



The Feedline
Oakland County Amateur Radio Society
Organized 1937, ARRL affiliation 1962
Monthly Newsletter
March 2016



President's Message, by Joe Miller KJ8O

Although we have had our ups and downs with the weather this year, I was driving home from work tonight, and I'm already seeing the little signs that spring is well on it's way. During the dead of winter, I get home at about 6, it's been completely dark for almost an hour, and the only PSK31 traces on my waterfall appear on the 40 meter band. For the past week or so, I have been seeing more activity on 20 meters when I get home. I will say that it was a real treat for me making contact with KP4PH (Guantanamo) on both 20 and 40 meters, and there have been reports of him on 10, 17 and 80 as well.

The Antarctic has seen a few DXpeditions recently, hopefully some of you made contact, and Guinea is active with the Italian DX Team through March 4.

March will see some big contests, the first weekend will be the ARRL International DX Contest, while the final weekend will be the CQ Worked Prefix Contest. Unfortunately, the latter falls on the same weekend as Easter Sunday, and I have noticed that contest activity tends to be smaller when occurring on the religious weekends. Hopefully, between church and family, we can find a few hours to get on the air.

A shout-out goes to OCARS member Greg N8GAS who is organizing a trip to one of the Hawaiian volcanoes as part of the National Parks on the Air event. Some of our members are already appearing on the NPOTA leaderboard, but this event runs through December 31, so even if you haven't started yet, you still have ten months, including the summer months when activity is expected to be much bigger. I have also heard the ARRL will be scheduling several talks at this year's Hamvention. And don't forget, we should start firming up our club's plans to go the River Raisin Park in Monroe.

Larry KB8POD is requesting volunteers to assist with Oakland County Siren Testing program. As he has done for the past several years, he will begin taking check-ins at some time around noon on the Clarkston Repeater (the same one used for our Monday night nets), and following his long standing tradition, is looking to having at least one report for every siren in the Northwest Corner of Oakland County. I will be sending e-mails at different times throughout the next nine months, and request that our members help him and Oakland County with this valuable service.

For the March meeting, I would like to have a show and tell night. It can be anything pertaining to ham radio, a recent award, a new piece of equipment, a recently constructed kit or do it yourself project. Even a QSL card from a special event station or rare DX will work. This will be our time to say that we can have fun with ham radio.

Every once in a while, I received some interesting materials, and this month, I have included a postcard from the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. A friend of mine, Fred KK4HEG will be using PSK31 and will be operating as W4DW as one of the 50 point bonus stations.

And in closing, it's not too early to start thinking about the Dayton Hamvention, and an announcement from Arrow Communication Association is included for those interested in the bus ride from Ann Arbor.

Hope to see you at the March meeting.

VY 73 de Joe, KJ8O, OCARS President



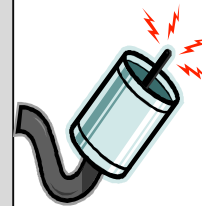
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- Siren Testing:** Saturday, March 5, 2016, at 1:00 pm. Please check contact Larry Hornsby at 248-421-2617 or by e-mail at: kb8pod@att.net for a siren
- OCARS Meetings:** Tuesday, March 1, monthly meeting at 7:30, show and tell night
Tuesday, April 5, monthly meeting at 7:30, to be determined
Tuesday, May 3, monthly meeting at 7:30, to be determined
Tuesday, June 7, monthly meeting at 7:30, Field Day
- Meeting location:** Bethany Baptist Church, 1375 Hiller Rd., Waterford
doors open at 7:00, meeting begins at 7:30
- Social Gathering:** Wednesday 10:15 – 11:30 am, Village Place restaurant
S.W. corner of Dixie Highway and Andersonville Rd., Waterford
- Officers and Directors:**
- | | | | |
|------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|
| President: | Joe Miller KJ8O | Directors: | Tim Pepper K8NWD |
| Secretary: | Scott Craig N2OPQ | | Al Bailey K8SIX |
| Treasurer: | John Eldred N8FNN | | Fred Holmes W1SKU |
| Trustee: | Brad Nowak N8SNM | | Jim Vigne KB8TXZ |
- OCARS Net:** 8:00 pm (local time) on the Clarkston Repeater, 146.840 MHz, p.l. tone 100 Hz,
Joe KJ8O is net control and welcomes participation from all area hams.
- Checkins:** Dates are local time, Monday evenings, with number of check-ins, and NCS:
- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Feb. 1: 28, KJ8O | Feb. 15: 22, KJ8O |
| Feb. 8: 26, KJ8O | Feb. 22: 30, KJ8O |
- Website:** www.gsl.net/w8tno maintained by webmaster Scott Craig N2OPQ
- Contact information:** w8tno.ocars@gmail.com or kj8o.ham@gmail.com (for an immediate response)
- Great Lakes Division:** <http://www.arrl-greatlakes.org/>
- Michigan Section:** <http://www.arrl.org/sections/view/michigan> (updated on the 15th of the month)



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Upcoming Hamfests

Mar 19, 2016 Crossroads Hamfest, Kalamazoo, MI
<http://www.w8df.com/index.php?content=hamfest>

Upcoming Contests and/or Operating Events

Feb. 28 North Carolina QSO Party (see announcement)

March 5-6 ARRL International DX Contest (phone)
www.arrl.org/arrl-dx

March 26-27 CQ Worked Prefix Contest (phone)
www.cqwpx.com/rules.htm

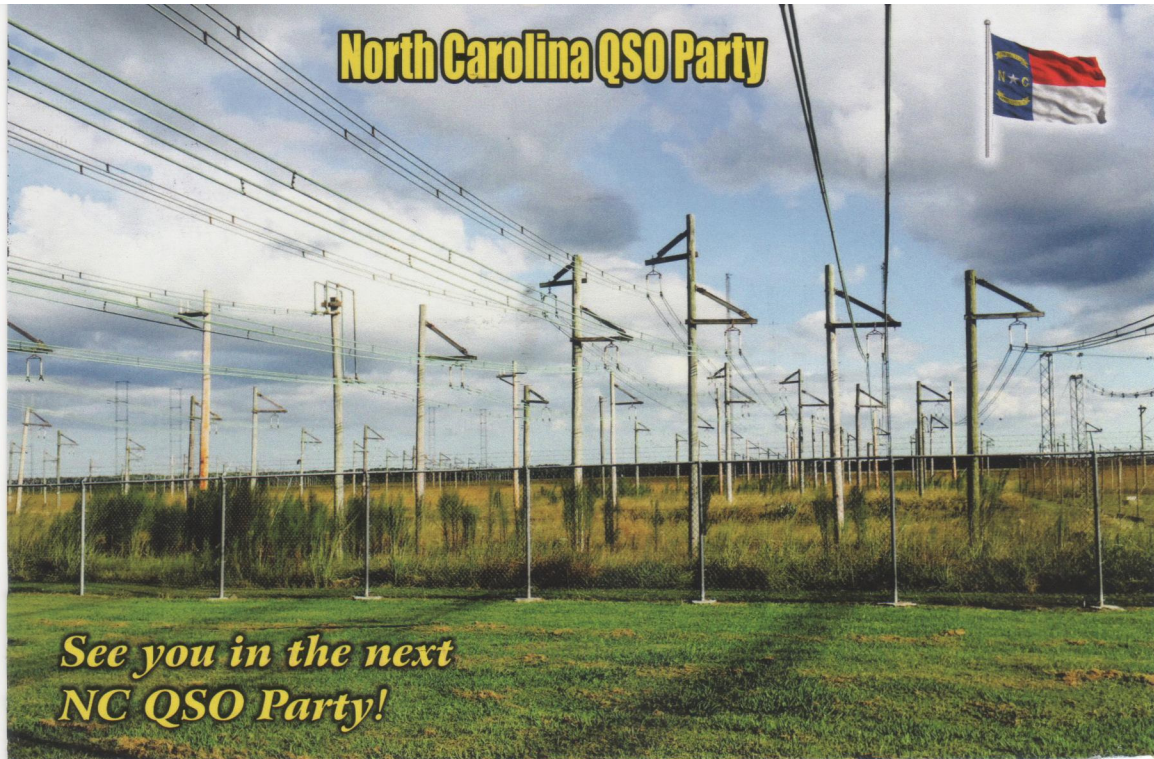
For the complete listing, see:

http://www.arrl.org/files/file/CORRAL_QST_3-2016.pdf

Good luck and have fun!



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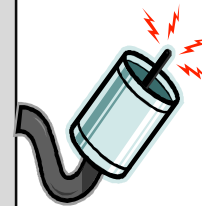
Just wanted to share this picture from a postcard received earlier this month from the sponsors of the North Carolina QSO Party. The caption on the reverse side reads "Antenna feed lines leaving the Edward R. Murrow VOA (Voice of America) Site "B" Transmitting Facility to the antenna farm. Broadcasting on 2600 acres from North Carolina's eastern coastal plane. Voice of America was a decisive, diplomatic tool used by the United States and NATO achieving victory in the Cold War (1947 – 1991). Nine shortwave transmitters ranging from 50 to 500 KW, are output to a switching matrix of some 38 wire antennas, which include Dipole Curtain Arrays, Rhombics, and giant Log Periodics. Still in operation today, this voice of freedom can be heard in far reaches of the world using only inexpensive SW receivers where internet and satellites are yet a reality."

The North Carolina QSO Party is sponsored by the:
Raleigh Amateur Radio Society
PO Box 17124
Raleigh, NC 27619-7124

See: www.rars.org or www.ncqsoparty.org for rules and additional information



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OCARS Minutes Feb 2, 2016 - recorded by Greg N8GAS (acting Secretary).

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm by club President, Joe KJ8O. 21 members in attendance.

Old business: Minutes as published in Feedline approved: Motion by Ned KD8FCB (second) Greg W8VIJ. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report accepted: Motion by KD8ZMX; second by Mike AC8TE. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of possible homebrew site for club to use. To date, no one had identified a suitable place. Dan WD8SCL suggested the clubhouse located at Hiller and Greer. One drawback: no locking cabinets.

OCARS polo shirts again offered for sale. \$23 (a real bargain).

National Parks on the Air: Joe KJ8O suggested the club activate the park at River Raisin Monroe. Hours from 8 to 5.

Contest Activity by club members: Several members operated during Winter Field Day (Jan 30-31). Gary KD8EWG had over 100 contacts. Dan KD8TXZ had in high 30s. Greg N8GAS operated digital modes.

RTTY contest coming in February.

Jim Vigne CW class - Lake Orion Activity Center, Orion Township. Mondays. Give Jim an email if you want to participate. Cost is \$5 per person.

Fox Hunt. Joe will ask the Livonia Amateur Radio Club to assist us by hosting one for our club.

New Business: Mike Van Buren WD8S on behalf of the ARRL asked OCARS to donate a plaque for Michigan QSO party. Ned KD8FCB moved to do so; Jim KB8TXZ seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

June 2016 Field Day: the ARRL has advised of two new ways to score extra points. (1) Use social media (e.g., Twitter, Facebook, GooglePlus) to provide periodic updates of club's QSO activity. A suggested Twitter hash tag will be provided. (100 points). (2) Appoint a Club Safety Officer to carry out a list of enumerated duties (100 points).

NTS Traffic presentation proposed for future club meeting.

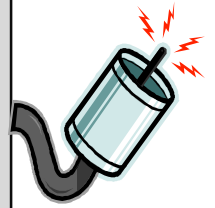
Christopher KD4LJT brought Braille to demonstrate how he logs QSOs.

Program: Jim Vigne KB8TXZ gave presentation on his DXpedition to Montserrat, featuring many slides of the extensive damage by the 1995 volcanic eruption which covered half of the island in lava and deep volcanic ash.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.



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Traders' Post – as a courtesy to our membership, OCARS offers this service. Please feel free to send an e-mail to the editor (and president) Joe Miller KJ80 at kj8o.ham@gmail.com no later than a week before the scheduled publication.

MFJ Antenna Tuner, roller inductor able to handle a maximum of 300 watts input, asking \$130. If interested, please contact George WD8INW at 248-673-3062

John KC8UJF has two mobile amplifiers that he is trying to sell. He can often be heard on the Clarkston repeater in case you are interested.

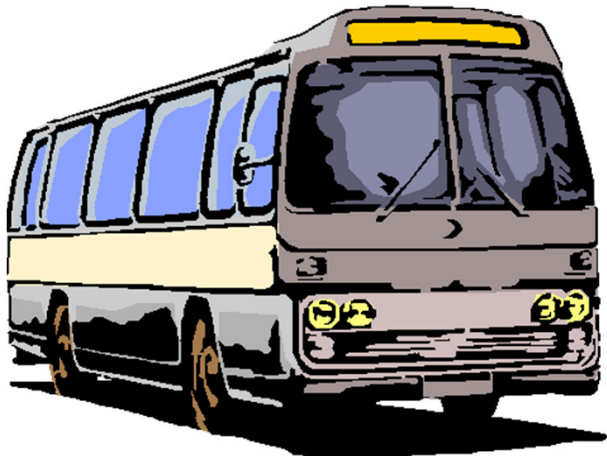
The **ARROW Communication Association** is once again proud to sponsor a motor coach trip to the **2016 Hamvention** in Dayton, Ohio. Started in 2002, this annual club activity has grown in size and reputation with hams across Michigan. We have been host to over 500 hams for this event.

Join us on **Saturday, May 21, 2016**, when we depart from the park-and-ride lot beside Ann Arbor Pioneer High School (601 W. Stadium Blvd) at 4:30 a.m., arriving in Dayton around 8:00 a.m. On board, you can stretch out, relax, take a nap, chat with other hams, and enjoy a continental breakfast with coffee as the coach takes you directly to the country's largest amateur radio event!

We arrive at Dayton early enough so that you can enjoy a full day!

- Visit exhibits
- See what's new from major manufacturers
- Attend seminars
- Take license tests
- Shop the largest outdoor swap meet in the United States

When Hamvention closes at 5:00 p.m., return to the bus with your purchases for the ride back home. No standing in lines waiting for a shuttle bus or fighting traffic!



Got stuff to sell? We can help!

We will have a booth in the flea market. If you buy a bus ticket, you can sell your stuff at our booth. All we ask is that you limit it to a reasonable amount and that you volunteer for one hour at the booth. The cost of a booth alone is \$70, more than the cost of our ticket, which makes the ARROW trip a GREAT value!

For our out-of-town guests!

If your QTH is too far away to drive to meet our bus which leaves at 4:30 a.m., and you need information about hotels in Ann Arbor, contact us at the information listed below for details.

This is no ordinary bus trip – it's an ADVENTURE!

Tickets are \$65. This does **NOT** include your admission to the Hamvention. We suggest that you purchase your 2016 Hamvention ticket(s) in advance to take advantage of the discount and enjoy the day without waiting in line for your tickets, or **see how you can win one of two free Hamvention tickets** below!*

When you add it all up, taking the bus with the ARROW is the most economical and relaxing way to attend Dayton. For more information on the 2016 trip, go to our website and click the Dayton bus trip link under Activities.

*All ticket purchases **RECEIVED** by 4/1/2016 will be entered into a raffle drawing to win one of two free tickets to the Hamvention. Winners will be drawn at the April ARROW meeting on 4/13/2016 and will be contacted.

Contact information:

John Wasciuk, WA8TON

616 560-3365

e-mail: jwasciuk@gmail.com

Yes!!! Sign me up!!!

Name/Call Sign

Address

City/State/Zip

Telephone

E-mail (correspondence via e-mail)

Will you need hotel information for the night of 5/20/16?

How did you hear about us?

of tickets

\$ amount enclosed

I would like to join the ARROW for \$20.00 a year.

Make check/money order payable to:
ARROW Communication Association

Send Order Form and payment to:

**ARROW Communication Association
3322 Yellowstone Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48105**

PayPal is available through the website:
www.w8pgw.org

Prices

Ticket Price \$65 (\$60*)

Member Discount Price \$55 (\$50*)

ARROW Yearly Membership \$20

*If received/postmarked by 4/1/2016.

The best way to get to Dayton is with ARROW

NO PARKING FEES

NO SHUTTLE BUS FARE

NO CAR OR GAS EXPENSES

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST ON BOARD

SELL YOUR GEAR AT OUR FLEA MARKET BOOTH

Arrow Communication Association
3322 Yellowstone Drive
Ann Arbor MI 48105

**We're expecting a sell-out trip,
so make your reservations early!**

Take the bus with us!



**Dayton Hamvention Bus Trip
Saturday, May 21, 2016**

**Sponsored by the ARROW
Communication Association**