



AIRWAVES JOURNAL

The Newsletter of the InterCity Amateur Radio Club ~ Established 1933
~~75th anniversary ~~
Special Edition

History Of The IARC

This issue contains the stories from David Spain KC8GNU regarding our club's history. These articles have appeared in earlier issues of the Airwaves Journal and I thought that putting them all together in one issue for all the members might be enjoyed by all.

I want to thank David for all of his work involved in these articles over the past year and I hope all have enjoyed reading them. Also included are stories from other members of the IARC and I also thank each and everyone that contributed to this issue.

Others that have helped with all the stories of our history include John Lehman WA8MHO, Harry Fritchen K8HF, Jack Weeks K8RT, Don Green K8ANC, Jim Smith KA8WSE, & Gordon Sponsellor N8BZ. Cliff Odson W8YGX, Bill Reese W8WER, John Hudson KC8GNO, Henry Koenig WD8Q, Phil Ackerman N8PA, Rick Swain KK8O, Rick Loeckel K7WE, Bob Miller K8RFM, Mike Thompson WB8ERJ, Gunther Meisse W8GSM, & Scott Yonally N8SY.

Our club has had a deep history involving amateur radio and Both David & myself have had alot of fun digging thru our club's past. It is amazing with all we found so far. So for now This is the History Edition of the Airwaves Journal for all of you to enjoy. If you have ANYTHING in regards to club history PLEASE let David or myself know. If we get enough we might just make a volume 2 issue!!

"75th ANNIVERSARY YEAR", By David Spain (KC8GNU)

Wow, talk about a milestone, this year marks not only the beginning of the 24th Solar Cycle, but it marks the 75th anniversary year of the Intercity Radio Club (IRC), which was founded in 1933 here in Mansfield, and later renamed the Intercity Amateur Radio Club. The club's current call sign, W8WE, originally assigned to Bart Geib, a founder and charter member of the club, and a very active and respected ham radio operator, was adopted by the club in memory of him after his death in 1963.

Other IRC members in 1933 were Eldon Heck (W8PO), Bob Whiteside (W8AFU), Ed Shaw (W8FQY), Bob Wagner, Dick DeLong (W8EMK), Don Fetters (W8BWV), Harry Tummonds (W8BAH), Tom Dewitt (W8ANZ), Bob Dever (W8EFT), and Glenn Norris (W8DWP).

An interesting Federal government document in an IRC scrapbook, shows that in February of 1922, Eldon Heck, then 19, and a fellow named John C. Clark, then 17, who were both living in Shelby at the time, were granted a joint one year "ticket" (8AYQ) via the 1912 Congressional Act to Regulate Radio Communication. The agency that granted them the license was the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Navigation, Radio Service, which could have been the forerunner of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Ironically, the IRC wasn't the first amateur radio club in the Mansfield area. In a well written, and I presume a regularly appearing QST article titled "Amateur Radio Stations", this one dated April of 1921, the subject is the Radio Club of Mansfield. The unknown author states that the club was organized in June of 1919, with C.S. Fernyak elected secretary-treasurer, and C.C. Endly, president.

The club's call sign was originally 8HH, but later changed to 8ZR. It's unclear in the scrapbook documents whether the Radio Club of Mansfield eventually led into the organizing of the IRC, co-existed along side it, or disbanded prior to 1933.

The QST article, also in the scrapbook, gives an excellent, but brief, insight, into early ham radio activities in the Mansfield area. Of particular interest is that the club had a radio shack, and a large array of wire antennas located in the field at the southeast corner of Venum Avenue and Ohio Street, which was referred in the article as the "outskirts of town".

From what I can gather from reading other items in the scrapbook from that era, the antennas were versions of those known as "L's", the two masts for the wires were

100' high, and the shack was in the middle of them. The club members were experimenting with “spark transmitters”, and had success in getting contacts as far away as Walnut Grove, California, and Vancouver, Washington.

The scrapbook with early IRC photographs of events that would rival our “Field Days” will be available at monthly club meetings, and at Jay Bookwalter’s (KC8GNL) bicycle shop on Lexington Avenue. The book is huge, measuring about 20" x 25" and somewhat heavy. There are also some file folders with interesting historical fun-to-look-at IRC documents and everyday papers.

If, as you look at the scrapbook, you recognize the name of an old-time operator, and you know their whereabouts, presuming they are still alive, let Jay Bookwalter know about that person, so we might be able to contact him for an interview. If you want to give us your remembrances of one of the old-time operators who is deceased, feel free to that too.

In a photo in the scrapbook dated November 11, 1969, and titled “Old Timers Night”, from the names listed above, you can see Elden Heck, Ed Shaw, Dick DeLong, Don Fetters, and Tom DeWitt.

“7-3” from David Spain KC8GNU

“W8WE” by David A. Spain (KC8GNU)

“So, what’s in a call sign”, you ask. Well, W8WE just happens to be the official call sign of our radio club, the Intercity Amateur Radio Club (IARC), here in the Mansfield, Richland County area of North Central, Ohio, and we are in the 75th anniversary year of our existence. No, no, no, there is no reason to shout “O-H” and “I-O”. Actually we are the heritage of a group of amateur radio operators, who, “back in the day”, 1933 to be exact, founded the Intercity Radio Club (IRC).

W8WE was originally the call sign for a well-known and respected Mansfield area amateur radio operator named Bart Geib. According to one of his QSL cards in the Club’s scrapbook, he received the call sign in 1922, and he was a founder and charter member of the IRC until he became a Silent Key in 1963, three years after his retirement from the Ohio Highway Patrol. He had the W8WE call sign for 41 years.

According to Gordon Sponsellor (W8BZ), Bart was a “CW” operator at the Patrol’s Findlay Post. “Yes”, that’s what I said. Apparently, the Patrol had a network of “CW” communications centers around Ohio. Gordon wasn’t sure of the content of the

messages the centers sent back and forth to each other, but he had visited the one in Columbus several times. In the scrapbook, you can see a picture of an obviously proud Bart Geib in his Highway Patrol communication's division uniform.

Also in the scrapbook, is a brief, but undated, article from the News Journal, also with a picture of Bart, which describes the IRC adopting his call sign as the club's call sign. Cliff Odson (W8YGX) remembers Bart Geib as a "great CW man", and said he thought the radio club adopted the W8WE call sign as a "memoriam to Bart not later than 1965 or 1966", but he qualified that as an "educated guess". If we agree to agree on 1966, then the call sign has been in use about 83 years.

Cliff has one of Bart's QSL cards hanging on a wall at his home in a frame with several other ones. The various cards indicate that Bart lived on Spring Street and on Arch Street while he was a Mansfield resident.

So, as Paul Harvey says, "Now you know the rest of the story" about our radio club's call letters, W8WE. Oh, by the way, in case you didn't know, "QSL" is short talk for "I acknowledge receipt" or "I hear you". The three-letter "Q" codes were developed by the British around 1909, and are based on similar codes used by telegraph operators.

Some QSL cards are highly prized among collectors of them. According to Ebay, of all places, the most prized one being from a fifteen square mile island known as "Diu" in the Arabian Sea off the coast of India, which was eventually deleted from the DXCC list. The country had only one amateur radio operator, and he sent out about fifty QSL cards, hence the high price paid by collectors for any one of them. I guess you could say a Diu QSL card is a "prized and appreciated item". I'd say that, around our neck of the woods, a W8WE QSL card from Bart Geib ranks up there too.

7-3 David Spain (KC8GNU).



"INTERESTING TIDBITS OF ANNIVERSARY INFORMATION" by David Spain (KC8GNU)

Here's some interesting information about the IARC, and area "Hamdom" in general, to compliment our radio club's 75th anniversary year celebration. According to Gordon Sponseller (N8BZ), the club's Hamfests were first held at the Naval Reserve building that used to be at the corner of Fifth Street and Ashland Road in Mansfield, which was a somewhat large place for the times. Amateur radio operators from all around came to the event, which was held on Friday in the daytime and evening. "Attendance was good, the format was the same as today, and Chuck Bookwalter's (W8QJF) wife would bake a big ham. So for a dollar to enter, you got all the coffee you could drink, and a big thick ham sandwich", he explained.

Since he lived in Bucyrus, Gordon first joined the Crawford County radio club, then got into our club in the early "50's", when he moved over here to Mansfield, and he has been a member ever since. Some of the first club meetings he attended, which were held monthly, were in Shelby, and others were held in Crestline and some of the smaller cities around Mansfield to oblige their operators, but "eventually it all moved to the second floor of the pavilion at North Lake Park, and meetings were held there for a number of years", he said. Gordon, who has his "Extra" ticket, was chosen "Ham of the Year" in 1974, and once served as our club's President, which he said was a matter of "coming up through the chairs", a sequence of elected positions, at that time.

(Note: Here's a very interesting side bar. When Gordon got his 'ticket' in January or February of 1947, his original call sign was "W8BZR". One day when I was browsing the internet, and by a total twist of fate and good luck, I stumbled across an article, with pictures no less, about a man named Robert H. Winchester, a ham radio operator, who lived in Watertown, NY, and later in Syracuse, NY. In 1921, at the age of 15, Robert got his first ham license, with the call sign 8BNY, and herein you will find a picture of his first station (circa 1922), a separate picture of his homebrew transmitter, and a picture of his antenna in the backyard of his house. Robert later changed his call sign to W8BZR. Can you believe it? I know I can't, and neither can Gordon).

Back in April of 1951, a group of Mansfield area ham radio operators, most, if not all of them, members of our radio club, and their wives attended the first ever Dayton, Ohio, Hamvention. The group arrived Friday afternoon, and stayed over night at the Biltmore Hotel in Dayton, which was the headquarters for the event, attended the festivities on Saturday, then returned to Mansfield. Among the group was Cliff Odson ((W8YGX), Charlie Bookwalter (W8QJF), Jack Barr (W8VTP), John Armstrong (W8YCB), Elden

Heck (W8PO), Milt Reed, Egan Loeckel, Floyd Myers (W8TTS), and Jerry Overinder (W8KUW).

According to Cliff, there were some booths open on Friday evening, and the Mansfield group had a good time at a now historic one-day event in the annals of our Nation's amateur radio history. Today, the Dayton Hamvention has to rank right up there as a major annual days-long event for consistently attracting visitors from, and to, our country.

"7-3" from David Spain (KC8GNU)

Ham of the Year By Jay Bookwalter (KC8GNL)

While this award has been a tradition of our club, it does not go clear back to the beginning years. Some of the founders did receive this award but a few missed out on what is a big honor for our membership.

The most important qualifier to receive this award is going above and beyond in helping promote, & serve the IARC. The honor is one that should be treasured by the recipients (*I know I do*) and is an achievement we can only earn once in our lifetime! Below is the list of recipients to date (2008) and the year they received the award.

1968 - Egon Loeckel --- W8TAJ/N8EL - sk
1969 - Chuck Bookwalter --- W8QJF - sk
1970 - John Lehman --- WA8MHO
1971 - Dick DeLong --- W8EMK - sk
1972 - Eldon Heck --- W8PO - sk
1973 - Ed Fensch --- W8SOU - sk
1974 - Gordon Sponseller --- W8BZR/W8BZ
1975 - Walt Kowalchick --- K8SWR/W8KK - sk
1976 - Jack Weeks --- WB8RTY/K8RT
1977 - Harry Frietchen --- K8HF

1978 - Bob Miller --- WB8GGR/K8RFM
1979 - I.G. "Matt" Mattes --- WB8SSR - sk
1980 - Chuck Wood --- WA8KKN
1981 - Dean Wrasse --- KB8MG
1982 - Lloyd Nelson --- N8BAZ
1983 - Scott Yonally --- KC8SS/N8SY
1984 - Duane Meadows --- AJ8T
1985 - Bob Swope --- KD8NQ/NQ8W - sk
1986 - Henry Koenig --- KA8KXE/WD8Q
1987 - Tom Dorsey --- NQ8K -sk
1988 - John Young --- WB8RHV/N8JY
1989 - Jerry First --- NR8W - sk
1990 - Pat Harris --- N8EBK
1991 - Henry "Mike" Bailey --- NQ8S/W8HB
1992 - Loren "Larry" Rain --- WD8IHP - sk
1993 - Glenn Markley --- W8VLB - sk
1994 - Jim Smith --- KA8WSE
1995 - Phillip "Phil" Ackerman --- N8ICH/N8PA
1996 - Braden Wert --- N8MEA
1997 - David Weigold --- N8DPW
1998 - John Ness --- WB8SFV/K8NJ
1999 - Pat Robertson --- N8JOZ
1999 - Pat Ackerman --- N8YOB/W8PAA
2000 - Jay Bookwalter --- KC8GNL
2001 - Dick Fletcher --- N8CJS
2002 - Dick Hensel --- N8WLC
2003 - John Hudson --- KC8GNO
2004 - Jenny Taylor --- N8QKE
2005 - Don Green --- KC8STK/K8ANC
2006 - Mark Dailey & Ike --- KC8MKL
2007 - Rob Ruth --- KD8AZQ
2008 - Bill Reese --- W8WER
2009 -- ????

Quite the list of people that have received this award. All have earned it. You might notice that in 1999 there were two winners of the award. Pat & Pat both had done many years helping with the annual audit of the books, and helping do many things for the hamfest. Since they always worked together it was deemed appropriate to award both of them in the same year. So far that is the only time this ever happened.

You might also note quite a few are now silent keys (sk). This is one reason for this special edition as it will help those in the future know about some of us on the list. Again for those who have achieved this award, Congratulations and thanks for the excellent job you have done for the IARC and amateur radio.

"TIDBITS FROM THE IRC SCRAPBOOK", by David Spain (KC8GNU)

I thought I would put together some tidbits of information that are fun to read during our radio club's 75th anniversary year. Most of this came out of our big scrapbook, which will be available for browsing at the monthly club meetings. So here we go:

1. For a reason not mentioned in the announcement, IRC club member Edward Ryan (W8CRR) was the "Hamvention" award winner at the 1956 Dayton Hamvention, and he received a really nice 2-3 foot tall trophy. The award could have been something like an amateur radio "operator of the year" award, or so I would guess. Edward would have been the third operator to get the award, the first being in 1954, and from what I found on the internet, the prestigious award is still given each year. Good for Edward!
2. In 1933, local operator Ed Shaw (W8FQY) had a really nice "radio shack" on his property. It was on his lawn near his house. Somewhere I read that the words "radio shack" evolved from the radio rooms on board ocean going cargo vessels that were actually, because of space constraints, in wooden shacks on the decks of the ships. Anybody know if that's right or not?
3. A group picture at the IRC May 3, 1935, meeting in Shelby shows 66 members and guests present, and the May 22, 1936, meeting in Shelby shows 52 members and guests present. Now those are impressive turnouts.
4. The original 1933 Constitution and By-Laws of the IRC was amended on December 12, 1928, and again on February 5, 1954. The 1954 Constitution had five articles, and the By-Laws had eight articles. There were three officers, a President, Vice-President, and a Secretary-Treasurer, plus an Executive Committee. The dues were \$4.50 per year with the "QST" magazine, or \$1.00 without it. A Section IV says, "The following

offenses will be sufficient to reject membership to the organization”, and it lists “fighting, theft, or any violation of any rules or laws of the Federal Communications Commission”. All right, “break it up you guys”.

5. The purpose of the IRC in the 1933 and 1954 documents was to “serve as a means of social contact among its members, to promote the good will, and extend knowledge of the radio art”. I’d say, over the years, the club has pretty much accomplished those admirable goals.

6. According to information in the IRC scrapbook, in 1954, there were 40 ham radio operators in Mansfield, 14 in Shelby, 1 in Lucas, and “no” it was not Henry Koenig, 2 in Crestline, 8 in Galion, 1 in Plymouth, and 1 in Shiloh, and Ill bet yeah a large majority of them were IRC members. Two of the Mansfield call signs were K8FAL, which was a radio station at the Ohio Air National Guard Base at the then-Mansfield Muni Airport, and K8NRQ at the then-Naval Armory on Ashland Road.

7. This isn’t exactly radio club related, but it is interesting none-the-less. Here in Mansfield, back when AM was the mode of communication for commercial and ham radio, a group of guys, or so I was told, used to get together in a residence out on Lida Street in the north end, and listen to radio station WNYF on “skip nights”. The station was the actual AM radio broadcasts between the dispatchers and fire trucks in the New York City fire department, with the “NYF” in the call sign being “New York Fire”. How often they got together I don’t know. I’m guessing this getting together possibly took place in the 30's or 40's. The monthly newsletter for the New York City Fire Department is titled “WNYF”, in memory of the old radio call sign. Now we can listen to the NYFD 24/7 on an internet feed. Unbelievable!

8. The 1959 IRC amateur radio class had some 57 students in it, and their class picture looks like classes were held in the old Red Cross Chapter house on Park Avenue West, near the corner with Benton Street. There were guys and gals, young kids and older folks. They were really crammed into the classroom. It looks like, after the available chairs were taken, it was “standing room only”. Maybe there were several “sessions” of the class, with each one meeting on a different night. I thought it was kind of interesting how many of the guys were wearing ties with their shirts. (One of the 1950's radio class pictures shows two nuns from St. Peter’s Catholic Church, both wearing there starched “habits”, attending the class. I doubt that there was any “cutting up” going in there).

9. In 1968, our own John Lehman (WA8MHO) was a featured speaker at the Dayton Hamvention. His topic was “How I do It”, and he talked about his adventures in the process of obtaining newspaper coverage of amateur radio activities. Good for John!

10. At one time, oh, around 1971 or so, Richland County had a chapter of the Quarter

Century Wireless Association, whose members had at least 25 years as ham radio operators. Cliff Odsen (W8YGX), who got his “ticket” on June 13, 1946 (I had just turned four years old) got the petitions and started the local chapter. Part of the process was getting the signatures of ten licensed operators with the twenty-five or more years in amateur radio. The organization was headquartered in Chicago, and had chapters all over the world. Local chapter charter members included Cliff, Charlie Bookwalter (W8QJF), Dick DeLong (W8EMK), and Don Green (K8ANC). Hey, just kidding about Don!

11. Here’s another one of those interesting pre-IRC tidbits from the scrapbook. On February 14, 1923, 21-year old Eldon L. Heck (8AYQ at the time, and later W8PO), who lived at 151 East Main Street in Shelby, did solemnly swear before a Mr. Shambaugh, a notary public, that he could receive and write messages, and other intelligence, in “Continental Code”, later known as the “International Morse Code”, a form of Morse Code more suitable for radio, as opposed to land line/cable transmission, at a rate of 15 words per minute. Good for Eldon!

12. In one of the IRC memorabilia folders, there’s a souvenir booklet, which only cost ten cents, from the April, 1939, North Central Amateur Radio Convention in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Apparently, this was quite an event back in the day. The list of attendee’s shows one person from Mansfield, a “B-o-o-k-w-a-l-D-e-r”, with the “D”, and no first name or call sign mentioned. I think this was Charlie Bookwalter, with the “T”. Anyway, another point of interest is in the list of events. On Saturday evening, April 29th, and mind you know, this was in 1939, is the banquet at 6 PM, with a speaker, a Mr. Seely from the “R.C.A. License Laboratories”, and his topic was “A Ham Looks at Television”. Hey folks, “TV” WAS ON THE HORIZON!. “Bah humbug, just a fad that’ll come and go”. Wow!

13. I can’t help it, man, I was going to stop writing this back at #9, but I keep finding these really cool tidbits that I want to share with yeah. This is THE last one. In that souvenir book for the Fort Wayne event, is this add for the “Washington Garage”, and it reads, “While in town, park your car at Washington Garage, rate-----50 cents for 24 hours, free pick up and delivery service from any hotel”. Just makes yeah sick, doesn’t it?

Well, if you get a chance, take a look at the scrapbook. I’ll tell yeah, it’s a real nostalgia trip, and a lot of fun too. Hope you enjoyed the little jaunt we just took through it.



"MORE INTERESTING TIDBITS FOR OUR RADIO CLUB'S 75th ANNIVERSARY YEAR"

by Harry Frietchen (K8HF)

I took the Novice test from Cliff Odson (W8YGX) in January of 1958, and received my Novice ticket (KN8JPF) on March 26th, two days after my 15th birthday. I had taken the Red Cross Radio Course in the fall of 1957 from Ed Ryan (W8LRR), winner of the 1956 Dayton Hamvention Ham of the Year award, and Ed Smith (W8JYY). Noel Moony (K8LRN), Pat O'Brien (K8LEN), Larry O'Brien (K8KRH), Pat's father, and my father (WB8VDJ, then N8CIU) were also in the class. My father had just started our screw machine shop, so he didn't take the Novice test until the mid 70's, as the Novice in 1958 was a one year, not renewable, license.

I took, and passed, the General test in September 1958. Later, Tom Lamb (K8ERV), introduced me at the IRC meeting at North Lake Park to Ben Bissman (W8HXT), who was a Tech, and he couldn't believe 'that little kid' had a General license. My General test included forty-five multiple-choice questions, and five circuit diagrams that I had to draw.

My first Dayton Hamvention was in 1959. I rode with Tom Lamb, and we were mobile with my 2 meter AM Club Saver built from the December 1957 QST article. It was an IRC club project, mine was built by George York (K8MFZ) with the help of Dick Delong (W8EMK). We hooked up a vibrator power supply and a 19" whip on Tom's car.

The Hamvention was in the Biltmore Hotel in those days. I was a Sophomore in high school at the time. After the Hamvention Tom took me to Mendelson's Surplus Warehouse, and I bought a WW II Army ARC-5 Transmitter for \$5 or \$7 to match my BC-455 Receiver. Tom was the Micro Wave Oven Engineer at the Tappan company. (The ARC-5, BC-455, and junk TV parts power supply was my first college 40 mtr CW rig that I had about \$20 invested in!)

In the early 1960's we had the CIRCES net on 145.35 Mhz AM. From 1963 to 1970, I had a Heathkit 'Sixer' in my 1962 VW, with a 6 meter "Halo" antenna. It was 5 watts AM, and a Super Regen Receiver. I ran 6 Mtr AM mobile in Lafayette, Indiana, and later in Athens, Ohio.

In September 1971, after spending 10 months in Vietnam, I moved to Ontario where I currently live. After I came home I built a Heathkit SB-102 tube type 200 watt SSB Xcvr and later a Heathkit SB-220 KW amplifier. I worked about 195 countries with this radio combination.

My first Mansfield Hamfest was in 1972 at the Naval Armory at 5th St and Ashland Road. It was a Friday night event, and for a \$1 you got into the hamfest, a ham sandwich, a cup of coffee, and a free auction. We borrowed 20 tables from Thermo Disc Rec Center (where we had Field Day last year) and some chairs. Pete, from AES Cleveland, would come down with equipment to sell. In 1976 Jack Weeks and I moved the Mansfield Hamfest from the Naval Armory to the Richland Co. Fairgrounds. The first year Jack and I counted the proceeds at 11 AM, and decided we had enough to buy a Door Prize. We found a 'basement' dealer with a new Regency HR-2B 15 watt 2 meter FM radio and that was 1st Prize. If I remember right the cost was \$219 or \$229. That is what I had paid for mine.

In 1974 (I think) we put 146.94- on the air with a callsign of WR8ACQ. Two years later, six of us bought the original 147.36+ repeater, and put it on the air at WVNO, co-located it with 94. We used to have round table QSO's on 146.52 before the repeaters were on the air, and in the mid- 70's. I had four call signs, and one night I checked into the round table with all four at different times and had a few people going for a while!

When packet came along in the '80's, I put the W8WE PBBS on the air at the Red Cross. John Young, then WB8RHV, and now N8JY, helped with the hardware configuration and I kept the software updated. The computer was running IBM DOS 3.0 and with a Quaterdeck's windows type program, we could run multiple copies of the BBS. We had a 220 link radio to get to Dennis Homerick's (W8NW) house to access the 450 Mhz packet 'backbone' system, and two 2 meter local inputs. With a remote telephone control program called "PC Anywhere", I would update the software from home and could even reboot the computer and it would come up running the new software version, if I didn't make any configuration mistakes. Otherwise, I had to go to the Red Cross and correct the configuration mistake.

I am also a Life Member of the Quarter Century Wireless Association, and I would like to get our Johnny Appleseed Chapter 117 going again.

73, Harry (K8HF)

"A REALLY INTERESTING AND EXCITING POSSIBILITY" by David A. Spain (KC8GNU)

Field Day 2008 is fast approaching, and I hope I can get there this year to help out. In the meantime, what you are about to read might spawn some more excitement in this, our radio club's 75th anniversary year.

In our radio club's scrapbook, there are pictures and descriptions of what were called "outings" by our early predecessors in amateur radio. It appears as though it consisted of going to a park, someone's house, or maybe just an open field or meadow, setting up battery operated transmitters and receivers, and leisurely engaging in what we call "QSO's". Well, kinda sounds like Field Day, I'd say.

The "outings" may not have had the serious underlying purpose of practicing for something we all hope doesn't occur, but the camaraderie and enjoyment of the event appears, from the photos anyway, to be a shared blessing between past and present Mansfield area "hams".

The earliest photos in the scrapbook are from an "outing" at Sugar Grove Lake, which is over near Caledonia in Crawford County, possibly in 1933, with all participants, some fourteen of them in a group picture, dressed for warm weather. The radios are set up in an open air, pitched roofed, picnic shelter, with nice sized rectangular sign at the peak on one end that has the large letters "IRC" in the center, with the word "Intercity" across the letters, and the two words "Radio Club" under them.

In the background, you can see some really old, at least from our perspective, wooden encased radios on a picnic table, and then there's a closeup of them in yet another picture. Visible in the first picture is Ed Shaw (W8FQY), Tony Miller (W8WPF), and George Riehl (W8DQY). Even more interesting, is a picture that shows Eldon Heck (W8PO) working a second setup out and away by himself. Actually, he could have only been a few feet from the picnic shelter.

There are actually photos from two events, the outing and an IRC display at a business, shown together glued to a piece of black poster-like paper, with the display dated "1933". The descriptions of each are in the same colored ink, from the same fine-line pen, like one dipped into an ink well, and obviously written by the same person.

What makes this page of pictures even more exciting for the viewer is the following brief article taken from the December, 1999, issue of QST. It tells about the first year of

“Field Day”, which was also in “1933”. Here is the article:

(1933: Field Day #1 QSO Leader Uses 1x4 Call Sign to Save Time

Great ideas often have humble beginnings, and Field Day is no exception. A one-column announcement in the June 1933 QST states that, for 27 hours starting the second Saturday in June at 4PM local time (no daylight savings yet!), there would be an opportunity for “portables” to go into the field to contact as many stations as possible. The article says, “The real object of this contest is to test ‘portables’ wherever they may be available.... If successful, we want to make it an annual affair.” To score the event, each QSO with fixed stations will count 1 point, contacts with other portables count 2 points, and DX contacts count 3 points. Multiply QSO points by the total number of ARRL sections, plus countries worked. No mention is made of a required exchange, which clearly must include an ARRL section! The September 1933 QST announces that the winner of the First Annual Field Day is a non-club group signing W4PAW. Club members made 62 QSOs and had a multiplier of 28 sections/countries for a grand total of 1876 points. The Central Illinois Radio Club, W9ZZAL, tops the QSO totals with 98! What’s the “ZZ” all about? Until 1933 it had been necessary to get a special license to operate portable, and these licenses all had suffixes starting with ZZ. In 1933 the FCC allowed portable operation under a home call sign. Why did the CIRC use their old call sign? Well, operating portable under the new rule called for an even longer station ID—your call sign followed by the break sign (double dash) three times, followed by the call area (1 through 9!)”)

Okay, having read the article, I say the pictures in our scrapbook of the Sugar Grove Lake outing could be our radio club participating in the first ever “Field Day”, and that is an interesting and exciting possibility.

I telephoned the ARRL, and I talked to a fellow named “Dan”, who said that he was “a bureau of one person”, and he didn’t have the time to do the research to determine if what I am surmising is true. Well, that’s okay, I’ll call up there a second time one of these days. The answer could be in the September, 1933, issue of “QST”, where the Field Day results were posted.

As far as I am concerned, the evidence shows that chances are good our radio club did participate in that first ever “Field Day” event, and they did it at Sugar Grove Lake. If I’m right, that is sure something to add to our many accomplishments.

“7-3” David Spain (KC8GNU)

"REMINISCING ABOUT FIELD DAY" by David Spain (KC8GNU) and a cast of seven.

Since this is the "Field Day" month of our radio club's 75th anniversary year, I took the liberty of contacting some of our fellow ham radio operators, and asked them what they could recall about their first, or a later, "Field Day", and I am proud to share their responses with you:

1. JOHN LEHMAN (WA8MHO) - "I have been to about forty of them, starting back in 1963 or '64, when I was living in Marion. I was a Novice (W8NHO) at the time, and there were special stations for just our ticket, and it was CW only for us. At my first one, I set up the station, a crystal controlled radio, as the fellow who was helping me was studying for his Novice ticket. When it came time to start making calls on 40-meters, I sent out a couple of "CQ's", and I was listening very intently for weak signals, when a really solid and loud reply came back to me, "W8NHO de W1AW". My first contact on a Field Day was ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut".

RICK SWAIN (KK8O) - "I got my Novice ticket (KN8AIT) back in 1961. I have been to some forty or more Field Days. The one I remember the most was in the woods of Michigan's Upper Peninsula while I was stationed at K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base. It was in the '74-'75 time frame. A fellow ham operator had a cabin up in there, and seven of us went up just for the event. We strung dipole antennas up in the tall trees, and worked with tube type radios. The place was primitive, but there was a 5-kw generator, a water pump, and an outhouse, so we took ten gallons of gasoline. We had three stations, and we worked 75-meter SSB phone, 40-meter and 20-meter CW. During one particular period in the day, we couldn't handle all the calls we were getting. The key was that we had absolutely no man-made interference for the signals. We were easily working stateside, overseas, Alaska and Hawaii. We each worked our way down through the stations, then we would take a break. It was great! All the guy who owned the cabin asked was that we leave the dipoles up for him to use, and that's what we did".

JOHN HUDSON (KC8GNO) - "My first Field Day was in 1997 at the Madison Township Fire Station on Expressview Drive. I was a Tech-Plus at the time, and I was there from set up to tear down, and I really liked it. Saturday night, I had the late night shift with Mike Stevens (W8EMT), and we worked 10-meters voice, with a lot of contacts. The weather was no problem, but, a couple of years later, I worked a Field Day out at the Mifflin Township Fire Station, and the weather got so bad that the ARES operators with us were trying to work the weather net while we kept on trying to get our contacts for the Field Day. Now that was a night to remember".

JACK WEEKS (K8RT) - "I got my first ham license in 1953 (W3NKI), and I don't

remember my first Field Day, but one I really liked was in 1974-75 down on Touby Road, where Chuck Wood (W8KKN), a fellow with the last name “Subich”, and several others and I worked the Oscar 6 & 7 satellites, which are long gone now. We worked out of the back of a Bing Furniture truck, and we had four sections of tower up, plus the satellite antennas, with elevation and azimuth mounts on them. We had a 2-meter uplink, and a 10-meter downlink. We got credit for 100 points off of five or six contacts, and we had a good time that weekend. My call sign at that time was WB8RTY”.

5. PHIL ACKERMAN (N8PA) - “My first Field Day was in 1985, and there was fifteen of us, including Dave Wolf (WD8CZZ), Steve Kopcjal (N8CJT) and Pat Robertson (N8JOZ), at the old Wolf Plumbing and Heating building on Expressview Drive. Jay Becker (KC8ZU) was there and he had a great ear for call signs. We would “CQ” and get a pile up back at us, and somehow he would get all of their call signs down right away, and we would work them one after another. All of us literally worked the station 24 straight hours, stopping only to use the restroom or get something to eat. It was a great learning experience for how to work a contest. We had a Field Day once at the Warren Rupp Observatory, and then later at the Madison Township Fire Station. At that one, Randy McMillan (N8CJR) was up on the fire department's aerial ladder truck setting up an antenna or something, and when he looked up at the sky a tornado was dropping down from the clouds. It eventually touched down in Ashland County. A year later, at the Mifflin Township Fire Station, the wind and weather got so bad that we could barely put our tents up. As the evening wore on, some of us worked the Field Day station, while others worked the ARES weather net. We could see tornados off towards Ashland County. It was quite a night!”.

6. DAVID SPAIN (KC8GNU) - “My first experience with a “Field Day”, so to speak, was in the Spring of 1953 or 1954 down in Mt. Vernon, where our family was living at the time. A devastating fire had destroyed the telephone company’s exchange, including the switching center, on East Gambier Street. The city was literally without telephone service. My dad was contacted and asked if my brother and I would help as “runners” for ham radio operators who were setting up emergency communication services at key locations in Mt. Vernon. My dad said “sure”, and I was assigned to an operator working a radio out of his car at Mercy Hospital. I “ran” messages from the car to various destinations off and on for several days. It was the ham radio operators, who came from all over Ohio, including Mansfield, who played a key role in keeping Mt. Vernon alive during the aftermath of that fire. I also got a chance to learn a little about amateur radio”.

7. CLIFF ODSON (W8YGX) - “I’m 88 years old, and my first “Field Day” was back in the 40's, and it was down at Mifflin Lake. One of the things I remember is that Tony Miller (W8WPF) had a motorcycle, and he took a ride down a nearby dirt road with his wife on there with him. He hit a mud puddle, she fell off, but he didn’t know it, and he

kept right on going down the road. My favorite "Field Day" was at Ralph Keil's house on Touby Road. He is now a "SK", and he was blind, but in his mind he knew the sound of Morse Code. He could shout it out real fast. We did have some portable radio equipment there, no 2-meters then, and we worked them. The event was more of an outing, but we considered it a Field Day. It was well attended, families were there, and we had a picnic. I really enjoyed it".

8. HENRY KOENIG (W8DQ) - "My first Field Day was in 1981, and it was an eye opener for me. I got my Novice ticket in August of 1980, and by the next Field Day I had my "General" (May of '81), but I never made a radio contact as a Novice. Field Day '81 was at Madison's Ram Field in the south end. Dwayne Meadows (AJ8T) had a Heathkit transceiver in a little camping trailer, and I ended up spending the entire night helping to work CW, and made one or two contacts. I was so new at actually doing it, so I would listen real hard to a call sign, but it took me six or seven times until I got it down. That 1981 event set the mold, and it really got me hooked on Field Day, and I have loved every one of them I have attended. I have only missed one or two of them since 1981. I am still very active on the airwaves in the CW mode, and for the last three years, Mike Hartge (WO8R) and I have kept CW alive at Field Day. Last year, Mike stayed all night, and we had 300 contacts by shutdown". (They did 450 in 2008)

Well, I hope you enjoyed this reminiscing about "Field Day". Kinda makes you feel good inside, doesn't it? I sure enjoyed writing them down for yeah. If anyone else wants to share a Field Day experience, just give me a landline at [419-589-7391](tel:419-589-7391). I'll get them into next month's "Airwaves".

"7-3" David A. Spain (KC8GNU)

"MORE THAN TREES CAN LIVE A LONG LIFE FROM THEM THERE APPLESEEDS", by David Spain (KC8GNU)

I got a call from Gordon Sponsellor (N8BZ), who lives out in Mifflin Township, a week or two ago, and he reminded me about the longevity of the Appleseed Net, which has its origins right here in Mansfield in the mid-late 50's or so. He thought a mention of the Net, which occurs every Tuesday morning at 9:30am on 14.257Mhz, would fit into our series of articles commemorating the 75th anniversary of the IARC, and I think he's right.

Apparently, the Net, which is "voice" only, got started when Egan Loeckel (W8TAJ)

and Charlie Bookwalter (W8QJF) moved from the Mansfield area down to Florida. The Net was their way to keep in touch with ham radio friends back here in Ohio. Egan passed away in 2006, and Charlie passed away in 2005.

A fellow named Jerry Overeynder (W6IWR) has been active for years in the Appleseed Net, and he left Ashland in 1956 to move to Colorado. According to him, he and his wife lived in Colorado Springs until 1962, and the Net began operation at some point in that time span. He now lives in Sun City, Arizona, and he said that the Net started out on 14.260Mhz. Jerry got his Novice license at age 16 in 1933, his Ohio call sign was W8KUW, and he says he once served as President of the Intercity Radio Club, the forerunner of the IARC.

Rick Loeckel (K7WE), Egan Loeckel's son, is the Net's current controller, and he lives in Thornville, an Ohio community located east of Columbus near Buckeye Lake. Rick got his Novice license here in Mansfield at age thirteen, has his "Extra" class ticket, and his call sign here was K8PTM. "With the propagation what it is these days, some days you can hardly hear anybody, and some days you can here operators from around the world. The Net can have anywhere from four operators to eight-ten on any given Tuesday, and the Net has always been for "voice" transmissions", Rick explained. He added that he thinks he first got on the Net in 1976.

According to Rick, the most recent DX for the Net was back in March of this year, when "Larry" (XW1A) from Laos, and "Chuck" (HZ0ZCX) from Thailand checked into it, and "last week we had a guy from Italy check in".

Some of the Appleseed Net regulars from Mansfield, along with Gordon Sponsellor, include John Lehman (WA8MHO) and Jim Tolles (KA8NKK), Don Blizzard (W8UMH) lives in Mt. Vernon, Harold Henry Jr. (W8OPQ) lives up in Milan, and Andy Ackerman (K8MTN) lives in Gaylord, Michigan.

Rick Loeckel, age 65, Gordon Sponsellor, age 84, and Jerry Overeynder, age 91, each expressed a hope that younger operators would join the Appleseed Net with the expectations of keeping it on the air in the years to come. "The senior operators have started to die off, or are no longer active in amateur radio", Gordon commented, "so we may lose the Net".

It's probably unrealistic to hope that a steady stream of new operators will join the Appleseed Net anytime soon, especially with the hours of operation being at 9:30am on a weekday. However, there are certainly some operators who would be regular check-ins if they were available to do it. The Net speaks for itself as an enjoyable, proud and long standing tradition in the world of amateur radio, and its origin is closely linked to our radio club's membership and history. It is an honor to include the Appleseed Net

in this series of articles.

“7-3” from David Spain (KC8GNU)

1933 Founding Members as found in the club scrapbook

The following is the roll call of member in 1933 and are our founding fathers of the IARC.

EGON LOECKEL – W8TEG/N8EL
ELDON HECK – W8PO
BOB WHITESIDE -- W8AFU
ED SHAW – W8FQY
BOB WAGNER – (Could not read call sign)
DICK DELONG – W8EMK
DON FETTERS – W8BWV
HARRY TUMMONDS – W8BAH
BART GEIB – W8WE
TOM DEWITT – W8ANZ
BOB DENVER – W8EFT
GLEN NORRIS – W8DWP
TED OLIPHANT – W8BPC
ED HARRY – W8LYR
BERT ELLIOT – (could not red call sign)
CHARLES WYSELL – W8TV
MILT REED – W8JEV



"AN EDITOR'S SPECIAL" from Jay Bookwalter (KC8GNL)

This photograph was made available to David Spain (KC8GNU) by Rick Loeckel (K7WE), who lives in Thornville, Ohio. The gentleman in the photo is Egan Loeckel (W8TAJ at the time), Rick's dad, and it was taken in 1939 or 1940, at the Loeckel residence, 324 Second Avenue in Mansfield.

Egan got his first ham radio ticket at age 23 in February of 1939, and, according to his log book, made his first contact (CW) on February 16, 1939, with W8SIL on 3.624 Mhz (80-meters), and the QSO was 5-6-9 both ways. He made his first "Voice" contact at 4:10pm on March 25, 1939, and it was locally with Dick DeLong (W8EMK).

In the picture, Egan's receiver unit is directly in front of him on the table top, and his transmitter is up above him on the wall shelf. Rick thinks the crystal controlled transmitter had a main "TZ40" Tube, with a maximum output power of 20 watts. His speaker is mounted in the corner of the walls just to his right.

Egan is an SK (December of 2006), he earned an Extra class ticket in his time as an operator, he was a past member of the IARC, and his last call sign was 0N8EL. He is pictured in the Club's scrapbook as one of the "old time" hams honored at an "Old Timer's" night celebration in 1969. An even earlier photo shows that Egan was present at the Sugar Grove Lake outing in 1933, where our club took part in the first ever ARRL Field Day.

Thanks for the picture, Rick, and anyone else who has local historical ham radio pictures or documents they would like to submit to "AIRWAVES", feel free to do so by contacting David Spain ([419-589-7391](tel:419-589-7391)). or drop them off at the bike shop.

"THE IARC's REPEATER NETWORK - Part 1" by David Spain (KC8GNU)

One of the real accomplishments in Richland County amateur radio history has been the 2-meter and 70-centimeter (440) VHF-UHF amateur radio Repeater network. The operation, maintenance and updating of the network is currently the responsibility of the Intercity Amateur Radio Club (IARC), which is celebrating its 75th year of existence, and the four repeaters that comprise the network are:

REPEATER - FREQUENCY - PL

K8RT 146.94 - 71.9

K8HF 147.36 + 71.9

W8WER 444.70 + 146.2 (tt42)

WD8Q [443.225](#) + 146.2 (tt42)

All repeaters are coordinated with the Ohio Repeater Council

Apparently, and prior to the repeaters, Mansfield area ham radio operators would use crystal controlled simplex on [146.520](#) Mhz on the 2-meter AM Band for Friday or Saturday night "round table rag chews", the probable forerunner of our modern day weekly "Nets".

Harry Frietchen (K8HF), who received his fifty-year membership award from the ARRL this past April, commented that "In 1973, we put [146.940](#)- on the air with a call sign of WR8ACQ at radio station WVNO on Park Avenue West in Ontario".

Jack Weeks (K8RT) explained that Dick DeLong (WR8ACQ) was the first "Trustee" for the .940 machine, he had applied for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) license for it, and the agency approved the use of Dick's call sign to identify the repeater. Later, when the FCC dropped the "WR" call sign, it seemed like a good time for Dick to hand over the Trusteeship to a new operator, and Jack accepted it.

"As the new repeater Trustee, we decided to go ahead and change the call sign for it to my call sign "K8RT", Jack said. He added that the repeater system utilized the "FM (frequency modulation) Band crystal control" in order to get the 600 kilohertz separation between the input ([146.340](#) Mhz) and the output ([146.940](#) Mhz) frequencies required for the operation of the "machine".

Jack also mentioned that, when the repeaters came along, some of the members of the IARC wanted to keep the money for the operation of them separate from the funds used to finance the club's other projects, so a separate repeater organization, a second club, was formed to own, operate and maintain them. The two club's did not compete with each other, and members of one were members of the other."Our repeater club was named the "Mansfield

Amateur Services and Emergency Repeater Association”, or, as it was more commonly known by the acronym “MASER” (mays-er)”, Jack said, “and I was the President of it for the first ten years”. Jack Weeks is still the Trustee for the .940 machine, hence the repeater call sign is still “K8RT”. Later Presidents of MASER included Scott Yonnally (N8SY) and John Young (N8JY).

According to Jack, MASER had a “climber”, a fellow named Dave Cameron, who would climb the tower at WVNO when needed by the club. “Dave was a professional climber, who worked at the United Telephone Company as a tower inspector. He would climb up the tower for us to change coaxial cable or to put up a new antenna, whatever needed to be done. Dave is deceased now, but his climbing services were sure appreciated by the club members”, Jack explained.

In a November, 1973, News Journal article, it states that the two antennas for the .940 machine were installed on the broadcast tower at WVNO on Sunday, November 11th of that year. There are pictures of Dave Cameron on the tower doing the work of installing the transmit antenna at 150', and the receive antenna at 200' on the tower. He had donated about three hours of his time that day to get the job done. Ham radio operators Bob Miller (K8RFM) and Charles Wood (WA8KKN), also employees at United Telephone, along with other area operators, also were there that day to work on the project. The article, and the pictures accompanying it, are in our Club's scrapbook.

The article also says that “the emergency unit was erected through the cooperation of the Richland County Chapter of the Red Cross, the United Telephone Company, WVNO, and MASER, which will use the unit in the event of an emergency”.

Harry Frietchen also said that in 1975, “six of us bought the original 147.36+ repeater, and we co-located it on the WVNO tower with the .940 machine”. He added that the new repeater was needed because of the popularity of the .940 machine, and the new repeater was actually “portable” for use at emergencies or public events where ham radio operators would render radio assistance.

Harry explained that Ben Bissman (W8HXT), now a silent key (SK), contributed \$500 towards the purchase of the repeater, and five others donated \$100 each, plus there was probably money from the MASER treasury used in the project. Harry is still the Trustee for the .360 machine.

(MORE TO FOLLOW NEXT MONTH)

“7-3” David Spain (KC8GNU)

"IARC REPEATERS - PART 2"

by David Spain (KC8GNU)

Bill Reese (W8WER) is the IARC Trustee for the UHF ".70" (70 Centimeter Band) machine, which is located at the privately owned VASU Electronic's tower on Scenic Drive. The Drive runs east off of South Main Street just beyond the old Possum Run golf course. The club uses a VASU antenna, which is 340 feet up on the tower.

Bill has been a ham radio operator since 1976, has his "Extra" ticket, and also serves on the club's Technical Committee (repeater operation and maintenance etc.) with Henry Koenig (W8DQ), Dick Hensel (N8WLC), and Dave Weingold (N8DPW). "We do the maintenance for all four repeaters", Bill explained, "and Dave and I spend the most time doing it. If you get too many people in the repeater area, we get in each other's way. Usually it's not too much time, but we have been having trouble with the ".940" and the ".360" machines. It can be about 20 hours a month or so".

According to John Young (N8JY), a well respected ham radio operator, who now lives in Youngstown, the .70 machine was originally on a 60' tower at Jack Weeks (K8RT) house in Woodland. "We put it in service around 1976, it was a very old transmitter, and it was a beast to keep working. We spent a lot of time at the old Servex store getting new tubes for it" John said.

John was on the Technical Committee for almost 20 years, and he told me how the Committee upgraded the .70 machine to a newer Motorola model that Henry Koenig acquired, and then John built the controller for it.

John, who got his Novice ticket in 1974, and later his "Extra", said that around 1983-84, the .70 machine was moved to Mansfield Christian School on Logan Road when WVMC, the school's radio station, went on the air. "I helped them set up the station, and WVNO had donated a tower, so, when we were putting it up, I asked a school official if we could move our MASER repeater over to their place. The school said "yes", and a group of us moved it", John said.

John mentioned other local operator's who served on the Technical Committee with him over the years, among them are Harry Fritchen (K8HF), Bob Miller (K8RFM), John Ness (K8NJ), Bob McPherson (W8EKX), now a SK, and Chuck Wood (WA8KKN).

Part 3 in our "Repeater" series will be in next months newsletter.

"7-3" David Spain (KC8GNU)"

"IARC REPEATER'S – PART 3"

by David Spain (KC8GNU)

The IARC's [443.225](#) (70 centimeter) repeater is located in a shed/building at the Hi-Stat Manufacturing Complex on Mill Street in Lexington, Ohio, a village southwest of Mansfield. Henry Koenig is the IARC Trustee for the repeater, so it has his call sign, "WD8Q".

According to Henry, the unofficial "control operators" for the .225 machine are Bill Reece (W8WER) and Rob Ruth (KD8AZQ), and it was put in service some ten years or so ago to cover a "dead spot" in the Lexington area for the Club's 2-meter [146.940](#) repeater. The two repeaters can be "linked" together if necessary, and power output for the [443.225](#) repeater is 20 watts.

Bill Reece stated that he replaced John Young (N8JY), who worked at Hi-Stat, and has since relocated to Youngstown, as the maintenance person for the 20w repeater. "I worked on it once a couple of years ago", Bill said, "and it has been a reliable repeater system, although it has been hit by lightning a couple of times. I think that was the one time I worked on it". Bill added that he now has a key to the shed/building, which will make maintenance on the repeater a lot easier to accomplish.

The existence of the .225 machine leads back to Jim Hire (W8ZET) and his brother John Hire (W8ZES), the founder of Hi-Stat Manufacturing, and Mike Thompson (WB8ERJ), who worked at Hi-Stat. According to everybody I've talked to, John Hire paid for the entire setup of the .225 machine, either personally or through the company, including the repeater itself, the tower and the concrete for its base, and the 3" coax and backup battery for the system. Both Jim and John are now SK's (silent keys), but Jim's wife, Janeen, has his call sign.

Mike Thompson says that he mentioned a need for the repeater to Jim Hire, who then approached John Hire, who worked closely with John Young on the project, and the rest is history. A contingent of ham operator's, led by Bob Miller (K8RFM), a Lexington resident with a background in "marketing and public relations", had to attend a meeting or two of the Lexington Village Council, and the village's Zoning Commission, to eventually get the permission from the Council to erect the repeater's approximately 140' tower.

"John Young knew my background, and asked me to speak for amateur radio at the Zoning and Council meetings", Bob explained, "and we had two main issues to contend

with, safety if the tower fell, and security to keep people other than ham radio operators, and other legitimate maintenance guys, from climbing on it. Once we favorably got by the Zoning Commission, we were able to reach an accord with the Council. It all took about thirty days".

Bob, who was the ham radio Emergency Co-ordinator for Richland County for eight years, added that one of the provisions for Council approval was, in an "emergency" that affected area communications, the .225 repeater is to be used solely for the Village of Lexington.

According to Mike Thompson, , the operators who helped on the .225 machine's construction project were himself, Jack and Jim Hire, John T. Young (N8JY), who was in charge at the site, Jim Odson (WB8TBG), Ken Schonauer (KC8JTX), Bob Miller, Bruce Van Hesteren (N8KJS), John W. Young (N8RJI), Norm Nelson, Jr. (WB8WRS), Craig Sloey (KB8RWN), Dave Weigold (N8DPW), John Ness (WB8SFV/K8NJ), Rick Crowl (KC8DLE), and Jim Crowl (KC8SLK). Two other fellows, who weren't operators, Larry Layman and John Setser, also lent a helping hand.

According to information on Mike's website, "WB8ERJ.com", the repeater itself is a Yaesu Vertex VXR-5000, and the Controller is a CAT1000. There are some really interesting pictures of the repeater construction project on the website, just scroll down to his "Index of Stuff" section on the main page, then down to item #8, "Lexington, Ohio's 70cm Repeater". It's worth the time to do it.

"7-3" David Spain KC8GNU

Editor's Note: This article conclude's David Spain's year-long series of articles related to the 75th anniversary of our radio club (IARC). David thanks everyone for their help in getting information for the articles, he enjoyed writing them, and he realizes that seventy-five years is indeed a long time, so there could have been many, many more interesting and informative topics.

Jay Bookwalter (KC8GNL)



Past Presidents of IARC

as found in the club scrapbook & membership assistance

There was no listing of the early presidents from 1933 - 1943. So the following list will start with the year 1944.

1944 ---- Egon Loeckel - W8TAJ
1945 ---- Egon Loeckel - W8TAJ
1946 ---- Adam Holtzmilller - W8GFB
1947 ---- Floyd Myers - W8TTS
1948 ---- R.J. Mitchell - W8WYN
1949 ---- Tony Miller - W8WPF
1950 ---- Egon Loeckel - W8TAJ
1951 ---- Jerry Overeynder - W8KUW
1952 ---- Willard Waite - W8GDQ
1953 ---- Jack Barr - W8VTP
1954 ---- Dick DeLong - W8EMK
1955 ---- Joe Wojcik - W8HTO
1956 ---- Howard Wise - W8OZZ

The Change to take office in September was made in 1956

1956/1957 ---- Don Greene - K8ANC
1957/1958 ---- Paul Tolsky - W8BFW
1958/1959 ---- Tom Lamb - K8ERV
1959/1960 ---- Tom Lamb - K8ERV
1960/1961 ---- George York - W8MFZ
1961/1962 ---- Edwin Fensch - W8SOU
1962/1963 ---- Noel Mooney - K8LRN
1963/1964 ---- Tom Blizzard - K8AKA
1964/1965 --- Frank Mowery - K8GSH
1965/1966 ---- Bale Balph - WA8EHA
1966/1967 ---- Charles Bookwalter - W8QJF
1967/1968 ---- Eldon Heck - W8PO
1968/1969 ---- Kenneth Portz - W8QNP
1969/1970 ---- Richard Sisher - W8MXQ
1970/1971 ---- Don Feters - W8BWV
1971/1972 ---- Oscar Frederickson - K8ADX
1972/1973 ---- Lacy Shawver - WB8FMW
1973/1974 ---- Harry Frietchen - K8JPF
1974/1975 ----
1975/1976 ----

1976/1977 ----
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1986/1987 ----
1987/1988 ----
1988/1989 ----
1989/1990 ----
1990/1991 ----
1991/1992 ----

1992/1993 ---- Phil Ackerman -- N8ICH
1993/1994 ---- Phil Ackerman -- N8ICH
1994/1995 ---- Phil Ackerman -- N8ICH
1995/1996 ---- Phil Ackerman -- N8ICH
1996/1997 ---- Phil Ackerman -- N8ICH
1997/1998 ---- Phil Ackerman -- N8ICH
1998/1999 ---- Phil Ackerman -- N8ICH
1999/2000 ---- Phil Ackerman -- N8PA
2000/2001 ---- Bruce Van Hesetren -- N8KJS
2001/2002 ---- Bill Martin -- N8TQ
2002/2003 ----

Begin 2 year terms of office for President, VP, Treas. & Sec. in 2003

2003/2005 ---- Jack Weeks - K8RT
2005/2007 ---- John Young N8JY - left office due to moving away
2005/2007 ---- Phil Ackerman - N8PA - finished term
2007/2009 ---- Rob Ruth KD8AZQ



"A CHAT WITH GUNTHER MEISSE"

By David Spain KC8GNU

The following article by David Spain (KC8GNU) was originally printed in Airwaves in 2006. Gunther Meisse (W8GSM) has been an ardent ham radio operator, and a member and supporter of our radio club for many years. We are proud of his accomplishments in the management of local commercial radio and TV broadcasting, and more so in the realm of amateur radio satellite communications. With that in mind, and the 75th anniversary of the IARC, we proudly reprint David's article titled "A CHAT WITH GUNTHER MEISSE":

"Recently, I had the chance to chat with the senior Gunther Meisse (W8GSM) in his office at WMFD/WVNO on Park Avenue West in Ontario. He is an easy person to talk to, and his enthusiasm for ham radio projects is contagious. As many of you know, our radio club's [146.940](#) and [147.360](#) repeaters work off of a communication's tower at the TV/Radio station.

My chat with Gunther was about his role in the North America branch of **AMSAT**, the world-wide Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation. The organization has the responsibility for, among other things, the design, engineering, manufacture, launch and maintenance of the amateur radio satellites in space orbit today.

AMSAT had its beginnings in 1969, when a group of amateur radio operators (hams), many of whom were employed by government, commercial or university laboratories in the Washington, D.C. area, formed the organization and incorporated it. The group vowed to carry on the pioneering and voluntary ham radio satellite work already being done by "Project OSCAR" on the west coast, which included the launch of OSCAR (Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio), the first amateur radio satellite, in 1961 from Vandenburg Air Force Base in California. The satellite, which orbited the earth for 22 days (312 orbits), and transmitted the morse code letters "hi", went up a mere four years after Russia's pioneering "Sputnik" satellite, which shows the talent and intelligence available in the ham radio ranks.

Gunther Meisse is a life member of the organization, his membership number is 594 among over 23,000 members, and he got involved in AMSAT, not so much through his interest in satellites or ham radio, but through his life-long interest in weather. "In my 2-meter operations", he said, "I stumbled across the weather map transmissions from the first two NASA polar orbiting satellites and geo-stationary satellites ATS-1 and ATS-2, which gave me a whole new opportunity for my interests in weather. I also started listening to the nightly satellite transmissions from doctors in Texas to nurses in really remote areas of Alaska, who were treating patients for various illnesses. I got hooked on satellite communications and its value for doing good things".

Gunther has met many of the early pioneers in satellite amateur radio, including Dr. Thomas A. Clark (W3IWI), a physicist and a remarkable person, who once served as President of AMSAT, and who now serves on its Board of Directors. "I took a leave of absence, you might

say, from my satellite activities”, Gunther commented, “and I was down at the Dayton Hamfest a few years back, and I stopped by the AMSAT booth”. He went on to say that, in a discussion with some others at the booth, particularly about funding issues and his ideas for them, they mentioned to him about “running for a seat on AMSAT’s Board of Directors”.

From this discussion, Gunther then met with Dr. Clark and Richard Hamby (W2GPS), who is now the President of AMSAT. They encouraged him to “run”, but noted that it usually takes two or three times to get elected.

“Well, I got my petition signed, filed it, and there were others ahead of me, so to speak, hams who had been more active than me”, he explained, “but I did something nobody else had ever done, I actually campaigned for the position, and I got elected on my first try”. Later, Gunther got elected by his fellow board members to his current position of “Treasurer” for North American AMSAT, which places him on the corporation’s Executive Team.

Gunther, who is now in his second term as AMSAT treasurer, has certainly played a role in bringing sound financial practices into the organization, but his major project is to help establish an endowment for the corporation. “We hope we will be able to raise about 10-15 million dollars”, he commented, “and we are in the process of hiring a professional fund raising organization to help us with our campaign. If we are successful, we will be able to invest the money, and use the accumulated interest to help fund our projects. We will be contacting the Bill Gates of the world, who share our interest in scientific projects, to help us reach our goal. We will also be asking for whatever help they can give from ham radio operators all over the world”.

Gunther mentioned the example of how it will cost \$600,000 just to build the Eagle 1 and Eagle 2, two ham radio satellites that will be launched within the decade. “AMSAT is talking to launch operators all over the world to set up the satellites as payloads”, he said. He explained how “AMSAT used a huge Soviet Union SS-18 Intercontinental Ballistic Missile, still setting in an old “Cold War” silo in Russia, to launch ECHO, AMSAT’s latest polar orbiting satellite. It was launched for pennies on the dollar compared to conventional European or American launches, which can cost up to 2.5 million dollars each”.

On its website, AMSAT North America mentions that one of its goals is to have “ham radio satellite communication 24/7”, and Gunther Meisse enthusiastically says it isn’t all that far into the future. He explained there will be three satellites in “high earth orbit some 60,000 kilometers up in GTO, geostationary transfer orbits that provide up to a 12-hour window for communications”. In addition to using two meters, he said, “we will be using the “S” and “L” bands, up-linking on 1 Gigahertz and higher, and down linking on 2 Gigahertz”. The Eagle 1 and Eagle 2 will be the second and third of three amateur radio satellites that will support this upgrade in service. The first, P3E, is being built in Germany by AMSAT-NA and AMSAT-DL (AMSAT Germany), and will feature Software Defined Transponders. The launch for P3E is planned for late 2006 or 2007.

Gunther is very supportive of AMSAT’s efforts to work with the American Radio Relay

League and NASA to bring space science and amateur radio to classrooms all over America and around the world. "AMSAT members provide the portable 2-meter equipment to link the schools with the International Space Station", he explained. "AMSAT members go the school and set up the ham radio equipment, and, during a predetermined pass by the space station, kids get to ask the astronauts questions".

A second AMSAT educational endeavor is to bring future "Bird Builders" into the fold by working with science students (especially electronics, astronomy and physics) at several American universities. "They actually design and build small, but complex, satellite repeaters known as "CubeSats, and they study orbital tracking, communications electronics, and amateur radio, with mentors from AMSAT helping them", Gunther said.

It was sure a pleasure talking to Gunther Meisse. He has a "General" ticket now, after first getting his "Tech" for 2-meter satellite operations. His two sons, Gunther (K8GSM) and Rob (W8REM), are ham radio operators at the "Technician" level. He plays down his scientific knowledge about the "how's and why's" of satellite radio communications, and says his contributions to AMSAT are his financial ideas and the where-with-all and diligence to see them into reality. That being said, he is the Team Leader for the development and construction of the navigation cameras that will fly on Eagle I and Eagle II.

We all know that every organization needs "movers and shakers" for survival, and there should be no doubt that Gunther Meisse plays a vital role in the continued progress of AMSAT, itself another wonderful aspect of the fascinating hobby of amateur radio.

If you want to know more about AMSAT, a good place to start is the organization's website www.amsat.org. A special thanks to Gunther for his patience and help with the technical aspects of this article. Writing it has been very educational for me, David Spain (KC8GNU).
"7-3"

"AIRWAVES"

by David Spain (KC8GNU)

If you ever have a chance to sit down and talk about the Inter City Amateur Radio Club (IARC) or MASER with Scott Yonally (N8SY), be sure and do it. Aside from holding elected office in both organizations, Scott had a unique position in the two groups that let him keep track of the goings-on in both of them. He was the first editor/publisher of what we know as the "Airwaves" newsletter, and he held that post off and on for over fifteen years. It seems appropriate in this, our radio club's 75th anniversary year, to say a few words about "Airwaves".

Actually, and according to Scott, a Mansfield area ham radio newsletter of sorts has been around since the early 1950's, when an operator named Ed "Doc" Fensch (W8SOU) used to mail out the monthly IARC meeting notice post cards that he printed on a "ditto" machine.

When "Doc" would go on vacation, some ham radio guys who worked at Therm-O-Disc, namely Scott's brother Gary (WA8BIW), Rich Ruth (WB8UYY) and Norm Nelson (WB8WRS), would write up a two-to-four page meeting notice/newsletter, and Gary would get it printed and mailed out to the IARC members.

So how did Scott, who has his "Extra" ticket, get into the ham radio club newsletter crowd? Well, first of all, it was Gary Yonally, now a SK, who encouraged Scott to take up ham radio, and Scott got his Novice ticket in January of 1979. Then, like so many things that have taken root and enhanced amateur radio in the Mansfield area, it goes back to Jack Weeks (K8RT).

Back in 1981, Jack was the President of MASER, and I was the Vice-President. He called me, and asked me to stop by his shop at Hoover Instrument's out on Home Road", Scott explained. "Well, I went out there, and Jack had an idea for a club newsletter". Actually, at the time, Jack was the President of the Ohio Repeater Council, and that organization had a newsletter, which inspired him to put one together for MASER.

Jack and I later worked a few evenings on our first edition of the newsletter, printed it up there at his shop, and we mailed it out" Scott added. "Jack handed the project over to me, and I became the editor. In those first few years, I typed it all up on a Remington typewriter".

Scott was working at Hi-Stat Manufacturing in Lexington at the time, and a co-worker, John Stone, who worked in the Engineering Department, and wasn't a ham radio guy, happened to come up with the name "Airwaves" for the newsletter. "It was a great suggestion, and I went with it right away", Scott said.

In 1984, Peggy Boyle and Pat Harris (N8EBK) took over the editorship of "Airwaves", and then it went to Bob Swope (NQ8W) in 1985, who published the newsletter until 1986. "Bob and I grew up together in Ashland, he was moving back there, so when he asked me to take back the responsibility for "Airwaves", I said "okay", Scott commented.

Since it's beginnings, "Airwaves" has always been a monthly publication, and there is newsletter competition among ham radio clubs, up to and including, the national level. With Scott Yonally at the helm, and his eventual use of computer and word processing technology, with colorful graphics and photos, "Airwaves" won several awards for layout and content, including a second place and six honorable mentions.

Over the years, there have been many contributing "Airwaves" writer's like Phil Ackerman (N8PA), who, as President of the IARC, wrote a regular column, as does current President Ron Muth (KD8AZQ), Pat Roberston (N8JOZ), whose "Trivia" column ran for a number of years, and Danny Bailey (KB8STK), who contributes his monthly and informative ARES column. Of special interest is the new "XYL Speak Out" column, co-written by Melanie Ruth (KD8CWI) and Jennine Stickler (KD8CWF), and Jay Bookwalter's (KC8GNL) "Skywarn" updates. Scott wrote his own informative "Editor's Corner" column. (*Editor's note: We also can not forget David Spain KC8GNU who has been writing most of these articles for us.*)

It was Phil Ackerman who, knowing my interest in writing, paved the way for me to send some articles to Scott for possible publication in "Airwaves", and I'm sure glad Phil did it. In the IARC, everyone can have a niche to contribute to the cause.

Jay Bookwalter, the current editor of "Airwaves" does the proofreading, graphics and layout work, and Phil Nichols (KD8FGV) is the website posting technician. According to Jay and Phil, statistics show that the newsletter is read on average about 480 times a month.

Scott Yonally once said, "I feel really lucky to have had two "Elmers" in my ham life. The first one inspired me to become a ham, my brother Gary, and the second, Joe Phillips

(K8QOE), inspired me to become the best newsletter editor/publisher that I could be". Joe is from Fairfield, Ohio, and he is the ARRL's Ohio Section leader in the Great Lakes Division, and for eight years Scott was the Public Information Coordinator for all of Ohio, as well as the editor/publisher of "Airwaves" for more than 15 years. "I guided and assisted all of the various radio club's Public Information Officers in the Ohio Section, and helped many radio clubs to produce quality newsletters", Scott explained.

In tribute to Scott's newsletter endeavors, and that of Peggy Boyle, Pat Harris, Bob Swope, and Phil Nichols, and the followup and continual improvement guided by Jay Bookwalter, "Airwaves" is alive and well, as is our radio club in its 75th anniversary year.

"7-3" from David Spain (KC8GNU)

"IARC Club Traditions"

by Jay Bookwalter (KC8GNL)

Traditions, as we all know, are things we do on an annual basis. IARC has had a few of these over the years, and I thought I would list some of them:

1. Field Day, the event that has us set up in a simulation of field communications using alternate power sources. David Spain (KC8GNU) recently wrote a nice "AIRWAVES" article in his IARC 75th anniversary series about this yearly event, and, by all accounts, our Club may have participated in the first one ever held.
2. Another tradition is Ham Of The Year. This is a relatively new event, since it began in 1968 with the award going to Egon Loeckel (W8TAJ/N8EL), now an SK. The idea of this award was to recognize members that have gone above and beyond the normal in doing things for the betterment of both the IARC and the hobby itself. One year we had two recipients, as both ladies were most deserving for all the hard work they had done for Hamfests over the years. A lot of good people have received this award, and a list of them was posted in an earlier "AIRWAVES" article.
3. An award that was handed out at the banquets, which added some humor to the event, was the "Purple Rock". This tradition has faded away, and hopefully it will return. The award was given to someone that made a mistake during the year that they could not live down. Again, always something with a humorous side though.
4. One of everyone's favorite traditions has been the "Peel-n-Stick" night, with the treat of "Coneys" after the task was done. Jack Ewers (KB8TLN), now an SK, always had a great batch of them ready for the group. Cathy Swank-Green (KC8SNP) and Jim Smith (KA8WSE) have done a good job of carrying on this tradition since Jack's passing.
5. Do you remember the "Chili Night"? I have heard this was also something the club did

years ago, but I have not been able to find any more details. From what I did find, Jack Ewers also cooked the chili, and it was only held in October, but just for a couple of years or so.

6. The Miss Ohio Parade has become another of our traditions by helping with the communications. There were a few years where we did not have this event, as it had moved to Cedar Point. But it has since returned, and, as always, our group has had a lot of fun working this event.
7. Other traditions, while some may not consider them as such, are our service groups such as ARES®, RACES, NTS, and SKYWARN. The IARC has always supported these vital community services over the years, as they are, according to Articles of Incorporation, one of the main purposes of the club. RACES was, of course, the first of the emergency groups which came about thru CivilDefense, and, while not used as much in the early days, is still holding a few people in the program, just in case the President of the USA invokes the war powers act, which would put a hold on most amateur radio activities as we know them today. ARES®, which is a service organization of the ARRL, has taken over most emergency duties that were formerly RACES operations. ARES® is a more easy going service, that does not have to follow the strict rules and requirements set down for the RACES program. Skywarn is probably our club's biggest operation, since severe weather always comes around every year. Remember when we used to work out of the weather office at Lahm Airport. Anyone remember Marla or Dewey? Still hear some good stories about Marla and the station at the airport.
8. The Hamfest or more properly called the "Mid-Winter Hamfest" has been going for quite a few years too. This is our club's biggest fund raiser project that we do. Originally it was held as an Auction of old equipment, then, as years progressed, it went to the flea market style we know today. The early hamfests were held at the Naval Reserve Training Center, which was on Ashland Rd next to the current National Guard Armory. As the event grew it was then moved to the current location at the Richland County Fairgrounds.
9. We tried a few years at having what we called an "ARRL League Night Dinner" which was a dinner with some of the ARRL Ohio Section Leadership and Great Lakes Division staff. This was a great way to get to talk with ARRL people about issues in amateur radio. We have had an unofficial night the last few years at the Fire Mountain Restaurant with a few of the league leadership. It has always been the night before the Hamfest, since the officials get in town the night before. We have had some fun with this event, Just ask Joe Phillips (K8QOE) about his timer for talking!!
10. The IARC has also been a "special service club" for a number of years. The ARRL is especially proud of our affiliated clubs that excel in their activities. Clubs that go the extra mile to provide on-going training and support for the benefit of their community, fall into our Special Service Club category. These extraordinary groups actively pursue all aspects of Amateur Radio: New Ham Development and Training; Public Relations;

Emergency Communications; School Club Support; Technical Advancement; Operating Activities; Annual Reports, and more.

NOTE: *I had a call from John Lehman (WA8HMO) in regards to the request for reader contributions for this article. John is a wealth of information on club history. Below is what he gave me, and I certainly appreciate his help:*

11. The club auction, forerunner to the IARC Hamfest, was more than just an auction sale as for one, the admission of \$1.00 included a ham sandwich, Jones chips, and hot cider or coffee. This was put together by Chuck Bookwalter (W8QJF) and his XYL Ruby. Another part of the festivities was special contests which were held throughout the day. Some of these included a QLF (sending morse code with your left foot), a morse code copy contest, and a sending contest with speeds up to 35 WPM! Special certificates went to anyone who could send or copy 35 WPM. Might be fun to bring these back to the hamfest to add some fun and interest.
12. Early days in emergency communications with the IARC included a group called "CIRCE", which stood for "Communications In Richland County Emergencies". John was the EC for CIRCE, with Dr Barnes (W8DVN), Dick Fisher (WA8MXQ), and Gordon Sponsellor (N8BZ, then N8BZR), as the Assistant ECs. Also, because this was one of the pioneering groups for EMCOMM they were asked to give a presentation for the ARRL at the Dayton Hamvention in regards to Mobile Emergency Communications.
13. John and his crew also started the first 2-meter net on AM (we use FM now days) using good old Heath Kit "Lunch Box" transceivers, which were horizontally polarized. John said that, since Gordon and he lived on some of the higher terrain at the time, they covered the area quite well. And "yes", this was before repeaters.
14. Another project for a few years was working with, what was known as, the Eye Bank here in the area. John and Gordon were highly involved with this program, and did receive loads of publicity for the club.
15. An early newsletter was done by Doc Finch (W8SOU), which kept the club updated on current happenings with equipment and the membership. Of course the newsletter as we all know it today has continued to bring news of both local and league interest to our members. Scott Yonally N8SY was the editor for many years before turning it over to Myself (Jay Bookwalter KC8GNL) a few years ago. Members used to send in articles such as scanner news by Larry Roop N8RGO, and trivia type columns by Pat Roberts N8JOZ, to name a few. And yes we still accept articles from all our membership anytime someone wants to do one!!
16. John remembered some early field days which were just what the name said, "Field!". "Yes", he said, we used to have a member who had a farm on East Hanley Road, where the club would set up way out in the fields of the farm for the event.

17. Regarding club meetings, John said we used to have a tradition of doing a "Show & Tell" time, in which members would bring in new "state of the art" equipment to show, or perhaps a homebrew piece of equipment to discuss. This too might be something to bring back as it sounds interesting and fun. John also said that the club would occasionally have field trips, or visits, to see special stations, or other unique setups, of interest to the club.

"73's" from Jay Bookwalter (KC8GNL), Editor, "AIRWAVES", and special "thanks" to David Spain (KC8GNU) for his help with this article.

