

# Quarter Century Wireless Association Southwest Ohio Chapter 9

December 2008 / January 2009

## 2009 Officers

President	Gerd Schrick	WB8IFM	937-253-3993	Director	Carey Alexander	K8DOT	937-426-3614
Vice Pres.	Jack Ohmart,	K8CUA	937-269-6325 (cell)	Director	Ed Sonnanstine	W8NFQ	937-859-3524
Secretary	John Fridrick	K8DSR	937-478-2484 (cell)	Bulletin Editor	Gerd Schrick	WB8IFM	937-253-3993
Treasurer	Gerald Ragland	WA8BOB	937-746-5857			e-mail	WB8IFM@AMSAT.org

Our Regular Meetings are on the SECOND Tue with Lunch at 11:30 AM  
at the MCL Cafeteria 4485 Far Hills Av. in Kettering

## Meetings

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Dec 9, Mary Lou Meers: A Dayton Jewel

Jan 13, Jack Ohmart, K8CUA, Highlights from a Trip to Europe

Happy Birthday to the following

12/6/20	K8IOW	1/21/15	W3NNA	1/31/52	N8LX
12/8/47	AA8LL	1/25/20	W8ZCR	2/4/24	K8TUY
12/31/29	W9GIV	1/25/22	K2JOI	2/5/35	K8JE
1/6/56	N8ZR	1/27/30	N8FRP	2/7/34	W8GNV
1/13/24	WN8I	1/28/18	W8KQZ	2/11/17	W8SR
1/15/28	N8AEG	1/31/42	W4NWR		

## President's Comments

"History is the same damn thing over and over" say the pessimists. Humankind seems to learn like a child by repetition.

Well, we all thought that the great depression of the 1930s fixed the problem we had with the banks, but this past summer proved otherwise. So, 2008 will be remembered for this and the fact that we elected the first black president He promised a change and we all hope he can deliver.

Although we did have a very nice fall, the cold weather came suddenly and here we are in a cold December and Christmas is approaching fast.

The sunspot number is still mostly zero and we are in the longest minimum since sunspots were recorded. It gives us the opportunity to explore the bands under these conditions. 10 and 15m are practically dead, but 20m is still working fine. The signals are not overwhelming but quite steady on a day-to-day basis, something you do not have if there are a lot of sunspots.

In two months there will be the switch to digital TV. From my experience, many folks will run into difficulties changing over. I found after two years of experimenting that the strength of the signal was not a problem; so plain old rabbit ears should suffice if they

are in the right spot. The problem is: the signal needs to be good. Reflections from tall buildings could occur, but the most common problem is the change of the signal by going through leafy trees. I had perfect signals last winter with a rooftop antenna, but I lost that in the spring after the leaves came out on the surrounding trees. I had to move my antenna up to about 75 feet before I got a good signal. At that level I have a clear shot over the trees to the local TV station antennas and the horizon. Surprisingly stations beyond the horizon, from Cincinnati also come in fine!

Hope to cu at the Christmas Party, we have a good program for you and, of course, some cookies. In January Jack will give us some highlights from his interesting trip to Europe!

Vy73, Gerd, WB8IFM

**PS Don't forget, we have a Sunday Net: 75m  
QCWA Net: 3975 KHz at 1:30PM, Chuck, W8TIV,  
is NCS.**

Membership: \$5 per year,  
Jerry Ragland, WA8BOB  
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