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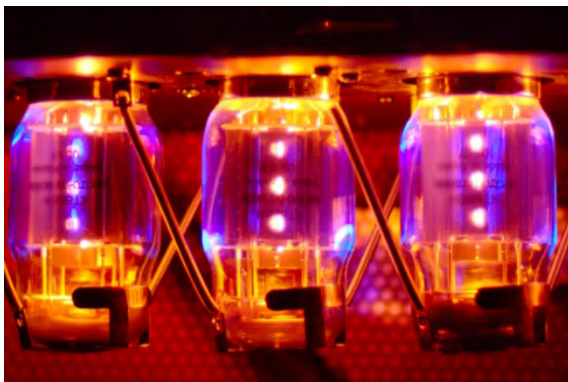
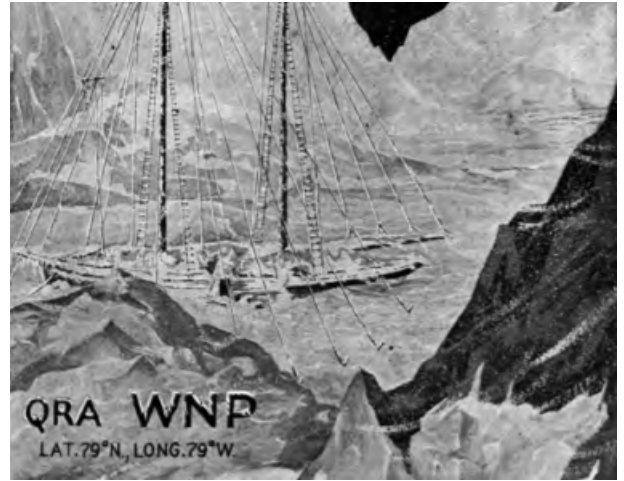
## Whisky November Papa: A Tale for Halloween

(from *Amateur Radio Dot Com* & Brian, N4TRB)

Had it not been a dark and stormy night I wouldn't even have been in my ham shack. It was Halloween, after all, and ordinarily I'd have been handing out candy to the veritable parade of midget monsters and diminutive divas at my front door; but it was dark and stormy, so eventually I drifted into my radio room.

Knowing that I might have to jump up at any moment to make a run for the front door, I dared not start a rag chew with the big rig; instead I decided this was a good evening to fire up the old antique and hear our bands through the unique circuitry of a 1930-something regen. As the tubes warmed up, I settled into my chair at the vintage operating position in my shack.

Gradually the speaker came to life and weak CW signals could be discerned through a bit of low-band QRN. I confess that at first, I didn't pay close attention. I simply enjoyed the lack of selectivity in this old receiver that allowed me to hear quite a few QSOs simultaneously, each with their distinctive notes.



Even with my mind wandering amongst thoughts of Halloween and glowing vacuum tubes, I half-consciously started paying attention to the call signs coming through this old radio, a radio, incidentally, that had virtually no band pass filtering. With a radio of this vintage I had to use the same skills as the ancient ones: filtration was provided by the human brain. It takes real concentration to sort out signals and follow a single QSO. Surprisingly, it is possible. After a few minutes, it seemed almost natural to select one signal and concentrate solely on that conversation.

So, with my attention riveted to one QSO, it was a bit surprising that I gradually became aware of another transmission, a strange wavering signal that drifted in and out of my consciousness. It was always in the background, just a dB or two above the noise floor. Sometimes it was zero beat and a few characters were readily copied. Other times the notes would waver to a higher or lower audio frequency and drift out of my mental pass band.

Suddenly I copied a fragment of code that took my breath away. For a moment, the musical note was zero beat and I clearly copied, — “1ANA DE WNP.” My first thought was that I had missed a few characters. Surely there must have been a W or K in front of the 1ANA; and WNP couldn't be an amateur call: it was missing the numeral. But almost as soon as these thoughts formed in my mind I realized these calls were, indeed, familiar, even famous. Familiar and famous they might be; but equally impossible that I could be copying them!

Fans of early radio know these famous calls. WNP was the station aboard the Bowdoin, the legendary schooner that in 1923 carried the MacMillan Arctic Expedition and established the first radio contact from Arctic explorers in the frozen north. What a revolution! Prior to the Bowdoin's success with radio, Arctic expeditions simply disappeared from public perception for months or even years while locked in the Arctic ice. I couldn't believe my ears. Was this a hoax? Was I dreaming? If a hoax, it was certainly elaborate. The signals sounded authentic. Now I realized why the notes were wavering and musical: they weren't crystal controlled. A

transmitter from 1923 would probably be something on the order of a two-tube Hartley oscillator. Frequency was determined by tuned circuits in the output stages; and those output stages included the antenna. Under windy conditions, the frequency changed with gusts of wind.

These signals were wandering around the band such that only my ancient receiver could have picked them up. My modern big rig, even with the filters wide open, would have been way too selective to follow this drift. Listening to the notes, I imagined the cold howling winds that drove these musical tones.



I copied more code: — “latitude 79-degrees North....all well aboard the Bowdoin....locked in the ice....ready for the winter lay over....received news from NAA...signals more reliable with the almost continual darkness....”

Whether hoax or not, the feeling was electric. I had goose-bumps; and the hair on my neck stood up. I didn't question how. Whatever was happening was beyond reason. I just copied; and my heart went out to these steadfast operators who labored under such challenging conditions to advance the art of radio science and create an ethereal bridge across thousands of miles separating explorers from home and loved ones.

Suddenly, again I was startled. What! That noise? There it was again. Oh, the doorbell. I glanced at my watch: 21:30. That meant the neighborhood teens in their hastily improvised Halloween costumes had arrived to clean up the remaining candy in the bowl. I welcomed their efforts and achieved my goal of getting those sweet temptations out of the house.

Then I raced back to the shack just in time to catch the last couple of characters of this precious, musical signal, —73 OM WNP now QRT. Then there was nothing to be heard but static crashes. The band was dead.

Post Script Don Mix, WITS, the intrepid op aboard the Bowdoin in 1923 and QST Assistant Technical Editor, wrote 114 articles for QST. His first appeared in 1920 under his callsign 1TS; his last article was published in 1968, less than a year before this story-teller joined the ARRL. Mix's true account of the expedition appeared in the November, 1924 issue.

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## **Be Careful About Choosing Your Training**

*(from the Ohio District 3 ARES Program for Wednesday, October 25, 2017)*

There are many legitimate organizations providing services and training for emergency management and homeland security. But there are also a few that have a certain aroma. Something about them just doesn't smell quite right.

In 2013, I received a colorful brochure in a mailing from the **American Board for Certification in Homeland Security**, or **ABCBS**. It was promoting memberships, training and certifications through their board, supposedly started in 2003.

Their **Certified in Homeland Security**, or **CHS**, credential was a series of five levels, with CHS-V being the ultimate goal. Professional memberships are often costly, and this was no exception.

I noticed a couple of red flags when I first received the mailing. First, the web address was a business .com website – not a non-profit .org or an educational .edu site. But sometimes non-profits use commercial websites for one legal reason or another.

Second, the names on their list of officers and board members were not familiar to me. If I were new to the field this would not be a deal killer, but I'd been around emergency management for twenty years by 2013.

So today I tried to reach their website through Explorer and Chrome with no results. They made thousands of dollars from folks before they disappeared.

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## Handbook Give Away

Hey Gang..



Just wanted to remind you all that time is running out on this month's drawing for the ARRL Handbook. You have until midnight tomorrow night (Halloween) to get signed up for a chance to win!! That's just around the corner!

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 need 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 to be eligible you do have to enter each month. You can't win if you don't enter so, whatcha' got to lose??

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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## Daylight Saving Time Ends

Hey gang,

Don't forget that Daylight Saving Time ends on **Sunday November 5<sup>th</sup>** at 2am!! Whoopee... We get an extra hour of sleep this next Sunday!



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## Akron Man Survives Hurricane, Returns Home Thanks To Kenny Chesney

(from Carly Flynn Morgan , WKYC 4:25 PM. EDT October 17, 2017)

(Photos by: Craig Roberson)



AKRON - An Akron man rode out Hurricane Maria in a radio shack and was rescued from St. John Island thanks to country singer Kenny Chesney, but he wants you to remember the stories of those still suffering in the Caribbean.

Communication is key during disasters. George Riedel knows that well. The retired consultant is also a ham radio operator. After Hurricane Irma, he volunteered his services to the island of St. John.

“We were totally isolated. There was no power. All the critical infrastructure was gone,” he said.

With cell phone towers and broadband wiped out, ham radios become a crucial and sometimes the only means of communications. Riedel relayed health and welfare traffic between nearby islands.

“The big thing that we did was relay from Myra Keating hospital, a traffic count of all the injured people that were brought to Myra Keating for transport,” he explained.

He planned to volunteer for one week, but 12 days after Hurricane Irma, Maria showed up. The Category 5 hurricane brought another round of devastation to St. John.

Riedel rode out Maria in a radio shack. He survived and continued to volunteer. Three weeks had passed and he really needed to get home to Akron, but couldn't. Boats and planes off the island were scarce.

That's when country music superstar and resident of St. John Kenny Chesney came to the rescue.

Chesney donated transportation for aid workers. Riedel took a 35-foot sport fishing boat from St. John to the island of St. Thomas. Then, a limousine drove him to the St. Thomas airport. He flew on a commercial jet to Florida -- all on Chesney's dime.



He never met Chesney face-to-face, but is thankful nonetheless.

“He’s just a wonderful person. He deserves all the accolades that he can get for what he has done,” Riedel said.

Riedel, home safe in Akron, says he felt compelled to volunteer and wishes he could do more to help the people still struggling through daily life.

“I just pray. What else can I do? What else can I do?”

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## One Question Questionnaire

Hey Gang...

There’s another NEW – one question – questionnaire on the Ohio Section Website! <http://arrloho.org> I was very pleased to see that a little over 62% of you stated on the last poll that you have a First Aid Kit in your car. That’s really great, but that still leaves more than a third of you that don’t. Since accidents happen to all of us at any time, you might want to rethink that!



Now... There’s a new question up there, since we found out that about 62% of you have first aid kits in your car, here’s the next question for ya’... **Are You Up-To-Date with your First Aid Training?**

The survey 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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## Fun Things To Do

*(from various newsletters and sources)*

**11/01/2017 | 100th Anniversary of Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio**  
**Nov 1-Nov 16, 0000Z-0000Z, K8R**, Athens, OH. Athens County Red Cross Amateur Radio Service. 21.275 14.215 7.215 3.800. QSL. Samuel J (Jeff) Slattery, 45 Carol Lane, Athens, OH 45701. SASE please.  
[www.ac-ara.org/wordpress/k8r](http://www.ac-ara.org/wordpress/k8r)

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## 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](mailto:kc8tvw@arrl.net)

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## ARRL November Sweepstakes



Objective: For stations in the United States and Canada (including territories and possessions) to exchange QSO information with as many other US and Canadian stations as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands.

[Operating Guide \(PDF\) - Including Full Rules](#)

[For Contest Club Updates Go Here](#)

Reminder: the Canadian province of Ontario now consists four RAC sections: Ontario North (ONN), Ontario South (ONS), Ontario East (ONE) and the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Make sure your contest logging software and "country" (CTY) files have been updated so that those abbreviations are recognized and

credited properly. View a [map of the VE3 sections](#).

Log Submission Deadline - Logs are due within FIVE (5) days after the event is over. Paper logs are still accepted, but electronic Cabrillo logs are preferred. Contest clubs are encouraged to help their club members submit their log electronically. Logs that have been *submitted electronically* are listed on the [Log Received](#) page.

Click the year and contest to see a list of submitted logs sorted by call sign.

[Dates-](#) **CW:** First full weekend in November (**November 4-6, 2017**) - **Phone:** Third full weekend in November (**November 18-20, 2017**) **Contest Period:** Begins 2100 UTC Saturday and runs through 0259 UTC Monday.

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## 12/02/2017 | Tigers 44444 The Holidays

**Dec 2, 1400Z-2000Z, K8TGR**, Newton Falls, OH. Newton Falls Technology and Multimedia Club. 146.52 14.275 14.250. QSL. NFHSTMC, 909 1/2 Milton Blvd, Newton Falls, OH 44444.

Will be running a special event station at the 2nd Annual Tigers 44444 The Holidays Craft Show and School Holiday Spectacular. Check in to receive a special QSL card. [www.k8tgr.org](http://www.k8tgr.org)



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## Winter Safety Tips

(from Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness)



Hey Gang,

Here in northern Ohio we've had our first snow of the season just the other day. So, I thought that it would be a great idea to publish this great little checklist of items that we need to have with us as we drive in snowy conditions.

### For the Vehicle

Winterize your vehicle. Get a tune-up and be sure to check the battery levels in your vehicle. Consider buying snow tires or chains for the tires, as your travel dictates. Chains work best on glare ice. Be sure to check with local authorities on tire chains. Some locales prohibit their use.

Other vehicle care tips include:

- Check radiator coolant and sturdiness of hoses and belts
- Refer to the vehicle's manual to see if a lighter grade oil is recommended for winter driving
- Change burned out headlights, tail lights and turn signals
- Check tire tread and wear – minimum tread is 1/16" for adequate traction
- Make sure brakes are in proper working order
- Keep spare window washer fluid in the trunk and make sure the washer blades are in good working condition



Prepare a winter emergency kit for your vehicles.

Supplies should include:

- At least two blankets or a sleeping bag
- Flashlight or battery-powered lantern and extra batteries
- Booster (jumper) cables
- Emergency flares
- Extra clothing, particularly boots, hats and mittens
- A steel shovel and rope to use as a lifeline
- Bottled water or juice and nonperishable high-energy foods (granola bars, raisins, nuts, peanut butter or cheese crackers)
- First-aid kit and necessary medications
- Sand or non-clumping cat litter for tire traction, if your vehicle gets stuck in snow or ice
- A cell phone and car charger

### Winter-wise Driving Tips

- Pay attention to weather reports on the radio. Allow time in your schedule for bad weather and/or traffic delays.

- Become familiar with your vehicle's winter weather operating characteristics. Front-wheel-drive vehicles generally handle better than rear-wheel vehicles on slippery roads because the weight of the engine is on the drive wheels, improving traction.
- Keep your windows clear of snow and ice. Remember to clean head, tail and brake lights.
- If you need to turn on your wipers, turn on your headlights. Effective January 1, 2010, Ohio law requires drivers to turn on vehicle headlights whenever windshield wipers are in operation due to any precipitation. Failing to do so is a secondary offense, meaning motorists cannot be stopped solely for failing to have lights on with wipers. They must be stopped for another offense, such as speeding, before they can be ticketed and fined for not having headlights on. Fines start at \$100. Click [here](#) to read ORC 4513.03.
- To prevent fuel line freeze-up, keep your gas tank at least half full. Fill your gas tank before your vehicle is parked for lengthy periods.
- Leave ample stopping time between you and the driver in front of you. Braking distance can be up to nine times greater on snowy, icy surfaces than on dry roads.
- If your vehicle is equipped with an Anti-lock Braking System (ABS), be sure to: STOMP - firmly depress the brake pedal. STAY on the brakes - do not pump the brakes. STEER where you want the vehicle to go.
- Gently pump non-ABS brakes to stop the vehicle. Take any corrective action gradually. You need to maintain full control of the vehicle. Refer to the vehicle operations manual for proper methods to correct skids.
- During winter travel, it is best to supply those at your destination with the following information: your cell phone number, departure time, travel route and anticipated arrival time.
- Lock your vehicle, even in bad weather. If locks freeze, heat the key. Do not pour hot water on the locks - they will refreeze.
- Drive with extreme caution on bridges and overpasses during freezing temperatures. Because bridge temperatures can be 5-6 degrees colder than roadways, they can become slick and icy before roads.
- Stay with your vehicle while warming it up. An unattended, running car invites theft.

### Survival Tips if Stranded

The best advice is to remain with the vehicle. If nothing else, you are guaranteed shelter. Other helpful tips include:

- Tie a bright colored cloth (handkerchief, towel, etc.) to the vehicle's antenna, driver door handle or outside mirror.
- Keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow. Poisonous gases can filter into the vehicle if the pipe is clogged.
- Run the engine and heater no more than 10 minutes every hour, leaving a downwind window slightly open for ventilation while the engine is running.
- Light a flare or turn on a flashlight to let others know you're stranded in the vehicle.
- Use floor mats, seat covers and blankets for added warmth. If you must leave your vehicle during a severe snow storm or blizzard, secure a line of rope or cord to yourself and the vehicle to avoid becoming lost or disoriented.
- Keep bottled water in your emergency kit or vehicle. Never eat snow. It will chill you and lower your body temperature.
- Remain calm. Chances for rescue are better if you remain calm and in your vehicle.



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**Final.. Final..**

Hey Gang,

Wow, it was another busy week last week. I worked on the Digital portion of the website and thanks to Greg, WD9FTZ we now have an updated DMR net listing, and a page for all of the known Ohio Talk Groups as well.

Thanks to Ken, KA8OAD we now have an updated code plug for the CS-800D. You'll find the links to these changes on our Digital pages <http://arrl-ohio.org/digital/digital.html>

As some of you know, I'm also the webmaster for the Great Lakes Division website and I just put the finishing touches on a completely rebuilt website. It was time for a new look and we definitely gave it that! It runs much smoother now and the various pages are easier to access from the main panel. If you haven't seen the updated version yet, I do encourage you to go visit it.. <http://arrl-greatlakes.org/>

I got to attend a V.E. test session in Mt. Vernon as well as the Massillon Hamfest this past week too. It was great getting to see everyone at the hamfest, and getting to help out with giving some candidates their upgrade exams!

C.Q. C.Q.. 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](mailto: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](mailto:n8sy@n8sy.com)

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

Scott, N8SY...

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*PostScript is produced as a weekly supplement to the Ohio Section Journal (OSJ). I sincerely hope that you have enjoyed this edition of PostScript, and will encourage your friends to join with you in receiving the latest news and information about the Ohio Section, and from around the world!*