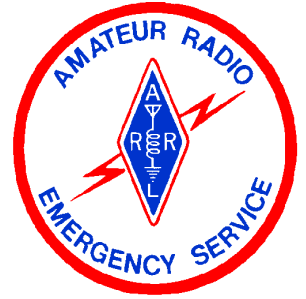




**BELLBROOK
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**
Bellbrook, Ohio
W8DGN



An ARRL Special Service Club

February 2021 Newsletter

Volume 46—Number 2

NEXT MEETING

3rd Thursday, 18 February, 7:30 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING ON ZOOM

Pre-Meeting Hospitality & Fellowship

- **Join Zoom starting around 7:00 PM**
(See Set Up instructions on page 2)
- **Grab your favorite snacks, if desired**

PROGRAM

New Capabilities on the BARC Repeaters

By John Westerkamp W8LRJ

John will present an overview of all the new capabilities that have been integrated into the BARC repeaters over the past few months.

These new Internet voice technologies include AllStarLink, EchoLink, and Wires-X.

John also will provide information and demonstrations on how to use these technologies with either your radio, your smartphone or your PC.

Inside This Edition

• **FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES**

- **02/18: BARC General Membership Meeting**
7:30pm (7:00 pre-meeting)
Virtual Meeting--Online: ZOOM
- How To Set Up & Use ZOOM

• **LAST MEETING MINUTES & NOTES**

- Minutes: January 21 General Meeting
- Notes: February 4 Planning Meeting

• **MARCH ACTIVITIES**

- 03/02: Skills Night – **ONLINE ?? - TBD**
- **03/04: Planning Meeting - ONLINE - ZOOM**
- 03/11: Tech Night – **ONLINE ?? - TBD**
- 03/13: Mesh Group – **ONLINE - ZOOM**
- **03/18: BARC Meeting - ONLINE - ZOOM**

• **FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

- ~~05/14-16: Hamvention@ 2021~~ - **Cancelled**
- 06/26-27: Field Day 2021 **?TBD**

• **GENERAL INFORMATION & REPORTS**

- BARC 2021 Dues Information
- BARC 2021 Meeting Presentations
- BARC Weekly Net -- Sundays 8 PM
- BARC Fundraising Opportunities
- ARRL Discounted Membership Offer

• **REGULARLY SCHEDULED NETS**

• **BARC CALENDAR**

• **BARC 2021 OFFICERS & COORDINATORS**

• **IN EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY INCIDENT**

• **DIRECTIONS TO THE BARC CLUBHOUSE**

Future Clubhouse Activities

All BARC In-Person Meetings and Activities scheduled at the Clubhouse are CANCELLED until further notice.

BARC February General Meeting (02/18) **- ONLINE Via ZOOM**

John Westerkamp will distribute via the BARC Reflector prior to Thursday the link for joining the Zoom Meeting.

Then, CLICK on that LINK beginning at 7 pm Thursday to join the Zoom Meeting. You may not see or hear anything until just before the ZOOM session begins. John will be available on the BARC 2m repeater to assist if anyone has any questions.

Since this will be a virtual meeting, each member will be responsible for his or her own virtual popcorn and/or other virtual refreshments. 😊

How to Set Up Zoom

ZOOM-Basic Setup & Configuration

John Westerkamp has provided a link to the Zoom Video Tutorials:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-Video-Tutorials>

John recommends the "Join a Meeting" and the "Joining & Configuring Audio & Video" tutorials for new users. Additional tutorial topics are included for those interested in learning about other features of Zoom.

Send any questions or problems to John ASAP but BEFORE the next meeting.

Last Meeting Minutes & Notes

Minutes-Jan 21 General Meeting

By Jim Gifford KD8APT, Secretary

NOTE: This meeting was conducted virtually on ZOOM because of the Coronavirus.

Officers and Members-at-Large Present: 5

- President: Jim Totten WA8HUB
- Vice President: Don Parker KB8PSL, Meeting Program Coordinator
- Treasurer: John Westerkamp W8LRJ, Education
- Secretary: Jim Gifford KD8APT, QSL Coord
- Sr. Director: Joe Muchnij N8QOD

Functional Coordinators Present:

- Bob French AC8ZU, Webmaster
- Paul Sharp KD8OPN, Assistant Treasurer

- Natinka Siwecki KD8NUA, Librarian, Hospitality Coordinator
- Fred Stone W8LLY, Newsletter
- Ray Hitt N8VMX, Field Day Chairman

Officers & Members-at-Large Absent:

- Junior Director: Jacalyn Wysong KE8LZE
- Trevor Clarke K8TRC, Tech Night/Workbench Co-Coordinator
- Sean Dickins K8SPD, IT Coordinator
- Henry Ruminski W8HJR, GCARES Liaison
- Jim Lusk KC8EFD, Clubhouse Coordinator
- Russ Roysden N8NPT, Repeater Coordinator

Thirty-Four (34) members attended via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 by the President. Jim Totten WA8HUB led participants in the Pledge of Allegiance.

New Business.

Agenda Item 1. Minutes and Treasurer’s Report

Jim Totten WA8HUB asked if there were changes to the published minutes. None stated by members. Ken Gunton W8ASA moved we accept; Ray Hitt N8VMX seconded. Passed.

John Westerkamp W8LRJ said income at the beginning of January was primarily from dues with an additional \$3 donated from the Kroger incentive program. There were expenses for coax and Ethernet cables for the clubhouse.

Westerkamp said the Internet was still out at the KAS site and he will check again on Friday, January 22, and will send an update to club members.

Don Parker KB8PSL moved we accept the Treasurer’s Report; Joe Muchnij N8QOD seconded. Passed.

Agenda Item 2. General Announcements

Jim Totten spoke of upcoming presentations and said the ARRL Section Manager has possible presentations about the take-off angle of antennas. Darryl Fowler KD8JQE said he watched one last night and recorded it and said it would be a good presentation.

Totten also discussed the FCC notice placed recently about misuse of amateur radio and the trouble recently at the US Capitol. He said we had monitored the BARC repeater the last few days and there were no problems noted. We also discussed that CTCSS [Continuous Tone Coded Squelch System] could be activated if needed.

John Westerkamp mentioned that he planned to present a program about ALLSTAR Node at the February BARC General meeting.

Agenda Item 3. Captain Greg Stephens of the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office will be doing a presentation on the MARCS radio system. The first half will show what MARCS is and what it can do. The second half will cover the 2019 Memorial Day tornado outbreak and the vital roles MARCS and other forms of voice and data communications played.

**Captain Greg Stephens KD8NKQ
Radio System Administrator
Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office**

30 years public service
Homeland Security Region 3 Voice and Data
State Interoperability Executive Committee
Montgomery County EMA Representative

Captain Stephens presented the following outline:

- **What is MARCS?**
System of systems owned by the state of Ohio
- **Where We Were in the 1980s and 1990s**
More complicated fire and EMS systems had VHF systems
Each had their own silos and control
MARCS had a single 3.5 system for the Ohio State Patrol
- **Why Did We change?**
Systems in use were at end of life
Digital systems improved
MARCS offered vast interoperability
- **Background**
How MARCS came about
First county-wide meeting was in 2011
Awarded in 2012
Study kicked off in 2013
Partnered with Miami Valley Cable Council
Second county-wide meeting held in 2014
Entered agreement with Motorola in 2015
- **New County-wide P25 Radio Communications System**
MCSO administers P25
35 county-wide public safety and nonpublic agencies in system
Over 6,000 radios in the system
Connected to Ohio analog system
Montgomery County Cable Council administers the board
- **Radio System Partners**
Captain Stephens discussed a chart of MC partners
- **Tower Site and PSAP Connectivity**
Ten towers
Eleventh is a MARCS single site

State of Ohio zone controllers
Microwave connectivity throughout county and state of Ohio
Redundancy using microwave and T-1 lines
Each dispatch tied in with microwave and T-1\
Simulcast in Montgomery County
Five-zone continuity in Ohio
Can talk state-wide
Certain channels have interoperability

- **Maps of MARCS state-wide coverage**
Vehicle repeaters in rural areas
Towers used in more populated areas
Discussed interoperability: fire, EMS, LE, public health, hospitals, public works, others
Neighboring counties
- **Map of Montgomery County coverage**
Discussed setting up the system, including testing by car, on foot, in buildings, at hospitals, etc.
Coverage test both with bare trees and trees foliage full
- **Push to Talk 24-hour Report**
Over 500 RF channels
212 tower sites in Ohio
19 counties have simulcast
- **Security at Tower Sites**
Generators
Fuel, power, heat
Motorola monitors system from Chicago
- **Tower Site Progress**
Shack installation
Obstacles

-
- **Part Two-Memorial Day Outbreak**
Attendees discussed the use of HAM radio in the Memorial Day tornado outbreak
Captain Stephens provided an in-depth description of how the MARCS was utilized in the tornado outbreak

Adjournment

Ray Hitt moved we adjourn; Three people seconded. Passed.

The meeting ended at about 9:37 pm.

Planning Meeting Notes-February 4

By Jim Gifford KD8APT, Secretary

NOTE: This meeting was conducted virtually on ZOOM because of the Coronavirus

Officers and Members-at-Large Present: 18

- President: Jim Totten WA8HUB
- Vice President: Don Parker KB8PSL, Public Service Coordinator
- Treasurer: John Westerkamp W8LRJ, Education

- Sr. Director: Joe Muchnij N8QOD
- Junior Director: Jacalyn Wysong KE8LZE
- Secretary: Jim Gifford KD8APT, QSL Coord

Functional Coordinators Present:

- Sean Dickins K8SPD, IT Coordinator
- Fred Stone W8LLY, Newsletter
- Bob French AC8ZU, Webmaster

General Membership Present:

- Ken Gunton W8ASA
- Ken Moak KM8AM
- Darryl Fowler KD8JQE
- Wynn Rollert W6CDR
- Steve Siwecki KD8NUC
- Roger Parrett NQ8RP
- Ryan McClure KE8DKC

Officers & Members-at-Large Absent:

- Ray Hitt N8VMX, Field Day Chairman
- Tink Siwecki KD8NUA, Librarian, Hospitality
- Jim Lusk KC8EFD, Club House Coord
- Henry Ruminski W8HJR, GCARES Liaison
- Russ Roysden N8NPT, Repeater Coordinator

The ZOOM meeting was called to order at 7:32 by the President.

Agenda Item 1. Treasurer's Report

John Westerkamp W8LRJ said we received money from a COVID-19 dividend from Wright-Patt Credit (\$14.67) Union and from dues. We had some expenses in January including renewal of Post Office box, gift card for Dan Kinney, and a payment on the clubhouse insurance policy.

Westerkamp also spoke about the Internet at the KAS site. He said he worked with Russ Roysden N8NPT and Dan Kinney (site owner) to determine what needed done on the Spectrum router. Westerkamp said he adjusted it so he could open up the firewall so it would not block voice on input. Everything is now working as planned. Westerkamp will make a presentation at the next general meeting on using these digital functions.

Jim Totten WA8HUB thanked Zach Zink KD8JXD for his question on training for logging programs. Totten referenced training available on the ARRL Ohio section web site, which is a presentation on logging programs, and it may be in the ARRL Learning Net section. Plus there are others around. Totten said he would do a search this week.

Westerkamp said we have the N3FJP program on all the stations and it includes a regular logging program as one of its modules. Of course individuals have their own favorites. He said that since he is the

educational coordinator perhaps he should set up a document that gives an overview of the different logging programs and their use.

Joe Muchnij N8QOD stated that we paid for the complete N3FJP Logging program some time back. Totten asked Ken Moak KM8AM about a free logging program. Moak said it is DX Lab.

Agenda Item 2. Sean Dickins K8SPD to provide an update on station computers.

Dickins shared his screen and he presented how the stations are suggested to be set up. He showed Station 4 as it was and then as it is suggested by Dickins and Westerkamp.

Some discussion by attendees about the two monitors and their use. Dickins discussed the added flexibility.

Agenda Item 6. Open Discussion

Don Parker KB8PSL sought ideas on ARES drills. In their district meeting earlier in the week they tasked members to come up with drill ideas that were creative and would keep people interested. Ryan McClure KE8DKC asked what kind of drills are they looking at? Parker explained how messages are funneled to ARES HQ.

Paul Sharp encouraged participation in the Sunday night BARC net. Also, dues are due.

Adjournment

Meeting ended at around 8:04 pm.

March Activities

BARC Skills Night (03/02)

Watch the BARC Email Reflector for announcement with the link information and other details.

BARC Planning Group Meeting (03/04)

ONLINE Via ZOOM - watch for link announcement

BARC Tech Night (03/11)

Watch BARC Reflector for Announcement

MESH Group Meeting (03/13)

ONLINE Via ZOOM

Send email to: MVMA@mailman.QTH.Net to request notifications and link information

BARC March Club Meeting (03/18)

ONLINE Via ZOOM

Future Special Activities

Watch BARC Email Reflector for announcements about other potential BARC and area activities.

General Information & Reports

BARC 2021 Dues

BARC Treasurer John Westerkamp is now accepting dues for 2021. Annual membership renewal is \$15 per member and \$3 for each additional family member living at the same address.

Dues help support Club activities such as the Clubhouse, the Communications Center, Field Day expenses, the Repeaters, and other purchases and activities as approved by the Club during the year.

BARC Treasurer John Westerkamp will accept dues at Club meetings and other Club activities or you may send your check via U.S. mail to:

**John Westerkamp W8LRJ, BARC Treasurer
PO Box 73, Bellbrook OH 45305**

Please complete and return a new Membership Registration Form to update Club records. Registration Form is available from the Treasurer or may be downloaded from the BARC website.

A separate Registration Form should be completed for each family member. Please include ALL of the information requested (for Club records). You may draw a circle around any information you do not want published in the BARC Directory. Information in the BARC Directory is confidential only to the extent that the Directory is distributed only to Club members and is not to be given out to non-members.

BARC 2021 Meeting Presentations

- **Feb:** *New Internet Voice Modes on BARC Repeaters* - by John Westerkamp W8LRJ
- **Mar:** *TBA*
- by
- **Apr:** *TBA*
- by
- **May:** *TBA*
- by
- **Jun:** *Field Day Briefing*
- by Ray Hitt & Committee
- **Jul:** *TBA*
- by
- **Aug:** *Field Day Video-Photos-Report*
- by Don Parker & Ray Hitt

- **Sep: TBA**
- by
- **Oct: TBA**
- by
- **Nov: TBA**
- by
- **Dec: TBA**
- by

What topics or demonstrations would you like to hear about? What presentations can **YOU** contribute? If interested in doing a presentation at a monthly Club Meeting, please let BARC Vice President Don Parker know. (DParker28@att.net or 937-673-1754)

Presentations normally are 20-45 minutes and can be in whatever format the presenter prefers.

BARC Weekly Net—Sundays 8 PM

The BARC weekly Sunday evening net has been having great participation (around 20-25 per week) during the current pandemic “social distancing” situation!

Remember to join your friends for the BARC weekly Net on Sunday evenings at 8:00 PM on the BARC 2m repeater, 147.045 (+) (no PL). BARC’s 70cm repeater, 443.675 (+) (no PL), is the alternate in the event the BARC 2m repeater is not useable.

The Net provides an opportunity between Club meetings to share news and information about Club and personal projects and activities.

Thank You! to the following BARC member who currently fulfill the monthly schedule for **Regular Net Control Stations**: Jim Dean KE8HUD (1st Sunday), Tink KD8NUA & Steve KD8NUC Siwecki (2nd Sunday), Eric Vinande KG6NFJ (3rd Sunday), Paul Sharp KD8OPN (4th Sunday) and John Westerkamp W8LRJ (5th Sundays).

BARC Fundraising Opportunities

• **Kroger’s Rewards Program**

Please remember to use your Kroger Card when shopping at Kroger’s and support BARC through the Kroger Rewards Program. If you have not yet signed up and need help, please bring your Kroger Card to the next BARC meeting and we’ll help you get registered (contact the Treasurer).

• **AmazonSmile Rewards Program**

BARC is registered in an Amazon rewards program called **AmazonSmile**. Charitable and non-profit organizations receive **0.5%** of total purchase price (small but it adds up over time). A web page of basic

Q&A info on the AmazonSmile program is available at: http://smile.amazon.com/about/ref=smi_se_ft_abt_saas

When you sign up for **AmazonSmile**, simply select Bellbrook Amateur Radio Club as your preferred charity when prompted.

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for BARC members (and family and friends) to support BARC, at no cost to you, every time you shop at Amazon. Just log in to Amazon like you usually do and you’ll be asked if you want to use AmazonSmile. Just click YES and you’re ready to shop.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection & convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to BARC.

So, be sure to register for BARC in AmazonSmile the next time you shop at Amazon and then select the AmazonSmile option.

ARRL Discounted Membership Offer

BARC members are reminded that one of the benefits of Club membership is the opportunity to become an ARRL member at a discounted price.

BARC is an ARRL affiliated club and receives a commission for new first-time ARRL memberships transacted through the Club. BARC passes on this commission (discount) as a club membership benefit in order to promote ARRL membership.

BARC members currently receive a \$15 discount on a **NEW first year ARRL membership** cost **when placed through the Club**. Please contact BARC Treasurer John Westerkamp W8LRJ for details.

Please see below for:

- Regularly Scheduled Nets
 - BARC Calendar
 - 2021 Officers & Coordinators
 - In the Event of an Emergency Situation
 - Directions to the BARC Clubhouse
-

REGULARLY SCHEDULED NETS	
Daily (Sunday through Saturday)	1030, 1615 and 1845 <u>Ohio Single Sideband Net (OSSBN)</u> Primary: 3972.5 KHz LSB Alternates: 3968 & 7272 KHz LSB
Sundays	<u>1900 Newcomers & Elmers Net (Cincinnati)</u> 146.670 (-) (123.0 PL)
Sundays	<u>2000 BARC Weekly Net</u> 147.045 (+) (no PL) [Alt = 443.675]
Sundays	<u>2100 Miami Co. Voice & Data Net (Data Net follows Voice Net)</u> 145.230 (-) (no PL)
Winlink Tuesdays	<u>GCARES Winlink Net</u> Any time on Tuesdays Eastern Time Send To: W8LRJ, Cc: KE8FMJ W8GCA-10 445.010 (S), W6CDR-10 145.010 (S)
Tuesdays	<u>1900 Dayton Veterans Admin Amateur Radio Club Net (W8DVA)</u> 145.110 (-)(67.0 PL)
Tuesdays	<u>1915 Ohio ARES HF Net</u> W8SGT Net Control at OEMA HQ Primary: 3902 KHz LSB (+/- QRM) Alternate: 7240 KHz LSB (+/- QRM)
Tuesdays	<u>1945 Ohio Digital Emergency Net</u> Primary: 3584.5 KHz USB (1500 WF) Alternate: 7072 KHz USB
Tuesdays	<u>2000 MoCoARES Weekly Net</u> 146.640 (-) (123.0 Hz PL) (Except—No Net on last Tuesday of even months (MoCoARES meeting)) (Except—On 2 nd Tuesday: Voice and Data Net on 444.250 (+) (123.0 PL)
Tuesdays	<u>2030 Greene County DMR Net</u> Primary: 444.875+, Color Code 13
Tuesdays	<u>2100 GCARES Net (Voice & Data)</u> 146.910 (-)(no PL) [Alt = 442.725]
Ohio Winlink Wednesdays	<u>OH ARES Winlink Net</u> Any time on Wednesdays Eastern Time Send To: K8EAF, Cc: W8LRJ, KE8FMJ W8GCA-10 445.010 (S), W6CDR-10 145.010 (S)
Wednesdays	<u>2000 Ohio District 3 ARES Net (West Central Ohio Regional Net)</u> Primary: 145.110 (-) (67.0 PL) Alternate: 146.820 (-) (77.0 PL)
Wednesdays	<u>2000 Beginners Net (Dayton Area)</u> 444.875 (+) (94.8 PL)

BARC CALENDAR

(all times are local)

APRIL 2020

ALL IN-PERSON CLUBHOUSE MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

FEBRUARY 2021

02 Tu	BARC Skills Night 1900	TBD — ZOOM
04 Th	BARC Planning Committee Meeting 1930	— ZOOM
11 Th	BARC Tech Night	TBD — ZOOM
13 Sa	Mesh Group Meeting, 0930-1200	— ZOOM
18 Th	BARC Regular Monthly Meeting 1900 / 1930	— ZOOM

MARCH 2021

02 Tu	BARC Skills Night 1900	TBD — ZOOM
04 Th	BARC Planning Committee Meeting 1930	— ZOOM
11 Th	BARC Tech Night	TBD — ZOOM
13 Sa	Mesh Group Meeting, 0930-1200	— ZOOM
18 Th	BARC Regular Monthly Meeting 1900 / 1930	— ZOOM

APRIL 2021

01 Th	BARC Planning Committee Meeting 1930	— ZOOM
06 Tu	BARC Skills Night 1900	TBD — ZOOM
08 Th	BARC Tech Night	TBD — ZOOM
10 Sa	Mesh Group Meeting, 0930-1200	— ZOOM
15 Th	BARC Regular Monthly Meeting 1900 / 1930	— ZOOM

BELLBROOK AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

PO Box 73, Bellbrook OH 45305

2020 Officers

PRESIDENT

Jim Totten WA8HUB (m) 609-7027
(WA8HUB@ARRL.net)

VICE PRESIDENT

Don Parker KB8PSL (m) 673-1754
(DParker28@att.net)

SECRETARY

Jim Gifford KD8APT (m) 718-6126
(James.Gifford55@gmail.com)

TREASURER

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(W8LRJ@ARRL.net) (h) 427-3780

SENIOR DIRECTOR

Joe Muchnij N8QOD (m) 369-4295
(N8QOD@ARRL.net)

JUNIOR DIRECTOR

Jacalyn Wysong KE8LZE (m)
(JWysongJ4@gmail.com)

2020 Coordinators

CLUBHOUSE COORDINATOR

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(JLusk@woh.rr.com) (h) 848-4086

CLUBHOUSE LIBRARIAN

Natinka Siwecki KD8NUA (m) 478-7831
(KD8NUA@ARRL.net)

COMMUNICATION CENTER COORDINATOR

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FIELD DAY COORDINATOR

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REPEATER COORDINATOR

Russ Roysden N8NPT (h) 426-3407
(N8NPT@ARRL.net) (m) 751-4689

TECH-NIGHT / WORKBENCH COORDINATOR

Trevor Clarke K8TRC (m) 416-7167
(Retrev@csh.rit.edu)

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR

Sean Dickens K8SPD (m) 751-3636
(Sean.Dickens@gmail.com)

WEBMASTER

Bob French AC8ZU (m) 272-4449
(BobF@omegaiq.com)

In the event of an actual,
anticipated or potential
emergency situation,

MONITOR (or ACTIVATE)

a Greene County

Information & Alerting Net on
147.165+(123 Hz) - Alt: 147.045

Directions to the
BARC Clubhouse and
Communications Center

The BARC Clubhouse
& Communication Center
Rooms 1 & 3 Lower Level
Sugarcreek Elementary School
51 S. East Street, Bellbrook
(One block east & one block south
from the traffic light
in downtown Bellbrook —
Enter at South end of building)