



DELARA

Delaware Amateur Radio Association Newsletter



August 2011

Volume 30, Number 8

DELARA Meetings

- 3rd Wednesday of every month
- Tri-Twp. Fire Dept.
- 7:30 PM

DELARA On the Air

- Monday evening net
- 145.17 repeater
- 8 PM Call K8ES
- Volunteer for Net Control!

DELARA Officers

- President:
Tim Trombly K8TAT
- Vice President:
Dave Le May WB2CWJ
- Sec/Treas:
Ken Bird W8SMK

In This Issue

- Field Day! (all over)
- Mobile Mount Pg 6

The Calendar

- Aug 11 ARES Mtng
- Aug 17 DELARA
- Aug 18 Contest net
145.17 8:30P

This Month's Meeting:



There is a close link between Ham Radio and the hobby of RC flying. Dave and guests will have a profile of this sport that'll surprise you! And look for information from Bob, W8ERD, about Rt. 66!



The Prez Sez:

Tim K8TAT



A couple months back I wrote about my experience at Dayton shopping for my Icom 706, a great little radio package. Now I would like to touch on my experience with the different auto tuners I have tried.

I bought the 706 to run mobile, so I needed an antenna set-up that would work for me. Everyone's preference is different, but I wanted to run 6-40M HF without changing antennas. I looked at the cheapest route first which I believe to be the 8' whip coupled to a Icom auto tuner AH-4. It fit the bill pretty well, and even had some marginal capabilities on 80M. I found a whip antenna with spring mount at Radio Shack, and started to lay the system out. At the time I had my Toyota RAV4 which had plastic panels everywhere. It didn't have too many spots for antenna mounting, but I brainstormed and came up with a dual antenna mounting system that bolted underneath the spare tire carrier on the rear hatch. It carried the uhf/vhf on one side and HF antenna on the other side, and with some additional grounding straps, this mount was a very good fit for my application. It even had a spot back there to mount the antenna tuner out of the weather near the whip antenna. It was behind and underneath the spare tire carrier mount which as some know doesn't hold up too well when hit by a semi! We are survivors, even the antennas and mount held up, but they were bent a bit.

The home antenna set-up is a 160M loop. I have the capability to tune 6 thru 160M with this beast with another Icom auto tuner, the AT-180. It's made to be feed by coax and not a wire feed like the AH-4, so with the loop I had to use a 4-1 balun into coax into the tuner, then into the 706 which does well for me at my home QTH.

Now it's time for the "new" version of my HF mobile antenna set-up for the 706. It was recommended by another club member. In the process of getting mounted in my new truck is a mini screwdriver antenna with a N2VZ Turbo tuner - basically a plug and play unit between the antenna and the 706 which lets you hit the tune button on the front of the radio and it adjusts the screwdriver antenna for the desired frequency. My antenna set-up is for 6-40M, and it seems to be compact enough where it doesn't get in the way!

So just a few different options of tuners for the 706 are out there. I believe another club member has had good luck with the SGC tuner also coupled to a 706, so just look around for the tuner that fits your set-up, I'm sure its out there.

Hope to see you all at the meeting this month; I'm sure Dave has something good to share again with us, so see you there.

73,
K8TAT, Tim

There's a Buzz in Your Audio!

A series of reports from Ken, W8SMK, reveals a lot about the care and feeding of a repeater. I'm sure John, Laura and others who operate these machines which we take for granted can attest to the trials and tribulations. It all started when the North Site disappeared. Ken dropped everything and examined the issues at the site. He was met by a welcoming committee of angry winged things.

"Thought we had it fixed tonight, but nope. I have to go back up in the A.M. to do more testing. The interesting part of the story is I was again met by a flood of bees at the door so I sprayed the hole they were getting into. Then I thought 'where the Hell are they going in here?' Well, after looking stupid for a while, I finally found it! A huge (about 8" round) hornets nest under the shelf that John's equipment is sitting on."



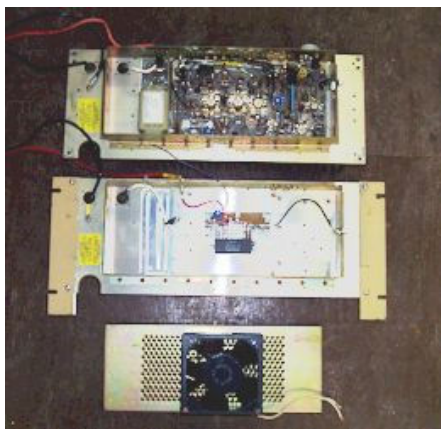
"My spray can was empty, so I grabbed my stuff and ran! Luckily I found Gary on the air and asked him to buy another can and spray the nest, which he did. An hour or so later, we returned to install my RX (which turned out not to be fixed) and we were successful in removing the hornets nest and the few remaining survivors."

There are some technical improvements underway-Ken reports he is swapping out the existing power amplifiers (and their spurious RF) with new 80 Watt modules much smaller, cleaner and less demanding.

The old PA→

New module→

Heat sink →



Order your DELARA T-shirt and Hat!

It's been a while! Several of us have expressed interest in obtaining a DELARA T-shirt and hat. These help identify radio operators at public service events, and get us noticed at hamfests and other occasions. Ken, W8SMK, has done some research, and will be taking orders at this month's club meeting. The price will be good. You can email Ken with your requests as well.

(back)



(front)



Ham News and Calendar

- 8/15 Monday evening classes with W8ACE, 8 weeks at Muskingum Co. EMA with test Oct 3rd (Tech level course)
- 8/20 Portsmouth Hamfest
- 8/21 55th Annual Warren Hamfest
- 8/27 COLVET General Class study 9:30AM-3 Whetstone library
- 8/28 Cambridge Hamfest/Computer show
- 8/29 COLVET Test session 6PM Whetstone Library
- 9/17 "I Have My License, What Is Next?" operating seminar, Universal Radio 9:30 AM

Operating events

- **NAQP - SSB**
1800z 8/20 – 0600z 8/21
- **ARRL Rookie Roundup RTTY**
1800z 8/21 – 2359z 8/21
- **OHIO QSO PARTY**
1600z 8/27 – 0400z 8/28
- **All Asian DX - SSB**
0000z 9/3 – 2400z 9/4
- **QCWA Fall QSO Party**
1800z 9/3 – 1800z 9/4
- **Tenn QSO Party**
1800z 9/4 – 0300z 9/5
- **OH Parks on the Air**
1600z 9/10 – 2400z 9/10
(noon to eight local)
- **ARRL Sept VHF**
1800z 9/10 – 0300z 9/12
- **CQ Worldwide RTTY**
0000z 9/24 – 2400z 9/25

Contribute!

We need your articles, comments and ads!

Newsletter@k8es.org

Contact Us

clubinfo@k8es.org

elmer@k8es.org

http://www.k8es.org



Special Event for the Delaware All-Horse Parade



It's that time of year again! The horses are getting ready to step out of the fairgrounds and make their way through the streets of Delaware to thrill the spectators. As this year's parade falls on the 10th Anniversary of 9/11, there will be a special feature honoring the fallen First Responders of that day. If you are interested in participating in the event, please let me know. My number is 740-363-7078. Please leave a message if my answering machine picks up as I am frequently in and out.

- Linda, N8FES

As preparations are being made for the 26th All Horse Parade, activities in the 1st are fondly remembered. In early summer of 1985, my former childhood neighbor, Lyle Byers, was organizing the 1st All Horse Parade. He contacted Don and me to ask us to participate. He wanted at least 100 entries. We had a Haflinger pony and Amish cart and harness. As September came closer, we prepared the horse and equipment. Finally, it was parade day! What fun it was interacting with the other participants, before and after the parade. There were over 120 entries and it was a huge success! We had two entries for several years. This year will commemorate the 10th Anniversary of 9/11. There will be approximately 550 horses, donkeys and mules in this year's parade. It is billed as the largest horse parade, east of the Mississippi. It is truly a parade for all ages. I am looking forward to watching this year's parade from my assigned corner on North Sandusky. I hope you can share in this event with your family. *(Photos courtesy of Barbara -ed)*

- Barbara, N8BSS



DELARA will be operating a special event again this year in honor of the the 26th Annual All-Horse Parade. As with last years event we'll be operating from our home stations. If you're not setup for HF at home and would like to operator let me know. As requested the event has been extended to a week to give everyone time to operate. We only operated 3 days last year and logged just under 600 QSO's. We'll be using the same web based software as last year courtesy of our friends at The St. Louis and Suburban Radio Club (SLSRC). Sign-up sheet will be available at our next meeting.

Below are the published frequencies in QST. If you're working on a different frequency or mode that's not a problem just post a spot on the DX cluster and they will follow:

Sep 10-Sep 18, 0000Z-2359Z, K8H, Delaware, OH. Delaware Amateur Radio Association. 21.340, 21.040 14.340, 14.040 7.240, 7.040 3.840, 3.540. Certificate. Online Special Event Certificate

- Gary, K8EHB



ARES Happenings

Stan, N8BHL



Bicycles! More bicycles! It feels like our whole summer has been taken up in very large bicycle events. Just as we were winding down from 2,400 participants in GOBA, we were invited to communicate for another large event that promised to be impressive- the Giant Eagle Triathlon. Held July 31, this event was at the "Iron Man" level, with professional competitors and room for 2,000. Their first year didn't produce that number - there were 675 competitors - but that was a large enough number to require our attention and the attention of 125 police officers charged with holding the angry, fist-waving drivers back while the bicyclists made their way to Downtown Columbus! Our hats go off to the Delaware County Sheriff Deputies we watched taking abuse while retaining a professional demeanor.

Something important happened behind the scenes of the Giant Eagle Triathlon you should know about. In the planning and execution of the ARES coverage, 5 different Amateur Radio organizations worked together seamlessly and without much preparation. If the purpose of running these events is to practice for a real emergency situation, then we in Central Ohio have shown that we're ready! The event coordinators approached Kal Dworkin, KA8RLC - Franklin County ARES EC - with their initial request. Kal quickly relayed the word to us in Delaware. Kal visited our ARES meeting last month to detail COARES operations, and we talked as a group about the Triathlon. Craig, W8CR - one of the Assistant EC's for Delaware County - attended a meeting with COARES and all the law enforcement departments involved. As the last week arrived, we were still short some communicators, so I put the word out to our friends at R.A.C.E. (urban search and rescue) and to Marion and Morrow county ARES. In return email, Dan, N8WOB, volunteered from Marion. Later Kenny, KC8VWP from RACE filled an empty slot and off we went!

The whole point is that our Central Ohio EC's keep in frequent contact and our joint enthusiasm and respect allows for instant cooperation. Remember that "The Big One" won't stop at a county line; we will need to draw from, and provide for our neighbor hams when the time comes!

We do have a chance to give back - the Pelotonia bicycle event (From Columbus to Athens and back, August 20-21) will be run by COARES in much the same fashion as TOSRV. Canned Ham will be stationed at the return site Sunday, and there are openings if any of you would like to install in a

vehicle (SAG, Medic, etc) and make the full trip. Accommodations will be available at OU overnight. Contact me or Kal directly if you're interested.

One More! We have one more bicycle event coming September 24, a ride through Union and Delaware counties sponsored by the Deaf Service Center. This ride will be "GOBA style" with 3 different levels: a ride within Glacier Ridge Park in Dublin, a 35 mile ride aimed at Ostrander, and a 65 mile ride going around Ostrander and Magnetic Springs. This promises to require a large number of operators for the day.

Much like this newsletter is really the creation of our group of very talented writers, our ARES activities are successful because of our group of Assistant EC's. Big thanks to all:

Tactical Ops: Craig Miller, W8CR
PIO: Sandy Mackey, N8YS
Technical: John Beal, W8SJV
NTS Liaison: Larry Mittman, N9AUG
Net Manager: Joe Papworth, K8MP

Thanks also to Gary Mackey, K8EHB for working on digital media, Bob Dixon, W8ERD for technical resources, and Ken Bird, W8SMK for birthing the N8DCA repeater.

My biggest thanks go to all the ARES members who have given up their time for public service- in doing so have made themselves ready to handle the real emergency when it comes! Our members have so far this year put in 1,718 hours of volunteer time! I'm amazed.

ARES is on the web! Delaware County ARES now has its own website: <http://www.delares.org>. Stop by and look it over. We share the DELARA calendar for event scheduling. We plan on adding training material and other resources for members and visitors alike. There is a membership form there if you would like to join us! You would be a welcome addition!

20 / 10 Years Ago in DELARA

August, 1991- The Jug's "All Horse Parade" was detailed, with DELARA providing communications. A report praised the food and friendship at the annual picnic.

August, 2001- The meeting featured TV Tech K8XU detailing the newest broadcast technology- HDTV. Joe, K8MP, was still decompressing in Joe's Place from a Field Day high.

DELARA is on the Internet!

"Like" the Delaware Amateur Radio Association's Facebook Page! And check out all the features on our DELARA website: <http://www.k8es.org>!



Howdy from Joe's Place...

It's deadline time and once again I don't have a newsletter topic burning in my brain. I'll sit here a minute in hopes that the words will start pouring from my finger tips.

Ah, here's something:

I haven't submitted anything work-related in a while so maybe it's about time. I was recently trained on a fancy x-ray machine that is used by dentists, orthodontists and Eye-Ear-Nose-and-Throat (aka EENT) docs.

The patient sits in a chair and the x-ray source and detector plate rotate around them. It moves a full 360 degrees, taking more than 600 scans (or "slices") while it's moving. The pictures it takes are amazing. The raw files are "reconstructed" by the software and once stored on disk, the doctor can view the patients head in a number of ways, depending on how "deep" he needs to look.



The unit is big. You need a step ladder to work on the top section which is where the drive motor and its encoder are located. The motor is a surprisingly small stepper motor. I say surprising because the x-ray source, called a monoblock, weighs close to fifty pounds itself. Combine that with the weight of the

detector plate and the steel arm between them, and you have a lot of weight to move.

The control electronics are located in the vertical portion of the pedestal. There are several circuit boards in there along with some hefty power supplies. By the way, the super-high voltage (140 KV) required to produce the x-rays is actually developed inside the monoblock itself. It is a sealed and shielded unit with just a few connections to the outside world. The only opening is a small "window" where the x-rays exit the assembly. When a monoblock fails, you replace the whole thing. I've had to replace a few of them already.

A word about x-rays:

I had been under the wrong assumption that x-rays were no more hazardous to work around than microwaves and other very high frequency radiation. The first thing they taught us was that x-rays are *ionizing* radiation, meaning that they can actually affect the molecular structure of things. The first thing I thought of were they old Star Trek episodes where Bones (aka Dr. McCoy) would determine a cause of death as being by "total cellular disruption." X-rays don't work *that* fast, but a steady over-dose can be quite devastating

Needless to say, I have a much healthier respect for x-rays now. And we are required to wear a Dosimeter whenever we work on one of the units.

I hope to see you all at the August meeting, but if not, then in September...

At Joe's Place

Assistant ARRL Section Mgr Named

John A. Frederick, N8GOU of Cincinnati has been appointed as an Assistant Section Manager (ASM) in charge of Training for the Ohio Section.

John is currently the Senior Electrical Engineer at the St. Bernard Soap Company, where he is responsible for the plant power and control systems. It was his second career that led him to apply for the ASM-Training position. He spent 27 years in the United States Air Force Reserve as a Base Emergency Manager.

From the website- Need an Elmer

I am looking for a local club that's interested in giving Extra Class training or someone that has the patience to help me
- Greg DeChant gdechant@roadrunner.com ...Any takers?

Contact Tim, K8TAT if you have a tech book for another prospective ham!

(thump-thump, "32,423")
(thump-thump, "32,424")

Did you know...

(thump-thump, "32,425")

that there are...

(thump-thump)

32,426 expansion joints from...

(thump-thump)

the Kentucky-Tennessee border...

(thump-thump)

to Cleveland, Tennessee,...

(thump-thump)

on Interstate 75? Well...

(thump-thump, "32,428")

now you know.

King of the Hills

Craig Miller, W8CR



Thank God I heard a voice on 146.52, don't hear much activity on VHF simplex around these hills. He was calling somebody that wasn't there so I gave a shout, "N4AOW (thump-thump) W8CR mobile". His name is John, lived just north of Cleveland which is just north of Chattanooga. We shoot the breeze, anything to break the monotony. We've been on the road for about 7 hours heading to Pell City, Alabama, and Lake Logan-Martin off of I-20 near Talladega. Our QSO covers the gambit: price of gas, mowing lawns, anything.

"Well, John, we're gonna visit the XYL's family at the lake for July 4th and thinking of maybe spending some time on our way back to take in Chattanooga (Ruby Falls, Lookout Mountain and, yes, home of the "International Towing and Recovery Hall of Fame and Museum"-yoohoo!)."

John mentions he's in his shack up on a ridge about 80 feet above his house and has real good VHF coverage. That's neat, he must really live on some hilly property to have a building 80' higher than his house. He's on 1 watt, simplex, great signal. He further elaborates "I'm in an 80 foot fire tower I erected on my property..."

WHAT???! "John, do you happen to know Mel, K4JFF, in Kennesaw, Georgia?"...

(FLASHBACK)

You remember a coupla months ago I was telling you about a ham we met in Georgia that lived on Pine Mountain, the site where a Confederate Civil War general was fragmented by a direct hit from a Union shell? Well, he told me about a friend of his that built an 80' fire tower and moved his shack in it...

"Yes I do, just spoke with him a few hours ago. I'm planning on heading down there sometime and visit".



Talk about a "tree house"!

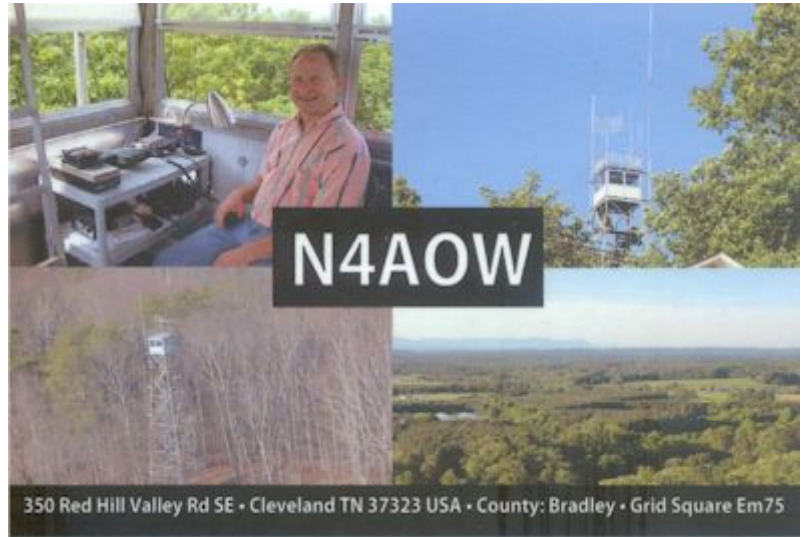
Bizarre, it's that small world thing again. What are the odds of me bumping into a guy in an 80' fire tower that has a mutual friend 90 miles to our south. Since we were coming back through Chattanooga next weekend, I begged to let us come by and see the tower. "Next Friday was bad but maybe Saturday..."

We roll on down to the lake, greet the in-laws, unpack. I string up a G5RV and set up the FT897, "Let's go boating!".

Well, ever since meeting Mel back in December, I've been keeping in touch with him and another ham Harry, KC3MX in Newport News, VA, Sundays on 40 meters SSB. To keep the Sunday sked, I fire up the rig where I find Mel and Harry at the usual spot. Mel already heard about me running into John. Mel was 115 miles from me and 40 meters was rather difficult at the distance/time of day. Mel suggested I try hitting the WB4GNA 147.90 repeater located on top of Cheaha Mountain between us. That worked. Cheaha is about 30 miles to my east and the highest point in Alabama at 2,400+ feet with oodles of antennas and repeaters on top. Mel can hit that site on less than a watt from his mountain perch in Kennesaw, north of Atlanta. He helps me make arrangements for us to meet up with John the next weekend. Mel communicates to John also 2 meter on simplex, regularly. Talk about mountain-topping!

The week drags on, eating, boating, napping, fireworks. Can't wait to get to Chattanooga and the tower! Friday finally arrives. We pack up the rust-bucket, say adios to the kinfolk and hit the superslab - next stop Chattanooga.

Chattanooga is a very, very nice city - tons of stuff to see and do. Historically, Chattanooga was the scene of the decisive Battle of Lookout Mountain, a critical turning point of the Civil War. Being a major railroad hub (ever heard of the Chattanooga Choo-choo?) the Union's victory opened up the supply line for the Sherman's march south. The caverns of Ruby Falls are also fascinating and be sure not to miss the Tow Truck Museum (there really is one - it's great!).



John's address is punched in the GPS. We head out of town to the hills of Cleveland. John keeps tab on me on 2 meters. We pass several homes that look like they've been through a war (missing roofs, trees down). The GPS actually sent us miles out of the way, he got us turned around and soon enough, there's the driveway. It's steep, very steep, up we go, we almost needed a Sherpa. John's house sits on top of a very high hill (or more like a small mountain) with a beautiful view of the Tennessee countryside. Out back, not very far from the house, there it is, nestled in the trees, reaching to the sky - the Tower!

John explains that several years ago, a friend of his bought the tower from the US Forestry Service for micro-pennies on the dollar (taxpayer money at work). Circumstances dictated that the friend unload the tower (a wife thing, I think). John bought it and began preparations to erect it on his vacant property on top of the 1100' (above sea level) ridge. He soon discovered pieces were missing so he ended up buying another scrapped tower. Between the two, he had enough Erector set parts to assemble a complete unit.

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The tower was made by the Aermotor Windmill Company, famous for the once popular farm windmills. No piece is over 20' long or over 100 pounds. This clever design requirement allowed the structures to be erected in remote locations without the advantage of a crane or other heavy equipment. He over-built the four peers the legs are bolted to. Each leg is strapped to a 5'x 5' x 1' reinforce concrete pad buried 6 feet under and sprouting a 2'x 6' concrete peer. That is a lot of freak'n concrete! He calculated the tower could withstand 120 mph gust, a typical installation only rates the foundation to handle 80 mph blows.



Like an iceberg, only a small percent shows

He recruited friends (what friends!) to assemble. In two weekends they were able to complete up to 40' using scaffolds. At the 20' level, he built a full deck, not typical in other towers. The last 40' he opted to assemble on the ground and bring in a sky-hook to hoist it up. "Best money ever spent", he said. In reality, the height of the tower is measured to the floor of the lookout cabin. He took it one level further and built a hatch and another deck on top of the lookout house, which pushed the elevation to 87 feet. Clamp on an assortment of antennas, the highest of which reaches 135 feet!

Obviously, the view from the top is OUTSTANDING!. John apologized for the high July humidity which reduced visibility (like it's his fault). He said the fall is the best for gazing: crystal clear atmosphere and changing colors of the oaks and maples for miles and miles. As he points to south/southeast, you can make out a mountain/ridge way off in the hazy distance: "There's where Mel lives, about 90 miles that way." No wonder they can work each other on VHF simplex with 1 watt, they could see each other on a clear day with decent binoculars!

I asked John about the damaged homes we saw driving up here. The big tornado outbreak that consumed the South on April 27th tore right through Cleveland. He was in the tower providing weather reports throughout the ordeal until lightning forced him to a more sensible location. Talk about having huge ####s (crude anatomical reference deleted)!

We could have spent hours up there just enjoying the view and the engineering of the tower but didn't want to overstay our welcome. So down we go and bid goodbye. Heading back down the driveway was as harrowing as the climb but we made it to the road. What a treat. Being a flatlander and not having an enormous tower in the back yard (yet) I never really appreciated VHF/UHF simplexing.

These guys down here that live on top of mountains OWN the triple digit frequency bands. And John is the King of the Hills!



John, N4AOW, "Gotta keep them kids off of it."



Fun fact: Each tower has a name.



Aaron entering the hatch to the cabin: "No girls allowed!"



VHF and UHF is John's domain. The green stuff out the window are the TOPS of the trees.



"On top of the world looking down on Creation...".
Behind John is the flag pole/lightning rod.



Up close view of the flag pole/lightning rod - it took a hit a few weeks ago. It is charred.



I HAVE MY LICENSE, WHAT IS NEXT?

colvet.org
No Registration
Required.

Join us on Saturday September 17, 2011 for a comprehensive group of presentations on Amateur Radio at Universal Radio. These forums are for new Hams, perspective Hams as well as those Hams looking for new challenges in Amateur Radio. We have assembled a Blue Ribbon panel of speakers for a comprehensive group of talks on Amateur Radio. We'll start at 9:30 AM and run until 3:30 PM. Feel free to stop in or come and hear all the speakers.

Featured speakers include:

Ron-W9WL, Speaking on how to choose your 'first radio'. Which functions are a must and others you'll never use.

Frank-K18GW, Ohio ARRL Section Manager on the League and the Ohio Section. Future of Amateur Radio as well as the historical past.

John-W8RXX, Central Ohio Radio Club Trustee of the 146.76 W8RXX/R repeater. Speaking on repeaters and repeater etiquette.

John-KD8DVR, Speaking on satellite operations through a handheld.

Stan-N8BHL, Delaware, Ohio ARES Emergency Coordinator. What to expect on both the provider and provided for end.

Matt-KB8UVN, Builder of the largest Packet system in Ohio. The digital modes that everyone can do on a budget.

Beyond the presentations we'll have a tour of the showroom, demonstrations and refreshments. This is the opportunity that most new Hams will never have to see this many experts and leaders of Amateur Radio at one time in such an intimate setting.

Bring your questions. Bring your friends. This will get you a large amount of experience in one quick event.

Senate Bill 93 Introduced

Ohio Senate Bill 93, a Bill that enacts sections 303.214, 519.214, 713.082, and 5502.031 of the Revised Code to codify federal restrictions on local zoning of amateur station antenna structures, thereby preserving amateur radio service communications as a Homeland Security resource, has been introduced to the Ohio Senate.

The bill can be found at the following URL:
http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=129_SB_93

I would like for all Ohio Hams to contact your State Senator to support this Bill in its many states of progression. At this time, we are not sure to which Committee this Bill will be assigned. As always, I will keep you informed.

-Nick Pittner, K8NAP

CQ TEST...
KV8Q



K8MP gets a contest surprise

Joe, K8MP, was surprised to receive a nice piece of wallpaper in the mail- declaring him First Place, Mixed Mode, High Power in the Ohio Section for the 2010 IARU HF World Championship contest!

Joe says, "It shows how a little time and effort can pay off. I only operated 6-1/2 hours, making just 600-plus CW QSO's and a whopping 14 SSB QSO's."

Three weeks ago, Joe received top Single-op honors for the 2009 North American QSO Party.

Ohio QSO Party coming up!

DELARA always puts up a good show for this! The Ohio QSO Party starts at noon, local until Midnight local time. DELARA Contest Team took FIRST PLACE last year, and we had several individual operator honors. So get your rigs warmed up and your software updated- we can do it again this year!

Another operating event that gets a lot of interest is the "Ohio State Parks on the Air". It's from noon to 8 PM local time September 10. It's a great time to enjoy the parks and score some contacts!

DELARA Field Day

If you have spare time take a peek at the Ohio Sections website: <http://www.arrl-ohio.org/>, we are mentioned in there a few times and it's worth a look.

We are in the planning stages for our 2012 Field Day (which as I write this is 323 days away), so if you have any comments or suggestions that you think will help us out next year, let me know. If you know of something that you thought went good or bad, let me know. Feedback is always critical in planning an event. We have ordered a replacement dipole for the GOTA station, and we think that will work out pretty good.

If any of our captains from 2011 are interested in being captains again in 2012, please send me an email or give me a phone call. - Sandy, N8YS

Gary came over here tonight and we assembled the new GOTA and general purpose trap dipole, and put connectors on the coax. The antenna connections are just twisted, not soldered, so we can adjust after testing if needed. The rope is coiled up and taped. Testing is the next phase. Then we need to figure out how to coil it neatly for use in the future.

- Bob, W8ERD