



NOARS LOG

**Our
44th Year**
Serving The
Amateur Radio
Community

www.noars.net

The Newsletter of:
The Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society

Welcome to NOARS country!

May 2008

NOARS Meetings Are Held
Are On The Third Monday
Every Month!
@ 7:30 P.M.



V.E. Exam Schedule:
1 P.M. Third Sunday of each Month.
Elyria Red Cross 2929 W. River Rd. Elyria, Oh.
(Across from old Midway Mall)

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
The NOARS MEETING This Month Is At: The Elyria Red Cross 2929 W. River Rd Elyria, OH				1 Tech NET 8 pm. NCS: W8KYS	2	3
4	5	6	7 NOARS NET 9 pm. NCS: K8JWS	8 Tech NET 8 pm. NCS: W8KYS	9	10
11 Bucyrus Hamfest	12	13	14 NOARS NET 9 pm. NCS: WD8OFG	15 Tech NET 8 pm. NCS: W8KYS	16 Dayton Hamvention	17 Dayton Hamvention
18 Dayton Hamvention	19 NOARS Meeting 7:30 P.M.	20	21 NOARS NET 9 pm. NCS: WD8IQJ	22 Tech NET 8 pm. NCS: W8KYZ	23	24
25 / 1 Breeze shooters Hamfest	26	27	28 NOARS NET 9 pm. NCS: NC8X	29 Tech NET 8 pm. NCS: W8KYS	30	31

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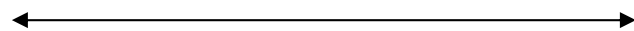


The Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society K8KRG



May, 2008 Volume 44 Issue 5

Welcome To N.O.A.R.S



Summer in NOARS Country! AT LAST!

And I can't say soon enough. But I have to say the weather here in Northern Ohio is nothing less than spectacular. I know, I know remember that day when we got 48-52 inches of white stuff almost overnight! And those cold and rainy days just last month. Well you can say what you want. But spring in NOARS country is just spectacular. Now I'll admit there are a few fall days that meet the bill too. But after that winter we had, my vote on spring time.

Well now that you got all those antenna parts together. Are you getting ready to climb on the roof and "get 'r done"? Please keep in mind the only thing that counts! SAFETY FIRST! Enough said! Dozens of our community are KILLED or MAIMED or at best seriously injured this time of year. Be aware of the dangers. We are supposed to know about electricity! Stay away from power lines and their LETHAL power Ladders, antenna elements and tower sections are all good conductors of that power. Unfortunately so are we and when we do it can KILL. You can't stop that antenna from falling once it gets away from you. Don't even try! It can pull you off the roof or tower and at our age we don't bounce that good anymore. PLEASE my friends be safe and you will be able to enjoy ham radio form your comfy shack and not from the hospital bed.

Well thanks to Bob Basset KE8UV. For that nice talk at the April meeting, about the big change-over to digital TV, coming our way, soon! We've included his paper on the subject as an insert to the paper newsletter and for you that get the E-version of the log. I'll insert it there as well.

Don't forget folks we have a busy season ahead. Field day is right around the corner and NOARSFEST08 is right behind it. get in on the fun. With the soaring gas prices. Ham radio is still a good entertainment value.

Best 73 and CUL.....

John

John McKenna - *WD8IQJ* Editor *The NOARSLOG*
Write: Editorlog2007, P.O. Box 35 Avon Lake, Oh. 44012
Or: E-Mail me at: wd8iqj@noars.net

Who's who at NOARS?

2008 Elected Officials

President: *N8PZD* Clark Beckman
Vice President *K8JWS* John Schaaf
Treasurer *W8KYZ* Tom Porter
Secretary *KA8VTS* Darlene Ohman

K8KRG License Trustee

W8EU Mike Willemin

Committee Heads for 2008

News Letter Production: *WD8IQJ* John (*Editor*)
W8KYZ Tom (*Producer*)
A.R.R.L. V.E.: *W8KYZ* Tom Porter
Education Committee: *K8JWS*, *W8KYZ*, *W8KRF*,
K8BMIS, *WA8UGC*
Property Manager: *WD8BJY* Doug Krucinski
DX Correspondent: *N8CX* Al Moriarty
Net operations Manager: *WD8IQJ* John McKenna
Hamfest Crew : *K8JWS* John Schaaf
N8PZD Clark Beckman
N8CX Al Moriarty
KA8VTS Darlene Ohman
Web Master@www.noars.net: *K8JWS* John Schaaf
Sunshine Committee: *KD8SC* Rosemary Shook
Repeater Upkeep: *N8PZD* Clark Beckman
Membership: *WD8IQJ* John McKenna
Elmer Corp. Representative *W8ADV* Ray Smith

Contact The Above People Using The Appropriate Information
In Your Copy Of The NOARS Roster
(*Did I leave anyone out? Let me know I'll fix it ASAP!*)

NOARS IS ON THE AIR!

Weekly Nets:

146.700 Wednesday Night Rag chews 9 pm local
NCS: *WD8IQJ* - *WD8OFG* - *N8CX* - *WA8Q* - *K8JWS*

146.700 Thursday Technical discussion net 8Pm Local time
NCS: *W8KYS* - *W8KYZ*

All are welcome on NOARS nets!

Roll Call April 21st Meeting:
21 members and guests in attendance

W8KYZ Tom	KC8BXH Joni	KC8BQO Ken	KE8UV Bob	N8MPC Jim
WA8Q Jack	W8KRF Carl	N8HDE Bob	N8RVE John	KB8MIS Richard
KC8POL Bob	N8PZD Clark	KA8VTS Darlene	N8CX Al	K8RWR John
K8PJS Patrick	KC8VFE Dick	N8OUB Joe	WA8UGC Jim	WD8IQJ John
		WD8OFG Harold		

C E K I E S G M D W M G E S T J S J F
 S N B I W Z I E H M K F T L B F G S R
 A T T D N P B M I F C Z D T O S O E F
 I N Y F N Q E L N B N L R M R P D C L
 C L X N H R S T K A N P M F G I R R
 A P E O E K H L A R R A Y S C T D R
 I N M O N O B A N D Q L Q H K O P S V
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 A K R D I N I S A D N R P X N R R N
 L U B O V N P R L C O T H B E G B D
 B G R V C T D M E R Z E O J A I E I
 B S L M Z B F O I U I R K L R S O E
 S N A G J D G N M T R D B N A T Z P
 R E D B O B H R I E O M J H L U T R
 B V B E V E R A G E H E P H N D Q H
 P O L A R I Z A T I O N R A N D O M S
 A T R I B A N D R V E R T I C A L G B
 R U S S H D I N D G M R D F X E A F E

Solution To Puzzle
 0408

N.O.A.R.S. NEWS

Educational Committee

General Upgrade Class Announced!

NOARS will be starting the second of a series of ham radio classes. Here are the details:

- Where: Elyria Red Cross 2929 W. River Rd Elyria, OH.
- When: Monday May 5th 6:00 PM EST
- Duration 2hrs/session 8-9 weekly sessions as needed
- Cost: \$20 For the study manual (ARRL)
- Contact: John Schaaf K8JWS webmaster2008@noars.net (216) 696-5709 (9-5 weekdays) (440) 323-0081(6 – 10PM)

Trainers will be: W8KRF Carl, K8JWS John, KB8MIS Rich, KD8AQL Alex. Pre registration will be appreciated.

Field Day

Is right around the corner!

Get on the list! Reserve your place at this annual fun event! Operators, loggers and set-up helpers are all needed! Contact: WD8IQJ John wd8iqj@noars.net For more information.

NOARSFEST

We need your help for this major NOARS Summer event! Contact: KA8VTS Darlene dfohman@att.net for information or tables

Upcoming events

Have your event posted here!
 Send copy to: NOARS Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 35
 Avon Lake, Oh. 44012 Or Email wd8iqj@noars.net -
 Deadline Is Third Tuesday Of Each Month For The
 Following Months Publication

May 11th 1st Annual Bucyrus Hamfest & Computer Show

Bucyrus, OH
 Crawford County Fairgrounds Youth Building
 Talk-In: 147.165 (PL 88.5)
 Contact: Kenneth Cook, W8DZN
 5726 Timpson Road Caledonia, OH 43314
 Phone: 419-834-0887 - Email: w8dzn@arrl.net

May 16th – 18th Dayton Hamvention

Dayton, OH - Hara Arena
 Dayton Amateur Radio Association
<http://www.hamvention.org>
 Contact: PO Box 964
 Dayton, OH 45401 - Phone: 937-276-6930

June 1st Breezeshooters Hamfest and Computer Show

Breezeshooters ARC
 Butler, PA - Butler Farm Showgrounds Route 68
 (next to Roe Airport)
<http://www.breezeshooters.net>
 Talk-In: 147.300 (no tone)
 Contact: Robert W. Benna, N3LWP
 1010 Willow Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15237-2225
 Phone: 412-366-0488 - Fax: 412-366-0486
 Email: n3lwp@verizon.net

Minutes of the April 21, 2008 Meeting
Submitted by: Darlene Ohman, KA8VTS

The meeting began at 7:40 p.m., 21 members and guests present.

- **Treasurers Report:** Tom Porter, W8KYZ was read and a motion was made and seconded to accept the report. The motion was passed.
- **Secretaries Report:** Darlene Ohman, KA8VTS, a motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as printed in the newsletter. The motion was passed.
- **Educational Committee:** We are not going to have a tech class. We are going to have general classes as long as we have enough people to take the class. We have manuals for the general class, you can buy them from the club for \$20.00. Contact Tom Porter, W8KYZ.
- **Newsletter and Membership:** John McKenna, WD8IQJ, everything is going well.
- **Nets:** John McKenna, WD8IQJ, the nets are going along very well. We still need someone to help Sandy out on the Thursday night Tech Net.
- **Sunshine:** Joni Roberts, KC8BXH. Ted Shook, W8TAS is in the hospital to have a pacemaker put in. John Schaaf, K8JWS wife is in the hospital. If anyone knows about someone in the hospital or is sick please let someone in the club know so we can send a card or a planter.
- **Repeater:** Clark Beckman, N8PZD, the 515 repeater is still not working. It is being worked on by John McKenna, WD8IQJ.
- **Web Site:** John Schaaf, K8JWS, the updates are being done.
- **DX:** Al Moriarty, N8CX, there is nothing new to report.
- **Old Business:** The meetings in July and October will be held on the second Monday of the month.
- **New Business:** Special Olympics, Fri, May 16, 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., held at Heley Stadium, we need 6 people to help out. On April 29th from 7:00 – 9:30 p.m., the Civil Air Patrol is having a demonstration.

After the meeting, Bob Charles Bassett, KE8UV, who works for NBC and WKYC and works with the Channel 3 news on the weekends, gave a very informative talk regarding the change from analog to digital television.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Say Happy Birthday (Send 'em ARL#46) This Month To:

(Sorry if I've missed your birthday! It's likely that I don't know what it is! Please let me know. What is your birth date? ..Ed.)

WA8CAE – K8AGW – K8VJG – KB8MIS – WA8PKC – KC8POL – N8OUB

A Few Of The Callsigns Heard On The

NOARS Nets. Wednesday and Thursdays nights

On The 146.700/100 Repeater In Elyria

April 2 ~ April 23

K8JWS - K8RWC - K8RWR - K8WRS - KA8GZA - KA8PRE
 KA8PRE - KB8BBZ - KB8NEA - KC8POL - KC8TYB
 KC8TYB - KC8VCM - KC8VCM - KC8VFE - KD8BBI
 KD8CES - KE8UV - KE8UV - N8MPC - N8RVE - NC8X
 NN8E - W8ADV - W8ADV - W8FAN - W8KRF - W8KYS
 W8TAS - WA8PKC - WA8Q - WB3JVK - WB8UPA
 WD8ADG - WD8IQJ - WD8OFG

146.700 Has Two NOARS Nets For You!

The 9:00 Pm Wednesday Night Rag Chew Net

One of the longest running two meter nets in northern Ohio! You all are welcome to this informal friendly net.

Hosted by: WD8IQJ – W8KYZ - WD8OFG – N8CX – K8JWS

The 8:00 Pm Thursday Technical Discussion Net.

You don't have to be a techno-geek to enjoy this friendly net slanted toward the technical side of the hobby.

Hosted by: W8KYS & W8KYZ

Where's the DX?

Taken From KB8NW Tedd's OPDX Bulletin.

NOTE! This is but a very small part of the complete OPDX Bulletin that can be found at www.papays.com/

The Ohio/Penn DX bulletin now has a new FAX number

Contributors can send DX information to: 1-419-828-7791 **FAX only!**

- 5B, CYPRUS (AS-004) – Operators Frank/DL2SWW and YL Gabi/DF9TM will be active as 5B/homecall, May 1-6th. Activity will be on 80-10 meters, mainly CW and SSB. QSL via their home call signs, direct or by the bureau.
- 8P, BARBADOS -- Darren, G0TSM, will be active as 8P9TS from May 21st to June 1st. Activity will be limited because he is on holiday, but look for him to be on CW, the HF bands and 6 meters. He will also be in the CQ WW WPX CW Contest (May 24-25th) as a Single-Op entry using the call sign 8P2T. QSL via G0TSM. Bureau requests can be obtained via E-mail at: qsl@g0tsm.co
- EY8, TAJIKISTAN -- Jean, F4EOH, will be active as EY8/F4EOH from Dushambe between now and the end of August. Activity will be mainly 20 meters SSB. QSL via his instructions or direct to: Jean Bernard, 701 Rue des Bartavelles, 6 Lot des Cigognes, 84100 Orange, FRANCE.
- H44, SOLOMON ISLANDS -- Moffet, H44MD, continues to be active on 20 meters SSB usually around 14190-14200 kHz between 0700-1230z. He is only using 100 watts and a dipole but is being worked by NA and OC stations. PLEASE NOTE: His address listed on QRZ.com is incorrect. The correct address is: P.O. Box 490, Honiara, SOLOMON ISLAND
- HP, PANAMA -- Tom, W4JKC, will be active as HP4/W4JKC from Colon Island (NA-088) between May 5-10th. Activity will be on 40-10 meters, CW and SSB. QSL via W4JKC, by the Bureau or direct.
- IOTA NEWS -- AS-117. Look for JA4ZKI/4 and JE6QIG/4 to be active from No Island (JIA AS-117-106), JA4 Yamaguchi Pref, from May 10-11th. QSL via their home call sign. You can go direct or by the bureau. **EU-037.** Operators Fred/SM7DAY and Jan/SM7NGH will be active as SM7DAY/p from Oland Island (WLOTA LH-0588), May 5-12th. Activity will be on most HF bands, CW and SSB. QSL via their home call signs, direct or by the bureau. Their Web site: <http://sm7day.ah.to> **NA-086.** Operators Lazaro/CO2WL, Gamboa/CO3VK, Jorge/CO3LF, Sandor/CO7SF, Josue/CO7RR and Gerardo/CO7GG will be active as T47C from Cayo Romano, April 24-27th. Suggested frequencies are: CW - 1830, 3505, 7010, 10110, 14020, 18070, 21010, 24895 and 28020 kHz, SSB - 1850, 3720, 7050, 14200, 18145, 21250, 24940 and 28490 kHz, RTTY - 7035, 14080, 18100 and 21080 kHz. QSL direct to IZ8EBI. **NA-088.** Tom, W4JKC, will be active as HP4/W4JKC from Colon Island (Bocas Del Toro Province), Panama, May 5-10th. Activity will be on 40-10 meters, CW and SSB. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the bureau
- LIGHTHOUSE ACTIVITIES -- Special event station W3S will be operating from the grounds of the Piney Point Lighthouse (ARLHS USA-601), St. Mary's County, MD, during their annual Waterfront Festival Saturday, May 10th, from 1300-2000z. Activity will be on 80/40/20/17 meters. They hope to have 3 active stations on SSB, CW and BPSK-31. A photo QSL is available, and a certificate upon request. QSL with S.A.S.E. via KA3UNQ. (See and follow QSL instructions on (QRZ.com).) **M7, ENGLAND --** Operators Mindaugas/LY4L and Jay/LY4Y will be active as M7A during the CQ WW WPX CW Contest (May 24-25th) as a Multi-Single entry. QSL via M0NRC.
- TF, ICELAND -- Soggi, TF3CW, will be active in the CQWW WPX CW Contest (May 24-25th) as Single-Op/Single-Band (20m) entry. QSL via LX1NO.
- TS78, TUNISIA (Special Event) – You still have a few days to work special event station TS78WARD. The last day is April 24th. Activity is to celebrate "International Amateur Radio Day" (April 18th) from the amateur radio club station 3V8ST of Tunisian Scouts. QSL via the 3V bureau.
- V8, BRUNEI (Update/OC-088) -- Operators John/9M6XRO and Gerben/PG5M are now active from the lodge of Ambran, V85SS, as V8FRO and V8FGM, respectively. By the time you read this, Gerben/PG5M should be packing it up. However, John/9M6XRO should be active until April 23rd. QSL V8FRO via his QSL Manager M3SDE and V8FGM via PG5M. Visit Gerben's Web site for the latest information at: <http://www.dx.to>
- VK9X, CHRISTMAS ISLAND -- Operators James/9V1YC and Wilbert/PE7T are now active (since April 18th) as N1YC/VK9X and PE7T/VK9X, respectively. Their length of stay is unknown. Activity has been mainly CW on 40/30/20/15 meters. QSL N1YC/VK9X via 9V1YC and PE7T/VK9X via his home call sign

Please Note: This is only a SMALL part of: OPDX Bulletin #855 LOG TO: WWW.papays.com for the rest (Only The Parts Relative To The Time Of Distribution Of The N.O.A.R.S. Log Were Included Here.)

Operating Notes:

- Our 444.8 UHF Repeater Is Operating At Reduced Power Until Further Notice
- Our 145.15 VHF Repeater is undergoing on the air tests please be patient.

May's CONTEST CORNER			MODE		
DATE	FREQ.	NAME	PH	CW	DG
3 -4	80-10	MARAC CW&SSB Contests	X	X	
3-4	10	10/10 Spring CW&Digital		X	X
3-4	80-15	RCA	X		
3-4	80-10	Portuguese Navy Day	X	X	X
10	80-10	FISTS Spring Sprint		X	
10-11	160-10	CQ-M International DX Contest	X	X	
10-11	80-10	Volta RTTY DX Contest			X
10-11	1.2Ghz	EU EME Contest	X	X	
17-18	160-10	H.M. King Of Spain Contest		X	
17-18	80-10	All America Contest		X	
24-25	80-10	CQ WW WPX Contest		X	
26-27	160-10	MI. QRP Memorial Day CW		X	
31-1	80-10	Kids Roundup	X		

Got 6 ?

Contributed By N8OFS Andy

- 6 Meter Dx Marathon {Signup_First!!!}
Date1:May03 0000z-Aug03 2400z 2008
Modes:USB&FM
Rules:[Http://Koti.Mbnet.Fi/Oh3ww/Marathon.Html](http://Koti.Mbnet.Fi/Oh3ww/Marathon.Html)
- 7th Call Area Qso Party
Date1:May03 1300z-May04 0700z 2008
Modes:USB - Excng:Rs+State
Rules:[Http://Www.Codxc.Com/New/Page.Asp?Content=Dryl and7s&Page=3](http://Www.Codxc.Com/New/Page.Asp?Content=Dryl and7s&Page=3)
- P40zb -- Date:May06-May15 2008
Oprs:K9wzb(Garry),K7wzb(Sharon)
Qslm:K9wzb(Garry) -- Grid:Fk42 --Freq:50.125USB
- K9jk & W4shg Spring 6 Meter Sprint
Date1:May10 2300z-May11 0300z 2008 --
Modes:USB&FM
- Marac Ssb Qso Party -- Date1:May17 0000z-May18 2400z 2008 -- Modes:USB
- C6aym(Eric) -- Date:May21-May26 2008
Oprs:K9gy(Eric) -- Qslm:K9gy(Eric) - Grid:FL15hb
Freq:50.110USB [URL:http://www.k9gy.com/](http://www.k9gy.com/)
- Vp5jm/K0ok(Bob)[Smirk#2110]
Date:May21-May28 2008 - Grid:FL31vs - Freq: 50.110usb

WANT MORE 6 ?

Log to: <http://www.noars.net/got6/GOT6.txt>

For Sale & Advertisement's Page

All Submissions must be sent to wd8iqj@noars.net or sent to: P.O. Box 35 Avon Lake, Oh. 44012

Deadline for submissions is the Third Tuesday of each month. All must include Asking price, sellers name, call sign and phone number. Ad's from current NOARS members (or paying advertisers) only will be accepted! Notice! All ad's will be removed after three months (as space is needed) unless updated! NOARS reserves the right to refuse ad's at our discretion.

N8MPC Jim (440) 774-1275 1/8

- **MT-3000H** Ant. Tuner \$300
- **Antique Radio Tubes**
(Various Types. Inquire For Price And Availability)

K8WHK Rich (440) 365-8754 1/8

- **KENWOOD AT-120** Ant. Tuner excellent condition - \$60
- **KENWOOD AT-130** Ant. Tuner excellent condition - \$65
- **KENWOOD MC-50** Mic. & Stand excellent condition - \$55
- **HEATH HW-8** with heath power supply, manuals & MFJ-900 antenna tuner & carrying case - \$145
- **HW-8 Handbooks** by: Michael Bryce (WB8VGE) 1991,1994 & 2004 like new condition - \$15
- **QRP Quarterly Journals** 1988 - 2003 make offer

WANTED!

- **One section of : 25G ROHN Tower**
(Must Be In Good Condition)

W8KYS SANDY (440) 647-2255 8/7

- Commodore 128 Computer
- B&W Monitor
- Color Monitor
- Kantronics II Interface
- 1541 Floppy Disk Drive
- Regency HR 2B 2m FM base or mobile radio
\$50.00 Takes All

It's that time again!

Time to review and update your ads on this page!

Please let us know if your item(s) are still available and if you want to change anything!

Thanks ... 'IQJ

WD8IQJ John (216) 544-5761 1/8

- **Beam Antenna SIX Meters**
5 element antenna (Cushcraft?)
New hardware! Get ready for the summer band openings!
- **Sears / Konica 35MM SLR** (film) camera Many extras / lenses \$200 OBO

W8LZB Mike - Equipment Liquidation! 1/8

All Good Stuff All Good Condition!
To Make A Reasonable Offer Contact:

W8KYZ Tom (440) 930 9115

- **HEATHKIT Warrior HA-10**
Linear 1000w 10 ~ 80 Meters
- **KLM 440-16 X-Yagi** (New)
- **MFJ-484** Grand Master Memory Keyer.

W8TAS Ted (440) 365-8041 10/7

- **KLM KT-34-A** six element beam
10-15-20 36' boom one of a kind (big gun) \$300 (bring your truck)

KA8VTS Darlene (216) 398-8858 8/7

LOWERY Magic Genie -
Contempo - 80 Electronic Organ

- Double Keyboard
- Full Bass
- Leslie Reverb
- Bench Seat, Music ++

Excellent condition! Must P.U.
\$500 O.B.O

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 K F L O P N E F T F E G O S D C G S G
 E X G G C Q G F A T D T O R S N S T R
 B N I E H C E S G T K E T E O T B M G

PUZZLE 0508	
WORD LIST	
AIRCRAFT	MARINE
BOATING	MEETING
BREEZE	PICNICS
CAMPING	PLAY
COMPUTERS	RADIOS
CONTESTING	RAINY
FIELD DAY	SUMMER
FLEAMARKETS	TENT
HAMFESTS	WIRE
LIGHTS	WORK
<p>ARE THERE MORE? Want To See Your Word List Here? Send it in! I'll use it ASAP!</p>	

Mission Statement.

The Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society

Is a public service organization with the purpose and goal to enhance the Amateur Radio Service through education and fellowship.

- Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. sharp on the third Monday of every month. At the Elyria Red Cross facility, 2929 West River Rd. (just South of Detroit (Rt. 254)) in Elyria, OH.
- The meeting are open to the public. And all are welcome. Tune to the 9 pm. Wednesday night NOARS net on the 146.700/444.8 MHz. repeaters on the E.S.T. bank Building in Elyria, Ohio for changes or updates in this schedule. Also the 146.700/444.8 repeater hosts the technical discussion net on Thursday Night at 8:00 pm.
- N.O.A.R.S. Repeater Can be heard at 146.700 (-) - 444.8 (-) in Elyria, OH. and 145.15 (-) In North Royalton OH.. (although the 5.15 is down for maintenance at this printing)
- Regularly scheduled NOARS nets are every Wednesday night at 9 pm. on 146.700 for the rag-chew net and every Thursday night at 8 pm. for the technical discussion net. All licensed amateurs are welcome. NOARS membership is not necessary to participate. In fact all participation is encouraged and appreciated.
- NOARS can be found on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.noars.net>
- NOARS Hosts two hamfest/computer shows annually. The winter hamfest in early February and the summer classic NOARSFEST hamfest and computer show in mid July.

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The Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society

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THE BIG CHANGE 02/17/09 – ANALOG CHANGES TO DIGITAL TELEVISION

By: Bob Charles Bassett KE8UV, CTO, and FCC Engineer of record

(Presented at the April 21, 2008 NOARS Meeting)

How this affects you depends on many things, such as:

1. Do you receive television signals with cable, satellite or an on air antenna.
2. If you use an on air antenna, how far you are from the TV transmitters.
3. If you intend to get a digital TV, digital recorder or analog to digital convertor.
4. If you like a big screen or are satisfied with the TV or monitor you now use.
5. If you watch a lot of network sports or mostly local shows.

Let's begin with some history. Scheduled television transmission began as black and white amplitude modulated video and monaural audio in 1936. The British 405 line resolution evolved as the U.S. NTSC 525 line standard began. In Europe PAL and SECAM 625 line systems evolved as the standard there. I believe TV audio became frequency modulated in the 40's. The NTSC, PAL and SECAM systems will die soon for the high power stations as digital transmission evolves. Therefore, no more detail about them is needed here. Some of you over 50 may remember hearing of a proposed color system using a synchronized color filter wheel 2 ½ times larger than the screen spinning at high speed. Imagine a 19-inch screen with a 4 foot wheel spinning in your living room. Believe it or not the FCC almost approved it when the compatible system in use today was invented just in time!

Fast forward to March 31, 2008, when the FCC mandated all TV stations run public service announcements (50% free, 50% paid) and 16 screen crawls per week informing everyone of the mandatory digital transition to come in 2009. Good idea but we're all gonna get bored and tune out.

Here are some facts---

IF you use cable or satellite systems, these providers will down convert the digital signal so you can see it on your analog (standard definition) TV. You will see the signals BUT NOT in high definition or high resolution.

IF you get your TV signals over the air with an antenna and get good analog (standard definition) signals NOW you SHOULD be able to get most, if not all, of the same stations HD (digital signals) with an analog to digital CONVERTER BOX or HD (high definition digital) TV or digital tuner/monitor.

IF you get poor or average analog (standard definition) signals NOW, you may need to UPGRADE your ANTENNA. IF you use rabbit ears, consider an outside antenna to do the job. Remember an antenna in an attic is degraded (attenuated) nearly 40% compared to one outside. You probably do not need a fancy HD antenna; however, when all is said and done most stations will be transmitting on most of the UHF TV frequencies we have all been seeing since the 60's. For example, Channel 3, which now transmits its digital HD signal on VHF Channel 2, will move to UHF Channel 17 as part of the FCC's realignment in 2009. Channel 8 and channel 19 will have their digital signals on VHF channels 8 and 10 after the transition. You MAY no longer need a VHF antenna. I see VHF channel 8 just fine today with an 8 bay UHF bow tie antenna. A UHF corner reflector or a multi-bay bow tie SHOULD be just the ticket to digital bliss. As we all know UHF is line of sight, so think about height and gain. What is your elevation and distance from the transmitters?

I live in Strongsville just east of Lorain County with low elevation. I have trouble with Channel 3 (remember Channel 3 is almost HF now). I also have trouble with Channel 25 digital. My buds there tell me they are running low power right now so their signal should improve. I recently changed a 20-element VHF/UHF Yagi that had been damaged for an 8-bay bow tie antenna with the improved results I had expected plus much less size, weight and wind loading. Less may be more here. You can experiment with rabbit ears or a bit with wire cut to a few inches before spending big bucks on an antenna. Don't forget if it WORKS NOW, it SHOULD do okay with digital signals when you decide to get some digital gear. No need to wait to get a digital TV if you are in a hurry. Most stations that must turn off their

analog signals next year have digital HD signals on the air NOW! However many stations WILL be changing frequency next February 17th. SO you MAY not want to make ANY antenna changes now. IF and when you decide to upgrade your antenna system, you could find an RF amplifier MAY be needed to overcome weak signals and/or line loss from the antenna to the TV set. The higher the frequency (UHF is higher frequency than VHF), the more the losses.

Some people wish to view out of town stations and purchase large antennas and/or high gain amplifiers. CAUTION if you do this! You may overload the TV tuner and see nothing on local stations because of TOO MUCH signal. Too much can be worse than not enough. Experiment with rabbit ears FIRST.

IF you want to view the low power TV stations that will STAY ANALOG (standard definition) AFTER the transition in 2009 and HD digital as well, you should look for a TV or converter box that will pass through analog signals along with the digital ones. Look at the government list of approved manufacturers at "dtvtransition.gov". Then check on the manufacturer's website (usually the company name dot com) for where to get what you need. You could also bypass the converter to view analog signals; however, this may be inconvenient for many.

Some definitions:

8VSB – (Eight Vestigle Side Band) – This is the standard for U.S. digital HD TV. It is somewhat prone to multipath problems.

COFDM – (Codified Octagonal Frequency Divided Multiplex) for digital HD TV. A superior format not used in this country at this time.

QAM – (Quadrature Amplitude Modulation) a cable TV HD distribution format.

Plasma – An expensive but excellent video display suitable for HD. It does suffer from burn in.

LCD – (Liquid Crystal Display) – A moderately priced Flat Screen type video display suitable for SD or HD.

CRT – (Cathode Ray Tube) – the normal TV screen we have known for years – ALSO the least expensive but heavier video display usable for SD or HD.

Bow tie antenna – Named after its resemblance to a bow tie commonly found in single or multiples of two, four or eight units or bays. More bays = more gain.

Yagi antenna – Most of us are familiar with this type of swept beam antenna. More elements = more gain.

Corner reflector-This is normally the front UHF portion of a VHF/UHF combination antenna. It should be available alone at electronic stores. More elements=more gain.

RF Amplifier – A device used to improve signals due to poor antenna, weak signal and/or long coax connections between your antenna, TV set and related recording gear. This is available at electronic or home stores.

Viewing Angle – A reference to the maximum angle which a video screen can be viewed and information gained.

Response time – This is a reference to the time needed to resolve a video signal into a clear useable picture.

Standard Definition – This is the analog signal you see now in 525 lines resolution.

High Definition – This is a digital video signal with higher than 525 lines resolution. The common standards are:

720p – This is seven hundred twenty line resolution, progressively scanned (one line, then the next and so on, line 1 to line 720 and repeat) found in less expensive TV sets and used by some local TV stations in Cleveland for local shows. 720p is superior to SD.

1080i- this is one thousand eighty lines resolution interlaced. (Scanned as line 1,3,5,7 and so on to line 1079, next line 2,4,6,8 and so on to line 1080 then repeat). 1080i is superior to SD and 720p. 1080i is used by networks and locally at WKYC and others.

1080p- This is one thousand eighty lines progressively scanned. 1080p is used on HD DVD and Blue Ray discs and for some production chores.

Digital – Information converted electronically into ones and zeros just like your computer.

Analog – Signals of continuously varying amplitude.

How about some comparisons between CRT, Plasma and LCD displays:

	CRT	PLASMA	LCD
WEIGHT	Heavy	Lighter	Very Light
CONTRAST	Good black level & color	Intense black level, realistic color	Bright white levels, good color & grayish black
RESPONSE TIME	Good motion	Good, crisp detailed motion	Not ideal for fast motion such as sports
VIEWING ANGLE	Very good	Wide angle w/o loss	Improving. Best in the newest models
SCREEN SIZE	All good	Good for large sizes	Best for small sizes
Value	Excellent overall	Very expensive in 1080 mode	Average

Don't toss that big beautiful analog TV yet. You can still use it as a monitor for the VHS and/or DVD player you now have. If you have thoughts of digital HD recording or playback, you will need a digital machine. HD-DVD and Blue Ray are what is available now. Blue Ray is out front and appears to be the winner already. Does this sound like VHS vs. Beta all over again? Beta always was superior and Pro Beta Systems are still used at some TV stations and in video production.

There is much more to this of course. It may be beyond the scope of this presentation. For example, bandwidth, compression ratios, embedded black, video, chroma, multiple channel audio and so forth.

I remember seeing a demonstration in New York about 10 years ago by Sony, I think, of an uncompressed HD plasma screen. The subject was fish in the ocean. At first I thought I was looking into an aquarium until I realized it was a display! I have not seen anything as good since due to the high compression rates standard these days. About 6 years ago I was privileged to help test COFDM here in Cleveland. It proved to be superior in many ways like no multipath. However, the wheels were turning on 8VSB so 8VSB is the standard we use today. However, even knowing all this, if you haven't seen HD, you will still love it.

From lowly 720p to dazzling 1080 plasma, digital is great and it is your choice. Don't let a commission-driven salesperson who probably knows less than you do now sell you more than you need or want.

Thanks to WKYC DT 3, Engineering, for checking my facts and for the history information.

I hope this information is useful.

73 DE, Bob Charles Bassett KE8UV, CTO, and FCC Engineer of record.