PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy November!

The leaves are falling and so are the temperatures!

This is the month to be grateful. I am very grateful for this club and all the members in it. At the meeting this month, the elections will once again be held. I am grateful to be your President for another year.

Just a reminder that December 1st starts a new year for the club. Don't forget to re-up your membership.

See you at the meeting Monday, November 14th at 7:30 P.M.

73,

Elizabeth KE8FMJ

OCTOBER MEETING

Minutes of XWARN Meeting 10-10-2022

Meeting started at 7:30 P.M.

Introductions

Cracker Barrel

Bret's sister passed away today.

Minutes approval: Motion by Mark and Eric.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer absent.

Secretary's report: N/A

Public Service

AF marathon went smoothly. No serious situations.

Abi Khan horse challenge went well, although smaller than previous years.

Young's charity bike ride went well.

GCP&T Summerfest.

Tour de Gem (Wright Brothers Cycling Classic): Relatively small, went well.

Upcoming: Open House at Beavercreek fire station 1. We have been invited to bring the trailer.

Oct 22: Southwest District Cross Country Meet.

Resolution Run on New Years Eve.

Trailer: No update.

Website: Working on membership list for website.

Membership: Absent.

Facebook and Newsletter: Send us content to add.

Old Business

4-H: Still looking for new kids.

Amazon Smile: Doesn't cost anything. Benefits XWARN.

XWARN net.

New Business

Nomination chair is absent. Took nominations for office. Eric Klinc offered to be new secretary. Other positions remain the same.

Elections next month.

Youth dxpedition presentation next month.

Presentation on HT antennas by Bob Baker.

Next meeting same time same place.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 P.M. by Eric.

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

11/19 (Saturday)
MidEast Challenge Cross Country Invitational
(Elite runners from surrounding states.)
Indian Riffle Park
in Kettering
1000--1200 Two races.
Option to attend breakfast as a group before. **We need about six more volunteers to support this event.** Please email n8ado@arrl.net if you can help.

11/24 (Thursday)
Turkey Trot 5 miler
Miamisburg
Thanksgiving morning
Watch for further information.

12/31 (Saturday)
Resolution Run 5K
Beavercreek HS and surrounding residential area.
Expect starting gun 2000, race lasts just over 1 hour.
Report to Beavercreek HS by 1900 for assignment.
(for pre-assign, contact n8ado@arrl.net)
Potluck snack buffet before event (1830).
VE test session before is likely. (Ring in the New Year with an upgrade).
n8ado@arrl.net

PROGRAM NOTES

This coming **Monday, November 14**, a presentation team from the "Dave Kalter Memorial Youth DX Adventure" will talk about their trip to Curacao this past July.

December 12, XWARN will have a holiday party in lieu of the usual meeting. The party begins at 6:30PM and will be held at T.J.Chumps on Dayton-Yellow Springs Rd. in Fairborn. Each person is responsible for their own meal and guests are welcome.

January 9, the program will be "Go Boxes" and "Go Bags." Bring your creation to share.

Happy Thanksgiving

XWARN NET

XWARN nets are held on the first Monday of every month at 7:30 P.M. on XWARN repeater 147.165. We will switch net controls so new people can try it out.

WAVELENGTHS

2022 AIR FORCE MARATHON

Submitted by Bob Baker N8ADO

This year's running took place on September 17. The two previous events were canceled due to COVID-19, so actually conducting the event was a welcome move toward normalcy. The organizers expected a smaller turn-out compared to past years and reduced the allowed number of runners to 80% of "normal." Other running events in the region reported difficulty in filling their running spots and with recruiting enough volunteers to support their events. When volunteer registration opened, response was lukewarm. I sent several rounds of emails seeking volunteers via the usual mail lists (emails to every volunteer who had signed up in the past three years) and I reached out to several other groups in surrounding cities. Several clubs published my plea for volunteers in their newsletters. I checked into several nets and announced the need for volunteers. Keep reading to see how it turned out.

We provide a numbers of services to the event. Foremost is that we create networks to provide communications between hydration stations and medical stations and the incident command post.

We also have a ham in the security trailer, which is the back-up incident command post. The hydration stations are part of the logistics or "LOG" net. The hams supply race status information to the captains, report race leader information, relay reports of "runner down" and other medical problems, and help with other logistic issues. The medical tents are part of the medical net. The hams provide status information to the medical leaders, report the need for advanced medical care to incident command, provide a back-up to the medical logistics communications (on Land Mobile Radio), and provide back-up to the medical dispatch communications (on Ohio's Multi Agency Radio Communications System). Reports of
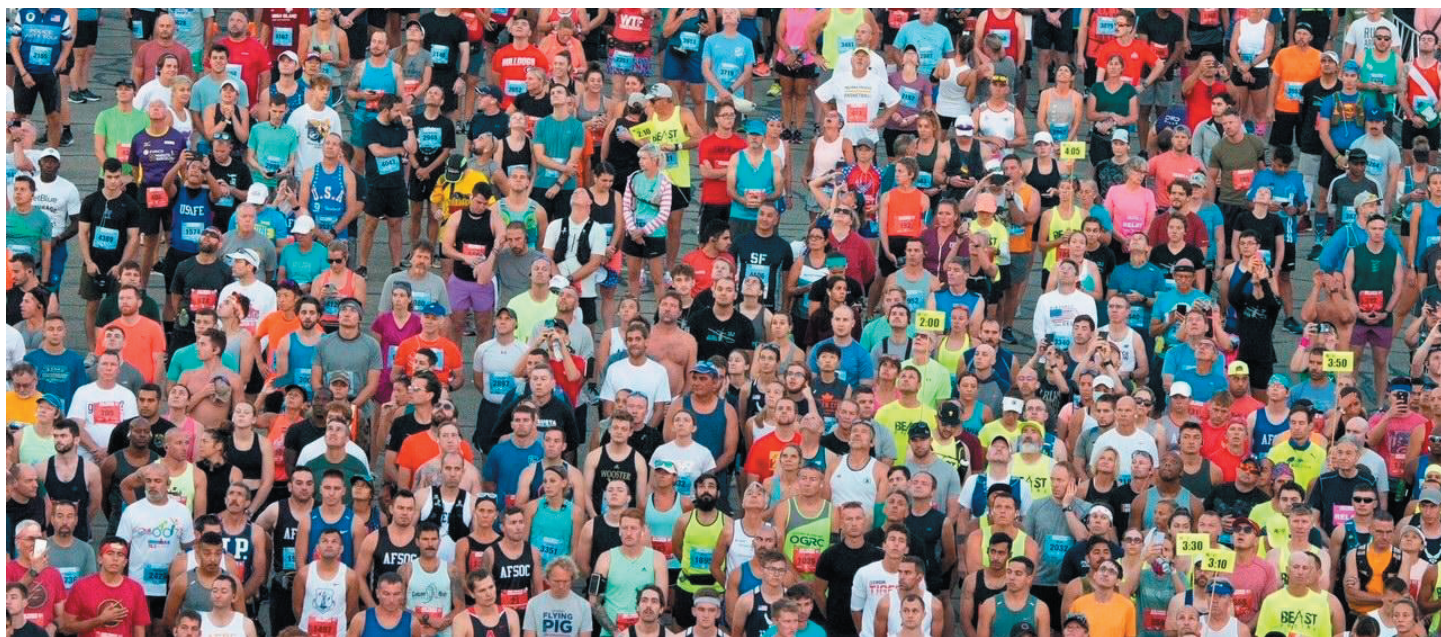
runners needing transportation back to the finish area are also made.

We operate a number of other networks. One is "talk-in" which helps to direct the ham volunteers to their assigned location and to resolve issues with base security. We operate a finish line net to funnel "progress of the race" information to the announcer, including the approach of the race leaders. The hams in the finish area act as spotters, keeping an eye on the runners and the net changes into a medical support net if there is an incident. Finally, we have several hams whose vehicles are equipped with APRS equipment and follow the "tail end Charlies" so it is quick and easy to determine where the ends of the full and half marathons are. We also equip bicycle escorts with tracking devices so that we can determine the locations of the lead male and female runners in the various races. The hams in the incident command locations have the ability to display the APRS information which is greatly appreciated by the command staff.

The Sunday before the race, we held a training session. The session was well-attended and the discussion was meaningful. I had posted all of the information in a Google Drive folder so that our out-of-town volunteers could be up to speed without actually needing to attend the meeting. Everyone did a spectacular job. I apologize for the difficulties with the meeting location. I had reserved the room well in advance, confirmed the reservation a week before, but the planned room was under renovation and we were denied access. So, we moved to a room less than half the size.

Race day was hot and humid. The race started under condition "Yellow" and finished under condition "Red." As the race neared the end of the permitted time window, conditions were very close to "Black," which would have brought an immediate stop, but it was possible to complete the race. Several interesting things happened. First, a number of the hydration stations were not supplied with tables and some had too many. It was too late to dispatch trucks to relocate the tables, but we were able to facilitate the movement of some tables, carried by some of the water volunteers. Security forces were operating under

the command "no vehicles permitted on the course after 7 A.M." This would have prohibited our APRS equipped sweep vehicles from doing their thing, but this issue was quickly resolved via the magic of ham radio. One hydration captain was not aware of the race condition flag. The ham at that location had paid attention during the training meeting, so he found the flag, erected it, and set the color as directed. The driver of a car tried to bypass the barricades and enter the course as the leading edge of the runner group approached, but our ham at that location was able to politely help to resolve the problem.

So what is the story regarding volunteers? When it looked like we might not get our usual number of volunteers, I created a priority list of what services we might need to drop if we did not muster the number of hams needed to support them. When registration closed, I had the exact number to do it all. Then I heard from several additional hams who wanted to help, but had not registered. I was able to get a couple on the official list. That was great because I had a couple

of cancellations (death in family, etc.). I heard from a couple more, but it was too late to get them on the base access list. I was able to assign them to a couple of the rare off-base locations. The day before the race, one of the volunteers fell ill, but I was able to make phone calls and shuffle a couple of assignments. I woke up to a text message stating that another ham had fallen ill. I had two spots where I had two hams assigned since they are technically two hydration stations on opposite sides of the street (Full and Half). Fortunately, the sick person was the double at one of these. The remaining ham assigned there was able to cover both operations. There were no "no-shows." I was told that we were the only group among the volunteer teams to meet our recruiting needs. And, we actually had one person to spare!

To all of the volunteers: Thank you for your help with this event. Your performance was truly outstanding. The race director told me that they couldn't do the event without our support. I hope that you had some fun and that you come back next year.

The Air Force Marathon is not affiliated with any particular club, but we could not imagine doing the event without the support of a number of clubs and I would like to thank all for their support: DARA and XWARN for providing the vehicles used for the net control stations; UVARC, HHARC, and XWARN for letting us use their repeaters; DARA, XWARN, and MoCoARES for letting us use their APRS trackers. Of course, our volunteers come from the clubs noted above along with many from BARC, GreeneARES, ShelbyARES, MiamiARES, MWA, VOA, QCEN. I suspect there are others, but we do not collect that information. Drop me a line if I failed to name your organization and accept my thanks for your support.

I wish to thank a few individuals who provided special support: KE8FMJ who was my general assistant and attended meetings, helped with the assignments, and helped to prepare and present the training material; KC8GLE who managed the two "command center" vehicles and was coordinator for the LOG net; KD8DGB who coordinated the talk-in and Medical nets.

Best 73,
Bob Baker, N8ADO – Volunteer Lead for Amateur Radio Support of the Air Force Marathon.

P.S. I maintain a mail list and a gmail account (AFM.Hams@gmail.com) that I use to recruit volunteers and to send out information to the volunteers who have signed up. If you wish to be added to the list, send an email stating your desire, Also, registering for the Air Force Marathon and selecting the race day job "Amateur Radio" will get you on the list. Volunteer Registration opens May 1.

XWARN
P.O. Box 562
Xenia, Ohio 45385

«FNAME» «LNAME» - «CALL»
«ADDRESS»
«CITY», «STATE» «ZIP»