



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

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

January 2013

Minutes of the December 17th, 2012 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance

WA8DTU, N8EH, W8EH, N8GGE, KD8GXD, N8HP, N8HRA, W8ISZ, W8LKU, N8LRN & Eve, NN8M, N8OZN & Ginny, WA8PRA, KC8TXA, 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 May meeting as published was made by Ernie, N8EH, and seconded by Jason, KD8GXD. The motion passed without dissent.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, presented the treasurer's report. Final membership for 2012 is 77 members representing 54 families. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by David, N8YFQ, and seconded by Evan, KC8TXA. The motion passed unanimously.

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported that "everything's workin'" with regard to the repeater system. WNKU has requested that Dial move its repeater from the present wooden storage building into the permanent concrete building. Ron, N8QF, added there is some confusion, since he understood from WNKU's Chief Engineer that Dial would likely be housed in a new building that has yet to be constructed. Ron agreed to seek clarification and report to the Membership.

Ron, N8QF, also reported that Echolink is working well.

Activity Report:

Lorie, W8LKU, reminded those in attendance of the Dial Net on Thursday evening at 9:00 pm on the 146.61 MHz repeater. She went on to announce that due to other concerns, she was stepping down as Net Manager after serving for more than 13 years. She reported that the number of people checking into the net is very low. She recognized Jason, KD8GXD, for his service as Net Control. After some discussion, Ernie, W8EH, made a motion to suspend the net at the beginning of 2013. Jason, KD8GXD, seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Classes and Exams:

Next Meeting: Monday, January, 21th, at the **Golden Corral**

Beverley, N8GGE, passed along information about the examination session given at R & L on December 8th. A total of 18 examinees were served: Three people earned Technician licenses, and several upgraded to either General or Extra Class. 8 Volunteer Examiners were present.

The next exam session will be on January 16th at Verity Lodge, Miami University Middletown. VE's should report at 5:30. Registration will begin at 6:00 pm followed by exams around 6:30 pm.

Beverley also asked whether to try running an Extra preparation class or repeating the Technician class. After no one spoke in favor of giving the Extra preparation, or indicated a desire to take the Extra course, she decided that a Technician preparatory course will be given.

Bob, NR8R, asked about interest in a parallel, more technical, session similar to those of the Fall. A decision was postponed until the January Club meeting, and those in attendance were asked to provide topics of interest.

Old Business

Nominating committee report / Elections: Jason, KD8JXD, presented a slate consisting of the existing officers: President, Bob Rohrbach, NR8R; Vice-president, Dave Williamson, KD8W; Secretary, Barney Taylor, N8HP; Treasurer Ron Spaulding, N8QF; and Activities Manager, Lorie Urschel, W8LKU. A call for nominations from the floor went unanswered. Ernie, N8EH, moved that nominations be closed and the current officers re-elected by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Jason, KD8GXD, and passed unanimously.

New Business

Bob, NR8R, appointed an Audit Committee consisting of Ernie, W8EH, Bob, NN8M, and Don, WA8DTU. The Committee will meet with Ron, N8QF, during January and report to the Membership in either January or February.

Ernie, W8EH, moved and Barney, N8HP, seconded a motion to purchase Hamvention Tickets when they become available. The number will remain the same as last year. The motion was approved.

Ernie also announced that he would be demonstrating his "Fun Cube" software defined radio receiver after the close of the business meeting.

Barney, N8HP, asked that the membership recognize the unselfish service of Lorie, W8LKU, and Jason, KD8GXD, for running the Dial net. Lorie and Jason were greeted with a warm round of applause.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Ron, N8QF, and seconded Ernie, N8EH. The motion was approved unanimously at 7:23 pm.

*Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary*

Baofeng UV-5R

Seeing all of the rumors and positive reviews of the 'cheap Chinese Radios' I decided to pick one up. These are my random thoughts and observations about it.

I bought the Baofeng UV-5R Plus model from the Sain Store on Amazon for about \$55. I also purchased a programming cable, speaker mic, a spare battery, and a cheap knock off antenna (that I should have just saved the money on!). I got them all (including the radio) for under \$120!

The radio is described as:

BaoFeng *UV-5R Plus* UV 5R+ Dual-Band 136-174/400-480 MHz FM Ham Two-way Radio, More Stubborn Case, More Rich and Enhanced Features (2012 the Latest Version)

I think something gets lost in the translation. There appears to be several versions of the radio, I thought this model had the best visual appearance. The functionality of all the models should be the same, there are different firmware versions, newer is better, they are not upgradeable.

The radio feels nice in the hand, it is larger than the Yaesu VX-3, but smaller than a full sized HT like the Yaesu VX-170.

It is rated at 4 watts on high power and 1 watt on low. The stock antenna leaves a bit to be desired, and that is the typical sentiment when reading reviews online about the radio. The sticker under that battery says it complies with Part 90 of the FCC rules, I believe that is business/industrial service.

The antenna connector is reversed from what we are used to in the ham world, the sma connections are on the wrong ends (like a business type of radio) with the male sma end on the radio. So, I ran to the candy store and purchased a female to female barrel sma adapter, found something (an old nylon plastic gear and a neoprene washer) to act as a spacer/washer. And now all of my current sma antennas work. They perform much better than the stock antenna. Even the small antenna from my vx-3 performs very well on this radio, maybe even a bit better than the vx-3.

Manually programming the radio isn't as easy as I am used to. There are no automatic repeater offsets, they all have to be manually entered in. This is where the programming cable, and the open source software 'chirp' came in handy. Programming it from the computer was simple. And since this radio can transmit on any frequency it can receive, you are able to program the memories to not transmit on the slots you choose (from the

software only, can't be done manually from the radio). You can also set the band limits with the software, to keep the vfo mode inside the ham bands, or to whatever you choose. And you can save/restore all of your menu settings. There are 128 memory slots. If you reverse the high and low ends of the vfo (in the software) you will disable the vfo, which is how (I assume) it can be part 90 accepted.

It also has dual watch, where you can listen to two frequencies almost at once. It has an 'A' and 'B' that you can have different frequencies set, and while one is quiet it will break in to let you hear the other, not quite dual receive.

It seems you have to 'close talk' the radio, or the received audio is light.

It has an FM broadcast receiver that receives better than my vx-3 with the same antenna. The odd thing is that you have to push the call button to activate it. And if there is any activity on the vfo/memory you have it set to, it will break in to let you hear. If you hold the call button, it will sound an alarm, but you have to make sure the proper menu setting is turned off or it will sound the alarm over the air!

On top (other than the obvious antenna) it has an LED to act as a flashlight. And the knob is a simple on/off volume knob.

Over all, it seems like a solid radio with some odd quirks, and a very poor manual. And if you break it or lose it, you won't feel as awful as if you lost that \$300+ Yaecomwood.

It could also be a good starter radio for a young or inexperienced operator, giving that an experienced ham could set it up. Or even a public service radio, set to just have the frequencies used for the event, and the vfo disabled. And I'm sure there are other possibilities.

There is a lot of information on the net to assist users in getting the most out of the radio, and getting all of the menu settings set properly for ham use, like here:

<http://uv5r.99k.org/>

And, there is a Yahoo users group with lots of users and info:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/baofeng_uv5r/

I'll bring the radio to the January meeting if anyone would like to see it.



As always, if you have something you would like to see in a future newsletter, type it up, and send it to

Jason

KD8GXD

For Sale

I would like to sell my Kenwood TS 430 and other odds and ends since I have not been on the air for some time. The price could be worked out after those interested check it out.

Les Mills/wd8nkr

via Carl K8CM

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Secretary:
Barney Taylor, N8HP

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Ron Spaulding, N8QF

Treasurer:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

February 2013

Minutes of the January 21st, 2013 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance

N8DHW, WA8DTU, N8EH, W8EH, N8GGE, KD8GXD, N8HP, N8HRA, W8ISZ, W8LKU, NN8M, N8QF, KF8QS, NR8R & Barbara, KD8TGE, W8WCQ & Ginny, KB8WKL, KC8WOF, N8YFQ

Call to order:

Bob, NR8R, called the meeting to order by, at 7:02 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 Jason, KD8GXD. The motion passed without dissent.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, presented the treasurer's report. Membership for 2013 stands at 68 members representing 48 families. There are 6 memberships that have not been renewed.

Ron also presented the annual financial state of Dial. We managed to repair the remote repeater antenna without having to

dip into the reserves. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Barney, N8HP, and seconded by David, N8YFQ. The motion passed unanimously.

Bob, NR8R, expressed gratitude to Ron for his good job as Treasurer. Lorie, W8LKU, seconded Bob's affirmation.

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported "operation normal" with regard to the repeater system – except that it doesn't identify when leaving night mode early in the morning. Ernie stated he had to find a 300 baud modem to reprogram the controller. Several in the audience offered to look through their 'junk box' and find a suitable modem.

Ron, N8QF, also reported that Echolink is working well.

Activity Report:

With the suspension of the Dial Net, Lorie, W8LKU, had a minimal report. Her next set of duties will be for Hamvention.

Classes and Exams:

Beverly, N8GGE, reported that a new Technician Class will begin in two days on Wednesday January 23rd at Verity Lodge, Miami University, Middletown. She gave results for the

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

January 16th exam session where there were 4 applicants. Three of the applicants were from Batesville, In. In total 3 persons earned either a new license or upgraded. The new license recipients had their callsigns on Friday.

Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary

The next exam session will be on March 13th at Verity Lodge, Miami University Middletown. VE's should report at 5:30. Registration will begin at 6:00 pm followed by exams around 6:30 pm.

The topic of an exam at Field Day came up and the consensus was to again give an exam in the early afternoon of Field Day.

Bob, NR8R, again asked about interest in a parallel, more technical, session similar to those of the Fall. The decision was to postpone the sessions until after the Technician course. Part of the incentive is due to the fact that Miami does not heat the room where the session is held.

Old Business

Audit Committee report: Bob, NR8R, presented the results of the Audit Committee to those present. The synopsis of the report is that Ron, N8QF, does an excellent job, and that Dial is in fine fiscal shape. Ernie, N8EH, moved that the report be accepted. The motion was seconded by Dave, N8YFQ, and passed unanimously.

New Business

Ernie, N8EH, reported that he had received an 'Official Observer' notice for not identifying in a timely manner while operating on 10 meters. The only problem is that Ernie has not operated HF in several months.

Jason, KD8GXD, reported that Les Mills has a Kenwood TS-430 for sale. The price is negotiable.

Bob, NN8M, reported that after the recent lost contacts on Logbook of the World (LOTW), their service was phenomenal with uploads appearing within 40 seconds compared to the multi-day delays of the recent past.

Bob, NR8R, reported that Kaylee, KD8TGE, had operated without his assistance during the North American QSO Party and had made numerous contacts on 10 meters. Good job!

Bob, NR8R, also reported that a meeting of area amateur radio club presidents would be held on the first Wednesday in February. He will report on the results at the next meeting.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Ernie, N8EH, and seconded Bob, NN8M. The motion was approved unanimously at 7:25 pm.

Hams Across New England and the Maritimes Respond to Blizzard

02/14/2013

New England

As a blizzard swept across New England February 9-10, SKYWARN was ready. The storm dumped heavy snowfall -- with some areas receiving upwards of 3 feet of snow -- as blizzard conditions brought hurricane force winds that created power outages and significant tree and power line damage over Southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island. ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Emergency Coordinator Rob Macedo, KD1CY, helped lead operations at [WX1BOX](#), the Amateur Radio station at the National Weather Service office in Taunton, Massachusetts, where hams were active for 28 continuous hours. Macedo also serves as the ARES SKYWARN Coordinator for the NWS office in Taunton.

"The Amateur Radio mission in our region has evolved into providing information on damage, power outages and meteorological surface observations in situations such as this blizzard," Macedo told the ARRL. "But our hopes of escaping the winter of 2012-2013 with nothing more than routine winter storms ended when this blizzard came to New England. Eastern Massachusetts ARES was placed on stand-by on Friday, February 9 and that standby continued through Tuesday, February 12 for both Eastern Massachusetts ARES and those amateurs remaining active on Cape Cod who provided communications support for active shelters and for the Barnstable County Mutual Aid Coordination Center on Cape Cod."

According to Macedo, WX1BOX Amateur Radio SKYWARN operations handled several hundred snowfall reports, as well as reports concerning wind, wet snow damage and coastal flooding. "We sent these reports to multiple agencies, including the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, the American Red Cross and other non-governmental organizations, as well as the media," he explained. "These reports provided critical situational awareness and disaster intelligence information to all of these entities."

Snowfall totals of around 12-32 inches were recorded across Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut, with lesser amounts on Nantucket Island. "Boston's Logan Airport recorded its 5th highest snowfall ever with this blizzard," Macedo said. "In addition, we had reports of moderate to major coastal flooding, with the most significant coastal flooding damage to roads. There were reports of flooding damage to shore structures in the Massachusetts coastal towns of Hull, Scituate, Sandwich,

Next Meeting: Monday, February 18, *Golden Corral Buffet & Grill*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

Gloucester and Salisbury. Hurricane force wind gusts coupled with wet snow caused more than 410,000 homes to be without power in Southeastern Massachusetts, with more than 170,000 without power in Rhode Island.”

The New England Reflector System on EchoLink *NEW-ENG* node 9123/IRLP 9123 was active and, according to Macedo, at one time had more than 65 connections from stations within the blizzard’s area. The VoIP Hurricane Net system on *WX_TALK* node 7203/IRLP 9219 system was also utilized as a listen-only system for those amateurs who wanted to listen in on some of the blizzard operations. “Many local VHF and UHF repeaters were active with roll-call SKYWARN nets set up at two or three hour intervals on more than a dozen repeaters in Southern New England,” Macedo told the ARRL. “We heard from Hartford-Tolland County Connecticut SKYWARN Coordinator Roger Jeanfaivre, K1PAI, that their net alone had eight nets and 181 check-ins from those eight nets, including nets run during the overnight period.”

In Massachusetts, hams affiliated with RACES staffed Amateur Radio stations at the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Regions 1 (WC1MAA) and 2 (WC1MAB). “Having Amateur Radio operators at these served agencies helped to provide auxiliary communications,” Macedo explained. “For instance, when power outages became so severe that the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant in Plymouth, Massachusetts lost power, a roll call was initiated on the state’s VHF network. The Region 2 office did not hear the roll call over the state’s VHF network, but they were notified by the ARES sub-regional command center at the Acushnet Emergency Operations Center in Acushnet, Massachusetts, WA1EMA, that the roll call was taking place.”

“Amateur Radio remains the ultimate back-up,” said ARRL District Emergency Coordinator for Southeast Massachusetts Ed Caron, KA1RSY. “It has a significant place in providing situational awareness information for various served agencies.” Caron also serves as the Acushnet Emergency Management Communications Officer.

On Cape Cod, ARES remained active through Tuesday, February 12, putting in more than 72 hours of continuous operation during and after the blizzard. Macedo said that these hams provided SKYWARN with reports of coastal flooding, snowfall, wet snow and wind damage from around their area. Cape Cod ARES members also staffed multiple shelters and multiple Emergency Operations Centers. “Cape Cod ARES has been active with rotating shifts to staff the shelters and the Mutual Aid Coordination Center. I’m very proud of all my people who have put in very long hours,” said ARRL Cape Cod ARES District Emergency Coordinator Frank O’Laughlin, WQ1O.

Canadian Maritimes

The blizzard did not just affect the New England area -- Canada caught the brunt of the storm, as well. According to CANWARN’s Jim Langille, VE1JBL, CANWARN members

received messages from Bob Robichaud, VE1MBR, at the Atlantic Storm Prediction Centre in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia to let them know of the storm and that there was the possibility of an activation. CANWARN is the Canadian equivalent to SKYWARN

“On Friday morning, the call came in to activate CANWARN in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island,” Langille told the ARRL. “A message went out to all CANWARN members and a notice was put on The Maritime Amateur website to let everyone know of the net and the information that Environment Canada would be looking for.” At 8 AM on Saturday, net control began operations by linking up 13 repeaters throughout Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island through the MAVCOM system, IRLP reflector 9014, EchoLink node 190339 and HF operations on 3.770 MHz. According to Langille, CANWARN spotters were asked to record snowfall amounts each hour, as well as visibility, wind speed, direction and storm surge reports. Reports would be recorded till the bottom of each hour and then sent to Dartmouth for processing. Net control would then reset and prepare for the next hour. “Starting at 11 AM, damage reports starting coming in of downed trees, roofs being blown off, flooding in coastal areas and roads being breached,” Langille said. “Power outages were reported all over the province. Over the next 12 hours, net control recorded close to 200 messages. As darkness approached, we were told by Environment Canada that we could close the net for the evening after the high tide at 10 PM in case of any reports of storm surge. The net activated again on Sunday morning for only one hour to record any damage reports. At that time the net was terminated.”

ARRL

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



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March 2013

Minutes of the February 18th, 2013 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance

N8DHW, N8EH, W8EH, N8GGE, KD8GXD, N8HP, KI8I, W8ISZ, NN8M, N8QF, KF8QS, NR8R & Barbara, KD8TGE, KD8W, W8WCQ & Ginny, KB8WKL & Barbara, W8WLM, N8YFQ

Call to order:

Bob, NR8R, called the meeting to order by, 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 without dissent.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, presented the treasurer's report. Membership for 2013 stands at 70 members representing 49 families. There are 5 families that have not yet renewed.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Barney, N8HP, and seconded by Jason, KD8GXD. The motion passed unanimously.

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported "we still have repeaters and they're working." Ron, N8QF, also reported that Echolink is working well also.

Activity Report:

No Report

Classes and Exams:

Beverley, N8GGE, reported that there were no students for the Technician Preparation Class and it was canceled. The next exam will be at Verity Lodge, Miami University Middletown on March 13. Registration at 6:00 and exams begins around 6:30 pm. VE's are asked to arrive around 5:30 pm.

A class to prepare attendees for the General Class License will begin on March 20th at Verity Lodge. Beverley will be generating the schedule shortly.

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

Bob, NR8R, announce that a parallel technical session will begin on March 20th as well. It is likely that various topics will be presented.

Old Business

Ernie, W8EH, reported that he had received the Flea Market and admission tickets for Hamvention. Ernie also commented the people handling flea market ticket sales this year were doing a great job. This was the earliest date we have ever received the tickets. Due to the change in price structure, the Club saved \$40 compared to last year.

New Business

Bob, NR8R, reported on the meeting of area amateur radio club presidents in February. He was impressed with the revamped Web Site for the Tristate Ham group (www.tristatehams.org), and he passed out a printout of their site. The general goal of the group is to have Greater Cincinnati clubs pool their resources for projects that fit each club's interests. Bob stated there is no intention to impact the ability of each club to operate autonomously. But there are likely areas of cooperation – a tower group, a list of Elmers that are near the person needing to be mentored independent of radio club affiliation, etc.

One event discussed was a collaborative effort for the Ohio QSO Party. Possible sites include parks, covered bridges, etc. There was also some discussion of a Hamfest, possibly at Stricker's Grove, with a multi-club social event in the afternoon. Again each club will be free to choose their level of participation.

The next meeting of the Presidents group will be the first Monday in March.

Barney, N8HP, reported that Dial's current status had been updated with the ARRL in order for Dial to remain an ARRL affiliated club.

Ernie, W8EH, commented that the Club's website keeps reverting back to earlier versions. In the ensuing discussion, Jason, KD8GXD, did not hear the train until it was leaving the station – and Jason agreed to become responsible for updating the Dial web site in addition to continuing to edit the newsletters. *Thanks Jason (N8HP).*

Carl, K8CM, asked about moving the exam at Field Day to start at 2:30 pm. After discussion, it was agreed that starting at 3:00 pm allowed more time to fight the last minute 'fires' that always occur once operation begins. Most of the 'fire fighters' are also VE's, so it would make their life easier to begin at 3:00.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Ernie, N8EH, and seconded Dave, KD8W. The motion was approved unanimously at 7:25 pm.

Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary

TRI-STATE HAMS

By Bob NR8R

During the last meeting, I made a short presentation regarding the new group called Tri-State Hams.

Mike Ernest, AE8U had a question. Could a synergy be created by getting all the greater Cincinnati Amateur Radio Clubs together to share ideas and solve issues faced by the various clubs? Issues such as attracting youth in to ham radio, increasing attendance at meetings, providing technical education, etc., and the list goes on.

So Mike invited the presidents of all the clubs in greater Cincinnati to sit down together to identify issues and see if they could find common ground among the many ham organizations in our region. The group of Club Presidents came up with the name "Tri-State Hams" for the group and created a web site to serve the Hams in Southeast Indiana, Northern Kentucky, and Southwest Ohio.

The web site is at <http://www.tristatehams.org>. The web site contains general information, forums, news and announcements, and various clubs information including repeaters. Please take a moment and explore the site, I'm sure you'll find something that peaks your interest. Open an account (free), participate and contribute your knowledge to the site.

Some of the other topics being worked on or discussed by the group of Presidents:

- Presenter pool
- Elmer pool
- Tower Climber Team pool
- Clubs joining together to sponsor educational events
- Clubs joining together to sponsor a greater Cincinnati Hamvention
- Clubs joining together to operate a special event station, to work a contest, or have a social event.

The Presidents group has also decided to create committees to explore some of the above and other ideas as needed, made up of members of the clubs interested in the topic. So at some point we at Dial may want to participate in a committee that strikes our interest.

The Presidents group will continue to meet quarterly, so please forward any ideas for the group to me or post them up on the web site.

73 – NR8R

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Treasurer:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

April 2013

Minutes of the February 18th, 2013 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance

K8CM, WA8DTU, N8EH, N8GGE, KD8GXD, N8HP, KI8I, W8ISZ, W8KLKU, N8LRN & Eve, N8QF, KF8QS, NR8R & Barbara, KD8TGE, KD8W, W8WCQ & Ginny, KB8WKL, W8WLM & Barbara, N8YFQ

Call to order:

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

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the May meeting as published was made by Evan, KC8TXA, and seconded by Jason, KD8GXD. The motion passed without dissent.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, presented the treasurer's report. Membership for 2013 stands at 71 members representing 49 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:

Carl, K8CM, reported that Ernie, W8EH, had removed the 100 watt power amplifier from the W8BLV repeater and had it on his workbench. Ernie has not yet found a problem with the amplifier. There is an occasional echo from the 20 watt backup amplifier; however, the repeater is quite usable. Anyone hearing the echo should make a note of the time and pass along to W8EH.

Carl also stated that Echolink is working phenomenally well with 141 connections in the first two and one half months of 2013 for about 7.5 hours of connect time. A number of foreign call signs were noted. Echolink was off the air for about 3 day due to a hard drive failure which has been repaired.

Activity Report:

No Report

Classes and Exams:

Beverley, N8GGE, reported that the class to prepare attendees for the General Class License will begin on March 20th at Verity Lodge. KD8W and KD8GXD will be the instructors for the first class. A decision to continue the class will be based upon attendance.

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

Carl, K8CM, gave a report about the March 13th exam session. Three candidates earned licenses, two technicians and one general class. In an unusual happenstance, they are not yet in the FCC database. The next exam will be May 1 at Verity Lodge, Miami University Middletown.

Bob, NR8R, announce that a parallel technical session will begin on March 20th as well. Barney, N8HP, will introduce the group to the Raspberry Pi – a credit card sized computer that runs Linus.

Old Business

Ron, N8QF, reported that he had received the Hamvention tickets purchased for his spaces. His extra early entry tickets have been dispersed. He thanked Jim, W8ISZ, and Dave, N8YFQ, for expediting the ticket process. Ron stated that trailer cleanout will be in about a month. As usual, Milt's (Donuts) is prepared for Hamvention.

New Business

Bob, NR8R, asked about interest in having a demonstration period after the meeting provided by those wishing to share. Dave, KD8W, said that his interest depends on the subject of the demonstration. Bob's suggestion is to bring it if you have it.

Carl, K8CM, reported that the BCARA is having classes of a practical nature for recently licensed amateurs to get the more "into the swing of things". The meetings are held on Wednesday nights at the Fairfield Township Police Building. Contact K8CM for more info.

Barney, N8HP, reported that he had received 2 tickets to the Kokomo, IN Hamfest on April 20th that were free to anyone interested. No one in the audience expressed interest. If a newsletter reader is interested, please contact Barney.

Ernie, N8EH, asked if anyone in attendance had an interest in a big box of QSL cards. Wanda, W8WLM said that she would like to have them.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Ernie, N8EH, and seconded Dave, KD8W. The motion was approved unanimously at 7:15 pm.

Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary

Amateur Radio License Exams

An examination session in Technician, General and Extra Class Amateur Radio Operator's License will be available on Wednesday evening, March 13, 2013 in the Verity Lodge Miami University-Middletown, Middletown, OH,

Doors will open for registration at 6 P.M and exams will commence shortly thereafter. Please plan to arrive early as all registration activities are to be completed by 7 P.M.

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, and social security (SSN) or Licensee ID number (FRN).

There is no test fee required for these examinations.

If you are applying for your first license, please go to <https://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/coresWeb/publicHome.do> and obtain a FRN. This web site is self-explanatory and there is no charge for the FRN registration.

Special examination accommodations must be requested at least two weeks prior to the test date.

Additional information may be obtained from Dave Williamson, KD8W or Carl Morgan, K8CM

Talk-in on W8BLV/R 146.61 (-600) 77 Hz PL

Wednesday Tech Night

There have been a few of us meeting for the Wednesday tech night. I'm not sure how much we are learning, but it is a lot of fun.

We have been tinkering with the Raspberry Pi. For those of you who don't know, it is a \$35 pcb that is an entire computer. It has an arm processor (similar to what is in cell phones and tablets), HDMI and composite video out, sound out, ethernet, and pins for serial and input and output connections. It runs Linux from a full size SD card, and there are no moving parts at all. Learn more at <http://www.raspberrypi.org/>

The first night Barney N8HP demonstrated the Raspberry Pi and what it's output pins can do, along with programming it in Scratch and python. Scratch is a drag and drop programming environment geared towards introducing kids to programming.

His demonstration was a remote control car, with wires coming out of the remote, connected to a prototyping board with open collector circuits to switch the forward/reverse left/right controls off and on, and that board connected to the pins on the Raspberry Pi. You should have seen the grown men giggling over the RC car doing donuts (NASCAR victory lane style) on the hardwood floor of the Verity Lodge.

Bob NR8R suggested that we attempt to get the funcube dongle to work with the Raspberry Pi, so, the second night Ernie W8EH brought his funcube dongle, to demonstrate on windows, to show all of the functionality. It is a very capable software controlled receiver. We didn't get to try to get it working till the fourth night. We were able to get the Pi to talk to the dongle via fcdctl. It could change the frequency, and tell us information, but no audio out, or a nice waterfall on a gui yet. We are hoping to get to try again the Wednesday after the club meeting.

The third tech night, a couple people couldn't make it, so we asked for topics and chose antennas. Mark WD8NKJ explained his 160M Antenna Matcher for 80M Loop as was published in the March 2011 newsletter

He was very informative, and it sounds like he had a lot of fun building and testing it. And got the results that he wanted.

I hope to see you at the meeting, and future Tech Nights!

Jason KD8GXD



Next Meeting: Monday, April, 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

May 2013

Minutes of the April 15th, 2013 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance

K8CM, WA8DTU, N8EH, N8GGE, KD8GXD, N8HP, N8HRA, KI8I, W8ISZ, W8LKU, NN8M, WA8PRA, KF8QS, NR8R & Barbara, KD8TGE, KD8W, W8WCQ & Ginny, KB8WKL & Barbara, W8WLM, KC8WRM, N8YFQ

Call to order:

Bob, NR8R, called the meeting to order by, at 7:04 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 Jason, KD8GXD. The motion passed with one nay.

Treasurer's Report:

Carl, K8CM, presented the report on behalf of Ron, N8QF, who was unable to attend. Membership for 2013 stands at 72 members representing 51 families. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Barney, N8HP, and seconded by Bob, NN8M. The motion passed with a single nay.

Repeater/Station Report:

Carl, K8CM, reported that Ernie, W8EH, has tested the 100 watt power amplifier from the W8BLV repeater on his workbench and it appears to work ok. Carl also stated that Echolink is working fine. Between January 6th and April 8th, there were 219 connects and 93 unique callsigns. The average connect time was just over four minutes. DX stations from Germany, Italy, Great Britain, South Africa and Venezuela were noted in the log. The Echolink time delay is set at 300 milliseconds which is about as short as it can be. Repeater users should take notice and give an extra pause at the beginning of transmissions when talking through Echolink.

Activity Report:

Lorie reported that she will purchase soda, water chps, etc. for Hamvention. She will consider requests until the week before Hamvention. Lorie will not be able to attend Hamvention on Friday.

Classes and Exams:

Beverley, N8GGE, reported that only one student was present for the General Class Exam Preparation course and that it was canceled. The next exam session will be May 1 at Verity Lodge, Miami University Middletown. Registration opens at

Next Meeting: Monday, May, 20th, at the **Golden Corral**

6:00 pm, and exams will begin shortly thereafter. Examinees need to provide a copy of their exam. The next exam will be at Field Day on Saturday afternoon at 3:30 pm.

Bob, NR8R, announced that the technical discussion session will continue on Wednesday evenings through April.

Hamvention

Bob, NR8R, lead a discussion of plans for Hamvention. Trailer cleanout is scheduled for May 8th at 6:00 pm at Ernie's and Roy's place of employment. As usual, food will follow the work. The trailer will be moved to Ron's (N8QF) place at a later date. Those participating in set up for Hamvention will leave Ron's at noon on Thursday the 16th. After a stop at McDonalds in Germantown, they will proceed to Hara to set up the shelter and the tables. They are hoping to again have permission to park at the shopping center behind McDonalds for persons living north of Middletown. Friday, Saturday and Sunday will see a departure from Ron's place at 5:30 am to head for Hara Arena.

As has been the custom for several years, Dial requests a donation of 10% of flea market sales to offset the cost of the sites, snacks and beverages.

Hamvention

Bob, NR8R, announced that Ernie, W8EH, will be Field Day Chair. Ernie reported that the paperwork required to be allowed to use Smith Park has been submitted, but has not yet been approved.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Carl, K8CM, and seconded Jason, KD8GXD. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary

April Show and Tell

At the April meeting, John W8WCQ Brought along a 2 meter homebrew antenna that would be great for demonstration, apartment, teaching or portable use. And also looks like it would be a good project, and use of old tv telescopic antennas.



Hamvention

I hope to see you at Hamvention! If you take any pictures/write ups that appear to be worthy of going into the newsletter,



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Dave Williamson, KD8W

Newsletter Editor:
Jason Mossbarger, KD8GXD

Secretary:
Barney Taylor, N8HP

Newsletter Printing:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

Treasurer:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

June 2013

Minutes of the May 20th, 2013 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance

K8CM, WB8DPZ, WA8DTU, N8EH, W8EH, N8FYQ, KD8GXD, N8HP, N8HRA, KI8I, W8ISZ, W8LKU, N8LRN & Eve, NN8M, WD8NKJ, WA8PRA, N8QF, KF8QS, NR8R & Barbara, KD8TXA, KD8W, W8WCQ & Ginny, W8WLM, KC8WOF

Call to order:

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

Barney, N8HP, made an impromptu motion that Bob, NR8R, should go and speak with the manager about the excessive noise from the musician providing the 'Live Entertainment' just outside the meeting room. Ernie, N8EH, seconded the motion which passed without dissent. Bob went to speak to the manager and was told that the music would end at 7:00 pm. Bob pointed out that it was already 7:10 pm. The manager told Bob that was the last song from the performer. Shortly thereafter the music ended and the meeting proceeded.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the May meeting as published was made by Bob, NN8M, and seconded by Ernie, N8EH. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Carl, K8CM, presented the report on behalf of Ron, N8QF, who was unable to attend. Membership for 2013 stands at 72 members representing 51 families. Four members from last year have not renewed. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Ernie, N8EH, and seconded by Jason, KD8GXD. The motion passed without dissent.

Membership:

Ron, N8QF, announced that he had a membership application from Ray Moyer, WD8JKV, of Eules, Texas and a former resident of the area. Ron asked for favorable action on Ray's application in spite of the fact that he was sponsored by Carl, K8CM. Jason, KD8GXD, moved that Ray's application be accepted and Dave, N8YFQ, seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Welcome to Dial, Ray!

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported that W8BLV was still running with the low power amplifier, and that a GE Master II had been purchased at Hamvention for \$65. The GE is already set for the

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

140-150 MHz frequency slot, so little will be required to use its amplifier on W8BLV – assuming it works.

After a nudge from Barney, N8HP, Ernie also reported on the status of W8BLV/Repeater/Mobile. So many people had bought Bao Feng UV5R handhelds at Hamvention that Ernie allowed the repeater in the trailer to operate on the roof mounted antenna to provide communications between Ernie's van and Ron's truck as we caravanned home at the end of Hamvention.

WNKU wants the W8BLV repeater relocated into the existing concrete building – possibly on short notice. They also want help in tearing down the wooden buildings around the existing concrete building. Jim, W8ISZ, and Dave, N8FYQ, suggested that we have a wiener roast in lieu of demolition.

Carl, K8CM, reported that Echolink is working 'like a top'. After it was pointed out that Echolink was apparently down, the report might have been... it's working like a top that is not spinning.

Activity Report:

Lorie, W8LKV, reported that the Field Day picnic will be on the 23rd of June around 6:00 pm. Families attending are asked to provide a covered dish for sharing. Dial will provide the hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks along with plates, eating utensils, etc. Lorie would like to have a head count by the 17th of June so she can purchase an appropriate amount of food.

For those helping with set up/take down Lorie announced that Manwich will be served on Friday evening, with leftovers being served for Saturday's lunch. On Sunday morning Lorie will prepare scrambled eggs with gourmet toppings. Sunday lunch will be leftover burgers.

Lorie asked to borrow a grill.

Classes and Exams:

Carl, K8CM, reported that the next exam session will be at Field Day, Saturday June 23rd at 3:00-5:30 pm at Smith Park. The next exam after Field Day will be August 14th at 6:00 pm at Verity Lodge, Miami University Middletown. A class to provide attendees with sufficient knowledge to pass the Technician Exam will begin on the 21st of August and run for 6 weeks followed by another exam session on the first Wednesday in October.

Field Day:

Field Day Chair, Ernie (W8EH), reported that the paperwork required to be allowed to use Smith Park has still not yet been approved. He also announced that a Fishing Derby will be held at Smith Park during Field Day. The derby should not cause any problems with Field Day operations.

Ernie asked those interested in discussing Field Day preparations to stay after the business meeting for a short meeting.

Hamvention:

Ron, N8QF, reported that he did not have a preliminary report of the finances associated with Dial's participation at Hamvention. He will make the report next month. He did report that 11 dozen Danish were consumed at Hara!

Trailer cleanout was tentatively scheduled at 6:00 pm at Ernie's, W8EH, place of employment on the 26th of June.

Bob, NR8R, commented as to the good turnout at Hamvention.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Dave, KD8W, made a motion to replace the tubular frame covered by a tarp shelter with new shelters due to trouble raising the shelter and leaks that became apparent during the weekend. Ernie, W8EH, asked if Dave was proposing a new tarp or a different shelter. Carl, K8CM, asked what was needed to provide appropriate shelter and Dave responded that two 10x20 foot popup shelters would be sufficient. Ernie, N8EH, reported that he had spoken to a vendor using two of the 10x20 foot shelters and that set up time was about 15 minutes total for two shelters, and that each shelter had cost about \$270 a few years ago.

Evan, KC8TXA moved and Jim, W8ISZ, seconded a motion to appoint a committee to investigate the pop up shelters and to give them authority to purchase said shelters providing the total cost was less than \$700. After a bit more discussion Carl, K8CM, called the question. The vote was unanimous, and Bob, NR8R, appointed a committee consisting of N8EH, KC8TXA and KD8W to pursue the matter and purchase two 10x20 foot shelters before Field Day if possible.

Dave, KD8W, asked to continue discussion of the sale of Dial's smaller Field Day tower. Ernie, W8EH, moved and Jason, KD8GXD second a motion to remove the table on the discussion. The motion passed with all ayes. Ron, N8QF, suggested that the tower be offered first to Dial members. Dave reported that he had sold his personal tower that is identical to Dial's for \$275. Carl suggested a price in the range of \$275 to \$325. Club members would be allowed to purchase at the lower price. With the approach of Field Day, Ernie, W8EH, suggested that two weeks be allowed for a club member to purchase the tower before offering to the general public.

Dave made a motion to sell the tower with an asking price of \$325 (negotiable) with a member's price of \$275. Member would have two weeks to decide upon the purchase. (*The following was said but I'm not sure it was part of the motion – Sec.*) Anyone wishing to pay the full price could purchase it immediately. (*end Secretary's confusion*) Otherwise, offers from non club members would be considered after two weeks (June 3rd). Dave, KD8W would be the person to contact, and the

price is in cash with no shipping – pickup only. Lorie, W8LKU, seconded the motion which passed without dissent. Carl, K8CM, was asked by Bob, NR8R, if he would make the announcement on the reflector.

Ernie, W8EH, asked the President, NR8R, to appoint a committee to study and revise Dial's Constitution as there has been no revision in over 10 years. Bob, NR8R, appointed Ernie, W8EH, as Chair along with Carl, K8CM and Jason, KD8GXD.

Ernie, W8EH, and Jason, KD8GXD, announced they had their computer and software to program Bao Feng UV5R's with them and that the programming session would begin immediately after the business meeting.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Jason, KD8GXD and seconded by Ernie, N8EH. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary

This may be some help to those with the generic/pirated prolific chipset programming cables:

<http://www.miklor.com/uv5r/UV5R-Divers.html>

Software programming hints:

<http://bubbazanetti.blogspot.com/2012/10/baofeng-uv-5rhow-do-i-program-it-draft.html>

The latest daily build of CHIRP that should have very nice support for the Baofeng

http://trac.chirp.danplanet.com/chirp_daily/LATEST/

Yahoo has a group with tons of info and users. Someone has probably asked any question you can think of over there!

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/baofeng_uv5r/

In my opinion, they are fairly solid, cheaply priced radios that can be great 'beater' radio that you won't be so upset if you break it, lose it, or drop it in the river. Or even a radio for a bug out bag for those preppers!

Hope to see you at Field Day!

Jason, KD8GXD

Hamvention 2013/Baofeng 2013

This year at Hamvention, I decided to not bring a camera. Instead, I decided to enjoy all of the sights, sounds and camaraderie of the entire weekend.

There was so much to see and do, and people to talk to, that time absolutely flew by. As each year passes, and the more I learn, I find there are more and more interesting things to see. All of the vendors from all over the world, stopping to check to see if you have one a door prize, stumbling into old friends, and striking up conversations with strangers. All the way to waiting in the main arena for the big prizes.

But the biggest event this year (at least for Dial) appeared to be the Baofeng UV-5R radios!

I think we purchased in the neighborhood of 20 radios (I didn't take an actual tally). And it seems there are many different versions of the little radio, the F11 being the 'oddest' so to speak.

So, I figured I would top off with a review of some of the helpful links and things for people to be able to get the most out of their little Chinese radio.

Good one stop source for UV5RA/ UV5RC tips, manuals & links: <http://www.miklor.com/> It even has a tip page to tell you how to put a repeater into the VFO for quick temporary operation without loading a memory:
<http://www.miklor.com/uv5r/UV5R-OnTheFly.html>

Quick reference manual:
<http://kc9hi.dyndns.org/uv5r/programming/UV-5R-%20Menus.pdf>

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



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Jason Mossbarger, KD8GXD

Secretary:
Barney Taylor, N8HP

Newsletter Printing:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

Treasurer:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

July 2013

Minutes of the June 17th, 2013 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance

K8CM, N8DHW, WA8DTU, N8EH, W8EH, N8GGE, KD8GXD, N8HP, N8HRA, W8ISZ, W8LKU, W8LR, NN8M, N8QF, KF8QS, NR8R & Barbara, KD8TGE, KC8TXA, KD8W, W8WCQ & Ginny, KB8WKL & Barbara, W8WLM, N8YFQ

Call to order:

Bob, NR8R, called the meeting to order at 7:01p.m. and asked that each person to introduce themselves.

Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the May meeting incorrectly stated that the Treasurer, Ron, N8QF was not present at the May meeting and yet provided the Treasurer's report. A motion to accept the minutes of the May meeting with the above correction was made by Ernie, N8EH and seconded by Jason, KD8GXD. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, reported that membership for 2013 stands at 74 members representing 52 families. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Carl, K8CM, and seconded by Barney, N8HP. The motion passed without dissent.

Ron also gave a report of Hamvention expenses. Due to members selling fewer 'big ticket' items like amplifiers or HF radios, income was down from last year. However, with the reduced cost of the sites due taking advantage of the Club rate, there was still a net profit of \$72 from Hamvention.

Ron also reported that a donation of \$100 had been made toward the purchase of the two 10 ft by 20 ft canopies to be used at Hamvention and Field Day. The total cost of the canopies was about \$480.

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, gave a detailed repeater/station report. The secretary is grateful that Ernie provided an electronic version which begins in the next paragraph.

Several of us worked at the radio station site. The new 146.61 repeater amplifier we purchased at Hamvention was installed and tested. We are running 70+ watts output again. We were running less than 10

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

before. We also looked at the site in anticipation of moving our equipment to a different building. The station will want us to assist with a work party, time undetermined.

I visited the Monroe site Saturday to address the interfering signal on 146.01. It was causing an extremely long squelch tail. I tested both a 3 dB pad and a 6dB pad to see if I could knock down the signal. I settled on a 6 dB pad and a tighter squelch setting. That seems to have covered up the problem. The signal appears to be coming from consumer electronic devices in the vicinity.

Roy and I checked our west repeater system when we did some other work at the west Middletown site. We had reports of (and observed) weak signals from the 147.315 repeater transmitter. The SWR was 2.8:1 on the main antenna on 147.315. We probably have water in the antenna or connector or jumper. The backup antenna SWR was OK at 1.5:1 on 147.315. I switched the repeater to the backup antenna, which is a dual band 146/440 antenna. Signals from the repeater are much better now.

I also replaced the west Middletown 146.01 receiver and link. The old Motorola Moxy receiver has an internal intermittent in the first helical filter. Sensitivity is poor. It was replaced temporarily with two Motorola Maxtracs, one on 146.01 receive and the other for the UHF link transmitter. That remote receiver appears to be back to normal now. I am working on reusing the original Hamtronics link transmitter with another Maxtrac receiver.

We need a new main antenna at the west site (147.315 MHz). We may be able to piggyback the swap out on another major antenna job being done at the site in a few months, for no cost.

Now for the choice of replacement antenna: Six meters is not being used. A Comet GP-9 is 17' long and is a dual band (2m/70cm) Cost at R&L is: \$179, while a Diamond V2000 is only 8' long and is a tri-band (6m/2m/70cm) Cost and R&L is: \$149.

A motion to authorize up to \$200 to purchase a replacement antenna for W8JEU was made by Carl, K8CM, and seconded by Barney, N8HP. The motion passed without dissent.

Carl, K8CM, reported that Echolink is working.

Ernie, W8EH, asked that a note be placed in the Dial Newsletter seeking the membership's opinion as to whether we should keep the 6-meter operation on W8JEU (147.315 MHz) or remove it. Member's opinions should be directly communicated to Ernie

Activity Report:

Lorie, W8LKU, reported that the Field Day picnic will be on the 23rd of June around 6:00 pm. Families attending are asked to provide a covered dish for sharing. Dial will provide the

hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks along with plates, eating utensils, etc. Lorie still needs a gas grill for use at the picnic. Anyone who is at the meeting and has not notified Lorie of their plans to attend the picnic should do so before leaving the meeting tonight.

Classes and Exams:

Beverley, N8GGE, reported that the next exam session will be at Field Day, Saturday June 23rd at 3:00-5:30 pm at Smith Park. The next exam after Field Day will be August 14th at 6:00 pm at Verity Lodge, Miami University Middletown. A class to provide attendees with sufficient knowledge to pass the Technician Exam will begin on the 21st of August and run for 6 weeks followed by another exam session on the first Wednesday in October.

Field Day:

Field Day Chair, Ernie (W8EH), gave a report on the Field Day meeting that followed the May Business Meeting. The station setup is planned to be the same as last year with the same individuals responsible for bringing stations and equipment.

Ernie reported that the number of Port-a-Potti's in Smith Park is down significantly from other years and suggested that the Club consider renting one. Jason, KD8GXD, presented a motion to rent a portable toilet for the weekend. Discussion and friendly amendments to increase the possible cost beyond Jason's initial amount followed. Dave, N8YFQ, seconded a motion authorizing Ron, N8QF, to rent a portable toilet for Field Day use with an amount up to \$200. The motion passed unanimously.

Ron, N8QF, reported that the new Pop-Up canopies are in the Club's trailer ready for use at Field Day.

Constitution Committee Report:

Ernie, W8EH, gave a report on the meeting of the Committee to consider changes to the Dial Constitution and By-Laws. Some of their concerns are based upon changes in technology while others with logistical matters. The Committee is also looking at the Dial fee structure. The Committee was seeking a information from the Membership as to what issues were resonant with those in attendance. An informal session followed which has been broken into the three topics mentioned above.

TECHNOLOGY: Present rules provide for autopatch 'autodial' slots. Ernie reported there has only been one autopatch call in the last several months, and that was him testing to see if it works. The autopatch is no longer technologically relevant – otherwise it would be used. Present rules require that the membership be notified in writing by postal mail of any special meetings that may be called. Adding a notice in the newsletter is a valid means of notification. However, the newsletters are delivered electronically, so that cannot be used under our present Constitution and By-Laws.

Next Meeting: Monday, July 15, *Golden Corral Buffet & Grill*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

LOGISTICS: The Committee is considering restructuring the Board of Dial to include two 'At Large' members with staggered 2-year terms. With the additional members, it is possible that the Activities Director may not continue as a Board member. Ron, N8QF, suggested that the Board have the authority to spend between meetings as needed, but would need a 'super majority' to act. Carl, K8CM, said that the Board would not be able to reverse a decision approved by a vote of the Membership of Dial.

DUES STRUCTURE: Jason, KD8GXD, and Ernie, W8EH, spoke toward a revision of the dues structure. If the autopatch is discontinued, the phone line can be removed and approximately \$300 per year can be saved. One suggestion is to use the savings to reduce the dues for Dial. Another was to end the individual membership and have all memberships be family. A lively discussion followed with more people speaking for keeping the present structure than altering it. Questions were put to Ron as to how many individuals pay family dues and how many individuals take advantage of the individual rate. Ron, N8QF, was able to answer the questions in a very timely manner.

Anyone with input to the Constitution Committee should contact Ernie, W8EH, Jason, KD8GXD or Carl, K8CM with your input. The rules require that the membership be provided with proposed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws prior to action on any of those matters.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Bob, NR8R, gave a report from the meeting of the Presidents of the local ham clubs. One item under consideration is the possibility of a multi-club hamfest. The group would like two members from each of the area clubs to form a committee to study the feasibility of such an event. The hamfest will be family oriented as described in Bob's email on the reflector. Anyone interested should contact Bob, NR8R, before the next meeting of the Presidents which will be on July 1st.

A second item was having a multi-club group for the Ohio QSO party. The Voice of America Club has offered to be the host site, with two stations set up inside their building and ample room to set up other stations outdoors Field Day style. As usual, each club is free to participate or not with no hard feelings.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Carl, K8CM, and seconded Jason, KD8GXD. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary

W8JEU 6 Meter

Our Repeater Trustee, Ernie (W8EH), is asking the membership to provide input as to whether we should keep the 6-meter capability of our 147.315 repeater (W8JEU) before deciding on the replacement antenna for that site. The repeater has not been operational on 6-meters for the last several months due to a power supply failure. If six meters continues in operation, a tri-band antenna is necessary. While slightly less expensive and significantly shorter the tri-band antenna has lower gain than the 2/440 antenna that Ernie has selected. *Thus, repeater coverage on 2 meters will be reduced with the tri-band antenna.*

6-meter FM is not widely used in the Middletown area except for people trying out rigs and experimenting. If linked full time, a 6-meter output allows Technician class operators to work 'skip' when six meters is open – assuming they are monitoring 147.315 MHz. If a 2m/440 MHz antenna is installed, six meter operation will not be possible, and the W8JEU repeater will continue to operate in its present manner.

Returning six meter operation at a later date would require the installation of a new antenna – both purchasing the antenna and paying the labor for the replacement. In the past antenna replacement at W8JEU has been about every 10 years or so.

Please contact Ernie _____ with your opinions regarding the six meter status of the W8JEU repeater.
(N8HP, Secretary)

Field Day 2013

I didn't take as many photos this year, but here they are!



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



Next Meeting: Monday, July 15, *Golden Corral Buffet & Grill*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7



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





I have to say, field day was a ton of fun! And as you could see it wore some of us out.

Ernie, W8EH, has submitted out logs, and we have approximately 5,000 points. Our QSO count last year was 1,391. In 2011 it was 1,350.

Jason KD8GXD

Next Meeting: Monday, July, 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

President:
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

August 2013

Minutes of the July 15th, 2013 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance

K8CM, N8DHW, WA8DTU, N8EH, KD8GXD, N8HP, N8HRA, K18I, W8ISZ, W8LKU, N8LRN, NN8M, N8PI, N8QF, AB8QP, KF8QS, KC8TXA, KD8W, W8WCQ & Ginny, KB8WKL & Barbara, W8WLM, N8YFQ

Call to order:

Dave, KD8W called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm who informed those in attendance as to why Bob, NR8R, was absent..

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the June meeting was made by Jason, KD8GXD and seconded by Art, K8PI. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, reported that membership for 2013 stands at 74 members representing 52 families. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Ernie, N8EH, and seconded by Barney, N8HP. The motion passed without dissent.

Ron also reported that expenses for Field Day – food, beverages, gasoline and renting the toilet were just over \$400.

Membership:

Ron presented three candidates for membership in Dial: David Poynter, KD8QLP; Joe Grof, N8SZI; and John Danekind, WD8PXI. They were sponsored by K8CM, NR8R, and K8CM respectively. Ron, N8QF, moved to accept the applications and Bob, NN8M, seconded the motion. The vote to accept was unanimous. Welcome to Dial, David, Joe and John!_

Repeater/Station Report:

Barney, N8HP, passed along the repeater report for Ernie, W8EH: "Everything is the same as it was last month".

Carl, K8CM, reported that Echolink is working.

Ernie, W8EH, asked that a note be placed in the Dial Newsletter seeking the membership's opinion as to whether we should keep the 6-meter operation on W8JEU (147.315 MHz) or remove it. Member's opinions should be directly communicated to Ernie

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

Activity Report:

Lorie, W8LKU, thanked the membership for helping to make the Field Day picnic successful. By her head count, the attendance at the picnic was over 40. Those in attendance thanked Lorie with a round of applause for her efforts to make Dial the best fed Field Day in the region – again!

Classes and Exams:

Carl, K8CM, reported that the next exam session will be August 14th at 6:00 pm at Verity Lodge, Miami University Middletown. A class to provide attendees with sufficient knowledge to pass the Technician Exam will begin on the 21st of August and run for 6 weeks followed by another exam session on the first Wednesday in October. Carl asked those in attendance to help insure a large class of students by encouraging friends and family.

Field Day:

Field Day Chair, Ernie, W8EH, was on vacation and asked Barney, N8HP, to present a synopsis of field day that he had prepared. We basically made about 300 more contacts than last year, which coincidentally matches the number of 40 meter SSB contacts made by Jerry, W8LR while waiting for his shift in the CW tent. Finally an up side to insomnia!

Constitution Committee Report:

Carl, K8CM, reported that the Committee to consider changes to the Dial Constitution and By-Laws had met and decided to move forward in three areas: The first is a change to the Dial Constitution to allow the officers to move forward on 'Business Matters' i.e. spend money with a 4/5 majority subject to reversal by a vote of the Membership. The second area deals with the Constitution in regard to notification to members of matters involving the calling of special meetings or amendments of the Constitution and/or Bylaws. Notification of the membership could be sent electronically (i.e. by email) or by the US Postal System. The third area is a change of the Bylaws to remove the automatic assignment of Autopatch (speed dial) codes on the 146.610 repeater.

In separate motions Carl, K8CM, moved that the changes be brought before the Membership for a vote. The first motion was seconded by Ernie, N8EH; the second by Ron, N8QF; and the third by Jason, KD8GXD. All three motions passed without dissent. *(The proposed changes are presented in their entirety later in the newsletter, N8HP)* After appropriate notification, the changes will be voted on at the August Dial Meeting.

New Business

Last year Dave, N8YFQ, hosted the Dial contingent for the Ohio QSO Party which happens in August. He will not be able to host it this year, so Dave, KD8W, offered to host the QSO Party station at his house on August 24th. Setup will be on Friday afternoon. Ron, N8QF, moved to provide funds for food

and beverages (no 807's) and Carl, K8CM, seconded. The motion passed.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Ernie, N8EH, and seconded John, W8WCQ. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Barney Taylor, N8HP

Secretary

Proposed Changes to the Constitution and By-Laws

Carl, K8CM, provided the following to the Secretary for inclusion in the Newsletter. Text to be deleted has a line drawn through and text to be added is bold and underlined (*and blue in electronic form*).

Constitution Article V

Section 2. The Board shall attempt to determine and discuss all probable business items prior to business meetings in order to reduce the length of said meetings.

The Board shall have the authority to act, in behalf of the membership, in all business activities. In such action, [1] the Board must have four-fifths (4/5) agreement and [2] shall be subject to review and/or reversal, by the membership, at the next scheduled business meeting.

Section 3. The Board shall be ~~subjected~~ **subordinate** to the orders of the organization, and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by the organization.

Constitution Article VI

Section 3. Special meetings may be called by the President or upon the written request of any five (5) club members. Notice shall be sent to members concerning special meetings and the business to be transacted. Only such business as designated may be transacted. Such notice ~~shall be sent so that in the ordinary postal delivery they arrive not~~

~~less than 24 hours before meeting time~~
may be sent electronically or by United States Postal Service, but must be sent in a timely manner. "Timely manner" shall mean that in the normal course of delivery, notification arrives not less than 24 hours before meeting time.

Constitution, Article VII

Section 3. A written copy of any "Proposed Amendment" shall be ~~mailed~~ *forwarded* to each member, *electronically or via United States Postal Service, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting*, notifying them of the intent to amend this Constitution and/or By-Laws, ~~the date, time, and place of the vote.~~ *Notification shall include the date, time, and place of the meeting in which a vote on the amendment will be taken. Inclusion in the Dial Radio Club's monthly newsletter shall be deemed to satisfy this requirement.* ~~Inclusion in the Club's monthly newsletter shall be deemed to satisfy this requirement even though the newsletter is usually mailed to a "household" rather than each individual.~~

Bylaw Article I

Section 5. ~~Persons joining, or renewing their membership, at the "repeater" level, shall be assigned an autodial slot at no additional charge for the ensuing year, subject to availability. Normally, these assignments will be one per household, except when fewer households exist than the number of autodial slots (240) - Telephone numbers requiring a leading "0" or "1" will not be assigned in autodial slots.~~

Section 5 will be deleted.

Field Day Summary

Call Used: **K8PI**
 GOTA Station Call: **W8BLV**
 ARRL/RAC Section: **OH**
 Class: **3A**
 Participants: **42**
 Club/Group Name: **Dial Radio Club of Middletown**
 Power Source(s): **Generator, Solar**
 Power Multiplier: **2X**

Bonus Points:

| Description | Points |
|--|--------------|
| 100% Emergency power | 300 |
| Media Publicity | 100 |
| Set-up in Public Place | 100 |
| Information Booth | 100 |
| W1AW Field Day Message | 100 |
| Natural power QSOs completed | 100 |
| Site Visit by invited elected official | 100 |
| Site Visit by invited served agency official | 100 |
| Youth participation Youth operators=4 Youth participants=6 | 80 |
| GOTA Bonus | 40 |
| Submitted via the Web | 50 |
| Educational activity | 100 |
| Total Bonus Points | 1,270 |

Score Summary:

| | CW | Digital | Phone | Total |
|---------------------|-------------|----------|------------|-------------|
| Total QSOs | 841 | 0 | 837 | |
| Total Points | 1682 | 0 | 837 | 2519 |

Claimed Score = 5,038

**Submitted by:
Ernest Howard, W8EH**

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

Introductory Level Ham Radio Class

Introductory Level Ham Radio Class To Begin !

Beginning August 21, 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 25 and be followed by an examination session on Wednesday, October 2. (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.

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



Dial Radio Club



Middletown, Ohio

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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 2013

Minutes of the August 19th, 2013 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance

K8CM, N8DHW, WA8DTU, N8EH, W8EH, N8GGE, KD8GXD, N8HP, KI8I, W8ISZ, W8LKU, NN8M, WD8NKJ, N8PI, WA8PRA, N8QF, KD8QLP & Sherry, AB8QP, KF8QS, NR8R & Barbara, KD8VLX, KD8W, KB8WKL & Barbara, W8WLM, KC8WOF

Call to order:

Bob, NR8R, called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the June meeting was made by Carl, K8CM, and seconded by Art, N8PI. The motion passed with 1 nay.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, reported that membership for 2013 stands at 78 members representing 55 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:

Ron presented Brian Bowling, KD8VLX sponsored by Lorie, W8LKU. Ron also presented Art (N8PI) and Jodie (AB8QP) Frasier for renewal, also sponsored by Lorie, W8LKU. Ron moved to accept the applications and Carl, K8CM, seconded the motion. The vote to accept was unanimous. Welcome to Dial, Brian and welcome back Art and Jodie.

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH reported that nothing has changed since last month. He also reported that no one had contacted him regarding keeping the 6 meter link on W8JEU. No progress has been made on the antenna work needed at W8JEU in West Middletown.

Carl, K8CM, reported that Echolink is working well. He gave a summary of Echolink usage for the last 180 days. There were 27 hours and 15 minutes of usage by 411 connections. The longest connection was 2 hours and 36 minutes in April and originated in Hamilton, OH.

Activity Report:

No report.

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

Classes and Exams:

Beverley, N8GGE, reported that the next class to prepare attendees for the Technician Class exam will begin on August 21st. The class will run from 6:00 until 9:00 at Verity Lodge Miami University Middletown for 6 weeks, followed by an exam on the following Wednesday.

Carl, K8CM, reported on the exam session on August 14th. Eight applicants were served. Four earned Technician privileges, two upgraded to General, and one to Extra.

Constitution Committee Actions:

Ernie, W8EH, addressed the audience as Chair of the Constitution Committee regarding the changes discussed during the July meeting and asked for motions:

Carl, K8CM, moved to amend the Dial Constitution Sections 2 and 3 of Article V to allow the officers to move forward on 'Business Matters' i.e. spend money with a 4/5 majority subject to reversal by a vote of the Membership. Dave, KD8W, seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Carl, K8CM, moved to amend the Dial Constitution Section 3 of Article VI and Section 3 of Article VII regarding notification to members of matters involving the calling of special meetings or amendments of the Constitution and/or Bylaws. Notification of the membership could be sent electronically (i.e. by email) or by the US Postal System. Jason, KD8GXD, seconded the motion which passed with one nay.

Carl, K8CM, moved to amend the Dial Bylaws to remove the automatic assignment of Autopatch (speed dial) codes to members for use on the 146.610 repeater. Jason, KD8GXD, seconded the motion. A short discussion followed. The vote was called after Carl explained that it was only the automatic assignment of autodial slots that was being changed. The motion passed without dissent.

If anyone would like a copy of the Constitution and By Laws See Carl, K8CM

Jason KD8GXD

New Business

Continued discussion of the autodial slots and the printing of identification cards lead Ernie, W8EH, to move that the Treasurer will no longer be required to print the autodial numbers on the membership cards. Lorie, W8LKU, seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mark, WD8NKJ, asked about the status of the request by WNKU that the repeater's physical location be moved from its present location in a wooden utility building into the concrete

block building. A discussion followed with Ernie, W8EH, and Ron, N8QF being the major contributors. At the moment, the move is 'in limbo'. WNKU has not contacted Dial in several months.

Dave, KD8W, reminded those in attendance that his home will be the site of Dial's station K8PI for the Ohio QSO party on Saturday August 24th from noon until midnight. Setup will be at Dave's home at about 10:00 am on Friday. Snacks and the evening meal will be provided by his gracious XYL. Dave asked for a show of hand of those who might attend.

Bob, NR8R, thanked everyone for their cards and thoughts during his recovery from his fall from the tower that holds his television antenna earlier in the summer. He told his side of the experience including the fact that he never felt the helicopter lift off as he was being taken to the hospital.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Ron, N8QF, and seconded Jason, KD8GXD. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Barney Taylor, N8HP

Secretary

Ohio QSO Party

Dave, KD8W, did a superb job of preparing for the OHQSOP at his home. When we arrived on Friday morning for setup, Dave already had two operating tables set up in his basement. He had set up the FT-890 station completely. He had also routed cables from his normal shack into the basement for his beam and his wire antennas.

On Friday morning Jim, W8ISZ, arrived with his Kenwood radio that he used for the GOTA station at field day, and quickly set it up. Next, Jim started assembling the Club's Cushcraft R700 vertical while Dave and Barney laid out the cables and looked for the best site to erect the vertical. The antenna went up quickly and we disbanded until Saturday.

Saturday morning around 11:30 Jim and Barney arrived at Dave's home and starting making the final details. Jim, KF8QS (who is also Dave's next door neighbor) came over and we started operating. In mid afternoon Bob, NR8R, and Kaylee, KD8TGE, came over and operated for several hours. The operation was predictable, Dave and Barney on CW, with the sane people operating SSB.

Around 5:30 we broke for a dinner consisting of 'build your own' deli sandwiches and baked beans and coleslaw. Judy did a great job. Those who can tolerate caffeine had coffee afterwards.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 16, *Golden Corral Buffet & Grill*; dinner at 6 meeting at 7

Bob and Kaylee had to leave so Jim and Jim took over the SSB operation. By 11:00 pm, W8ISZ was running a frequency on SSB and the CW guys were still trying banging away. Jim left about 11:15 saying something about it being past his bedtime. Activity had dropped sharply after about 10:30 pm. Around 11:30 Barney and Dave also called it quits. The total number of QSOs on each radio was in the 140 -150 range, if memory serves.

Barney returned to Dave's home on Sunday afternoon to help tear down the stations. When he arrived they were already torn down and put away. All that remained was to take down the vertical and disassemble it.

It was a very enjoyable operating event. It is too bad that others did not find the time to come and join us. Barney would like to thank Dave for his great efforts hosting the event. Judy confided that Dave had spent much of the week preparing for the QSO Party.

Barney, N8HP

**Get on the Air for the
ARRL September VHF
Contest!**

09/12/2013

The ARRL September VHF Contest is this weekend (1800 UTC September 14 to 0259 UTC September 16), providing a chance for radio amateurs of all levels to experience contesting on our higher bands. This event is markedly different from the June VHF Contest, due to the heightened potential of excellent tropospheric conditions. Activity centers on 50.125, 144.200, 222.100 and 432.100 MHz. These are calling frequencies, however, and contest participants should avoid monopolizing them.

On 6 meters, the most popular band, most SSB activity will take place between 50.125 MHz and 50.250 MHz, and CW between 50.080 MHz and 50.100 MHz. The frequencies between 50.100 MHz and 50.125 MHz are considered a "DX Window," for contacts between W/VE and DX stations, so avoid US-to-US contacts in that part of the band. Even FM operators can get in on the fun by competing in the FM-only category. FM simplex activity on 2 meters will center around population centers. Remember: ARRL General VHF Contest Rules prohibit contest operators from using the national simplex frequency of 146.52 MHz to make or solicit contacts. Operators should avoid camping out on traditional calling/simplex frequencies. Check the band plans for details on all bands.

Rules and entry forms are on the ARRL website. All logs must be e-mailed or postmarked no later than 0300 UTC on October 16, 2013. Electronic logs are preferred. Send paper logs to September VHF Contest, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

ARRL

Next Meeting: Monday, September, 16th, at the Golden Corral



Dial Radio Club



Middletown, Ohio

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Newsletter Editor:
Jason Mossbarger, KD8GXD

Secretary:
Barney Taylor, N8HP

Newsletter Printing:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

Treasurer:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

October 2013

Minutes of the September 16th, 2013 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance

N8AA, K8CM, N8DHW, WA8DTU, W8EH, N8GGE, KD8GXD, N8HP, KI8I, W8ISZ, W8LKU, N8LRN & Eve, NN8M, WD8NKJ, WA8PRA, N8QF, KF8QS, NR8R, KD8W, KB8WKL, W8WLM, KC8WOF, N8YFQ

Call to order:

Bob, NR8R, called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the June meeting was made by Jason, KD8GXD, and seconded by Bob, NN8M. The motion passed without dissent.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, reported that membership for 2013 stands at 81 members representing 57 families. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Carl, K8CM, and seconded by Barney, N8HP. The motion passed with 1 nay.

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH reported on audio problems with the W8BLV repeater. The main receiver audio was low and the link receiver audio levels were mismatched. Ernie tracked the main receiver problem to a noisy potentiometer and adjusted the audio levels of the link receivers. He noted that the PL decoder on the main receiver is not working and discovered an intermittent problem with the sensitivity of the main receiver which he adjusted by 'Banging on the Box'. It is Ernie's plan to remove the entire repeater and move it to his shack for a thorough troubleshooting session later in the year.

Carl, K8CM, reported that Echolink is working well and that he was working on making Echolink nodes available through the repeater. Echolink users wishing to try should enter A87017. If all works well and Carl is listening, he should answer you.

Activity Report:

No report.

Classes and Exams:

Carl, K8CM, reported that classes to prepare students for the Technician level exam are ongoing and that the next exam session will be on October 2nd at Verity Lodge, Miami

Next Meeting: Monday, October, 21th, at the **Golden Corral**

University Middletown. VE's are requested to arrive around 5:30. Applicants will be registered starting at 6:00 and exams will begin shortly thereafter. A class to prepare students for the General Class Exam will begin on October 9th at Verity Lodge. The six week class runs from 6:00 to 9:00 pm and is free. It will use the ARRL General Class License Manual Guide as a text.

New Business

Dave, KD8W, gave a report of Dial's activity on the Ohio QSO Party. There were a total of 6 operators and about 270 contacts pretty evenly divided between phone and cw.

Mark, WD8NKJ, inquired if the last free version of Ham Radio Deluxe will run on Windows XP, and was informed that it will do so.

Bob, NR8R, reported of upcoming operation of the Wake Atoll Commemorative DXpedition: The Forgotten 98 during early October to honor the memory of 98 civilian contractors that were lost on 7-October, 1943 during World War II.

Operation will be from 7-October through 18-October by a team of 12 operators on Wake Atoll using the call K9W. More information can be found at <http://wake2013.org>.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Ron, N8QF, and seconded Carl, K8CM. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm.

Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary

Radio City

The Secretary received a mailing from Radio City asking that our membership be made aware that Radio City is offering a 'Ham Radio Starter Kit' consisting of a TDxone Q8 handheld (4 watts, dual band 128 memories, VOX and more; Technician Class, by Gordon West; FCC Part 97 Rule Book; and a TD-Q8 Quick Reference Manual for \$70. The Secretary has no knowledge of either Radio City or the TDxone handheld, and cannot make recommendations. Dial classes make use of the ARRL books. If desired, more information can be obtained at <http://www.RADIOINC.com>. Universal Radio in Columbus sells the bare radio for \$60 and has some accessories for it.

FCC Ends Shutdown

After grinding to a halt along with most of the rest of the federal government, the FCC sprang promptly back to life October 17, after Congress resolved the funding crisis — at least for now. With the Commission's Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, facility, main website and Amateur Radio call sign database (ULS) dark for the duration, no Amateur Radio applications were able to be filed, even on paper, and the FCC made no license or call sign grants.

"We have already taken immediate steps to remedy disruptions caused by the shutdown," said FCC Chair Mignon Clyburn as the FCC reopened. "We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through this extraordinary situation."

Amateur Radio testing was able to continue during the shutdown, however, and exam session paperwork continued to flow into the ARRL VEC. Once the FCC was up and running again, it was not long before application processing resumed, and grants started showing up again, much to the delight of those who had been waiting for new licenses, upgrades, and vanity call sign grants.

"We had approximately 250 sessions and over 1500 forms in the queue," ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said as the FCC reopened. By the end of the day, the VEC staff had dispatched its entire backlog to the FCC for processing. Somma said, "day-to-day operations at the ARRL VEC office ran smoothly despite this unusual event." Somma said most ARRL VEC exam sessions took place as scheduled, but a few sessions that were supposed to be held at government facilities such as Army National Guard buildings, had to be canceled or moved to different locations. [[read more](#)]

ARRL



Dial Radio Club



Middletown, Ohio

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Jason Mossbarger, KD8GXD

Secretary:
Barney Taylor, N8HP

Newsletter Printing:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

Treasurer:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

November 2013

Minutes of the October 21st, 2013 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance

N8AA, K8CM, WA8DTU, N8EH, W8ELI (*previously WD8PXI*), N8GGE, N8HP, N8HRA, KI8I, W8ISZ, W8LKU, NN8M, WA8PRA, N8QF, KF8QS, NR8R & Barbara, KD8TGE, KD8VLX, KD8W, KB8WKL & Barbara, W8WLM, N8YFQ

Call to order:

Bob, NR8R, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, followed by an around-the-room self-introduction of those present.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the September meeting was made by Jim, KF8QS, and seconded by Carl, K8CM. The motion passed with one nay.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, reported that membership for 2013 stands at 81 members representing 57 families. A motion to approve the

Treasurer's report was made by Carl, K8CM, and seconded by Dave, N8YFQ. The motion passed unanimously.

Repeater/Station Report:

Carl, K8CM, gave the station report in the absence of Ernie, W8EH. Carl reported "it's workin'" with regard to the repeater which should probably be interpreted as the repeater is the same as last month. Carl continued by giving a detailed usage report for Echolink, from early July through mid October. Echolink was connected more than 16 hours. The longest connect was for nine and one half hours and the shortest was for three seconds. Connections from DX included Australia, Canada, England, Guatemala, Germany, and Japan. The method of entering Echolink node numbers has been changed to allow those with that ever popular HT that was purchased at Dayton to be able to enter a node since it doesn't have the 'A' key that Carl originally set up. The new code is '#83' followed by the node number. To disconnect, one only has to enter '##'. (The first '#' tells the repeater to pass touch tone codes rather than hiding them. The second is the disconnect command..)

Activity Report:

No report.

Classes and Exams:

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

Beverley, N8GGE, reported that classes to prepare students for the General has four students. The next exam session will be on November 20th at Verity Lodge, Miami University Middletown.

Carl, K8CM, gave a report from the October Exam. 9 applicants were served. 6 earned Technician licenses, 1 upgraded to General and 1 upgraded to Extra – just when the government was shutdown so that no licenses were being processed.

New Business

Bob, NR8R, appointed a Nominating Committee charged with finding a slate of candidates to be officers during 2014. Don, WA8DTU, was named Chair. Other members are Jim, W8ISZ, and David, N8YQF.

Ernie, N8EH, thanked those who helped to take down his tower on the previous Saturday (while he was unavoidably detained). The tower lowering process was interesting; with Mother Nature showing that she ruled the day. However, the only damage was to a 2x4 deck railing (fixed by Ernie, W8EH) and our pride.

Carl, K8CM, made two announcements regarding upcoming exams. The exam scheduled for January, 2014 has been cancelled. As has happened during the last couple of years, an exam session will be held at R & L Electronics on 'Customer Appreciation Day' on December 14th. The exam is offered under the auspices of the Laurel VEC with exam team members from Dial and BCARA.

Barney, N8HP, reported on a mailing that he received from RadioInc.com offering a Chinese handheld, a FCC rule book, a quick guide to the radio and the Technician license manual by Gordon West for \$70. Since Dial classes use the ARRL book, it may not be attractive to Dial members. It might warrant consideration for a friend that is unable to attend the Dial classes.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Ernie, N8EH, and seconded Lorie, W8LKU. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Barney Taylor, N8HP

Secretary

Field day - we won!

WE WON OHIO. Yes that's right, we won with 6,308 points, 1678 contacts.

There were 15 entrants in Ohio in the class 3A (three transmitter-portable club group), we were FIRST. We won by 226 points. One Ohio group had more QSOs than us (K8SCH OH-KY-IN) but we worked hard to get those 2 point CW contacts and bonus points this year.

We were #4 in the Great Lakes Division (Oh, KY, MI) out of 32 class 3A stations.

We were #27 out of all 310 class 3A entries.

Everyone involved deserves a big pat on the back.

I can't recall us ever winning class 3A low power before.

Ernie W8EH

P.S.

You may be able to directly link to our results here:

<http://www.arrl.org/results-database?>

[fd_category=3A&fd_power=&fd_sect=OH&ss_call=&sort0=&sort1=&sort2=&event_id=47575](http://www.arrl.org/results-database?fd_category=3A&fd_power=&fd_sect=OH&ss_call=&sort0=&sort1=&sort2=&event_id=47575)



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

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

December 2013

Minutes of the November 18th, 2013 Dial Radio Club Meeting

Attendance

N8DHW, WA8DTU, W8EH, N8GGE, KD8GXD, N8HP, KI8I, W8ISZ, W8LKU, NN8M, WA8PRA, N8QF, NR8R & Barbara, KD8TGE, KC8TXA, W8WCQ & Ginny, KB8WKL & Barbara, N8YFQ

Call to order:

Bob, NR8R, called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the September meeting was made by Jason, KD8GXD, and seconded by Dave, N8YFQ. The motion passed with one nay.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, reported that membership for 2013 stands at 81 members representing 57 families. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Barney, N8HP, and seconded by Jason, KD8GXD. The motion passed with one nay.

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, gave the station report: "It's workin'" which should probably be interpreted as the repeater is the same as last month. Bob, NR8R, presented to the audience a report from Carl, K8CM, that Echolink is back up and running (after a failure). Ernie, W8EH, found a bad capacitor in the audio line of the link transmitter. The information reported by Bob, continued with the fact that Echolink went on the air at W8BLV in January, 2007. This was the first radio "hardware" problem that we have encountered. In the past a hard drive was replaced because it was full – not because it failed. Software glitches occur occasionally, often after a night-time Microsoft upgrade.

Activity Report:

No report.

Classes and Exams:

Beverley, N8GGE, reported that three students completed the class to prepare for the General Examination. The next exam session will be on December 14th at R&L Electronics during their customer appreciation day.

Beverley also discussed which class should be run during the Winter Semester (January through April). The options

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

include trying to have an Extra Class course or starting over with a Technician level course. Comments, opinions, and/or interest in taking a given class should be sent to Beverley,

We need to decide early so that flyers can be left at R & L, preferably before December 14th.

Bob, NR8R, passed along a message from Carl, K8CM, that due to the cancellation of the January exam, Verity Lodge will be reserved on the night of that exam should the members wish to put on a 'one night' technical get together.

Old Business

None:

New Business

2013 Field Day Chair, Ernie, W8EH, gave a report of Dial's success in Class 3A for the 2013 Field Day. Dial won Ohio by 231 point over the closest competitor in Ohio. We were fourth in the Great Lakes Division and 27th overall for 3A in the United States. This is the best that Dial has ever done. Ernie thanked those who helped with setup and operation during the effort.

Bob, NR8R, asked if the Nominating Committee had a report. Don, WA8DTU, reported that the present officers had been convinced to be willing to serve another term. Nominations from the floor will be welcome during the elections at the December meeting.

Bob, NR8R, passed along an announcement for Carl, K8CM. Carl has a number of 10 foot long ½ inch copper water pipe that are unused available for \$6.00 each - with pickup in Middletown.

Bob, NR8R, announced that he would not be attending the meeting the December meeting due to a conflict.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Dave, N8YFQ, and seconded Ron, N8QF. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Barney Taylor, N8HP

Secretary

New Technician Class Question Pool Released

The ARRL VEC has announced that the NCVEC Question Pool Committee has released the new 2014-2018 Technician Class, Element 2, [question pool](#) to the public. This pool will take effect on July 1, 2014, and will remain valid until June 30, 2018. The [current Technician question pool](#), released in 2010, is valid until June 30, 2014. —

Maria Somma, AB1FM, ARRL/VEC Manager