

The Q-Match

The Newsletter of the Warren Amateur Radio Association
P.O. Box 809, Warren, Ohio 44482
Webpage – www.w8vtd.org Editor – k8oua@yahoo.com
March 2005

Bill Craiger memorial qso party

March brings on the Bill Craiger, K8UV, Memorial QSO Party and this year, unlike last year, is no exception. The annual two meter event is held in honor of former WARA President Bill Craiger, K8UV (SK). Bill, who is responsible for bringing many many local hams into amateur radio by teaching classes in this area as well as in other parts of Ohio where he lived, was a proponent of the QSO Party. The contest is a two meter contest with several categories of operators. The objective of the contest is to work as many Trumbull County and outside the county hams in as many of the county's 25 townships as possible. It will be held on Saturday March 19, 2005, from 1400 to 2000 EST. A copy of the rules for the contest as well as a logsheet is attached to this newsletter. It would be great to see a good turnout on the day of the contest. In past years only a few of our own club members have participated, and this year we hope to see a much better turnout for the test. Why not warm up your two meter rig, you don't need much in the way of power or equipment. Remember, all operation is simplex, no repeaters can be used. So, try it out, we're hoping to work you during the test, OM.

Skywarn Training

The annual Skywarn training session will be held this year on March 15, 2005, at the KSU Trumbull Campus Technology Building. The session will begin at 6.00 PM and will take the place of the WARA regular meeting. During the past several years the Skywarn sessions have become very popular with non-hams as well as with hams, and this has resulted in a very good turnout for the evening. To ensure yourself a good seat try to get to the meeting early. Lets have a good turnout from our club members. Anyone with questions should contact Alan Scott, KB8YWY for more information on the session. Alan can be reached by phone on 330 847-2939.

Hamfest

Yeah, we know, it's a bit early to be thinking of the August hamfest! So YOU say! Well, the hamfest chairman, Richard, KC8TAP, has different ideas. Richard is fired up about making this hamfest an improvement on last year's, and has already had a meeting of interested members. Here is his report. The HAMFEST COMMITTEE held a meeting at the Wayside restaurant on February 12, 2005. We have a nice selection of door prizes and we plan to have 2 separate raffles. Ada, KC8MTZ, will be collecting donations from area business for door prizes. Emmy, KC8RAL, is going to be running the bike show. Sue, KC8VHC, will be doing make it and take it. Lisa, KC8VHB, will be doing a Chinese auction. Pete, K8OUA, will be running the homebrew contest. Bud, KB8OMV, will be handling the club table. Sherman, KC8YHJ, will be setting up the call in station. These people will all need your help and we need people for many more positions. Some of these include club information table, admission ticket sales, 50/50 ticket sales, raffle ticket sales, parking, and announcements. The club needs help from all 87 members to make this event a success and it is the largest fund raiser for the club, so please do what you can to help us out. I am sure the people that handled these positions last year would be willing to assist you in preparing for this year. Contact any of the committee heads listed above or contact me at kc8tap@neo.rr.com or by phone at 330898 6539. Thanks,
Richard KC8TAP HAMFEST CHAIRMAN 2005.

Youth Report

Hello again everyone. I would like to inform all that soon we will be merit badge counselors for the Boy Scouts of America. All the paperwork has been turned in and I am awaiting a reply about the required training. What will this mean to us? It will give us the opportunity to expose the Boy Scouts

to ham radio in a more in-depth fashion while benefiting their scouting career. It will also give us the opportunity to be more visible in our local communities and make more people aware about what HAM Radio is and how we are able to serve our community.

A question that I get asked from time to time is “ Why would a youth want to get his/her HAM Radio license?” Well, though the internet dominates our everyday life, and pretty much allows us to communicate from the warmth of our homes, in our comfortable chairs, most youths, especially teens, are usually out doing the things they enjoy in life. Things like visiting their friends, walking the malls, Camping or enjoying nature, and many other different hobbies. So where does HAM Radio fit in? It was literally a life saving choice for one young HAM. The article does not say much more about his age except that he is young and in a picture, he looks to be 20 or less. You can read the entire story at <http://www.remote.arrl.org/news/features/2005/02/24/1/?nc=1>. So does HAM Radio fit into our everyday lives? Is it very important? Well that all depends on how you look at it. If you're the type of youth that enjoys computers and electronics more than the outdoors, then HAM Radio is perfect and right up your alley. If you're more the sports type, and you enjoy football at a local field or park, then you may be a bit more comfortable knowing that there is communication at hand even with no phone around if someone is hurt. Still yet, if you're more the outdoors type and enjoy hiking the rocks at Nelson Ledges, it would be nice to know someone will be there to help if you get stuck down in the “devils ice box”, or wedged in one of the many cracks that scatter through the park. Yes I believe that HAM Radio is for our youth. Due to our busy, fast paced society today, between school, sports, homework, and a personal life, they may not be on air every day, they may only be able to attend one club event a year, but it's that one time they truly need to contact someone whether it be their parents to say they'll be late, or a plea for help that will make them glad they joined the world of HAMS.

Thanks and 73,

Roger Dean, KC8VYS, Youth Chairman

Fifteen Meter DX

Thanks to Dave, KZ8T, for the following information about fifteen meters that might prompt some of us to fire up the HF rig and get on the 21 MHz band.

Fifteen meters has been the band of choice for me in the late afternoon. It seems as darkness moves across the Atlantic and the USA fifteen meters is open over most of the world at different times as the propagation moves west with darkness. Remember darkness starts in Europe way ahead of us. The nice thing is it is early and those ruthless DXers are still watching the evening news. The pile ups are not as bad. Hearing ZLs, Europe, sometimes Japan, and of course, due South is open if the band is open.

Later I hear much DX on 40 meters CW. But once the station hits the DX web sites the pileups get not only big but the CBer in us comes out. Many stations are calling when they obviously can not hear the DX station, some just to cover them up. Sometimes I grab one but often not. I worked Africa last night on 7.004 MHz after much patience. Please be nice. If you can't handle the bad operation and numbers don't add to it, go somewhere else.

73,

Dave kz8t

Club Dues

Karl, KF8MG, our club treasurer would like to thank all those members who have paid their 2005 dues. He advises that he still has some members who have not paid, and reminds us that dues are to be paid by April 1st in order to maintain WARA membership. Dues this year are \$10.00. Pay by mail to PO Box 809, Warren 44482, or contact Karl at 330 889-3890 or by email at heinz14311@netzero.net.

From the Repeater

I have not been to any of our repeater sites for a couple months. Things seem to be settling down and have been holding up well. Lately I have been hearing some spurious noise occasionally being repeated. These noises are very weak signals and do not cover up weak signals on the repeater. Some of this will simply have to be put up with because we choose not to leave the PL* requirement turned on, thus allowing new hams and travelers to more easily use our repeater. Many repeaters have been forced to go to full time PL to overcome this. Some of this simply goes away as other transmitters in the area correct their problem. The rest is up to us. Normally we make a couple of trips a year to tighten connections and tune receivers. A couple of months ago I installed a GE receiver pre-amp, this will somewhat increase our local noise as well as desired signals. So far the results are good.

Most hams have no conception how difficult it is to "Duplex." Meaning to transmit and receive using the same antenna and feed line. Look at it this way, we often have overload problems from transmitters close by or just very strong. Well, multiply this threat by a couple hundred when this transmitter is on the same antenna and even contained in the same cabinet.

A reminder, our repeater has a "Courtesy tone." It is called a courtesy tone for a reason. Its purpose is to force users to allow time for "breakers" and let us know the timer has reset. To break in a QSO on our repeater try to key between when the last person transmitting un keys and the courtesy tone. Users do not need to allow the transmitter to drop before beginning to transmit. I often hear users confused by this, probably because not all repeaters operate this way. This fact does not make either method wrong. Our timers are all set as they were from the factory.

I still occasionally hear someone using a "cross band repeat" frequency near our link frequencies. I would like to ask please do not use frequencies between 446.520 and 446.555 for your links. This is one of our sources of noise on the repeater.

* PL is a Motorola trade name. The actual generic name is "continuous sub audible tone." GE calls it "Channel Guard."

73,

Dave kz8t, Repeater Coordinator

Classifieds

FOR SALE -- Various CRT monitors 15-inch or 17-inch, either View Sonic or Dell. Approximately 21 available. New products, still in boxes. Sold as-is, with no technical support. Price will be \$25 each. Dell Laptops with operating system only. No applications software included. Sold as-is, with no technical support included. Approximately 22 available. Price will be marked on each unit.

- Latitude C610, 1.0 GHz, Pentium III \$ 64.00 2 available.
- Latitude C610, 1.0 GHz, Pentium III \$153.99 3 available
- Latitude C610, 1.0 GHz Pentium III \$255.00 2 available
- Latitude C610, 1.0 GHz, Pentium III \$421.00 9 available
- Latitude C640, 2.0 GHz, Pentium 4 \$586.98 6 available

20 New Leather Laptop Carrying Cases available for sale at \$15.00 each. Contact Bob Maurer, KC8PVB, by phone at 440 548-4312, or by email at rmaurer@sprynet.com.

FOR SALE -- Various R.V. items -- Check with me to see if I have what you need. Contact Karl Gerlt, KF8MG, by phone at 330 889-3890, or email at heinz14311@netzero.net.

Happy Birthday

The following WARA members celebrate their birthday in March. We wish each of them a special treat on their day, and many more to celebrate.

March 7	Dennis Alexander	KC8LMC
March 7	Roger Phillips	KZ8W
March 8	Steve Ruman	KC8YDS
March 9	Mike Yakopec	KA8WMF
March 10	George Syrko	KB8PXP
March 12	Kenny List	KB8NNA
March 12	Mike Salcone	N8XXY
March 15	Tom Finta	K8TF
March 15	James Werner	WD8NUS
March 16	Alicia White	KB8ULL
March 19	Sara Kozup	KB8RHG
March 19	Dave Metzendorf	KD8JJ
March 19	Don Gadd, Sr.	N8MGT
March 26	Richard Alexander	W8TWO
March 28	Nancy Leeper	KB8OMO
March 30	Ann Gerlt	Associate

Remember, if a correction needs to be made to my birthday list please email me at k8oua@yahoo.com and let me know. ARL FORTY-SIX to each of our March birthday boys and girls.

Sunshine and Sick

Club sympathies go out to two of our members who lost family members recently. These include Don Bower, N8VCK who lost his father and Mike Yakopec, KA8WMF who lost his nephew.

Frank Fitzhugh, KD8KJ, has been in and out of the hospital during the past month. Stay home Frank. Anne Chopko, wife of Ed Chopko, K8KAE, mother of Ed, Jr., K8KBB, aunt of Pete Kozup, K8OUA, and great aunt of Sara Kozup, KB8RHG, has been ill and is awaiting test results. Get well soon Anne. It's good to see Sue Fredenberg, KD8AGA, in our ranks as a new member. Good to have you, Sue. Congratulations and best wishes to Roger Dean and Robin Terlecky who announced their engagement at our last meeting. No date fixed yet, but we'll keep you advised.

Classes

Club Headmaster, Dennis Carraher, N8IVE, advises that amateur license classes have begun recently and meet on Thursday evenings in Room 205 of the Kent State Trumbull Campus Workforce Building. For more information contact Dennis at 330 924-4342 or n8ive@arrl.net. Dennis advises that testing will be held on March 31, probably at the same location.

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Yard Sale

The WARA will be holding several yard sales through the summer to raise money for the club. These will not be limited to amateur radio items and will be held at the home of President Bob Maurer, KC8PVB, 16680 Main Market (Rt. 422) in Parkman. Setup day will be April 2nd. All items collected will be donated to the club, and all proceeds will go to the WARA general fund. Contact Sue Wagner KC8VHC (330 898-6626 or sweetannie62@onecom.com), Bob Maurer KC8PVB (440 548-4312 or rmaurer@sprynet.com), or Renee McCaman KB8SVF (330 847-8478 or rnmccaman@earthlink.net).

Ohio Section News

SM: Joe Phillips, K8QOE, Fairfield, (to contact me, see QST page 16 or on the Web at www.iarc.ws); ASM-NE: Bob Winston, W2THU, Cleveland; SEC: John Chapman, WB8INY, Gahanna; ACC: Joanne Solak, KJ3O, Mantua; TC: Tom Holmes, N8ZM, Tipp City; PIC: Scott Yonally, N8SY, Mansfield; OOC: Rick Swain, KK8O, Galion; SGL: Reuben Meeks, W8GUC, Vandalia.

MARCH SECTION NEWS - The former Affiliated Clubs Coordinator is now the new ACC. Joanne Solak, KJ3O, of Mantua (Portage County) was reappointed in mid-February by SM Joe Phillips, K8QOE. Joanne's tireless work and her dedication during her first term (1986-2000) had earned her the title of "Gold Standard of ACCs" in Ohio and at ARRL Headquarters. Joanne has always been known for devoting a tremendous amount of time and effort to improving amateur radio and the clubs of the Ohio Section. She also is well-known for working with officials and clubs from many other Sections and was always willing to help with a question or problem. Joanne continued her efforts until January of 2000 when, after 14 year as the Ohio Section ACC, she resigned for personal reasons. In 2002 she was awarded the Allan Severson, AB8P, Memorial Award - the most prestigious honor in the Ohio Section. Joanne is also the holder of many other awards in amateur radio including the WAC, WAS, DXCC and Rag Chewers.

(2) Dates for March to mark on your calendars - OHIO Spring Safety Awareness Week; March 13-19 AND the annual Ohio Tornado Drill Wednesday, March 16, at 9:50 AM.

RILEY COMING HERE - March 19 in Toledo for the Great Lakes Division March Convention. Riley, K4ZDH, our chief enforcer at the FCC will not only be the evening banquet speaker but will conduct an hour long FCC Seminar in the afternoon sessions. Get all the info and register after visiting greatlakes.arrl.org. Remember your Convention ticket is also a ticket for the next day's Toledo Hamfest - located about 1.8 miles from the Convention Hotel.

OHIO SECTION DX NEWS - Four Ohio SW OHIO DX ASSN. members were again told "no" by the US Government on a request to visit Desecheo Island (KP5), a prized DX location that' on the top-ten "most-needed list" for DXCC. Dayton Congressman Mike Turner (R-OH), received the denial letter after acting on behalf of well-known DXer and contester Harry Flasher, AC8G, and three other members of the South West Ohio DX Association SWODXA. Flasher was on Desecheo in the 1980s which is a small island about 14 miles off the northwestern corner of Puerto Rico. Other SWODXA members are Joe Pater, W8GEX, Hamilton; Ron Moorfield, W8ILC, Huber Heights; and Jay Slough, K4ZLE, West Chester.

OHIO SECTION CLUB NEWS - (1) New ACC Joanne Solak, KJ3O, is in the process of contacting all Ohio clubs. If her letter does not arrive by April 1, contact her (kj3o@arrl.net) or SM Joe Phillips (k8qoe@arrl.org).

(2) The new officers for the Warren Amateur Radio Association for 2005 are President – Bob k. Maurer, KC8PVB, Vice-President – Gail Wells, KC8LRH, Secretary – Renee McCaman, KB8SVF, Treasurer – Karl Gerlt, KF8MG, First year Trustee – Lisa Eckenrode, KC8VHB.

(3) This time each year many local clubs offer special Hamvention bus trip packages. Great way to travel to Dayton by letting someone else do the driving. Economical as well.

OHIO SECTION REMEMBERS - John Willig, W8ACE (SK), 87, of Kettering, who 53 years ago was one of the founders of the Dayton Hamvention. He died recently in Florida. Another Hamvention founder, Frank Schaub, W8OK (SK) died last year.

OHIO SECTION SUGGESTS - Get that nomination in for the Great Lakes Division Awards quickly. Awards for (1) Lifetime Achievement; (2) Achievement in 2004 and (3) Technical achievement. These will be awarded March 19 at the Division Convention - Toledo 2005. Nominations to Division Vice Director Dick Mondro, W8FQT (w8fqt@arrl.org).

OHIO SECTION NET NEWS - OSSBN completed its semiannual meeting at the Mansfield Hamfest. Among other net business, the membership thanked one Ohio Section member for his suggestion but declined to make a name change. The Flower Fund, conducted by Bill Beach, WA8SSI, was enriched by \$67.01 during the session. Net Manager, ASM Connie Hamilton, N8IO, conducted the meeting.

OHIO SECTION CONGRATS (a) TO T. J. POWELL, N8UIR, for receiving the President's Volunteer Award - directly from President Bush who came to Cleveland to honor him for his work with the North West Ohio Medical Reserve Corps. AND (B) TO Juergen Waldick, K8LAW, for being elected Allen County Prosecutor in Lima.

OHIO SECTION MARCH HAMFESTS - The Great Lakes Division convention is March 19 at the Toledo West Holiday Inn and Convention Center. See info at <greatlakes.arrl.org>. Sunday, March 20; the TMRA Hamfest by the Toledo Mobile Radio Association. Web Site: <<http://tmrahamradio.org>> or Contact: Brian Harrington, WD8MXR, Phone: 419-385-5624 or E-mail: <bharrington@mco.edu>. At the Lucas County Rec Center in Maumee.

De Joe Phillips, K8QOE, Ohio Section Manager

No Room For A Calendar This Month, Sorry!!