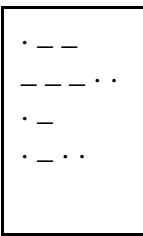


THE FEEDLINE

THE CANTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

August 2008



New Officers to be Elected

You won't want to miss the September 17 meeting of the Canton Amateur Radio Club. Members will get the chance to elect a new slate of officers for the months and years ahead.

This year, the position of President, Vice President and two Trustees will be on the ballot. President Scott Mathews W8JT and Vice President Roger Gray W8VE will vacate the positions they now hold.

Holding an officer's position in the club is, unfortunately, not a job that will make you rich. Instead, rewards come from serving your fellow club members and being involved in activity planning.

Voting is restricted to members in good standing who are present at the meeting.

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT
Scott Mathews W8JT
VICE PRESIDENT
Roger Gray W8VE
SECRETARY
Bill Hannon N8PW
TREASURER
Tina Popa KC8ZWE

TRUSTEES:

Dale Lamm NX8J
Gary Marks WD8ICX
Dennis Moriarty K8AGB
Gary Osborn WA8ADA
Alan Savage N8MYE
Jerry Shrigley N8YB

PUBLICITY DIRECTOR:

Dennis Moriarty K8AGB

CLUB REPEATER
146.790

MEETINGS
EVERY 3RD WED 7:30P
STARK COUNTY E. O. C.
LOWER LEVEL
STARK COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
RT 62 EAST

TRUSTEES MEETING
EVERY 3RD WED 6:15P
STARK COUNTY E. O. C.

"THE FEEDLINE"
PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY
BY THE CANTON ARC
DEADLINE NEXT ISSUE
IS OCTOBER 1, 2008

EDITOR

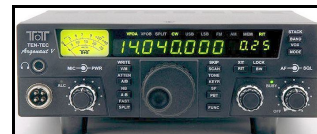
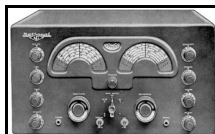
Dale Lamm NX8J

Tech Classes Start this Fall

Canton ARC is pleased to host member Bill Hannon N8PW for six weekly classroom sessions this fall. People who want to obtain the entry level amateur radio license class known as "technician" will benefit from Bill's teachings.

Come to the meeting on September 17 or contact Bill directly for final schedule details. An ARRL workbook costing \$25 will be required for participants.

Bill is a captivating instructor who has years experience teaching amateur radio theory. Beyond the knowledge required to pass the FCC exam, Bill teaches valuable lessons from his storehouse of real-world experiences.



Can you name all four items above correctly? If so, see NX8J to claim your prize! I need model numbers, not just say "a radio" or "a microphone".

Remember this puzzle? The editor had scant few entries. Only one ham provided all the correct answers.

Congratulations to Sam Plessinger, W8GRP of Canton for handily solving this puzzle!

Venturing Crew 73

Activities and News

Canton ARC charters BSA affiliated Venturing Crew 73. Crew advisor Dale NX8J would like to mention that the unit will appear at Seven Ranges Scout Reservation October 18 for JOTA activities. A district-wide "Camporall" is also scheduled.

JOTA stands for Jamboree On The Air. It is a fun event, allowing Scouts around the world to use ham radio to communicate with other Scouts. Amateurs often set up a station where there is a concentration of Scouts in order to get the most interaction.

This annual event takes place the third weekend in October around the world. 2008 will be the third year VC-73 organizes a JOTA station for the local Scout council.



Recently, Crew 73 was contacted by a very generous amateur from the eighth call sign district. This person wishes to remain anonymous, but I will say he has an extensive BSA history. In a phone call from him, VC-73 was asked whether the Crew had any use for some amateur equipment in good condition.

Long story short, Venturing Crew 73 was sent an IC-735 HF transceiver, an IC-551D six-meter transceiver, a Kenwood TS-140 HF transceiver and a PS-55 power supply. All of the items were very well cared for, and came in their original boxes.

We have used these to do six summertime demos at Seven Ranges in 2008, and will be taking them along for the upcoming JOTA weekend. These transceivers are available to loan out to youth members of Crew 73 who are licensed for any of the bands and modes covered by a rig.

Our benefactor certainly follows the Scout slogan, "Do a Good Turn Daily".

AREA NETS

STARK CO ARES NET
TUESDAY
FM 7:00 PM 147.120

ALLIANCE ARC
THURSDAY
CW 8:00 PM 28.400
SSB 8:30 PM 28.400
FM 9:00 PM 145.370

MASSILLON ARC
2ND, 3RD & 4TH
FRIDAY
FM 8:00 PM 147.180

CUYAHOGA FALLS ARC
MONDAY
FM 8:30 PM 147.270

PORTAGE COUNTY ARS
THURSDAY
FM 8:00 PM 146.895

LAKE ERIE ARA
THURSDAY
FM 8:00 PM 146.760

GOODYEAR ARC
THURSDAY
FM 7:30 PM 146.985

WOOSTER ARC DX GRP
THURSDAY
FM 8:00 PM 147.345
(110.9 PL)

WEST STARK INFO NET
THURSDAY
FM 8:00 PM 147.180

MASSILLON RADIO NET
SUN, TUE, THU
CW 7:30 PM 3599.5
8:30 PM DURING EDT

Have a NET you would like to see publicized here?

Please send details to Feedline editor at:

dal@elammieee.org

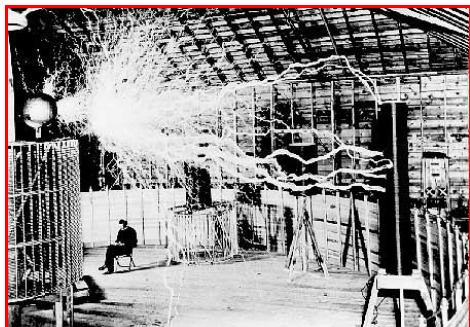
Field Day 2008 Results

Call Used: W8AL
 GOTA Station Call: NX8J
 ARRL/RAC Section: OH
 Class: 2A
 Participants: 31
 Club/Group Name: CARC
 Power Source(s): Generator, Solar
 Power Multiplier: 2X
 Bonus Points:
 100% Emergency power 200
 Media Publicity 100
 Information Booth 100
 WIAW Field Day Message 100
 Natural power QSOs completed 100
 Site Visit by invited elected official 100
 Youth participation 20
 Number of Youth operators 1
 Number of Youth participants 1
 GOTA Bonus 120
 Submitted via the Web 50
 Total Bonus Points 890
 Score Summary:

	CW	Digital	Phone
Total QSOs	604	0	442
Total Points	1208	0	442

(Note: non-voice QSOs count as two points each)

Claimed Score = 3,300



Scott Duncan Converts His Garage Into a Second Ham Shack

CARC member KK8D recently expanded his shack to accommodate a new QRO++ amplifier. Here's Scott reading the tune-up instructions for his amplifier, which employs the latest in "stressed dielectric vapor" switching technology.

SWAP COLUMN

Elecraft K1

S/N 01761
 10W CW QRP Transceiver
 4 Bands: 40, 30, 20, 17
 Internal ATU, Noise
 Blanker, Finger Dimple,
 and Tilt Stand

Like New Condition
 Asking \$500.00

Elecraft K2/100

S/N 05035
 100W HF Transceiver
 Covers 160m thru 10m
 SSB Option, 160m Op-
 tion, 60m / XVTR Inter-
 face, KNB2 Noise
 Blanker, KAF2 Audio
 Filter, Finger Dimple,
 and Tilt Stand

Like New Condition -
 Asking \$1400.00

Kenwood TS-850SAT

100W HF Transceiver
 Covers 160m thru 10m,
 with internal ATU
 455 Khz IF has 12 Khz,
 6 Khz, and 2.7 Khz Fil-
 ters Installed. 8 Mhz
 IF has 6 Khz, 2.7 Khz,
 and 500 Hz Filters In-
 stalled. Inspected &
 new battery installed
 by AES

Clean, no scratches,
 works fine - Asking
 \$800.00

ICOM IC-551D & IC-PS30

100W All Mode 6m
 Transceiver, FM module
 installed

Clean, no scratches,
 works fine - Asking
 \$500.00

Horizon VI 1KW 6m Amp
 2 X 3-500Z Eimac Tubes,
 Needs HV Power Supply

Asking \$400 w/Tubes or
 \$100 w/o Tubes

Murch Manual Ant Tuner

1KW Roller Inductor An-
 tenna Tuner. Works with
 balanced or unbalanced
 line

Good condition, works
 fine - Asking \$150.00

If you don't like my
 asking price, make a
 reasonable offer and
 we'll talk.

Ken W8KEN
 Ph: (440) 729-9388
 Email: w8ken@yahoo.com

SELLING? WANT TO BUY?

Please send details to
 Dale NX8J, editor at:
 daleamm@ieee.org

The Elmer Speaks

In this issue of FEEDLINE, we reprint (with permission) a fine article by Adam Taylor, N7YA. It first appeared on the eHam.net web site in March 2008.

There have been some fine articles on here from plenty of experienced DXers, as well as many tidbits of great advice. But this subject is rarely complete as DXing is a constantly changing, very dynamic beast. Some tips and advice just bear repeating.

Now the reason I'm posting this is not to toot any proverbial horn as I'm certainly not at the top of the Honor Roll, but I'm in the HF trenches everyday and hear all the right and wrong ways of DXing...some ops are exceptional, some still need some work. No worries, we all still have room for improvement. But with the current trend in society for increased rudeness and "me me me," we hams must continually police our own personal actions to assure the retention of the gentlemanly traditions of ham radio in the international arena (HF, sats, etc.)

I know many of these points have been made before, and some I have just noticed and wanted to share, either way, they bear repeating from time to time. If for no other reason than to help new DXers have a much smoother trip to the top of the Honor Roll, and also to help remind the big guns to monitor themselves. We all make mistakes; this is fine; the important thing is that we learn from them. I have a few things that may help as I have heard them on the air.

1) LISTEN! The greatest tool in the ham shack is the ham himself, and the greatest tools that he possesses are his ears and knowing what he's hearing. This is a simple practice, it requires only sitting and not transmitting, even if only for a couple of turns. Listening will tell you who the DX is (don't always rely on the Internet to fill in the blanks, this is the wrong way to do it), where he's listening (whether its simplex or split, and if its split, how far up or down), and so on. If you hear a DX station on a nice clear frequency, listen for a second. All too often I hear a DX station send "TU UP," then the roar of hundreds of high pitched signals 2KC and higher; there's always one guy who somehow always missed that "UP" part and calls on his calling frequency, and he apparently also doesn't hear the snarling pileup that's just up from him. The result is inevitable; a dozen cops descend on him and start hurling "UP LID" and other choice epitaphs.

If you are not a very good CW op, but you really want that station, learn how to recognize some basic commands, like "UP" and "AS" and "ONLY". As well as QSL info and such, but if you hear "AS"...stop transmitting. If you hear "UP," then set your TX frequency up.

2) Pileup etiquette: I covered a little bit in the previous paragraph and simple listening can avert much of the frustration, but pileups are a fluid monster. Few hobbies create more high blood pressure by sitting still than working a pileup...but these days, we must include the Internet into the equation. Granted, forums are not what I speak of, but DXsummit or any spotting medium, though not ham radio, is just as international as being on the air itself. Tempers flare online and on the air easily when you are in the heat of battle...you lose your cool and start freaking out and hammering out insults, the whole world sees or hears it...and they all have your call sign now, as well as the DX.

Another thing, and this one causes a lot of frustration for the DX station, is when he sends a partial call because he didn't get it the first time, again...listen! If he is asking for "WB5??" and your call does NOT have a W, a B or a 5 in it...don't keep sending your call over and over! I recall a certain VK0 station who would get this kind of thing, finish his QSO with the guy he was trying to pull out, then he would work the offending party and finish it with "NO QSL"...ouch! Mind your manners, you never know when it can rear up and bite you back.

3) Know your gear. Know where the VFO is and how to use it, know how to recognize when its on. I'll be honest, I've made this mistake today in a pileup for an HH station, I was calling the guy and kept hearing others on his

AMATEUR RADIO WEB SITE DIRECTORY

CANTON ARC WEB SITE
www.w8al.org

MASSILLON ARC WEB SITE
www.marcradio.org

ALLIANCE ARC WEB SITE
www.w8lky.org

STARK COUNTY ARES
www.wd8aye.org

TUSCO ARC
tuscoarc.org

PORTAGE COUNTY ARS
www.portcars.org

LAKE ERIE ARA
www.leara.org

USA NOAA RADAR
radar.weather.gov

ARRL
www.arrl.org

ARRL OHIO SECTION
www.iarc.ws

QCWA CHAPTER 21
www.cmh.net/~jpvsr

DX-SUMMIT
www.oh2aq.kolumbus.com

**INTL MORSE PRESEVATION
SOCIETY**
www.fists.org

CQ MAGAZINE
www.cq-amateur-radio.com

CONTEST CALENDAR
www.hornucopia.com/contestcal

**WEB SITE
OF THE BI-MONTH**

<http://www.sherweng.com>

Sherwood Engineering is known for quality mods and filter kits. They also publish a concise comparison of modern rigs and other useful info. Guess that K3 is really something to brag about...check it out.

calling frequency being cops and I was refraining from joining the fray until I heard my suffix in between the DX...then to my horror, I noticed my VFO was not set, and I had the cops on my tail. I can't recall ever making this mistake before in 25 years, but I waited for the DX to stop transmitting (and them too) and sent a quick "SRI", and fixed the problem...2 calls later, he was in the log. Where do you hide when the entire pileup has your call? As I said, we all make mistakes, and I certainly made one there. This all ties in with keeping your cool, you just never know who is making an honest mistake...but a simple glance at the panel and I would have spotted the missing "clar" LED.

I also hear guys in the pileup with failing gear, now its easy to say "well that's HIS problem"...but if its a bad relay, or a failing final, he will be clicking and splattering all over the place causing undue harm to everyone trying to hear what's going on...this situation is unforgiving if you are an op who has trouble with #1 up there. If you are going to run full legal limit in a pile, please make sure your gear is clean.

4) Go with the flow. Many times, DX stations enjoy real human conversation over the quick fire 5NN TU stuff. If you really need that guy in Africa, but you can clearly hear that he is a slow op, exchanging names and QTH and asking questions about the other op, be prepared to have a conversation...at least the basics. If you really wanted the QSO, but want to see what else is out there, make a GRACEFUL and courteous exit, something like "...Ok Franz, I thank you very much for the nice QSO, good to hear you are doing well, there are many stations calling you and I don't want to hold you up, 73 my friend"...there, you left him with a positive feeling about the QSO, you have him in the log and you can now start working on getting the card. And who knows, you may even have learned something new about his life and his country, more of us could stand to do this.

On the other hand, most rare and semi-rare DX QSOs will be of the 5NN TU variety. simply because of the sheer volume of stations waiting in line. Now I hear lamenting online and on the air regarding this, how 5NN TU is not a real conversation. They are wrong. Its perfectly valid, and both parties are expecting this, the DX is enjoying the run of stations he is getting and just knowing that he is giving a new country to many hams is gratifying to him. And for the DXer, its a small victory...everyone is happy in this situation. This said, if you want to work a station who is operating in this manner, then carefully listen for your call, and return a quick 5NN TU, this may be all he wants...it sounds impersonal, but it is what it is. If he is just giving the basics, please don't sit there and give name, QTH, rig, WX, etc. There is plenty of time for ragchewing. But consider this, if its a rare DX station, he may have only a week or two to work as many stations as possible to give everyone a fair chance at getting a new one before having to pack up and go home. And another thing, propagation changes...he may be loud to you, but he is fading fast to many others frantically calling, and this may be their last chance to put this one in the log. And remember, most hams aren't spring chickens...this may truly be their last chance!



5) Never give up! All too often I hear sayings like "life's too short for QRP," and hams commenting on the air about how they don't have a chance to work the rare one because the amp is on the fritz...meanwhile, I'm putting the DX in my log with 100w and an inverted V. Why? Because I didn't get the memo that I'm "too weak," that's rubbish! Granted, I can't work everything I hear and some pileups are just too huge and the DX is barely in there, but I do surprisingly well with what I have. I do so because I believe in my ability to make it work and lo and behold...I usually hear my call coming back. In addition to good ears, good skill can net you comparable results...results you can be proud of. Are these bragging rights out on the street? Nope, in fact, most non-hams will STILL think you are just a nerd, but if you are posting great DXCC numbers, WE will all see it, and we will all know what you've accomplished.

6) QSL manners. It is said that the final courtesy of a QSO is a QSL. Again, times are changing and things are getting expensive...not every QSO will result in a QSL. This is ok. But if you work a rare one and really need that card (unless you use LoTW) then there are some things that may help you. QSLing is a separate facet unto itself, and few people outside of the postal service understand how mailing works better than hams. I recently worked VP6DX 11 times for many new bands and modes, so the next thing I needed to do is send the QSL. I'll use them as an example.

First, I didn't send 11 cards. I used only one card. On the front, I only filled out the DX call, then in the open area I put "11 QSO's ON BACK" with an arrow. Once there, I made a box with 11 lines for each QSO, then dividers for the info at the top. The most important (in my experience) for managers is chronological order by date first, then time, band, etc...Unless a website indicates otherwise. You must think about the QSL manager, this is a volunteer job. And if they worked 100,000 QSOs on the DXpedition, he is going to be busy! Help him out by making it easier to NOT make a mistake on YOUR card.

If you decide on the 'info on back' route, I would highly suggest putting your call back there on top so he doesn't have to flip the card to see whom it is. And make sure you have the proper postage, as this is of high importance. The USD is not all that strong these days, so \$1 will assure you a 2 year wait as your card comes back via buro...consider it a tiny donation. You need to put \$3 or one current IRC in there to be safe...hey, it's only 3 bucks. And make sure the IRC's are stamped on the LEFT. Also, make sure you research the route thoroughly before mailing anything off, you may have worked an operation that was specialized and has its own manager for that 2 week period...you never know, so make sure you check it all out, doing so will save you a lot of time, money and stress.

On a final note on the subject, make sure to thank the manager and the ops for a fine job...it's easy to criticize an expedition on a forum or a spotting page when you are all fat and comfy in your shack, with air conditioning and a fridge...meanwhile, these guys are battling sea lions or crabs nipping at their feet, while ocean spray and sand is getting into everything, humidity is draining the gear and the ops, or freezing cold wind is making it hard to hear signals or work the key for eight hours in a pup tent with frozen fingers...far from the comforts of home and far from their families. They do this because they love the hobby and want to give you an opportunity for a new one. Please be respectful to the ops and managers doing this for you. And don't be afraid to put a little extra in the envelope if you can. I rarely hear complaining and whining from hams that have actually DONE a DXpedition, they already know what it takes to get one of these things in the books.

This isn't everything, but I leave the topic open for anyone to add on to it. Hopefully when we exchange ideas and information, we can all enjoy the hobby a little more and hopefully, become better DX'ers for it.

Good DX to you, Happy Hunting and I hope to hear you all in the pileups!



Report from Ohio State Parks on the Air

Canton ARC club member Roger Gray W8VE is also a member of the Diebold ARC. That club's call is W8ATM, which seems appropriate. On September 6, Roger and Craig Hockman N8OH participated in the first ever "Ohio State Parks on the Air" exercise.

N8OH and I set up station at Quail Hollow State Park on Saturday. Craig arrived at 8:30 PM unloaded the car, set up tent and tried to put up loop antennas. It. Craig had a big idea of putting up a 160 meter full wave loop. After losing many bolts in the trees and getting rained on, we gave up and went to my old G5RV and used Scott's military poles that he purchased at Dayton 2 yrs ago. The poles worked fine and we were able to get them up at 32 feet with one set of guy wires. So center part of ant was at 32 feet with ends at 15 to 20 feet. We started at 12:30 and ran to 4:30. Contest ran till 8PM but N8OH & I had evening appts

By the way, the Parks on the Air Contest organizer was Tom KC8PD VP of Portage ARC, he was set up on other side of Quail Hollow. He said that 40 of the 73 Ohio parks were operational.

We started out on 40 and were doing OK, but we got only 2 park multipliers for 1st 2 1/2 hours. After talking to Tom KC8PD, he said he got parks on 75 meters. At 3 PM we went to 75 and picked up 20 parks in 1 1/2 hours until we tore down at 4:30 PM. We then visited Tom who organized contest. He was using a 30 foot end fed antenna up about 25 feet and he had 30 more contacts than us and was operating out of his van. He also was using a Buddy Pole for 20 meters.

Fun contest. Perhaps next year we can get more CARC members on and enter in the Club Category at W8AL but use our individual calls.

We worked 87 QSOs. Biggest surprise for me is the 80 meter activity on Sat afternoon.

73,

Roger

86,400 Seconds a Day

Reprinted from Radio World, 8-29-08

"Word on the street is that the National Institute of Standards and Technology is close to signing a Lease Management Agreement with Clear Channel Communications Inc. for its flagship Time and Frequency station WWV, Fort Collins, Colorado."

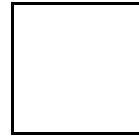
Not really. But WWV lovers will enjoy this one. Audio production and voiceover provider Low Noise Productions has some fun with WWV — "all the time, all the time" — speculating what the station would sound like if it were reformatted by commercial radio programmers as "The Tick."

"WWV's traditional modulation level of 50 percent for the steady tones, 50 percent for the BCD time code and 75 percent for the voice announcements was deemed 'not loud enough. WWV's Program Director Hickory Zeitgeist says "The station has already added some snappy new announcements to the rotation." Check out the web site:

www.lownoiserecords.com/wwv_the_tick.html

THE FEEDLINE

CANTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. BOX 8673
CANTON, OHIO 44711



Mailing
Address
Goes Here

THE FEEDLINE

IMPORTANT CLUB DATES FOR 2008

September 17 - Wednesday meeting at Stark EOC, 7:30 PM

October 11 - Saturday morning breakfast at Nazir Grotto, 8:30 AM

October 15 - Wednesday meeting at Stark EOC, 7:30 PM

November 8 - Saturday morning breakfast at Nazir Grotto, 8:30 AM

November 19 - Wednesday meeting at Stark EOC, 7:30 PM

December 13 - Saturday morning breakfast at Nazir Grotto, 8:30 AM

December 17 - Wednesday meeting at Stark EOC, 7:30 PM