

The Central Ohio Radio Club Newsletter

October 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

America At War!!!

By Joe Hahn, W8NBA

I am sure all of you know of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Who knows what other events might transpire by the time you receive this newsletter. The War on Terrorism will be long and drawn out. Now is the time to pitch in and help wherever you can. This can either be financial help or by volunteering some of your time to a worthwhile organization. Below are links and phone numbers to some of the many places that will see that your help goes to the right place.

Several Columbus charities have joined their counterparts throughout the United States in providing an avenue for residents to offer assistance to rescue workers and victims of the attacks in New York and Washington, D.C.

The United Way of Central Ohio, the Columbus Foundation and the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus have created Columbus Cares, the local component of a national organization.

Donations in the name of the September 11th Fund may be mailed to United Way, 360 S. 3rd St., Columbus, OH 43215 or to the Columbus Foundation, 1234 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43205 or call 1-212-251-2500.

Other resources needing assistance:

The American Red Cross Blood Donations: 1-800-448-3543 or schedule an appointment at: <http://www.bloodsaveslives.org/> You can also go to amazon.com and paypal.com who are taking cash contributions on their behalf.

The Salvation Army: Cash Donations 1-800-SAL-ARMY

Catholic Charities: 1-800-919-9338

These are just a few of the many organizations pitching in and helping with the relief efforts. The Ohio Attorney General Office advises to give your donations to an established charity as unscrupulous individuals always increase during a time of crisis.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Membership Update by Jim Gifreda, W8MAP
Membership Chairman/Treasurer

Membership is now at a total of 213 full-pay members as of September 13, 2001. In addition, there are 66 family members who are sponsored by one of the 213 dues paying members. Additionally, there are 9 Associate Members.

The Board of Trustees welcomes the following new CORC members:

N8UTE Robert Bickel
KC8PSU Geoffrey Price
KC8DJU Roger Stultz

CORC members and other individuals continue to donate time, talent and personal treasure (\$) to assist the club with its operating expenses. The following individuals have donated since the last newsletter was printed in July. The Board would like to thank those who were able to assist with this additional effort.

KD8OK	Mike Murphy	W8RRJ	John Hull
W8FSJ	Franklin Sturgill, Jr.	K8NIO	Trigg Tabor
KB8ODS	Edward Whitney	KA8IWB	Laura Perone
WD8JLI	Jeff Bell	WD8QWR	Phil Carter
KB8QHM	Phil Greenland	W8MAP	Jim Gifreda
WA8UHB	Roy Hook	K8VKA	Ed Schleppe
W8NBA	Joe Hahn	W8RXX	John Perone
N8RRB	Tony Fabro		

New Tower Site Started

In an ongoing effort to improve the CORC repeater systems, work on a new tower site has been started. While its location is hush-hush, one of our crack reporters has obtained a photo of work in progress. Due to high security concerns, the photo can't be published here, but is available at the CORC web site in a secret location only obtainable thru this special link. By going to this location: <http://www.qsl.net/corc/tower.html> you will be able to view the new high tech process of tower development. Please do not divulge the location of this site to anyone except another member, as this new process is being copyrighted and we do not want others stealing this new innovative idea. Thank you for your co-operation.

Central Ohio Severe Weather Network

By John Montgomery, N8PVC

The national tragedy that occurred on September 11, 2001 has changed much of what I had planned to include in this newsletter issue. All of us hope and pray for the best outcome for the victims, their families and friends. Several amateur radio operators are included in the thousands that are missing. Words can't express the sorrow and helplessness we feel at this time.

As I watch television coverage of this event I'm reminded that amateur radio is playing an important role in this event. Most of the communications infrastructure, wireline and wireless, is overloaded. Some of it has been destroyed. As a result, cellular coverage is spotty in some areas and telephone service continues to be overloaded. Radio and television transmission facilities were destroyed. How fortunate New York City and Columbus are to have several good repeater systems available during times of emergency!

As I read reports on the ARRL web site, amateur radio operators are providing support in New York City at the World Trade Center complex and at the Pentagon near Washington, D. C. Most of the support involves communication duties passing traffic between rescue, relief and recovery teams. A significant amount of health and welfare traffic is being passed as well. Conditions are challenging with high levels of ambient noise from construction equipment. Radio frequency interference from numerous portable power generating units contributes to the problem.

Preparation on the part of amateur radio operators is the only way to be effective

when responding to such an event. That is why the Weather Net stresses spotter training and efficient communication skills. Spotter training gives you the knowledge to accurately digest what you are observing. Participating in regular training nets brings about the discipline necessary to be an effective communicator as you pass your observations along.

To encourage effective communication the Weather Net is jointly sponsoring, with the Franklin County Emergency Management Agency, the first local classroom session of the ARRL Level I – "Introduction to Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course (EC-001)." The class began August 27th.

I have completed the level I course and the level II course titled, "Intermediate Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course (EC-002)." Both of these courses have an enormous amount of valuable information in them. You'll find information that you are already familiar with and gain a new perspective on how you as an amateur radio operator fit into the large emergency communications picture. You'll learn new acronyms and terms. You'll learn about government organizations that are designed to handle most contingencies. You'll also learn about ARRL appointed positions and groups that you may not have been aware of.

Both courses are frank in discussing several sensitive issues and tell it like it is. If you are serious about doing a good job as a communicator complete both of these courses. It is well worth your time and money and will make you more valuable as

a communicator. The Level III Advanced Emergency communications Course is in development and will debut later this year.

The severe weather season in central Ohio is officially over, or is it? Statistics compiled over the years indicate that severe weather is most likely to occur in our area from early April through mid September. Our season

of weekly nets begins and ends based on storm history in central Ohio. Nature, on the other hand, has a mind of its own and reminds us when we least expect it. It would be an exceptional year if a severe weather event did not happen in late winter or fall. That's what weather in Ohio is all about. Stay alert.

autopatches again

By Joe Hahn, W8NBA

Things are changing with the autopatches on the CORC Machines again. Some of them are good and some not so good. Lets do the good stuff first.

The local calling area of the 147.33 has been greatly expanded. You can now call Newark, Granville, Johnstown and Glouster.(where the heck is Glouster?) Later this year, Lancaster will also be a local call on 147.33. The phone company hasn't really said which exchanges are involved. Try any seven-digit phone number you want. It can't hurt anything. If it's not a local call a recording will come on asking you to dial an area code. The only area code the controller will accept is 614. This expanded service raised the cost of the phone line a few dollars a month, but hopefully the capability of calling those areas from your mobile or handheld will make it worth it. As before to call Columbus you have to dial 1-614-XXX-XXXX. Of course speed dials can be added to these new locations. We will keep you advised of any other changes.

Now for the not so good. Columbus is splitting the 614 area code. This means you will have to dial either ten or eleven digits for every call you make from Columbus starting late next year. We all know how hard is it sometimes to get seven digits to go thru on a patch, now it will take ten. As of September 2002, all patches made from the 146.76 and 146.97 will require at least ten digits plus the patch up code. The easy way around this is to obtain a speed dial. That way you only need to dial the patch up code and your 2 or 3 digit speed dial. Not all members have them, and there are still some available. Please contact the membership chairman to obtain one.

More changes are probably in the works as Ma Bell can never make up her mind. As more cell phones and fax and other phone devices are installed, area codes will be added and patch procedures will also be changed. A new Operator Manual is being planned, but things change faster than they can be revised. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact any of the Trustees or Control Ops.

Greetings from the CORC President...

By Laura Perone, KA8IWB

This summer was thankfully a low maintenance time for the repeaters. Next summer plans are already in place to replace all the link feed lines on the 76 repeater here at the house. This is dependant on the tower growing to a proper height by then.

I hope you and your family can attend the November Ground Hog Hibernation pot luck dinner. Steve, KC8IDM and Julie did a wonderful job at the annual meeting. We are looking forward to seeing what they have planned for this event.

With the recent tragedies in Washington, New York and Pennsylvania we are all

reminded that all our freedoms need protected.

We must work together to preserve our amateur radio privileges. Now more than ever we must monitor not just the repeaters but all amateur frequencies to assure illegal activities are not taking place.

Please e-mail me at KA8IWB@juno.com if you have suggestions or comments.

Laura

Hope to see you at the Hibernation Bash on November 3, 2001 at the Genoa Township Hall. See the Flyer for details.

