

# THE PLATTSMOUTH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# Communicator

# June 2019

## Hams Help Trace “Mystery” Signal Disrupting Keyless Entry Devices in Ohio

(ARRL 05/07/2019) A recent article in The New York Times reported that many garage door openers and keyless vehicle entry fobs in an Ohio town near Cleveland mysteriously stopped working. While the article invoked The X-Files and hinted initially that a NASA research center somehow could be involved, the cause was not so much mystifying as arcane.

“Garage door repair people, local ham radio enthusiasts, and other volunteer investigators descended on the neighborhood with various meters,” the May 4 article by Heather Murphy recounted. “Everyone agreed that something powerful was interfering with the radio frequency that many fobs rely on, but no one could identify the source.”

More than a dozen residents reported intermittent issues getting their key fobs and garage door openers to operate, and most lived within a few blocks of each other. At one point, the local power utility started shutting off power to areas where the strongest RF signal was detected, but the signal persisted. Dan Dalessandro, WB8ZQH, a TV repairer, was among several hams who investigated. He initially picked up “little blips” on a signal detector, but finally, on one block and at a particular house, the signal was quite loud.

“The source of the problem was a homebrew, battery-operated device designed by a local resident to alert him if someone was upstairs when he was working in his basement,” the Times reported. “It did so by turning off a light.” The individual, who, the article said, has special needs, was not identified for privacy concerns. The inventor, who had no malicious intent, had no inkling that his device was wreaking havoc on the neighborhood until a North Olmstead City Council member and a volunteer knocked on his door. The device operated on 315 MHz, the frequency many keyless-entry devices use under FCC Part 15 rules. The device’s battery was removed, the signal stopped, and all who were involved breathed sighs of relief.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/hams-help-trace-mystery-signal-disrupting-keyless-entry-devices-in-ohio>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/04/us/key-fobs-north-olmsted-ohio.html>

## Rain Report now Archives Only

(ARnewsline 5-17-19) Since the mid 1980s Hap Holly, KC9RP has been producing weekly news bulletins. The RAIN Report, for Radio Amateur Information Network, began as part of The BEAR Information Service, a Chicago based ham radio program on the Broadcast Employees Amateur Repeater. His

weekly 10 to 15 minute magazine-style reports have been a staple of ham radio news reporting for decades. Now, as time marches on, Hap has decided to hang up the headphones and turn off the mic. If you don't know about Hap Holly, his story is worthy of some research. Born to blind parents, Hap is also blind. One morning at age 7, Hap Holly woke up totally sightless. His family story was the subject of a 420-page book “What Love Sees.” That book became a made-for-tv movie airing on CBS in 1996. He got his ham ticket in 1965 and a year later served as a phone patch and net control for the Westcars traffic net. Hap credits Amateur Radio Newsline founder Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF as inspiration for the RAIN Report. That friendship continued until Bill's passing in 2015. Over the decades Hap shared his Hamvention booth space with Newsline and we shared stories and audio between the two reports. Although Hap is no longer recording new RAIN Reports, the archives will remain online. There is so much more to Hap's inspiring story than we have time for here, so I encourage you to visit the website, [therainreport.com](http://therainreport.com) to learn more about this amazing gentleman and listen to the archived Rain Reports. It will be time well spent. All of us at Amateur Radio Newsline wish you well in your retirement, Hap. Thank you for the decades of friendship! Don Wilbanks, AE5DW.

<https://www.arnesline.org/>

<http://therainreport.com>

## June ARRL VHF Contest is June 8-9

(ARRL) For amateurs in the US and Canada (and their possessions) to work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree Maidenhead grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Stations outside the US & Canada (and their possessions) may only work stations in the US (and its possessions) and Canada.

All legal modes are permitted (while CW and SSB/Phone are most common, MSK144, FT8 and FM-Only are gaining popularity - other popular modes include PSK31, FSK441 and JT65). For Cabrillo file mode definitions, Digital modes should be represented as “DG” (for all things digital) or “PH” or “RY” can also be used as digital modes are transmitted via Phone audio.

Stations in KH0-9, KL7 & KP1-KP5, CY9 and CY0 count as W/VE stations and can be worked by DX stations for contest credit.

<http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf>

**2019 PAID MEMBERSHIP**

- Paid memberships in **Bold**  
 AGØL.....Steve Loyd [E]  
 AIØN.....Chuck Engberg\* [E]  
 KØEGG John 'Tim' Eggertsen [G]  
 K3CRF .....Dave Smith [E]  
 K5LBS.....Jerry Gault [E]  
 KA0IJY ..... Keith Keene [E]  
 KBØFSI .....Pat McCollum [T]  
 KBØLF..... Fred Eriksen [E]  
 KBØOGO ..... Roger Behrns\* [E]  
 KBØZZT..... George Bellairs [T]  
 KCØDTK..... Joan Bellairs [T]  
 KCØHYD.....John Titsworth [G]  
 KCØHYE.....Shirley Titsworth [T]  
 KDØNMD.....Dudley Allen [G]  
 KEØBXB ..... Kim Allen [T]  
 KEØXQ..... Bill McCollum [E]  
 KGØKR ..... Beth Engberg\* [E]  
 KIØPY .....Kevin Faris [E]  
 N5SEZ..... Ray McNally [E]  
 NØLZH .....John Harrington [T]  
 WØDBW .....Derek Winterstien [G]  
 WØZY .....Dave McLaughlin [E]  
 WØZYD ... Debbie McLaughlin [G]  
 W3DCQ.....Bill Pulsifer [G]

*\*Charter Members #New Ham*

Note: Thanks to all who have paid their dues and many who have given additional donations. All donations are greatly appreciated. Please let me know of any corrections.

**Meetings are 8am the last Saturday of most months at Mom's Café in Plattsmouth.**

**Tuesday night get-togethers at Plattsmouth Burger King at 7 PM**



**P.A.R.C. Officers**

**President**  
**KBØOGO .....Roger Behrns**  
**rb55930@windstream.net**

**Vice President**  
**KCØHYD .....John Titsworth**

**Secretary**  
**WØDBW.....Derek Winterstien**

**Treasurer**  
**KIØPY ..... Kevin Faris**

**Newsletter Editor**  
**KBØOGO .....Roger Behrns**  
**rb55930@windstream.net**  
**513 Vine St.**  
**Louisville, NE 68037**  
**(402) 234-6775**

**Repeaters:**

443.45<sup>+</sup> is located in downtown Omaha  
 443.225<sup>+</sup> is located in Murray.  
 147.48 Simplex is also in Murray.

**Web Site**  
**[www.kb0smx.com](http://www.kb0smx.com)**  
 Maintained by Derek (WØDBW)

*Contents copyright ©PARC 2019  
 Some contents may be copyrighted by the referenced source or author. Unsigned articles may be used for noncommercial use with notification and attribution.*



The April 27, 2019 meeting was held at Mom's Café. The meeting was called to order at 8:32 am by President Roger Behrns

Those in attendance were Roger (KBØOGO), Kevin (KIØPY), Keith (KA0IJY), Gary(WDØCFC), Derek (WØDBW), Dave (WØZY), Fred (KBØLF), John (KCØHYD), and Shirley (KCØHYE).

The Minutes of the March meeting were approved on a motion by John and second by Dave.

The treasurer reported dues and donations of \$15 and no expenses which leaves \$305 in the repeater fund and \$725.35 in the general fund for a balance of \$1030.35. The report was approved on a motion by John and second by Gary.

Roger reported that the Village Board approved our use of the park to hold Field Day in Murray again. Field Day will be June 22 & 23.

Derek suggested that plans for which stations to operate on particular bands be brought to the next meeting to facilitate antenna planning.

Fred reported that the ARRL VHF contest will be the weekend of June 8-9. Info and rules are on the ARRL website under Contest Calendar.

The meeting adjourned on a motion by John and second by Keith at 8:47.

PLATTSMOUTH ARC MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM					
Name		Call Sign		Class	
Address		City	State	Zip	
E-Mail			Phone #		
Spouse Name			Call Sign		Class
Membership Type <input type="checkbox"/> Primary(\$15) <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse (\$5) <input type="checkbox"/> Student (\$5) <input type="checkbox"/> New Ham		● Additional donations are gratefully accepted. ● New Hams are free during the year they receive their first license. ● Please give this form and dues to the club treasurer or any club officer.		Donation for: <input type="checkbox"/> Repeater fund <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> General	
Any additional e-mail or cell phone #s?		Amount: <input type="checkbox"/> I prefer my donation to be anonymous.			

**Meeting Calendar**  
**at Mom's Café**  
**8am, Sat May 25, 2019**  
**at Mom's Café**  
**Field Day is June 22-23**  
**Meeting will be at noon**