PostScript

Ohio Section

Christmas Eve Edition

Merry Christmas to ALL!!

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→ Final.. Final..

National News

(from arrl and other sources)

Ohio ARES Member Builds Amateur Radio on Wheels for Mobility on Deployments

Lucas County (Ohio) ARES is active and involved with the county's EMA, and provides communications for events such as the Glass City Marathon and the Sylvania Triathlon. ARES also supports the Northwest Ohio Healthcare Emergency Management Coalition (NWO-HEMC), which covers 18 counties. They recognize ARES as a viable tool and have included Amateur Radio in their communications plan.

Lucas County ARES also has a long-term relationship with the eight local area hospitals and regularly performs communication drills using the hospitals' radio equipment. The equipment is located in a variety of areas each assigned by the individual hospital.

The equipment list at the hospital stations is extensive and includes a complete D-Star capable station minus the computer stored in a box on the wall. It is up to the operator to find a place to set up the station within reach of the antenna lead attached to the wall.

ARES member Steve Bellner, W8TER, of Maumee, Ohio, has participated in a few of the drills, assigned to patient rooms crowded with patients, families and clinical staff performing their duties. In one case, Bellner had the station set up on a chair, but he had no chair to sit in. The radio teetered, and the computer laptop was also not stable. The noise in the room was loud and the operator required earphones to monitor the radio. Bellner said he had to move the station to afford the room to extend the Incident Command table area. He came to realize that during a drill or other event there may not be any chair or table at all to operate from.

AROW -- Amateur Radio On Wheels. (Steve Bellner, W8TER)

As a result, Bellner came up with the idea of using a rolling, movable station based on the Computers On Wheels (COWs) used on the hospital patient floors and units. The nurses use them to go room to room; they are easily maneuvered. The battery is located in the bottom of the COW and gives it ballast. They also have a relatively small footprint.

Bellner adapted the COW idea as a portable station to be used as a "grab and go." A Milwaukee hand cart serves as the framework skeleton and his Amateur Radio On Wheels (dubbed AROW) is incorporated into Bellner's home ham shack so it is always ready to go.

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Registration is Open for QRP-ARCI Four Days in May 2019

Registration now is open for the QRP Amateur Radio Club International "Four Days in May" (FDIM), Thursday – Sunday, May 16 – 19, at the Holiday Inn, Fairborn, Ohio. The annual FDIM event for QRP enthusiasts and builders takes place in conjunction with Hamvention®. Registration begins the evening of Wednesday, May 15.

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Most of Thursday will be taken up with seminars, "meet the speakers" opportunities, and an open room for casual show and tell. Most of Friday and Saturday are open to attend the Hamvention and visit the QRP-ARCI Toy Store.

Friday evening activities typically include "show and tell," vendor displays, and a homebrew contest. Saturday evening features social activities and a banquet, while Sunday is open for Hamvention. Attendees are invited to display their QRP-related projects at FDIM. One evening will feature vendors offering QRP-related products, with some offering FDIM discounts. Dress is casual for all events.

Reservations and special room rates for FDIM will be available after January 1 through the **QRP-ARCI website**. For more information, **contact** FDIM 2019 Chair Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV.

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Registration Opens for 2019 ConTest University in Dayton

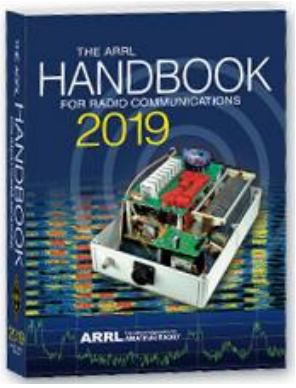
Registration now is open for 2019 ConTest University (**CTU**), Thursday, May 16, 2019, at the Crowne Plaza in downtown Dayton, Ohio. This is the day before Hamvention® opens in Xenia.

More than 7,500 students have attended CTU sessions over the last 13 years in eight countries, and more than 100 CTU professors have shared their contesting experiences. The faculty lineup, posted on the CTU website, includes several new and returning members. Newcomer Bryant, KG5HVO, will present ideas for attracting youth into contesting, while Dan, N6MJ, and Chris, KL9A — the gold medalists at WRTC 2014 — will present advanced operating papers.

Not teaching but on hand to field questions will be CTU stalwart Frank, W3LPL. The 2019 CTU Dayton course outline will be posted soon. Scholarships (paid registration) are available for CTU attendees through a grant from the Northern California DX Foundation (**NCDXF**) for students age 25 and younger. Click the "**Contact Us**" tab on the CTU website.

CTU Dayton 2019 registration information is on the **CTU website**. Prospective attendees who have given or will give a talk about Amateur Radio to any club, hamfest, or other group since May 16, 2018, qualify for a $10 registration discount. Choose the "Registration with Club Talk Discount" option.

The Handbook Give Away



Hey Gang,

It's Christmas… and I'm going to be Santa and give some Christmas Gifts to you! Go to: http://arrl-ohio.org/handbook-christmas.html and get registered NOW.

What's the catch? I want to get everyone checking in to the Ohio Section website as often as possible, and in order to register each month, you have to visit the website often! There's nothing else to it. I pay all expenses, and from time to time, I Give Away more than just a Handbook. And, you'll never know just what months will be those special times that I will have more than just a Handbook to Give Away!!

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Many of you ask me just how do I know when the drawing is on? Well, that's easy all you need to do is check in on the Ohio Section Website on a regular basis and watch for the big **RED** Arrow that will appear on the left side of the page. This is the sign that the drawing is on and you need to get registered. So, keep a sharp eye out on the website and check in often! http://arrl-ohio.org/

Club Corner

This is YOUR cornner of the newsletter. Send me what your club is doing and I'll make sure that it gets in. Got a special event or club project that you want everyone to know about? Send it to me!. Need help with a project? Send it to me.

Let me know what you club is up to. Are you going to have a special guest at your meeting or are you having a special anniversary? Just sent it to: n8sy@n8sy.com

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Get your Technician Class amateur radio license in one day!

The next KB6NU One-Day Tech Class will take place on Saturday, January 12, 2019 at the University of Michigan – Dearborn, in room 100 of Fairlane Center North (FCN), 19000 Hubbard Drive, Dearborn, MI. The class will start at 9:00 am and run until 3:30 pm, at which time the license exam will be given.

There is a $20 fee for the class, except for high school and college students, who can attend free. In addition, there is a $15 fee that everyone must pay to take the test.

You can register for the class by sending $20 to cwgeek@kb6nu.com via PayPal, or you can send a check for $20 to:

Dan Romanchik
1325 Orkney Dr.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

When your registration is received, you will be put on another e-mail list and sent more details a week or two before the class.

Free study guide

The study guide for this class is the No Nonsense Technician Class License Study Guide. You can download the PDF version for free from https://kb6nu.com/study-guides/. Before the class, read through the study guide a few times, then take some online practice tests. If you don't study before the class, I can guarantee that you'll have a hard time passing the test.

Need more info? Contact Dan Romanchik, KB6NU: 734-930-6564, cwgeek@kb6nu.com

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RINGING IN NEW YEAR'S

Since the early days of the Hillsboro 147.21 repeater, the Highland ARA has always held a New Year's Net to determine the first ham to use the repeater in the New Year. Anyone passing through Hillsboro on US 50 may have noticed the large bell in front of the County Historical Society Museum. In cooperation with the Society, HARA broadcasts the annual New Year's ringing of the bell. For decades the Hillsboro C. S. Bell Company manufactured the farm, church and school bells found throughout North America and the world. So tune in 147.21 shortly before Midnight to hear the sounds of one of the largest bells they ever manufactured and the granddaddy to some of those dinner bells some of you may have.

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Mount Vernon ARC Technician Classes to begin in January

The MVARC will be hosting Study Sessions for the Technician Class Ham License starting in January, 2019. **We will have an introductory meeting on Thursday, January 24th** with our first study session on Thursday, **January 31**. Our sessions will run weekly every Thursday evening with our last session on March 14th. I am anticipating our Exam Session will be Saturday, March 16th, but will need to confirm that.

Our introductory meeting, all of our sessions, and our Exam will be held in the Education Resource Building of the American Red Cross, located at 300 N Mulberry Street, Mount Vernon, Ohio. Our introductory meeting and study sessions will start at 7:00pm and run no later than 9:30pm. The time for the Exam Session will be determined at a later date.

Questions regarding these sessions can be directed to G Michael Jacobs, KE8HGE, @ g.m.jacobs@gmail.com

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AMATEUR RADIO LICENSING COURSE

Become a Ham Radio Operator!!!

The Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club IS offering A 10-week Course for THE TECHNICIAN (entry) Amateur Radio license examination (NO MORSE CODE REQUIRED)

WHEN: Every Monday, from **January 14**, 2019 TO March 18, 2019—7PM- 9PM

WHERE: FOP Lodge 130, 2233 Burdette St., Ferndale, MI

COST: Instruction is FREE; license Manual is $25, available from the instructors at the first session.

We are using the 2018-2022 Edition of the ARRL Technician Manual

FCC license exam will take place at the last session (March 18th) test fee: $15

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PRE-REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY

Amateur Radio is alive and well! We are at the cutting edge of technology! Join over 2.5 million hobbyists around the world -and in Orbit- who are involved in emergency response, international friend-making, Radiosport Contests, Digital Signal Processing, Satellite design/building. A great playground for the "Makers".

Questions and registration, Contact: Jerry: W9NPI@ARRL.NET

Sponsored by the Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club HPARC.ORG

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2019 Hamvention® Awards Announcement

(Mike Kalter / W8CI - Frank J. Beafore / WS8B)

Once again, it gives us great pleasure to announce the opening of the 2019 Hamvention Awards nomination process. As in the past, this prestigious program will bestow awards in the following categories: Technical Achievement, Special Achievement and Amateur of the Year. Hamvention will also be recognizing the Club of the Year.

The Hamvention Awards event has been held since 1955. Over these years many amateurs have been honored for their dedication and selfless contributions to our avocation and to mankind.

The Technical Achievement Award will be given to a selected amateur radio operator who has achieved technical excellence in the world of amateur radio. Examples are inventions, processes, discoveries, experiments and other technical accomplishments or any other outstanding technical achievement that contributed to amateur radio.

The Special Achievement Award will be given to a deserving amateur that made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the radio art and or science. This award is usually given to a respected amateur who spearheaded a single significant project.

The Amateur of the Year Award is given to a ham that has made a long-term commitment to the advancement to amateur radio. This individual will have a history of ham radio contributions and has had a dedication to service, professionalism and the advancement of the avocation of amateur radio.

The Club of the Year will be honored for clearly demonstrating their involvement in varied aspects of Amateur Radio for the greater good of their community and/or their nation.

The above awards are given every year and represent the "Academy Award" of the amateur radio world. Nominations are now open for the 2019 award process. Below are nomination forms dedicated to the appropriate award nomination. At a minimum, each form should be completed with the information indicated. Please make sure that the nominating person is identified with a method to reach-back to them in the case of questions from the nominating committee.

Forms may submit using the following methods:

- Email: awards@hamvention.org
- US Postal Mail:

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Hamvention
Attn: Awards Committee
Box 964
Dayton, OH 45401-0964

The nomination process will close on 15 February. Soon after, the committee selection will take place, and an announcement will be made through selected media outlets. The winners will be posted with details on their accomplishments in the Hamvention program as well as this website. An honors convocation will also be held on Saturday evening of the Hamvention weekend and a presentation of the award winners will be made to the general audience on Sunday afternoon prior to the prize award activity.
Thank you and please address any questions to awards@hamvention.org

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Congratulations to the KD8NOM DEARS for their great work in the Fall 2018 SCR contest.

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One Question Questionnaire

Hey Gang

Never say Never about anything. I no more than published the OSJ with the announcement about losing the Questionnaire than the folks that wrote the software for it came through and got a fix. Wow.. Talk about a real Christmas bonus! I did post a question for the week and surprise of all surprises you saw it! Ok now with the One Question Questionnaire going again, about **68%** of you said that you have built some of your station accessories (meters, keyers, clocks, etc…). That's really great. I have built many of the accessories in my shack as well. You know, I'm really proud of those things that I BUILT! It lets me brag a little more about my shack.

Ok, enough on that, here's the next question for you to answer…

"Are you thinking of your New Year's resolution yet???"

You'll find the "One Question" questionnaire on the Ohio Section Website! http://arrlohio.org It's all in fun and it's not a scientific survey in any way, but we are learning some things that we didn't know from these questions. I hope that you are enjoying answering these "One Question" questionnaires.

ARES Connect

CQ… CQ…. CQ… Calling all persons to be a part of the new ARES Connect program.

We need to discuss some very important items that only YOU can make a difference with. I need you to get yourselves registered in ARES Connect, that is… if you haven't already.

Now, how do I know that you need to do this? It's simple, we have a little over 700 now registered in the database with about 450 persons actually signing up for events. Stan's last S.E.C. report shows that we have a little over 1,500 persons in ARES.

That means that there is still a lot of you that haven't taken the plunge yet and need to! What are you waiting for? No matter how much you resist, it's coming, and we need to make sure that no one is left behind.

Now, as an incentive to get you to not only register…. But to actually start using the system… *(Notice how I have that in bold type for you to clearly see?)* I am giving away all sorts of goodies to help you get motivated.

I have a footlocker of really cool items that I will be giving away! Oh, if you didn't know, I've already given away an ARRL Handbook! What's next? Who knows!! There's lots more of things to choose from for sure and I'm not stingy about giving things out! But, to get any of these goodies you have to get registered and actually start using the system. Just like the folks below have done.

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Here's how it looks for 2018 thus far:

	Name	Events	Hours
1	James Yoder (w8erw)	59	181.50
2	James Hershberger (KE8ERN)	90	176.75
3	Michael Klaiss (KC8BUJ)	70	166.00
4	Mathew Nickoson (KC8NZJ)	38	158.25
5	Carl Gedeon (KB8VXE)	62	149.25
6	Albert Beal (N8RAK)	32	144.00
7	Ron Hollas (K8RJH)	22	136.25
8	Dan Stahl (KC8PBU)	96	101.38
9	Gary Amato (KB8HTU)	25	97.00
10	Christopher Domenick (KC8CAD)	130	95.05

Don't know where to get started? We have a set of instructions on how to get registered right above the button to enter ARES Connect. I would strongly suggest that if you haven't registered yet, that you read these instructions first. Here's a link to get you started... http://arrl-ohio.org/ares_connect_directions.pdf

Please, don't just hurry through the questions, read them carefully, if you don't understand something, please ask me, I'm here to answer your questions.

We know that you mean well by answering that you do have the needed courses in, but I will let you know that we are verifying what you say you have with what is showing for you in our statewide database when we are completing your registration. So, how can you find out if you are already listed in our statewide database? Easy, here's a link: http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/special/ICS%20Complete%20by%20County%20and%20Name.pdf

HEY..!!!! We need persons that can input events and approve hours into the new ARES Connect system. You do not have to be an E.C. for this, although we'd prefer that they would be willing to step up to that challenge someday. If we could just have some folks willing to do the inputting of events and approve hours for now I'd be eternally grateful.
Counties where this is only a RACES program in place. Please.. this is a great opportunity for you as that we will not interfere with any of the programs that you already have in place. In fact, it will help you in getting those valuable volunteer hours recorded as they have never been before!!!

How's about it? Could you spend a little time just working with ARES Connect? Let me know!!! Again, you do not have to be E.C.'s to do this work in ARES Connect.

We can give you admin privileges so that you can help with logging events into the system, keeping track of hours or even making sure that certificates get to Jim or I for placement into the statewide database.

Here are the counties that we really need help with. ***Fulton; Henry; Mercer; Paulding; Putnam; Adams; Brown; Clermont; Carroll; Athens; Jackson; Meigs; Perry; Pike; Belmont; Harrison; Monroe & Morgan***. This is a great opportunity for anyone that has a little time and is willing to volunteer.

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Incident Command System (ICS) Training Schedule

All current trainings are listed on the Ohio EMA training calendar located at:
https://webeoctraining.dps.ohio.gov/TrainingAndExercise/courselist.aspx

I've been asked to also include a link to the Kentucky EMA training calendar as well..

https://kyem.ky.gov/training/Pages/default.aspx
https://sites.google.com/site/ccoemtraining/home

Please pay particular attention to these courses listed above, as that there's a lot of ICS 300 & 400 classes listed that are very useful for all Amateurs to have under their belts. I will also state that G775 is also a very good course to take as well. These 3 courses are multiple day in class courses, so please be prepared to spend some time taking them.

I would like to remind any of you that are going to take any of the in-class training sessions that you dress appropriately.

Please don't go into these classes with attire that doesn't represent you, and Amateur Radio in the best of light. Remember, you will be in class with fire / police chiefs, mayors, township trustees and a whole host of other government and civil officials that will remember how you represented Amateur Radio while you were in these classes together.

We do recognize that IS-300/400 requires multiple days of actual classroom training that is not easily obtained. So, if you just can't find the time to fit these class room courses in, we do have an alternative method for getting you to Level 3. Completing the following **"FREE"** and **"ONLINE"** courses will act as substitute for you FEMA Leadership Development Course requirements. You absolutely will need to complete all **7** of these courses to get your ICS 300/400 credit. Here are the courses that you need to take: **IS-120, 230, 240, 241, 242, 244 & 288.**

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Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM) Training

This course focuses on auxiliary communications interoperability, the relationship between the COML and the volunteer, emergency operations center (EOC) etiquette, on-the-air etiquette, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules and regulations, auxiliary communications training and planning, and emergency communications deployment. It is intended to supplement and standardize an operator's experience and knowledge of emergency amateur radio communications in a public safety context.

Course Dates: **February 16 – 17, 2019** (One-hour lunch)
Application deadline: **February 2, 2019**
Course Registration Time: **7:30 AM to 8:00 AM** (Day 1)
Time of Course: **8:00 AM to 7:00 PM (Both Days)**
Training Location: Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security
5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
Columbus, OH 43230

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Required Prerequisites:
Required Prerequisites: (IS-100, 200, 700 & 800)
Applicants MUST have completed the following on-line courses from the FEMA/EMI Independent Study (IS) website: https://training.fema.gov/is/crslist.aspx?all=true

1. IS-100, Introduction to the ICS;
2. IS-200, ICS for Single Resources and Initial Incidents;
3. IS-700, National Incident Management System (NIMS), an Introduction;
4. IS-800, National Response Framework (NRF).

Other Required Documentation:
The target audience for this course includes individual that MUST have Personal experience in auxiliary communications and MUST have the following four items and provide documentation to Pam Tickle.

1. An active FCC Amateur Radio License (provide a copy of the license)
2. Documentation of past experience in auxiliary emergency communications (provide documentation via email or letter of your experience)
3. An affiliation with a Public Safety Agency (provide a letter or an email from leadership of the Public Safety Agency that you are associated with indicating your affiliation)
4. A desire to work with COMLs in a NIMS/ICS environment (provide a statement letter or email indicating your interest)

Send the following eight items as a COMPLETE packet to Pam Tickle @ pktickle@franklincountyohio.gov

If you are unable to attend the course, please click on the link below, withdraw yourself by logging in, click on the "Course Catalog", and double click on the course to display the "Course Details" and click "Unenroll" to withdraw from the course. https://trainingcampus.dps.ohio.gov/cm/cm710/pstc/pstc.html

Course Target Audience:
The target audience for this course includes individual that MUST have **Personal experience in auxiliary communications and MUST have the following four item and provide documentation to Pam Tickle.**

1. **An active FCC Amateur Radio License**
2. **Past experience in auxiliary emergency communications**
3. **An affiliation with a public safety agency**
4. **A desire to work with COMLs in a NIMS/ICS environment**

Lodging Information:
Lodging, Meals, Per Diem and all other travel expenses are the responsibility of the student or the parent organization.

Enrollment:
Students must enroll via the Public Safety Training Campus located at the following link. https://trainingcampus.dps.ohio.gov/cm/cm710/pstc/pstc.html and those that have trouble registering should contact Ohio EMA Training at (614)799-3824/3677 for assistance with registration. Please refer to the FY 2018/2019 Ohio EMA Training Catalog or website at http://ema.ohio.gov/Training.aspx for additional information.

State Point of Contact: Lisa Jones, DSC 2, Ohio EMA, SAA Training Point of Contact, ljones@dps.ohio.gov, Office: (614) 799-3824

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Upcoming Hamfests

2019

01/20/2019 | S.C.A.R.F. Hamfest
Location: Nelsonville , OH
Sponsor: Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation
Website: http://www.qrz.com/db/kc8aav

01/27/2019 | TUSCO ARC Hamfest, Electronics & Computer Show
Location: Strasburg, OH
Sponsor: Tusco Amateur Radio Club
Website: http://tuscoarc.org

02/17/2019 | InterCity ARC Hamfest
Location: Mansfield, OH
Sponsor: InterCity Amateur Radio Club
Website: http://www.w8we.org

03/03/2019 | WINTER HAMFEST
Location: Elyria, OH
Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society
Website: http://www.noars.net/hamfests/noarsfest

03/16/2019 | Gallipolis Ohio Hamfest
Location: Gallipolis, OH
Sponsor: Mid-Ohio Valley Amateur Radio Club

V.E. Test Sessions

(from arrl)

12/31/2018 | Dayton OH 45434-6416
Sponsor: DARA
Location: Beavercreek High School
Time: 5:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Learn More

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01/05/2019 | Bryan OH 43506-8410
Sponsor: Williams County ARC
Location: Willliams County 911/EMA
Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Learn More

01/08/2019 | Lancaster OH 43130-3014
Sponsor: Lancaster & Fairfield Cnty ARC
Location: American Red Cross
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Learn More

01/10/2019 | Cuyahoga Falls OH 44221-3205
Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls ARC
Location: Cuyahoga Falls Library
Time: 6:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Learn More

01/10/2019 | Milford OH 45150-1427
Sponsor: Milford ARC
Location: Faith Church
Time: 6:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Learn More

01/12/2019 | Delaware OH 43015-8533
Sponsor: Delaware ARA
Location: American Red Cross
Time: 10:00 AM (No Walk-ins / Call ahead)
Learn More

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01/12/2019 | Maumee OH 43537-1628
Sponsor: Toledo Mobile Radio Assoc
Location: Maumee Fire Station #2
Time: 8:15 AM (No Walk-ins / Call ahead)
Learn More

01/13/2019 | Independence OH 44131-4841
Sponsor: Cuyahoga ARS
Location: Old Elmwood Recreation Center
Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Learn More

01/15/2019 | Sandusky OH 44870-1926
Sponsor: Sandusky, Ohio VE Team
Location: Sandusky Radio Club
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Learn More

01/16/2019 | Dayton OH 45424-3304
Sponsor: Dayton Amt Radio Assoc
Location: Dayton Amt Radio Assoc
Time: 7:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Call ahead)
Learn More

01/19/2019 | Mansfield OH 44907-1502
Sponsor: Inter-City ARC
Location: Peoples Community Center
Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Learn More

01/19/2019 | Lisbon OH 44432-1233
Sponsor: Lisbon Area Amt Radio Assoc
Location: Columbiana County Emergency Management
Time: 1:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Learn More

Special Events

- **02/16/2019 | MVARA 100th Anniversary**

Feb 16-Feb 18, 2300Z-2300Z, W8QLY, Youngstown, OH. Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association. 14.220 7.220 3.922.

Certificate & QSL. MVARA, 125 W McKinley Way, P.O. Box 14141, Youngstown, OH 44512. https://goo.gl/forms/2uNZfO6zRx1YPoWw2 to request your certificate/qsl. www.qrz.com/db/w8qly or www.mvara.org

- **06/15/2019 | W8DXCC DX Convention**

Jun 15-Jun 16, 0000Z-2359Z, K8S, Owensville, OH. SouthWest OH DX Association. 14.245 14.074 7.245 3.535. Certificate & QSL. AJ8B - Bill, 8275 Cierra Way, Waynesville, OH 45068. This is the inaugural year for this DX Convention. We are using these call signs: K8S, K8W, K8O, K8H. A QSL for each and/or certificate for working all four. www.w8dxcc.com

ARRL Contest Corner

December 26

- SKCC Sprint
- Phone Fray
- DARC Christmas Contest
- CWops Mini-CWT Test

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December 27
- CWops Mini-CWT Test

December 28
- NCCC RTTY Sprint
- NCCC Sprint

December 29
- RAC Winter Contest
- Stew Perry Topband Challenge
- Original QRP Contest

December 31
- Bogor Old and New Contest

January 1
- AGB New Year Snowball Contest
- SARTG New Year RTTY Contest
- AGCW Happy New Year Contest
- AGCW VHF/UHF Contest
- QRP ARCI New Years Sprint

January 2
- QRP Fox Hunt
- Phone Fray
- CWops Mini-CWT Test
- UKEICC 80m Contest
- AWA Linc Cundall Memorial CW Contest

January 3
- CWops Mini-CWT Test
- NRAU 10m Activity Contest
- SKCC Sprint Europe

January 4
- NCCC RTTY Sprint
- QRP Fox Hunt
- NCCC Sprint

January 5
- AWA Linc Cundall Memorial CW Contest
- PODXS 070 Club PSKFest
- WW PMC Contest
- RSGB AFS Contest, CW
- **ARRL RTTY Roundup**
- **ARRL Kids Day**
- EUCW 160m Contest

January 6
- EUCW 160m Contest

January 7
- IQRP Quarterly Marathon

January 8
- ARS Spartan Sprint

An expanded, downloadable version of *QST*'s Contest Corral is available as a PDF. Check the sponsor's Web site for information on operating time restrictions and other instructions.

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December is Youngsters on the Air (YOTA) Month

December is Youngsters on the Air Month (**YOTA Month**). Listen for stations on the air with YOTA as the call sign suffix. "The idea for this is to show the Amateur Radio hobby to young people and to encourage youngsters to be active on the amateur bands," said Tomi Varro, HA9T.

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"This is a great moment to show Amateur Radio to the world and to invite newcomers."

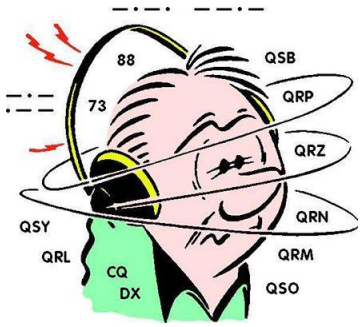
YOTA is primarily an International Amateur Radio Union (**IARU**) Region 1 (Europe and Africa) activity, but youngsters from the US in Region 2 (the Americas) have attended YOTA summer camps, which are held in a different country each year. Varro said both licensed and unlicensed youth will be making contacts. "Be helpful on the bands — maybe these young operators are just making their first ever contacts," he advised.

YOTA stations are, in general, operated by individuals 25 or younger. The operating event takes place for the entire month of December UTC.

As part of YOTA month, Bob Johnson, W9XY, and Ken Claerbout, K4ZW, will travel to Ethiopia to team up with the club at the Addis Ababa University, Institute of Technology and club station ET3AA. For more updates, visit YOTA's **Facebook page**.

DX This Week

(from Bill, AJ8B)



Bill AJ8B (aj8b@arrl.net, @AJ8B, www.aj8b.com or www.swodxa.org)

Uncle Frank and I were chatting on 40 meters about applications of technology that we felt have impacted ham radio. Frank and I agreed that Software Defined Radios (SDRs) and new digital modes such as FT8 were at the top of the list. One of the applications that I would add to that list is DXA. You may not have heard of DXA, but, at least for me, it has really made an impact.

There are a couple of events that really stick out for me when it comes to DXCC and "chasing paper". In the 1970s I worked a station in Vietnam which would have been my final zone for WAZ CW as well as a "New One".

After waiting 9 months for the return QSL card (no LoTW!), I instead received the dreaded "Not In Log." By the time I had received this notice propagation had changed, the DXPedition was over, and I had no chance to work that group again. (I still don't have 3W confirmed!)

In the 80s, I worked an 8Q7 in the Maldives. Months later, I learned that he had copied me as AJ8D and I could not confirm that QSO.

To allow as many QSOs as possible for the DXPeditions or remote stations, the general policy had been that you work the station ONCE and you don't make "insurance" QSOs. (Same mode/Same band) In fact, it was not uncommon for stations to be taken out of the log if they were trying to gather too many insurance contacts.

(The following is a mixture of my own observations, explanation and content provided by Bob, KK6EK and Peter, W6OP. My thanks to them for allowing me to reprint/cut/paste/plagiarize!)

What is DXA you ask? DXA allows anyone with an ordinary browser anywhere to see updates about DXPedition activities, particularly the radio log, in nearly real time. For instance, within 60 seconds of your contact with VP6D, the browser page is automatically updated to show your callsign at your location, and confirmation of your contact in the log.

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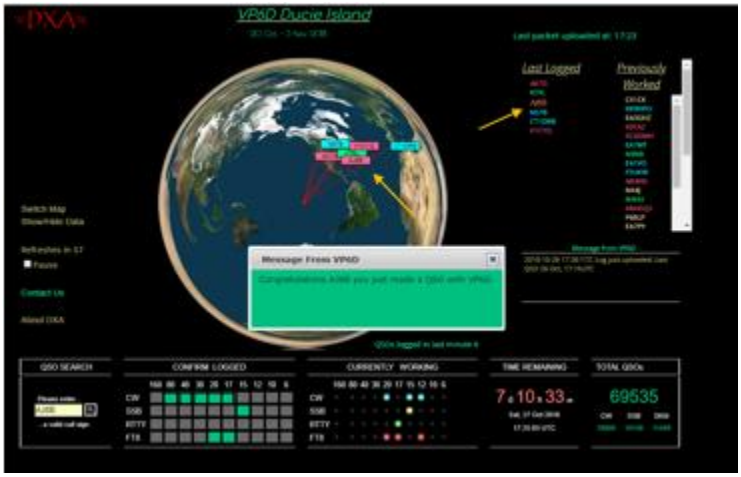
Figure 1 shows the DXA screen right after I worked VP6D. You will notice several things. The first is the pop up that indicates that I did indeed did just make a QSO with VP6D. The second thing to notice is that your call sign appears in the "Last Logged" column as well as on a tagged field on the globe. This will give you an instant idea of who they are working and how propagation is carrying signals that the DX station.



There are three other areas of interesting data on this web page. The first is a personal score card or the "Confirmed Logged" area. This grid in the lower left shows what bands and modes I have confirmed with VP6D. The second area is the "Currently Working" area.

This grid shows what stations are active on what bands and modes from VP6D. Finally, the "Total QSOs" area gives a breakdown of what the DXPedition has accomplished to date.

A more detailed explanation of DXA follows:

"What is DXA?
(W6OP and KK6EK)

DXA (http://www.cordell.org/DXA/) was conceived by Robert Schmieder KK6EK prior to the K7C Kure Atoll DXPedition in 2005. While the original DXA worked well it suffered from some serious performance issues when large numbers of users were watching the K7C activity.

After K7C, Robert asked for help in enhancing DXA and I met him in Visalia at the DX Conference. We discussed how DXA could be enhanced and what role I could play in it.

Rather than abandoning the original version of DXA I decided to enhance it with more modern technology. Where the original version required a page refresh once per minute for updates and used a lot of server side php code, DXA Version 2 uses client-side JavaScript and just makes a query to a web server for the updated QSO information it needs. Then in the web browser we update only those pieces of the web page that we need to.

The DXA system consist of three main pieces, the DXA Console, the Collector and a web/ftp server. And of course, the web browser the person monitoring DXA to see if they made a QSO is using. You can watch a demo of it in operation. This is still in development so sometimes it may be static and other times there may be activity.

The DXA Console is a Microsoft Windows program that runs on a PC at the DXPedition site. Once every minute it reads the DXPedition log. For N1MM Logger Plus the Console can read the log directly. Once the Console reads all the new QSOs made in the last minute it creates a packet and compresses it. Then through the satellite link it opens an ftp session and uploads the file to a server. The DXA Console can also be used to upload messages that will appear on the DXA web site. Photos and other types of files may also be uploaded if the DXPedition wishes. The Console display shows the operators the network status and a list of QSOs that have been uploaded. If the satellite link goes down for a while, the Console will keep running and when the link is back up upload all waiting packets.

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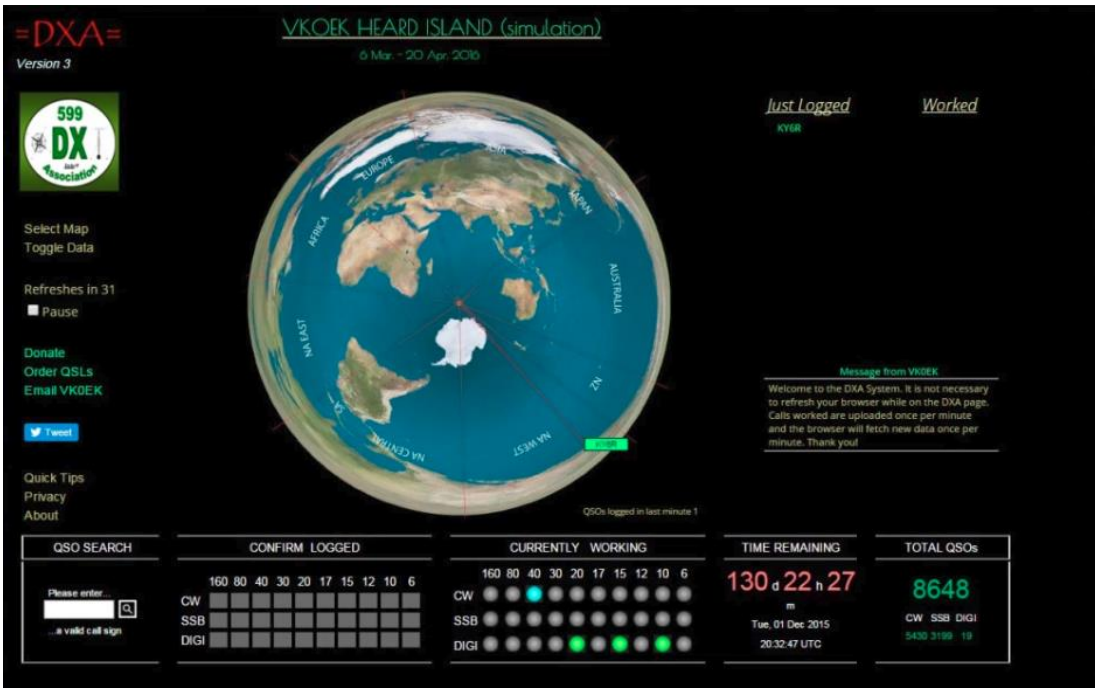
When files are uploaded is when the Collector starts its work. The Collector, running on a virtual server in AWS, monitors the ftp server and when a new file is uploaded it looks at the file and decides what to do next. If the file is a message or photo it moves the file to other folders, so they can be processed. If the file is a QSO packet, the Collector will open the packet and add latitude and longitude information for each call sign in the packet. Then the QSO packet is moved to the folder the DXA web page looks in. The Collector has a local database where it keeps a copy of all the QSOs and synchronizes that with a remote database so when a user enters their call on the DXA website it lets them know what QSOs they have already made. The Collector also does a little more housekeeping as needed.



The DXA web page itself is standard, html and JavaScript. Browser requirements are current versions of IE/Edge, Firefox, Safari and Chrome, other versions may or may not work correctly. Once the page is loaded in your browser it isn't necessary to refresh the page. Once every minute the browser makes a small and quick background request to the web server to get a new QSO file. Then it updates all the various pieces such as the current and previous QSO lists and what bands are currently being worked. If you have entered your call sign in the search field it will light up the band slot you worked and highlight your call sign in the currently worked list. It will also show a congratulations message.

What will I learn by watching DXA?

By watching DXA, you will get confirmation of your QSO within 2 minutes after making it, and you will be able to confirm your previous QSOs. You will see the logging activity of the DXpedition, so you will get a sense of the rotation of propagation around the world. You will see the bands and modes the operators are using in real time. You will be able to zoom the map to any location and watch the QSOs being made in that area. You will see messages that may provide specific information of value to you and your colleagues. You will be able to click on a link to send an email to the team on the island. You will see how much time remains before the DXpedition goes QRT. And you will be able to click on a link to request your QSL cards. All this comes on a single web page that needs no installation, no software, in fact no interaction at all. Just watch it. But we'll bet that once you start, you won't be able to take your eyes off it!

Where can I learn more about DXA?

A complete description of DXA is provided by the book DXA: The Real-time Online Radio Log Server, by Robert W. Schmieder, KK6EK. You can order a copy ($25 ppd) from Cordell Expeditions."

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I purchased this book and found it a fascinating read. I don't think that the impact of this application has really been fully appreciated by the DXing Community and I hope that changes over time. I had a chance to spend time with KK6EK at the SWODXA DXDinner a few years ago and really enjoyed our chat. Two things struck me in my conversation with Bob. The first was his passion for DX and helping DXers. Bob has some great ideas on how to improve DXA. The second thing that I came away with was Bob's appreciation for the destination sites he has been lucky enough to operate from. He combines DXing and environmental study in a way that I had never seen before. I am sure that DXpeditions that Bob has been a part of have benefited from his interest in studying the "flora and fauna" at remote island locations. He also covers this in his books.

There was some discussion in the DXing community about the impact of DXA and whether it was considered "legal" by the DXCC desk. Below is information about this:

DXA and the ARRL Policy on Real-time Log Posting

The development and use of DXA on the 2005 Kure DXpedition K7C led to considerable controversy and not a little conflict between DXers, DXPeditioners, and the ARRL.

As a result of the K7C operation, in 2006 the ARRL took a position against exposure of all 5 elements of a QSO on public media such as website. However, in 2008 this policy was rescinded as being "unenforceable." Thus, there is no prohibition against exposing logs using real-time websites such as DXA. (http://www.cordell.org/DXA/DXA_documents/DXA_ARRL_policy_2008.html)

Ironically, as the ARRL was posting information about the then upcoming VP6D, Ducie Island DXPedition, they announced on the ARRL website that "VP6D Ducie Island 2018 DXpedition to Offer Near Real-Time Contact Posting." (http://www.arrl.org/news/vp6d-ducie-island-2018-dxpedition-to-offer-near-real-time-contact-posting)

From our friend at the DailyDX and the WeeklyDX, (http://www.dailydx.com/) Bernie has this to report:

- **3Y – Bouvet Island -** N0UN, Wayne has posted info on several sources for info on the upcoming 3Y0I expedition: https://www.rebeldxgroup.com, Twitter, https://twitter.com/rebeldxgroup and Facebook https://www.facebook.com/rebeldxgroup/ . When team member SP8S had an internet connection, there was this one too: https://bouvetoya.org/ . N0UN says many questions on 3Y0I will be answered soon, so "stay tuned."

- **VP6 - Pitcairn Island -** This one is scheduled for the last two weeks of October 2019 and here is their website: https://pitcairndx.com. Six of the prospective operators spent a weekend in Peoria, Illinois doing preliminary "staging" of the gear. This included unloading the sea container that almost made it to Bouvet in that attempt this year. The gear was sorted and decisions were made on what would be swapped out, etc. In that work party were N4GRN, K9CT, W0GJ, N9TK, W8HC and K0IR. They will get together for a re-check of those decisions and packing after the Dayton HamVention in May. This time it is going into a smaller 20-foot sea container, which will be shipped ahead to New Zealand in June to be put aboard the Braveheart in August.
- **A2 & V5 – Botswana & Namibia -** ZS1KM, Carl, will be in Namibia with the V51KM callsignand A25KM from Botswana, between now and mid-January, mostly SSB with "some digital modes," 80, 40 and 20. QSL to his ZS1KM QTH.

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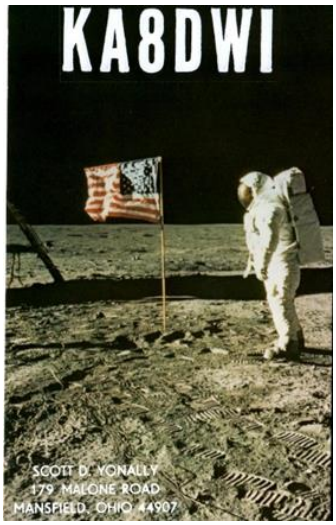
- **S7 – Seychelles -** OE6MBG, Mike, will be operating S79AA holiday style for 4 weeks from Mahe. The dates are January 5 to February 2 with two weeks in Baie Lazare and two more from Anse Boileau. He'll be on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and possibly 6 meters. He will be on CW and SSB. Each location will warrant antenna mounting, but he hopes to concentrate on the low bands. He'll have a KX3 and Juma 1000 amplifier capable of putting out 400 watts with an "assortment of wires", verticals and possibly a beam for the higher bands. QSL via OQRS and LoTW.

A more detailed calendar can be found at http://www.dailydx.com/the-daily-dx-calendar/

More info can be found at www.swodxa.org or www.aj8b.com

ARLD052 DX news



This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by The Daily DX, the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

ISRAEL, 4X. Members of the Israel Amateur Radio Club will be QRV with special event call 4X19HNY from December 24 to 28. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

GHANA, 9G. Matt, IZ4YGS is QRV as 9G5GS from Sanzule, West Takoradi. Activity is on various HF bands. His length of stay is unknown. QSL direct to home call.

QATAR, A7. Matteau, IW1GBV is QRV as A75GP. He is active from various locations using QRP power. QSL via operator's instructions.

MADEIRA ISLAND, CT3. Georg, NZ1C is QRV as CT9/NZ1C from Santana, IOTA AF-014, until December 25. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 10 meters with a focus on CW and FT8, along with some SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL via DD5ZZ.

NEW CALEDONIA, FK. Phil, F6OBD is QRV as FK/F6OBD until February 10, 2019. Activity is on the HF bands using only digital modes. QSL to home call.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA, HL. Operators Song, DS3EXX and Son, DS3HWS will be QRV as DS3EXX/4 and DS3HWS/4, respectively, from Shin Ji Island, IOTA AS-060, from December 22 to 24. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and FT8. QSL via DS3EXX.

THAILAND, HS. Brad, VK2BY is QRV as HS0ZNR until January 18. QSL via operator's instructions.

AUSTRIA, OE. Members of the maritime radio club Marine Funker Club Austria are QRV with special call OE120MF until December 23 to commemorate the first ship to ship radio contact between SMS Budapest and SMS Lussin. QSL via OE6XMF.

ANTARCTICA. Alex, RD1AV will be QRV as RI1ANV from Vostok Station, IOTA AN-016, from December 25 to mid-February, 2019. QSL via RN1ON.

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BELIZE, V3. Paul, VE3AXT is QRV as V31AX from Corozal through mid May 2019. QSL via M0URX.

AUSTRALIA, VK. Members of the Moorabbin and District Radio Club are QRV with special call VI70MDRC until February 28, 2019 to commemorate its 70th anniversary year. Activity is on 160 meters to 23 centimeters using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. QSL via operators' instructions.

MACQUARIE ISLAND, VK0. Norbert, VK5MQ is QRV as VK0AI until March 2019. Activity is on the HF bands. Of late, he has been active on 40 and 20 meters using FT8 at various times. QSL direct to home call.

VANUATU, YJ. Daniel, VK4AFU will be QRV as YJ0AFU from Esnaar, IOTA OC-035, from December 25 to January 1, 2019, and then from Iririki Island, IOTA OC-035, from January 1 to 19. Activity will be on the HF bands using mostly FT8 with some CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

SOUTH SUDAN, Z8. Diya, YI1DZ is QRV as Z81D from Juba and is here for the next six months. Activity is in is spare time on 80 to 10 meters using SSB and various digital modes. QSL via OM3JW.

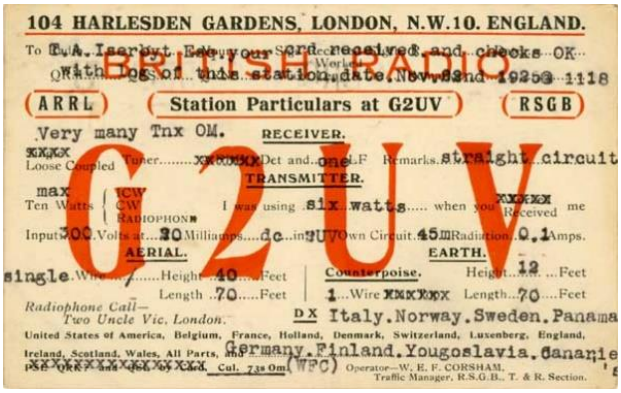
THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, AGB-Party Contest, Gedebage CW Contest and RAEM CW Contest are all on tap for this weekend.

The DARC Christmas Contest, CWops Mini-CWT Test, Phone Fray and SKCC CW Sprint are scheduled for December 26.

Youth On The Air runs during all of December. The ARRL International Grid Chase runs during all of 2018. Please see December QST, page 70, and the ARRL and WA7BNM Contest Web Sites for details.

You've Got Cards – Waiting

Hey Gang, here's a new department for you to keep an eye on. Yes, it's about QSL Cards without owners. Why without owners? The card sorters have the cards waiting, but they don't have a way to get these cards to their owners.



Now, if your call sign is listed here **(and I do recognize some of these call signs!!)** or you know how to contact any of the folks listed, please let them know that they have QSL cards waiting for them, and that they will need to contact the appropriate card sorter to find out how to get their cards sent to them.

Don't send anything to them until you've had a chance to contact them first and find out just what you need to do.

Here's some folks from the **"8V'** call signs that have cards waiting…

AK8V, KG8V, KR8V, KU8V, NA8V, NC8V, NV8V, NW8V, W8VCI, KB8VCV, KE8VC, N8VFJ, W8VHO, W8VI, AA8VL, WD8VN, W8VRT, WB8VWO, N8VW, N8VY, W8VKO, WA8VA

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If you know any of these folks be sure to let them know that they have cards waiting for them. Contact Glenn, AF8C, 8th area bureau "8V' letter manager at: af8c@alumni.caltech.edu

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Here's some folks from the **"8E'** call signs that have cards waiting…

N8EDE, KB8EDC, WV8EER, KE8EFQ, WA8EHO, K8EID, AC8EM, KB8EMD, WD8EMI, KE8ENC, KE8ENO, KE8ERH, KE8ERN, KC8ERX, KE8ESJ, KC8ESG, W8ETA, KE8ETI, KB8ETK, NA8EU, K8EV, W8EVJ, KE8EVO, KE8EV, KE8EWI, WA8EWN, KE8EW, WB8EYE, KE8EYQ

If you know any of these folks be sure to let them know that they have cards waiting for them. Contact Bob, W8ERD, 8th area bureau "8E" letter manager at: w8erdbob@gmail.com

Here's some folks from the"**8T**' call signs that have cards waiting…

K8TA, N8TAH, WB8TCB, KD8TEH, AE8TF, WB8TFW, K8TGR, KD8TNC, K8TPH, KD8TVB

Here's some folks from the"**8W**' call signs that have cards waiting…

N8WAV, KD8WAK, WB8WBN, K8WCP, K8WGA, KD8WKR, W8WLK, K8WN, WV8WVS, AB8WW, NN8W, AD8W, AG8W, WB8WY

If you know any of these folks be sure to let them know that they have cards waiting for them. Contact Peter Greene, N8WGE, 8th area bureau "8T & W" letter manager at: transitbear@hotmail.com

Don't know who to contact for your cards? Here's a link…
http://arrl-greatlakes.org/8th_bureau.htm Remember, it goes by your first letter of your suffix call sign.

The card sorters would also like me to remind everyone that this is the "Incoming" QSL Card Bureau. ALL "Outgoing" cards (cards that you send) go to the main card sorting area at ARRL Headquarters. Here's a link for the details on how to do that… http://www.arrl.org/outgoing-qsl-service

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WPX Puzzle

(from Anthony, K8ZT)

Each answer is a possible callsign. For numbers in callsigns we will use a combination of visual appearance and "cut numbers" as used in contesting where: 1 = I , 5 = S, 9 = N and 0 = O. Clues also contain hints to location of the callsigns. So K1LT would be KILT and PI9CH would be PINCH.

Please note some callsigns although possible under international allocations may not have been actually issued by countries. Also, although some callsigns may actually be in use no clues are meant to reflect on any characteristic of the actual holders of these calls.

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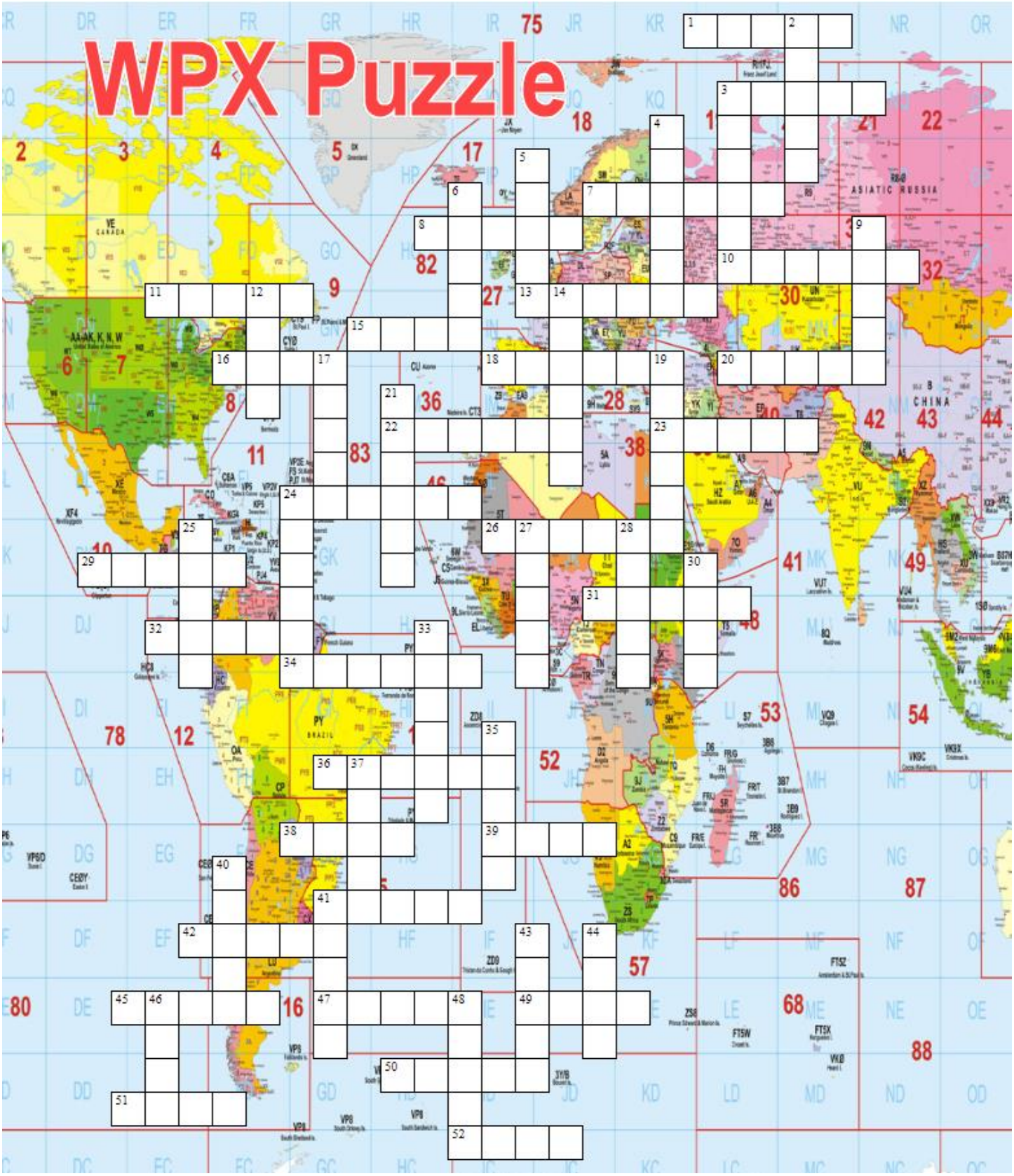

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Clues

ACROSS	DOWN
1. Planet rising in Canadian morning sky 3. Smug, conceited smile in Scandinavia 7. They struck gold in Northern Ireland 8. Citizens of Brussels call it Belgian _____ Soup, not French! 10. Carole King wrote "Way over _____ is a place that I know" but I am sure it is not in this historical home of Count Dracula 11. Colorless, dense, odorless noble gas with atomic number 54 13. Works with Spanish writers and publishers 15. Amusingly, unconventional and idiosyncratic in the Balkans 16. Used to swab decks of H.M.S 18. ____ __ Picked up the bar tab in Amsterdam 20. The way out of Kyrgyzstan 22. If you cannot get to Beijing by 8/00 make sure you are there... 23. Croatian child care provider 24. Food for midwest squirrels 26. _____ raised in song in Newfoundland 29. Heep's concert tickets in Kiev were a Dickens to get. 31. You stayed before but you must... 32. To noisily chomp or snack in Belfast 34. Dorothy and the Lion's travel companion to Cocos Island 36. Server in US 38. Ancient city not really in Gabon but in today's Turkey 39. Inductor in Caribbean 41. US pennies at the south pole. 42. Under the moon in Buenos Aires 45. Rush bamboo to Antwerp, the zoo just got a ... 47. _____ Lauper just wanted to have fun on her DXpedition to St. Paul Island 49. Vilnius is at far western range of this animal, the Eurasian _____ 50. The Roman God of Beginnings and Endings started his day in the "Land of the Rising Sun" 51. Sleight of _____ in Budapest 52. Howling in USA	2. Labor Group in Kazakhstan 3. Lightening, thunder and rain in Juba 4. Spotting the coast the Viking yelled... 5. Bob came up from London to visit Scotland to see this large elk species that has recently been reintroduced after 1000 years of absence 6. Polish winter weather forecast 9. Center for the Environmental Implications of NanoTechnology in South America 12. Nordic islanders might say ____ when they've made a mistake 14. Rotary phone user in Berlin 17. Loud boom from fast Polish airplane 19. Unauthorized “sexy” wall decorations in barracks of Royal Netherlands Army 21. Beginning of an English barb's question 24. During winter in Fairbanks you will probably need _____ to read by 25. Although it snows a lot in Petrozavodsk, sometimes it ... 27. Danish atmospheric component 28. The Qajar dynasty of the late Persian Empire, was an _____ which lasted from 1781 to 1925 30. He had _____ memories of Tiki Bars although they were not accurate depictions of Pacific cultures. 33. Excessive pride in or admiration of one's own hockey skills 35. And you roll in Rome 37. Work of a US Comedian 40. Low SOITA in North Cumbria 41. A painful stiff feeling in the neck while crossing the Atlantic 43. Clothes for Scottish American men 44. Canadian overlapping diagram 46. Even Princess _____ would not have found Bahrain Frozen 48. “_ ____ What You Did Last Summer” in Italy

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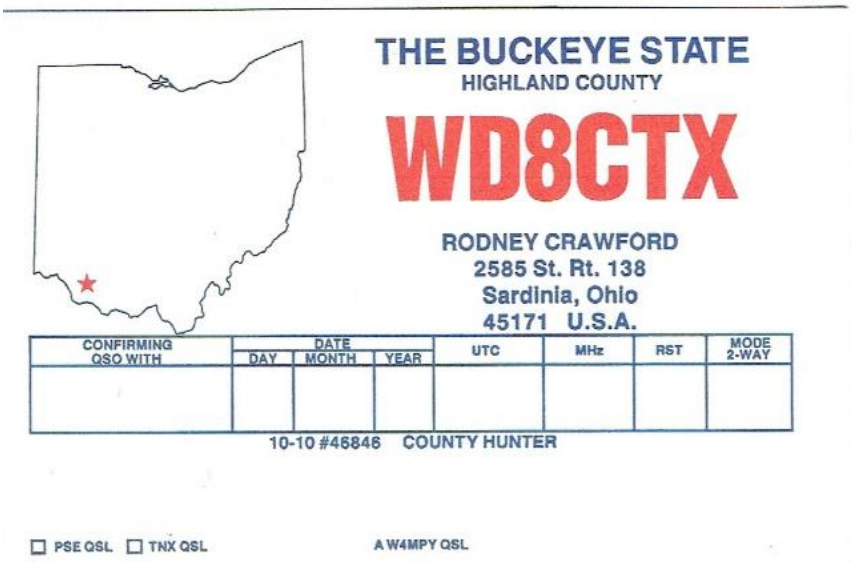
Want to see the answers to this quiz? You'll have to go to the last page to see it. I didn't want you to have it too easy! Here's a link to help you.. >> Puzzle Answers <<

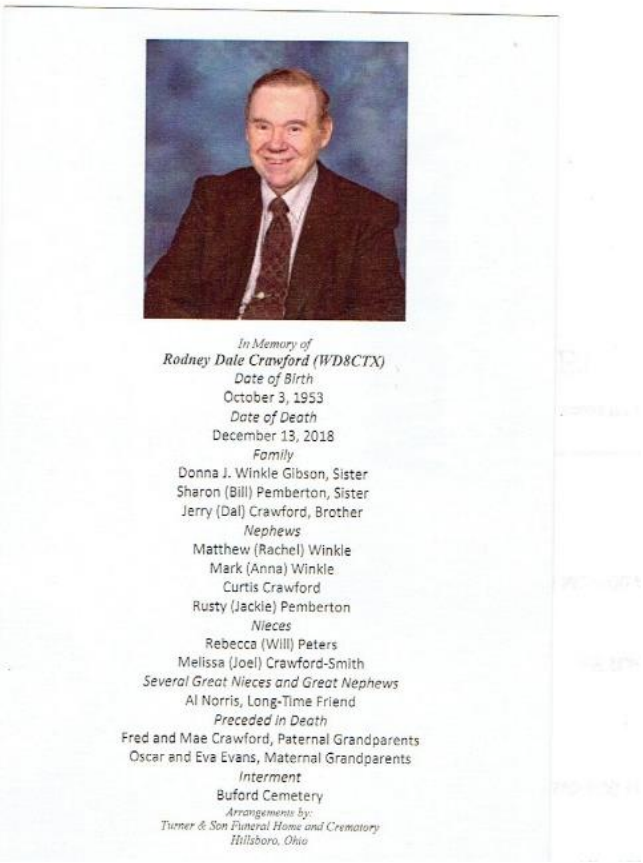
A Bit Unusual, BUT Original For Sure

(from John Levo, W8KIW)



Recently Rodney Crawford, WD8CTX became a Silent Key and his sister Donna wanted to honor him by displaying his awards and other ham radio items during his calling hours. While going through Rodney's things that he had collected, she found a large stock of his QSL cards. Instead of just tossing them out she wondered if they could be used as the Memorial Card that one can take after signing the visitation book. They were blank on the reverse side so the funeral director agreed to use them and print arrangements on the blank side.

It was also noticed that Rodney was buried not only with his call sign badge, but with a microphone in his hand.



In Memory of
Rodney Dale Crawford (WD8CTX)
Date of Birth
October 3, 1953
Date of Death
December 13, 2018
Family
Donna J. Winkle Gibson, Sister
Sharon (Bill) Pemberton, Sister
Jerry (Dal) Crawford, Brother
Nephews
Matthew (Rachel) Winkle
Mark (Anna) Winkle
Curtis Crawford
Rusty (Jackie) Pemberton
Nieces
Rebecca (Will) Peters
Melissa (Joel) Crawford-Smith
Several Great Nieces and Great Nephews
Al Norris, Long-Time Friend
Preceded in Death
Fred and Mae Crawford, Paternal Grandparents
Oscar and Eva Evans, Maternal Grandparents
Interment
Buford Cemetery
Arrangements by:
Turner & Son Funeral Home and Crematory
Hillsboro, Ohio

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Weather Underground and Ham Weather Stations

Have you visited the webpage to see all the Weather Underground stations yet? It's really fun to see just how much the weather varies across the state and this gives you access to each individual station very quickly and easily.

It seems that our list of stations is growing every week, and again this week is no exception. I've added another station to the list! Here's a link to it… http://arrl-ohio.org/wus.html

We're starting to get a really good collection of stations all over. I know that there is a lot more than what we have listed. How's about sharing your weather information with all of us! All that you need to do is send me your Weather Underground ID and your call sign and I'll take it from there. Sent it to: n8sy@n8sy.com

Final.. Final..

Hey Gang...

This past week has been another one of those wild and crazy times around here. Christmas is tomorrow and there's really no more time to try to get those things done that needed to be done before Christmas!

New update on the Yonally lighting campaign. I got another phone call this past week, this time from the electric company (AEP). They have seen such a spike in usage from our house that they are now looking into changing us from residential to commercial. Oh boy, I can just see that bill in January! When I explained to them that the added usage was just from a few Christmas lights, it took over a half hour to get them to quit laughing so hard that they couldn't talk. Then they insisted on having one of their representatives come out and look for themselves. Now, you gotta' wonder what they will think when they get here!

Pictured is me presenting their Club President James Shaw, AB8P with the certificate.

Oh well, nuff on that subject, let's turn the band selector to 75-meters and see who's on tonight!

This past Friday I had the privilege of celebrating with the Cambridge Amateur Radio Association (CARA) on their 105th.. Yes folks - 105 years. It was really great, and I had a blast. There were lots of awards given out for a number of club activities. I also gave out the coveted Ohio Section "Special Recognition Award" to CARA for being one of the oldest clubs in America

Have you really taken a good look at the article about finding those persons that have QSL cards waiting to be delivered to them, but their card sorter doesn't have the proper postage, or address for them to get delivered to them? From what I hear there have been a few folks actually discover that they had cards waiting for them. If you just brushed over this article, please, go back and take a look at all of the call signs listed. I'll bet you'll find a call sign or two there that you recognize. If you do see someone's call sign that you know, do him/her a huge favor and let them know about this article.

Look, someone took the dive into the world of DX and made a contact with someone, that's fantastic! Now, having the card to prove it is even better!

Moving down the band a bit – down to the 80-meter portion... We recently had an update performed on our website server. It took us a bit, but we got the One Question Questionnaire back on-line and working as good as ever. Have you taken the dip and answered the latest question?

Let's switch bands and go to 40-meters… Club Newsletter Editors… I want to make sure that you know that the annual Ohio Section Newsletter Contest will be starting back up in January, just a few short weeks away! If your January newsletter gets mailed out in December, like many do, make sure that John Ross, KD8IDJ and I are on your mailing list to get it. Want more information about the Newsletter Contest? Click on this link.. http://arrl-ohio.org/pic_page/pic.html Even if your newsletter is web based, send us the link!!

I didn't get much of a chance this week to do any design work on the new ham shack since it has been so busy around here, but I will get to it soon for sure.

This past Friday was Winter Solstice and that means that we are now on the uphill side of the days getting longer. Let's hope that we have an easy winter. We can use it!

Have you noticed the Ohio Section webpage looking a bit different lately? I've been working on getting it a little fancier and hopefully easier to use. I've updated many of the pages. So, if you haven't looked around for a while, I would suggest that you do. You might just be surprised at what you'll see!

We also have some updates on a couple of Code Plugs. Daniel, KB8LKH has once again updated his AT-D868UV and CS-800D Code Plugs with the new repeaters in them. Yes, we have several new repeaters that have come up in the past several weeks. We also have an update from Greg, WD9FTZ on the DMR Nets. This update includes the FT8 DMR Net on Saturdays from 1700 to 1800 zulu.

Now, for those of you wanting a copy of the "Twas The Ham Radio Night Before Christmas" I have a copy of it on the website. Go to: http://arrl-ohio.org/twas.html

Whelp… That's going to do it for this time around. Stay safe, and most of all… have FUN!!

From Janie and I have a very Merry Christmas and a FANTASTIC New Year!

Scott, N8SY

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Back Issues of the PostScript and Ohio Section Journal (OSJ)

Hey, did you know that PostScript and Ohio Section Journal (OSJ) are archived on the website? You can go back and look at any edition simply by clicking: http://arrl-ohio.org/news/index.html

Chit – Chat, and All That!

Do you 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.

We now have many thousands of readers receiving these newsletters weekly. Quite impressive, I'd say! I urge all of you to make sure that everyone, regardless of whether they are a League member or not, get signed up to receive these weekly Newsletters.

You can always "Opt-Out" at any time if you feel this is not what you were expecting. It's fun and very informative. All of your favorite past newsletters are now archived too. You can go back at any time and read them. Just go to: http://arrl-ohio.org/news/

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

The pictures on the front page are from various newsletters, Facebook posts and/or were sent directly to me in recent weeks. Take a good look at them, you just might be in one of the pictures! "SMILE… you're on the Ohio Section News!!"

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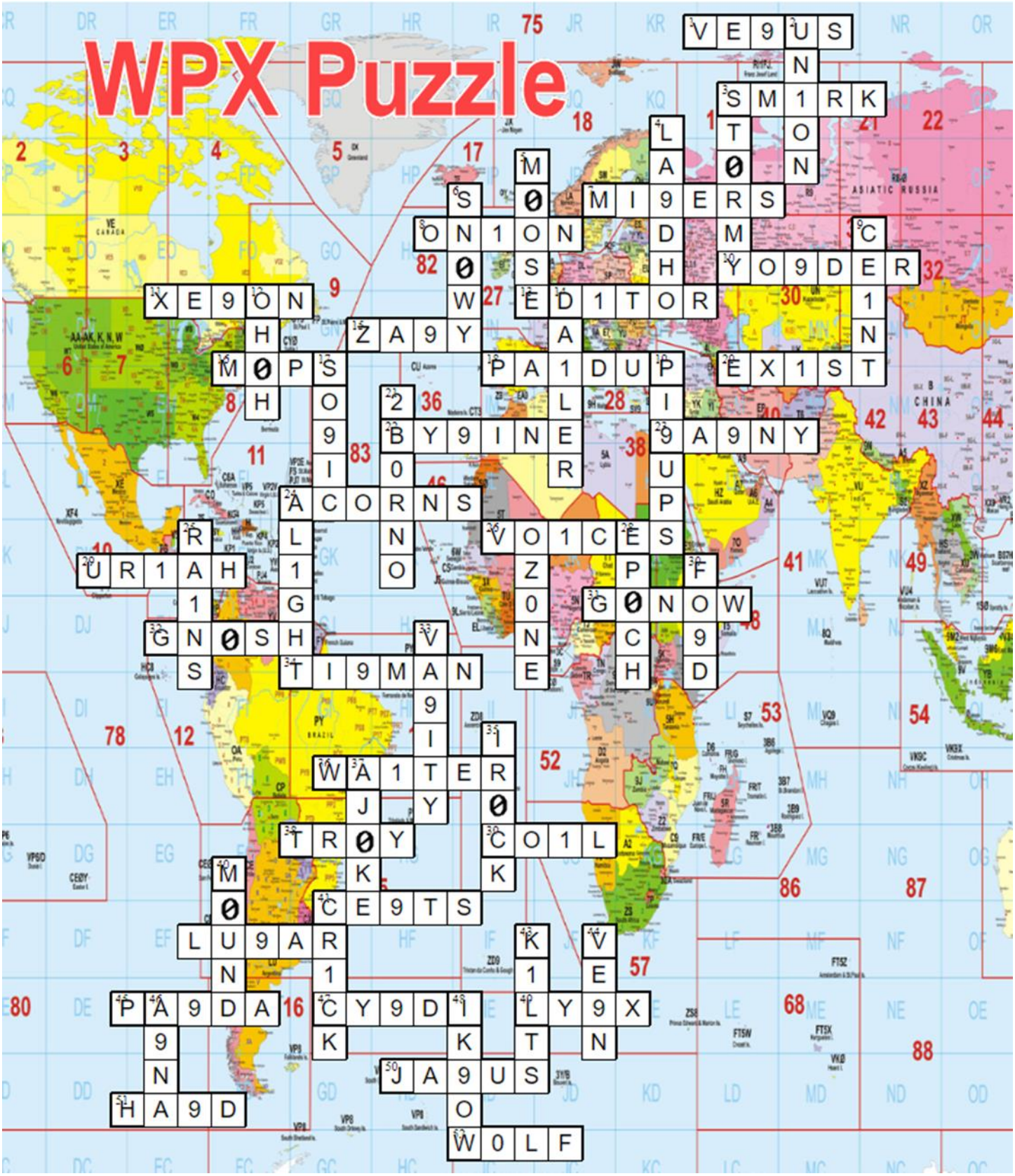
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