

Coshocton County Amateur Radio Association

W8CCA

PO BOX 501 Coshocton, OH 43812

March 2005 Newsletter



2005 Club Officers

President:

Randy Fisher, KL7RF

Vice President:

Dan Hardy, N8VV

Secretary:

Pat Tucker, KB8CRB

Treasurer:

Fred Hobbs, KC8ZLJ

Coshocton County EC:

Bruce Adams, KE8XM

COARVET Manager:

Steve Wheatcraft, AA8BN

NETS

Coshocton Co. ARA

Sundays 2100 hrs EST
147.045 MHZ W8CCA Rptr

Coshocton Co. ARES®

Mondays 2100 hrs EST
145.230 MHZ KE8XM Rptr

Johnny Appleseed

Fridays 2100 hrs EST
28.450 MHZ SSB



**Meetings: First Tuesday Each Month
Coshocton County Services Bldg.
724 South 7th St.**

[Http://www.W8CCA.org](http://www.W8CCA.org)

PREZ SAYS

Here goes my first writing of the "prez says" article as your new Prez. I was getting used to the position of "president of vice", and appreciating Colleen's (AA8UA) fine work as president. I want to thank her for keeping us on track through many successful years.

As we enter the new year I am happy to report that the CCARA is now officially incorporated in the State of Ohio as a non-profit entity. I want to thank Bill Reed, W8LAW, who has been helping us to accomplish the paperwork and donating his time for the club. He really has the right callsign for his profession as a lawyer.

I also am happy to report that Bruce KE8XM was able to

add to the club treasury by selling some of the club's donated equipment at the Mansfield Hamfest. Thanks, Bruce.

Several of the club's members have been experimenting with APRS (Automated Position Reporting System) in the last few months. There seems to be a growing interest in combining ham radio and computers to advance the hobby. Steve (AA8BN) and Dan (N8VV) gave a live demonstration of APRS at the February meeting. On February 19th, several of us had lots of fun following four hot air balloons on APRS as they traveled across the state. As they came over Coshocton County we were rushing back and forth from our computer screens to the back yards to get a "visual" on them. I did get a photo of one of the balloons going over Fresno. (Cont. Page 2)

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[PREZ SAYS](#) (cont. from page 1)

Steve (AA8BN) has even made contacts by having his APRS signal repeated (digipeated) through amateur radio equipment on board the International Space Station. We are looking toward having APRS and packet radio become an addition to our capabilities to serve the county in ARES.

The next few months will see the beginning of the severe weather season in Ohio. I want to encourage you to participate in the weather nets as you are able during times of severe weather alerts. It is always good to be thinking of how you can be prepared to provide for your family's safety during times of emergency, and have the necessary equipment, ready to be of service during times of communications need in the community.

I am looking forward to a good year for CCARA, with activities, the picnic, the fair booth, and lots of good times with the hams in the club. Come out to the meetings and activities, join in on the club and ARES sponsored nets, and let the club officers know what you would like to see happen in the club.

Let's make it a good year for ham radio in Coshocton County.

73, Randy Fisher (KL7RF)

[Amateur Radio DIGITAL Communications via ISS](#)

For the past month (some longer) many of us have been using APRS (Automatic Packet/Position Reporting System) in Coshocton County. Around eight amateurs are currently involved, with more to come. We are all exploring the many uses of APRS and how it could be beneficial for local emergency communications.

Various station setups are possible in order to use APRS, that is a whole article in itself, which I will leave to others.

My interest in this has roots in another hobby of mine, Amateur Astronomy. Watching and photographing satellites has been lots of fun over the years. With my Amateur Radio License, I can also communicate to and digipeat through various satellites. This new venture with APRS and ISS, (International Space Station) and a TM D700A at times or the old Heathkit TNC is with thanks and credit to the XYL, Colleen, AA8UA. The equipment here includes a HTX 242 2m FM radio, the D700 at times, TNC, Computer, WinAPRS software, and a Discone antenna (a 2m beam works well also, when ISS is low on the horizon).

One of the features of APRS is displaying Amateur stations or placed objects on a detailed map, when a station transmits. Included in the transmission is their latitude and longitude, along with other data. A call sign and symbol will appear on the map. If they are mobile and using a GPS, they will be tracked and plotted on the map. You may see the station as a result of them going through a digipeater (A digital repeater used to transfer packet data.) or directly.

The frequency used for terrestrial APRS use is 144.390. The ISS, however, requires you to transmit your digital signal on 145.990 and receive on 145.800, which is the worldwide downlink for all modes. You may hear the ISS crew talking there also. The ISS has a Kenwood TM-D700A onboard which can digipeat amateur signals as the ISS goes overhead at about 220 miles.

(Cont. Page 3)

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Amateur Radio DIGITAL Communications via ISS (Cont. From Page 2)

With a satellite program up on your computer or ISS predictions in hand, you are about ready to communicate through ISS. As ISS comes above your horizon, you will begin to see amateur stations appearing across the county on the map and hear packet on 145.800. These stations are being digipeated through ISS to anyone within the satellites footprint, which is roughly the diameter from the East coast to the Rockies. You can simply transmit, CQ, as a beacon and hopefully be digipeated via ISS. You may get a reply. With APRS you may also send short, one line text. This could be a greeting to all on the frequency at the time or you can text a specific station by digipeating via ISS and the message will be received if all goes right. ISS passes are short, 10 min or so at most, so you need to act fast at times. I have been pretty successful, finally. I have talked with a few stations so far and seem to be able to ack the ISS with a Discone antenna and 40 watts. If you want to find out who's been working ISS, you can visit the web site, <http://www.ariss.net/> For current positions of ISS visit, <http://heavens-above.com/> There are many sources on the internet. One is AMSAT <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/information/faqs/aprs.php>

The next challenge is to work ISS mobile.

Happy bird hunting, Steve, AA8BN

The Fair is Coming!!

The fair committee gives a big thank you to all who took time from their busy schedules to help make the 2004 fair booth a success. The 2005 fair will be here before we know it (Sept. 30 to Oct 6). We hope we will again have the club's support at the booth.

The Fair Committee

ARRL AMATEUR RADIO EXAM SESSION *COSHOCTON, OHIO* MARCH 5, 2005

Administered by the Coshocton Ohio Amateur Radio Volunteer Examiner Team, sponsored by the Coshocton County Amateur Radio Association, W8CCA
www.w8cca.org

PLACE: COSHOCTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
655 Main St., Coshocton, Ohio (Large Meeting Room)

DATE: March 5, 2005

TIME: 10:00 AM (arrive 30 min. before to sign in)

Walk-in session

All Exam elements available. The 2005 exam fee is \$14.00. Exact amount appreciated. Checks made out to ARRL/VEC accepted too. 2nd version of exam available at VE discretion, time permitting. Additional \$14.00. Handicap accessible. Copy machine available.

REQUIRED:

PHOTO ID (driver's license) or two forms of non-photo ID.

Persons without photo IDs, and/or young persons must supply TWO forms of alternate identification to satisfy their ID requirements. These two items can include: Non-photo ID/driver's license; Social Security Card (as FCC presently requires each applicant to supply a taxpayer ID number also known as your Social Security Number) Birth certificate (must have the appropriate seal); Minor's work permit or school report card; Utility bill, bank statement or other business correspondence that specifically names the person; A postmarked envelope addressed to the person indicating the same mailing address as shown on Form 605; or an employment ID.

CURRENT ORIGINAL AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE and COPY

ORIGINAL valid CSCE(s) that apply and COPY Social Security number or FCC issued FRN (FCC Registration Number)

Contact person:

Colleen, AA8UA 740.622.5761

Email : aa8ua@arrrl.net

AA8BN, Session Mgr.