

# The Central Ohio Radio Club Newsletter

January, 2001

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## Repeaters

146.16 / .76  
W8RXX

147.37 /97  
W8RRJ

147.93 / .33  
W8NBA

442.200  
449.200  
W8RXX

Associate  
145.49 / 4.89  
442.8/447.8  
K8NIO



# 2001, A SPACE ODDITY !!!

by Joe Hahn, W8NBA

Well here it is 2001. I remember as a teenager, watching the movie "2001", wondering what the future would bring. (boy that ages me!!) ed. We have just had the most unorthodox Presidential Elections in history. As I write this we still don't know who the next president will be. I hope by the time you get this in late December; this will finally be solved, if it doesn't get tied up in court for many months.

Most movies show a dismal future. "1984" came and went without a "Big Brother", although sometimes it seems like there is always someone watching over our shoulder. And even though we don't have the utopia shown in "The Time Machine", or all the mechanized personal comfort devices shown in "The Jetsons", life is much easier that it was as little as 50 years ago.

Ham Radio has changed dramatically in the last few decades. While, CW is still used by amateurs, it has been replaced by digital transmissions in the commercial world. The fax machine used every day started as Facsimile, and was adapted to hardwire phone systems. And with the miniature cell phones, the world of the "Dick Tracy" wristwatch two-way radio is almost upon us. It seems to me that most of the current

advances in radio technology have come as a result of experimentation in the Amateur ranks. Packet Radio, Slow and Fast scan TV, digital paging, all were first tried and experimented with on amateur frequencies. If it weren't for the early fathers of our hobby, where would we be today?

So what's in the future? The sky's the limit. I hope there is a new breed of experimenter out there. Unfortunately, large portions of today's amateurs are just operators rather than builders and designers. Back in the good old days, as some would say, you could not buy pre-made receivers or transmitters. Schematics were hand drawn and passed down from ham to ham, each one adding to the design and perfected it. I know I don't build or modify ham gear anywhere near like I used to. Remember when touch-tone pads were not built into microphones and you had to sledgehammer tone units into a radio to get them to fit? Most of the companies making kits have gone out of business and it seems like all we are left with is Radio Shack to buy parts from. Gone are the visits to Thompson Electronics, Hughes-Peters and Whitehead? Is that all bad? Who knows? I just hope that the zeal, "To boldly go, where no man has gone before," is still a part of this hobby.

## SILENT KEY

Long time CORC member Isaac Reid, WD8NAS passed away in November after a long battle with cancer. Isaac was quite active on the repeaters until he moved to Florida a few years ago. Our sympathies go out to his family and friends.

# TAPS

Anonymous

We have all heard the haunting song, "Taps." It's the song that gives us that lump in our throats and usually creates tears in our eyes. But, do you know the story behind the song?

If not, I think you will be pleased to find out about its humble beginnings. Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay in the middle of the battlefield. Without knowing if he was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his son. The boy had been studying music in the south when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army. The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they

could give him one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted. The haunting melody, we now know as "Taps" used at military funerals, was born.

Day is done  
Gone the sun  
From the Lakes  
From the hills  
From the sky.  
All is well,  
safely rest.  
God is nigh.

Fading light  
Dims the sight  
And a star  
Gems the sky,  
Gleaming bright  
From afar,  
Drawing nigh,  
Falls the night.

Thanks and praise,  
For our days,  
Neath the sun,  
Neath the stars,  
Neath the sky,  
As we go,  
This we know,  
God is nigh.

I too, have felt the chills while listening to "Taps" but I have never seen all the words to the song until now. I didn't even know there was more than one verse. I also never knew the story behind the song and I didn't know if you had either, so I thought I'd pass it along.

# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

by Jim Gifreda, W8MAP  
Membership Chairman/Treasurer

Our membership roster now totals 301 members as of December 9, 2000. Sixty-eight of those members are sponsored by another dues paying family member and nine are Associate Members.

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

KD5BLA	Stuart Jennings	KC8NYU	Jill Robinson
KC8NYJ	Robert Krouse	WD8AOF	James R Gifreda
KB8QHM	Phil Greenland	WB8YUS	Laura Gifreda
KC8NKQ	Joseph Robinson	<b>Gee that last call looks familiar (ED.)</b>	

Please greet them when you hear them on the air!

CORC members continue to donate time, talent and/or treasure (\$) so the club can function well. The following individuals have donated since the last newsletter was printed. Thank You!

KB8QHM	Phil Greenland	WD8QWR	Phil Carter
KC8NKQ	Joseph Robinson	KA8IWB	Laura Perone
KC8NYU	Jill Robinson	K8NIO	Trigg Tabor
W8RRJ	John Hull	N8RRB	Tony Fabro
W8RXX	John Perone	W8NBA	Joe Hahn
W8MAP	Jim Gifreda	WA8UHB	Roy Hook
K8VKA	Ed Schleppe		

## "A year in the life" of your CORC President

By Laura Perone, KA8IWB

January: Y2K emergency communications. I am glad we weren't needed but many of us were there to help if necessary. All of the equipment worked well.

February: The Ground Hog Potluck. Always a good time, great food and some silliness all wrapped up into a fun evening

April: FCC restructured the license privileges. Many Tech Plus' became a General, including myself. Now to study for the Extra class.

May: Annual meeting. CORC celebrated it's 30th anniversary. The stories about the early days of repeaters in central Ohio were

interesting. To imagine the links were all connected by phone lines. Once again being a potluck, there was plenty of good food.

November: The Ground Hog Hibernation Pot Luck. Another fun evening with great food, and more silliness. K8VKA explained his Schleppi antenna system. The end of the month the Franklin Co. ARES asked us to come and talk about CORC in conjunction with members of COSWN, the weather net group. We presented a slide show of the repeater system.

The other months of the year I went to every receiver and transmitter location once, if not a half dozen times, for service calls on repeater equipment. Mother nature was cruel to .33 and .97. 146.97 needed the controller and link receivers reworked.

Then there are the Trustee meetings, someone has to keep these guys in line and organized. Your opportunity to become a CORC Trustee comes in May. Be sure to notify the nominating committee of your interest.

This year we will not be having the February Ground Hog Pot Luck. We are busy planning for the Annual meeting. Hopefully we will see even more of you then and at future potlucks. We are actively looking for someone to organize future social events. If you are interested please call Laura, KA8IWB, at 740-548-7707.

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I came across an old copy of the 1982 CORC Operating Manual.

Many of these operating tips still seem appropriate today...

Do keep transmissions short. Emergencies don't wait for monologues or dialogues to be finished.

Do think before you transmit. When you can't think of anything worth saying, stop.

Do pause between exchanges. Someone with a high-priority need for the repeater may want to break in.

Do identify properly.

Do be courteous. A repeater is like a telephone party line and requires the same kind of cooperation in its use.

Do try to use the minimum power necessary to maintain communication.

Do support your repeater. Maintaining a good machine is an expensive undertaking and continual "dead-beats" are stealers of others investment in the repeater.

Don't abuse autopatch privileges.

Don't break into a contact unless you have something to add. Interrupting is no more polite on the air than it is in person.

Don't forget: Amateur radio exists because it is a service not just a hobby. Contribute to public service aspects such as accident reporting, emergency preparedness, etc.

Don't try to prove what a great operator you are by criticizing the operating techniques of others on the air. Instead, set the example for others to follow.

Don't monopolize a repeater. The competent repeater users are the ones who do a lot of listening.

Don't forget that what you say over a repeater can be heard over thousands of square miles. Potential hams may be listening; if they like what they hear, they may join us.

Don't encourage deliberate repeater DX'ing. It often destroys communications on two or more repeaters and can time out your local repeater just when you may urgently need it.

Don't use handi-talkies in your car without an external antenna. In most cases your

signal will be unreadable and ties up the repeater unnecessarily.

I would like to thank all of the members for their continuing support of CORC. Please DO encourage users of the repeaters to become members as the operating cost of the system continues to rise.

Have a very happy holiday season.

Laura  
KA8IWB

## e TRAVELIN' TONY'S TIMETABLES

by: Tony Fabro N8RRB

Seasons Greetings to all, and best wishes for a safe and fun holiday season. It is incredible that we are at the end of 2000. The craziness of Y2K seems like it was just over yesterday. Hopefully this new years celebration will be a little less hectic than last year's.

### FAQ

I bet at one time or another someone has come up to you and asked, "What do ham operators do? Do you just talk about stuff?" I am asked this question every time someone sees my radio and wonders what it is for. So, what *do* ham operators do? It is true that ham operators do sometimes just talk about stuff. But that is only part of the hobby.

Ham radio operators are innovators of new types of antennas and electronic equipment. Many ideas produced by ham operators have often been precursors to commercial equipment applications. For example, the

multiple site repeater is the forerunner to the cellular phone system.

Ham radio operators are visible in the public eye. Via ARES groups we assist in marathons, parades, and other community events. More importantly ARES groups train for disasters and assist such groups as the Red Cross in disaster relief efforts. Just a few years ago in the flooding along the Ohio River, ham radio played a key role in assisting emergency officials. More recently, local hams coordinated with the Franklin County EMA and assisted as the backup communicators in case communication systems went down due to Y2K issues.

Ham radio operators provide a public service to the community. Operators involved in traffic nets deliver messages to people locally and help relay messages across the country. In times of emergency, traffic handlers assist ARES groups in providing critical message links between areas to convey health and welfare traffic.

Every year there is at least one major hurricane that causes substantial damage. During this time hundreds of messages are generated from the disaster area for all parts of the country. People send notes letting friends and family know how they are. Ham operators provide that communication link when phone service is not available.

So when someone asks you “what do ham radio operators do?”, hopefully you’ll be able to tell them about the many activities we are involved with aside from just chatting on the radio!

## EOT

This past summer a coworker and I drove to Eastern Ohio to take a look at the Ohi-Rail Corp., a shortline railroad based in Minerva. While waiting for a train to go by one of the crew members of the Ohi-Rail train saw my ham license plates on my car and asked, “Who is the ham operator?” I responded, “I am. I’m N8RRB”. The crew member replied, “Nice to meet you. I’m KC8AKJ.” It was neat to meet another ham operator, and a rail worker at that!

Have a safe day.

## *Ground Hog Hibernation 2000*

Laura, KA8IWB & John, W8RXX share month old wedding cake with the group

A typical wedding shot. I wonder who made the bigger mess.

Ed, K8VKA discusses a crucial internal part of the famous (not yet patented) Schleppi Antenna

John, W8RRJ adds additional technical facts and shares performance graphs on Ed's antenna design

Mrs. Hunt, XYL of W8QWE wins the 50-50 drawing

Ken, N8XYP posing with his grand prize. A singing, dancing Groundhog....

As you read earlier, due to scheduling conflicts, we are not having the Ground Hog Day Event. We are still planning the Annual Meeting in May and a date will be set in the next few weeks. All the details will be in the April Newsletter.

**FOR SALE --**

Drake TR7 Transceiver in near mint condition, Serial #8018, \$750

Includes the following:

RV-75 remote VFO  
RV-75/R7 adapter model 1544 (I am told this item is rare and worth about \$100)  
PS-75 factory power supply (direct plug-in)  
Astatic Desk Microphone  
Operator's Manual  
Service Manual

Contact Jim, W8MAP at 937-666-5452

**WANTED ! --**

**SOCIAL CHAIRPERSON  
OR PERSONS**

This job consists of planning and co-ordinating the three or four social events CORC has every year.

This job gives you all the same great benefits that the trustees get, (none) and the gratitude of all the members.

Call Laura Perone at 1-740-548-7707