DIAL RADIO CLUB

Middletown, Ohio

APRS Digipeater: W8BLV 144.39
Repeaters:146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 449.825/444.825
DMR 449.3625/444.3625
Web page: http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/ e-mail: W8BLV@QSL.net

President:
Ernie Howard, W8EH

Vice-President:
Dave Williamson, KD8W

Secretary:
Jason Mossbarger, KD8GXD

Treasurer:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

Activities Manager:
Roy Dalton, N8LRN

Newsletter Editor:
Jason Mossbarger, KD8GXD

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 15TH, 2014 MEETING

Attendance:

N8AA, K8CM, KD8CPV, N8DHW, WA8DTU, W8EH, N8GGE, KD8GXD, N8HP, KI8I, W8ISZ, W8LKU, NN8M, N8QF, NR8R & Barbara, KC8WOF, N8YFQ, WA8YXY

Call to order:

Bob, NR8R, called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the November meeting was made by Carl, K8CM, and seconded by Dave, N8YFQ. The motion passed with 1 nay.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, reported that the final membership stands at 83 members representing 58 families.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Barney, N8HP, and seconded by Carl, K8CM. The motion passed unanimously

Membership:

Ron, N8QF, reported that he had received an Application for Membership from Alfredo Huerta, KD8ZOV, and Nancy Smith-Huerta, KD8ZOW. The application was sponsored by Beverley, N8GGE. Ron made a motion to accept Alfredo and Nancy's application. Bob, NN8M, seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Welcome to Dial Alfredo and Nancy!

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, gave a report of "everything's workin'" and went on to describe the new Motorola DMR repeater has been received and tested. It is operating under a temporary, 30-day coordination until a final frequency is assigned by the coordinators.

Ron, N8QF, went on to describe the trials and tribulations that occurred as he interacted with AT&T to get the repeater phone moved from WNKU to the DMR site, so that the repeater can have internet access. If it wasn't so frustrating for Ron, it would have been funny.

Carl, K8CM, gave a report on Echolink and reported said that is working very well.

Activity Report:

No report.

Classes and Exams:

Beverley, N8GGE, reported that the next exam will be in mid-January. *The Secretary recalls that the January exam was canceled for 2015 – but he may be wrong*. Carl, K8CM, reported that the March exam will be on the 11th and the May exam will be on the 6th.

Beverley described interest from candidates wishing to prepare for the Extra Class License and asked past and potential instructors to remain for a brief meeting following the close of the Business Meeting.

Old Business:

Since the new repeater is in place and under budget, the DMR Committee has no further report.

Bob, NN8M, gave the report for the Nominating Committee. He announced a slate consisting of Ernie, W8EH, as President; Dave, KD8W, to continue as Vice President; Jason, KD8GXD, as Secretary; Ron, N8QF, to continue as Treasurer; and Roy, N8LRN, as Activities Director.

Bob asked for nominations from the floor, and hearing none, made a motion to elect the ballot by acclamation. Lorie, W8LKU, seconded the motion which passed with 1 nay – Choo-Choo!

New Business:

Bob,NR8R, appointed an Audit Committee consisting of Bob, NN8M, Don, WA8DTU, and Evan, KC8TXA.

Carl, K8CM, issued a statement of thanks to retiring officers for their service – especially Lorie, W8LKU, who served as Activities Director for 12 years. Ron, N8QF, was lauded for 10 years' service as Treasurer, while Barney apparently "fought tooth and nail" to remain Secretary for 9 years. Bob, NR8R, offered thanks to all for their support of the Club.

With the upcoming new year, Hamvention was discussed. Dave, N8YFQ, will be the director of the Flea Market this year. Reservations has a new website, but the same booking software will be used. Dave promised that the Club will have no problems with their reservation.

Ron, N8QF, made a motion to set aside funds for Club spaces at Hamvention the same as last year. Carl, K8CM, seconded and the motion passed without dissent.

John, N8AA, told of a contact with a Spanish station EA8 with a 3-letter suffix during the Fall operation of W1AW/8. He could not copy the suffix, so John asked for each letter phonetically, one at a time, and kept hearing "eck-a" for one of the letters. After struggling with contact for some time John apologized for not being able to make a QSO and inquired if any others had heard the exchange. A W1 station reported he had copied the exchange. John asked for the call and the W1 reported "eck-a". John later learned that the phonetic was "x-ray". A lost W1AW/8 contact, but not for the lack of trying.

Carl, K8CM, wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Dave, N8YQF, and seconded by Ron, N8QF. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Barney Taylor, N8HP

Secretary

Centennial Points Challenge

As some of you know, the ARRL has sponsored the Centennial Points Challenge and the W1AW portable stations in 2014. The Centennial points were given for contacts with ARRL members, officers, official stations, appointees, W1AW, etc. The W1AW portable stations were in every state a week at a time throughout the year.

Several Dial club members participated and reported their contacts to the ARRL Logbook of the World. I went on line and looked through listing for Ohio (about 700 stations) and compiled the list club member's points. N8AA topped out the list (for Dial members) for both the Centennial Points and number of W1AW portable contacts. The ranking number is for all stations reporting. I hope that I didn't miss anybody.

Centennial Points Challenge Totals

Rank	Call Sign	Points	QSOs
1008	N8AA	27448	3054
2497	N8HP	14679	2093
2717	W8EH	13401	1629
6307	NR8R	5209	635
6963	NN8M	4548	360
10977	W8ISZ	2253	309
19860	W8LR	492	85

QSOs with W1AW portable stations

Rank	Call Sign	QSOs
1337	N8AA	457
1570	NR8R	413
2311	W8EH	298
2333	N8HP	295
2436	W8ISZ	284
4938	NN8M	141
38842	W8LR	8

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Secretary:

Treasurer:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF

Activities Manager:
Roy Dalton, N8LRN

Newsletter Editor:
Carl Morgan, K8CM

the prez sez .....

This year, I'd like to start something new at the regular Dial meetings, a sharing time. We may have some special monthly topics, but it would be nice to hear from members what they have been doing on the air or with some new equipment, etc. So to kick it off, for the February meeting why don't we have a QSL card night? Bring in some of your new QSL cards, an old one that is a favorite or your own station card. We will have a short show and tell.

The January meeting we brought up the possibility of a "PI" operating event. This is to celebrate the mathematical expression "PI", 3.1415926 or there about. If we participate, it will be on Saturday, March 14 (3-14-15). We had been invited to participate because our club has the call K8PI for a station license. We will decide at the next meeting if there is any interest in operating or handling special QSL cards.

Dial has two major events to start planning for, Hamvention and Field Day. The dates for Hamvention are May 15, 16 and 17. The club has purchased our same spaces, 3201 through 3205.

Field Day will be held June 26, 27, 28. Please mark your calendars for these dates.

Ernie, W8EH,
DIAL President

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 19TH, 2015 MEETING

Attendance

N8AA, K8CI, K8CM, N8DHW, WA8DTU, N8EH, W8EH, N8GGE, N8HP, W8ISZ, W8LKU, N8LRN, NN8M, N8OZN, KF8QS, NR8R & Barbara, KD8TGE, KC8TXA, KD8W, W8WLM, KC8WOF, N8YFQ

Call to order:

Ernie, W8EH, called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm and appointed Barney, N8HP, as acting Secretary.

Next Meeting: Monday, February 16th, at the **Golden Corral**
Note: Election to fill the unexpired Secretary's position will be on the agenda

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the December 2014 meeting was made by Bob, NN8M, and seconded by Bob, NR8R. The motion passed without dissent.

Treasurer's Report:

Ernie, N8EH, presented the Treasurer's report in lieu of the absence of Ron, N8QF. Ernie reported that 40 of the 58 family memberships have been renewed. Ron plans a second mailing to the remaining families. Membership cards will be distributed in the upcoming month.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Carl, K8CM, and seconded by Dave, KD8W. The motion passed unanimously.

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported that the new Motorola DMR repeater is working fine and that the analog repeater is working well.

Carl, K8CM, reported that Echolink is working "Absolutely Phenomenally Well". Carl gave a summary of the year's Echolink activity: 697 connections, 18 from DX calls; almost 69 hours of connect time with an average connect time of 6 minutes. The longest connect time was over 5 and one half hours.

Activity Report:

Roy, N8LRN, gave a discussion of 'PI Day' and asked if the Club had interest in participating. March 14 can be written as 3/14/15 which are the starting digits in Pi. Hank Greeb, N8XX, had approached Carl, K8CM, encouraging Dial to participate in the 'PI Day' activities since we have the Club contest call K8PI.

Some discussion followed about the options for participating. One possibility was to have a Club Member volunteer his/her shack for the day and let various Members come in and operate. Another possibility is to allow interested members to have 'slots' where they will operate under K8PI (with the Trustee's permission) on a given band and mode from their own shack.

One of the major needs is for someone to volunteer to handle the QSL cards if we decide to participate. Ernie, W8EH, suggested that an appropriate card could be designed. Carl, K8CM, expressed the opinion that Hank might come back to Ohio if Dial did not participate ☺.

Roy completed the topic by asking people to think about 'PI Day' and saying that a decision will be made at the February meeting.

Classes and Exams:

Beverley, N8GGE, reported a class to prepare students for the Extra Class exam will begin on the 22nd of January. She and Carl have had 10 or 11 inquiries so she expects a good group. The next exam session will be on March 18th at Verity Lodge, Miami University Middletown.

Audit Committee Report:

The Audit Committee has not yet met. Bob, NR8R, was appointed to replace Bob, NN8M, who will not be able to attend the meeting.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Ernie, W8EH, announced that the newly elected Secretary (Jason, KD8GXD) had resigned citing family issues. Ernie went on to state the process of filling a position other than during an election. Dave, KD8W, moved and Bob, NR8R, seconded a motion to accept Jason's resignation.

Ernie stated that Carl, K8CM, had volunteered to take over the task of editing the newsletter. He also declared that the election of a new Secretary will occur at the February meeting.

Ernie asked those in attendance to save the dates for Hamvention (May 15, 16, and 17) and Field Day (June 26, 27, and 28) on their calendars.

Ernie gave a report on the activity of Dial Members in the ARRL's Centennial Challenge. John, N8AA, earned the most points of the Dial members. Several other Dial members participated.

Jim, W8ISZ, announced that a DXpedition will be on Navassa Island, a small island managed by the U. S. Fish and Game Commission for two weeks in early February. Navassa is in the 'most wanted' list for DX locations. The last time the island was activated was 20 years ago. Dick, K8CI, added that Heard Island is planned to be activated – on of the few remaining DX entities that he has left to work.

John, N8AA, reported that the EA8 station mentioned in last month's Newsletter was 'in the log' with the proper call. Great work John.

Ernie, N8EH, moved and Roy, N8LRN, seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:22.

Barney Taylor, N8HP
Acting Secretary

FCC "Paperless" Amateur Radio License Policy Goes into Effect on February 17

Starting February 17, the FCC no longer will routinely issue paper license documents to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The Commission has maintained for some time now that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System (ULS), although the FCC has continued to print and mail hard copy licenses.

Under the new procedures, licensees will access their current official authorization ("Active" status only) via the ULS License Manager. The FCC will continue to provide paper license documents to all licensees who notify the Commission that they prefer to receive one. Licensees also will be able to print out an official authorization - as well as an unofficial "reference copy" - from the ULS License Manager.

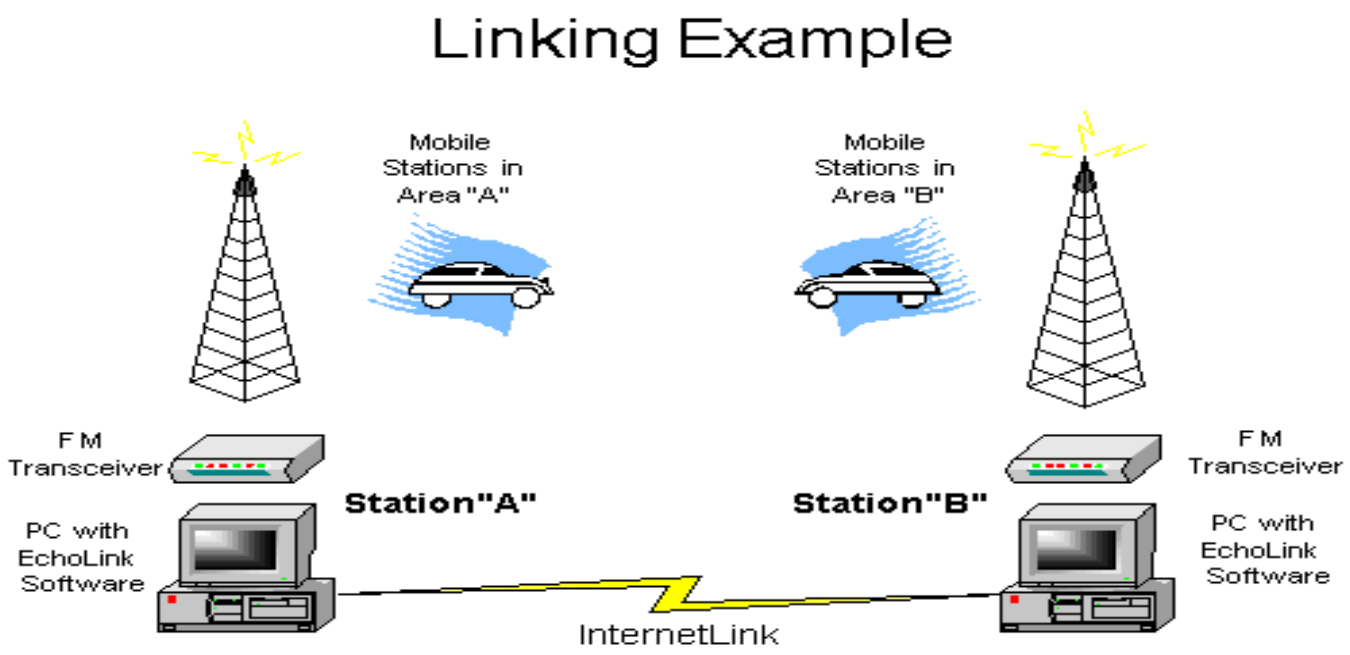
The ARRL and other Amateur Radio commenters also worried that unless a license document is printed on distinctive paper stock, its authenticity could be questioned in such situations as obtaining vanity call sign license plates. To address this, the FCC said the watermark "Official Copy" will be printed on each page of an official authorization that a licensee prints out from the ULS. The WTB recently stopped using distinctive paper stock to produce hard copy licenses and has been printing these on "standard, white recycled paper." The

Bureau noted that the distinctive paper stock it had used was six times more expensive than the plain recycled paper it now uses.

The ULS License Manager now includes settings that allow licensees to notify the WTB that they prefer to receive official authorizations on paper. Once the final procedures go into effect designating electronic access as the default, licensees can change the ULS License Manager setting so that the Bureau will print and mail a license document. Licensees also may contact FCC Support via the web at, http://esupport.fcc.gov/index.htm?job=contact_fcc_support , or via telephone or mail to request paper licenses.

Echolink

EchoLink® software allows licensed Amateur Radio stations to communicate with one another over the Internet, using streaming-audio technology. The program allows worldwide connections to be made between stations, or from computer to station, greatly enhancing Amateur Radio's communications capabilities. There are more than 200,000 validated users worldwide — in 151 of the world's 193 nations — with about 5,200 online at any given time. (*from the Echolink web site*)



Software for your MS or Apple PC is available at http://www.echolink.org/

EchoLink is a computer-based Amateur Radio system designed by Jonathan Taylor, K1RFD. It is distributed free of charge, for licensed radio amateurs to communicate with other amateur stations using Voice over IP (VoIP) technology on the Internet. This approach allows reliable worldwide connections to be made between radio amateurs, while greatly enhancing Amateur Radio's capabilities.

Other than the unique ability to link amateur radio transceivers together, it is the same as other VoIP applications (such as Skype). Any low-power amateur radio transceiver, which can contact a local Echolink node ("A" node represents an active Echolink station with a transceiver attached), can then use the Internet connection of that station to send their transmission via VoIP to any other active Echolink node, world-wide. No special hardware or software is required while relaying a transmission via an Echolink node.

Further, there is no cost for this service, and an internal provision in the software insures that the Echolike system is used only by licensed amateur radio operators.

Currently the Dial 61 repeater is connected to an active Echolike node. You may occasionally hear "*W1ABC connected*", telling you that an amateur station, W1ABC, is now remotely operating on the 61 system. You would reply in the same manner as if he/she were on I-75 at the Monroe exit and looking for a contact.

Last year, we counted 697 stations connecting remotely to the 61 repeater, of which 18 conveyed DX callsigns. For the most part, the DX stations were of European origin with an occasional Asian station sprinkled in. Canadian callsigns, too, are random visitors to the Middletown repeater.

When communicating on Echolink, you will notice a longer time interval between dropping your carrier and the other station's response. This is due to two occurrences, propagation delay throughout the Internet communication path (radio and Internet) and a built-in 1 second time delay on our equipment.

The software is written to run on 32-bit and 64-bit versions of Microsoft Windows. Another edition of the software runs on Apple mobile devices (iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad), and is available from the Apple App Store. An Android version is available on Google Play and several other Android app repositories.

2015 VE License Exam Schedule

Dial Radio Club, 6 pm, Veroity Lodge

March 18 and May 6

Butler County Amateur Radio Association, 9 am, Fairfield Township Police Department

February 21 and April 25

Member submissions for this monthly newsletter are welcome and solicited.

Please have copy to me not later than two weeks past the Club meeting date. It may be in Word, Wordperfect, or ASCII text. Maybe other formats; we'll need to talk. Something of interest to you that you'd like to share with Dial's members.

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 18, 2015
at 6 p.m. in Verity Lodge
Miami University-Middletown, Middletown, OH

Doors will open for registration at 6 p.m and examinations 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. The web site is self explanatory and the FRN registration is free.

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 146.61 (-600) 77 Hz PL
444.3625 (+5) MID Local-2 [DMR]

Amateur Radio License Exam

The Butler County Amateur Radio Association will offer amateur radio operator's license examinations, beginning at 9 am, on Saturday, February 21, 2015 at the Fairfield Township Police Department, 6485 Vonnie Vale Court, Hamilton, OH.

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 license ID number (FRN).

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 the FRN registration is free.

Walk-ins welcome - Preregistration not required.

Exams are free ... No test fees will be collected.

Additional information may be obtained from Thurl Golden, KD8VLU, or Carl Morgan, K8CM,

Talk-in will be available on W8WRK/R
146.700 -, 123 Hz PL

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Ron Spaulding, N8QF
Activities Manager:
Roy Dalton, N8LRN
Newsletter Editor:
Carl Morgan, K8CM

the prez sez .....

We have been planning the club's participation in the International "PI" day operating event, March 14. The plans have been finalized, and it is next weekend.

On Saturday March 14, between the hours of 9am and 6pm, there will be a club group operation from my QTH in Middletown. All club members are welcome to participate, don't be shy, stop by and get on the air.

Outside of the above group operation, the club call K8PI will be available for members to use from 8pm Friday March 13 (0000 UTC) until 8pm Saturday March 14 (2359 UTC). There may also be some times/modes/bands that would also be available during the day Saturday. If you want to operate using K8PI from your home during this event, please contact me via email to schedule the band/modes.

Here at my QTH there will be two stations set up for the Saturday group operation. Both stations will be capable of operating phone, one will be able to operate PSK31 and CW also, if there is interest.

Elaine is making lunch and snacks for us.

We will be on the following frequencies/modes on Saturday 3-14:

40 meters phone 7.185 and up
20 meters PSK31 14.070
10 meters phone 28.400 and up
20 meters phone 14.316 and up
CW about 50 KHz from bottom of band

Other bands/modes may be used as needed

If you know you can help with the group operation, let me know when you will be here. Otherwise, drop by if/when you can!

If you need any further information, or need directions for the Saturday operation, contact me at

Ernie, W8EH

Next Meeting: Monday, March 16, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 16TH, 2015 MEETING

Attendance

N8AA, N8DHW, W8EH, N8GGE, N8HP, KI8I, W8ISZ, NN8M, N8QF, KC8TXA, KC8WOF, N8YFQ, Jen

Call to order:

Ernie, W8EH, called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and appointed Barney, N8HP, as acting Secretary.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the January meeting was made by Dave, N8YQF, and seconded by Jim, W8ISZ. The motion passed without dissent.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, presented the Treasurer's report. He reported that membership stands at 64 members representing 48 families. Ron plans a second mailing to the 10 remaining unpaid families.

Ron gave the annual financial report for Dial. The checking account has a lower balance than previous years due to the purchase of the DMR repeater and accessories. Ron stated that the balance would have increased by a significant amount, had the new repeater not been purchased. He foresees no need to consider raising dues in the near future.

Ron also stated that the Form 990 that is necessary to maintain a tax exempt status has been filed.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Barney, N8HP, and seconded by Dave, N8YQF. The motion passed unanimously.

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported that both the analog and DMR repeaters are working well.

Activity Report:

None.

Classes and Exams:

Beverley, N8GGE, reported a class to prepare students for the Extra Class exam began on the 22nd of January with 9 students for the first night. Since then the number has been 6 or 7 students.

The next exam session will be on March 18th at Verity Lodge, Miami University Middletown. Registration will begin at 6:00 pm, and testing will begin shortly after. VE's are requested to arrive in the 5:30 time frame if possible.

Committee Reports

The Audit Committee report was presented by Evan, KC8TXA. The Committee found that again Ron has been an exceptional steward of Dial's finances. A copy of the report was provided to the Acting Secretary.

A motion to approve the Audit Committee's report was made by Bob, NN8M, and seconded by Dave, N8DHW. The motion passed.

Old Business

Ernie, W8EH, announced that Hamvention spaces have been confirmed and that the tickets have arrived.

Ernie brought up the topic of 'Pi-Day' on March 14th (3.14) and whether the Club has an interest in participating. Barney, N8HP, passed around a first draft of a QSL card that might be used, and discussed the cost of postage and printing for a reasonable number of contacts. It was decided to ask persons desiring a QSL to send a SASE. Ron, N8QF, volunteered to print the cards once the design is finalized and the number needed is known.

Following some discussion, Ernie asked for volunteers to host the event in their home similar to recent Ohio QSO party at KD8W's home. There were no volunteers. Ernie is still hoping to have someone volunteer.

Ernie asked those in attendance to express an interest in participating by a show of hands. The response was quite positive, so Ernie appointed a Committee (with appropriate arm twisting) consisting of himself, Roy, N8LRN, and Barney, N8HP to make preparations for 'Pi-Day'.

New Business

A special election to fill the vacated Secretary's position lead to the train carrying N8HP back into office after Dave, N8YQF, moved and Jim, W8ISZ, seconded a motion to nominate Barney, N8HP, to complete the term. Unfortunately there were no nominations from the floor. N8HP was elected by acclamation.

Jim, W8ISZ, was selling raffle tickets for SWODXA. The tickets were $5 each or 5 for $20. The prize is a nice HF transceiver. The funds are used, in part, to support DXpeditions over the year. Several people purchased tickets from Jim.

Adjournment:

Dave, N8YFQ, moved and Evan, KC8TXA, seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Barney Taylor, N8HP
Acting Secretary

ARRL SEEKS MEMBER INPUT ON DRAFT HF BAND PROPOSALS

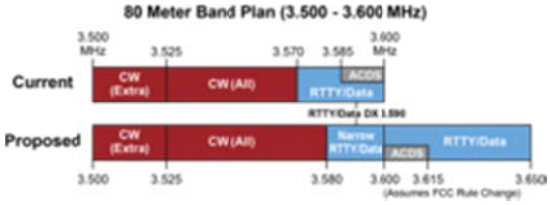
The ARRL is asking members to comment by April 19 on possible changes to the League's HF Band Plans suggested by the HF Band Planning Committee. The survey is part of the committee's efforts to tweak the band plans for the RTTY/data/CW portions of 80 through 10 meters -- excepting 60 meters. The committee developed its suggested revisions to the voluntary band plans after reviewing some 400 member comments in response to a March 2014 solicitation that sought suggestions on how to use the spectrum more efficiently, so that data modes may coexist compatibly.

"The committee concluded that most of the concerns voiced by members could be addressed by modest adjustments to the existing band plans, and mainly by confining data modes with bandwidths greater than 500 Hz to the FCC-designated segments for automatically controlled digital stations (ACDS) and to parts of the RTTY/data subbands above those segments," ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said. His article detailing the committee's suggestions will appear in the April issue of QST.

The proposed changes differentiate among ACDS, narrow RTTY/data modes having a bandwidth no greater than 500 Hz, and wider data modes having a bandwidth up to 2700 Hz.

Band-by-Band Draft Recommendations

On **80 meters**, the committee suggests several modifications to the band plan. FCC action in 2006 reduced the 80 meter RTTY/data subband to 100 kHz and limited access to the 3600-3700 kHz segment to Amateur Extra class licensees. "Unless and until the FCC Rules are modified, changes in the band plan for 3500-3600 kHz will not improve the situation," Sumner said.



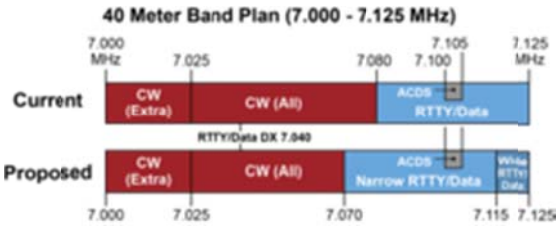
The HF Band Planning Committee recommends that the League petition the FCC to move the boundary between the 80 meter RTTY/data band and the 75 meter phone/image band from 3600 to 3650 kHz and restoring that segment to General and Advanced class licensees. Members are being asked to comment on this proposal, as well as on whether or not the ARRL should petition the FCC for these other changes:

Shift the ACDS band segment from 3585-3600 to 3600-3615 kHz, consistent with the IARU Region 1 and 2 band plans.

Extend the current Novice/Technician CW segment of 3525-3600 kHz to 3650 kHz.

Add 80 meter RTTY/data privileges for Novices and Technicians.

On **40 meters**, the committee concluded that it would be unrealistic to try to bring the ARRL band plan into alignment with the rest of the world, particularly with Regions 1 and 3 where operating patterns developed when the entire band, including phone, was just 100 kHz wide -- and is still only 200 kHz. While 7040 kHz is a recognized RTTY/data DX frequency in the band plan, the best place for other RTTY/data activity in the US is above 7070 kHz.

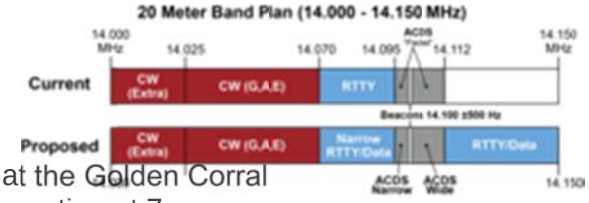


The committee proposes aligning the band plan with the "Considerate Operator's Frequency Guide," with wide data modes -- outside of ACDS -- at 7115-7125 kHz. The "Guide" shows 7070-7125 kHz for RTTY/data, while the ARRL band plan shows 7080-7125 kHz. The FCC mandates that ACDS be confined to the 7100-7105 kHz segment.

On **30 meters**, the committee recommends confining wide data modes to 10.140-10.150 MHz, separated from other RTTY/data at 10.130-10.140 MHz.

On **20 meters**, the committee recommends using the 1 kHz IARU/NCDXF beacon network frequency (14.0995-14.1005 MHz) as a line in the sand between wide ACDS in the 14.1005-14.112 MHz segment, and narrow ACDS in the 14.095-14.0995 MHz segment.

The committee recommends 14.070-14.095 MHz for RTTY and narrowband data, noting that so-called "weak-signal" data modes often are used between 14.070 and 14.078 MHz.



Next Meeting: Monday, March 16, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

On **17 meters**, the committee recommends confining wide data modes to the FCC-mandated ACDS segment of 18.105-18.110 MHz, separated from narrow RTTY/data at 18.100-18.105 MHz. FCC rules do not permit RTTY/data above 18.110 MHz, limiting options for this band.

On **15 meters**, the committee recommends that 21.070-21.090 MHz for narrow RTTY/data modes, the FCC-mandated ACDS segment of 21.090-21.100 MHz for both narrow and wide automatically controlled data station activity, and above 21.100 MHz for any additional wide data activity.

The ARRL Board also wants members to comment on the desirability of adding RTTY/data privileges for Novices and Technicians in their existing 15 meter segment, where they're now limited to CW.

On **12 meters**, the committee recommends confining wide data to the FCC-mandated ACDS segment, 24.925-24.930 MHz, separated from narrow RTTY/data operation at 24.920-24.925 MHz. FCC rules do not permit RTTY/data operation above 24.930 MHz, limiting options for this band.

On **10 meters**, the committee recommends that wide data be confined to the FCC-mandated ACDS segment, 28.120-28.189 MHz, separated from narrow RTTY/data modes at 28.070-28.120 MHz.

How to Comment

The League has set up a web page to record members' preferences and comments, which includes links to the HF Band Planning Committee report to the ARRL Board and to Sumner's April QSTarticle (and high-resolution band charts). Those wishing to offer more detailed comments may e-mail ARRL. The comment deadline is April 19. The HF Band Planning Committee will deliver its final report at the ARRL Board of Directors' July meeting.

ARRL Letter; February 26, 2015

AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT OF 2015 INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS

"The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015" -- H.R.1301 -- has been introduced in the US House of Representatives. The measure would direct the FCC to extend its rules relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications to private land use restrictions. US Rep Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) introduced the bill on March 4 with 12 original co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle -- seven Republicans and five Democrats. Kinzinger also sponsored "The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014, which died at the end of the 113th Congress. H.R. 1301 is an essentially identical piece of legislation.

"The introduction of H.R. 1301 with so many original co-sponsors, so early in this session of Congress, is very encouraging," said ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN. "Several additional members of Congress already have agreed to be co-sponsors. This bill has momentum, but introduction is only the first step. Many of the next steps will be taken as ARRL members contact their US Representatives urging co-sponsorship and thanking them as they sign on to the bill."

If Congress approves the legislation, and it is signed by the president, H.R. 1301 would require the FCC to amend its Part 97 Amateur Service rules to apply the three-part test of the PRB-1 federal pre-emption policy to include homeowners' association regulations and deed restrictions, often referred to as "covenants, conditions,

and restrictions" (CC&Rs). At present, PRB-1 only applies to state and local zoning laws and ordinances. The FCC has been reluctant to extend the same legal protections to include such private land-use agreements without direction from Congress.

H.R. 1301 has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), chairs that panel's Communications and Technology Subcommittee, which will consider the measure. The League had worked with Walden on the 2014 bill during the 113th Congress.

Among H.R. 1301 initial co-sponsors is Rep Joe Courtney (D-CT), who attended the ARRL National Centennial Convention last summer to speak with League officials and those attending the event about the earlier bill.

Craigie encouraged ARRL members to urge their US House members to sign on to the bill as a co-sponsor. If the House member is already a co-sponsor, call the member's local office or send an e-mail via the member's official website to express their thanks. She called on League members to encourage other hams to do the same, and to be sure to refer to the bill by its number, H.R. 1301. The ARRL has an H.R. 1301 resources page on its website.

"Remember what those pile-ups on the W1AW portable stations sounded like last year?" Craigie said. "Let's be that avid in calling for even greater support in Congress for this essential legislation."

ARRL Letter; March 5, 2015

IRLP – another repeater linking concept – *from Wikipedia*

The **Internet Radio Linking Project**, also called **IRLP**, is a closed-source project that links amateur radio stations around the world by using Voice over IP (VoIP). Each gateway consists of a dedicated computer running custom software that is connected to both a radio and the Internet. This arrangement forms what is known as an IRLP Node. Since all end users communicate using a radio as opposed to using a computer directly, IRLP has adopted the motto *"Keeping the Radio in Amateur Radio"*.

Amateur radio (or *ham*) operators within radio range of a local node are able to use DTMF tone generators to initiate a node-to-node connection with any other available node in the world. Each node has a unique 4 digit node number in the range of 1000-8999. A real-time searchable list of all nodes worldwide (including their current status) is available anytime by viewing the IRLP Network at a Glance. As of June 2009, there are over 3,180 nodes across 7 continents.

IRLP connections are of two types: node to node, and node to reflector. Stations wishing to communicate with 3 or more nodes at the same time may accomplish this by connecting to what is called an IRLP Reflector. Reflectors are a type of conferencing system. Most reflectors on the network have 10 channels (0-9) with channel 0 being the main channel. Each reflector has a unique 4 digit node number in the range of 9000-9999. The first 3 digits consist of the reflector number, while the fourth digit represents the channel number. As of April 2007, there are 20 operational reflectors (including Echo Reflector 9990, which digitally records and plays back transmissions for testing purposes). Since most reflectors have 10 channels, there are approximately 200 unique reflector channels available for use.

IRLP was invented by David "Dave" Cameron, VE7LTD. Born and raised in West Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Cameron attended the University of British Columbia where he joined the UBC Amateur Radio Society. He built his first repeater and computer-based repeater controller in the 1990s.

Cameron installed the first three IRLP nodes in November 1997. They used the Windows operating system (OS) with VocalTec's iPhone installed. There were problems with the software, mainly in the fact that iPhone is not very stable nor is it controllable. After running iPhone for close to 6 months on active connections to Vernon, British Columbia, Canada and Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada, Cameron decided to rebuild the nodes and essentially start over. This is when the Linux OS and the Speak Freely software were first tested.

On November 12, 1998, the VE7RHS node was first installed in Gage Towers, UBC, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada using Linux. A few days later, the VE7RVN node came online from the residence of Michael Paul Illingby, VE7TFD in Vernon, British Columbia, Canada. Since this point, no further problems were experienced. On November 12, 1998, the VE7RHS node was first installed in Gage Towers, UBC, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada using Linux. A few days later, the VE7RVN node came online from the residence of Michael Paul Illingby, VE7TFD in Vernon, British Columbia, Canada. Since this point, no further problems were experienced. This planted the seed for the IRLP network to grow. New nodes slowly launched across Canada, followed by the United States and worldwide.

Node numbers were originally set at 3 digits in length. Due to the extensive growth of the IRLP network, an extra digit needed to be added in 2002. Existing node numbers after this change received a trailing zero. For example, if the old node number was 123, it became 1230. Most existing reflectors were also converted from single channels to 10 channels. This new type of reflector was known as a super-reflector. After all the reflectors were converted the "super-" was dropped.

Local IRLP nodes are: Dayton] WB8VSU (#4235), WF8M (#4267), W8AK (#4223); [Miamisburg] W8KMC (#8131); [Bellbrook] N8NQH (#8421); [Beavercreek] KI6SZ (#4353); and [Cincinnati-East] KC8RBZ (#4547).

Why science teachers should not be given playground duty.

Member submissions for this Newsletter are both welcome and solicited

Something of interest to you that you'd like to share with other Dial members. Please have copy to me not later than two weeks after the Club meeting. It may be in Word, Wordperfect, or ASCII text. Perhaps other formats; we'll need to talk.

Please nothing copyrighted unless you have permission to reproduce.

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 18, 2015
at 6 p.m. in Verity Lodge
Miami University-Middletown, Middletown, OH

Doors will open for registration at 6 p.m and examinations 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. The web site is self explanatory and the FRN registration is free.

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 146.61 (-600) 77 Hz PL
444.3625 (+5) MID Local-2 [DMR]

Next Meeting: Monday, March 16, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

DIAL RADIO CLUB

Middletown, Ohio

APRS Digipeater: W8BLV 144.39
Repeaters:146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 449.825/444.825
DMR 449.3625/444.3625
Web page: http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/ e-mail: W8BLV@QSL.net

President:
Ernie Howard, W8EH
Vice-President:
Dave Williamson, KD8W
Secretary:
Barney Taylor, N8HP
Treasurer:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF
Activities Manager:
Roy Dalton, N8LRN
Newsletter Editor:
Carl Morgan, K8CM

the prez sez .....

We have about a month until the first of our major club activities, Hamvention[R]. Our Club has secured flea market spaces 3201-3205 for all of our members to use for selling or sitting. Further announcements will be on the Dial email reflector.

Speaking of the Dial email reflector, I have noticed there are quite a few members who have not subscribed. If you are not subscribed, you may miss some timely announcements and information.

Ernie, W8EH

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 16TH, 2015 MEETING

Attendance

N8AA, KE8AIQ, KE8AIR, K8CM, KD8CPB, N8DHW, WA8DTU, N8EH, W8EH, N8GGE, N8HP, N8HRA, KI8I, W8ISZ, W8LKU, N8LRN, NN8M, W8OOO, N8QF, NR8R & Barbara, KD8TGE, KC8TXA, KC8WOF, N8YGQ, WA8YXY, KD8ZOV, KD8ZOW

Call to order:

Ernie, W8EH, called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm and asked for an 'around-the-room' self-introduction due to the large group.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the February meeting was made by Bob, NN8M, and seconded by Bob, NR8R. The motion passed without dissent.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 20, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, presented the Treasurer's report. He reported that membership stands at 67 members representing 49 families.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Barney, N8HP, and seconded by Dave, KD8W. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership:

Ron, N8QF, presented an application for membership from Chris Nunn, W8OOO, who is a student in the current Extra Class course. His application was sponsored by Carl, K8CM. A motion to approve Chris' application was made by Ron, N8QF, and seconded by Barney, N8HP. The motion passed unanimously. Welcome to Dial Chris! *[Added note …. Chris earned his Amateur Extra upgrade at Dial's March 18 exam session. Congratulations Chris!! – Ed.]*

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported that both the analog and DMR repeaters are working well. Carl, K8CM, added that Echolink continues to work well.

Activity Report:

Roy, N8LRN, gave a report on the Pi-Day activities held at the home of W8EH. Two hundred and fifty contacts were made during the Pi-Day operation. There were 15 SSB contacts on 160 meters and 140 SSB contacts on 40 meters. The remaining contacts were made on 20 or 15 meters: 57 were SSB; 27 were CW and 9 were PSK31.

Barney, N8HP, made a motion that the Club reimburse Ernie and Elaine for the cost of the food that was served. Jim, W8ISZ, seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Classes and Exams:

Beverley, N8GGE, reported that the class to prepare students for the Extra Class exam is continuing. The next exam will be held at Verity Lodge, Miami University Middletown on the 18th of March (two days after the Club meeting). The Extra course will resume the following week.

Newsletter:

Carl, K8CM, made a solicitation for material to be added to the newsletter. He indicated that he is willing to accept print-ready text or the relevant information and notes that he will put into the appropriate form for the newsletter. He requested that information be submitted to him by the second Monday after the Club meeting so that he has time to put the newsletter together.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Ron, N8QF, gave his annual presentation about the timeline for those holding early-entry tickets that wish to go to Hamvention with the '0-Dark-30' group. The group will leave Ron's place of business at noon on Thursday before Hamvention. It will travel to Germantown for the traditional lunch at McDonalds. From

there it will proceed to Hara Arena to set up the shelters and Trailer. Typically, the group returns to Middletown by 4:30 pm.

On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, the group will leave Ron's place at 05:30 am to head for Hara Arena.

As usual, the Club asks for a 10% donation on items sold from the Club's Flea Market site to help recover the cost of purchasing the tickets.

Ron expressed relief that Milton's donuts would be served during the mornings, along with coffee. The Club provides soft drinks and water for members, along with shade and a place to sit and rest at the Club's spaces.

Ernie, W8EH, added that persons wishing to put items in the trailer could do so while it is parked at Ron's place. Items could be a chair or merchandise to be sold. When asked about trailer cleanout, Ernie deferred that discussion to the April meeting.

After Hamvention, the next major event is Field Day. Ernie asked if the Club has interest in offering an exam at Field Day again this year. It is possible that BCARA will offer an exam at 09:00 am on Field Day morning, but that is not certain. After some discussion it was decided to put the decision off until next month.

Ernie made a special point to inform those in attendance that Carl, K8CM, had operated on 40 meter SSB on Pi-Day. He made two contacts.

Barney, N8HP, commented that no one is presently maintaining the Club's web page at *qsl.net*. He added that three people showed up at the previous Wednesday's class expecting to take an exam, since it was on the Club's web page. Hence, a responsible person is needed. Ernie stated that he would contact the previously responsible person to find the account details. Chris, W8OOO, seemed to throw his hat in the ring – be careful what you ask for...

Adjournment:

Ron, N8QF, moved and Bob, NR8R, seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm.

Barney Taylor, N8HP

Secretary

ARRL ROOKIE ROUNDUP RETURNS: SSB EVENT IS SUNDAY, APRIL 19!

- ***ARRL LETTER, April 9, 2015***

The SSB version of ARRL Rookie Roundup returns on Sunday, April 19. The event gets under way at 1800 UTC and continues through 2359 UTC. For the purposes of this operating event, a "Rookie" is any radio amateur licensed within the current calendar year or in the previous two calendar years, regardless of license class. Rookie Roundup events take place three times a year: SSB in April, RTTY in August, and CW in December.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 20, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

The goal of Rookie Roundup is to encourage recently licensed operators in North America (including territories and possessions) to operate on the HF bands and experience competitive Amateur Radio operating. Experienced operators are encouraged to participate and help new operators -- either on the air or in person. Old Timers may want to consider opening up their stations to rookies and serving as contesting mentors. The more operators on the air, the more fun the Roundup will be for everyone.

Rookies call "CQ Rookie Roundup," while veteran ops call "CQ Rookies." Exchange the call sign of the station you're working, your call sign, your firs name, the two-digit number of the year first licensed, and your state, Canadian province, Mexican call area, or DX.
Rookie Roundup participants can log the contest using contest logging software the supports the event, paper forms provided on the Rookie Roundup web page or by using the real-time In The Log website. Once the contest is over and you've calculated your score, complete the Rookie Roundup Online Score Submission Form to submit your score; no logs are necessary. Entrants *must* fill out this form to enter, and all entries are due within 72 hours (3 days) of the end of the contest.
Contact ARRL Contest Branch Manager Matt Wilhelm, W1MSW, for more information.

DMR – another repeater linking concept – *from Wikipedia*

Digital mobile radio (DMR) is an open digital mobile radio standard defined in the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) Standard TS 102 361 parts 1-4 and used in commercial products around the world. DMR, along with P25 phase II and NXDN are the main competitor technologies in achieving 6.25 kHz equivalent bandwidth using the proprietary AMBE+2 vocoder. DMR and P25 II both use two-slot TDMA in a 12.5 kHz channel, while NXDN uses discreet 6.25 kHz channels using frequency division.

DMR was designed with three tiers. DMR tiers I and II (conventional) were first published in 2005, and DMR III (trunked) was published in 2012, with manufacturers producing products within a few years of each publication.

The primary goal of the standard is to specify a digital system with low complexity, low cost and interoperability across brands, so radio communications purchasers are not locked into a proprietary solution. In practice the brands have not adhered to this open standard and have introduced proprietary features that make their product offerings non-interoperable.

The DMR standard operates within the existing 12.5 kHz channel spacing used in land mobile frequency bands globally, but achieves two voice channels through two-slot TDMA technology built around a 30 ms structure. The modulation is 4-state FSK, which creates four possible symbols over the air at a rate of 4,800 symbols/s, corresponding to 9,600 b/s. After overhead, forward error correction, and splitting into two channels, there is

2,450 b/s left for a single voice channel using DMR, compared to 4,400 b/s using P25 and 64,000 b/s with traditional telephone circuits.

DMR covers the RF frequency range 30 MHz to 1 GHz.

The DMR Association and manufacturers often claim that DMR has superior coverage performance to analog FM modulation. Forward error correction can achieve a higher quality of voice when the receive signal is still relatively high. In practice, however, digital modulation protocols are much more susceptible to multipath interference and fail to provide service in areas where analog FM would otherwise provide degraded but audible voice service. At a higher equality of voice, DMR outperforms analog FM by about 11 dB. But at a lower quality of voice, analog FM outperforms DMR by about 5 dB.

DMR Tier I

DMR Tier I products are for license-free use in the European 446 MHz band. There have been no commercial launches in the US of DMR Tier I products to date.

DMR Tier II

DMR Tier II covers licensed conventional radio systems, mobiles and hand portables operating in PMR frequency bands from 66-960 MHz. The ETSI DMR Tier II standard is targeted at those users who need spectral efficiency, advanced voice features and integrated IP data services in licensed bands for high-power communications. ETSI DMR Tier II specifies two-slot TDMA in 12.5 KHz channels. A number of manufacturers have DMR Tier II compliant products on the market. *[Tier II is the protocol used for the Amateur Service in the US. - Ed.]*

DMR Tier III

DMR Tier III covers trunking operation in frequency bands 66-960 MHz. The Tier III standard specifies two-slot TDMA in 12.5 kHz channels. Tier III supports voice and short messaging handling with built-in 128 character status messaging and short messaging with up to 288 bits of data in a variety of formats. It also supports packet data service in a variety of formats, including support for IPv4 and IPv6. Tier III compliant products were launched in 2012.

DMR Association

In 2005, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was formed with potential DMR suppliers including Tait Communications, Fylde Micro, Selex, Motorola, Hytera, Vertex Standard, Kenwood and Icom to establish common standards and interoperability. While the DMR standard does not specify the vocoder, MOU members agreed to use the half rate DVSIAdvanced Multi-Band Excitation (AMBE) vocoder to ensure interoperability. In 2009, the MOU members set up the DMR Association to work on interoperability between vendors equipment and to provide information about the DMR standard. Formal interoperability testing has been taking place since 2010. Results are published on the DMR Association web site. There are approximately 40 members of the DMR Association.

The standard allows DMR manufacturers to implement additional features on top of the standards which led to practical non-interoperability issues between brands, in contravention to the DMR MOU.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 20, 2015 at the Golden Corral
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DMR on the Amateur scene

At the present time, there are 1208 DMR repeaters world-wide, 21 in Ohio, and 11 in SW Ohio – and the list is growing. In terms of users, there are 14,090 world-wide and 206 in Ohio; the user list is rapidly growing as well.

Review the DMR map of networked repeaters, http://www.dmr-marc.net/repeaters.html, and you will find the greatest concentration in Europe and the United States.

W8BLV - Middletown DMR

The Middletown DMR repeater was approved for purchase at a Dial Club meeting on November 17, 2014, and brought on-line at Ernie's (W8EH) house November 24. A week later, December 1, the repeater was relocated to the Breiel site, and up to full effective radiated power and utilizing a DSL connection on December 17. The new repeater operates on 444.3625 MHz (+5MHz offset) and incorporates 15 talk groups on two timeslots. There can be a maximum of one conversation per time slot thereby supporting two simultaneous conversations at any given time.

More notable talk groups on the Dial DMR repeater include [time slot 1] World-Wide, World-Wide English only, World-Wide German, and North America; [time slot 2] Local 2, Local 9, Ohio, Midwest, Parrot, and others. The "Parrot" talk group enables self-assessment of your audio by playing back your transmission for review.

The two local talk groups provide local communication; Local 2, which provides interconnection with WB8CRS [Cincinnati], KD8UYG [Springboro], KD8RWK [Hillsboro], and W8BLV [Middletown]; and Local 9, which limits coverage exclusively to the Middletown repeater.

Prior to DMR, Dial's last major technological update was the addition of *Echolink* to the 01/61 repeater, that occurring on January 10, 2007.

Still curious, more information on DMR may be found at http://www.dmr-marc.net/.

To be ***'in the know'*** about what is happening with DIAL, you need to be subscribed to the Dial e-mail reflector.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 20, 2015 at the Golden Corral
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TWO MORE RADIO AMATEURS JOIN INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION CREW

- *ARRL Letter, April 2, 2015*

The ISS ham radio population expanded to three, following the arrival of NASA astronaut Scott Kelly and Russian cosmonauts Mikhail Kornienko, RN3BF, and Gennady Padalka, RN3DT, on March 28 (UTC). Kelly, 51, and Kornienko, 54, will remain aboard the ISS for 1 year -- the longest space mission ever assigned to a NASA astronaut.

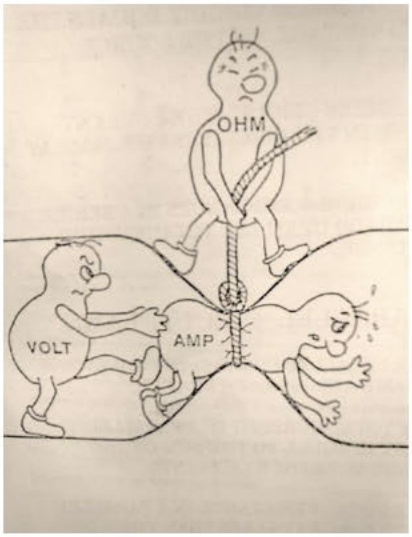
European Space Agency Astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti, IZ0UDF, will head back to Earth in May, after Kjell Lindgren, KO5MOS; Oleg Kononenko, RN3DX, and Kimiya Yui arrive at the ISS as part of a scheduled crew rotation. Cristoforetti has conducted several school contacts, via Amateur Radio, on the International Space Station during her ISS duty tour.

RECENT LICENSING EXAM NEWS

March 19 was our most recent license exam Nine VEs administered 15 exam elements to 12 applicants. There were four new Technicians, two Generals, and four Amateur Extra upgrades by the end of the evening. One of the General applicants, completed both Elements 2 and 3 and attained General Class as his first Amateur license.

Our nest scheduled exam, hosted by the BCARA, will be 9 am, Saturday, April 25 at the Fairfield Township Police Department. The next Dial-hosted exam will be 6 pm, Wednesday, May 6 in Verity Lodge.

Carl, K8CM



This could be your last Dial Radio Club Newsletter. The Treasurer reports that there are 8 families that have not, as of April 1, renewed their membership in the Dial Radio Club. We regret losing you and, if this is an inadvert oversight, we encourage you to contact Ron as soon as possible.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 20, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

Amateur Radio License Exam

The Butler County Amateur Radio Association will offer amateur radio operator's license examinations, beginning at 9 am, on Saturday, April 25, 2015 at the Fairfield Township Police Department, 6485 Vonnie Vale Court, Hamilton, OH.

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 license ID number (FRN).

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 the FRN registration is free.

Walk-ins welcome - Preregistration not required.

Exams are free ... No test fees will be collected.

Additional information may be obtained from Thurl Golden, KD8VLU, or Carl Morgan, K8CM,

Talk-in will be available on W8WRK/R
146.700 - , 123 Hz PL

Amateur Radio License Exams

An examination session in Technician, General and Extra Class Amateur Radio Operator's License will be available on

Wednesday evening, May 6, 2015
at 6 p.m. in Verity Lodge
Miami University-Middletown, Middletown, OH

Doors will open for registration at 6 p.m and examinations 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. The web site is self explanatory and the FRN registration is free.

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

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444.3625 (+5) MID Local-2 [DMR]

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Secretary:
Barney Taylor, N8HP
Treasurer:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF
Activities Manager:
Roy Dalton, N8LRN
Newsletter Editor:
Carl Morgan, K8CM

the prez sez .....

Our first big Club event, Hamvention, is upon us. Remember the club will have spaces 3201 through 3205 in the flea market. We have tables and space for you to set up and sell your radio related and other items. The club asks for a 10% donation on what you sell as a fund raiser. If you have anything to send up, box it up and get it to us before NOON on Thursday May 14, for a free ride in the club trailer.

If you are attending Hamvention, plan on visiting the club spaces. We are in the same location on the middle isle toward the back of the flea market. Look for the yellow club flag on the 20' tall mast. We also have a 2 meter repeater on site. It is on 147.315 plus offset, using 100.0 Hz tone for access. Most of us listen to this repeater during Hamvention.

Ernie, W8EH

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 20TH, 2015 MEETING

Attendance

N8AA, K8CM, KD8CPV, N8DHW, WA8DTU, N8EH, W8EH, N8GGE, N8HP, KI8I, W8ISZ, W8LKU, N8LRN, NN8M, WD8NKJ, W8OOO, N8QF, KF8QS, NR8R, Barbara, Adam, KD8TGE, KD8W, W8WCQ & Ginny, W8WLM, N8YFQ, KD8ZOV, KD8ZOW

Call to order:

Ernie, W8EH, called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm and asked for an 'around-the-room' self-introduction due to the large group.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the March meeting was made by Dave, N8YFQ, and seconded by Bob, NR8R. The motion passed without dissent.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 18, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, presented the Treasurer's report. He reported that membership stands at 72 members representing 51 families. At present, there are 8 non-renewals from 2014.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Barney, N8HP, and seconded by Carl, K8CM. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership:

Ron, N8QF, presented an application for membership from Leon and Carla Wood, KE8AIQ and KE8AIR, respectively. Their application was sponsored by Bob, NR8R. A motion to approve the application was made by Carl, K8CM, and seconded by Bob, NR8R. The motion passed unanimously. Welcome to Dial, Carla and Leon.

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported that both the analog and DMR repeaters are "workin' good". Carl, K8CM, added that Echolink "is working fine".

Activity Report:

Roy, N8LRN, announced that he planned to meet with Lorie, W8LKU, to make preparation for Hamvention snacks and beverages.

Since Hamvention is a major Club activity, Ernie, W8EH, suggested continuing the discussion regarding Hamvention. Ron, N8QF, announced that the early admission ticket holders would depart from his place of business (3805 Roosevelt Blvd) at 12:00 pm on Thursday to set up the Club's trailer at Hara. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday departure from Ron's will be at "O-Dark:30" (5:30 am). The group will stop at the Germantown McDonalds for lunch on Thursday, where persons living north of Middletown can join the group. The group will stop on Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the convenience store next to McDonalds for ice and to let others join the group.

As has been the case for quite a few years, the Club asks for a 10% donation of funds received from member's sales to offset the cost of the Flea Market spaces, snacks and beverages.

Bob, NR8R, added that the parking area around the closed hardware store behind McDonalds would be available for parking by those joining the trek in Germantown.

Ernie, W8EH, reminded those in attendance of the on-site repeater (147.315 MHz, PL 100Hz) that will be in operation during Hamvention for the use of Club members.

Roy, N8LRN, added that the Club will provide coffee, soft drinks and bottled water for Club members. After what seemed like too many requests for a specific soft drink, Roy seemed to stop listening.

Carl, K8CM, asked that everyone selling items at Hamvention have their price and callsign on each item.

Ron, N8QF, stated that sellers are expected to be present to sell their items – or to be easily reachable if not present.

Ron also stated that we need a date for trailer cleanout. After some discussion with Ernie and Roy, it was decided to meet on Thursday, May 7th at Ernie and Roy's place of employment at 5:30 pm. Talk in directions will be available on W8BLV repeater.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 18, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

Classes and Exams:

Beverley, N8GGE, reported that classes are over until the fall. The next exam session will be at Verity Lodge, Miami University Middletown on May 6th. Registration will begin at 6:00 pm with exams to follow shortly afterwards. VE's are asked to arrive by 5:30 pm if possible.

Newsletter:

Carl, K8CM, reported that non-renewals will be dropped from the Newsletter distribution list. Ernie, W8EH, suggested that anyone in attendance that has not signed up for the Dial 'E-Mail Reflector' do so.

Old Business

Dave, KD8W, gave a report on the Pi-Day event. 47 people sent SASEs to receive Pi-Day QSL cards. Dave, KD8W, compiled an electronic list. Barney, N8HP, generated a ready to print card for each request. Ron, N8QF, printed the cards and cut them to the proper size for mailing. Dave and Barney stuffed the envelopes and the cards have been mailed.

Dave, KD8W, reported that all of the contacts had been placed on Logbook of the World (LOTW). Ernie, offered to provide Dave with the logs from Field Day for the last several years so they could be uploaded as well.

Dave commented on the positive experience with the Special Event activation and stated that it would be fun to do again. Ernie suggested that Dave bring the QSL cards received - especially for the benefit of those receiving personalized messages from the sender.

Ernie, followed up on the status of the Dial website by appointing a committee consisting of Chris, W8OOO, Barney, N8HP, and Carl, K8CM to study, revise and update the Club's website.

New Business

Ernie, W8EH, announced that Dial is making plans to hold Field Day in Smith Park again this year. He has filed the application and the City is waiting on a letter from the Club's insurance company before final approval. The dates are June 26th, 27th and 28th. Setup will be on the 26th with operation on the 27th and 28 and teardown on the afternoon of the 28th. Much of next meeting will be devoted to Field Day details.

Roy, N8LRN, stated that he would "not be standing in the rain making burgers" (something the Lorie has done several times).

Ernie, returned to the question of having an exam session at Field Day as has been done in past years. Carl, reported that BCARA had not decided whether they were going to offer an exam on the morning of Field Day. Barney, N8HP, stated that he had been a big proponent of the offering the exams, in hopes of exposing the examinees to HF operating, but felt that not many had remained to visit or observe the activities. Discussion around the room lead to a consensus that very few examinees remained to observe and far fewer still to operate. Following some discussion, Ron, N8QF, moved and Bob, NN8M seconded a motion to not offer exams at Field Day. The motion passed with 1 nay.

Carl, K8CM, announced that BCARA will have an exam session this coming Saturday at the Fairfield Township Police Building at 9:00 am. As a Laurel VE session, there will be no cost to participants.

Jim, W8ISZ, reported that he still has tickets for the DX Forum raffle (for a new transceiver). The tickets are $5 each or 5 for $20. See Jim after the meeting if interested.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 18, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

Adjournment:

Carl, K8CM, moved and Gordon, KI8I, seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Barney Taylor, N8HP

Secretary

Hamvention - Hamvention Website, *et al.*

Since 1952 Hamvention® has been sponsored by Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA). For many years it has been the world\'s largest amateur radio gathering, attracting hams from throughout the globe. About 1950, John Willig, W8ACE, had asked the Dayton Amateur Radio Association to sponsor a HAM Convention but was turned down. John wanted to have a quality affair. Speakers and prizes would be a drawing point. John finally found a champion in Frank Schwab, W8YCP (W8OK), the newly elected president of the club. A meeting was held and the DARA Board allocated $100 to get started. The first organizational meeting was held in January 1952. The Southwestern Ohio Ham-vention was born. The first committee consisted of: John Willig, W8ACE, General Chairman Al Dinsmore, W8AUN, Arrangements Bob Siff, W8QDI (K4AMG), Prizes and Exhibits Frank Schwab, W8YCP (W8OK), Publicity Bob Montgomery, W8CUJ, Finance Clem Wolford, W8ENH, Program Ellie Haburton, W8GJP (W4ZVW), Women\'s Committee. The next year the name became "Dayton Hamvention®" and was registered as a trademark. April was determined to be the best time but the Biltmore Hotel, in downtown Dayton was booked. March 22 was the chosen date, causing a short lead time. How far did $100 go? Not far! A 12″ TV was raffled off to help raise funds. The FCC agreed to give license exams and Phil Rand, W1BDM, a pioneer in TVI elimination was on the program. First prize, a Collins 75A2, was purchased locally. Hoping for 300 visitors, the committee was amazed that over 600 showed up! There were 7 exhibitors and 6 forums. The ladies program was successful with a luncheon at the Biltmore and a trip to a local TV station. In 1955 the Awards Program began with the "Amateur of the Year." The Flea Market has grown from 200 to more than 2000 spaces. In 1964 the Hamvention® moved to Hara Arena. Shuttle buses and handicapped parking were added in 1969. In 1973 it became a 2 day event with Sundays added in 1974. The program has grown to a "Souvenir Program" and in 1976 the dimensions changed from 6″x 9″ to the current 8-1/2″x11″.The growth of the Dayton Hamvention® can be attributed to caring, energetic people who enjoy being on a winning team.

There have been many changes in the Hamvention over the past 63 years but the fun of attendance is not one of them. It's a weekend of new experiences, interacting with old and new friends, close-up viewing of new technologies, and being on the cutting edge of amateur radio.

No-fee license examinations are available, provided by the Laurel Amateur Radio Club (LARC-VEC) on both Friday and Saturday. Testing this year is at Basore Road Grace Brethren Church for Technician, General, and Extra Class Amateur licenses. Friday, May 15, testing starting at 10 am to noon is available to anyone that does not already hold an Amateur Radio License. Testing from noon until 4 pm is for all classes of license.

Shuttle vans to and from the Church are expected to be available at the Arena main entrance door #14. Shuttles will run every half-hour beginning at 8:30 am (Friday) and 9:30 am (Saturday).

Exams will be given on a first-come first-served basis. If you need special accommodations, please e-mail exams@hamvention.org as soon as possible.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 18, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

Not ready for the Technician exam? Hamvention 2015 will again feature an on-site Technician Class Ham License class, at the Hamvention, on Saturday, May 16. The class runs from 9 am until 4 pm and exams are administered at the conclusion. You must enroll immediately that you have time to obtain materials and complete pre-study exercises. More details at http://www.hamclass.net/hamvclass.html or contact Mitch

Dial will be at Hamvention. Located in spaces 3101-3105 in the Outdoor Vendor Area (flea market) there will be space for you to sit and rest or, if you're so interested, selling of your under-used amateur radio equipment. As you exit the rear Hara entrance, scan the skyscape for a yellow flag about 20' above ground – that's us! Alternately, walking North, toward gate "C" in the East flea market area, Dial will be on your right, about halfway to exit gate "C".

The flea market (*oops, Outdoor Vendor Area*) is a good place to pick up that piece of equipment you need. Prices, in nearly every case, are negotiable so *be sure to haggle*. At the same time, you are cautioned to remember the slogan "*caveat emptor*", or "let the buyer beware". Most vendors are honest and trustworthy but refunds, should you experience buyer remorse, may be slow to come. If you are in doubt or have any questions, ***ask*** one of us.

Plan to walk. Both the indoor and outdoor areas cover substantial real-estate so you should dress for the weather, slather on the sun screen, and wear comfortable walking shoes. A mid-size backpack is helpful for the many "free" treasures you're likely to accumulate. Food will be available for purchase or you may choose to "brown-bag" as many of us do.

Our local Club repeater will be in operation. Set your hand-held to 147.315 MHz, + offset, 100 Hz PL. It should be useable anywhere in the outdoor lot and many places inside the buildings. Check it out at our Club site to be sure.

Carl, K8CM

SWITCHING POWER SUPPLIES A MORE COMMON NOISE SOURCE THAN POWER LINES, ARRL LAB MANAGER SAYS - *ARRL Letter, April 16, 2015*

ARRL Laboratory Manager and EMI Expert Ed Hare, W1RFI, told the*HamRadioNow* webcast recently that switching-mode power supplies are a more common noise source for radio amateurs than electrical power lines. *HamRadioNow* host Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, interviewed Hare on April 4 at the Raleigh, North Carolina, RARSfest, where Hare also presented a forum, "Tall Tales from the ARRL Lab." Hare told Pearce that switching-mode power supplies are in -- or provide power for -- many home electronics these days.

Field Day is part educational event, part operating event, part public relations event – and ALL about FUN!

Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC (2 pm EDST) Saturday and running through 2059 UTC Sunday. Field Day 2015 is June 27-28. Dial's Field Day activities will be in Smith Park, off Tutus Avenue

Next Meeting: Monday, May 18, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

- "The old days of those iron transformers are gone," Hare said. "Every single one of these is a switcher. We're also seeing noise from pulse-width control motors." Hare said the big culprits are "little wall warts," not switching supplies designed to power Amateur Radio gear."Every TV you own has a built-in switcher, almost every device has a wall wart, and a lot of these are imported, not necessarily meeting the FCC rules, so we're seeing more reports involving those," he said.
- Hare also told *HamRadioNow* that a few LED-type lightbulbs that are becoming more common also can be noise-generators, as are "grow lights" used for cultivating plants indoors. He said that the ARRL Lab can work with manufacturers to correct these problems, but the Lab needs model numbers and "specific information about the problems amateurs are having, so that we can put some of our resources toward helping."
- Many interference issues can be resolved without FCC intervention, Hare said, noting that Commission enforcement is the last step, if other efforts fail. "We've been told by Laura Smith [of the FCC Enforcement Bureau] that she's going to continue to be engaged in this," he said, "so we're going to continue to send problems [in] that direction."

ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, on HamRadioNow. [Video clip courtesy of HamRadioNow]

- Hams experiencing RF interference problems can contact the ARRL Laboratory by contacting Ed Hare or ARRL Lab EMC Specialist Mike Gruber, W1MG. The complete interview with Hare is in Episode 196 at www.hamradionow.tv. -- *Thanks to Gary Pearce, KN4AQ/*HamRadioNow

RECENT LICENSING EXAM NEWS

The Butler County Amateur Radio Association held a license exam on Saturday, April 25, at the Fairfield Township Police Department. 10 VEs served 9 applicants resulting in six new Technicians and one upgrade to Amateur Extra class.

Dial's most recent license exam was Wednesday, May 6. 11 VEs served 7 applicants resulting in five new Technicians and two Generals. One General was an upgrade and the other passed both elements for his first license.

Next Dial exam will be at 6 pm on Wednesday, August 12, in the Verity Lodge, Miami University-Middletown.

Carl, K8CM

To be ***'in the know'*** about what is happening with DIAL, you need to be subscribed to the Dial e-mail reflector.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 18, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

Super Contest and DX QTH

For Sale

Three bedroom, three bath, split level with large 20' x 20' family room on five hill top acres six miles due east of Oxford, Ohio, home of Miami University and ten miles north of Hamilton.

Dedicated 14' x 14' shack in 30' x 40' pole barn with work bench and much shelving.

Superb radio location due to topography. Big signals with modest low maintenance antennas. For example, 2014 CQWW CW contest, 3,550 QSOs in 42 hours. Thousands of QSOs as W1AW/8 (2010 and 2014). DX: 160m – EY8, VQ9, UA0; 80m – HS, XU, 9M2, BY, VU.

Antennas: 160m inverted "L" 80m inverted "L" 75m dipole 40m 2el W6NL Moxon @ 70', 1/4 wave vertical with 60 radials, dipole 30m 1/4 wave vertical with 60 radials 20/15/10 two Bencher Skyhawk tri-band Yagis @ 70' and 38' on ring rotator 17/12m duo band Force 12 @ 75' 6m 5el @ 50' *Three miles of radial wire* beneath 40m beam and inverted "L"s.

Asking $240,000 for house. Antennas, towers, equipment etc. negotiable.

Contact *N8AA*, John Comella 216-533-3955 (cell) 513-726-1188 (home)

Next Meeting: Monday, May 18, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

Amateur Radio Class

Introductory Level

Ham Radio Class To Begin !

Beginning August 19, 2015, 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 23 and be followed by an examination session on Wednesday, September 30.

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 $25-30) 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

Next Meeting: Monday, May 18, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

DIAL RADIO CLUB

Middletown, Ohio

APRS Digipeater: W8BLV 144.39
Repeaters:146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 449.825/444.825
DMR 449.3625/444.3625
Web page: http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/ e-mail: W8BLV@QSL.net

President:
Ernie Howard, W8EH
Vice-President:
Dave Williamson, KD8W
Secretary:
Barney Taylor, N8HP
Treasurer:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF
Activities Manager:
Roy Dalton, N8LRN
Newsletter Editor:
Carl Morgan, K8CM

the prez sez .....

Field day is coming; it is Dial's big event of the year. The dates are June 27 and 28.

Dial will be set up as usual at Smith Park in Middletown. We start setting up antennas and shelters about noon on Friday the 26th and continue until the 2pm start time on Saturday the 27th. On Sunday we start taking stuff apart about 2pm and are gone by 4pm.

Our annual Club picnic is at 6 pm on Saturday during Field Day. Bring a covered dish and your family. Don't forget to bring a comfortable chair. The Club will be providing meat.

So plan to come out, bring a friend, sit down and make a few contacts on the radio. Or if you are mic shy, just watch and learn. We will have a CW station and 2 SSB voice stations operating full time. We will also have the GOTA (get on the air) special station on Saturday for demonstration contacts for the unlicensed and newer hams.

Read about the ARRL Field Day here: http://www.arrl.org/field-day

Ernie, W8EH

MINUTES OF THE MAY 18TH, 2015 MEETING

Attendance

N8AA, K8CM, N8DHW, WA8DTU, N8EH, W8EH, N8GGE, KC8GMR, N8HP, N8HRA, KI8I, W8ISZ, WD8JKV, KB4JWV, W8LKU, N8LRN, N3LT, W8OOO, N8QF, KD8W, W8WLM, KC8WOF, N8YFQ

Next Meeting: Monday, June 15, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

Call to order:

Ernie, W8EH, called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm and decided not to ask for an 'around-the-room' self-introduction since many of those in attendance were at Hamvention.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the March meeting was made by Carl, K8CM, and seconded by Ray, WD8JKV. The motion passed without dissent.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, presented the Treasurer's report. He reported that membership stands at 79 members representing 55 families. At present, there are 6 non-renewals from 2014 that have been dropped from the newsletter email list.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Barney, N8HP, and seconded by Carl, K8CM. The motion passed unanimously.

Ron provided a summary of Hamvention expenses/income. The Club made a net profit of $146.61 (*isn't that interesting – Sec*). The income from donations was $455.10, and expenses were $308.69. Expenses included the cost of beverages and ice for three days and the flea market rental fees.

Classes and Exams:

Beverley, N8GGE, reported nothing will happen until the exam on August 12th at Verity Lodge, Miami University Middletown. Technician classes will begin the following week.

Carl, K8CM, reported that Verity had been confirmed for next academic year. Beyond that, the room must be rented for $250 per night. There was some brief discussion about other possible venues. Carl mentioned the Middletown Senior Center as possibility; however, that would mean changing nights as Thursday is the only evening the Senior Center is open. Larry, N3LT, reported that his home club has made use of their county's emergency management center. Ernie, N8EH, responded that was in Hamilton, and we should try to keep the classes in Middletown. Ernie, W8EH, mentioned the possibility of the Fire Department training room or the Middletown City building. No decision was reached.

Beverley, N8GGE, reported that she had received very complimentary emails from some of the recent students.

Newsletter:

Carl, K8CM, reported that the newsletter was printed, published and delivered on time.

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported that both the analog and DMR repeaters are "workin' good". Carl, K8CM, added that Echolink "is working fine".

Activity Report:

Roy, N8LRN, reported that he had spoken with Lorie about the main course for the Field Day picnic. He has decided to have chicken (Lees, Meijer, etc) and various hotdogs: brats, metts, etc. He doesn't wish to have

a reservation list. He did ask that families bring something to share. The picnic usually starts between 5:00 and 6:00 on Saturday. Attendees are encouraged to bring a folding chair.

Roy also stated that he hoped everyone had enough to drink at Hamvention.

Website:

Chris, W8OOO, reported for the committee that the website redesign is pretty far along, and content is needed – especially pictures. All of the content will need to be edited for accuracy as the present text is based on the old website. He hopes to have it active in a timely manner.

Carl, K8CM, commented that Chris had done a good job and emphasized the need for pictures of Dial members in amateur radio activities.

Old Business

Dave, KD8W, asked when the trailer re-loading would occur. After some consultation, it was decided to put the Field Day materials back in the trailer on the 27th of May. The activity will occur at W8EH's place of employment at 5:30 pm. Ron, N8QF, added that the trailer will be returned to Ernie on the morning of the 20th.

Discussion then turned to pop up canopies used at Hamvention and Field Day. Ray, WD8JKV, commented that removing the canopy from the frame was easier than expected. The frames of both of the Club's 10x20 pop up shelters were damaged by wind (and flying shelters) at Dayton. They had to have emergency repairs on Saturday morning. Dave, KD8W, said that he thought a single good frame could be made from the parts of the two bent frames and that buying two 10x10 foot pop up canopies seemed to be the thing to do. Carl, K8CM, moved and Ron, N8QF, seconded a motion to purchase two new 10x10 pop ups. Dave volunteered to try to resurrect a 10x20, but he needed help. Barney, N8HP, offered to help.

New Business

Ernie, W8EH summarized plans for Field Day – "everyone do what they did last year". The plan is to start setting up shelters at noon on Friday and begin antenna and tower assembly at 2:00 pm. The tower will be erected at 3:30 pm. Several members with self-contained campers will be spending Friday night at the site. It is often a time of pleasant storytelling and occasional operation.

Remaining antennas and station set up will begin on Saturday morning. Operation will begin at 2:00 pm and continue (hopefully non-stop) until 1:59:59 on Sunday.

Jim, W8ISZ, asked if the GOTA (Get On The Air) station will be the same as last year. Reflecting on the low number of GOTA operators, he suggested using one of the three K8PI stations as the GOTA station (W8BLV) when need arises. Ernie, W8EH, responded that he was not in favor of taking one of the three stations out of operation.

Dave, KD8W, asked about logging software, in particular whether we should use N1MM. The Club has used N3FJP for many years, but the Ohio QSO Party and Pi-Day activities used N1MM with good results. Barney, N8HP, suggested trying networked mode again using wireless networking. The stations were networked during Pi-Day and worked very well using N1MM. Ernie charged Dave, KD8W, and Barney, N8HP, to decide on a program, and to get the computers ready for Field Day.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 15, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

Roy, N8LRN, again stated that he was not interested in a head count for the picnic. He wished people to come with an appetite.

Ernie, announced that the Club might not need to rent a Porta-Potty for Field Day.

More information about Field Day will be on the Reflector.

Ernie, W8EH, announced that Yaesu has a $500 repeater available (after approval of an application) until June 30th. The repeater is digital (Yaesu's technology is not compatible with our present DMR repeater) or analog. He suggested that it made sense to consider one to replace the existing W8JEU (147.315) repeater. Dave, N8DHW, announced that several clubs in the area have already purchased or are purchasing one of the repeaters: BCARA, Westchester, Fairfield, and Bellbrook.

Carl, K8CM, clarified the cost. The $500 price is good if the repeater is on the air for one year. Otherwise, the price will be $1500 – the same as it will be after June 30th. He stated that we need a decision. Larry, N3LT, stated that his home Club had 'anteed up' to purchase one that is presently on the air.

Wanda, W8WLM, suggested that he Club ask for donations. Barney, N8HP, suggested that the Club purchase it with Club funds. After brief discussion, Ernie, W8EH, suggested waiting until the 15th of June. Wanda made a motion to vote whether to purchase the Yaesu repeater and to request donations from Club members. Dave, KD8W, seconded the motion. The vote was all ayes except one abstention.

Before Ron, N8QF, reported that he had donations of $140.

Ernie, W8EH, asked about the Ohio QSO Party coming up on August 22nd. He appointed a committee consisting of Dave, N8YFQ, Barney, N8HP, and Dave, KD8W to make plans.

Ernie, N8EH, announced that the weekend of July 4th, the Salvation Army will have a special event station on the air in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Salvation Army. Carl, K8CM, asked that Ernie send him details for the newsletter.

Adjournment:

Lorie, W8LKU, moved and Don, WA8DTU, seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Barney Taylor, N8HP

Secretary

Dial @ Hamvention[R]

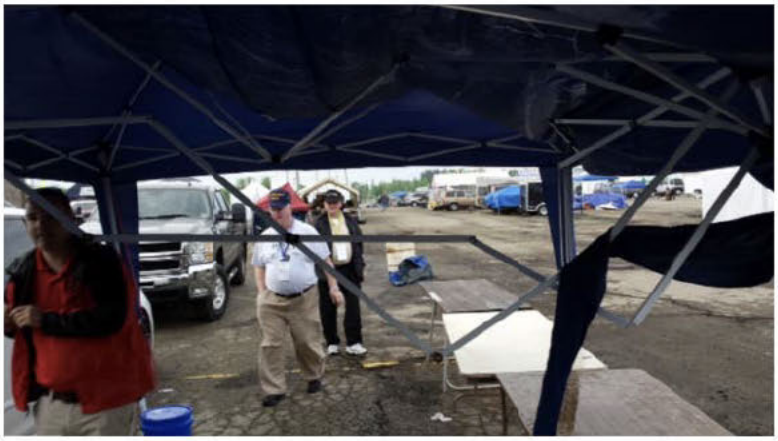
Dial's annual sojourn to Hamvention[R] 2015 began with the Thursday trek to setup our "campsite" at Hara. Leaving Middletown at noon, we first arrived at the Germantown McDonalds to consolidate the group, have lunch, and formulate a plan.

Setup went quickly with the pop-up shelters and soon we were ready for business. Since buying, selling, and trading were not permitted, on Thursday, by Hamvention[R] rules, a few of us "looked around" making mental notes for the following day.

Friday morning we left Middletown at "o-dark-30" (5:30 am) and headed off to Dayton. Thanks to Ernie, W8EH, and Ron, N8QF, for being the principal transporters. After a brief stop in Germantown for ice and

coffee, travel continued. Our site survived the Thursday-to-Friday transition and, fairly quickly, we were open and ready for trading.

The Friday-to-Saturday transition didn't go very well. Arriving Saturday morning we found our shelter superstructure damaged and the covering bunched and water-logged. In addition, another vendor's shelter (similar to ours) was atop the trailer (leaving scratches on the roof) and wrapped around our antenna mast.



Entering from the East to survey the damage we see Evan, K8TXA; Ray, WD8JKV; and Ernie, N8EH. The right-hand photo shows the "flying shelter" atop the trailer and sandwiched between our antenna mast and a neighboring vendor behind us. The aluminum mast sustained a 30° bend, causing the antenna to hover over an adjacent vendor site. *(Didn't seem to affect repeater coverage though)*

Repairs were made using the ever faithful duct tape and splints from electrical (EMT) tubing. The day went well with showers sufficient to keep us on our toes and continually remind us of Dayton-Hamvention weather.

Before leaving Saturday afternoon, we peeled the covering from the shelter structure. Next morning (Sunday) no damage from wind or rain was evident and, with the covering reinstalled, we were ready to do business. Trading was slow on Sunday and about 12:30-1 pm we loaded up and departed for Middletown.

All-in-all, though, it was a good weekend.

Carl, K8CM

Field Day is part educational event, part operating event, part public relations event – and ALL about FUN!

Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC (2 pm EDST) Saturday and running through 2059 UTC Sunday. Field Day 2015 is June 27-28. Dial's Field Day activities will be in Smith Park, off Tutus Avenue. Annual Field Day picnic will be at 6 pm and participants are asked to provide a covered dish to share. Details and RSVP with Roy Dalton, N8LRN,

FCC ELIMINATING VANITY CALL SIGN FEE

The FCC is dropping the regulatory fee to apply for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign. The change will not go into effect, however, until required congressional notice has been given. This will take at least 90 days. As the Commission explained in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Report and Order, and Order (MD Docket 14-92 and others), released May 21, it's a matter of simple economics.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 15, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

"The Commission spends more resources on processing the regulatory fees and issuing refunds than the amount of the regulatory fee payment," the FCC said. "As our costs now exceed the regulatory fee, we are eliminating this regulatory fee category." The current vanity call sign regulatory fee is $21.40, the highest in several years. The FCC reported there were 11,500 "payment units" in FY 2014 and estimated that it would collect nearly $246,100.

In its 2014 Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) regarding the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for FY 2014, the FCC had sought comment on eliminating several smaller regulatory fee categories, such as those for vanity call signs and GMRS. It concluded in the subsequent Report and Order (R&O) last summer, however, that it did not have "adequate support to determine whether the cost of recovery and burden on small entities outweighed the collected revenue or whether eliminating the fee would adversely affect the licensing process."

The FCC said it has since had an opportunity to obtain and analyze support concerning the collection of the regulatory fees for Amateur Vanity and GMRS, which the FCC said comprise, on average, more than 20,000 licenses that are newly obtained or renewed, every 10 and 5 years, respectively.

"The Commission often receives multiple applications for the same vanity call sign, but only one applicant can be issued that call sign," the FCC explained. "In such cases, the Commission issues refunds for all the remaining applicants. In addition to staff and computer time to process payments and issue refunds, there is an additional expense to issue checks for the applicants who cannot be refunded electronically."

The Commission said that after it provides the required congressional notification, Amateur Radio vanity program applicants "will no longer be financially burdened with such payments, and the Commission will no longer incur these administrative costs that exceed the fee payments. The revenue that the Commission would otherwise collect from these regulatory fee categories will be proportionally assessed on other wireless fee categories."

The FCC said it would not issue refunds to licensees who paid the regulatory fee prior to its elimination.

- *ARRL Letter, May 28, 2015*

On Saturday, July 11, 2015 **R&L ELECTRONICS** will host a presentation by ***Yaesu*** with emphasis on the new *System Fusion* product line. This presentation is open to the public and will be held at the Hamilton Masonic Temple, 724 High Street, Hamilton, OH. Program will begin at 11 am and conclude by 1 pm.

QST CENTENNIAL PHOTO CONTEST ENTRY WINDOW OPEN UNTIL AUGUST 1

The window to submit photos for the *QST* Centennial Photo Contest closes on August 1. The competition is part of the 100th anniversary of *QST*, the ARRL's membership journal. The first issue of *QST* was published in December 1915.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 15, 2015 at the Golden Corral
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Until August 1, 2015, ARRL members can submit photos for consideration as possible 2015 *QST* covers. In addition to having their photos grace *QST* covers, each winner will receive $250.

Contest Rules

- Images must be submitted by e-mail to upfront@arrl.org. Only one image can be submitted per e-mail message. You can submit multiple images during the contest period, but you can win only once.
- Images must be in JPG or TIF format at high resolution (but not to exceed 5 MB).
- ZIP files and links to file-download sites will be rejected by the Headquarters e-mail system.
- Each e-mail should describe the scenes shown, including names and call signs of any individuals shown.
- Images must not include any text overlays, such as date or time stamps.
- Each submission e-mail must include the name and call sign of the photographer. Photographers must be ARRL members.
- If a photo includes anyone under the age of 18, you must submit proof (in writing, such as an e-mail) that the minor's parents have granted permission for the image to be published.
- Photographers retain all copyrights. However, by submitting the image to the ARRL, the photographer grants the ARRL non-exclusive rights to the use of the image for any lawful purpose in any media now existing or yet to be invented. This applies to both winning and non-winning images.

The *QST* Editorial Staff will select the winning images.

- ARRL Letter, May 28, 2015

[The following is a letter received from Kay Craigie, President ARRL, regarding Federal Legislation. Whether this issue impacts you directly or not, it impacts amateur radio in the United States and, as such, is worthy of your consideration. – Ed]

Hi Gang,

At the time I'm writing this, H.R. 1301 has 64 co-sponsors, with a few more expected by the end of the week. That's excellent, but we need more. A lot more.

Some of you have done e-mail bulletins encouraging members to meet with and write to their members of Congress. Thank you! Please repeat the message periodically. Although we don't want to spam members and irritate them, keeping the issue fresh in their minds is necessary. The ARRL's national media do stories about the bill, but the message needs reinforcement from someone whom members know personally. They know you.

Please mention the bill when you speak at conventions and club meetings, too. Do you carry information about the bill when you visit these events?

We have been told quite bluntly by some Congressional offices that they want letters from constituents, that they will be interested in what the ARRL has to say only if they know that voters care about this issue. Why should the Congressman care, they ask, if the voters don't? There are tens of thousands of ARRL members who have not written yet. You can do a lot to persuade them to write, because they know you.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 15, 2015 at the Golden Corral
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The ideal way for members to contact their Congressmen is to write personalized, signed paper letters based on the sample letter on the ARRL web site at www.arrl.org/hr-1301 and send them c/o ARRL. The address is

ARRL
Attn HR 1301 grassroots campaign
225 Main St
Newington, CT 06111

Why is this the best way? For one thing, we are able to keep track of how many communications are going to which Congressional districts. More importantly, when letters are hand-delivered to the Hill, there's an opportunity to speak with Congressional office staff people. The stack of letters is proof that voters care about the bill. We have to convince the staff people, so they'll advise the Representative to co-sponsor. That's how it works on Capitol Hill.

One more thing. When you see that a member of Congress in your Section has become a co-sponsor, urge your members to call or e-mail a message of appreciation. Good manners, good strategy.

The list of co-sponsors is updated regularly at www.arrl.org/hr-1301. This is the URL that gives members the information they need in order to be effective advocates.

We are working on having a companion bill introduced in the Senate, but there is nothing to report on that yet. Members often ask about this. Until we have a bill in the Senate, we do not need letters to members of that body.

I have a Twitter feed, @KayCraigieN3KN, which I use only for advocacy about this legislation with the hashtag #hr1301. I'm not doing this as an ego trip to develop a personal fan club but rather to get information, encouragement, and reminders out there rapidly. When there is an amateur radio news story that I can reasonably tie to the issue of antenna privileges, I tweet about it and use the phrase "Can't do it without antennas."

Please keep your Director well informed about your activities on behalf of the bill. This is a full-team effort. Thanks for all you do.

73, Kay N3KN
President, ARRL

SATERN TO MARK THE SALVATION ARMY ANNIVERSARY IN EARLY JULY

The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) will mark the 150th anniversary of The Salvation Army with a Salvation Army 150th Anniversary QSO Party, Wednesday, July 1, through Sunday, July 5. All are welcome to take part. Operators who make contact with a SATERN station are eligible for a special event QSL card. The QSO party is being sponsored by a partnership between The Salvation Army National Headquarters, the Alabama-Louisiana-Mississippi Division of The Salvation Army, and the Jackson (Mississippi) Amateur Radio Club.

- ARRL Letter, June 4, 2015

Next Meeting: Monday, June 15, 2015 at the Golden Corral
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Amateur Radio License Exams

An examination session in Technician, General and Extra Class Amateur Radio Operator's License will be available on

Wednesday evening, August 12, 2015
at 6 p.m. in Verity Lodge
Miami University-Middletown, Middletown, OH

Doors will open for registration at 6 p.m and examinations 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. The web site is self explanatory and the FRN registration is free.

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 146.61 (-600) 77 Hz PL
444.3625 (+5) MID Local-2 [DMR]

Next Meeting: Monday, June 15, 2015 at the Golden Corral
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Amateur Radio Class

Introductory Level

Ham Radio Class To Begin !

Beginning August 19, 2015, 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 23 and be followed by an examination session on Wednesday, September 30.

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 $25-30) 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

Next Meeting: Monday, June 15, 2015 at the Golden Corral
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DIAL RADIO CLUB

Middletown, Ohio

APRS Digipeater: W8BLV 144.39
Repeaters:146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 449.825/444.825
DMR 449.3625/444.3625
Web page: http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/ e-mail: W8BLV@QSL.net

President:
Ernie Howard, W8EH
Vice-President:
Dave Williamson, KD8W
Secretary:
Barney Taylor, N8HP
Treasurer:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF
Activities Manager:
Roy Dalton, N8LRN
Newsletter Editor:
Carl Morgan, K8CM

the prez sez .....

We survived our annual ARRL Field Day effort with the storms, broken equipment and broken antenna. In spite of the minor setbacks, this year the hard work shows in our much improved QSO total. We appear to have a score that will place us at the top of class 3A in Ohio and probably the Great Lakes Division. We had more QSO's this year than any of the last 10 years. I hope that everyone that came out had fun.

Our next club event will be the Ohio QSO party on August 22, from noon until midnight. The committee is still planning our operation. Dave KD8W has volunteered to host this event. Put it on your calendar.

Ernie, W8EH

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 15th, 2015 MEETING

Attendance

N8AA, KE8AIQ, KE8AIR, K8CM, N8DHW, WA8DTU, N8EH, W8EH, N8GGE, KC8GMR, N8HP, N8HRA, W8ISZ, W8LKU, NN8M, N8QF, NR8R & Barbara, KD8W, W8WLM, KC8WOF, N8YFQ, KD8ZOV, KD8ZOW

Call to order:

Ernie, W8EH, called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm and decided not to ask for an 'around-the-room' self-introduction.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the May meeting was made by Ernie, N8EH, and seconded by Bob, NR8R. The motion passed without dissent.

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Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, presented the Treasurer's report. Membership remains at 79 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 unanimously.

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported that both the analog and DMR repeaters are well. Carl, K8CM, added that Echolink is also working fine.

Activity Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported for Roy, N8LRN, that Roy and Lorie are working on the food for the Field Day picnic. Attendees are encouraged to bring a folding chair and one dish per family to share.

Classes and Exams:

Beverley, N8GGE, reported nothing will happen until the exam on August 12th at Verity Lodge, Miami University Middletown. Technician classes will begin the following week.

Newsletter:

Carl, K8CM, reported that the newsletter "is going perfectly."

Website:

Carl, K8CM, reported that the new trial version of the website looks good and will be much nicer than the old one. The website still needs some 'tweaks,' but promises to be nicely interactive when finished.

Old Business

Ernie, W8EH, announced the dates of Field Day (setup on the 25th of June, operation on the 27th and 28th) which will again be held in Smith Park in Middletown. Setup will begin at noon on Friday and continue throughout the afternoon and possibly early evening. Activities will resume on Saturday morning with expectations of being done by lunch. Ernie called for a 'Field Day' meeting to follow the adjournment of the business meeting. Dave, KD8W, will be keeping the schedule for CW operation and Ernie, W8EH, will keep the schedule for voice operation.

Field Day operation will begin at 2:00 pm on Saturday and continue (hopefully non-stop) until 1:59:59 on Sunday. Teardown will begin in earnest at 2:00 pm. Assistance is needed for the setup, operation and teardown.

New Business

W8JEU Replacement Repeater: Ron reported that $510 had been donated toward the new Yaesu repeater for W8JEU. Ernie, W8EH, reported that the Club's application to Yaesu has been approved, but due to high demand, shipping will occur in 1-2 months.

W8BLV Repeater Site: Ron, N8QF, reported that Evan, KC8TXA had received a call from Jim Stitt, the WNKU tower manager. WNKU wants a work party to tear down the unused wooden sheds around the transmitter site and to clean the brush/weeds from the region around the transmitter and guy-wire endpoints.

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They also want a more formal arrangement, i.e. a contract, with Dial regarding Dial's responsibilities that must be met in order to retain the W8BLV repeater on the WNKU tower.

All of the wooden buildings except the one housing our repeater will be torn down. Our building will be torn down once the new transmitter building has been constructed. The plan calls for Dial to have space in the new building for our repeater. There is still no timetable for WNKU's construction of a new building. No timetable was given to Evan, however, the membership prefers an autumn date if possible to lower the stress on the members of the work party. There is a good possibility that this will be a multi-week endeavor.

WNKU will be asked to provide a bush hog for the mowing and a dumpster for the building debris and other trash around the transmitter.

The audience was asked for Questions/Thoughts. Jim, W8ISZ, stated that 'sweat equity' is a fair trade. He optimistically wished for 3 to 4 hours on two successive Saturdays. Leon, KE8AIQ, asked about the possibility of performing the work and having it declared as 'not good enough' and losing the repeater site. Barney, N8HP, asked if anything is known about the continuity between the previous and the current General Manager of WNKU. Could the desire for a formal agreement be due to a lack of communication during the change of General Manager? Ron, expressed the notion that the new General Manager is likely to interface with Dial only through Jim Stitt. Jim, W8ISZ, asked what would be in the contract. Ron replied that he had no idea, but he thinks the Club should have George, W3GP, look at it before proceeding. Ron continued that the Club's liability insurance should provide coverage for possible problems while working at WNKU.

A final issue with WNKU is the electrical power used by Dial. WNKU wants Dial to have its own meter and pay for its utilities.

75th Anniversary of Dial: Ernie, W8EH, reported that May 9th, 2016 will be the 75th anniversary and asked for suggestions about possible ways to celebrate it. W8ISZ suggested a banner at Hamvention. Leon, KE8AIQ, noted that another group he belongs to had 'coins' produced. Ernie, W8EH, asked the members to think about a special event activation similar to the recent 'Pi-Day'.

Announcements:

Ernie, N8EH, (who is the territorial coordinator for regional SATERN) again announced that the weekend of July 4th, the Salvation Army will have SATERN QSO Party to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Salvation Army. Participating stations will call 'CQ CQ The Salvation Army 150th Anniversary QSO Party" between July 1st and July 5th. A special QSL will be available to those making contacts during the event. Ernie distributed a flyer to several in attendance.

Gordon, KC8GMR, announced that the Milford Hamfest will occur on the 20th of June and that the Monroe, MI, Hamfest will occur on the 21st.

John, N8AA, announced a 'Shack Sale' from 10:00 until 2:00 on the 20th of June. Everything that remains will be available.

Adjournment:

Ron, N8QF, moved and Lorie, W8LKU, seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary

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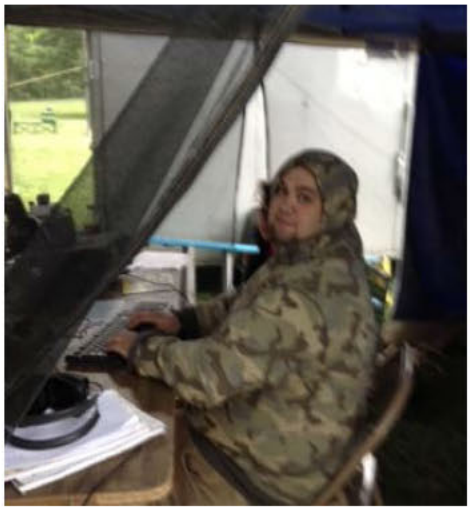
FIELD DAY 2015

Field Day 2015 is now behind us .... "*and a great time was had by all*". Housing setup began on Friday afternoon along with some general infrastructure work. In step with multiple predictions, the heavens opened and rain came forth. Fortunately it didn't cause preparations to grind to a halt but did delay a few steps along the way.



Steve, KD8CPV, at the 15/40M phone tent.

- W8LKU photo

Station setup continued on Saturday morning according to plan and the Dial site was ready to go promptly at 2 pm EDST (1800 Z).

Throughout the day, three HF stations, GOTA, and a 6M station were in operation. There were 17 Dial members operating 80 through 6 meters and amassing 2119 contacts during the 24-hour period.

We had a few visitors asking about classes and taking part in the Field Day operation. One was Bob's grandson, Adam, who made 20 HF-SSB contacts on the GOTA station, all under Bob's supervision and tutelage of course.

2015 Field Day operators included K8CI, KD8CPV, KD8TGE, KD8W, KD8ZOW, N8AA, N8HP, N8LRN, N8YFQ, NR8R, W8EH, W8LKU, W8LR, W8OOO, and WD8NKJ. Guest operators included KE8BDG (Nelson from Mason), Adam Brandt, and Jill Weaver (Kaylee and Adam's teacher).

You may have noticed a few coats and hats in the photos. Having had extremely warm weather the preceding weeks, the weekend temperatures in the high-50s to low-60s caused us to "bundle up". It certainly wasn't the coldest outdoor-ham radio event we've experienced but it was unusually chilly.

One unexpected equipment failure occurred. After being raised to operating height, the tri-band yagi antenna produced an unacceptably high and very erratic VSWR. The antenna was checked with an antenna analyzer before being raised and the measured VSWR on all three bands (10, 15, & 20M) was no higher than 1.5:1 on any of the three bands. Something happened -- could have been water in the trap(s) or in a connector or feedline – and impractical to repair on site.

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With the yagi o ıt of the picture, more wire antennas were erected and Field Day proceeded. Excited with the success of the wire antennas, there was some discussion of using more wire antennas in the future and reducing dependence on the yagi a ıd tower.

Barney, N8 IP, with a gu :st operator at the GOTA te ıt.

- W8LKU photo

The Club amassed 2127 contacts consisting of 1151 CW, 844 HF SSB, 42 6M, and 90 GOTA. Four operators, KD8CPV, N8HP, W8LR, and WD8 JKJ earned contacts on two or more modes *i.e.* CW and HF SSB or CW or 6M SSB.

Saturday eve ıing we enj yed our traditional picnic under the close coordination of Roy, N8LRN. The meat entrée this year included fried chicken, hamburgers, and hot dogs.

A number of tasty side dishes and desserts were prepared in home kitchens and shared among the group.

Activities Manager Roy, N8LRN, in full dress for dinner.

- W8LKU photo

Rain, holding o f during diner, came again as we began to disperse.

Smith Park was clean and o her patrons friendly and curious as to what we w ere doing. Iost stuck to the paved areas around our fiel . but some v entured in for a closer look.

An official tally and score will be reported at a later date but these preliminary results point to Dial having done quite well.

- Carl, K8CM, et.al.

100 Years of QST 1915-2015

QST Centennial Photo Contest

Entry wind w remains open until August 1 - see details in June Newsletter.

Next Meeting: Monday, July 20, 2015 at the Golden Corral
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AMATEUR RADIO BECOMES PRIMARY ON 1900-2000 KHZ ON AUGUST 6

Amateur Radio will be upgraded from secondary to primary in the 1900-2000 kHz segment of 160 meters in the US on August 6. That's the effective date of the WRC-07 implementation Report and Order and WRC-12 Order portions of a lengthy FCC document released on April 27. Both appeared in the Federal Register on July 7; the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) of the same proceeding was published in the Federal Register on July 2. The Radiolocation Service (RLS) has been primary in the band segment. The FCC also made a secondary allocation of 135.7-137.8 kHz to the Amateur Service, but this band will not be available until service rules have been adopted.

"The FCC action with respect to 1900-2000 kHz reduces the possibility that we might suffer in the future from new Radiolocation Service deployments," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. "On the other hand, we will have to put up with radio buoys that have been operating illegally in the band but that now have been 'regularized' by the Commission."

The FCC said that while it had believed there was no non-Federal RLS use of the 1900-2000 kHz band, the record indicated there are maritime users, including the US "high seas" migratory species fishing fleets, making use of radio buoys in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans as well as within 200 nautical miles of the coast. It did not identify these users in the WRC-07 proceeding, however, "because they did not appear in its licensing database," it said.

"Apparently, fishing vessels have operated radio buoys in US waters under the belief that a ship station license issued under Part 80 of the Commission's rules permits operation of the buoys," the FCC Order continued. The FCC said a Part 80 license applies only to stations in the maritime services and does not authorize operation of radio stations requiring a Part 90 license, "such as the radio buoys at issue here."

The FCC said its action regarding 1900-2000 kHz supports increased use of 160 meters as reported by commenters in the proceeding and provides "spectrum support" for Amateur Radio emergency communication. The FCC said its action also offers the Amateur Service "the long-term security that primary status entails."

In removing the primary RLS allocation, the FCC added a new footnote to the US Table of Allocations that provides for radio buoy operations in the 1900-2000 kHz segment on a primary basis in Region 2 (the Americas) and on a secondary basis in Region 3, which limits operations to the open sea.

The FCC also concluded that it is in the public interest to establish a secondary Amateur Radio allocation at 135.7-137.8 kHz -- 2200 meters, although the new band is not yet authorized for amateur use. "In accordance with the WRC-07 Final Acts, the Commission also restricted use of this secondary Amateur Service allocation to amateur stations transmitting a maximum equivalent isotropically radiated power (EIRP) of 1 W." The Commission is inviting comments until August 31 on how it should structure operational rules for that allocation as well as for a proposed 472-479 kHz allocation, 630 meters.

- ARRL Letter, July 9, 2015

Next Meeting: Monday, July 20, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

ARRL GREAT LAKES DIVISION CONVENTION

Debra Johnson K1DMJ, ARRL's Education Services Manager will be our guest and keynote speaker for the 2015 ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention. Debra joins us from ARRL Headquarters and is directly involved with getting school kids involved with Amateur Radio. Among her many duties, she heads up the Teachers Institute plus the ARISS program to contact the International Space Station by amateur radio. If you have an interest in getting younger folks into this hobby, Debra's talk is one you should not miss.

The Voice of Aladdin Amateur Radio Club is hosting your Convention on August 1, this year. The location is the Aladdin Shrine Center at 3858 Stelzer Rd, in Columbus, OH. http://arrl-greatlakes.org/ Forums will include DX, NVIS, Digital Voice, ARES, HF Sound Card Modes, OSSBN/NTS and there will be on-si te VE testing.

Returning this year will be an opportunity for ARRL members to join the Royal Order of the Wouff Hong (ROWH). A special session, available only at State, Division and National Conventions, will allow candidates to join the ROWH. Check the Division Web pages at http://arrl-greatlakes.org/ for membership applications. Not familiar with the ROWH? The ARRL Great Lakes Convention is your time to discover the Royal Order of the Wouff Hong.

- via e-mail

OHIO ARES "NVIS ANTENNA DAY" CONCLUDES: THE TRUTH IS UP THERE

Ohio ARES NVIS Antenna Day on April 25 attracted participation from some 100 Buckeye State stations in an effort to determine which configurations of near-vertical incidence skywave (NVIS) antenna offer the best results. ARRL Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator Stan Broadway, N8BHL, said that while the results of the unscientific test were inconclusive, some configurations *did* seem superior to others.

"The goal was simple: Try different antennas, see which worked," Broadway explained. "Each station was responsible for providing accurate signal reports, so performance could be evaluated. Results would be tallied and digested in hopes of creating a short list of winners that ARES teams could keep in their toolboxes."

Delaware County ARES tried a number of different configurations, several of them using the ubiquitous military mast sections for support: (L-R) Larry Mittman, N9AUG; Emergency Coordinator Donn Rooks, K8AOK; Dave LeMay, WB2CWJ; Dale Bauer, W8KTQ, and Joe Penzera, N8DRZ.

Most operation was Field Day-style on 40 meters. "This was not a contest," Broadway pointed out, "so, groups gathered not only to test antennas, but to cook out and enjoy each other's company." He said one group had so much fun making contacts with their first dipole that they abandoned any further antenna work and just had fun.

Groups most frequently deployed simple dipoles. End-fed and longwires were popular too, as well as a handful of loops. A half-dozen antennas were based on the military AS-2259 design -- crossed inverted Vs with about 10 feet of elevation in the middle. Other designs included antennas erected above ponds, inverted Ls, and even a Moxon aimed straight up.

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"For our operation, there just wasn't that much difference between the more specialized NVIS designs and any good antenna," Broadway concluded. The longwire was among those at the bottom of the list, with signal reports uniformly 2 or 3 S-units below other choices, according to Broadway. "But contacts *were* made, and communication took place," he added. "It's a very portable antenna, too."

The Shelby County ARES team fielded a 2259 military-type antenna that worked very well. The center mast was inexpensive conduit, about 12 feet tall, with each of the four legs anchored within a parking lot -- typical of what might be set up in an emergency.

Determining the "best" antenna turned out to be harder. Dipoles -- flattops or inverted Vs -- installed at lower heights in keeping with NVIS concepts, provided reasonable reports, but erecting them at a low height didn't seem to make much difference. If any antenna topped the list, it was those fashioned after the AS-2259 configuration.

"These all performed very satisfactorily for their owners, and were uniformly given good signal reports," Broadway said. "They weren't 40 dB above the competition, but they were solid."

While the NVIS antenna experiment had inconclusive results, "we did prove that our hobby can be a lot of fun, even for the old heads, when we get back to some basics -- experimenting, equipment and team building, and trying our stuff out," Broadway said. Concluded Jefferson County participant Gregory Day, N8GD, "After 34 years, ham radio is still fun!"

Ohio ARES is planning an even bigger NVIS event next April, and will extend an invitation to neighboring ARRL sections to join in.

- *ARRL Letter, June 25, 2015*

FCC INVITES COMMENTS ON PROPOSED RULES FOR NEW LF AND MF AMATEUR ALLOCATIONS

The FCC is inviting comments on its recent proposals to authorize Amateur Radio operation on two new bands -- an LF allocation at 135.7 to 137.8 kHz (2200 meters), and an MF allocation at 472-479 kHz (630 meters). Amateur Radio would be secondary on both bands. Comments are due August 31. Reply comments -- ie, comments on comments filed -- are due by September 30. The FCC allocated 135.7 to 137.8 kHz to the Amateur Service in accordance with the Final Acts of the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-07). The proposed new allocation at 472 to 479 kHz would implement decisions made at WRC-12.

"The Commission is proposing service rules for the Amateur Service in the 135.7-137.8 kHz and 472-479 kHz bands with the principal goal of enabling sharing of this spectrum among licensed amateur stations and unlicensed PLC systems," the FCC said on April 27 in a 257-page Report and Order, Order, and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. The combined proceeding addresses three

dockets -- ET-12-338, ET-15-99, and IB-06-123 -- affecting various radio services in addition to the Amateur Service. The detailed proposals appeared in The Federal Register on July 2.

Amateur Radio stations are not permitted in either band until the FCC adopts, on the basis of comments, specific technical and operational Part 97 rules. Power line carrier (PLC) systems operated by utilities to control the power grid already operate under Part 15 of the FCC rules in both frequency ranges, particularly the lower of the two.

With respect to the new 630 meter band, the FCC has concluded that Amateur Radio and PLC systems "can successfully coexist in the band," and noted that there has been no reported interference to PLC operation resulting from experimental operations there. The FCC said PLC systems and anticipated Amateur Radio use of both 630 meters and 2200 meters "have characteristics that make coexistence possible." In general, the FCC wants to hear from the public regarding power limits, antenna placement and height, and geographical limitations for operation in the proposed LF and MF allocations. The FCC has said that the "cornerstone" of the technical rules it's proposing for both bands is "physical separation between amateur stations and the transmission lines" carrying PLC signals.

The FCC has said that if it concludes, after considering the record, that Amateur Radio and PLC systems cannot coexist on 135.7-137.8 kHz, it would "defer the adoption of service rules, and amateur users will have to continue to use the experimental licensing process to operate in the band."

In 2012, the ARRL submitted a Petition for Rule Making asking the FCC to allocate 472-479 kHz to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis and to amend the Part 97 rules to provide for its use. Several countries, including Canada, already have access to the band.

The FCC said the addition of the new LF and MF allocations "would provide new opportunities for amateur operators to experiment with equipment, techniques, antennas, and propagation phenomena but with signals having larger bandwidth and higher power."

In addition, the FCC has raised the secondary Amateur Service allocation at 1900 to 2000 kHz to primary, while providing for continued use by currently unlicensed commercial fishing vessels of radio buoys on the "open sea." The Commission is seeking comment on technical requirements to govern operation of the Part 80 radio buoys.

Interested parties may submit comments, identified by ET Docket No 15-99, via the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). The ARRL will file comments in this proceeding.

- *ARRL Letter, July 2, 2015*

A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.

- WINSTON CHURCHILL

Next Meeting: Monday, July 20, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

Amateur Radio License Exams

An examination session in Technician, General and Extra Class Amateur Radio Operator's License will be available on

Wednesday evening, August 12, 2015
at 6 p.m. in Verity Lodge
Miami University-Middletown, Middletown, OH

Doors will open for registration at 6 p.m and examinations 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. The web site is self explanatory and the FRN registration is free.

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 146.61 (-600) 77 Hz PL
444.3625 (+5) MID Local-2 [DMR]

Next Meeting: Monday, July 20, 2015 at the Golden Corral
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Amateur Radio Class

Introductory Level

Ham Radio Class To Begin !

Beginning August 19, 2015, 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 23 and be followed by an examination session on Wednesday, September 30.

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 $25-30) 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

Next Meeting: Monday, July 20, 2015 at the Golden Corral
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DIAL RADIO CLUB

Middletown, Ohio

APRS Digipeater: W8BLV 144.39
Repeaters:146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 449.825/444.825
DMR 449.3625/444.3625
Web page: http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/ e-mail: W8BLV@QSL.net

President:
Ernie Howard, W8EH
Vice-President:
Dave Williamson, KD8W
Secretary:
Barney Taylor, N8HP
Treasurer:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF
Activities Manager:
Roy Dalton, N8LRN
Newsletter Editor:
Carl Morgan, K8CM

the prez sez .....

On August 22, starting at NOON (until Midnight) we will be at Dave, KD8W's house to participate as a club in the Ohio QSO party. This is a fun laid back contest/operating event. Plan on stopping by Dave's house and operate or just hang out and visit. There will be food. Ask for directions if you need them.

Ernie, W8EH

MINUTES OF THE JULY 20th, 2015 MEETING

Attendance

KE8BDG, K8CM, N8DHW, W8EH, N8GGE, N8HP, KI8I, N8LRN, NN8M, W8OOO, N8QF, KC8TXA, KD8W & Andy, W8WLM, N8YFQ, KD8ZOV, KD8ZOW, Michael Borgerding

Call to order:

Ernie, W8EH, called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and asked for an 'around-the-room' self-introduction.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the previous month's meeting as published in the newsletter was made by Bob, NN8M, and seconded by Dave, KD8W. The motion passed without dissent.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, presented the Treasurer's report. Membership remains at 79 members representing 55 families. Six 2014 members have not renewed and are unlikely to renew. The Field Day expenses were approximately $200 for food and drinks. Gasoline for the generator cost approximately $55.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Carl, K8CM, and seconded by Barney, N8HP. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: Monday, August 17, 2015 at the Golden Corral
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The donation fund for the W8JEU repeater stands at $520 with a $10 donation given at Field Day that Ron cannot remember the name of the donor. *(If the donor reads the minutes, please let Ron know your identity – Sec)*

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported that both the analog and DMR repeaters are well. Carl, K8CM, added that Echolink is also working fine.

Activity Report:

Roy, N8LRN, reported that the Field Day picnic had gone well, adding 'there was plenty of chicken'.

Classes and Exams:

Beverley, N8GGE, reported that the exam will occur on August 12th at Verity Lodge, Miami University Middletown. Technician classes will begin the following week. She hopes to have a schedule for instructors shortly.

Newsletter:

Carl, K8CM, reported that there were no problems with the newsletter.

Website:

Chris, W8OOO, reported that the work was done and that Ernie's suggestions had been incorporated along with those of the Committee members. Chris still needs the Officer's email addresses. After some comments, it was decided to make the site 'live' next week.

Old Business

Ernie, W8EH, gave a recap of the points earned at Field Day. Dial earned 1270 bonus points and 3270 QSO points. Since we ran low power, the QSO points get doubled, so the final score was higher than Dial has ever scored. In 2014, that score would have been 14th in the nation, and tops in the Great Lakes Division (MI, OH, KY).

Barney, N8HP, gave a short summary of the 'Runs' (the time that someone was calling CQ). There were several long runs that we do not normally have. He congratulated several young members, Kaylee, KD8TGE, Steve, KD8CPV, and Chris, W8OOO, for their long hours of highly professional operation during the contest.

Beverley, N8GGE, asked when the final scores were likely to be out. Ernie replied that it would likely be February or March. That it is normal in HF contests for the scores to be released about a month before the next contest.

Ernie, W8EH, praised the GOTA coaches, and those that had participated in the GOTA station.

Dave, KD8W, addressed some of the difficulties that occurred and asked that the Club consider the issues of the shelters, the apparently defective beam and the hardship of raising the portable tower.

Ernie, W8EH, reported that the new Yaesu repeater is still on order and that he has not received a shipping date.

Next Meeting: Monday, August 17, 2015 at the Golden Corral
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New Business

WNKU Contract and Work Party

Ron, N8QF, spoke as the contact person with WNKU. The station's attorneys have created a contract for the installation of Dial's repeater and antenna on their Middletown site. The contract was passed out to those in attendance for a brief inspection. Ron stated that he had sent the contract to George, W3GP, and George found no issue with its language. Greatly simplified, the contract allows access to the site, the location of the current antenna and space for the repeater controller. The contract requires Dial to list WNKU as a covered entity in our liability insurance. The contracts also asks for Dial to maintain the areas around the piers at the end of the guy wires with regard to brush and weeds. Dial is also to remove all of the wooden sheds (except the one our repeater is presently in) and to clean up around the transmitter building. Dial is to have its own electrical meter so that we pay for the electricity that we use. WNKU values these activities as being equivalent to renting the tower space for $500 per month.

Ron, N8QF, made a motion to approve the contract. Carl, K8CM, seconded the motion. Barney, N8HP, asked for discussion before the vote. He thought that WNKU's attorneys should be asked to rephrase the initial sentences to reflect that the antenna is currently in place and the contract is for its continued existence. Ernie expressed the opinion that the contract was a 'take it or leave it' document with no room to making changes. After some other discussion the vote was taken and the motion passed without dissent. Ernie and Ron will sign the contract as President and Treasurer, respectively.

WNKU plans to place a prefabricated building on a concrete pad to house their transmitter. When that building is completed, Dial will have space for two 'relay racks' inside the building to house our repeater. WNKU plans to sell some of the land and buildings on site since they don't make use of the studios at the old WPFB site.

WNKU Work Party

A work party has been scheduled for September 19th to demolish the wooden sheds, clean around the block building and to clear the vegetation around the guy piers. WNKU is providing a 'Dumpster'. We will be responsible for providing our own tools for the demolition and vegetation removal. Healthy persons are invited to bring their chain saws, 'weed whackers' (metal blades especially) during the work party. It is likely that that a second weekend will be required to complete the work.

Ohio QSO Party

Dave, KD8W, reported that he will again be hosting the OHQSOP in the (large and air conditioned) basement of his home. The Party runs from noon until midnight on Saturday, August 22nd. He and Barney have walked his property and discussed where to add more antennas. If there is demand, we can operate 3 stations at Dave's home. Persons wishing to operate at Dial's site in the OHQSOP should let Dave know of their intentions so that he can have the proper number of stations set up. Antennas will be set up on Friday afternoon.

Ernie, W8EH, asked that Dave send an email to Dial members when the Friday time has been set and that the OPHSOP be announced in the newsletter. Barney, N8HP, moved that up to $150 be allocated for food and beverages at the OHQSOP. Carl, K8CM, seconded the motion which passed without dissent.

Next Meeting: Monday, August 17, 2015 at the Golden Corral
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Announcements:

Ron, N8QF, announced that he had recently changed to solid state disks for the operating system of his computers and that they booted very much more quickly than in the past. Several others in the room echoed Ron's sentiments.

Adjournment:

Dave, N8YFQ, moved and Carl, K8CM, seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary

OHIO QSO PARTY

The objective of the Ohio QSO party is for Amateurs inside the state of Ohio to make contact with as many Amateurs as possible both inside and outside of Ohio and for Amateurs outside the state of Ohio to make contact with as many Ohio stations as possible. Non-Ohio stations may work only Ohio stations, while Ohio stations may contact anyone.

Dave, KD8W, will be hosting the OHQSOP in the (large and air conditioned) basement of his home. The Party runs from noon until midnight on Saturday, August 22nd. Three stations will be set up; 1-CW, 2-SSB. Anyone wishing to operate at Dial's site in the OHQSOP should let Dave know ASAP that appropriate arrangements may be made.

The plan is to do the antennas on Thursday, starting about 1 pm, with Friday as a rain date. Anyone wishing to help with the antennas are welcome and should contact Dave direct (513-424-5819).

Want more info about the QSO Party; go to http://www.ohqp.org/

- Carl, K8CM, et al

DAYTON HAMVENTION REPORTS 2015 ATTENDANCE UP SLIGHTLY OVER 2014

The official attendance at the 2015 Dayton Hamvention® was 25,621. That's an increase from the official count of 24,873 visitors last year -- or an additional 748 attendees. The 2013 attendance was 24,542. Hamvention attendance peaked in 1993 at 33,669, before the 1996 change in date from April to May. While attendance has fluctuated over the years, Dayton Hamvention has grown to international proportions, attracting members of the worldwide Amateur Radio community each spring. The sponsoring Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) already has begun counting down the days to the next Hamvention, which will take place May 20-22, 2016. -- Thanks to Henry Ruminski, W8HJR

- ARRL Letter, July 16, 2015

AMATEUR RADIO; HOBBY or SERVICE

According to *Wikipedia*, **Amateur radio** (also called **"ham" radio**) is the use of designated radio frequency spectrum for purposes of private recreation, non-commercial exchange of messages, wireless experimentation,

self-training, and emergency communication. The term "amateur" is used to specify "a duly authorized person interested in radioelectric practice with a purely personal aim and without pecuniary interest;" (either direct monetary or other similar reward) and to differentiate it from commercial broadcasting, public safety (such as police and fire), or professional two-way radio services (such as maritime, aviation, taxis, etc.).

The amateur radio service (*amateur service* and *amateur satellite service*) is established by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) through the International Telecommunication Regulations. National governments regulate technical and operational characteristics of transmissions and issue individual stations licenses with an identifying call sign. Prospective amateur operators are tested for their understanding of key concepts in electronics and the host government's radio regulations. Radio amateurs use a variety of voice, text, image, and data communications modes and have access to frequency allocations throughout the RF spectrum to enable communication across a city, region, country, continent, the world, or even into space.

Amateur radio is officially represented and coordinated by the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU), which is organized in three regions and has as its members the national amateur radio societies which exist in most countries. According to an estimate made in 2011 by the American Radio Relay League, two million people throughout the world are regularly involved with amateur radio. About 830,000 amateur radio stations are located in IARU Region 2 (the Americas) followed by IARU Region 3 (South and East Asia and the Pacific Ocean) with about 750,000 stations. A significantly smaller number, about 400,000, are located in IARU Region 1 (Europe, Middle East, CIS, Africa).

You may have noted, throughout the preceding discussion, the word “hobby” was never used. Webster defines hobby, as “an activity done regularly in one's leisure time for pleasure” and service as <among others> “the work performed by one that serves; *i.e.* a contribution to the welfare of others”. Certainly some amateur operators are “hobbyists”; however, the real reason Amateur Radio continues to exist is for service to the public.

We, Amateur Radio licensees, exist by the power of Congress and are governed under the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The CFR is divided by title and subdivided by chapter. Amateur radio is found in Title 47 (Telecommunication)→ Chapter I → Subchapter D → Part 97 (Amateur Radio Service). Therein we find, enumerated, the reasons why Amateur Radio exists in the United States.

> §97.1 Basis and purpose.
>
> The rules and regulations in this part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:
>
> (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.
>
> (b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.
>
> (c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.
>
> (d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.
>
> (e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

Next Meeting: Monday, August 17, 2015 at the Golden Corral
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Simply stated, the Amateur Radio Service, established in the early 1900s, is a voluntary noncommercial communication service, used by qualified persons of any age who are interested in radio technique with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest.

It is through the many activities we pursue – contests, drills, public service activities, and Field Day to name but a few – that we achieve the objectives of the amateur service as enumerated in §97.1 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Want to learn more ..... check out https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amateur_radio

- Wikipedia; Carl, K8CM;CFR

ARRL BOARD APPROVES HF BAND PLAN AND RULEMAKING PETITION

Meeting July 17-18 in Windsor, Connecticut, the ARRL Board of Directors adopted amendments to the ARRL HF Band Plan -- with some tweaks; approved a National Parks On The Air (NPOTA) operating event in 2016 to celebrate the National Park Service centennial; authorized the filing of a rule making petition with the FCC seeking changes on 80 and 75 meters; initiated the search for a successor to ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, who will retire next May, and named several ARRL award recipients.

ARRL HF Band Plan

The Board adopted amendments to the ARRL HF Band Plan that were recommended by the HF Band Planning Committee, with one major change from the proposals as outlined in the April 2015 issue of QST and summarized on the ARRL website. That change was to set the upper RTTY/data limit for 20 meters at 14.125 MHz, consistent with the IARU Region 1 band plan.

Rule Making Petition to FCC

The Board authorized the preparation of a rule making petition to the FCC, seeking changes in the 80 and 75 meter bands that are consistent with majority opinion among more than 1000 responses to an online membership survey. The petition would seek to shift the boundary between the 80 meter RTTY/data subband and the 75 meter phone/image subband from 3600 to 3650 kHz. It also would restore privileges in the 3600-3650 kHz segment to Advanced, General, Technician, and Novice licensees.

In addition, the League will ask the FCC to shift the automatically controlled digital station (ACDS) band segment from 3585-3600 kHz to 3600-3615 kHz, consistent with the IARU Region 1 and Region 2 band plans, and authorize Technician and Novice licensees to use RTTY/data emissions in their 15 and 80 meter band segments, the latter change contingent on expansion of the 80 meter band.

- ARRL Letter, July 23. 2015

Next Meeting: Monday, August 17, 2015 at the Golden Corral
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LICENSE EXAM NEWS

Our 2015-2016 class/exam season begins with a license exam on Wednesday evening, August 12. Meeting in Verity Lodge, DIAL and BCARA VEs will administer exam elements to applicants seeking to become new Technicians or General/Amateur Extra upgrades.

Following the August exam, our next scheduled exam will be at 6 pm, Wednesday, September 30, in Verity Lodge and the Butler County Amateur Radio Association (BCARA), will be hosting their fall exam at 9 am, Saturday, October 17, at the Fairfield Township Police Department.

Current license exam information may be found on the ARRL website, http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session or the Laurel ARC website, http://www.laurelvec.com/ . All examinations are managed by members of the Dial Radio Club and the Butler County Amateur Radio Association.

- Carl, K8CM

A work party, at WNKU's antenna site on Breiel Boulevard, has been scheduled for Saturday, September 19, to demolish the wooden sheds, clean around the block building and to clear the vegetation around the guy piers. WNKU is providing a 'dumpster' but we will be responsible for providing our own tools for the demolition and vegetation removal. Healthy persons are invited to bring their chain saws, 'weed whackers' (metal blades especially) during the work party. It is likely that that a second weekend will be required to complete the work. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

LEAGUE DUES TO RISE JANUARY 1

The Board approved a $10 increase in the League's annual dues rate, effective January 1, 2016. In so doing, the Board adopted a recommendation of the Administration & Finance Committee. ARRL basic dues have been held at $39 a year since 2001. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the League has done as much as it can to hold off a dues increase for more than a decade, but now it's a necessity, not an option.

"One of the most difficult decisions a membership organization faces is a dues increase," he said. "Over the past 14 years we have managed to hold the increase in expenses to just 19 percent, against a US inflation rate of 32 percent over the same period," he continued. "We have implemented operating efficiencies that allowed reducing the staff by 15 percent while expanding the range of services to members and to Amateur Radio as a whole. We created a development program, offering to those members who have greater financial capacity an opportunity to support their national association at a higher level."

Enhanced membership services since 2001 include inauguration of Logbook of The World® (LoTW); a digital edition of QST at no additional cost; expanded QST and video product reviews; upgraded public service

support including the Ham Aid program, Emergency Communications Training, and the ARES® E-Letter; the Education & Technology program and Teachers Institutes on Wireless Technology, and the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. Sumner aid that advocacy on behalf of Amateur Radio has included relentless defense of Amateur Radio spectrum, the Amateur Radio Parity Act, and an increased awareness of the value of Amateur Radio on Capitol Hill.

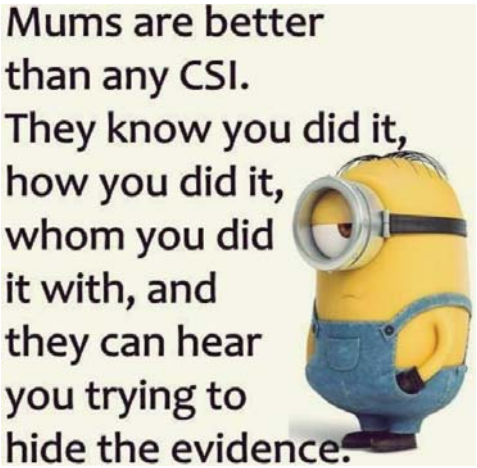
Details of ARRL's revenues and expenditures are available in its Annual Report archive for the years 2002 to 2014. The cost of a basic ARRL membership will rise to $49 on January 1, 2016. An ARRL Life Membership, now $975, will increase to $1225.

- ARRL Letter, July 23, 2015

Updated Canadian Band Plan Released: The Radio Amateurs of Canada Band Planning Committee has released an updated band plan for all LF and HF (0-30 MHz) Amateur Radio allocations. This includes the new LF bands at 2200 and 600 meters, the 60 meter channels, and changes to reflect current best practice on other bands. The updated band plan represents the RAC Band Planning Committee's year-long review of all LF and HF allocations. RAC said the updated band plan is intended as a quick reference guide, summarizing all bands on a single page. -- Thanks to George Gorsline, VE3YV, RAC International Affairs Officer

- ARRL Letter, August 6, 2015

The Amateur Radio vanity call sign regulatory fee is set to disappear in the next few weeks. According to the best-available information from FCC sources, the first day that applicants will be able to file a vanity application without having to pay a fee is **Thursday, September 3**.



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

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Amateur Radio Class

Introductory Level

Ham Radio Class To Begin !

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Class will conclude September 23 and be followed by an examination session on Wednesday, September 30.

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 $25-30) for use in class.

Class enrollment will be limited to twenty students. For registration and/or additional information, please call Beverley Taylor
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Next Meeting: Monday, August 17, 2015 at the Golden Corral
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DIAL RADIO CLUB

Middletown, Ohio

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President:
Ernie Howard, W8EH
Vice-President:
Dave Williamson, KD8W
Secretary:
Barney Taylor, N8HP
Treasurer:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF
Activities Manager:
Roy Dalton, N8LRN
Newsletter Editor:
Carl Morgan, K8CM

the prez sez .....

September brings our first work party at our 146.61 repeater site at WNKU in Middletown. This takes place September 19 at 9 am. We will need many able bodied club members to assist with removing several sheds, trimming weeds, bushes and trees at the tower. Please bring appropriate tools if you have them. If you have any questions, contact Ron, Evan or me. Ron says he will bring donuts..... So mark your calendar and plan to be there to help. We will be there most of the day.

Ernie, W8EH

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 17th, 2015 MEETING

Attendance

N8AA, KE8AIQ, KE8AIR, KE8BDG, K8CM, KD8CPV, N8DHW, WA8DTU, W8EH, KC8GMR, N8HP, KI8I, W8ISZ, W8LKU, NN8M, W8OOO, NR8R & Barbara, KC8TXA, KD8W, W8WLM, N8YFQ, WA8YXY, KD8ZOV, KD8ZOW

Call to order:

Ernie, W8EH, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and asked for an 'around-the-room' self-introduction.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the previous month's meeting as published in the newsletter was made by Bob, NN8M, and seconded by Dave, N8YFQ. The motion passed without dissent.

Treasurer's Report:

In the absence of Ron, N8QF, Evan, KC8TXA, presented the Treasurer's report. Membership remains at 79 members representing 55 families. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Bob, NR8R, and seconded Carl, K8CM. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 21, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported that both the analog and DMR repeaters are well. Carl, K8CM, added that Echolink is also working as usual.

Ernie, announced that the new Yaesu repeater for 147.315 has not shipped, but that his credit card had been billed. In discussing the new repeater, Ernie addressed issues with the coverage of the present 147.315 repeater. The issues are likely due to a bad or lightning-damaged antenna. There will be antenna work at the West Middletown water tank in the near future, and Ernie asked for a motion to allocate funds for a new antenna. Bob, NR8R, made a motion to allocate up to $250 for a new antenna and incidentals. Dave, KD8W seconded the motion which passed with 1 nay.

Activity Report:

None

Classes and Exams:

Carl, K8CM, gave a summary of the result of the most recent exam. 11 applicants tried to earn a Technician License and 10 were successful. Several tried the General Element, but were not successful. One applicant, previously licensed but expired should receive an Amateur Extra Class License based upon the FCC's recent rules change that requires only passing an Element 2 exam to have the former privileges reinstated.

Dial's next exam will be on September 30th at Miami University Middletown's Verity Lodge. BCARA has an exam scheduled for October 17th.

Carl announced that a new class to prepare for the Technician License will begin on Wednesday, and based upon interest due to contacts, he expects 10 to 12 participants. Three have indicated that they will bring a spouse or a child.

Newsletter:

Carl, K8CM, reported that the newsletter was 'situation normal'.

Website:

Several positive comments were made regarding Dial's new website, and Chris, W8OOO, was commended. Chris announced that he would be bringing his laptop to the OH QSO Party on Saturday and would make changes upon request.

Old Business

OH QSO Party

Dave, KD8W, gave an update on the plans for the Ohio QSO Party to be held at his house on the 22nd of August. The Party runs from noon to midnight. The club will be supplying snacks, soft drinks and water. Pizza will be ordered around 5:00 pm for those present. Dave requested that members come and operate. Three stations are planned.

Dave announced that final station setup and antenna work would occur on Thursday at 1:00 pm, with Friday as a rain date.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 21, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

WNKU Work Party

The work party for the 146.610 repeater site which is hosted by WNKU has been scheduled for September 19th. The starting time is between 8:00 and 9:00 am. Persons participating should bring hand tools and power tools appropriate for the demolition of the wooden sheds and the removal of plants around the guy piers. Considerable discussion ensued. W8ISZ was promised, by proxy, there would be donuts. NN8M asked whether the use of RoundUp was planned to slow the regrowth. W8EH wants people having large pruning shears to bring them. KC8TXA apparently wants to drive a Bobcat.

Dave, KD8W, made a motion to allocate $100 to purchase lunch for the work party. Steve, KD8CPV, seconded the motion which passed without dissent.

Announcements:

Ernie, W8EH, asked about fall contest interests, and suggested that Dial might want to participate in the November SSB Sweepstakes.

Adjournment:

Dave, N8YFQ, moved and Dave, KD8W, seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary

I am pleased to report that the 147.315 VHF repeater at West Middletown has been successfully upgraded with a new *Yaesu System Fusion* repeater. This update occurred September 9 through the special efforts of Ernie, W8EH, and Roy, N8LRN. Approved for purchase at the May 18, 2015 Club meeting, the new repeater was acquired through a special offer by Yaesu whereby we obtained the hardware for approximately 25% of MSRP and further, to the credit of the membership, was wholly funded by members' special donations.

The Yaesu System Fusion repeater is running in "stock" configuration using the internal control, CW ID and "automatic" repeat mode. Automatic repeat means that it will operate in both Fusion digital and normal analog as determined by the nature of the input signal. When using an analog radio, you should program 77.0 Hz PL decode into your radio to avoid hearing the digital sound. The repeater will remain in this "stock" mode for a few weeks. It is, though, ready to be used in both analog and digital modes.

This acquisition becomes a second digital repeater in the Dial portfolio. We have DMR at the Breiel site and Yaesu's System Fusion at West Middletown. There now exists, in the amateur radio circles, three principal digital VHF/UHF technologies; DMR, D-Star, and System Fusion (aka C4FM). These distinct modes, incompatible with each other, but each having traction and gaining popularity in the VHF/UHF world.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 21, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

Yes, at this stage of the game, if you wish to use the digital (C4FM) technique, you need to purchase a Yaesu radio. Similar scenario for D-Star [it must be an Icom] and for DMR [Motorola or Connect Systems radio unit].

If you're running an analog station, you'll not notice much change – the frequency and PL for West Middletown are unchanged. The voice announcements and IDs are gone and station IDs will now be issued in Morse occurring at 10 minute intervals. Gone, too, are commands you may have issued to check the time, do a touchtone test, or perform some other repeater-controller function.

The repeater will repeat whatever signal it hears thus if you are operating on analog FM, it will repeat analog FM; if you are operating on C4FM, it will repeat C4FM. If a digital contact is underway, and someone calls on analog FM, the repeater's output will revert to analog FM thus avoid ignoring the new caller. I should also mention that the Yaesu mobiles and H-Ts *automatically* switch between C4FM and analog FM depending upon the type of signal being received.

Digital offers many advantages and a few disadvantages. One important advantage is a much better signal to noise ratio and resultant higher quality of voice. On the negative side, digital modulation protocols are much more susceptible to multipath interference and thus fail to provide service in areas where analog FM would otherwise provide degraded but audible voice service. At a higher quality of voice, digital outperforms analog FM by about 11 dB. However, at a lower quality of voice, analog FM outperforms digital techniques by about 5 dB.

Each of the systems mentioned above are capable of being networked over the Internet. Doing so vastly expands the coverage range of a simple H-T from local use to world-wide communication. At the moment, our only repeater that is networked is the DMR repeater at the Breiel site.

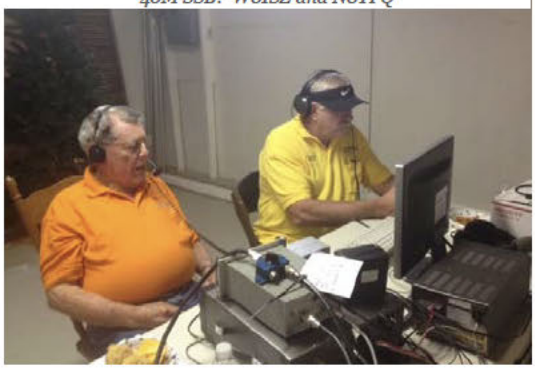
- Carl, K8CM

2015 OHIO QSO PARTY

75M SSB: W8OOO

And a fine time was had by all ..... at the 2015 Ohio QSO Party on Saturday, August 22 and, for the Dial Radio Club, held at the home of Dave Williamson, KD8W. Operation began at noon and continued through 2059 hours.

40M SSB: W8ISZ and N8YFQ



The work began before Saturday with Dave and Barney, N8HP, planning and executing antenna setups, initializing a computer logging network, and validating transceiver operation.

Dial operators included Dave, KD8W: Barney, N8HP; Dave, N8YFQ; Jim, W8ISZ; Ernie, W8EH; Chris, W8OOO; Bob, NR8R; Kaylee, KD8TGE; and Gordon, KC8GMR. On-site visitors included Rick [W8ATG] and Mary Swain and Jim [KF8QS] and Doreena Cook.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 21, 2015 at the Golden Corral
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Statistics of the day included a total of 595 QSOs composed of 325 CW and 280 SSB phone. Sorted by band reveals 226-75/80M, 246-40M, 119-20M, and 4-15M. Total reported score is 147,420 – where that falls in the statewide picture is yet to be determined. Barney speculated that the 2015 score was double that of last year.

The goal was for Ohio stations to contact all 88 counties and as many out-of-state stations as may be possible. Our tally includes 57 counties, 49 states (didn't get AK), and 1 DX - OK2EC in the Czech Republic *[BTW, the DX contact was on 20M CW].*

80, 40 & 20M CW: N8HP

Now for a moment of comparison - last year's stats were CW – 290 contacts, Phone - 95 contacts, and multipliers – 113. Total score reported score was 54,805. *[Sorry, don't know about the role of the multipliers but you can easily see there was a 54.6% increase in QSOs]*

Our many thanks to Judy and Dave Williamson for hosting Dial's participation in the 2015 Ohio QSO Party.

- Carl, K8CM

OUTCOME FOR 5 MHZ AT WRC-15 REMAINS IN LIMBO

With the deadline to submit proposals to World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 now less than 2 months away, it's still unclear how at least one agenda item of importance to the Amateur Radio community will fare. That is agenda item 1.4, which calls on the delegates to consider a secondary Amateur Radio allocation at 5 MHz (60 meters). In the US and in most other countries that have privileges there, ham radio has a set of fixed channels at 5 MHz - not necessarily the same from one country to the next, although most are common.
As ARRL Chief Technology Officer Brennan Price, N4QX, explained last spring following the second Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM), the agenda item 1.4 proposals at the CPM were "all over the map - ranging from no change to an expansive allocation of 5275-5450 kHz, with explicit suggestions of 15 kHz and 100 kHz in between, and a few methods with details to be filled in later." As Price summarized at the time, "[T]here is a wide divergence of opinion, and no certainty as to the outcome."

In his July 2015 report to International Amateur Radio Union Region 3 Conference to be held this October in Indonesia, ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said that while the US is "generally supportive" of the Amateur Radio and Amateur-Satellite services at WRCs and in other International Telecommunication Union (ITU) venues, "it has been difficult to gain support from the federal government side for agenda item 1.4." The ARRL is a member of IARU Region 3 to represent the interests of FCC-licensed radio amateurs residing in Guam; the Northern Marianas; American Samoa; Baker, Howland, Jarvis, and Wake islands; Palmyra Atoll, and Kingman Reef.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 21, 2015 at the Golden Corral
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When he submitted the report to IARU R3 in July, Sumner had said that the best ARRL could hope for in the US position was a 25 kHz secondary allocation at 5 MHz, "and only then if this becomes the CITEL Inter-American Proposal (IAP)," he explained. CITEL completed its work earlier this month and will put forward an IAP for a 175 kHz secondary allocation at 5275-5450 kHz, with support by up to a dozen countries. That's not a proposal the US or Canada could support, however. Sumner noted that as of now, only one formal proposal for agenda item 1.4 has been submitted, and it calls for no change at 5250-5450 kHz. It came from the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC), the regional telecommunications organization made up primarily of the former Commonwealth of Independent States countries of which Russia is the largest.
Other regional telecommunication organizations still have not submitted formal proposals. Sumner said this week that it's not possible to predict what might happen at the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications administrations (CEPT) meeting in a few weeks. CEPT is the umbrella organization for 48 European nations.

"We appreciate the strong support from so many Latin American and Caribbean administrations and remain hopeful that a favorable consensus can be reached in Geneva in November," Sumner said.
In Europe, Hungary's telecommunications regulator NMHH has begun issuing temporary permits to radio amateurs there to operate in the band 5350-5450 MHz on a secondary basis for research. The permits are valid for 3 months, and holders may reapply after that.

According to the Dutch Amateur Radio Association (VERON), telecommunication regulator Agentschap Telecom is expected in September to release 5350-5450 kHz to radio amateurs on a secondary basis for all operating modes. The primary users of the band, which include the Netherlands military, already have agreed to the allocation. Several other European countries already have 60 meter allocations.
WRC-15 will take place November 2-27 in Geneva.

- via e-mail, August 26, 2015

FCC RELEASES ONLINE TABLE OF FREQUENCY ALLOCATIONS: The FCC released an updated online, downloadable Table of Frequency Allocations on August 15. The FCC notes that the Table "as published by the Federal Register and codified in the Code of Federal Regulations, remains the legal source material." The online Table may display amendments that have been adopted by the FCC but are not yet in effect, the FCC said.

- ARRL Letter, August 30, 2015

LICENSE EXAM NEWS

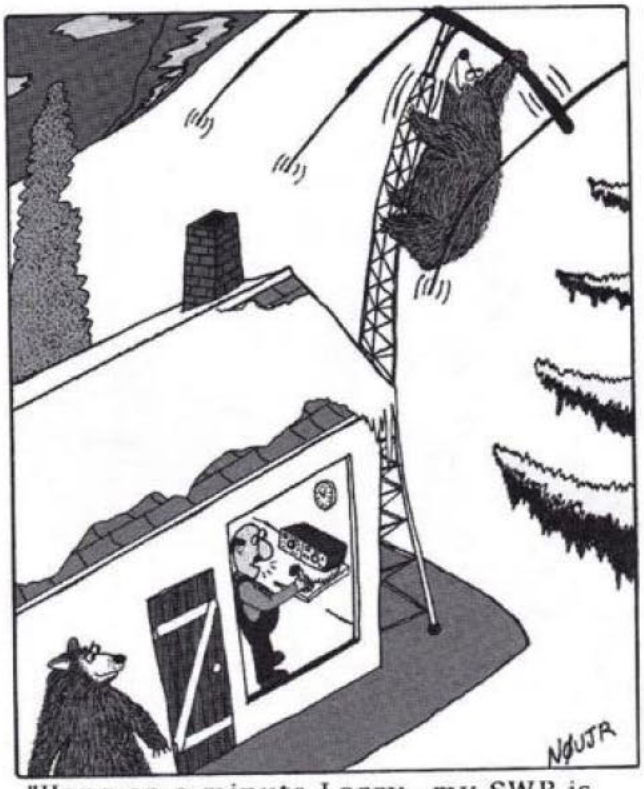
Dial's most recent license exam was Wednesday, August 12. 10 VEs served 11 applicants resulting in 9 new Technicians and one Amateur Extra. The Amateur Extra was our first applicant to take advantage of the FCC's recent decision to grant Element credit for an expired license. To qualify for credit, the applicant was required to pass the current Element 2 exam and provide proof of having held, and now expired (2003), amateur operator's license.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 21, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

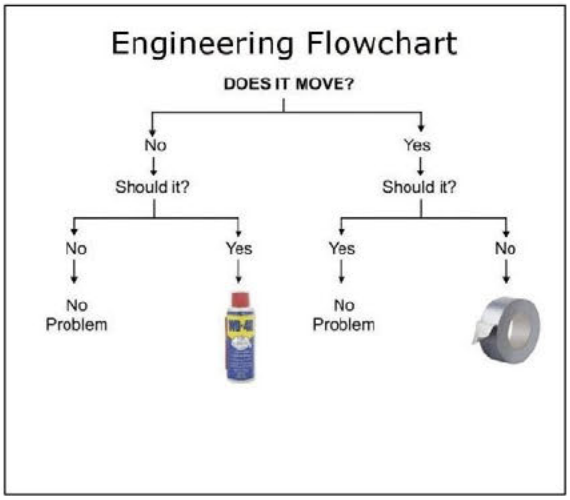
Next Dial exam will be at 6 pm on Wednesday, September 30, in the Verity Lodge, Miami University-Middletown.

- Carl, K8CM

A work party, at WNKU's antenna site on Breiel Boulevard, has been scheduled for Saturday, September 19, to demolish the wooden sheds, clean around the block building and to clear the vegetation around the guy piers. WNKU is providing a 'dumpster' but we will be responsible for providing our own tools for the demolition and vegetation removal. Healthy persons are invited to bring their chain saws and 'weed whackers' (metal blades especially) to use during the work party. It is likely that that a second weekend will be required to complete the work. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.



"Hang on a minute Larry...my SWR is jumping...I'm going outside and see what the problem is."



Next Meeting: Monday, September 21, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

Amateur Radio License Exams

An examination session in Technician, General and Extra Class Amateur Radio Operator's License will be available on

Wednesday evening, September 30, 2015
at 6 p.m. in Verity Lodge
Miami University-Middletown, Middletown, OH

Doors will open for registration at 6 p.m and examinations 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. The web site is self explanatory and the FRN registration is free.

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 146.61 (-600) 77 Hz PL
444.3625 (+5) MID Local-2 [DMR]

Next Meeting: Monday, September 21, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

Amateur Radio Class

Intermediate level Amateur Radio Class To Begin

Beginning October 7, 2015, the **DIAL RADIO CLUB** will offer a six-week class to prepare a candidate for examination in **General 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 November 11 and be followed by an examination session on Wednesday, November 25.

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 $25-30) for use in class.

Class enrollment may be limited to twenty students. For registration and/or additional information, please contact Beverley Taylor, N8GGE,
or Carl Morgan, K8CM,

Next Meeting: Monday, September 21, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

Amateur Radio License Exam

The Butler County Amateur Radio Association will offer amateur radio operator's license examinations, beginning at 9 am, on Saturday, October 17, 2015 at the Fairfield Township Police Department, 6485 Vonnie Vale Court, Hamilton, OH.

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 license ID number (FRN).

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 the FRN registration is free.

Walk-ins welcome - Preregistration not required.

Exams are free ... No test fees will be collected.

Additional information may be obtained from Thurl Golden, KD8VLU, or Carl Morgan, K8CM,

Talk-in will be available on W8WRK/R
146.700 - , 123 Hz PL

Next Meeting: Monday, September 21, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

DIAL RADIO CLUB

Middletown, Ohio

APRS Digipeater: W8BLV 144.39
Repeaters:146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 449.825/444.825
DMR 449.3625/444.3625
Web page: http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/ e-mail: W8BLV@QSL.net

President:
Ernie Howard, W8EH
Vice-President:
Dave Williamson, KD8W
Secretary:
Barney Taylor, N8HP
Treasurer:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF
Activities Manager:
Roy Dalton, N8LRN
Newsletter Editor:
Carl Morgan, K8CM
Webmaster:
Chris Nunn, WM8MM

the prez sez .....

Thanks to all who participated in the two cleanups at the radio station. We should be done with the work for the season. Next spring we will have to get together to spray weed killer to keep up the site. Special thanks goes to Ron, N8QF, for all the extra work that he did on this project.

Ernie, W8EH

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 17th, 2015 MEETING

Attendance

N8AA, W8ATG & Mary, KE8BDG & Sharon, K8CM, KD8CPB, N8DHW, WA8DTU, N8EH, W8EH, N8GGE, KC8GMR, N8HP, N8HRA, W8ISZ, W8LKU, N8LRN, NN8M, WD8NKJ & Fred, N8QF, KF8QS, NR8R & Barbara, KD8W, W8WLM, N8YFQ

Call to order:

Ernie, W8EH, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and asked for an 'around-the-room' self-introduction.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the previous month's meeting as published in the newsletter was made by Bob, NR8R, and seconded by Dave, N8YFQ. The motion passed with 1 nay.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, presented the Treasurer's report. Membership remains at 79 members representing 55 families. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Carl, K8CM, and seconded Barney N8HP. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: Monday, October 19, 2015 at the Golden Corral
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Membership:

Ron presented an application from Michael "Scott" Blevins, KE8BXT, (*now AC8US*) and Renee. The application was sponsored by Carl, K8CM. Ron moved and Dave, KD8W, seconded a motion to approve Scott's application. The motion passed unanimously. Welcome to Dial, Scott and Renee.

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported that the '61 repeater was working "good – so far as we know". The new Yaesu repeater has been installed at the West Middletown site and is working well. It is in automatic mode – meaning that it will accept analog (ordinary FM) or Yaesu's Digital signal and repeat the input. To keep from hearing the 'noise' resulting from listening to a digital signal on an older FM radio, Ernie suggested turning on tone squelch decode which will keep your old radio quiet when digital signals are being repeated.

The West Middletown site has been relocated to an outdoor cabinet, which allows repeater access without being accompanied by a Southwest Regional Water System employee. The duplexers were damaged on the old '715 repeater system and Ernie replaced them with the ones from the Club's trailer that were used for the 147.315 repeater at Hamvention.

The antenna problem persists at West Middletown, so the '315 repeater is only running 5 watts to prevent damage to the new repeater.

Dave, N8YFQ, thanked Ernie, and Roy, N8LRN, for their work in setting up the new West Middletown repeater. The audience responded with a nice round of applause.

Activity Report:

Roy, N8LRN, gave thanks to all that helped with the cleanup at the WNKU transmitter site.

Classes and Exams:

Beverley, N8GGE, reported that the next exam will occur on Wednesday September 30th at Verity Lodge, Miami University Middletown. Registration will begin at 6:00, VE's should try to arrive by 5:30 pm. A class to prepare students for the General Exam will begin on October 7th, again at Verity Lodge. The class meets for 6 weeks from 6:00 until 9:00 pm.

Beverley announced there is a new book for the General, and that she hoped to have the materials out to instructors soon.

Newsletter:

Carl, K8CM, made a motion to add Chris, W8OOO (*now WM8MM*) to the newsletter masthead as the Webmaster. Dave, KD8W, seconded the motion which passed without dissent.

Old Business

WNKU Work Party

Ron, N8QF, reported that he had taken 'before' and 'after' photographs of the WNKU site and sent them to Jim Stitt at WNKU. Jim responded with "Wow – what an improvement ... High 5 congrats to Club members".

Ron went on to report that 21 people had been present at the cleanup. One guy pier and some work around the transmitter remains. Three sheds were demolished, numerous scraps of hardline and steel were collected

and taken to Cohen Brothers. The rest of the debris went into a 30 yard dumpster which was filled at the end of the day.

Evan, KC8TXA, rented a Bobcat track loader with forks, and a 'bush hog'. Thanks to Evan's foresight and operating skill, the Work Party was much more effective than it would have been otherwise. Ron moved that the Club reimburse Evan for the rental. Ernie, N8EH, seconded and the motion passed with cheers.

Ron asked that we have another, shorter, Work Party at WNKU on Saturday October 3rd to complete the work.

Ron went on to reveal potential cash flow issue for the Club. With the purchase of the Motorola DMR repeater and a new antenna for 147.315 this year, the checking balance is lower than most years. Although WNKU, has agreed to reimburse the cost of the dumpster, Dial rented it. Once the Club voted to reimburse Evan, there is a potential that the balance will drop below the level where the checking account is free. Ron spoke of the possibility of having to cash in a Certificate of Deposit to maintain the minimum level for free checking. After some discussion, Ernie, N8EH, moved and Carl, K8CM, seconded a motion to allow Ron to cash in a CD if needed. The motion passed unanimously.

OTHER

Dave, KD8W, gave a report on the Ohio QSO Party results: All present seemed to have a good time, and Dial doubled its score from the previous year. Barney added that from the submitted logs, Dial will remain 4th in the multi-operator category, possibly due to more groups participating since the serial number of previous years has been dropped.

New Business

Ernie, W8EH, asked if anyone wanted to volunteer to host the November SSB Sweepstakes on the November 21st weekend. No one immediately responded, so Ernie is still looking for a 'Volunteer'.

Carl, K8CM, gave a short comparison of analog FM versus digital voice transmitted by a FM radio. Carl spoke of the strong signal superiority of digital and the weak signal issues that cause digital voice to fail when analog might be possible with degraded quality (*long time members of Dial might remember the 'Thornsburg Scale' which was based on how much the listener had to make up because the speaker was not solid into the repeater – n8hp*). After Carl's presentation there was a short discussion.

Carl announced that someone had left a cup at the Work Party and that he had it with him.

Beverley, N8GGE, announced that she had a platter that was left at Field Day. Roy, N8LRN, seemed relieved to have recovered Eve's platter.

Adjournment:

Ron, N8QF, moved and Dave, N8YFQ, seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary

WORKDAY AT WNKU

Recently Dial Radio Club entered into an agreement with the Northern Kentucky University radio station (WNKU) to provide certain outdoor maintenance services at their Middletown transmitter site in exchange for our continued use of the site and antenna tower for the W8BLV VHF repeater.

Next Meeting: Monday, October 19, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

View, to the East, before work begins -N8QF photo

What, you ask, was it like before the Dial team showed up to "improve the site"? That's much easier explained through a series of photos, all of which were taken before any of us raised a tool to the land.

A few years back, radio paging was in its heyday. "Everybody" carried a pager, usually activated by a telephone call, to summon them to their office, home, or to a client. One of the sites, or transmitter, locations was WPFB radio in Middletown. Paging transmitters occupied a portion of the white building and, as demand grew, more were placed in wood outbuildings in the same compound.

View, to the North, after cleanup -N8QF photo

Then cellular became the next big thing. The pager quickly lost ground because, now, two-way communication could be had rather than a one-way "call me" message. Paging companies discontinued service, moved out, abandoning structures.

Coupled with diminishing maintenance and attention to orderly landscaping strategies, the general area of WPFB's grounds began to deteriorate.

Guy anchors, three of them, are the ground termination points for the network of guy wires on the tower. Each anchor is home to five wires, each of the five, spaced along the height (535 feet) of the tower. The purpose of the guys is to maintain the vertical position of the tower and to resist twist in the wind.

Ineffective management of the vegetation with these anchor points made inspection and maintenance of the guys nearly impossible.

The broadcast tower is not set in concrete but is sitting up on an insulator using its own weight to keep it in place and depending on the guys to maintain the vertical position.

Rehabilitated guy anchor -N8QF photo

The property is now under the ownership of the Northern Kentucky University (NKU). It is also the home of our 146.61 repeater (in the wood building above). Dial's antenna is 330' above ground on the East side of the tower. *[Next time you're in the area take a look. We've the only antenna a little more than mid-way up the tower.]*

Next Meeting: Monday, October 19, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

Cleanup in the tower compound -K8CM photo

Saturday, September 19, was the first "workday" and a cadre of Dial members, twenty in total, spent the day removing outbuildings and unwanted vegetation at the base of the tower and within three guy anchor enclosures.

Work crew consisted of Barney, N8HP; Bob NM8M; Carl, K8CM; David, N8DHW; Dave, KD8W; Dave, N8YFQ, Ernie, W8EH; Evan, KC8TXA; Gordon, KC8GMR; Jim, W8IZF; Mark, WD8NKJ; Mark, N8YLS; Matt, KB1KDW; Paul, N8PFV; Ron, N8QF; Roy, N8LRN; Steve, KD8CPV; Tim, WA8YXY; Wesley, KD8RUT; and William, KD8SAT.

A second and final WNKU clean-up day was Saturday, October 3; most will remember as a wet and cold (48°-52° F) day. Hardy souls participating included Barney, N8HP; Ernie, N8EH; Ernie, W8EH; Evan, KC8TXA; Jim, W8IZF; Ron, N8QF; and Roy, N8LRN. This day focused on removal of vegetation at a third guy anchor and a general clean-up including debris, a tree stump, wood and metal scrap, resulting in a "tidying up" of the area.

Ron reported the "WNKU folks were pleased with our effort."

Bobcat & Operator -K8CM photo

Disassembly of outbuilding -K8CM photo

- Carl, K8CM

LICENSE EXAM NEWS

Dial's most recent license exam was Wednesday, September 30. Eight VEs served 11 applicants to whom 15 exam elements were administered. The 15 elements consisted of Element 2 (7 administered and 6 passing), Element 3 (6 administered and 3 passing), and Element 4 (2 administered and 2 passing). There were 4 new Technicians, four Generals, and 2 Amateur Extra licensees by the end of the evening.

One of the Generals passed Element 2 and 3 to earn a General for her first license. Another General went to a gentleman who passed Element2 and claimed credit for an expired Advanced Class license. Another bit of trivia, and the first one to so with us, was a Technician upgrade - from Novice.

Next Meeting: Monday, October 19, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

Future exams will be 9 am, Saturday, October 17, hosted by the BCARA at the Fairfield Township Police Department and 6 pm, Wednesday, November 25 in Verity Lodge, Miami University-Middletown. *[Announcements on pp 8 and 9]*

- Carl, K8CM

HAMVENTION "FULLY COMMITTED" TO HOLD 2016 SHOW AT HARA ARENA

Hamvention® General Chairman Jim Tiderman, N8IDS, is downplaying talk arising from an October 2 television news report and a more extensive and detailed October 3 Dayton Daily News article, that Hamvention might move from Hara Arena as early as next year. Tiderman characterized the reports "all speculation and rumor."

"In light of the Cox Media (Channel 7) television interview and the ensuing Dayton Daily News article, I, as General Chairman of the 2015-2016 Dayton Hamvention, want to assure all interested parties that the Dayton Hamvention is fully committed to the 2016 Dayton Hamvention at Hara Arena and Exposition Center," Tiderman stressed in a statement. "We still keep an open mind to alternate plans, in case they become necessary. All successful businesses need to do that, and Hamvention is no different in that respect." The Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) sponsors Hamvention.

The media reports said Dayton-area officials have been working together to keep Hamvention in the Dayton vicinity, if not at Hara Arena in Trotwood, where it has been held since 1964. Dayton TV station WHIO reported on October 2 that the Dayton/Montgomery County Convention and Visitors Bureau has been in discussion with the City of Dayton on a plan to ensure that the world's largest Amateur Radio gathering at least remains in Montgomery County, should Hamvention have to find another venue because of Hara Arena's financial problems. According to Bureau President and CEO Jacquelyn Powell, this isn't the first year that officials have considered "Plan B options," the WHIO and Dayton Daily News reports indicated.

According to the media reports, representatives of the City of Dayton, Montgomery County, Dayton Convention Center, and the Convention and Visitors Bureau will meet this month to review options for Hamvention organizers in the event a move from Hara Arena becomes necessary. Various alternative venues in the Dayton area are reported to have been considered, including the Dayton Convention Center and the Dayton Airport Expo Center, and the Dayton Daily News report said Tiderman has toured both facilities. Also raised was the possibility of holding the indoor exposition and the outdoor flea market at separate locations in the area, and ferrying visitors back and forth with shuttle buses.

The Dayton Daily News account said word of Hamvention's possible move from Hara Arena stemmed from a July e-mail from Karen Wampler, director of Marketing for Hara Arena, which the newspaper obtained through a public records request. The Wampler family owns the 165,000 square foot, six-building complex.

"We have shared the fate of the Trotwood/VenuWorks/Hara acquisition proposal with the [Hamvention] Chairperson and select board members of Hamvention," Wampler wrote in the e-mail, according to the

newspaper account. "While we have kept them informed throughout the process, they are reeling. They have much to lose with Hara's closing and, like us, believed we were close to stabilizing Hara for future growth, rather than ending her nearly 60-year run."

At Hamvention 2015 "Sneak Peak" posters in Hara Arena promised "Renovations in 2016."

Since last year, the Wampler family has been working with VenuWorks, which specializes in restoring event venues, to rejuvenate the deteriorating facility. Karen Wampler acknowledged last winter that Hara was facing financial challenges, flagging revenues, and competition from other Dayton area venues and was exploring "a new ownership model." By the time Hamvention 2015 took place last may, "Sneak Peak" posters in Hara Arena were advertising "Renovations in 2016" and portraying conceptual sketches of what a refurbished Hara might look like.

The newspaper account said that VenuWorks had recommended that the City of Trotwood purchase Hara Arena, but the Trotwood officials turned down the idea. That plan was the focus of Wampler's July e-mail, the Dayton Daily News article said. Wampler subsequently told the newspaper that Hara Arena is in better condition than it was when she drafted her July e-mail, and that the event complex will not close any time soon.

Hamvention puts millions of dollars into the Dayton-area economy each year. Last May, the show attracted some 25,000 visitors. Hamvention 2016 will take place May 20, 21, and 22.

Tiderman told the Dayton Daily News that "something catastrophic" would have to happen to cause Hamvention to move from Hara Arena.

- ARRL Letter, October 8, 2015

Everything you do is based on the choices you make. It's not your parents, your past relationships, your job, the economy, the weather, an argument or your age that is to blame. ***You*** *and only* ***you*** *are responsible for every decision and choice you make.*

Period!

Next Meeting: Monday, October 19, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

Amateur Radio License Exam

The Butler County Amateur Radio Association will offer amateur radio operator's license examinations, beginning at 9 am, on Saturday, October 17, 2015 at the Fairfield Township Police Department, 6485 Vonnie Vale Court, Hamilton, OH.

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 license ID number (FRN).

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 the FRN registration is free.

Walk-ins welcome - Preregistration not required.

Exams are free ... No test fees will be collected.

Additional information may be obtained from Thurl Golden, KD8VLU, or Carl Morgan, K8CM,

Talk-in will be available on W8WRK/R
146.700 - , 123 Hz PL

Next Meeting: Monday, October 19, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

Amateur Radio License Exams

An examination session in Technician, General and Extra Class Amateur Radio Operator's License will be available on

Wednesday evening, November 25, 2015
at 6 p.m. in Verity Lodge
Miami University-Middletown, Middletown, OH

Doors will open for registration at 6 p.m and examinations 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. The web site is self explanatory and the FRN registration is free.

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 146.61 (-600) 77 Hz PL
444.3625 (+5) MID Local-2 [DMR]

Next Meeting: Monday, October 19, 2015 at the Golden Corral
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DIAL RADIO CLUB

Middletown, Ohio

APRS Digipeater: W8BLV 144.39
Repeaters:146.01/146.61, 147.915/147.315, 449.825/444.825
DMR 449.3625/444.3625
Web page: http://www.qsl.net/w8blv/ e-mail: W8BLV@QSL.net

President:
Ernie Howard, W8EH
Vice-President:
Dave Williamson, KD8W
Secretary:
Barney Taylor, N8HP
Treasurer:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF
Activities Manager:
Roy Dalton, N8LRN
Newsletter Editor:
Carl Morgan, K8CM
Webmaster:
Chris Nunn, WM8MM

Happy Thanksgiving

the prez sez .....

The ARRL Field Day results were put on line last week. Dial ARC placed the best ever. We placed #1 for class 3A in Ohio and #1 in the ARRL Great Lakes Division. The Great Lakes division includes Ohio, Kentucky and Michigan.

Even with the Friday rain and area flooding during setup, the broken tribander, and the not so good band conditions, we prevailed.

Ernie, W8EH

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 19th, 2015 MEETING

Attendance

K8CM, KD8CPV, N8DHW, WA8DTU, N8EH, W8EH, N8GGE, KC8GMR, N8HP, W8ISZ, W8LKU, NN8M, WM8MM, NW8NW & Sharon, N8QF, KF8QS, KC8TXA, KD8W, W8WLM, KD8ZOV, KD8ZOW, Mark Haverkos (call unknown at the time of the meeting, but now KE8CIE)

Call to order:

Ernie, W8EH, called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm and asked for an 'around-the-room' self-introduction.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the previous month's meeting as published in the newsletter was made by Ernie, N8EH, and seconded by Steve, KD8CPV. The motion passed with no dissention.

Next Meeting: Monday, November 16, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, presented the Treasurer's report. Membership remains at 79 members representing 55 families. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Barney, N8HP, and seconded Dave, KD8W. The motion passed unanimously.

Ron also presented a summary of expenses for the year, and compared those expenses to the Club's income. Ron stated that although the checking account is low at this point an increase in Club dues is probably not needed. A discussion of dues and membership followed. (*That discussion is in New Business*).

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported on the status of the new West Middletown repeater. The antenna work has been completed. The new antenna is up and the repeater is now running at a full 20 watts output. Ernie and Carl have used the digital mode capability in a conversation. Ernie stated that a couple have been regularly using the repeater. Otherwise, it sits unused. Carl, K8CM, said that he had been told that it was working 'gangbusters' in Cincinnati. Steve, KD8CPV, has used it while mobile in Vandalia.

Carl, K8CM, reported that Echolink is working like a charm.

Activity Report:

None.

Classes and Exams:

Beverley, N8GGE, reported that three students arrived at Miami University Middletown for the General Preparation Class, and that the class would continue. The class runs for five more weeks and will be followed by an Exam session. That will end the educational/exam activity for 2015. It is likely that spring will have another Technician class. She stated that demand for the Extra course is so small that a class can be populated only every few years. If we have demand, the class can happen.

Newsletter:

Carl, K8CM, reported that the Newsletter distribution is 'all OK'. Everyone seems to be getting their copy. Beverley, N8GGE, expressed an opinion that the Newsletter arrives too soon – she prefers the older timing of getting it just before the Club meeting as a reminder. Carl joked that she might start getting two copies.

Website:

Chris, WM8MM, reported that the Club's website was up to date at the end of September.

Old Business

Evan, KC8TXA, gave a follow up on the last work party at WNKU. He listed those present and gave a summary of the activity. Apparently no one reported getting poison ivy this time.

New Business

Ernie, W8EH, appointed a Nominating Committee consisting of Roy, N8LRN (Chair) and Evan, KC8TXA. The Committee was charged with having a slate of candidates for the offices by the December election. Hopefully, they will have reports at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: Monday, November 16, 2015 at the Golden Corral
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Membership: As part of the discussion following the Treasurer's Report, increasing Club membership was cited as the best way to improve both the vitality and finances of the Club. In years past, membership was around 100 members from 70 or so families. An exchange of ideas about how to increase membership followed with no motions or decisions made:

Ernie, W8EH, asked if we need a Membership Committee. No one spoke in favor. Carl, K8CM, suggested a one-on-one interaction to get new Club members as being an effective way to recruit. Jim, W8ISZ, asked about a lower introductory rate for new members. The discussion the led to the free remainder of the year membership for persons that obtain their first license after completing a preparation course offered by Dial. Beverley, N8GGE, suggested giving the student's a membership form, already signed by a sponsor, at the end of the Technician course. Mark, KE8CIE, suggested adding a free PayPal link to the Club's homepage so that persons could make donations to support the club.

Barney, N8HP, reported that Jim Sullivan, NG8T, was a recent Silent Key. Jim talked of his travels to the Arecibo radio telescope a Dial meeting quite a few years ago. He stopped by the Club's booth at Hamvention to say Hi to the Taylors and to Ron almost every year.

Adjournment:

Ernie, N8EH, moved and Ron, N8QF, seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Barney Taylor, N8HP
Secretary

ARRL FIELD DAY 2015 RESULTS NOW AVAILABLE

Results of ARRL Field Day 2015 are now available. These include the searchable scores database, the soapbox, and the QST results article (PDF). A total of 2720 stations submitted entries for the ever-popular June 27-28 event.

While propagation was on the sorry side for Field Day 2015, the number of contacts for this year's event rose slightly over 2014 -- a modest 1.1 percent -- and CW contacts account for all of that increase; phone and digital contact numbers dipped slightly in 2015. Nearly 1.3 million contacts were logged during FD 2015.

The number of logs received appears to be an all-time ARRL Field Day record. This year saw 35,369 participants, down slightly from 2014.

A total of 1247 entries claimed the broad classification of "A" (which includes generator, commercial, and alternate/battery-powered entries). Joining that core group operating in temporary setups were an additional 315 Class B entries (one- or two-person entries). This indicates that 58 percent of all Field Day 2015 participants in some way took to the field.

- ARRL Letter, October 29, 2015

Next Meeting: Monday, November 16, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

LICENSE EXAM NEWS

Dial's most recent license exam was hosted by the Butler County Amateur Radio Association on Saturday, October 17. Seven VEs served six applicants to whom 9 exam elements were administered. The 9 elements consisted of Element 2 (4 administered and 2 passing), Element 3 (3 administered and 2 passing), and Element 4 (2 administered and 1 passing). There were 2 new Technicians, 2 Generals, and 1 Amateur Extra licensees by close of business at noon.

Next exam will be at 6 pm, Wednesday, November 25, in Verity Lodge, Miami University-Middletown. *[Announcement on page 6]*

- Carl, K8CM

THE ORIGIN OF "HAM"*... and it goes something like this*:

The word "HAM" was applied in 1908 and was the call letters of the first amateur radio club. Albert Hyman, Bob Almy and Peggy Murry first called their station HYMAN-ALMY-MURRY, but in code it was tedious so they changed to HYALMU. But confusion resulted between signals from HYALMU and a Mexican ship, MYALMO. They decided to use only the first letters of each name and identify as HAM. In those early unregulated days, amateurs picked their own frequencies and calls. Then as now some amateurs had better signals than some commercial stations. The resulting interference finally came to the attention of Washington, who proposed legislation critically limiting amateur activity.

In 1911, Albert Hyman chose the controversial Wireless Regulation Bill as the topic of his thesis at Harvard. His instructor insisted a copy be sent to Senator David Walsh, a member of the committee hearing the bill. Walsh was so impressed that he sent for Hyman who went on the stand and described how the little station HAM was built, and he almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the bill succeeded they would have to shut down because they could not afford the license fees and other requirements set up in the bill. The debate started and the little station HAM became a symbol of all the amateur stations in the country that were crying out to be saved from the menace and greed of the big commercial stations who didn't want them around. Finally the bill got to the floor of Congress, and every speaker talked about the little station HAM.

That's how it all got started. You can find the whole story in the USA Congressional Record. Nationwide publicity identified the station HAM with amateurs. From that time to this, and probably to the end of time, in radio..."Every amateur is a "HAM"

-Origin unknown

A SHORT NEWSLETTER THIS TIME

Perhaps some are saying 'he finally ran out of things to say' and, to some degree that's a fact. Would really appreciate you sending "stuff" that you'd like to share. Your submission can have a technical, operating,

Next Meeting: Monday, November 16, 2015 at the Golden Corral
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training, contesting theme - or anything else that you believe would be of interest to the group. Maybe some history of Amateur Radio ... or of Dial. *[BTW, Dial's 75th anniversary of affiliation with the ARRL will be May 9, 2016.]*

Deadline for copy is the first Monday of the month thereby giving me a week to get it in final form and saved as a PDF file. Copy may be in ASCII text, Word, WordPad, or *[legibly]* hand written.

- Carl, K8CM

Don't forget, 2016 renewal dues are $25, and due by January 1, 2016. They are, of course, payable any time before that date.

Please make your check payable to the "Dial Radio Club".

Our next license preparation class will be mid-to-late January and will focus on Element 2, Technician Class. This class will meet in Verity Lodge, on Wednesday evenings, 6 – 9 pm.

Please invite your family, friends, and acquaintances to participate in this class. Instruction is free, license manual (about $28) required.

Operator license renewals can now be processed, free of charge, by the Dial VE team. This is in addition to [free] on-line renewal and [paying] other agencies to renew for you. Renewal may be done anytime within 90 days prior to or within 2 years following expiration.

Next Meeting: Monday, November 16, 2015 at the Golden Corral
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Amateur Radio License Exams

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at 6 p.m. in Verity Lodge
Miami University-Middletown, Middletown, OH

Doors will open for registration at 6 p.m and examinations 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).

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If you are applying for your first license, please go to *https://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/coresWeb/publicHome.do* and obtain a FRN. The web site is self explanatory and the FRN registration is free.

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 146.61 (-600) 77 Hz PL
444.3625 (+5) MID Local-2 [DMR]

Next Meeting: Monday, November 16, 2015 at the Golden Corral
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President:
Ernie Howard, W8EH
Vice-President:
Dave Williamson, KD8W
Secretary:
Barney Taylor, N8HP
Treasurer:
Ron Spaulding, N8QF
Activities Manager:
Roy Dalton, N8LRN
Newsletter Editor:
Carl Morgan, K8CM
Webmaster:
Chris Nunn, WM8MM

Merry Christmas & Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy 2016

the prez sez .....

This month we will hold the annual elections. Our nominating committee of Evan, KC8TXA, and Roy, N8LRN, will be bringing a slate of officers to be voted upon. While we don't get many volunteers, if you are interested in serving as an officer, be sure to let them know.

Ernie, W8EH

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 16th, 2015 MEETING

Attendance

KE8CIE, K8CM, N8DHW, WA8DTU, N8EH, W8EH, N8GGE, KC8GMR, N8HP, N8HRA, W8ISZ, W8LKU, NN8M, N8QF, KF8QS, KD8W, W8WLM, N8YFQ

Call to order:

Ernie, W8EH, called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes of the previous month's meeting as published in the newsletter was made by Ernie, N8EH, and seconded by Dave, N8YFQ. The motion passed with no dissention.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, presented the Treasurer's report. Membership remains at 79 members representing 55 families. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Barney, N8HP, and seconded by Dave, N8YFQ. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: Monday, December 21, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

Treasurer's Report:

Ron, N8QF, presented an application from Mark Haverkos, KE8CIE and moved that he be granted membership. The motion was seconded by Ernie, N8EH, and passed unanimously. Welcome to Dial, Mark!

Repeater/Station Report:

Ernie, W8EH, reported that "everything's going good" with the Dial Repeater system.

Carl, K8CM, gave an update on Echolink activity. 157 callsigns have been logged resulting in 429 connections, 632 hours of connect time. Uncommon DX connections were from Taiwan, The Philippines, and Chile. Echolink continues to work well.

Activity Report:

None.

Classes and Exams:

Carl, K8CM, reported that Dial's last exam for 2015 will be held on November 25th at Verity Lodge, Miami University Middletown. The present class to prepare for the General has three students including Mark, KE8CIE, who also earned his Technician after completing Dial's previous class.

Newsletter:

Carl, K8CM, reported that the Newsletter is "going good".

Website:

It was pointed out that the Club's website has a broken link to the Membership Form. Carl, K8CM, informed those present that Chris, WM8MM, is having health issues, and that he expects the problem to be fixed once Chris is well.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Ernie, W8EH, announced that the cost of getting a handheld with DMR capability has dropped to $130 with a new radio by Tytera (MD-380).

Barney, N8HP, reminded those in attendance of the upcoming phone ARRL Sweepstakes and encouraged people to operate.

Dave, N8YFQ, congratulated the Club on its Field Day performance – first place in the Great Lakes Division (MI, OH, and KY). A short discussion period followed with people commenting on the score in spite of issues with equipment, weather, and so on. The capstone of the comments was from Ernie, N8EH: "Even a blind squirrel finds a nut occasionally".

Adjournment:

Dave, KD8W, moved and Dave, N8YFQ, seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Barney Taylor, N8HP

Next Meeting: Monday, December 21, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

Secretary

ARRL REITERATES CALL FOR FCC TO MAKE HISTORICAL LICENSEE DATA AVAILABLE

At the request of the FCC, the ARRL on November 13 filed supplemental comments urging the Commission to continue to make available via the Universal Licensing System (ULS) historical Amateur Radio license information not associated with a current licensee or a pending application. The League filed its initial comments in the proceeding, WT Docket 15-81, last June. In its earlier comments, the ARRL argued that historical license data not associated with a current license is a primary means for volunteer examiner coordinators (VECs) to research the validity of exam credit on the basis of a license once held by the candidate. ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, who filed the supplemental comments on November 13, said the Commission now wanted to know how many applicants were taking advantage of lifetime examination credit, which went into effect in the summer of 2014.

ARRL told the FCC that its VEC currently transmits an average of five applications with expired license credits each week, and has handled some 300 such applications since July 2014. The W5YI VEC told ARRL that it relies heavily on historical license information too. ARRL argued that the number could grow, as word of the expanded opportunity for exam element credit continues to spread.

"The Commission, having obligated VECs to validate claims of former licensee status and the data associated therewith cannot fairly take away a key resource for objectively evaluating the validity of applicants' claims and documentation," the League said in its supplemental comments. "To do so decreases substantially the ability of VECs to maintain the historically high degree of integrity of the Amateur Radio licensing process. Since the Commission clearly has no intention of assuming any of the burden of the validation process -- and is ill equipped to do so in any case -- the proposal is both unfair and illogical."

ARRL said that researching expired license credit is just one of several instances in which VECs might need to access historical license data. Other possibilities, the League said, could include using historical data to validate a candidate's identification, and to research exam credit for pre-1987 Technician licenses.

The League concluded by again asking the FCC to continue to make available historical license data at least to VECs, if not the general public.

- ARRL Letter, November 19, 2015

LEAGUE DUES TO RISE JANUARY 1

The Board approved a $10 increase in the League's annual dues rate, effective January 1, 2016. In so doing, the Board adopted a recommendation of the Administration & Finance Committee. ARRL basic dues have been held at $39 a year since 2001. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the League has done as much as it can to hold off a dues increase for more than a decade, but now it's a necessity, not an option.

"One of the most difficult decisions a membership organization faces is a dues increase," he said. "Over the past 14 years we have managed to hold the increase in expenses to just

Next Meeting: Monday, December 21, 2015 at the Golden Corral
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19 percent, against a US inflation rate of 32 percent over the same period," he continued. "We have implemented operating efficiencies that allowed reducing the staff by 15 percent while expanding the range of services to members and to Amateur Radio as a whole. We created a development program, offering to those members who have greater financial capacity an opportunity to support their national association at a higher level."

Enhanced membership services since 2001 include inauguration of Logbook of The World® (LoTW); a digital edition of QST at no additional cost; expanded QST and video product reviews; upgraded public service support including the Ham Aid program, Emergency Communications Training, and the ARES® E-Letter; the Education & Technology program and Teachers Institutes on Wireless Technology, and the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. Sumner aid that advocacy on behalf of Amateur Radio has included relentless defense of Amateur Radio spectrum, the Amateur Radio Parity Act, and an increased awareness of the value of Amateur Radio on Capitol Hill.

Details of ARRL's revenues and expenditures are available in its Annual Report archive for the years 2002 to 2014. The cost of a basic ARRL membership will rise to $49 on January 1, 2016. An ARRL Life Membership, now $975, will increase to $1225.

-ARRL Letter, July 23, 2015

IT'S A WRAP: WRC-15 CONCLUDES IN GENEVA

World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15) concluded its deliberations on November 27 in Geneva, as heads of delegations signed the Final Acts revising the Radio Regulations -- the international treaty governing the use of radio frequency spectrum and satellite orbits. Some 3300 participants, representing 162 out of the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) 193 member states, attended the 4-week conference. Another 500 or so participants, representing 130 other entities, including industry, also attended as observers. Festus Daudu of Nigeria chaired WRC-15. Nearly 4000 people attended WRC-15 at ITU Headquarters in Geneva.

"A great deal has been achieved in the last 4 weeks, and the results will have a major impact on the future of the telecommunication sector in general and radiocommunications in particular," ITU Radiocommunication Bureau (ITU-R) Director Francois Rancy said in a closing news release. WRC-15 addressed more than 40 topics related to frequency allocation and sharing.

The conference reached consensus on a new worldwide secondary Amateur Radio allocation at 5351.5-5366.5 kHz, with a power limit of 15 W effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP). Some Region 2 countries, but not the US, will be permitted up to 25 W EIRP. With this action -- and despite conditions that are more restrictive than had been hoped at the start of the Conference -- the Amateur Service has obtained its first new global HF allocation since 1979.

The 15 kHz band at 60 meters "will maintain stable communications over various distances, especially for use when providing communications in disaster situations and for relief operations," an ITU news release said. The

new band will not become available for use until the FCC addresses the WRC-15 Final Acts in a rule making proceeding and establishes operating parameters.

LEFT: PART OF THE IARU TEAM AT WRC-15. SEATED, L-R: BRYAN RAWLINGS, VE3QN; KEN YAMAMOTO, JA1CJP; HANS BLONDEEL TIMMERMAN, PB2T, AND COLIN THOMAS, G3PSM. STANDING, L-R: IARU VICE PRESIDENT OLE GARPESTAAD, LA2RR; IARU REGION 2 PRESIDENT REINALDO LEANDRO, YV5AM; ULRICH MUELLER, DK4VW; ARRL CTO BRENNAN PRICE, N4QX, AND DON WALLACE, ZL2TLL.

Threats by the mobile telephone/broadband industry in the vicinity of 10 GHz and 24 GHz have been averted for the time being, but are expected to be raised again at WRC-19 and/or WRC-23. The 144 and 420 MHz bands were excluded from the WRC-19 agenda item addressing short-duration (3 years) small satellites.

Agenda Item 1.12, addressing the Earth Exploration Satellite Service (10 GHz EESS), was approved at plenary with footnotes relevant to certain Middle East countries. The EESS allocation was tailored to avoid the Amateur-Satellite segment and poses no threat to terrestrial ham radio use of the band.

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) team at WRC-15 also focused its efforts on tweaking the agenda for WRC-19. Agenda Item 1.1 will consider 50-54 MHz harmonization in Region 1. A proposed agenda item to align the 160 meter allocation in Region 1 with the rest of the world did not make the cut. Thanks to ITU and RSGB

-ARRL Letter, December 4, 2015

SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST (SET)

The SET in Ohio, grid-down power outage, involved a lot of simplex work. In order to capitalize on that activity, Ohio ARES has launched the first, annual, ARES VHF Simplex Contest. It's simple, direct, and follows a civilized time frame.

Even something as simple as a temporary loss of power could necessitate using 2-meter/70-centimeter simplex as the main mode of local communication. We hope to both stimulate interest in the simplex modes along with data, and to create a fun atmosphere in which antenna performance and coverage can be determined very helpful for a real communications emergency!

The contest is open to all, and we hope to stir up a lot of simplex activity on January 9, 2016.

Now for the Rules..
ARES is tasked with being able to provide communications *When all else fails*. Local communication is critical and typically takes place on the VHF or UHF amateur band. In order to improve our ability to perform on these bands, Ohio Section ARES is sponsoring the ARES VHF Contest (Yeah, we know, but calling it the Ohio VHF /

UHF Contest got a little long-winded). Participants in the contest are encouraged to make as many contacts as possible within the time frame of the contest, with as many different geographical locations as the bands permit. The contest is open to all amateur operators, ARES members are strongly encouraged to participate. How else are you going to win the "bragging rights" session of your next ARES meeting?
When did you say it was?

The contest is January 9, 2016. The start time is (for those of us who sleep in) 10 AM through 6 PM Eastern. Yeah, a civilized time frame that doesn't rob sleep, and allows time with the family. Why, you can even watch a few cartoons in the morning!

Where you gonna be?

You may operate this contest from anywhere. There are certain benefits for venturing out from your warm, comfortable home station. EOC stations can gain extra points. Portable stations can gain even MORE extra points that is, if your frozen fingers will still be able to operate a keyboard. Portable stations MUST use portable antennas, nothing permanently attached...kind of like Field Day on ice. We are not going with any mobile operation this time. The image of a bunch of vehicles running around with portable towers, 150 pounds of antenna hardware and an occasional grounding anchor is best left to the ARRLcontesters.

Da Bands a-l-mode
Because local emergency communication takes place primarily on the two meter and 70 centimeter bands, the contest is limited to those two bands. Within each band, we will have these modes: FM Simplex, Everything else Simplex; DIGITAL simplex contacts will make up a third mode on each band. Contacts with a station count once per mode-if you can talk the other guy into abandoning his frequency and meeting you on SSB or CW, more power to ya! NO REPEATER CONTACTS WILL COUNT. If you get bored, you certainly are welcome to chat amongst yourselves on repeaters, or simplex, or cell phones, or smoke signals.

Da Contacts
The goal is to contact as many different stations in as many different counties as possible. You can make as many overall contacts as you like, they will then be multiplied by the number of counties you've reached. Extra points will be available for contacting an EC, AEC, DEC or ADEC or SEC. Pretty simple - any more complex and we'll confuse the scorekeepers.

Da Score
Each FM Simplex contact counts as 1 point.

Each non- FM simplex contact counts as 1 point.
Each digital simplex contact counts as 1 point. (Detect a pattern here?)
Contact with EC, AEC, DEC, ADEC, or SEC adds 5 points.
Contact with an EOC or with a portable station adds 5 points.
Operation from an EOC add 50 points to your total contact score.
Operation from a portable location add 100 points to your total contact score.

Total contact score (all bands/modes added together) will be multiplied by the total number of counties you contacted.

Da Logs
Please use any of the appropriate computer logging programs, paper dupe sheets, a well worn slide rule or rusty abacus. Just keep all that to yourself, we can' find anyone with the time to go through all the detail contacts. Submit an email to contest@delares.org with the following:

Your name:
Group name:
Location: (City, county)
FM Simplex Contacts:
Everything else Simplex Contacts:
Digital Simplex Contacts:

EOC bonus:
Portable bonus:
Total Contact Score (Add above together, but you figured that out already):
Multiply by total number of counties contacted (include your own!):
Bask in the glory of a well thought out, well executed effort!

-Section Manager e-mail

LICENSE EXAM NEWS

Dial's most recent license exam was held on Wednesday, November 25. Ten VEs served eight applicants to whom 12 exam elements were administered. The 12 elements consisted of Element 2 (4 administered and 4 passing), Element 3 (2 administered and 2 passing), and Element 4 (6 administered and 1 passing). There were 4 new Technicians, 2 Generals, and 1 Amateur Extra licensees by evening's end.

Next exam will be 6 pm, Wednesday, March 9, 2016 in Verity Lodge, Miami University-Middletown.

- Carl, K8CM

Don't forget, 2016 renewal dues are $26, and due by January 1, 2016. They are, of course, payable any time before that date.

Next Meeting: Monday, December 21, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

The Amateur's Code

by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE	never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
LOYAL	offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.
PROGRESSIVE	with knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station, and operation beyond reproach.
FRIENDLY	with slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.
BALANCED	Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.
PATRIOTIC	with station and skill always ready for service to country and community

Next Meeting: Monday, December 21, 2015 at the Golden Corral
Dinner at 6 followed by business meeting at 7

Amateur Radio Class

Introductory Level

Ham Radio Class To Begin !

Beginning January 20, 2016, 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 March 2 and be followed by an examination session on Wednesday, March 9. (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 $25-30) 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