOF, N8YFQ & Linda

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by Bob, NR8R, at 7:00 p.m.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the May meeting as published was made by Ernie, N8EH, and seconded by Lorie, W8LKU. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, presented the treasurer's report. 2011 membership stands at 77 persons representing 55 families. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Barney, N8HP, and seconded by Jason, KD8GXD. The motion passed with 1 nay.

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported "it's workin' ok" regarding repeater status. Carl, K8CM, reported that Echolink is continuing to work well.

Activity Report:

Lorie, W8LKU, reminded those in attendance of the net on the 146.61 repeater on Thursday nights at 9:00 pm. Lorie also announced that reservations for the Club picnic at Field Day are due today, June 20. As a special treat, omelets will be served for breakfast Sunday morning at Field Day.

Classes and Exams:

Beverley, N8GGE, reminded those in attendance of the exam session at Smith Park during the start of Field Day. Classes will resume in August. Beverley expects to be contacting instructors in the near future.

Old Business

Hamvention - None

Next Meeting: Monday, July, 18th, at the Golden Corral

Field Day:

Much of the meeting was taken up with a discussion of Field Day. Roy, N8LRN, discussed additional electric boxes for campers at the slightly moved location at Smith Park, as well as the increased amount of shade.

Ernie, W8EH, mentioned that canopies would be needed if we are to be able to avoid the tiresome exercise of raising the large structure. Also, he needs a monitor for one of the computers at Field Day. Ernie also gave a short timeline for Field Day: Park is reserved starting at 8:00 am – park campers after that time. The shelters will be set up starting at noon. Setup of antennas will begin at 2 pm. He mentioned a need for those staying overnight to be vigilant on Friday evening.



New Business

Dave, KD8W, announced that he had been contacted about taking down and removing a 50 foot tower in Mason. Anyone interested should get in touch with Dave for the contact information.

Adjournment:

Carl, K8CM, moved and Jason, KD8GXD, seconded a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed with all ayes, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm, although many in attendance stood around talking for a considerably longer amount of time.

Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary

Field Day 2011

They say pictures speak a thousand words, so here you go!
Thanks to everyone who gave pictures!



Next Meeting: Monday, July, 18th, at the Golden Corral



Next Meeting: Monday, July, 18th, at the **Golden Corral**



Next Meeting: Monday, July, 18th, at the **Golden Corral**



Next Meeting: Monday, July, 18th, at the Golden Corral



Next Meeting: Monday, July, 18th, at the **Golden Corral**



Next Meeting: Monday, July, 18th, at the Golden Corral



Next Meeting: Monday, July, 18th, at the **Golden Corral**



Dial Radio Club



Middletown, Ohio

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Vice-president:
Dave Williamson, KD8W

Newsletter Editor:
Jason Mossbarger, KD8GXD

Secretary:
Barney Taylor, N8HP

Newsletter Printing:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

Treasurer:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

August 2011

Minutes of the July 18, 2011 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance

K8CM, KD8CPV, N8DHW, WA8DTU, N8EH, W8EH, N8GGE, KD8GXD, N8HP, N8HRA, KI8I, W8ISZ & Marg, KB1KDW, W8LKU, N8OZN, N8QF, NR8R, KB8WKL, KC8WOF, N8YFQ & Linda, John Parks

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by Bob, NR8R, at 7:00 p.m.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the May meeting as published was made by Ernie, N8EH, and seconded by Carl, K8CM. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, presented the treasurer's report. 2011 membership stands at 80 persons representing 57 families. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Barney, N8HP, and seconded by Carl, K8CM. The motion passed without dissent.

Membership:

Charley Laube, N8MBX was sponsored for membership by Carl, K8CM. The motion to accept Charley's application was made by Ron, N8QF, and seconded by Carl, K8CM. The vote was unanimous. Welcome to Dial, Charley!

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported "operation normal" regarding repeater status. Carl, K8CM, reported that Echolink continues to work well.

Activity Report:

Lorie, W8LKU, reminded those in attendance of the net on the 146.61 repeater on Thursday nights at 9:00 pm. Lorie also expressed gratitude to all who partook in picnic held at Field Day - those who brought food, those who helped set up the tables, and those that took part in the fellowship. By Lorie's unofficial head count, the attendance was about 45 people this year.

Classes and Exams:

Carl, K8CM, provided results on the exam session at Smith Park during the start of Field Day. Several persons participated

Next Meeting: Monday, August, 15th, at the Golden Corral

in the exam process and all except one either earned a license or a license upgrade.

Beverley, N8GGE, reported that the next exam session will be held August 17th at the Verity lodge of Miami University Middletown Campus. Registration will begin at 6:00 and exams will begin around 6:30. Participants wishing more information should contact either Carl, K8CM, or Dave. KD8W.

Beverley also announced that the next Technician Class will begin on August 24th. The instructor's schedules will be sent out soon. Anyone with ideas on advertising or promoting the classes should proceed with those ideas. Carl, K8CM, or Beverley can provide PDF files for the exam and class announcements.

Old Business

Several comments were made regarding the success of the slightly altered location for Field Day. All were positive. Those that engendered the most response from the audience dealt the permit to camp at Smith Park (#001). The areas that we were lacking in fully meeting the rules for the permit (no emergency phone number or process clearly stated), and how W8EH, nearly needed to use the emergency phone after his tumble. It was suggested that Ernie be Chair of the next Field Day so that he could just sit and give orders...

Bob, NR8R, thanked all of those that participated in Field Day, and Ernie, W8EH, reported that the scores had been turned in to the ARRL.

New Business

Carl, K8CM, reported that he and Dave, KD8W, had served as VEs at the examinations given at Hamvention. Those exams were sponsored by the Laurel VEC rather than the ARRL VEC that Dial has participated under in the recent past. The major difference is that Laurel provides exams at no cost. This means that the local exam group must pick up the cost of printing, copying and mailing of materials as needed. With the ARRL VEC, a fee of \$15 is presently charged. ARRL provides all materials and postage. Local groups are permitted to keep a modest fraction, but those funds can only be used for examination related expenses. In the past, Dial kept its contribution and some of the funds went to providing equipment and supplies for the computerized exams which are no longer possible. Dial still holds approximately \$400 of those funds.

Carl, in discussion with Dave, thought that Dial might wish to participate in the Laurel VEC and give no cost exams. The local expenses (estimated to be less than \$10 per exam) would come from the pot that must be used on exams. He asked for the thoughts of those in attendance. Discussion included: whether the Laurel participation would affect the ARRL VEC standing; the possibility of returning to ARRL exams; whether the number of exam tries of a particular examinee could be limited on a given day; and a bit of frustration at not being able to give computerized exams under any VEC. Ron, N8QF, moved that we migrate to the Laurel VEC and use the funds that are

restricted to exams to pay the expenses. Dave, N8YFQ, seconded the motion that passed unopposed. Carl announced that the October exam will be the first under the Laurel VEC. He announced that he and Dave would facilitate exam team members in getting their Laurel certification.

Bob, NR8R, asked if the membership would be interested in listening to the reminiscences of a WOR broadcaster about his baptism into amateur radio during the years before most of those in attendance were licensed. The program was very lively, told from the point of view of a 14 year on schoolboy awed and amazed by the 'Experts'. Of particular interest was the nature of the exam (mostly essay) and the fact that one could not retest until 3 months after failing an exam. Also, it could be up to 12 weeks before you knew if you had passed the written exam. Several 'more experienced' hams including W8ISZ and K8CM were nodding, grinning and chuckling during the presentation. Most of the rest of us were glad that those particular 'good old days' don't exist anymore.

John Parks was visiting during the meeting and Bob, NR8R, asked to go around the room and announce ourselves.

Beverley, N8GGE, reported that she had talked with Ed and Sandi (KF8PD & AB8LA) during their recent trip to Ohio, and that they seem to be doing well in Mississippi – they just seem to be in too big of a hurry for the locals!

Adjournment:

Ernie, N8EH, moved and Carl, K8CM, seconded a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed with all ayes, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

*Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary*

Amateur Radio Class

Fall 2011-2012 Ham Radio Class To Begin !

Beginning August 24, the DIAL Radio Club will offer a six-week class to prepare a candidate for examination in Technician Class Amateur Radio operator license. Meeting in Verity Lodge, on the Middletown Campus of Miami University, this class will meet Wednesday evenings, 6-9 pm.

Class will conclude September 28 and be followed by an examination session on Wednesday, October 5. (Please 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.

Next Meeting: Monday, August, 15th, at the Golden Corral

Class enrollment will be limited to twenty students. For registration and/or additional information, please call Beverley Taylor or Carl Morgan

Vanity Call Sign Fee to Go Up in September

08/10/2011

On August 10, the FCC announced via a *Final Rule* in the *Federal Register* that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase 90 cents, from \$13.30 to \$14.20. The new fees take effect 30 days after publication, making September 9, 2011, the first day the new fee is in effect. Earlier this year, the FCC released a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM)*, seeking to raise the fee for Amateur Radio vanity call signs.

“The Commission tries to keep the regulatory fee for Vanity call signs as minimal as possible,” explained the FCC in its *Final Rule*. “Between FY 2007 and FY 2010, the regulatory fee for Vanity call signs increased from \$1.17 (per year) to \$1.33 (per year), an increase of \$0.16 per year or \$1.60 over a ten-year license period. We do not believe this increase is inequitable, and the Commission will continue its efforts to keep this fee as minimal as possible. The fees that are collected from Vanity call signs are used to offset the cost of monitoring and researching new call sign requests to prevent the issuance of duplicate call signs.”

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 14 years of the current program -- from a low of \$11.70 in 2007 to a high of \$70 (as first proposed in the FCC’s 1994 *Report and Order*). In FY 2011, the FCC expects to grant 14,600 vanity call signs, bringing in \$207,320 from the vanity call sign program, and looks to recover a total of \$336,599,048 in fees from all the Services that it regulates.

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 five years ago. 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.

ARRL

Solar Explosions Could Impact Earth

08/09/2011

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is keeping an eye on a set of solar storms and explosions that could disrupt satellite, telecommunications and electric equipment here on Earth in the next few days. While activity had reportedly returned to somewhat normal levels when solar winds calmed the morning of Monday, August 8, another explosion at 0805 UTC on Tuesday, August 9 was three times larger than the [February 15 flare](#), which, until now, was the most significant flare of Solar Cycle 24.

Given the location of the activity of Tuesday’s flare, any coronal mass ejection (CMEs) from the flare would likely be directed away from Earth. As such, the Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC) is not forecasting “significant Geomagnetic Storm activity” and the most recent storms should not affect radio amateurs. But when a CME does hit the Earth’s atmosphere -- approximately 72 hours after exploding on the Sun -- the low bands will be depressed and signals will be weaker the lower the frequency. The absorption rate will be most severe on 160 meters, less on 80 and somewhat better on 40 meters. The maximum usable frequency (MUF) -- the highest frequency by which a radio wave can propagate between given terminals by ionospheric propagation alone, independent of power -- will be lower and auroral propagation on the VHF bands is quite possible.

In 2013, solar activity levels are expected to peak with the next solar maximum within the 11-year solar activity cycle. “We now know how powerful space weather can be and how events that begin on the surface of the Sun can end up wreaking havoc here on Earth,” said SWPC Director Tom Bogdan. “This is why NOAA has a Space Weather Prediction Center -- to forecast when space weather is coming our way, so we can avoid or mitigate damages. We’re coming up to the next solar maximum, so we expect to see more of these storms coming from the Sun over the next three to five years.”

Electric and magnetic interference from solar storms blasting electrically charged particles into the Earth’s magnetic field can cause major problems on Earth. When a space weather storm is on the way, satellite operators can switch into standby mode and temporarily forgo communication between ground control and spacecraft in orbit to prevent the garbling of messages. Airlines can reroute planes that normally take fuel-saving polar routes. Along those routes, pilots depend on HF radio communications that are vulnerable to disruptions by space weather. This impact has already occurred in 2011: In February and June, airlines reported loss of HF communication near the Arctic, due to space weather. But pilots and commercial aircraft are not the only ones at risk: NOAA cautions that many systems humans use every day are vulnerable to changes in space weather, including GPS applications in mobile phones and in cars, power grids and military satellites.

People in 1859 didn’t have that advantage when a solar eruption caused a giant aurora visible as far south as the Caribbean Islands and essentially charged the air on Earth with electricity, taking out telegraph offices across the globe. According to NOAA, some telegraph operators received electric shocks and

Next Meeting: Monday, August, 15th, at the **Golden Corral**

papers within offices caught fire. The interference even caused telegraph equipment to continue distributing signals once the equipment had been turned off. A 2008 report by the [National Research Council](#) predicted that a storm of similar magnitude today could cause \$1 to \$2 trillion in damage, globally. --
Thanks to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Space Weather Prediction Center and the Solar Dynamics Observatory for some information

ARRL

Next Meeting: Monday, August, 15th, at the **Golden Corral**



Dial Radio Club



Middletown, Ohio

APRS Digipeater: W8BLV 144.39

Repeaters: 52.21/53.21, 146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 449.825/444.825

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

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Activities Manager:
Lorie Urschel, W8LKU

Vice-president:
Dave Williamson, KD8W

Newsletter Editor:
Jason Mossbarger, KD8GXD

Secretary:
Barney Taylor, N8HP

Newsletter Printing:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

Treasurer:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

September 2011

Minutes of the August 15, 2011 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance

K8CM, WA8DTU, N8EH, N8GGE, KD8GXD, N8HP, N8HRA, KI8I, W8ISZ, W8LKU, NN8M, KD8NCT, N8QF, NR8R & Barbara, KB8WKL & Barbara, N8YFQ

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by Bob, NR8R, at 7:00 p.m.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the May meeting as published was made by Ernie, N8EH, and seconded by Dave, N8YFQ. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, presented the treasurer's report. 2011 membership remains at 80 persons representing 57 families. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Carl, K8CM and seconded by Dave, N8YFQ. The motion passed without dissent.

Repeater/Station Report:

In the absence of Ernie, W8EH, Carl, K8CM, reported "operation normal" regarding repeater status. However, Echolink was down for a day or two before Carl rectified the situation.

Activity Report:

Lorie, W8LKU, reminded those in attendance of the net on the 146.61 repeater on Thursday nights at 9:00 pm.

Classes and Exams:

Beverley, N8GGE, reported that the next exam session will be held August 17th at the Verity lodge of Miami University Middletown Campus. Registration will begin at 6:00 and exams will begin around 6:30. Participants wishing more information should contact either Carl, K8CM, or Dave, KD8W. The class to prepare participants for the Technician License will begin on August 24th. She asked those present to 'drum up' more students.

Old Business

Carl, K8CM, reported that thus far four VEs had provided him with the documentation to be certified as a VE by the Laurel VEC. The first exam in October should have a minimum of 6 VEs certified (*unless we really want to make Carl & Dave work*

Next Meeting: Monday, September, 19th, at the Golden Corral

– *n8hp*). Carl will take care of the certification once the ARRL certified individuals have given their materials to him.

Bob, NR8R, thanked all of those that participated in Field Day, and Ernie, W8EH, reported that the scores had been turned in to the ARRL.

New Business

Ron, N8QF, reported that the Club has decided to continue with the ARRL sanctioned insurance provider, Hayes Infinity Solution. As a result the club will save a slight amount of money compared to the insurance rate for the current year.

Doug Troy, KD8NCT, was introduced by Carl, K8CM. Carl indicated that Doug has a 5 watt Flex 1500 transceiver, and may be the first person to attend a Dial meeting that owns a Software Defined Radio.

Adjournment:

Lorie, W8LKU, moved and Carl, K8CM, seconded a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed with all eyes, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 pm.

*Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary*

**ARRL Facebook
Page: 20,000 Fans
Strong**

09/12/2011

With more than 20,000 fans on Facebook, the ARRL Facebook page is the number one spot for hams on the Internet's most popular social networking site. Not only is the ARRL page the most popular Amateur Radio page on Facebook, it is attracting many young -- and not-so-young -- hams to share their opinions and ham radio-related news with other hams.

According to Facebook demographics, more than 460 people between the ages of 13-17 are fans of the ARRL's page, with 74 percent of users below the age of 55 (Facebook breaks down its statistics in age groups of 13-17, 18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54 and 55+). Since September 2010, hundreds of users post their own comments on the page, make a comment on a post or "like" a comment each week. The ARRL has been active on Facebook

since July 2010. Since that time, almost 14.5 million people -- fans and non-fans alike -- have viewed the ARRL Facebook page. The ARRL also has a Logbook of the World Facebook page. Premiering in June 2011, this popular page has almost 1000 ham fans.

"We are excited to have such a strong presence on Facebook," said ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, who serves as the Chief Administrator of the ARRL's Facebook pages. "Through our page, we try to showcase Amateur Radio fun by using interactive status updates, articles from the ARRL website and photos from events that are happening all around the world. Personally, I really enjoy seeing what other hams have to say about their love and enjoyment of Amateur Radio."

While US hams make up the vast majority of users on the League's Facebook pages, hams from all over the world -- including Indonesia, Italy, Canada, the United Kingdom, Malaysia, Spain, the Philippines, Germany, France, Greece, Turkey, Australia, Argentina, India, Norway, Belgium, Portugal and Brazil -- are active, too. "Facebook only gives us the top 20 countries represented that visit our page, but I know from personal interaction with hams that we have more than just those 20 countries visiting us every day," Keane explained. "We invite hams to 'like' the ARRL and the LoTW Facebook pages and leave comments. Joining Facebook is free, and you just might be surprised at who you'll find on the site."

ARRL

Next Meeting: Monday, September, 19th, at the **Golden Corral**



Dial Radio Club



Middletown, Ohio

APRS Digipeater: W8BLV 144.39

Repeaters: 52.21/53.21, 146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 449.825/444.825

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Vice-president:
Dave Williamson, KD8W

Newsletter Editor:
Jason Mossbarger, KD8GXD

Secretary:
Barney Taylor, N8HP

Newsletter Printing:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

Treasurer:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

October 2011

Minutes of the September 19, 2011 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance

K8CM, WA8DTU, N8GGE, N8HP, KI8I, W8ISZ, W8LKU, N8LRN & Eve, NN8M, KD8NCT, WD8NKJ, NR8R & Barbara, KC8TXA, KD8W, KB8WKL, N8YFQ - *not on roster but in minutes: N8EH, W8EH, N8QF - others?? (Missed table??)*

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by Bob, NR8R, at 7:00 p.m.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the May meeting as published was made by Bob, NN8N, and seconded by Carl, K8CM. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, presented the treasurer's report. 2011 membership remains at 80 persons representing 57 families. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Dave, KD8W, and seconded by Dave, N8YFQ. The motion passed without dissent.

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, and Carl, K8CM, both reported "everything's workin'" regarding repeater status. Ron, N8QF, wondered why K8CM was doing 'hardware' when he is the 'software' guy pertaining to Carl's visit to the repeater site.

Activity Report:

Lorie, W8LKU, reminded those in attendance of the net on the 146.61 repeater on Thursday nights at 9:00 pm.

Classes and Exams:

Beverley, N8GGE, reported that the next exam session will be held October 5th at the Verity lodge of Miami University Middletown Campus. Registration will begin at 6:00 and exams will begin around 6:30. Participants wishing more information should contact either Carl, K8CM, or Dave, KD8W. The class to prepare participants for the General Class License will begin on October 12th. She asked those present to 'beat the bushes' for attendees. Carl, K8CM, tried to encourage Evan, KC8TXA, to participate in the class.

Carl, K8CM, passed out credentials for the Laurel VEC. The exam on October 5th will be the first exam with no fee for the examinees, and will be held under the auspices of the Laurel VEC. VEs are asked to be at Verity Lodge by 5:30, if possible,

Next Meeting: Monday, October, 17th, at the Golden Corral

to discuss differences in the paperwork compared to the ARRL VEC.

Old Business

None

New Business

Ron, N8QF, reported that he had spoken with the chief engineer of WNKU (now the owner of WPFB – the Dial 146.61 repeater site) and Dial is still a welcome guest. WNKU has plans to clean up the repeater site, remove unused sheds, etc. They would eventually like to build a new building at the transmitter. Ron added that they seem to be public service minded, and as a listener supported station, they were looking for money, and Dial should consider making a donation to WNKU. Ernie, N8EH, made the motion to donate \$100 to WNKU and Dave, KD8W, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Bob, NR8R, confirmed that the October meeting will be at the Golden Corral and that he will contact Golden Corral management to see if Dial must find another venue for the November meeting due to Golden Corral's free meals for veterans on Dial's usual meeting day.

Adjournment:

Lorie, W8LKU, moved and Dave, N8YFQ, seconded a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed with all ayes, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

*Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary*

ISS to Be On the Air for JOTA

10/11/2011

If you are planning on participating in this weekend's Jamboree On the Air (JOTA), take note: Astronaut Mike Fossum, KF5AQG, is planning to participate in JOTA from the International Space Station, using the call sign NA1SS. According to the AMSAT website, Fossum's schedule is somewhat flexible on the weekends, but he will not be available for every pass. The typical crew work periods are 0800-1930 UTC, but they are sometimes available a bit later. When available, Fossum will be operating on the standard ISS

frequencies. In the US and elsewhere in IARU Regions 2 and 3, the uplink is 144.49 MHz. In Region 1, the uplink is 145.200 MHz. The worldwide downlink for NA1SS is 145.800 MHz.

ARRL

US Amateurs Now

700,000 Strong!

10/12/2011

As the third quarter of 2011 came to a close, ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, began calculating the number of licensed Amateur Radio operators in the US, as well as the number of new licensees. "At the end of September, I saw that the number of hams in the US was high," she said. "When I started comparing that number with other years, I found that it was an all-time high." For the first time, there are more than 700,000 radio amateurs in the US.

"When looking at the three current license classes -- Technician, General and Amateur Extra -- these numbers are impressive," Somma explained. "The number of Technicians peaked in March 2011 at 342,572, while in September 2011, we saw both Generals and Extras peak at 159,861 and 125,661, respectively. As new Technicians earn their Amateur Radio licenses, and current Technician licensees move on to General and Generals upgrade to Extra, this can cause up-and-down fluctuations for these totals."

Somma said these high numbers mean that hams are upgrading and renewing in larger numbers and staying interested in hobby: "These are compelling statistics and I am thrilled to see the highest number of amateur radio licensees ever! When I began working at the ARRL back in the mid 1980s, there were approximately 450,000 amateurs in the US. Our VEC program conducted an average of 55 sessions a week. Today, we administer approximately 150 exam sessions each week, and our total number of licensees across all three license classes continues to grow each year."

In the past 40 years, the number of Amateur Radio operators in the US has grown at a remarkable rate:

- December 1971: 285,000

Next Meeting: Monday, October, 17th, at the **Golden Corral**

- December 1981: 433,000
- December 1991: 494,000
- December 2001: 683,000
- September 2011: 700,221

*Source: 1971, 1981, 1991: print editions of Radio Amateur Callbook. 2001, 2011: www.ah0a.org/FCC/Graphs.html. **Please note:** While the number of licensees has grown considerably over the years, we realize that these numbers include some who are no longer active in Amateur Radio. A recent survey of ARRL members, however, indicates that more than 80 percent of those responding are active.*

“As technology changes and advances, it is especially vital to keep up or be at the forefront,” Somma said. “I believe that Amateur Radio has done just that! The measurable results are our indisputable license numbers. It amazes me after all these years how important and relevant Amateur Radio remains. I am proud to be one of the 700,221 licensees and to see this historic and important milestone.”

ARRL

Next Meeting: Monday, October, 17th, at the **Golden Corral**



Dial Radio Club



Middletown, Ohio

APRS Digipeater: W8BLV 144.39

Repeaters: 52.21/53.21, 146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 449.825/444.825

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Vice-president:
Dave Williamson, KD8W

Newsletter Editor:
Jason Mossbarger, KD8GXD

Secretary:
Barney Taylor, N8HP

Newsletter Printing:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

Treasurer:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

June 2011

Minutes of the October 17, 2011 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance

W8ATG & Mary, WA8DTU, N8EH, W8EH, N8GGE, N8HP, N8HRA, KI8I, W8ISZ, W8LKU, N8LRN & Eve, NN8M, NR8R & Barbara, KC8TXA, KB8WKL, KC8WOF, N8YFQ

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by Bob, NR8R, at 7:00 p.m.

Secretary's Report:

After noting that the Secretary had not properly fulfilled his function with regard to passing the attendance sheet during the September meeting, a motion to accept the minutes of the October meeting as published was made by Ernie, N8EH. The motion was seconded by Lorie, W8LKU, and passed with one nay.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, presented the treasurer's report. 2011 membership remains at 80 persons representing 57 families. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Ernie, N8EH, and seconded by Dave, N8YFQ. The motion passed

with one nay. Ron added that he had received an email from the General Manager of WNKU thanking Dial for the donation.

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported "everything works good" regarding repeater status. Ron, N8QF, gave the same report for Echolink, which is now located at his place of business.

Activity Report:

Lorie, W8LKU, announced to those in attendance of the net on the 146.61 repeater on Thursday would be canceled for the 20th of November due to a funeral in her family, but would meet other Thursday nights at 9:00 pm.

Classes and Exams:

Beverley, N8GGE, reported on the outcome of the first exam to be held under the auspices of the Laurel VEC. Five new licenses were earned by the examinees. She also announced that the General Class Exam Preparation Course had been canceled due to low attendance. Only two participants were present. Although both were enthusiastic, the feeling amongst the instructors is that is too small a class to go forward. She asked the Instructors to think about what they would like to do starting in January. The next Exam will be held November 30th at Verity

Next Meeting: Monday, November 21st, at the Golden Corral

Lodge, Miami University Middletown. Registration will begin at 6:00. VE's are encouraged to report around 5:30.

Old Business

None

New Business

Bob, NR8R, confirmed that the November meeting will be held at the Golden Corral since their Veterans Appreciation Day will be the Monday before the November Dial Meeting.

Bob appointed a Nominating Committee consisting of Ernie, W8EH, Don WA8DTU, and Bob, NN8M with the charge of finding a slate of candidates for the Dial officers for 2012. Anyone wishing to serve should contact one of the Nominating Committee Members. Elections will be held at the December Meeting.

Ernie, W8EH, announced that he had tickets for the Fort Wayne, Indiana Hamfest should anyone desire them. He reminded those in attendance of the CQ World Wide Phone Contest during the last weekend of the month. This is a good contest to make work DX stations with the simple exchange of Calls and a report of '59 04' for stations in Ohio.

Adjournment:

Ernie, N8EH, moved and Evan, KC8TXA, seconded a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed with all ayes, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:13 pm.

*Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary*

Field Day Results 2011

The scores for this past summer's Field Day have just become available and to paraphrase Ernie, W8EH, 'we done good'.

A quick survey of the 3A class shows that K8PI (the Dial contest call) did very well coming in 3rd in Ohio and 54th (out of 347) in the country. Our score of 4964 (1350 qso's) followed W8ZPF (CRES ARC – east side of Columbus) with 5398 (1546 qso's) and K8CY (Ashtabula Co RC) with 4982 points (1445 qso's) in Ohio.

Dial's CW station had problems that were a combination of a radio that wanted too much power and batteries that could not supply enough power. As a result, we lost a couple of hours of CW time – which would have likely earned second place for Dial since we only needed a few more contacts to come up with another 20 points.

Although 84% of the Class 3A participants nationwide had lower scores than Dial, the winner set the standard for others to follow. W9CA in Illinois had a score of 23014, with 6324 qso's – more qso's than we had points! They were serious! The

lowest 3A score was submitted by W0MG in Iowa with a score of 478 points for 75 contacts.

The results for the 2011 Field Day are available on line at http://www.arrl.org/results-database?event_id=27537.

Barney Taylor, N8HP

Apply Now to Host a Real-Time Conversation with Crewmembers Onboard the ISS

11/17/2011

NASA is now accepting proposals from US schools, museums, science centers and community youth organizations to host an Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contact between July 15, 2012 and January 15, 2013. To maximize these radio contact opportunities, NASA is looking for organizations that will draw large numbers of participants and integrate the contact into a well-developed education plan. Proposals are due January 30, 2012.

Using Amateur Radio, students can ask astronauts questions about life in space and other space-related topics. Students fully engage in the ARISS contact by helping set up an Amateur Radio ground station at the school and then using that station to talk directly with a crewmember on the International Space Station for approximately 10 minutes. ARISS has a network of mentors to help obtain the technology required to host this exciting opportunity for students.

Interested parties should contact NASA's Teaching From Space office via e-mail to obtain complete information including how the technology works, what is expected of the host organization and the proposal/application form. You can find more information here.

Online Information Sessions

In order to help you prepare your proposal, the Teaching From Space office will be offering informational sessions. These sessions last about 60 minutes and are designed to provide more information regarding US ARISS contacts and the proposal process, as well as provide an avenue for interested organizations to ask questions. Attending an online informational session is not required, but it is strongly encouraged.

The dates and times of the online informational sessions are listed below. If you are interested in attending or have questions regarding the proposal process, please send an e-mail, indicating which session you would like to attend. You will need access to the Internet and a telephone line to connect to a session.

- **Session 1:** Monday, November 21, 2011; 3 PM CST (2100 UTC)
- **Session 2:** Wednesday, December 7, 2011; 12 PM CST (1800 UTC)

Next Meeting: Monday, November 21st, at the **Golden Corral**

- **Session 3:** Tuesday, December 13, 2011 9 AM CST (1400 UTC)
 - **Session 4:** Wednesday, January 11, 2012; 3 PM CST (2100 UTC)
- ARRL*

Dial Meeting

The November Dial Meeting will be Monday, November 21st at the Golden Corral, in Middletown (the usual place). The veterans dinner was held November 14th .

Hope to see you there!

Next Meeting: Monday, November 21st, at the **Golden Corral**



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Middletown, Ohio

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Jason Mossbarger, KD8GXD

Secretary:
Barney Taylor, N8HP

Newsletter Printing:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

Treasurer:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

May 2011

Minutes of the November 21, 2011 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance

K8CM, WA8DTU, N8EH, W8EH, N8GGE, KD8GXD, N8HP, N8HRA, KI8I, W8ISZ, W8LKU, WA8PRA, N8QF, NR8R & Barbara, KC8TXA, W8WCQ & Ginny, W8WLM, KC8WOF, N8YFQ

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by Bob, NR8R, at 7:00 p.m.

Secretary's Report:

After noting that the Secretary had not properly fulfilled his function with regard to passing the attendance sheet during the September meeting, a motion to accept the minutes of the October meeting as published was made by Ernie, N8EH. The motion was seconded by Carl, K8CM, and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, presented the treasurer's report. 2011 membership remains at 80 persons representing 57 families. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Ernie,

N8EH, and seconded by Dave, N8YFQ. The motion passed with one nay.

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported "operation normal" regarding repeater status. Ron, N8QF, gave the report "everything's fine" for Echolink, which is still located at his place of business.

Activity Report:

Lorie, W8LKU, announced to those in attendance of the net on the 146.61 repeater on Thursday would be canceled until December 1, at which time it will meet other Thursday nights at 9:00 pm.

Classes and Exams:

Beverley, N8GGE, announced that another exam will be held on November 30th at Verity Lodge, Miami University Middletown. Registration begins at 6:00 with exams starting about 6:30. She called on the instructors to think about the class starting in January. She reported that we had 3 students in the Technician class that started in August and 2 for the General class that was canceled in October. She had no idea of the demand for extra. Should be General be attempted again? There was some discussion among those present, but no decision was

Next Meeting: Monday, December, 19th, at the **Golden Corral**

reached. The Instructors participating in the Exam on November 30th were charged with discussing the options such that advertising could be in place at R & L for Customer Appreciation Day on December 10th to better publicize the classes.

Carl, K8CM, reported that Roger Smallwood of R & L had indicated more than normal interest from his customers in the exam to be given at R & L on December 10th. Carl anticipated 15 to 20 persons to be served by the exam sponsored by the Laurel VEC and significantly manned by Dial VEs.

Old Business

Bob asked for a report from the Nominating Committee and they had no report. They had not yet met to determine a slate of candidates for the December election of officers.

New Business

None.

Adjournment:

Lorie, W8LKU, moved and Ernie, N8EH, seconded a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed with all eyes, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary

House-Passed Payroll Tax Bill Includes Amateur Radio Study

12/15/2011 ARRL

The *Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2011* (HR 3630) -- the bill to extend the payroll tax reduction that passed the US House of Representatives on Tuesday, December 13 -- includes among its many other provisions the "Jumpstarting Opportunity with Broadband Spectrum Act" or "JOBS Act" that passed the Communications and Technology Subcommittee on December 1. The JOBS Act makes up Title IV of HR 3630 and includes the following:

SEC. 4205. STUDY ON EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS BY AMATEUR RADIO AND IMPEDIMENTS TO AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS.

•(a) In General- Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the [Federal

Communications] Commission, in consultation with the Office of Emergency Communications in the Department of Homeland Security, shall--

•(1) complete a study on the uses and capabilities of amateur radio service communications in emergencies and disaster relief; and

•(2) submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the findings of such study.

•(b) Contents- The study required by subsection (a) shall include--

•(1)(A) a review of the importance of emergency amateur radio service communications relating to disasters, severe weather, and other threats to lives and property in the United States; and

•(B) recommendations for--

•(i) enhancements in the voluntary deployment of amateur radio operators in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts; and

•(ii) improved integration of amateur radio operators in the planning and furtherance of initiatives of the Federal Government; and

•(2)(A) an identification of impediments to enhanced amateur radio service communications, such as the effects of unreasonable or unnecessary private land use restrictions on residential antenna installations; and

•(B) recommendations regarding the removal of such impediments.

•(c) Expertise- In conducting the study required by subsection (a), the Commission shall use the expertise of stakeholder entities and organizations, including the amateur radio, emergency response, and disaster communications communities.

Such a study has long been sought by the ARRL.

Next Meeting: Monday, December 19, *Golden Corral Buffet & Grill*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

HR 3630 is now up for consideration in the Senate where its prospects for passage are dimmed by the inclusion of a controversial provision concerning a pipeline project.

NTSB Urges States to Ban Cell Phone Use by Drivers

12/15/2011 ARRL

On Tuesday, December 13, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) recommended that States ban the nonemergency use of *all* cellular telephones and other “portable electronic devices” (PEDs) by drivers of motor vehicles. This would include hands-free cell phone operation and all text messaging while mobile. While this NTSB recommendation has been the lead story in national media, the “distracted driving” issue has been receiving serious attention for several years. A number of states and municipalities have prohibited texting and handheld cellular telephone use by all or some drivers, though none has gone so far as to outlaw all hands-free cell phone use. To avoid unintended consequences to Amateur Radio operation, the ARRL has been closely involved with this issue for several years. The full text of the NTSB report is not yet available, and it is not yet known whether the broad term “portable electronic devices” might be construed as including all or some Amateur Radio equipment.

On January 30, 2009, the Executive Committee of the ARRL Board of Directors approved and released an ARRL position paper on Mobile Amateur Radio Operation. In that paper, the ARRL encourages licensees to conduct Amateur Radio communications from motor vehicles in a manner that does not detract from the safe and attentive operation of a motor vehicle at all times, but points out that mobile two-way radio equipment has been in use for at least 70 years and is quite dissimilar from full-duplex cell phones.

“Over the past several years, ARRL Section Managers, State Government Liaisons and ARRL members have monitored hundreds of state legislative bills on this topic,” ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, explained. “While ARRL Headquarters is an information resource, it is the hard work of state and local level ARRL leadership that has been the key in our efforts to protect Amateur Radio mobile operation.”

The wording of state legislation -- and specifically the definition of the devices that are being regulated -- determines what response is appropriate from the Amateur Radio community. The fact that a proposed state bill does not include a specific exemption for Amateur Radio doesn't necessarily mean the bill would prohibit Amateur Radio mobile operation. A well-crafted bill that narrowly defines “wireless mobile devices” or “wireless communications devices,” for example, limiting those definitions cellular telephones and text messaging devices, might

not need a specific exemption in order to protect Amateur Radio operation. In cases where a bill must be amended in order to add an Amateur Radio exemption, the proposed exemption language is critical. Some mobile cellular legislation, for example, would allow use of Amateur Radio while mobile only in an emergency, and thus routine amateur communications would still be precluded, and amateurs would be unlikely to install equipment that would be needed in an emergency.

The NTSB recommends that all states prohibit the use of cell phones and PEDs by all drivers of motor vehicles. The NTSB does not have the authority to impose such regulations itself, but the recommendation is likely to inspire additional legislative proposals. When state legislatures convene after January 1, the State Government Liaisons (SGLs), Section Managers and other volunteers in the ARRL Field Organization must monitor bills introduced into the various state legislatures for any potential problems. Introduction of such state legislation has been the norm for several years now; in fact, bills have been “prefiled” prior to the next legislative session in several states.

When a potential bill is sent to the ARRL, Regulatory Branch staff and legal experts review it to determine the potential impact on the Amateur Radio Service. If the definition of the prohibited activity clearly does not include Amateur Radio communications, it may be best to avoid raising the issue.

In August 2009, the ARRL received correspondence from the National Safety Council, stating that there is no evidence of significant risk by mobile Amateur Radio or other two-way mobile radio usage, and that until there are peer-reviewed studies showing that there is a safety hazard, the NSC does not support legislative bans on mobile Amateur Radio communications. The NSC has applauded the NTSB recommendations, citing evidence that “cognitive distraction” occurs, even when hands-free devices are used.

The ARRL's position is set out in the Mobile Amateur Radio Policy Statement, and includes suggested legislative language for use where necessary. SGLs and volunteers are encouraged to use the basics of the statement when working with state legislators.

CTIA, the international association for the wireless telecommunications industry, has released a statement reiterating its support for a ban on texting while driving: “As far as talking on wireless devices while driving, we defer to state and local lawmakers and their constituents as to what they believe are the most appropriate laws where they live.”

“The bottom line,” Henderson concluded, “is that we all support safe driving. Amateurs are encouraged to pay full time and attention to attentive driving while behind the wheel, and to avoid any and all distractions.”

Next Meeting: Monday, December, 19th, at the Golden Corral

Amateur Radio Balloon Flies From California to Algeria

By [Rebecca Boyle](http://www.popsoci.com) <http://www.popsoci.com>

A weather balloon built and powered by amateur radio balloon enthusiasts made an **epic three-day journey** from California to the Mediterranean, splashing down after it apparently burst somewhere off the Algerian coast. The transcontinental transatlantic flight covered a record-shattering 6,236 miles.

The **California Near Space Project** launched four balloons Sunday, Dec. 11, from a site near Silicon Valley, two of which were high-altitude explorers and two of which were “floaters,” long-distance travelers designed to reach a certain altitude and then float with the prevailing winds.

One of the two floaters apparently crashed in southern Indiana, but the second balloon, call sign K6RPT-11, made its way across half the planet. It was last tracked traveling above the Mediterranean, moving 35 MPH at 14,558 feet.

The balloon was a 1,600 gram Hwoyee model carrying a small radio that enabled tracking via the Automatic Position Reporting System. Radio operators in Nova Scotia apparently lost track of the balloon sometime Tuesday, but it reappeared 11 hours later, moving east toward the Azores, according to **the Register**.

Ron Meadows, 55, and his son, Lee Meadows, 32, both swimming pool service repairmen, have launched several weather balloons in an attempt to break records, as the **San Jose Mercury News** reports. In October, their latex balloon set a new altitude record by soaring 136,545 feet and beating the previous record-holder, a Cornell University project, by 1,500 feet. The long-distance balloon nearly doubles the range of the previous record-holder, a transatlantic floater that flew 3,361 miles.

Happy Holidays!

I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy, safe, New Year!

Jason KD8GXD