

August 2013

20/9 Hamfest Sat Sept. 7th. 8A-2P
112Westchester Drive Austintown, OH

The 20/9 Resonator

www.20over9.org



Special Interest Articles:

20/9 Tailgate Hamfest

167th Canfield Fair

K8TKA Repeater

Preventive Maintenance
KB6NU

ARRL responds to FCC on
receiver performance
standards for amateur service

Upcoming Events

Picnic Corn Roast

20/9 Hamfest
September 7th

Upcoming Meetings

Officers Meeting:
Tuesday Aug 6th
Austintown Park

Club Meeting
Aug. 13th

All Meetings are at 7:00PM

Contact us at:
www.20over9.org

330.651.8420

k8tkanews@hotmail.com

20/9 ARC
4939 East Radio Rd.
Austintown, OH 44515

Last half of summer

What a summer we have had, it's been hot all the way into July and then suddenly it turned Fall like weather with the temps. Field Day was hot very hot, we had a great time again back at the Paul Pogany Pavillion we changed our layout some. We had a pretty good preliminary score of 5100, a big thanks to Roy Dykman KD8JMO for setting up a dedicated GOTA station, he had a great setup and a lot of visitors tried their hand at making some contacts. I got to help one of our newer members Dave Wilms KD8SDZ try out 6 meters with a nice square

loop although the band was not too magical Saturday as he burned up the air with the locals like one of our past member Steve Gocala KB8VAO, but Sunday morning he was working several of the southern states.

Cathy Mellot N8TIS handled the food and entertainment for the weekend we had a lot of great food and this year we ditched the pop and went with lemonade, fruit punch and tea it really hit the spot in the sweltering heat of the 90's

We also tried computer logging with N3FJP's Field Day Contest Log, Dave Mellot suggested it and I

thought it was a great tool so I bought a license for club use. Several of us tried it out and it was a very handy tool in entering stations quick and easy to use, but a lot of functions including CAT controlled rigs to further automate the process even with contest memories.

We have several events over the next month including our first Hamfest in 8 years. I wish Don Stoddard KI8SS was still here to enjoy it.

September 7th 8A-2P at the Austintown Senior Center on 112 Westchester Dr. about 200 yards south of Mahoning Ave.continued on page 2

Summer of events

Summer is still here and there's more to come from the 20/9. First I want to thank everyone that made Field Day possible. The hard work in setting up the antenna masts alone is a project in of itself, the food was great and the bands were lively. We had the use of a computer logging program for Field Day that worked great with a fast reaction to dupes and notification of new sections worked. Also want to thank everyone for coming out to help with Austintown's Fireworks, it was going well till the rain came, from then on it was a bit tough but a lot of you stuck in there and kept flexible as needs changed. We had a nice half page ad in the programs they handed out to everyone. With this

being the first time out we have an idea of the bugs that need worked out for next year.

I hope everyone enjoyed the month of July it certainly was hot and then went cold for some reason.

We still have more events planned such as the Senior Fair Aug 10th at Emmanuel Community Church on Kirk Rd. we have been there last year but this time the weather will be summer like. Additionally we have the Canfield Fair starting the end of August where we will be back out near Gate E where will have our communications trailer and HF demonstration station. We will have be promoting not only our club but Amateur Radio as well. Also this year

Mahoning County ARES will be sharing a space with us as well. I joined them as an Assistant Emergency Coordinator this year and trying to get people involved with public service events while also working with served agencies to help them understand what it is we do and how we can help them achieve their goals while helping the valley. Of course Sept 7th is our first hamfest in years and there's plenty of info on here about it. The Austintown Senior Center will be providing breakfast sandwiches in the early morning before switching to lunch time items so there will be plenty of good food. And don't forget about the much bigger Awesometowncontinued page 4

20/9 Tailgate hamfest September 7th 2013



It has been nearly nine years since our last hamfest with Don Stoddard KI8SS (SK) (N8LNE). We have an opportunity to bring it back to the valley with less risk as it had been in the past, with April weather and the high costs of previous locations. We have recently received ARRL approval and are now League Sanctioned. This is on a Saturday so this should be more

convenient than Sundays for everyone. 8AM-2PM Admission is free, tailgate spaces are \$5 and indoor tables are \$15 with electricity or \$10 if you bring your own table. Prize tickets will be for HAM Only prizes, 50/50 drawings, and a Silent Auction. Concessions will be available from the Austintown Senior Center whose prices are far more reasonable than fair prices.

For more information go to: www.20over.org or call 330.651.8420

Austintown Senior Center
112 Westchester Drive is the location.

The Tailgate area will be on the parking lot which is completely blacktopped, easy and accessible for all.

Entire event is Handicap Accessible.

167th Canfield Fair Aug 28th to Sept. 2nd

The 20/9 ARC will be stationed again near the Steam tractor show at the corner of We will have demonstrations stations setup to operate HF and VHF/UHF, along with club information along with information on the ARRL and the hobby as a whole. Please come out to help support our efforts we need more than ever to help promote our hobby and also our hamfest a week later. Rich and Jan Hamaker are normally out during the day but they could use help so if you can come out for the day or more for a few hours or all day it would be greatly appreciated. Same with the evening normally John

Douglass is at the station in the evenings and he too could use some help. Please contact us and let us know what days you can come out and what time. We can make badges if you need them currently the gate we use has accepted EMA Volunteer ID's but we have come up with some format for club badges. They're low in cost of just a few dollars mainly for the badge holders and lanyards and that's it. As always we also provide some additional support to the canfield Fair with

reporting in any situations such as fights, injuries, lost children, ect.. Joining us this year is Mahoning County ARES they will have a table with us as well. Our main goal is to have fun and educate the public but also assist when we can. Once again please call or email to let us know what days and times you could come out, were not looking to put it in stone just need some support out there over the weeklong event.



Last Half of Summer ... Continued from page 1

Mahoning County Senior Fair Aug 10th on Saturday 11A-4P we need to start being out there after 8AM and have as many as possible by 10AM, if you can't stay all day that is OK. Sunday Aug 11th is our

Annual Corn Roast. At Boardman Park 11-4P. The regular club meeting we will be discussing the upcoming Canfield Fair and definitely the Hamfest we need everyone's support to make this a success. We may also discuss an upcoming spaghetti dinner for the fall

as well. Remember to park on the north side of the Senior Center for the meeting as Tuesday nights they have the car show where we normally park.

**73 George Meleski
KC8RJS**

Taking a dose of my own medicine by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Excerpt of recent ARRL actions protecting hams from unnecessary regulation.

FCC's Receiver Immunity Standards Unnecessary, Impractical for Amateur Service, ARRL Says...

"Any performance standards for Amateur receivers would be purely arbitrary, and would compromise the experimental purposes of the Service," the ARRL told the Commission. "Amateurs have the technical knowledge to differentiate between interference from spurious or out-of-band emissions from nearby transmitters and that caused by receiver deficiencies."

In the Amateur Service, the League continued, station-to-station interference issues are typically resolved cooperatively without FCC intervention and are "essentially not a problem." The issue for radio amateurs, the League said, is "protection from spurious and out-of-band emissions from other services."

For more details please go to WWW.ARRL.ORG

Social gatherings

The 1st Saturday of the month 20/9 Club Breakfast at the Korner Restaurant in North Jackson at 9:00 AM

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.20over9.org

Last week, I wrote a blog post on preventive maintenance for one of my writing clients. Afterwards, I decided to take a dose of my own medicine and do a little preventive maintenance around the shack. I started with the Astron RS-35M, which provides the DC power that runs HF transceiver and my VHF/UHF transceiver in my shack. I had started noticing a few little things, such as the voltage adjustment being a little fussy, that I wanted to correct before the supply failed on me.

After removing the cover, I vacuumed all the dust out of the supply. The RS-35M wasn't very dirty, but even so, getting the dirt out of a piece of equipment is probably the first thing you'll want to do when performing preventive maintenance. Dirt impedes air flow. That can lead to higher

operating temperatures, and as the lab manager that I interviewed for my blog post said, "Heat kills." Not only should you vacuum any dust out of a cabinet, you should also clean the fan filters, if your gear has them. Dusty filters prevent air from flowing smoothly through equipment, and that means the fans don't cool as well as they should. Once that was done, I did a visual inspection. One thing that you want to look for are components that look like they're getting too hot. Another thing to look for is evidence of arcing. Whatever is causing the overheating or arcing will eventually cause a unit to fail. Fortunately, I found neither. Next, I checked to see that the components mounted to the enclosure were securely screwed

down. In the RS-35M, the transformer, the bridge rectifier, and an electrolytic are mounted to the enclosure. Oddly enough, the bridge rectifier was quite loose, so I tightened it down. Also loose were the output terminals. I tightened these down as well. Finally, I squirted a little cleaner and lube into the voltage adjustment pot and worked it back and forth. That seemed to do the job. That pot now works smoothly and cleanly.

I put the cover back on, reconnected the power cable, and got back to making QSOs. It should be good for another couple of years.

When he's not keeping the gear in his shack in tip-top shape, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands and teaching ham radio classes. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of





**Skywarn Frequencies
In order of usage
146.745- W8QLY PL110.9
146.910- W8IZC
147.000+ KB8N
147.570 Simplex**

Check for updates on:
www.Mahoningskywarn.org

**Net 1st Wed. 8:30 PM
146.745**

*"Once a net is in progress,
before you transmit your
info, take a moment to think
what you are going to say
before you key up."*



K8TKA seen from space!

Skywarn® <http://www.mahoningskywarn.org>

Please remember when there is a Severe Weather Net on the W8QLY 146.745 repeater to listen before transmitting. If there is not a warning issued yet for Mahoning County but there is for neighboring ones, then the repeater will probably be in a loose net mode. This means transmissions are not being directed to net control, but if you're having a conversation try to keep it short and leave long pauses in case someone needs to bring up the net or someone has emergency traffic from one of the borders. Make sure to listen before speaking, because if there is a net in progress you do not want to interrupt. Also, if there is a question posed; let the net control operator handle all the traffic. This cuts down on unnecessary radio communications on the frequency during a need. Once a net is in progress, before you transmit your info, take a moment to think what you are going to say before you key up.

The only reports that they will want are:

1. **Tornado, funnel cloud, or wall cloud** (location and direction of travel)
2. **Hail of any size, severe size is 1 inch** and up so quarter size, please reference hail size with pocket change, if you can't do an actual measurement.
3. **Actual wind damage**, trees down (what size, healthy or dead), measured winds 45 MPH or more.
4. **Flooding** more than 1 foot of standing water or flowing water which might lead to flash flooding.
5. **Death or serious injury from the weather.**

There may be occasions where they may ask for other reports for the National Weather Service.

Keep an eye to the sky. All help is appreciated!

Here are some useful links to review from the NWS in Norman, OK. Online basic training, won't replace live training but it will familiarize you to the basics. While watching the presentation online keep in mind this is for Norman, OK area and not NE Ohio.

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/our/?n=onlinespottertraining>

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/brochures/SGJune6-11.pdf>

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/our/?n=spotter>

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/nwrbro.htm>

Summer of events ...continued from page 1

This year Awesometown will be held at the Austintown Schools off of Idaho Rd. This will coincide with the big open house of the schools so the volume of people will be large, along with covering all the areas inside and out. They are estimating upwards of 10,000 people for the day. We will be running a directed net and possibly two talk

around frequencies for outside. This will be a handheld event as well, more will be discussed in the upcoming meetings. Please sign up or call me directly if you'd like to participate for the day. We will also discuss another spaghetti dinner to cap off the events this year. Also a reminder we are now on Twitter and of course Facebook, plus we have a website we've received many

compliments on over the past year, we are well over a 1000 hits in just over a year's time.

Thank you all again for your time and money you put into the club and appreciate all the help.

**73's Dotti O'Neil
KC8SYF**

20/9 Amateur Radio Club, Inc

President:

George Meleski KC8RJS
KC8RJS@arrl.net
330.651.3833

Vice President:

Dotti O'Neil KC8SYF
KC8SYF@arrl.net
330.651.3811

Treasurer:

Rich Hamaker KB8YHC
KB8YHC@zoominternet.net
330.792.4019

Secretary:

Jan Hamaker KC8PUO
KC8PUO@zoominternet.net
330.792.4019

Trustee:

Paul Resh N8GKE
330.319.3901

Trustee:

David Bresk KA8PSH
OHCOP@aol.com
330.782.8730

Trustee:

Bill Egan KD8HCQ
POPBOTTLE@zoominternet.net
330.549.5754

Classes and VE Exams

John Douglass KB8JVW
douglassjohn2@gmail.com
330.799.4250

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Ham Radio classes and VE Exam Sessions

We are beginning to schedule the next set of classes, and in looking at many different approaches from other clubs and past attendance, I am willing to give Hamcram a chance for the Technician test.

There are positives and negatives to this method but the results are hard to argue with. The big key is we, as a club, need to continue to work with newly licensed people to help them with better understanding and proper use. We lead by example. A long time ham described the technician test best, he called it a license to learn. I like to think of it as your white belt in Amateur Radio. It's very possible to

memorize every question and do little tricks to remember the answers, but immersion in the hobby makes understanding far easier. Sadly some groups that do the Hamcram sessions let newly licensed people loose without follow up. I will take responsibility on how well it works. I reviewed the material and it looks logical and easier to follow. Contact me if you know someone interested in this class method. We may even do this with General testing as well, the initial requirement would be different, requiring the student to have reviewed

the material prior to starting the session. Then we would be able to begin the Hamcram, answer questions, and then have the test. This may be broken in to two days which may be more practical.

Testing will still be conducted by John KB8JVW with help from our pool of Volunteer Examiners. If you are ready to take a test, and it is before or after we've had a scheduled test session, please contact John and allow at least one week of notice so he can gather enough VE's to test with.
73. Dotti KC8SYF

Membership Dues

Dues still remain the same \$15 for an individual and \$20 for family. We will be adding a PayPal link to the website soon for membership as well until then you can come to a club meeting at the Austintown Senior Center or send a check to:

20/9 ARC K8TKA
4939 East Radio Rd.
Austintown, OH 44515

73, KB8YHC Rich Hamaker

Member Birthdays

KD8DXT	Gwen Lewinsky	Aug 1 st
KB8UCY	John Lightner	Aug. 1 st
	Dee Dee Stoddard	Aud. 4 th



Please send updates to the roster if we missed your date.

K8TKA Repeater Tower Ohio QSO Party Parks on the Air

The repeater will have the new antenna up shortly on the current tower while final preparations are made on the bigger one going up about 30 feet away to raise it an additional 20 feet. If you're available weekdays or weekend let us know, we need some human power to get this done the same two or three people cant do it all.

The Ohio QSO Party is an opportunity for amateur radio operators around the world to celebrate the great state of Ohio. The Ohio QSO Party occurs on the fourth Saturday of August. The contest period extends from 1200 EDT [noon] to 2400 EDT [midnight] (1600Z Saturday until 0400Z Sunday). All stations may operate the full twelve hours. The 2013 contest is on August 24th.

Parks on the Air (POTA) was founded to encourage amateur-radio operators who enjoy the outdoors -- but who may not be interested in or able to take long hikes or make steep climbs -- to blend their interests by operating from municipal, county, state, provincial, and national parks around the world. Saturday, September 7, 2013, from 1600 UTC to 2400 UTC. The first Saturday after Labor Day