

The Central Ohio Radio Club Newsletter

April, 2001

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Repeaters

146.16 / .76
W8RXX

146.37 / .97
W8RRJ

147.93 / .33
W8NBA

442.200
449.200
W8RXX

Associate

145.49 / 4.89
442.8/447.8
K8NIO

Annual Meeting Announced!

The 31st Annual Meeting of the Central Ohio Radio Club, Inc. will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2000. As usual it will be held at the Genoa Township Hall on Old 3-C Highway, just north of Westerville. The Pot Luck Dinner will start at 6 pm. A flier is enclosed with this newsletter. As usual the club will provide the soft drinks and coffee. Please bring a covered dish and serving utensils.

This year the Central Ohio Severe Weather Net will present Tom Johnstone, Lead Forecaster for The National Weather Service at Wilmington, Ohio. As a resident of Grove City here in Central Ohio, he faces the reality of his predictions each day. His special presentation promises to be interesting and informative.

Also, election of trustees, whose terms are expiring, will take place as well as an overview of the last year's operations. Those trustees are: K8VKA, Edwin Schleppe, N8RRB, Anthony Fabro, and Laura Perone, KA8IWB.

Anyone wishing to nominate a member for a board position should contact John Perone, W8RXX, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, in writing, at least ten days prior to the meeting. Letters of Intent can be mailed to: John Perone, 3477 Africa Rd., Galena, OH 43021. Any member can nominate or be nominated for a board position.

For your information, and according to the by-laws, printed below is Article V, Section 10 "Election of the Board" from the CORC Constitution.

The election of Trustees to replace those whose term has expired shall take place at the Annual Meeting of the Members, or at a special meeting called and held for that purpose. At least twenty (20) days prior to the date of which such an election is held, the Board of Trustees shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of three (3) persons who may but need not be trustees. Such committee shall prepare a list of candidates to fill the Board of Trustees and nominate such candidates at the meeting. Other nominations may be made from the general membership; however, any candidate's name so placed in nomination must be submitted in writing and accompanied by written consent of the nominee to the Nominating Committee and least ten (10) day prior to the meeting. A trustee's failure to attend two (2) consecutive meetings may result in declaration, by simple majority of the trustees, the position vacant...

The Central Ohio Severe Weather Net

By John Montgomery, N8PVC

The debate continues about global warming, if there is such a thing, and its effect on weather, ocean levels and the like. I know a lot of hot air is being expended on the topic so if the climate hasn't warmed up, it soon will.

By the time you read this we'll be in severe weather season so why don't we talk about something a bit closer to the surface, like storm readiness? Do you know what to do if a tornado or severe thunderstorm is approaching? Where is your shelter? Does everyone in the household know answers to these questions?

Take time now to answer. Identify the sturdiest piece of furniture in your basement, perhaps a workbench. Keep the path clear so you can easily crawl under it. If you don't have a basement, what interior room on the first floor will you use for a shelter? Most find the bathroom is the ideal location. A similar exercise should be completed at your place of employment.

Doing this now allows you to give careful consideration to the best place of shelter in your home. If you wait until you need to be in the shelter you may find yourself paralyzed by indecision, or worse, injury. You may have run out of time to take shelter.

Storm spotting is an important part of being ready as well. Spotters play a key role in providing information that helps the National Weather Service issue accurate and timely warnings. Spotters can take credit for helping to increase warning lead-time. Very often spotter reports will provide a needed

piece of confirming data that will trigger a warning.

Central Ohio presents a special challenge for all of us. Our area is prone to a type of weather called "low tops severe weather." That means our storms don't always have the altitude or "high tops" that storms in the southwest have. Rotation and other attributes remain lower in the storm complex making them, at times, undetectable by radar. Nothing illustrates this better than the tornado that struck Delaware and Licking counties last year.

Your help and participation is very important during severe weather. Prepare now by attending one of the spotter training seminars that will be held throughout the area. The NWS has a brand new presentation that brings a new perspective to weather spotting. Check our web site <http://www.severe-weather.org> for the updated training schedule.

Take a moment each day to be "Weather Aware." Tune to NOAA Weather Radio at 162.550 MHz. in the morning to see if severe weather is expected. If so, listen to 146.760 MHz. and be prepared to respond if a warning is issued. On four separate occasions last year, central Ohio amateur radio operators tracked funnel clouds or tornadoes. Our thanks for a job well done.

Our regular Tuesday evening net gets underway at 7:30 PM on the 146.760 MHz. repeater during Severe Weather Safety Week, which begins on March 25th. The statewide tornado drill takes place on March 28th at 9:50 AM. We will have our net in

operation so check in if you have the opportunity.

The Fifth Annual Ohio Severe Weather Symposium will be held at the Fawcett Center on April 27th beginning at 9 AM. Continental breakfast and sign in begin at 8 AM. All facets of severe weather are

discussed. There is no admission charge and it is open to the public but pre-registration is required. Go to <http://www.severe-weather.org> and click on the scrolling banner when Ohio Severe Weather Symposium appears. It will take you to the information and registration page for the symposium.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

by Jim Gifreda, W8MAP,
Membership Chairman/Treasurer

Our membership roster now totals 297 members as of March 16, 2001. Sixty-four of those members are sponsored by another dues paying family member and eight are Associate members.

The Board of Trustees would like to welcome the following new CORC members listed below.

W8QWE Max Hart
KC8PSW Robert Northrup

N8KUP George Looney

Apologies to Joe Robinson, KC8NHQ. His call was incorrectly listed as KC8NKQ in the last newsletter.

CORC members continue to donate time, talent and dollars to help your club operate. The following members have donated since the last newsletter.

WA8UHB Roy Hook
W8NBA Joe Hahn
N8RRB Tony Fabro
K8NIO Trigg Tabor
KA8IWB Laura Perone
WD8QWR Phil Carter
K8VKA Ed Schleppi
W8MAP Jim Gifreda
W8RXX John Perone
W8RRJ John Hull
N8XLW Chuck Price
K8KDR Matt Gilbert
KC8NKB Nancy Gilbert
WD8JKX Steve Robeano

KB8CIQ Sandy Robeano
K8BSW Bob Roberts
WB8A Stephen Taylor
N8FTN Sandra Taylor
N3GDM Wayne Potter
N8JYV Steve Malott
N8KPY Rose Malott
KC8LUV Terry Cooper
KC8KQL Carl Gibbs
KC8LGN Joel Gibbs
W8PRR Rick Nelson

Time To Do The Due (not Dew)

For ninety, (90) of our CORC members this is a very special time of the year! Not only do they get to pay their taxes, but they also get to pay their CORC membership dues. Please take a good look at your mailing label and see if your membership expires at the end of April, 2001. If so, please send in the enclosed renewal form and one, two or three years dues. As always, extra donations will be appreciated. And, your name and call will appear in the newsletter, unless you request us not to.

As a note of explanation, we intended to include an envelope with the treasurer's address pre-stamped on it. However, since the number of persons needing envelopes was only about 1/3 of the total mailing, the idea was not compatible with postal bulk mailing regulations. All bulk mailings must be the same or they are rejected. The Board certainly hopes the lack of an envelope will not prevent you from renewing. Thank you for your cooperation and prompt payment.

Silent Keys

KB8VN, Ted Money Penny, SK

It is my sad duty to report that long time member and supporter of the club, Ted Money Penny has passed on. His wife Sandy, KB8WQ; and sons Ed, N8TVA and Sean, KA8UCD and their wives and children survive him. Ted's family has several repeaters in the Canal Winchester area, the 145.21 repeater and the 145.39 and 443.9 repeaters. He died March 7th after a lengthy illness. He was owner of Sunbeam Heating and Cooling until his retirement. He was also a veteran of the US Navy. Ted will be missed by many, here in the Central Ohio Area.

Jane Wheeler

Jane Wheeler, wife of one of the club's founders Dee Wheeler, W8GKN has also passed on. She went to be with the Lord on March 8th. Dee and Jane were married for 41 years. Jane is survived by Dee, and daughters Dawn and Catherine, their husbands and children. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Dee and his family with their loss.

e TRAVELIN' TONY'S TIMETABLES

Kenwood TH-D7AG review
by: Tony Fabro N8RRB

I decided to buy myself an early Christmas present and purchased the Kenwood TH-D7AG handheld radio. This is Kenwood's dual band HT that has the built in TNC.

First impression of the radio is that although it is small in size, it weighs about as much as my Alinco DJ-560 that I bought in 1992. The battery makes up about half the weight on both radios. The directions say to attach the battery and then charge it for either 15 or 16 hours, depending on which type of battery is on the radio. The battery attaches on the back side of the radio by lining up some notches and then sliding it upward. After a few tries I figured out what they meant and was successful.

Kenwood gives two ways to charge the battery, either with the wall charger supplied with the radio, or with the optional drop-in charger. Curiously, the only way to charge the battery with the wall charger is to have it attached to the radio. The jack for the wall charger is actually on the radio body itself, not on the battery. This eliminates being able to use one battery while charging another. The radio shows how much juice is left in the battery via the S-meter every time you transmit.

After charging the battery I attached the antenna. Kenwood uses a screw on type antenna connector instead of a standard BNC connector. I turned the radio on and the radio comes on with both bands active showing 144.000 and 440.000 on the dot matrix display. There is only one volume knob on the radio, which controls the active

band. You can adjust the other band's volume via a function key by making it louder or softer than the inactive band, but I prefer the Alinco setup, which has separate volume and squelch knobs for each band. The radio also has a backlit display and keypad.

From this point on I followed Kenwood's directions for the various functions. Kenwood has the radio set up so that you follow a series of menus to arrive at the feature you want. After figuring out this setup navigating around with the arrow keys was quite easy. Most of the manual's directions are clear and easy to follow.

Some notes on specific features:

PROGRAMMING MEMORIES: Entering frequencies into memory was very easy. In the VFO simply punch in the frequency you want and then hit F, MR. The radio will bring up a number and an arrow beside it. If the memory number is full, the arrow will appear filled in. If it is empty, the arrow will appear empty inside of it. I cannot tell you how many times I programmed over a memory on my Alinco because I didn't realize a memory channel was occupied. This is a very helpful feature on this radio. The radio also allows you to name memory channels. I've programmed the 146.760 71.9 Hz memory as ".76 Wx" on the display.

DUAL VHF MODE: One of the reasons why I bought the radio is because you can have the radio receive two VHF frequencies at the same time. I use this feature in my car

when trying to listen to two railroad frequencies at once. The down side that I discovered is that only the main VHF band can receive out of band frequencies while in dual VHF mode. The manual does not mention anything about this limitation and in fact gives very little detail on the dual VHF mode. Their other big HT, the TH-79AKSS, allows you to receive out of band on both VHF frequencies.

TONE: The radio differentiates between tone and CTCSS tone. This confused me at first as I tried to program repeater PL tones using the tone function. I discovered that tone is used on transmit only and to have the radio identify the tone on a repeater. Once I figured this out I went to the CTCSS tone menu and programmed the radio for the various repeater CTCSS tones. Strangely, Kenwood presents CTCSS in the manual as a way of having conversations with other people on the same frequency and CTCSS tone. It never mentions it as a function for repeater encode/decode use.

TNC: Using the TNC built into the radio is a snap. The optional PG-4W cable is used to

connect the radio to the computer. Since the TNC is inside the radio, it therefore eliminates the computer-TNC-radio setup. Simply connect the cable to the PC port on the radio, and then plug it into the 9-pin serial connector on the PC and you are connected. Any communications program will do on the PC. The TNC lacks some capabilities of regular TNCs and Kenwood lets you know this in several places. However it does at least give you the ability to do simple packet communications including receiving voice and data on the same band at the same time!

I haven't fiddled with the APRS setup yet, but this also seems to be a relatively easy thing to use. The PG-4W cable comes with a CD-ROM, which has expanded instructions for APRS plus a couple demo movies, which further illustrate what you can do with the radio.

All things considered, this is a solid radio loaded with features and would recommend buying it. I would especially recommend it for people looking for a simple way to get on packet.

11th Annual Columbus Hamfest

Sponsored by the VOICE OF ALADDIN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Saturday, August 4, 2001 8:00 AM-3:00 PM - Vendor setup 6:30 AM Aladdin Shrine Complex - 3850 Stelzer Road - Columbus, Ohio - TALK IN: 147.24 (+600 Mhz input)

Directions: Exit I-270 at the EASTON exit. Proceed west to the first Light then turn north (right). The Aladdin Complex is about 1/10 mile up the road on the right. Entrance to the HAMFEST is near the rear of the building. Commercial exhibits, Flea Market, Free Seminars, Refreshments, Prizes, VE Session. (Advance registration Requested, but not required) Exams begin at 09:30 AM, please be on site no later than 9:00 if you are planning to take an exam.

Admission tickets are \$5.00 at the door, \$4.00 presale. Children under 12 are free. Advance sales available at Universal Radio in Columbus, the Aladdin Shrine Complex or with a SASE sent to: Jim Morton KB8KPJ, 6070 Northgap Drive, Columbus, OH 43229-1945. Tel (614) 846-7790 evenings. (Tickets available after June 10, 2001)

Indoor Display Tables (6 ft.) are \$8.00 at the door, \$6.00 presale. Outdoor flea market spaces are \$4.00 the day of the HAMFEST. Presale requests must be received no later than July 21, 2001.

EXAM SITES IN CENTRAL OHIO

Information taken from: Bob Johnson K3RC

PO Box 248 Stony Ridge OH 43463

Latest updates at webpage <http://www.wcnet.org/~johnson/packet.txt>

Date	Location	Contact Person	Callsign	Phone
04/07/01	Reynoldsburg	Jerry Schott	K9RV	601-860-4479
04/15/01	Lancaster	Allen Sellers	KB8JLG	740-654-8167
04/21/01	Mansfield	Scott Yonally	KC8SS	419-524-1105
04/22/01	Lancaster	Allen Sellers	KB8JLG	740-654-8167
05/06/01	Marion	Steve Eckard	WS8S	614-499-3565
05/26/01	Canton/Massillon	Gary Kline	WC8W	330-837-2927
07/03/01	Zanesville	Donald Wahl	WA8BOV	740-454-0003
10/02/01	Zanesville	Donald Wahl	WA8BOV	740-454-0003


Exams can also be found at <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml?State=OH> on the ARRL Site.

The Last Word

By Joe Hahn, W8NBA
Newsletter Editor and Trustee

Just a quick note to mention the Groundhog Hibernation will be held November 3, 2001 at the Genoa Township Hall. As usual it will be a Pot-Luck with all kinds of special surprises. Also, as Jim mentioned earlier, dues are due. To make it just a little easier, the application is on the mailing page. If none of your personal information has changed, you do not have to fill out the application again. Your mailing label is on the other side, and we will know who sent in their dues. Below is a picture of your trustees at the last board meeting. If you are having trouble with rodents or any other pest, placing this picture where they live will solve your problem.

Your CORC Trustees hard at it. L to R: Jim Gifreda, W8MAP; Edwin Schleppe, K8VKA; John Hull, W8RRJ; Laura Perone, KA8IWB, John Perone, W8RXX; Phil Carter, WD8QWR; Trigg Tabor, K8NIO; Tony Fabro, N8RRB; Roy Hook, WA8UHB and Joe Hahn, W8NBA



The Central Ohio Radio Club
Annual Meeting
Saturday, May 5th 2001
6:00 PM

At the Genoa Township Hall
**Special Presentation by
Tom Johnstone from the
National Weather Service**

More details available in the Newsletter
Come and Join Us
And Bring a Friend!