



# NOARS LOG

**Our  
44<sup>th</sup> Year**  
Serving The  
Amateur Radio  
Community

The Newsletter of:

**The Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society**

www.noars.net

## Welcome to NOARS country!

# August 2008

NOARS Meetings Are Held  
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
<b>The NOARS Meeting PICNIC this month is at: Carlisle Reservation: Duck Pond: Shelter #1 Nickle-Plate Diagonal Rd.</b>					1	2
3	4	5	6 NOARS NET 9 pm. NCS: K8JWS	7 Tech NET 8 pm. NCS: WB3JVK	8	9 Fair Radio Lima Ohio
10	11	12	13 NOARS NET 9 pm. NCS: WD8OFG	14 Tech NET 8 pm. NCS: W8KYZ	15	16
17 Warren Hamfest	18 Picnic @ Duck Pond	19	20 NOARS NET 9 pm. NCS: WD8IQJ	21 Tech NET 8 pm. NCS: W8KYS	22	23
24 Cambridge Hamfest / 31	25	26	27 NOARS NET 9 pm. NCS: W8KRF	28 Tech NET 8 pm. NCS: NC8X	29	30

Editorial & Who To Contact	Pg 2	Contest Corner, DX and Got 6?	Pg 5
Roll Call - NOARS News (Please Read) - Upcoming Events	Pg 3	For Sale & Ad's Page	Pg 6
Meeting Minutes - Happy Birthday to:	Pg 4	Puzzle 0808 -NOARS Mission Statement	Pg 7



# The Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society **K8KRG**



August, 2008 Volume 44 Issue 8

## Welcome To N.O.A.R.S

### ← NOARS SUMMER! →

Welcome aboard! What a day! NOARSFEST 2008 is in the history book. And I for one am very impressed with the crew we had this year. Its no wonder NOARSFEST is such a regular success. First off let me recognize a few of these hard workers. First comes the entrance gate crew: Darlene KA8VTS, John N8RVE, Tom W8KYZ, Dick KC8VFE, Mark W8FAN, And Steve WB3JVK. Then the all important traffic patrol: Andy N8OFS, Julie WD8ADE, Al W8AWM, and Morgan McKenna. Then there were the Table staff Al N8CX, KD8SC Rosemary (ladies events) and John WD8IQJ. 50/50 Sales were by Harold WD8OFG. The Mobile Check-in station was by Carl W8KRF. Clark N8PZD got the P.A. System installed. Setup/teardown crew was Andy N8OFS, John N8RVE, John K8JWS Harold WD8OFG and Morgan. The NOARSFEST committee chairman was John K8JWS and the real boss was Darlene KA8VTS. If I've missed someone you'll just have to forgive me. In my opinion we had one of the best crews in recent history. I'll say it again with members like this its no wonder NOARS is one of the best.

While I'm on the subject of the hamfest, at the July meeting we formed a steering committee. The goal of which is to look into ways to improve the hamfest. All aspects will be under scrutiny including dates, locations and prices. Stay tuned folks! More news on this to follow.

Well Field Day has come and gone and it's almost eclipsed by the hamfest and this year was no exception, with moving the hamfest up one week and having a "long" June. Seems like we left field day and went to right to Wellington. To say the least.... Hectic! But as usual the field day news was news in itself. The day before the event we were informed that the site was closed due to flooding of the Black River, and that we would have to move to an alternate site. Once again the field day crew showed its metal. All it took was a few phone calls and we were on our way to the Indian Hollow Reservation in Grafton. We set up back at the Maintenance building and got on the air as planned. However we did not get the antennas into optimum configuration we did have a good time. Next year we've applied for the pavilion #1 at the Indian Hollow park. Look for more details from our field day planning Committee

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](mailto: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 Willemine

### *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*,  
*K8MIS*, *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](http://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* – *K8JWS* – *W8KRF*  
146.700 Thursday Technical discussion net 8Pm Local time  
NCS: *W8KYS* – *W8KYZ* – *N8CX* – *WB3JVK*  
All are welcome on NOARS nets!

**Roll Call: July 14<sup>TH</sup> Meeting:  
20 members and guests in attendance**

W8KYZ Tom	KC8BXH Joni	KC8BQO Ken	WD8ADE Julie	W8GWD Joe
WB3JVK Steve	W8KRF Carl	KD8SC Rosemary	N8RVE John	W8WFQ Joel
KC8VFE Dick	N8PZD Clark	KA8VTS Darlene	WD8IQJ John	AF8B Bob
W8TAS Ted	WD8OFG Harold	KE8UV Bob	Angela Lasko	Gary Lasko

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

Solution To Puzzle  
0708

# N.O.A.R.S. NEWS

## *Silent Key*

### **KC8TBB Don Shuster**

Passed away a few months ago. But the news just got to us. Many of us remember Don as a member of the NOARS nets on many occasions. His daughter Katie would like to hear from those of us who knew him.. You may contact her at: [katies@noars.net](mailto:katies@noars.net) Or dial (440) 278-3499 Thanks in advance

## Membership News

Welcome **NEW** Members!

Gary Lasko (associate) Angela Lasko (associate)  
 WD8ADE (ex KD8IVW) Julie W8WFQ (ex KD8IVV) Joel  
 W8UTC Art – KD8BBH Becky

Renewing Members

W8AJZ Ernie – W8KRF Carl

Congratulations to: W8WFQ Joel  
 KD8REW Ralph  
 KB8WVA Leon

On their upgrading to General class J

Congratulations and welcome to ham radio to  
 Karen Wright (XYL of KD8REW) just passed the  
 technician class and is now KD8JBK

## NOARS NEW WEB PAGE IS UP !!

This just in !!! Check out K8JWS's Project "website update" !!!  
[www.noars.net](http://www.noars.net) . New look, New Feel, Updated Content.

## 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](mailto:wd8iqj@noars.net) -  
 Deadline Is Third Tuesday Of Each Month For The  
 Following Months Publication

### August 9<sup>th</sup>

#### Northwest Ohio Amateur Radio Club

Fair Radio Sales Grounds - 2395 Saint Johns Road  
 Lima, OH

<http://www.nwoarc.info/hamfest.shtml>

Talk-In: 146.670 (no PL)

Contact: Gary Clements, K8FRS c/o Fair Radio Sales  
 2395 Saint Johns Road Lima, OH 45802  
 Phone: 419-227-6573 Fax: 419-227-1313

Email: [kc0jdt@yahoo.com](mailto:kc0jdt@yahoo.com)

### August 17<sup>th</sup>

#### Warren Amateur Radio Association

<http://kc8pvh.com> - Talk-In: 146.970

Contact: Emily Wells, KC8RAL

PO Box 809 Warren, OH 44483

Phone: 330-394-3560 - Email: [kc8ral@yahoo.com](mailto:kc8ral@yahoo.com)

### August 24<sup>th</sup>

#### Cambridge Amateur Radio Association

Hamfest and Computer Show

<http://w8vp.org> Talk-In: 146.850 (PL 91.5)

Contact: Russ Ellis, N8MWK

5855 Sherrard Road - Cambridge, OH 43725

Phone: 740-439-6610 - Email: [n8mwk@arrl.net](mailto:n8mwk@arrl.net)

## Field Day Results\*

Band Count				
Mode >	CW	Digital	Phone	QSO'S
Band v	QSO	QSO	QSO	Total
80 M			202	202
40 M	49	31	124	204
20 M		49	44	93
10 M			29	29
6 M			13	13

\*Just A Raw QSO Count. For The Detailed Report  
 Please Come To The September Meeting

**Minutes of the July 14, 2008 Meeting**  
**Submitted by: Darlene Ohman, KA8VTS**

The meeting began at 7:33 p.m., 20 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 had a review and a pretest. The regular test will be held this Sunday at 1:00 p.m.

**Newsletter and Membership:** John McKenna, WD8IQJ, everything is going well. The new roster will be mailed out in September.

**Nets:** John McKenna, WD8IQJ, the nets are going along very well. It's great that we have some new people running the nets.

**Sunshine:** Rosemary Shook, KD8SC, Jim Henderson is home after being in the hospital for about 3 weeks with an infection in his leg from a cut. He is doing a lot better. If anyone knows any member who is in the hospital or is sick, please let me know.

**Repeater:** Clark Beckman, N8PZD, the 515 and the 4.8 repeaters are still being worked on.

**Web Site:** John Schaaf, K8JWS, not at the meeting. Please contact him if you see any changes that need to be made on the web site.

**DX:** Al Moriarty, N8CX, not at the meeting.

**Old Business:**

**Field Day:** John McKenna, WD8IQJ gave a field day report.

**Noarsfest:** Tom Porter, W8KYZ, gave a full report regarding the hamfest. A committee was formed to review possibilities for next year.

**Picnic:** August 18<sup>th</sup> at the Duck Pond near the Field Day site at 6:00 p.m. The club will supply the meat, buns and drinks please bring a covered dish.

**New Business:** John Schaaf would like to use the club station at the Boy Scout Jamboree in October; he would like to get some participation from the club.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 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.)

W8GWD - W8ADV - N8MBB - K8WHK - K8SVT - KA8HKQ - KC8PCZ - KD8FTP - N8CX - N8DIU

**A Few Of The Callsigns Heard On The**

NOARS Nets. Wednesday and Thursdays nights

On The 146.700 / 100 Repeater In Elyria

*July 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ July 30<sup>th</sup>*

WD8ADE W8ADV KD8BBI KB8BBZ KB8CQ N8CX  
 W8FAN KD8FKD KC8FQV KD8GXX KD8IMZ  
 WD8IQJ KD8JAN WA8JCB WB3JVK K8JWS  
 W8KRF W8KYS W8KYZ KB1LCS N8MPC KB8NEA  
 WD8OFG KB8PEC K8PGA K8PJS WA8PKC N8RVE  
 K8RWC W8TAS WD8TIM K8TV KE8UV KC8VFE  
 W8WFO NC8X

**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 - WD8OFG - N8CX - W8KRF - 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 WB3JVK K8JWS

**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/](http://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!

- **5Z, KENYA (IOTA Op)** -- Antonio, IK8VRH, will be active as 5Z4/IK8VRH from Malindi, time permitted, in August. Operations will be from the Coast Province North Group (AF-040) between August 15-17th and the Coast Province South Group (AF-067) between August 20-22nd. Enrico, 5Z4ES, will be with him. Activity will be on 40/20/17 meters using CW/SSB/RTTY. Equipment will be a FT450AT with a Sommerkamp 300watt PA, Bubbledipole, Zx Mini Beam, USB II MicroHAM and MiXW.
- **LIGHTHOUSE ACTIVITY** -- Operators Doug/KD8CAO and John/K8YSE will activate the Grand Haven South Pierhead Inner (USA-1077) and Grand Haven South Pierhead Outer (USA-1078) Michigan Lighthouses during the ARLHS 2008 National Lighthouse-Lightship Week, August 2-9th. Operation from Grand Haven will be on August 2nd. On August 3d, they will try to activate other Lake Michigan lighthouses. Look for them on all HF bands. Satellite operations on AO-51, SO-50 and AO-27 are a possibility. QSL via K8YSE.
- **MJ, JERSEY** -- . Operators Oliver/OE5OHO, Henry/OE5HDN and Gerhard/OE3GEA will be active as MJ/homecall between August 21-26th. Activity will be holiday style with operations on all HF bands on CW and SSB. QSL via the Bureau to their home call signs.
- **SMITHSONIAN STATION GOING QRT** -- \ "The Daily DX" reports: "The Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History Amateur Radio station NN3SI will be going QRT on July 31st. The club has been trying for several months to come up with a solution to keep this icon on the air. Annually the museum has three million visitors, many getting a first time exposure to Amateur Radio. NN3SI has been QRV for the last 32 years. Starting today through the end of the month the station will be active before finally shutting down. Starting around 1315z, activity will begin on 40 meters. Watch the following frequencies for possible activity: 3840, 7240, 14240, 21340 and 28440 kHz (+/-). They may also be on PSK." QSL info and more details are available at: <http://www.qrz.com/NN3SI>
- **VP9, BERMUDA** -- Angelio, IK2RZP, will be active as VP9/IK2RZP from August 5-24th. Activity will be mainly SSB and the digital modes on the 17/12 meters. However, he will have a multi-band vertical and will only use 100 watts. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the bureau

Please Note: This is only a *SMALL* part of: *OPDX Bulletin #868 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 at a location on the West side of Cleveland at reduced power. Please feel free to try it out!

AUGUST'S CONTEST CORNER			MODE		
DATE	BANDS	NAME	PH	CW	DG
8/9	80-10	Worked All Europe		X	
8/16	80-10	SARTG WW RTTY Contest			X
8/16	50 Mhz.	Keymen 's Club Of Japan		X	
8/16	160-10	Russian District Award Contest	X	X	
8/16	160-10	Silent Key Memorial Sprint		X	
8/16	160-10	NA QSO Party	X		
8/23	160-10	Hawaii QSO Party	X	X	X
8/23	80-10	Ohio QSO Party	X	X	
8/30	80-10	YO DX Contest	X	X	
8/30	80-10	ALARA Contest	X	X	
8/30	80-10	SCC RTTY Championships			X

**Got 6 ?**

Contributed By N8OFS Andy

**AUG09 1600Z-AUG10 0400Z 2008**

**MARYLAND-DC QSO PARTY**

MODES:50.150USB+52.525FM -

LOGTO:mdc.logs@verizon.net

**\*DATE1:AUG16 2000Z-AUG17 0700Z 2008**

**\*DATE2:AUG17 1300Z-AUG18 0200Z 2008**

**NEW JERSEY QSO PARTY**

MODES:USB+FM - EXCNG:CALL+SN+STATE

INLOG:CALL+SN+COUNTY+BAND+MODE

RULES:http://qsl.net/w2rj/QSO2008.pdf

**DATE1:AUG23 0700Z-AUG24 2200Z 2008**

**HAWAII QSO PARTY**

MODES:USB+FM

RULES:http://karc.us/hi\_qso\_party.html

**DATE1:AUG26 1700Z-2100Z 2008**

**50 MHZ OPEN**

MODES:USB+FM - EXCNG:CALL+RS+GRID6

:http://qsl.net/oz6om/the50mhzopen/The50MHzOpen.ht

**WANT MORE 6 ?**

**Lots More August Activity Look Here:**

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

## For Sale & Advertisement's Page

All Submissions must be sent to [wd8iqj@noars.net](mailto: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 8/8

- **Antique Radio Tubes (Various Types. Inquire For Price And Availability)**

**K8WHK** Rich (440) 365-8754 1/8

- **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** Free With HW-8 (above)

### WANTED!

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

**K8RWC RICH** (440) 963-0015 8/8

- **MFJ 962 versa tuner III** 1.5 KW good shape - roller inductor & lighted meters - good shape \$100.00 OBO
- **YEASU 2600m** 5watts to 60 w. w/ manuals & box \$90.00
- **MFJ 868 Watt Meter** Giant Lighted Dial - Reads peak & Average power. 20/200/2000 scales \$100.00
- **Turner 253** lo-z dynamic mike excellent shape \$25.00
- **YEASU watt meters** ys500 (VHF) & ys-60 (HF) Reads avg & peak power sold only as pair \$150.00
- **ASTATIC D104 W/G** stand .needs felt on bottom \$65.00

### 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*

**W8LZB** Mike - Equipment Liquidation! 8/8

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

**W8KYZ** Tom (440) 930 9115

- **KLM 440-16 X-Yagi** (New) \$40.00
- **MFJ-484** Grand Master Memory Keyer. \$10.00
- **Micronta Vacuum Tube** Voltmeter, Model 22-025, \$15.00
- **Hustler 2 Meter mobile** (clamp on) antenna with 21 ft. coax, \$20.00.
- **Fox Vixen II** super heterodyne radar detector. \$15.00
- **Datong Model D70** morse code tutor. \$10.00
- **BUD Econobox Cu-234** (2 1/16 x 4 11/16 x 3 11/16), in original plastic wrapping. \$2.00.
- **Pyramid Gold Series power supply, Model PS-4K**, 3 amp (4 amp surge), 13.8 volt, \$20.00.
- **Optoelectronics Model OPTO-7000** frequency counter (10hz. - 550 MHz.) \$25.00.
- **MFJ -313** VHF converter for HT"s. \$5.00.
- **OPTIMUS model 12-1869B** 40 watt stereo power booster, DC 12V. \$5.00.
- **Power supply** 12 VDC/1.7 amp., \$10.00.

**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. \$200 O.B.O

### NOARS HAS FOR SALE!

New from ARRL

- Level 1, Technician Ham Radio License Manuals for sale. Price \$19.00.
  - Instructors Manual for Technician Class License courses. Price \$12.00.
- All prices below dealer list!  
Contact :W8KYZ, Tom,  
440-930-9115.

Your Ad Belongs Here!  
Send Me Your Copy!

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

PUZZLE 0808	
WORD LIST	
ASCII	KEYING
BAUD	LAYER
BINARY	MORSE
CODE	PHASE
COMMERCIAL	PLANE
CONVERSION	RADIO
DIGITAL	ROD
GEAR	SHIFT
GROUNDING	STATE
INTERFACE	TELETYPE
<p><b>ARE THERE MORE?</b>                  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. Repeaters 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.

If this is your first copy of the NOARS log. Why not become a member and receive it on a monthly basis? Membership is open to anyone interested in communications. The dues schedule is: Full \$10, Associate \$5 (non licensed), Family members of a full member are only \$2 ea. make checks payable to NOARS and mail them to:

NOARS Membership Committee P.O. Box 35 Avon Lake, Oh. 44012

# Come On Out To The NOARS FAMILY PICNIC

Where? The Carlisle Reservation's  
Duck Pond Shelter \*See Map Below

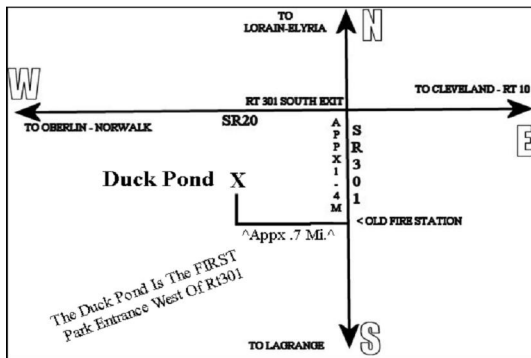
When? Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup> 6 Pm. – 8pm.

What To Bring? Your Appetite! (A Covered  
Dish Is Optional) (NOARS Supplies  
Weenies, Burgers, Buns And Soft Drinks)

All Are Welcome!

Bring The Family!

Enjoy The Pot Luck Covered  
Dishes And The Fellowship!



N.O.A.R.S.  
P.O. Box 35.  
Avon lake, Oh. 44012



THE NORTHERN  
OHIO AMATEUR  
RADIO SOCIETY

44

Years Serving  
The Amateur Radio  
Community

U.S.  
Postage

Dated Material

Mailing Label



## The Big Change, Analog to Digital Television, Part 2...The Converter Box

By Bob Charles Bassett, CTO, Broadcast Engineer and F.C.C. Engineer of Record, WKYC

FIRST if you use CABLE on ALL your TV sets, YOU DO NOT NEED a converter box! If you have ANY TV using an ANTENNA read on. There is a lot to learn for those folks who use antennas to receive Television signals on any TV they own! Do you have Cable but also have a small portable TV you use in the kitchen or outside or in the garage, etc.? REMEMBER if you intend to use any TV with an ANTENNA and not with CABLE, you will need a converter box to change the Digital signals that will fill the airwaves next FEBRUARY 17th, as the government's mandatory change to Digital will be in force. Low power stations (such as Channels 29, 35 and others) will be exempt from the change to Digital at least for now and MAY remain Analog. These low power stations will be the only ones you will be able to view without Cable or a Converter Box and an antenna after next February.

For those using an antenna and needing a converter box, first ask for a government money saving coupon! This coupon will save you \$40.00 off of SOME of the available boxes. Go to DTV.GOV for more information on how to request one or two coupons for your household. Two is the maximum the government will send to each home address WHILE THEY LAST. These coupons look like a credit card, can only be used once and only for APPROVED converters. The key here is, of the many converter boxes available, only a few are approved for the coupon discount. I understand the government can't keep up with all the new units becoming available and in need of testing. Sadly there are also scams out there on the internet and elsewhere. I am not saying avoid the internet, just be CAREFUL. We had a story last week about an internet seller with FREE boxes NO coupon needed! All you had to do was send \$59.95 for a warranty plus shipping. The moral here is getting an approved converter from a reputable dealer.

I have tested several converter boxes available locally and some antennas as well. I find they all work, some better than others. Some have more bells and whistles or are easier to use. Some are more sensitive (able to "find" more stations) than others and so on.

For \$50.00 minus the \$40.00 government discount coupon plus tax on \$50.00 (yes, that is how they do it) or a total of less than \$14.00 out of your POCKET, you can get a bare bones no frills plastic Magnavox converter with remote at Wal-Mart, OR the same box or a pass thru model at K-Mart, OR an Access model at B&B Appliance. The Access is new to me.

For about \$60.00 minus coupon plus tax, you will find a digital stream box at Radio Shack. This is a good basic box with a superior tuning meter, good sensitivity and passes thru function. The drawback is a confusing remote and hard to navigate menu at first.

At Best Buy you will find an Apex pass thru box (sorry I have not tested this one as yet). They also have an Insignia brand box from LG. The Insignia is another good solid performer and this company reportedly holds patents on some of the circuitry used in many other boxes. (LOOK carefully for a manufacture date after Dec. 2007). SOME units made before this date had sound problems that have been corrected in later units.

At B&B Appliance, Circuit City and H. H. Gregg, another good choice is the Zenith box. This one appears to be a near clone of the Insignia and just as good a performer. At last check, B&B also sells a Philco pass thru box. Since these sell out quickly, I have not been able to test this one either.

You may be asking, what is "Pass Thru"? Pass thru refers to a converter that will EASILY bypass the electronics in the box so you can view the low power stations that will stay analog for now and not need converting.

Bottom line is, if you want an inexpensive basis converter box that works okay without frills, Wal-Mart, K-Mart or B&B Appliance have what you want. If you want a bit better model with better sensitivity (to "find" more stations) with or without pass thru and more than one model to look at, B&B Appliance or Best Buy may be good for you. Everyone else is somewhere in between.

A look at antennas. I am having good luck with an 8 bay bow tie UHF antenna right now. This COULD change next year when Channels 8 and 19 will remain on VHF with their digital signals. We may want to wait until then to change and/or upgrade our antennas. Today there are some problems with digital Channel 3 because it is very low in frequency and requires a larger antenna than anyone else. If you cannot wait until next February to view Channel 3 perfectly, you could purchase a TERK brand or other Loaded Dipole (rabbit ear) antenna to improve this hard to get Digital signal. Problems with the Channel 3 and Channel 25 digital signals will be greatly reduced or eliminated next year when they will be using new high power transmitting gear and new antennas. Both stations will be on UHF. Channel 25 will also move its signal to the WKYC DT3 site on Broadview Road.

Smart antennas -- The main function of this "Smart" technology is that it electronically rotates the antenna for the best performance. The Smart antennas DO NOT change or peak for a specific frequency or physically move. Most models of the Smart antenna tested worked very well. The Channel Master Smart antenna does not work the same way as the others so it can't be compared fairly. The better smart antennas work along with a dedicated control box or control box/converter. There is also a stand alone unit that works well but is a bit light for outdoor use. Smart antennas tested are from General Electric, Sylvania/Fun and Channel Master. The General Electric Box and antenna is a great combination with the Sylvania next. At this time none of these box/antenna combinations appear to be available other than on the internet and few can be purchased with the discount coupon. For those who want the best performance possible without buying an HDTV, many retailers offer Digital RECEIVERS with all kinds of outputs like S Video, Optical, HDMI and some have USB for connection to your computer monitor for great Digital TV on a budget!

Please be aware this information is constantly changing. What is available today may not be next week and something new is coming soon to be sure. These are only helpful hints and no promises are made as to what will work at your home or business. Stop by a local retailer and see the equipment and learn more about this big change in Television.

All the best to you and have fun. Bob Charles Bassett, CTO, Broadcast Engineer and F.C.C. Engineer of Record.