

PostScript



Ohio
Section

September 25th Edition

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DMR Infuses Fun Onto A Recently New Ham

(Photographs and story by: Gregory Drezdson, WD9FTZ)

Cynthia, KE8DPC, earned her technician license in 2016, but she did not know what to do with her license after passing the test.

She was like most new U.S. amateur radio operators who learned the questions and answers to earn her FCC privileges.

As we move forward a year later, Cynthia was introduced to Digital Mobile Radio by this writer in December of 2016, is active on DMR, and keeps asking, “When is the next net?”



Cynthia’s knowledge of amateur radio has grown exponentially since getting on DMR and listening more than talking. She participates on the Texas Tech Net (Texas Statewide TG3148) on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. ET, and the Ohio Net (Ohio Statewide TG3139) on Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. ET.

“It is very easy for me to do check ins. As far as participating in discussions, I don’t feel knowledgeable enough to join (in). Maybe one day,” Cynthia said. She also noted, “DMR is crisp and clear and analog is scratchy and noisy.”

Being a member of various amateur radio Facebook pages including “Ohio DMR,” Cynthia routinely references radio information and comments from internet sources. “I learn something new almost every day.”

In the relatively short time Cynthia has been licensed, she has become a pro at speaking on those nets in part to her having an FAA Private Pilot’s certificate where she learned to talk to air traffic controllers and other pilots with a radio.

Cynthia’s fascination with diverse technology came from what she witnessed of what computers could do for her.

In attempting to update her pilot’s logbook totals prior to Private Pilot Practical Test, Cynthia learned that her logbook would be more accurate and the totals updated instantaneously by using a spreadsheet program. She had that “wow” look to her because of the computer, and ran out that very week to purchase a computer and get on the internet.

Prior to earning her amateur radio license, she attended hamfests and got to know some of people who attended. She would always notice someone with a handheld radio and wondered how those with a “little radio” could communicate with other people miles away. She had used Family Radio Service equipment in the past, but it did not have nearly the range of what the people at the hamfests were using.

Cynthia, KE8DPC, checks in on the Tuesday evening Texas Tech Net. “I always enjoyed talking on radios starting with the Family Radio Service radios. It is nice to hold a conversation with someone without relying on a telephone,” said Cynthia. “It is amazing that my little (DMR) hand held radio can communicate with other amateurs across the United States and foreign countries.”



She went on to say, “I like the enthusiasm I hear from other operators. It is like a kinship. I am always learning. For each question I find an answer to, I find three more questions that need answers.”

“Never stop learning and never stop asking questions,” she said, and with her on-air training, “I may actually be able to help someone someday.”

Cynthia is one out of about 69 females (YLS) who has a DMR ID, and YLS represent 5.04 percent of the 1,370 individual DMR users in Ohio as of September 11, 2017.

According to the Amateur Radio Relay League published license count as recent as September 10, the technician license class in Ohio numbered 12,872 out of 27,982 total amateur radio licenses. The technician is 46 percent of all the licensed amateur radio operators in the state of Ohio.

Gregory Drezdson is an award-winning news photographer. He has worked as team photographer for the Cleveland Browns, the Cleveland Indians, and for almost a decade as staff photographer for The Wichita Eagle (Kansas). Drezdson also holds B.Sc. in Journalism, and is a FAA Commercial Pilot and Certificated Flight Instructor-Instrument.

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One Question Questionnaire

Hey Gang...

There's another NEW – one question – questionnaire on the Ohio Section Website!

I was pleased to see the results from last week's question about the hyperlinks contained in the newsletter, and that over 64% of you use them to move around the pages.

There's a new question up there, and I would once again like you hear from you. As you may know, with the new format comes the ability to print the newsletter off for reading later and/or sharing with someone else. Is this something that you do?



It will only take 2 seconds for you to answer it, and you can see how your answer stacks up with others instantly. If you haven't done it yet, please do. I really want to hear from you.

Hey.. If you've got a question that you'd like to see on our questionnaire, please send it to me!

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Caribbean Emergency Weather Network Handling High Volume of Post-Storm Traffic (from ARRL Bulletines)



The Caribbean Emergency and Weather Network ([CEWN](#)) on 7.188 and 3.815 MHz continues actively handling emergency and priority traffic in the wake of Hurricane Maria — especially for Dominica and Puerto Rico but for any storm-affected area in the Caribbean where storm damage was severe. A [YouTube live stream](#) is available, compliments of ARRL Santa Barbara Section Technical Advisor Ben Kuo, AI6YR — who has no official connection with CEWN. Kuo said the net is handling “*real* life-and-death traffic in Dominica,” including a situation involving someone with a broken leg and trapped in a house.

“Truly I think that the regional agencies were not ready for a calamity of this magnitude,” said Kumar Persaud, J85K, one of the CEWN net controllers. “The CEWN operators have ended up filling the communications gap for the agencies, without any prior briefing.”

The net is dealing with a tremendous volume of traffic for Dominica and Puerto Rico, he told ARRL, with a handful of stations handling emergency and priority communications for a million or more people. The CEWN said that at this time, its operators are unable to deal with health-and-welfare traffic.

The CEWN is handling [health-and-welfare inquiries](#) via e-mail. Requesters should indicate your name and location and the name and location of the person(s) they're trying to locate, plus an e-mail address or telephone number for a response.

On September 21, the net experienced what Kuo described as deliberate interference. Dominica suffered a direct hit by Hurricane Maria on September 18-19, resulting in a loss of all power and a total blackout of communication to the outside world, except for Amateur Radio. Kuo said stations in Puerto Rico also report having no power, telephone service, or water and “everything devastated.”

Kuo cited hams on St. Lucia and on Dominica, and others outside the region, for coordinating and collecting inbound health-and-welfare traffic as well as coordinating the landing of the emergency relief vessels from Barbuda and advising rescue groups on logistics.

The net also has been an only communication path for government communication. “For the public, the only link to information on their families in Dominica was a Facebook broadcast of an *EchoLink* node to the island by Brian Machesny, K1LI/J75Y,” Kuo said.

“That node — on St. Lucia — allowed hams to monitor traffic in Dominica on the local J73MAN repeater.” Because of poor HF band conditions, no propagation was available to the US, but the J69DS remote station provided direct access from St. Lucia to nets on 80 and 40 meters, he said.

The J69DS [RemoteHams](#) server is on listening to the CEWN on HF, and *EchoLink*(J62DX node) is on the UHF repeater in Dominica. Do *not* transmit unless you have valid traffic for the net.

There’s [more information](#) on the Amateur Radio response on the Hurricane Maria – Dominica Amateur Radio Communications (DARCI) Facebook page.

National Public Radio (NPR) [highlighted the role of Amateur Radio](#) in the Dominica response in a September 21 story.

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Fun Things To Do

(from various newsletters and sources)



October 01 – Technician Class Licensing Course - Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club

We are offering our third annual Technician Class Licensing Course on Sundays from 01 October through 05 November. Classes are in the main branch of the Akron-Summit County Public Library at 60 S High St, Akron. For more information about the classes, contact Jim, grizgrover@gmail.com

Ham Radio Class Now Forming November 4 and 18

The Toledo Mobile Radio Association will be holding a 2-day course where you will learn everything you need to earn your entry level FCC Amateur Radio license, and begin to talk on the radio with other hams in the area. .

Text books are \$25 (available on 1st day or prior to the class) - ARRL *Ham Radio License Manual* 3rd Ed. The test is \$15 due at time of test on the second day.

TMRA does not charge for the class. **Class Dates: November 4 & 18, 2017 (8:00 am to 5:00 pm)**

Lucas County EMS Training Center - 2127 Jefferson St Toledo OH 43624 Registration is required. For more information please contact: Steve Stalker KC8TVW 419-467-3734 kc8tvw@arrl.net

* From the Monday Morning Memo - **MCM CLOSING**— WHIO television reports that Dayton area MCM Electronics has been sold and the new purchaser will close both the headquarters and the warehouse facility located in southern Dayton suburbs. Approximately 100 employees will be out of work by year end according to a WARN report released by the State of Ohio.

JOTA 2017 Organizers Urge Scout Stations to Register Now

(from ARRL Letter)

Scouting's Jamboree on the Air/Jamboree on the Internet (JOTA/JOTI) event takes place over the October 20-22 weekend, and organizers are urging Scout stations planning to participate to [register](#) now. The world JOTA-JOTI team has activated its online sign-up system.

"Our number one message at this time is to register their station and get ready for [JOTA](#)," JOTA Coordinator Jim Wilson, K5ND, told ARRL. "It's time for Scout groups to bring together their open action items -- ordering patches, printing handouts, gathering equipment, reminding staff members, verifying location, and getting the word out to the Scouts to be prepared for a fabulous experience talking with other Scouts across the country and hopefully around the world."

JOTA is the world's largest Scouting event, held annually over the third full weekend in October, and Scouts of any age can participate -- from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts and Venturers, male and female. During JOTA, Amateur Radio links Scouts with other Scouts and hams, locally and worldwide. Since the first JOTA in 1958, millions of Scouts have met each other through this event to exchange ideas and share experiences via ham radio. Many contacts made during JOTA have resulted in enduring friendships and connections.



According to the World Scout Bureau, the 2016 JOTA had nearly 1.3 million Scout participants from more than 30,000 locations, and reached 156 countries.

The World JOTA-JOTI team has published a [Participant's Guide](#) to help Scouts to get on the air and the internet for the largest Scouting event in the world. They've also published a brief history of the [60 years of Jamboree on the Air](#) as well as the [Top 10 Challenges and Activities in 2016](#) that might provide ideas for your event this year. An [online scheduling tool](#) is available too.

For participating via *EchoLink*, two conference nodes now have been designated for Scout contacts -- *JOTA-365* (node 480809) and *JAMBO* (node 832996). Visit the K2BSA Radio Scouting page for [more information](#) on frequencies, including D-STAR, DMR, and IRLP.

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Universal Radio In Reynoldsburg To Relocate

(from The Monday Morning Message)

The Universal Radio store will be relocating in the very near future. The new location will be at 651-B Lakeview Plaza in Worthington. Ralph Howes says the final day at the present location is expected to be on Saturday, October 7th, and they will be opening at the new location on Wednesday, October 11th.

Handbook Give Away



Hey Gang..

Just wanted to remind you all that time is running out on this month's drawing for the 2017 ARRL Handbook. You have until midnight on September 30th to get signed up for a chance to win!! That's just a couple of days away!

If you haven't entered yet, why not? What have you got to lose? It's FREE and you can't get anything better than that!!

What's the catch? There isn't any. If you live in Ohio, all you have to do to be entered is to fill out the form. You'll even be emailed a copy of the completed form back to you as your confirmation that you're entered. It won't cost you anything!! And no, you don't have to be an ARRL member to participate!

Go to: <http://arrl-ohio.org/handbook.html> and get signed up before it's too late!

A new drawing is held each month, and in order to be eligible, you do have to enter each month. You can't win if you don't enter. So what have you got to loose!!

Please only hit the submit button once. It will take the server several seconds to process the form. Once completed and accepted you'll be directed back to the main page of the website.

73, and good luck to all..

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Newly Found DMR Nets

Thanks to Gregory Drezdzon, WD9FTZ for the following DMR Net listing.

Southeast Ohio – Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. ET – TG 313953

Oklahoma – Monday evenings at 9:15 p.m. ET – TG 3140

Arkansas – Thursday evenings at 9 p.m. ET – TG 3105 -- very good!

Tennessee – Friday evenings at 9 p.m. ET – TG 3147 -- also, very good!!!

Recently Arkansas had a history of SKYWARN as one of their topics, and Tennessee had a discussion of the digital mode FT8 that was introduced in July.

Looking for good all around Code Plugs for your radio? Go take a look at the Digital Page on the Ohio Section website.. <http://arrl-ohio.org/digital/digital.html>



I just uploaded a new Code Plug for the TYT MD-2017 up there. You can also find the TYT MD-9600, CS-800D and even the GD-77, as well as Andy, K4AWC's Code Plug for the MD-380/390.

Want some guidance on getting your new Shark OpenSpot setup? You can find that up there as well. There's also videos on writing Code Plugs up there too!! If you're getting into this new digital mode, you'll want to go visit this webpage for sure!



Hey.. Into HF Digital? There's a great net > OHDEN < each Tuesday night at 7:45 PM local. They meet on the frequency 3585.000 USB using Olivia 8-500 with 1000 Hz waterfall. All the information about this net can be found at: <http://www.facebook.com/ohden> or <http://www.theohden.org>

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Final.. Final..

Hey Gang,

It was really great to see so many of you at the OH-KY-IN and Cleveland Hamfests over this past weekend. I just love it when a plan comes together and I get to talk and be with all of you for some really great fun!

Now, I know that a lot of you are just chomping at the bit to become involved with the past hurricanes and the relief efforts that are just now starting up. I do want to caution everyone that **“We Do Not Self Deploy”**.. There are some efforts happening right now to get personnel into some of the affected areas, and we are working behind the scenes to help out with obtaining some very experienced volunteers, but you have to have the time (usually around 3 weeks available) and training before anyone will even bother talking to you. One of the main things that you really need to be aware of is that going into these very devastated areas can have a deep and lasting psychological effect on you. Not everyone is cut out to serve in these areas. So, please keep all of this in mind if you are one of those looking for an opportunity to go. It's not going to be a vacation in any stretch of the imagination. Fresh water, food and yes, even bathroom facilities are in very short supply, in some cases, they don't exist!

For month's I have been writing about having your 4 basic NIMS courses in, and be in our database. Many of you have done just that, and even registered with the Ohio Responds database too, but we still have a lot of you that aren't there yet. You need to be, especially if you want to be “involved” at all in any of FEMA's activities. Let's take this opportunity to get things moving in getting your NIMS courses completed.





There's starting to be a lot of buzz around the Section about the upcoming Great Lakes HamCon. Are you planning on being there? It's being held on October 7th and 8th at the Michigan International Speedway. Our own Affiliated Clubs Coordinator will be one of the many forum speakers. There's also going to be a Wouff Hong presentation at the end of the Awards Banquet that will be held on Saturday night. If you've never done it, you've gotta' put this on your "Bucket List" to do. Here's a link for more information: http://arrl-greatlakes.org/wh_form.html

The winner of the Joseph J. Phillips, K8QOE Newsletter Award will be announced. Want to see the newsletters in contention? Here's a link: <http://arrl-greatlakes.org/newsletter/index.html> Oh, by the way, the winners of the George S. Wilson III W4OYI Lifetime Achievement, Great Lakes Division Amateur of the Year, Technical Achievement, and Young Amateur of the Year will be just some of the awards announced there.

There's going to be a lot to see and do there for sure. So, "be there, or be square" as the saying goes!! Want more information about the Great Lakes HamCon? Here's a link: <http://glhamcon.org/>

C.Q. C.Q.. Hey, know someone that's not getting these Newsletters? Please, forward a copy of this Newsletter over to them and have them "Opt-In" to start receiving them. Heck, just have them send me an email n8sy@n8sy.com and I'll get them added to the Ohio Section Emailing list. I urge all of you to make sure that everyone, regardless of whether they are a League member or not, gets signed up to receive these Newsletters. You can always "Opt-Out" at any time if you feel this is not what you were expecting.

Got questions, concerns or would just like to sit and chat awhile? Heck, I'll even buy the coffee!! Give me a call at (419) 512-4445 or email me at: n8sy@n8sy.com

Hey.. What about those Cleveland Indians! They've clinched the American League Central Division title and now they are on their way to what all of us supporters hope will be the World Series Champions!

73, for now.. I will catch you on down the log for sure.

Scott, N8SY..

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