

Ohio
Section

<http://arrloho.org>

It's FUN!!

2018

Yearbook

The collage consists of 15 individual photographs arranged in a grid-like fashion. The top row shows a man in a green shirt working at a radio station, a group of people outdoors, and a man in a green shirt working at a radio station. The second row features a man in a blue shirt working at a radio station, a central graphic with the EMA logo and text, and a man in a green shirt working at a radio station. The third row shows a man in an orange shirt working at a radio station, a woman holding a book, and a man in a green shirt working at a radio station. The fourth row includes a man in a red shirt working at a radio station, a man in a white shirt and yellow vest standing outdoors, and a man in a red shirt working at a radio station. The bottom row features a woman in a NASA spacesuit, a man in a grey hoodie working at a radio station, and a man in a plaid shirt working at a radio station.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

EMA
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

+
AMERICAN RED CROSS

AMATEUR RADIO
EMERGENCY SERVICE

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE
lawrencecountyhioema.com

DISASTER EXERCISE IN PROGRESS

The Ohio Section

The Ohio Section is part of the Great Lakes Division which is comprised of the states of Michigan, Ohio and Kentucky. The Great Lakes Division has over 58,000 licensed Amateurs with approximately 11,900 of those being American Radio Relay League (ARRL) members. This makes our Division one of the larger of the 15 Divisions within the ARRL.

Breaking it down finer. There are 71 Sections within the ARRL. Each of the Sections are complete states or a portion of a state that is assigned to a Division. The Ohio Section is a complete state and has approximately 28,000 licensed Amateur Radio operators, of which 5,833 of those are ARRL Members. As such, the Ohio Section is the largest ARRL Section in the country by membership. The Ohio Section is larger than the entire Delta Division and just a few members shy of also being larger than the Hudson Division as well.

The ARRL Ohio Section was formed in 1926 and the first Section Manager for Ohio was Howard C. Storck, 8BYN. Howard served from July-1926 - August-1930. There have only been 22 Section Managers serving the Ohio Section in our 92-year history.



The Ohio Section has 117 ARRL Affiliated Clubs with 48 of them being listed as a Special Service Club.

Our newest Affiliated clubs joining in 2018 are the **Ohio University Amateur Radio Club** and the **Bearcat DX Club**.

Our newest Special Service Clubs joining in 2018 are the **Medina Two Meter Group** & **Southern Ohio Amateur Radio Association**.



Keeping You Informed Through our Newsletters and Webpage

The Ohio Section Journal is a monthly publication which details all of the current Section activities. This journal gives in-depth reporting of the various programs by the folks who are in charge of those programs.



Offered on a weekly basis is our newsletter called *PostScript*. This newsletter gives that extra bit of news and information between editions of the Ohio Section Journal. These two newsletters reach out to more than 7,000 readers every week.



*Welcome to the Ohio Section
of the ARRL*

The Ohio Section Website

www.arrloho.org has over 2,500 pages of information ranging from current propagation forecasts, to the latest in Digital Communications, to

what's happening in the Section, Division and the country. The website has information for every Amateur Radio operator's interest. For 2018 our website has totaled up more than 920,000 pages viewed, and more than 14 million hits. This is more than double last year's total.

Our ARES Program

Our ARES program is second to none in the country with over 1,500 active members. We also lead the nation with over 780 members that have the new National Incident Management System (NIMS) requirements by completing the required 4 basic courses (IS 100, 200, 700 & 800). Our members are eager to learn and have a total of over 7,600 NIMS courses logged thus far.



The Ohio Section has a Mass Messaging System to notify our ARES Teams quickly and easily with important messages. This ability gives our teams the most up-to-date information available. We even have the ability to use this function right from the field, if needed. This has given our ARES Teams the advantage of knowing when something is happening long before most others know anything about it.

The Ohio Section ARES has on-line EC/DEC monthly reporting. Utilizing the latest in php scripting, the Ohio Section has been one of just a handful of Sections in the country to have such a reporting ability along with an on-line monthly report card for their ARES Teams. Our current system eventually will be replaced with the new national ARES Connect system once it's ready to be utilized fully sometime in 2019.

The Ohio Section was just 1 of 4 Beta Test sites for the new ARES Connect system this past spring and we were the first to actually start using the system this past June. We have more than 720 volunteers registered and logging their hours of volunteering into the system.

ARES Connect

Instructions to Register

Enter ARES Connect

Our projection for the end of year totals look strong. We are targeted to have more than 6,000 events and well over 60,000 hours into the ARES Connect system.

Ohio Section Works Hard

This past year all of our Ohio Section volunteers have given well over 120,000 hours of volunteer time totaling over \$2.96 million of in-kind service back to their Ohio communities.

In 2017 (the most recent recorded year) the Ohio Section ranked third in the country for ARES Membership. First in the country with the most ARES Events and second in the country for volunteer hours/dollars given back to the community.

The Ohio Section Manager along with the Tennessee Section Manager are the co-chairs of the National Section Managers Conference. This conduit allows all of the Section Managers from around the country to meet and discuss issues and new developments within their Sections and at the national level. These conferences are important to all as that they give everyone involved a chance to see and hear how the other Sections are developing new ideas and better ways of operating their Sections (Best Practices).

Ohio Section has partnered with government and volunteer organizations



*The Ohio Section is a member in good standing with the **Emergency Management Association of Ohio (EMAO)**. The EMAO is a professional organization that strives to advance public safety for Ohioans through effective collaborations with local, state and federal partners. Their primary goal is to build effective emergency management leaders in Ohio by offering education and training to their membership.*

Partnering with the EMAO has been very beneficial to the Ohio Section and our ARES program by giving us direct contact with all 88 EMA Directors in Ohio. This partnership has given the Ohio Section ARES the opportunity to speak and participate in Association meetings. It also gives us the opportunity to attend all of the Association conferences, and to be an active part of the organization. As an active member, the Ohio Section Manager directly participates by being a member of the Education Committee.

*The Ohio Section has also been an active partner in the **Ohio Public / Private / Partnership (OP3)**. OP3 is an effort to serve Ohioans before, during and after a disaster. The Ohio Department of Public Safety created the Ohio Public Private Partnership (OP3) to provide the opportunity for state and local government agencies, businesses, associations, Ohio Colleges and Universities and non-profits to engage in crisis disaster protection, planning, response and recovery efforts which will promote business continuity, speed recovery, improve the quality of life and build a safer Ohio for all its citizens.*



Being partnered with OP3 has also given us direct access to a statewide credentialing system that we used during the Republican National Convention – **Emergency Partner Credentialing System (EPCS)** in 2016. It has also given us the exposure to many government agencies and businesses that we normally would not have access to.

This partnership has also given our Emergency Coordinators and District Emergency Coordinators and leadership officials access to **Safer Ohio Awareness Report (SOAR)**. This publication is produced by the Ohio Department of Homeland Security and the Ohio Department of Public Safety. It's sent out twice a day and it gives our ARES leadership a "Heads Up" on all activities in the state, as well as a summary of all activities around the country and world.



The Ohio Section is also partnered with **Ohio Responds**. The Ohio Responds Volunteer Registry is the State of Ohio's online system for managing public health and medical disaster responder volunteers. This site also supports a variety of personnel who may be utilized during disasters; all-hazard response efforts and public health activities. This partnership has given our Ohio ARES access to free liability insurance. This assures our ARES responders that they are covered by the state of Ohio for liability in the event things really go wrong.

The Ohio Section is also a member in good standing with the **Ohio Voluntary Organizations Assisting in Disasters (VOAD)**. The Ohio VOAD is the state chapter of the National VOAD.



The VOAD consists of organizations active in disaster response throughout the state of Ohio. The VOADs role is to bring organizations together and enable them to understand each other and work together during times of disaster preparedness, response, relief and recovery.



SKYWARN
WEATHER.GOV®

The Ohio Section **Skywarn** program is second to none. Our trained weather spotters provide reports of severe and hazardous weather to help meteorologists make life-saving warning decisions. This year our spotters are undergoing Winter training as well.

Our Spotters are dedicated volunteers who give freely of their time and energy to report on hazardous weather impacting their community.

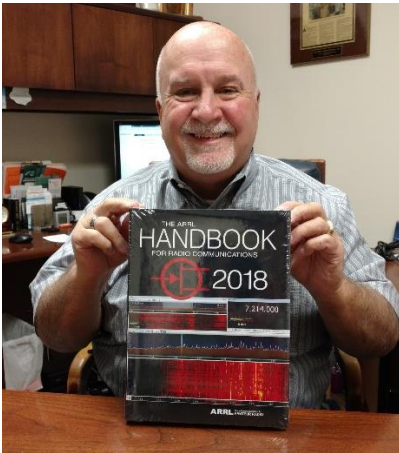
From Lake Effect snow squalls to blizzards to tornadoes and floods, Ohio's Skywarn programs are in full force year-round. Ohio's unusual weather patterns keep every Skywarn observer on their toes for what can, and a lot of times does happen around our state.

Ohio's Skywarn program directly serves 2 National Weather Service Offices, one in Cleveland and the other in Wilmington. Both offices have a full complement of Amateur Radio equipment to receive the latest information from the Amateurs in the field. We are also sometimes called upon to give reports to our neighboring weather service offices in Kentucky, West Virginia, Indiana, Michigan and Western Pennsylvania as well.

Ohio Section Has Fun

As the Ohio Section Logo indicates "It's FUN", the folks in the Ohio Section are dedicated and hardworking volunteers. But we have our FUN as well.

We have the only continuing club newsletter competition to honor excellence in ham radio reporting in the country. This year was its Twenty-Seventh year, and the fierce but friendly competition from among the forty plus newsletters was really great. Everyone wins in this competition because it challenges each editor to improve.



The Handbook Give Away has been a really exciting and very popular fun event. It started several years ago to encourage all Ohio Amateurs to use the Ohio Section Website, and all of its features. This promotion gets over 2,400 entries per month and the website statistics have shown that it has worked. There's been a 400% increase in the usage of the website since this idea started.

The Ohio Section also has the "Have A MUG On Me" and "Have A CAP On Me" programs as well. These are several of the promotional gifts that are given out at club meetings and various functions to promote the Ohio Section and the ARRL. These Give Away promotions have been a favorite with everyone, even folks at ARRL Headquarters too!

Since we have 6 months of colder weather here, we also give out stocking caps and new this year we've added Sweatshirts to our Give-A-Ways as well.



*Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY
QST Managing Editor*

Our Ohio Section Cabinet

Assistant Section Manager – Lyn Alfman, N8IMW



The Assistant Section Manager is an extremely important position within the Section organization.

The Assistant Section Manager's primary function is to fulfill the duties of the Section Manager when he/she is not capable, due to illness or unavailability to complete the duties at that time.

The Assistant Section Manager also can have other duties assigned to them as "Special Projects."

Section Emergency Coordinator - Stan Broadway, N8BHL

*This is our most popular and active program. It's clearly the largest and most active with **96 volunteers** that serve as Assistant Section Emergency Coordinators, District Emergency Coordinators, Assistant District Emergency Coordinators and Emergency Coordinators.*

This program is for those who serve the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). Ideally, each of our 88 counties is to have an Emergency Coordinator appointed to operate the ARES program in that county.



Section Traffic Manager - Dave Maynard, WA3EZN



*Traffic Nets Even in the days of E-mail and other electronic means of communication, the National Traffic System (sending messages by radio) continues to operate. Ohio has one statewide phone net - the Ohio Single-Side Band Net (OSSBN) and three CW statewide nets. These are listed in each month's edition of Section News. In addition, all our major metropolitan areas have nets on VHF and UHF repeaters. Ohio's traffic nets are among the best in the US. There are **30 volunteers** that assist as Bulletin Stations, Net Managers and Official Relay Stations*

Public Information Coordinator - John Ross, KD8IDJ

*Public relations – the first rule of the Public Relations Manuel is to have our own people know what is going on. Club newsletters are a key here. Public Information Officers not only are in charge of newsletters but also informing public media outlets about ham radio news. The Public Information Coordinator (PIC) runs this program. There are **29 volunteers** that assist as Public Information Officers*



Affiliated Clubs Coordinator - Tom Sly, WB8LCD



*To assist qualified ham radio clubs who obtain and maintain Special Service Club and/or Affiliated Club status in the ARRL. The Affiliated Clubs Coordinator (ACC) runs this program. The Ohio Section has **117 Affiliated Clubs** with **48 of those having a Special Service Club designation**. The Ohio Section holds more Special Service Club designations than any other Section in the country.*

State Government Liaison - Bob Winston, W2THU

*With a myriad of city councils, county commissions, boards of zoning appeals and school boards across Ohio, Local Government Liaisons monitor the activities of these civic boards to see if any actions affect ham radio directly. The State Government Liaison (SGL) operates this program and officially monitors the Ohio Legislature, Governor and State Supreme Court. There are **6 volunteers** that serve as Local Government Liaisons*



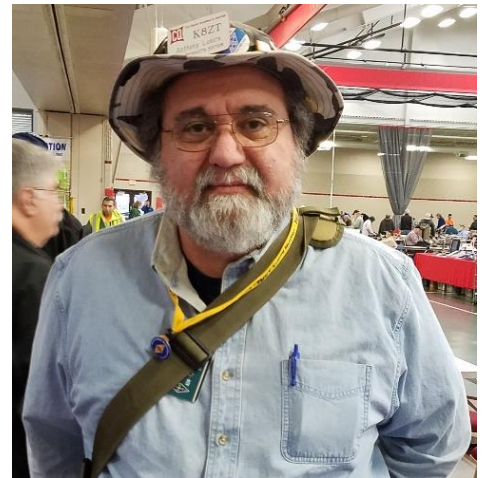
Technical Coordinator - Jeffrey Kopcak, K8JTK



*Hams in this program are electronic specialists who stand ready to assist hams and non-hams when thorny interference problems arise. The Technical Coordinator (TC) runs this program. There are **17 volunteers** that serve as Technical Specialists*

Section Youth Coordinator – Anthony Lascre, K8ZT

Provides ideas and resources as needed to amateur radio clubs and maintains a current assessment of active youth and college amateur radio operators in the Section. ARRL Kid's Day, Teachers Institute, Jamboree on the Air, Field Day and School Club Roundup are just a few of the activities that are focused on.



Official Observer Coordinator - John Perone, W8RXX



The Official Observers (Amateur Auxiliary) is soon going to be replaced with an entirely new program.

*The current Official Observers are hams that monitor frequencies (HF and VHF/UHF repeaters) and advise hams of both good and poor operating practices. The Official Observer Coordinator (OOC) runs this program. There are **17 volunteers** that assist as Official Observers*

Each and every one of our Cabinet Members is a volunteer, dedicated to Amateur Radio, the Ohio Section and the ARRL.

What We Did This Past Year

Amazing!!... That really doesn't express it enough for what we did this year! It has really been crazy – Planning, Training, Ramping Up, and just plain havin' FUN!

So, as Paul Harvey would say... "Here's the rest of the story".

January

We had our 3rd Annual Ohio ARES VHF Simplex Contest in January. It was a huge success once again this year. We had a lot of stations activated and on the air for this really FUN event. It was a blast and demonstrated to all that we have the ability to communicate on VHF SIMPLEX!

The 27th Annual Newsletter Contest gets underway. We have over 40 newsletters in the Section that participate for this coveted award.

Our Handbook Giveaway Contest is continuing forward with monthly drawings. It's now in its 3rd successful year. The importance of this drawing is to get people interested in viewing the Ohio Section Website on a regular basis and encouraging them to join or renew their membership to the ARRL. It has been effective, our numbers for views on the website have doubled again from this same period last year. We have over 2,400 entrants each month register for a chance to win a Handbook and many other Ohio Section items.

Our newsletters (PostScript) and (Ohio Section Journal) have really become a huge hit with well over 7,000 readers. These newsletters go out to Amateurs all over the country. By utilizing an additional email service, above what the ARRL offers, many non ARRL members receive our newsletter as well. We encourage those who don't belong to the ARRL to take another look and reconsider all the wonderful things that the ARRL has to offer.

We had a very successful District Emergency Coordinators Conference. We had representative from all 10 Districts gathered to discuss issues and the new requirements for ARES. This day was devoted to planning out the year and where we would be taking the Ohio Section ARES for the future.

February

February brought the annual "Freeze Your Acorns Off" HF contest, sponsored by the Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS). It was a big hit and no one froze, much!

It also was a month for ARES activation we had 17 counties underwater. On February 24th Governor Kasich signed a proclamation in response to statewide flooding for those counties.

The damage was severe enough that a Federal Declaration was signed by President Trump in May for federal assistance to begin. There were 8 additional counties that had flooding and had a county-wide declaration for State of Emergency.

Not only was there flooding, but we also had several outbreaks of tornadoes within the above listed counties over this same period. We had 12 reported tornadoes ranging in size from EF-0 to EF-2 which kept our Skywarn program very busy as well.

With all of this devastation in southern Ohio our ARES groups all over southern Ohio were busy for many weeks as we setup operations in many of the county EOC's and Red Cross shelters, not to mention the local police and fire stations as well.

Ohio ARES distributed several alert emails, so the entire state was updated, and many EC's were busy contacting their county EMA's. ARES volunteers all across the state were standing at the ready. Although we understood it was not a 'communications' emergency, there were still many areas which amateur radio might have been required to play a role.

There was also a large rockslide that occurred on State Route 7 at Chesapeake. Both directions were closed for several weeks.

March

Ohio was one of 4 ARRL Sections to be chosen to be a Beta Test Section for the New ARES Connect system. We had a number of teleconference calls and our Beta test started without any real problems. It was exciting to be a part of this new system.

April

April 3rd we experienced an EF-1 tornado causing extensive damage to homes and power poles in the Grove City area. There were approximately 450 buildings and 50 power poles damaged during this storm. April 3rd is a significant date in Ohio as it was also the 44th anniversary of the killer outbreak of tornadoes that hit Xenia in 1974.

Annual Ohio ARES Conference was held on April 7th where Dale Williams, WA8EFK introduced everyone there to the NEW ARES Connect system. There were 130 in attendance from all over Ohio.

Ohio's NVIS Day near the end of the month was a huge success. Everyone got to learn not only what a NVIS antenna is, but how to make and install and operate from it as well. The weather wasn't too bad, but the bands were lousy! I have to tell ya', it was a learning experience for everyone that participated, but most of all, it was FUN for everyone that participated!

May

The Fourth Annual Section Managers Conference was held on the Thursday just before Hamvention and hosted by the Ohio Section. We had 12 Section Managers and several League Officials from across the nation attending.

Hamvention weekend was a true experience. The Ohio Section hosted a booth where folks could meet and greet ARRL Officials and get information on where things were located at the hamfest as well as information about the new ARES Connect system.

We continue to give ARRL ARES Mesh vests to every 25th person that completes his 4 NIMS (ICS) courses. This enticement has really paid off, we are now looking to very soon give out another vest to our 800th person! We started at 600 to encourage those dragging their feet and are now at 780 of our ARES members with all 4 NIMS courses (IS-100, 200, 700 & 800) completed and their certificates on file in our Ohio Section Database. We can proudly say that we have over 7,600 courses completed and growing every day!

June

I traveled 577.5 miles and visited 16 Field Day sites over the Field Day weekend.

The Ohio Section added 2 new ARRL Affiliated Clubs in this first 6 months of 2018, and we have 1 new club (Medina Two Meter Group) just approved as a Special Services Club to add to our ever-growing number of SSC's.

We formally kick-off the ARES Connect System to all of our 88 counties in late June. We are working hard to get everyone signed up and start getting the new system up and running full blast. I'm looking forward to seeing just how much the Ohio Section can improve with this new reporting system.

On June 28-30 the Richland / Ashland ARES program were involved with a balloon glowing. The Amateurs were used to coordinate the balloons firing with the sound of music.

This show has over 25,000 people in attendance for the 3 days where the public is able to see how Amateur Radio can help coordinate communications with these large events. It was a great PR tool for both ARES County programs.

July

We added to our website this month a really unique idea from John Tipka, W8UL. We now have links to many of the Weather Underground personal weather stations around Ohio. We have created a page of links to various personal weather stations that our Amateur have volunteered around the state, and some even outside of the state. It will be informative this winter to see just how much Lake Effect has on these various stations.

You can find these stations at: <http://arrl-ohio.org/wus.html>

August

August 4th was the Ohio Section Conference where we announced the winners of the 27th Annual Newsletter Contest. The winners were...

First Place - **The RADIOGRAM**...Portage County Amateur Radio Service – Tom Parkinson, KB8UUZ editor

Second Place -Tie (first time a printed newsletter and on-line newsletter have shared an award)
The Spirit of '76 & '88...Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association – Ken Kane, KG8DN editor

DELARA News...Delaware Amateur Radio Association – Stan Broadway, N8BHL editor

Third Place - **Quarter Century Wireless Association**...**Cleveland Chapter Newsletter** – Bob Winston, W2THU editor

Fourth Place - **The Exchange**...SouthWest Ohio DX Association – Bill Salyers, AJ8B editor

Honorable Mention – **Tie CARA COMMUNICATOR**...Cambridge Amateur Radio Association – Lyn Alfman, N8IMW editor

The Voice Coil...Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association – Mark Haverstock, K8MSH editor

Also recognized that day was the **2018 Allan Severson, AB8P Award Recipient**. This year it was **Matt Curtain, KD8TTE** of Bexley Ohio.

Aside from Matt's extensive computer knowledge and professional career he is an Amateur Radio volunteer. Matt provides public service in emergency communications and emergency response. As a amateur radio operator Matt (KD8TTE) carries qualifications and certifications in the FEMA Incident Command System (ICS), National Incident Management System (NIMS), National Weather Service SKYWARN, and is a member of the Franklin County Ohio Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).



He also is an integral part of the Ohio Amateur Radio Emergency Service Mutual Assistance Team (ARES/MAT). Matt is also an NTS traffic handler on both voice and CW nets and is the Net Manager for the Central Ohio Traffic Net.

Northeast Ohio ARES operators were busy as they responded to an activation for damage assessment, and participated in two major exercises all on Wednesday, August 15th. The Youngstown area was hit by weekend storms beginning Friday August 11. ARES District EC Dennis Conklin, AI8P, was notified by Mahoning EC David Brett, KD8NZF, that the county needed help performing damage assessment for a large area. While Dennis made his way to Youngstown, Ohio SEC Stan Broadway, N8BHL, released the call for volunteers from District 5 and District 10 which covered the majority of northeast Ohio counties.



Over a dozen ARES operators responded along with a contingent of CERT volunteers from a neighboring county. The volunteers held a short briefing, then began the long task of going door to door to inquire about damages. The surveys continued Thursday, with a morning crew made up of CERT and VOAD volunteers, and an afternoon crew of all ARES volunteers. The assessment continued through Friday and finished up over the weekend.



There were 416 homes evaluated for damage and 74 streets walked. There were 4 homes destroyed, 1 home had severe damage and the remaining 411 homes had minor damage.

The call came when other northeast Ohio counties were already involved in two major exercises – one at the Cleveland Burke Lakefront Airport where 6 ARES volunteers assumed the task of tracking patient transport in a multi-casualty drill.

The other involved nearby Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula counties as the state conducted an exercise involving the Perry Nuclear Power Plant.

More than two dozen Amateurs were there, and 5 Amateurs were at the State of Ohio's EOC station, W8SGT, with the day long exercises.



MAHONING COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Board of Mahoning County Commissioners

*Anthony Traficanti
Carol Rimedio-Righetti
David Ditzler*

Dennis O'Hara, Director

*700 Industrial Road
Youngstown, OH 44509
Phone: 330-740-2200 Fax: 330-270-7779*

August 20, 2018

Mr. Dave Brett
Mahoning County ARES

Mr. Brett,

I would like to thank you for assisting and coordinating with ARES volunteers to conduct damage assessment in the Boardman, Struthers, Poland areas last week. We were able to make positive contact with over four hundred homes and businesses on seventy plus streets in these affected areas.

I am proud of the coordination between the EMA and ARES. I look forward to working with ARES and continuing to foster the relationship between the organizations. I will be in touch in the next few weeks to schedule an after action review (AAR) so that we can critique our response and implement any improvements. Once again thank you for all of your assistance and please pass along this message to all of the ARES volunteers that assisted.

Respectfully,

Dennis O'Hara
Director

This speaks volumes in of itself. Our Ohio ARES volunteers are willing and able to not only think outside the box, but also to work outside of their usual assigned duties as communicators!

August was also the **Ohio Covered Bridge Special Event**. On August 18th we had several clubs from around the state go and setup Amateur stations at some of Ohio's most beautiful and historic covered bridges. It was great fun and great publicity for the clubs as well



August was also when we found the longest licensed Amateur Radio Operator in Ohio. It is **Ray Hurlbut, W8FLX** – he has been licensed since March of 1939! Ray has continually kept his amateur radio license up to date and active ever since. He has been active by using CW on the HF bands all of those years!

So, now we have who the longest licensed Amateur Radio Operator is in the Ohio Section. Our Congratulations go out to Ray for sure... Keep tappin' out the CW my friend!



September

For Ohioans September is Ohio Parks on the Air contest. It has fast become one of the nations biggest parks on the air events. The National Parks on the Air event was modeled after this one.

September is also a big month for county fairs, and our Ohio ARES Groups seem to have embedded themselves into many of the county fairs all over Ohio. Two of the biggest, Geauga and Canfield count heavily on amateur radio operators for that extra helping hand that we give.

September is also the time when many county EMA's, hospitals and government agencies have their annual practice drills, and as you'd expect, ARES is right there helping out.

October

October is the National Simulated Emergency Test (S.E.T.) and this year for Ohioans we had Black Swan '18. It was a huge success. Our 'disaster' was one that many Ohioans have actually lived through- a major winter blizzard beginning with heavy rain, severe wind, and flooding. Inundation was complicated by sharply falling temperatures and a heavy snowfall Sunday morning. Our operators dealt with a dam collapse, request for air evacuation, mission requests for snow removal, CERT SAR and shelters. Crafted to involve the Ohio Military Reserve, other state ARES organizations including Iowa, Illinois, Pennsylvania and Michigan our exercise also drew attention from the Ohio Army National Guard and the Ohio Air Guard, both of which were provided preliminary information. There was interest in perhaps becoming a part of the exercise next year from each. Much of the purpose of amateur radio is handling messages, and message traffic was plentiful from across the states (even from Germany in one instance) but particularly more intense within Ohio. An additional feature of this year's exercise was the launch of a WebEOC incident (on the training side) with which we could log details and practice data entry.



Our county organizations were to launch their own activations, theorizing that they awakened to the severe weather Saturday morning and had to launch their response in support of local HS/EMA, Red Cross, and hospitals.

During the two-day event, W8SGT handled 80-meter SSB voice communications with over 50 amateur stations around the state in 27 different counties. The station connected with 16 more stations in 9 counties on the DMR network. In addition, W8SGT generated 25 OPBUL messages outbound to the state via the Ohio Digital Emergency Network (OHDEN). We logged 25 specific messages into W8SGT/OHEOC-JDF and there were more 'informal' messages taking place as well.

Operationally, the two-day event went very smoothly. We were able to put together manpower necessary to handle the tasks as needed. As we expected, band conditions were not optimal, but our SSB station was able to hold connections with our county stations. Work earlier this summer on our wire antenna on the north fence paid off in a good signal on 80 meters, and a solid signal on 60. While we hadn't really planned on using our DMR system it proved to be beneficial. The "Ohio statewide Talk Group" was activated and we were taking check-ins from all over Ohio. DMR exceeded our expectations in its first real outing. All radio equipment worked flawlessly, and our initial vision of how the station could be applied proved to be a success. Our participation with OHDEN was also flawless, we were able to maintain connections across the state very well. COTN devoted nearly 24 hours supporting SET with message traffic to W8SGT.

School Roundup and JOTA were also big hits for October. D.E.A.R.S. - KD8NOM is in its 10th year for the Dresden Elementary Amateur Radio Station club. What began as an in-school club is now an after-school sensation. The students are communicating with other radio amateurs in North America as well as around the globe.



Their most distant QSO to date is the former Soviet Union! The boys and girls are also learning basic radio fundamentals and how to operate the various radios and assemble circuits to make electronic gadgets. They have successfully competed against other schools across the nation in radio contesting, taking home many first and second place titles in the School Club Round-Up.

The ARISS Contact Program comes to Ohio



Thanks to all the hard-working folks of the Lancaster / Fairfield County Amateur Radio Club (K8QIK) and the Tallmadge Elementary School Afterschool Programs of Lancaster for hosting an ARISS Contact on October 31st. This very special organization has the backing of not only the school principal and the entire staff, but also the Board of Education and the parents of all those wonderful students as well. This was a day that none of these kids will ever

forget! Just how many of you can say that you have visited a school where ALL of the students stayed quiet for more than 10 full minutes! It happened there and not so much that they were told to, but all of them wanted to be sure to hear every word that astronaut Serena Aunon-Chancellor had to say to them.

The look in these kids' eyes was absolutely amazing. You would have thought it was Christmas as that their eyes were as big as saucers when Serena answered the call. These kids worked hard for almost a full year at understanding the basics of what this contact meant and just how much science, math and technology (STEM) it took to make this all happen. And, believe you me, they did appreciate it!

A very special THANKS goes out to:

Gordon Scannell, KD8COJ; John Hilliard, W8OF; Jeff Payne, KE8AME; Greg DerSarkisian, KD8SSJ; Paul Kidwell, W8PDK; Mary Travis, KD8EEI; Diane Warner, KE8HLD; Kenny Warner, KE8HBN; Jim Mills, KE8IID and Ken Edmonds, KE8HZZ along with Principal Jake Campbell and Executive Director Afterschool Programs of Lancaster Michele Ritchlin for their gracious hospitality.

Pictures and a video of the contact are at:

<http://arrl-ohio.org/ariss/ariss.html>



November

We had our second District Emergency Coordinator Conference of the year. We had representation from all of the Districts and we discussed the issues and worked out strategy plans and ideas on where we will be going in the very near future and how we will be making the new ARES Connect system work for us now that we have been launched.

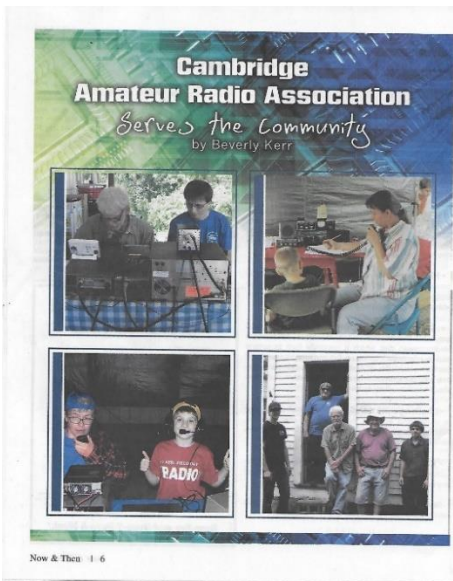


Michael Love, WB8YKS was presented with the Ohio Section's "Outstanding Public Information Officer" award this month.

Michael has gone above and beyond the normal duties of a PIO. He exemplifies the spirit of Amateur Radio and Public Service demonstrated through his time, talents and services to his club, and to the Ohio Section

December

We do have one very notable celebration for December. Ohio has one club that is 105 years old this month. Yes, the Cambridge Amateur Radio Association turns 105 years old



this month. The club celebrated by having a Special Event Station as well as a really nice banquet with a number of dignitaries from the ARRL and a number of community leaders.

We congratulate CARA for its outstanding contributions to Amateur Radio, the Ohio Section and to the ARRL.



As you can see, Ohio Section volunteers are very dedicated, hardworking and they have FUN!

Thank you for being a part of the ARRL's biggest and BEST Section in the country.

73, Scott, N8SY

Ohio Section Manager