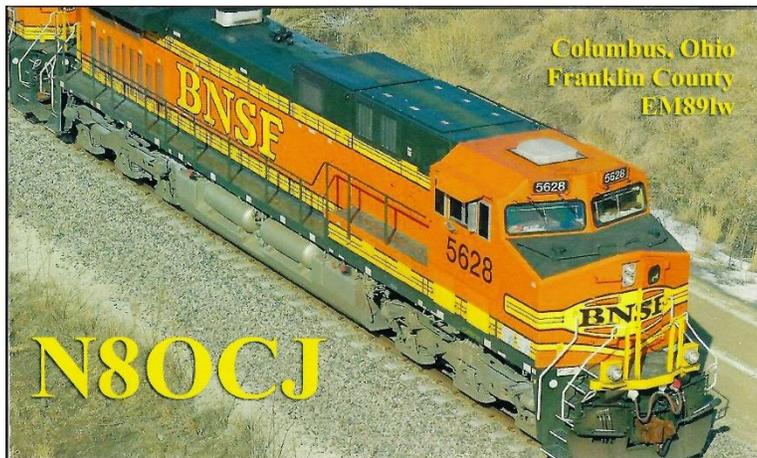
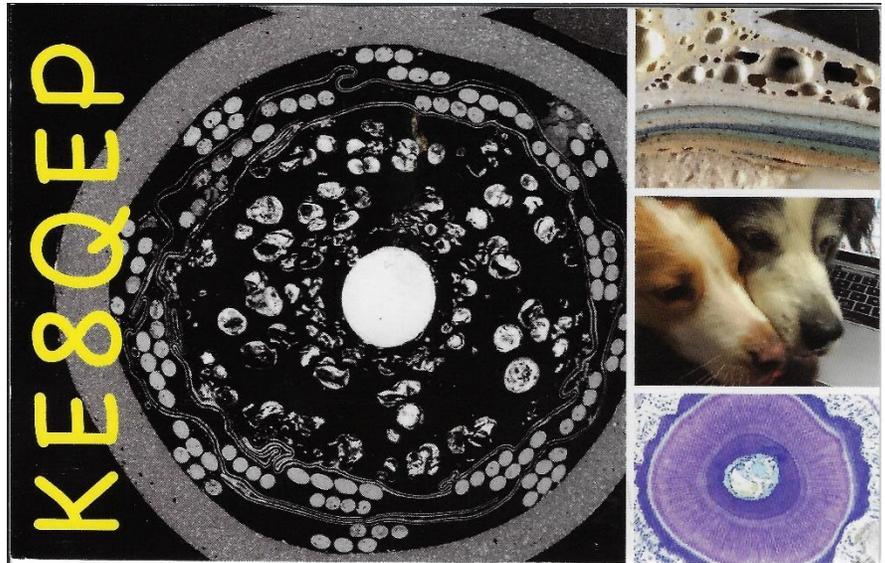




April Edition

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From the Technical Coordinator

Jeff Kopcak – K8JTK TC

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Hey gang,

KA6LMS Special Event - Going QRT with a bang! ... most certainly lived up to the name. Last Man Standing is a television sitcom starring Tim Allen. Tim plays Mike Baxter, a married father of three daughters and grandfather to a grandson. His character is an executive for a chain of sporting goods stores called “Outdoor Man.” John Amodeo – AA6JA is the producer of the show. As John tells the story, when the character of Mike Baxter was being developed, an aspect to this character was the ability to live “off the grid” in addition to fishing, hunting, and camping. John, being a licensed ham radio operator, proposed the idea of using ham radio to fill part of the character profile, and it was ultimately included in parts of the show.



This led to the factitious callsign for Mike, KA0XTT. The XTT was a throwback to one Tim’s former shows “Home Improvement” being formally (or ex) Tim Taylor, XTT. A small number of episodes included ham radio plots. Though shots of radio gear, QSL cards, and ARRL books are seen in the background of Mike’s office in nearly every episode. Ham gear seen in his office was fully functional according to Amodeo. Also seen on occasion was a setup in his basement and it was the focus of one episode.

Featuring ham radio on the show lead to interest and resulted in a number of cast and crew members becoming licensed hams, including Tim Allen and Jet Jurgensmeyer - who was the second cast member to play Boyd on the show. I heard recently that Tim plans to use ham radio as backup communications in case of emergency between properties he owns. I can’t imagine Tim getting on the air and not causing a pile-up! With all those



licensed operators, a club was formed by the cast and crew called the Last Man Standing ARC, KA6LMS. The show was originally carried on ABC starting October of 2011. Then unceremoniously canceled after six seasons despite being one of the highest rated shows on the network. ABC said it didn’t want to pick up the production costs but many believe it was canceled because – well, Mike Baxter was right leaning politically, the media’s least favorite candidate just became president. You put 2 and 2 together. The show returned in 2018 on Fox, where it ran for three more seasons and is scheduled to end its nine-season run on May 20, 2021. Unfortunately, in the transition, many cast members signed onto other projects and a good number of cast members were replaced or given recurring roles.

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There were many criticisms by hams about the show including the lack of ham radio themed episodes. Episodes that featured ham radio came with complaints: ‘they were illegally transmitting and not identifying correctly.’ I love it that hams think ham radio appeals to everyone and that the world revolves around ham radio. When you talk TV shows it’s all about ratings – how many people are watching your show? To have a couple million viewers per episode is not going to cut it. There are not even a million licensed hams in the United States. The producers need to appeal to wider audiences of about 7 million viewers, otherwise there wouldn’t be any show at all. I’m thankful for the publicity we did receive. Want to make a prime-time TV show on a major network about ham radio? Do it. Let me know how that works out for you. Over the years, AA6JA made many appearances on podcasts promoting the show, letting the ham radio community know the show loves ham radio and the ham community let him know we loved the show. For the many years of support, John wanted to do something special for hams as the show is winding down its final season. His idea became one of the biggest special events that many have ever seen and certainly the biggest where I had been involved.

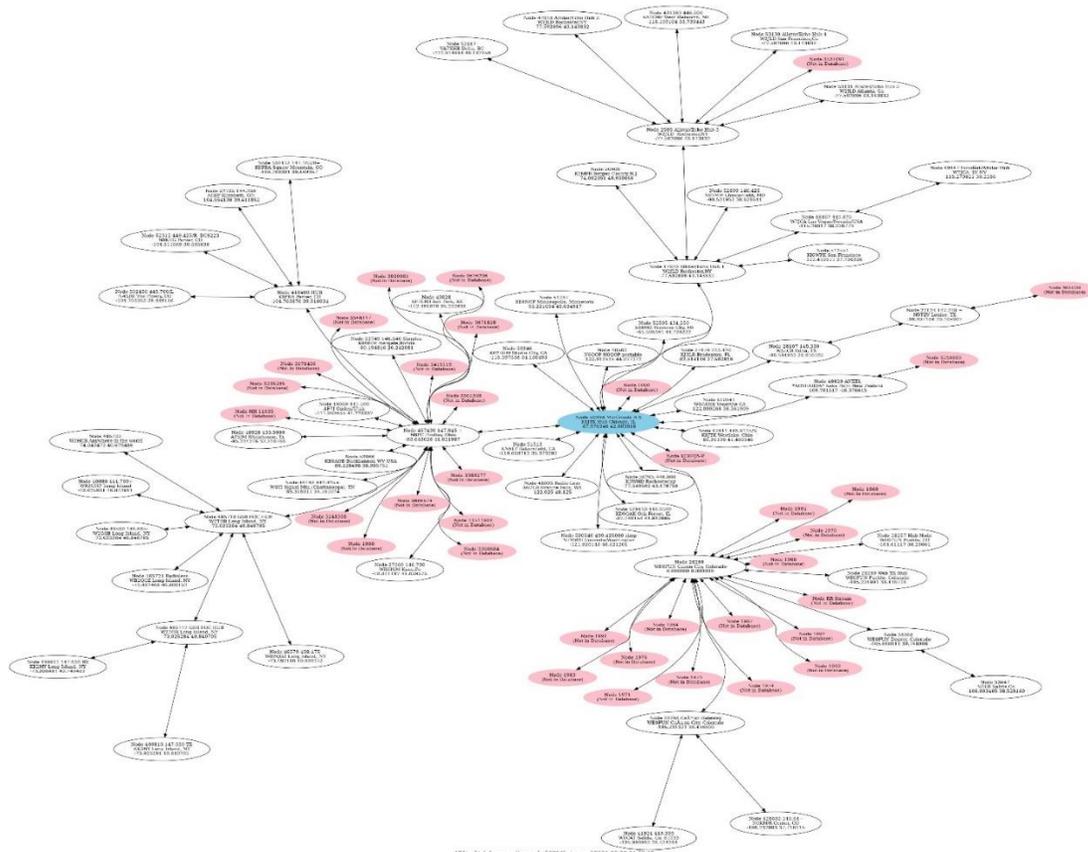
The Last Man Standing Special Event started March 24, 2021 and ran through March 30th. This coincided with the taping of the final episode which also concluded on the 30th. All call districts were represented, KA6LMS/0 through KA6LMS/9. There was KA6LMS/On-Stage, KA6LMS/VE3, KA6LMS/VE7, and bonus stations of K6L, K6M, K6S, W6L, W6M, W6S (suffixes spelling out L-M-S) were all run by celebrity ham radio operators, testers, and podcasters. This event covered HF, HF digital, VHF/UHF, VoIP digital, moonbounce, packet, and satellite. It was an all mode, all band special event. Final stats from the KA6LMS special event site:

LMS is in space! Over 134 Moon Bounce (with pile ups) and over 100 Satellite contacts including 7 packet QSOs through the ISS!

LMS had over 88,056 QSOs! 50 States, 139 Countries, 1,864 Counties, 1,187 Grids, 9,840 Grids(6)

The [AmateurLogic.TV](https://www.amateurlogic.tv) podcast has been using my Digital VoIP Multimode Interlink System (DVMIS) for their Tuesday evening net. They asked early in the planning if they could use my system for a multimode QSO party as part of the Last Man Standing special event. Of course! At first, I didn’t think much of it because I had been a part of D-STAR/DMR/Echolink special event stations in the past. For the number of contacts made, I would have only considered those events to be moderately successful. No one anticipated what happened the night of March 27th.

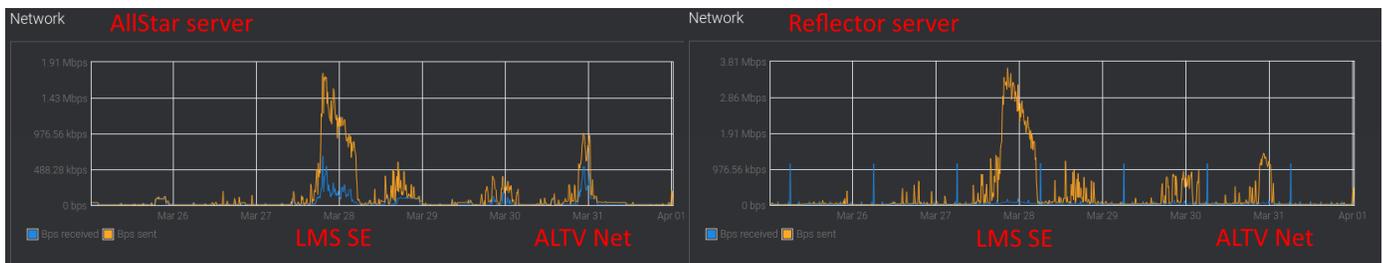
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AllStar Link connection graph during the event. Blue is my system, white are public nodes, pink are private nodes.

As the start of the QSO Party drew closer, more, and more, and more, and more stations were connecting to reflectors that are part of my system. I was able to count 300 stations connected into my system and wouldn't be too farfetched to believe it was more like 500 total stations were connected! Taking into account where I could not determine number of connected stations (Brandmeister, TGIF) and other Echolink Conferences that linked into mine. Internet traffic send and received was close to 20 GB.

The event was **WAY** more popular than anticipated. The ALTV guys thought the QSO party would run 3-4 hours. It ran for just under 8.5 hours! and still had stations wanting to check in. The whole event was [streamed live on YouTube](#). I don't know how long the video will remain up but as of this writing it was still available.



Traffic usage on two servers in my cluster. Shown are servers hosting AllStar and reflectors.

Last Man Standing labeled "LMS SE" and AmateurLogic Net for comparison "ALTV Net"

We learned some things:

- 1) Stations really need to listen and follow instruction. If you've worked any contest, DX, or special event, this is nothing new. When the net controller says 'we're going to pass it over to the net controller to begin,' that is not the time for everyone to start throwing out their callsign where the net controller couldn't break in for nearly 5 minutes.
- 2) Stations, mostly Echolink, need to eliminate courtesy tones, squelch tails, hang times, and the like from going out over the network. That caused problems where stations just ping-ponged back and forth. One transmitted their courtesy tone, then another with its hang time, etc. to over 500 Internet connected links. Set the repeater to use TX PL only when a signal is active on the repeater input and link radio to use RX PL COS to transmit audio.
- 3) AllStar gave me fits. The program segfaulted on me a couple times early on. For those not in computers/programming segfaults are very bad and often result in crashing the program or system. Haven't gotten any advice how to troubleshoot, but I have a couple things to try.
- 4) Wires-X stations got frustrated because they thought the link "wasn't working" or had "one-way audio." Being the proprietary closed-source implementation that Wires-X is, not being able to link that system using free and open source packages results in additional buffering that happens on the network, to the tune of 3 seconds. When a Wires-X transmission originates from that network, it is 3 seconds before the transmission is heard on the rest of the system. If someone, within that 3 seconds, keys on any other mode – the Wires-X transmission is completely bumped from the system. Do I need to refer back to the ping-ponging mentioned above? In addition to being a popular event, it was almost guaranteed someone else keyed up before a Wires-X station could break in. If my system is used for a QSO party that large in the future, I would recommend not using Wires-X as a result and having those stations find alternative means.

Aside from those issues, my system handled the load without breaking much of a sweat. Wow, what an accomplishment! That's going to be one I remember and talk about for a long time. It was a long day for me too as I had an early upgrade at work and by the time I went to bed, had been up for 24 hours. Closer to the end of the LMS event, the [Amateur Television Network](#) (ATN) linked into my system and transmitted around the world via ATN and [on YouTube](#), all while working stations.

Thanks to the Amateur Logic.TV guys for their QSO party. Thanks to John Amodeo – AA6JA, everyone that put this event together and used their stations to make this event possible. Of course, thanks to everyone that participated making this event 88 thousand contacts successful! Certificates are now available for download on the special event website: <http://gsbarc.org/lms/>. John hopes to keep the Last Man Standing ARC and KA6LMS call on the air by doing other special events in the future.

Last but certainly not least this month, I would like to thank the [Portage County Amateur Radio Service](#) (PCARS) for having me at their meeting March 8th. They asked me to give a presentation on ham radio voice over IP (VoIP) and my interlink system. It was great to get out and travel to a meeting in person, though those who wanted could attend virtually. If you would like to have a VoIP presentation and demonstration of my interlink system, contact me at my email found at the beginning of this article. Already there have been new things added since the presentation.

That's about it for this month. Thanks for reading and 73... de Jeff – K8JTK

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From the Section Emergency Coordinator

Stan Broadway, N8BHL - SEC

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The Texas Effect, Part Deux

Last month, we talked about the winter Texas storm being a wakeup that was in the “couldabeen” category. It couldabeen a lot worse. It wasn’t until a week or so ago that I learned how close it came to being *really* bad.



Remember back to our 2015 “Blackout” SET; there are three US grids- Texas and the two larger grids. Recall that they are interdependent, theories are that if one were to shut down, they’d all eventually crumble and the nation wouldn’t see power restored for months. Sound a little far-fetched? Can’t happen to me? Read on.

I highly recommend a video on the YouTube “Practical Engineering” channel”:

<https://youtu.be/08mwXICY4JM> This provides an understandable display of the facts surrounding the power loss during the storm. The Texas grid is a little less dependent on the other two, but they are tied together. Here’s the kicker: the Texas Grid was *four minutes* from total collapse. In the amount of time for one repeater timeout, it’s possible a terrible chain of events would have started.

If you think it can’t happen here... it nearly did, and the majority of the population was none the wiser. All that contributes to the importance of our “Next Step” NVIS Day exercise! By the time you read this, NVIS Day will have come and gone. I really hope this was a learning experience for you! We need to be ready with supplies, antennas, alternate power and working radios because IF something like this were to actually happen, it will come fast and hard. We won’t have time to search around the house for our “go bag” contents. My suggestion is to have a list, with needed items and their location. I don’t particularly worry that you have a bag completely stocked... radio batteries will go dead, we will not remember the finer points of how to program and use them, and we will be less efficient in the field. I suggest using your radios frequently. This assures they’ll actually work, and that you will remember ~how~ to make them work. To me, it’s worth an extra 15 minutes to then consult your list, quickly grab those items that are not in your bag, and be much more efficient in the field.

At this writing we haven’t had time to tally up the NVIS Day activity- but I was very pleased at the activity! The Sarge was busy all day on the voice net, and our other station bounced between Buckeye Net, OHDEN, and the COTN on Columbus .97 picking up messages. I have a couple dozen written messages (transcribed from voice) and haven’t looked at the stored files of digital messages.

Huge thanks to all that participated- I think there was some fun to be had! I would like to sincerely thank the Central Ohio Traffic Net, OHDEN and Buckeye Net operators who kept us going all day! Just like how ARES is made up of YOUR efforts, our ability to pass messages in emergencies is up to these folks on the nets! All did an excellent job!

As we get back into more of our public service projects, remember net procedures, proper radio etiquette, and preparation.

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From the Public Information Coordinator

John Ross, KD8IDJ - PIC

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2021 NEWSLETTER CONTEST DEADLINE NEAR

The deadline to enter this year's Ohio Section Newsletter Contest is getting closer....just two months to go until the June 30th deadline.

I know I have more entries than last year, in fact, each year we have noticed an increase in entries and interest!!

This is a great contest with talented editors and writers and there is still time to enter. Remember, you'll need to submit two newsletters...from different months...to qualify. Anyway you can get to them to me is OK...email, snail-mail just send them now.

The judging will again this year be electronic and begin right after the 4th of July holiday.

I have two email addresses if you want send them direct.

Remember, the winners will be announced at the August 7th DX Engineering Hamfest & Great Lakes Division Convention in Talmadge, Ohio.

See you there and Good Luck!!

W8MLL SILENT KEY

On March 19th a good friend to Amateur Radio passed away...W8MLL Marvin Lynn Lovell...we all knew him as Lynn. He was a talented ham radio operator and all served the Marion Ohio Amateur Radio Club as Vice President and President. He also served as the Marion County Emergency Coordinator for Amateur Radio Emergency Services and became a Special Deputy with the Marion County Sheriff's office.

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I met Lynn many years ago at, of all things, a ham radio gathering. We became instant friends when we discovered that, in addition to ham radio, we both were trumpet players and both Alumni of TBDBITL, the Ohio State University Marching Band!! Lynn was about 5 years ahead of me in the band but never stopped telling the war stories of his years on the field and how the band was “much better then.” I laughed more than I could argue.

Lynn was a member of W8LT, Ohio State’s student amateur radio club and he had many great stories from that club. At the time W8LT was located in the Southeast Bell Tower at Ohio Stadium right under the OSU Victory Bell and right across the street from the McCracken Power Plant’s very tall smoke stacks! As legend has it...might be a rumor or old college noir...there were stories of long wire antennas that somehow became attached to the stacks!!! Lynn would never officially elaborate but the stories were captivating.

I will miss him and amateur radio will miss him.

W8MLL SK



AMMEDED WEATHER FORCASTS

Last month we were talking about the local weather nets getting up and running for some possible strong storms. Well, Mother Nature has reminded us that she was not quite finished with winter! Snow and freezing temperatures these past few weeks showed just how fickle the weather can be even if it’s “almost” Summer.

Keep the nets ready...things will change. Below is a report I received on this year’s Hurricane Season...expected to be more active than normal. Thought you like to see what some forecasters are predicting.

Attached is the April Colorado State University Atlantic Seasonal Hurricane Activity Forecast summary, which is the earliest seasonal forecast issued by Colorado State University and has modest long-term skill when evaluated in hindcast mode. There are additional statistics provided by FEMA, NHC, NWS, and the COMET Program – University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. This year’s storm name list is also provided with graphics to depict standard hurricane data for those needing a refresher prior to season start. The National Hurricane Center will begin issuing Tropical Weather Outlooks on May 15th and the next CSU update will be on June 3rd.

BLUF: The 2021 Atlantic Hurricane Season will have above-normal activity with initial weak La Niña conditions persisting through early summer and warmer than normal subtropical Atlantic sea surface temperatures present. Major Hurricanes making landfall will also be above-average for the US Coastline and in the Caribbean.

Additionally, there were questions from the COMM-ISAC regarding the National Weather Service’s upcoming debut of Severe Thunderstorm Warning Geotags sending warnings to cell phones:

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Beginning on April 28, 2021, the National Weather Service will have the ability to append a "tag" to Severe Thunderstorm Warnings to trigger Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) for Extreme Thunderstorms:

- *A Severe Thunderstorm Warning is a storm that can produce 58 mph winds or greater, and/or hail of 1 inch or larger, and/or a tornado*
- *A Considerable Damage Threat Tag if the expected threats exist:*
- *1.75 inch diameter hail (golf ball-sized) and/or 70 mph - 79 mph thunderstorm winds.*
- *There is an ability to append a Destructive Damage Threat Tag if expectations are:*
- *2.75 inch+ diameter hail (baseball-sized or larger) and/or 80 mph+ thunderstorm winds.*
- *When might the NWS use the "Destructive" tag? Situations such as the massive derecho event that took place in the Midwest last year, where a long path of hurricane force wind damage caused an estimated \$11 Billion in damage.*

That's it for this month....73.

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From the Section Youth Coordinator

Anthony Luscre, K8ZT - SYC

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New Feature- “Try Something New This Month”

To remain a lifelong learner you need to keep trying new things so you will need to learn new things. So I am going to try a new feature for my column- “Try Something New This Month”. For my first version of



TSNTM my suggestion is to try VHF/UHF Simplex. Many of us limit our VHF/UHF operations to repeaters so this month give simplex a try. Random simplex contacts are not easy to come by so hams have designated calling frequencies to increase the odds of finding someone to talk with. If your ham shack, mobile, or HT has dual-band coverage or scanning add a couple of simplex calling frequencies. In addition to listening it is important to also call CQ on a regular basis so there will be someone out there for others to contact. You might even discuss with your local club setting up a weekly simplex net to increase local activity and in the process increase EmmComm capabilities of your membership, so without further ado--

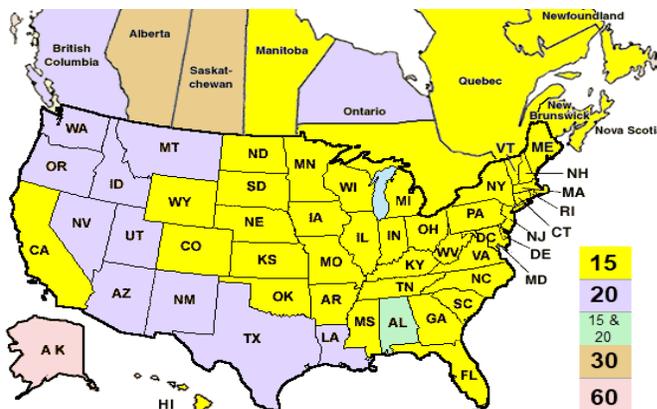
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Exploring Simplex Operation

Many Hams limit their VHF/UHF operations to repeaters, but there is a whole world of Simplex activity for you to explore. Simplex operation means direct station to station contact without the use of a repeater to help facilitate the contact. The range for handheld radios is limited without the use of repeaters so it may be very helpful to use an external and/or gain antenna in place of the HT's rubber duck antenna. A higher power mobile or base radio with mobile or external antenna may even be better.

Simplex Frequencies

Just as with repeaters, simplex operation should be limited to specific frequencies in order to avoid interference to other 2M or 440 MHz operations including Satellites, Weak Singal CW and SSB, EME (Earth-Moon-Earth bounce), etc.



You can see band plan information on the ARRL website <<www.arrl.org/band-plan>>. Individual frequencies for 2 M simplex operation within the designated band segments vary around the USA and Canada based on Channel Spacing. Looking at the map (fig 1) you see that 15 kHz is prominent in the East & Central states and California. In the West and Southwest 20 kHz is used. With both channel spacings, there are some common frequencies and both use the same National Calling frequency- 146.52 MHz (see chart below).

2 M FM Simplex (15 & 20 kHz Channelization)				
15	146.400	146.505	147.405	147.510
	146.415	146.520	147.420	147.525
	146.430	146.535	147.435	147.540
	146.445	146.550	147.450	147.555
	146.460	146.565	147.465	147.570
	146.475	146.580	147.480	147.585
	146.490	146.595	147.495	
20	146.400	146.500	147.400	147.500
	146.420	146.520	147.420	147.520
	146.440	146.540	147.440	147.540
	146.460	146.560	147.460	147.560
	146.480	146.580	147.480	147.580
	* Same	146.600	* National Calling Freq	

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Simplex activity is not as common on 440 MHz and there is variation in different areas of the country. Channel spacing is 25 kHz and the National Calling frequency is 446.000 MHz. In most areas, some or all of the frequencies used for simplex are 445.925, 445.950, 445.975, 446.025, 446.050 and 446.075 MHz, but please be aware these frequencies could be assigned to repeaters in your area.

Band	FM Simplex Calling Frequency
6 Meters	52.525 MHz
2 Meter	146.52 MHz
1.25 Meters	223.50 MHz
70 CM	446.00 MHz

Simplex Activities

Simplex activities can include casual contacts, contest contacts, emergency communications or training, organized nets, SOTA (Summits On The Air) and POTA (Parks On The Air) activations. Although the majority of VHF/UHF contesting takes place on SSB, CW and Digital (FT8/FT4), FM Simplex is a valid mode for most contests. See the individual contest's rules for details. One type of contest is an FM Simplex Only contest. These are often held by local clubs and use six-digit Gridsquare identifiers as multipliers (find your Gridsquare tiny.cc/find-grid). Simplex nets can be a great training tool for Emergency Communications support.

Antennas

Better antennas are a great way to increase both your transmitted signal and better receive other stations. Better antennas can be very useful for simplex operation, but can also increase both the number of available and the quality of your signal into repeaters. Antenna options to enhance your VHF/UHF radio's signal can be broken down into six categories:

1. Extended length, flexible rubber duck type for HTs
2. Retractable whip antennas, that can be extended for HTs
3. Mobile style vertical antennas
4. Fixed, base, vertical antennas
5. Portable, flexible antennas
6. Beam antennas

Both extended length, flexible and retractable whip antennas attach directly to the HT in place of the rubber duck. Their longer length uses results in increased gain over the original equipment antenna

Vertical single or dual-band mobile antennas can be used on your automobile or with a suitable metal ground plane and mount at home, either indoors or outside. You will need a length of coax to connect these antennas to your HT or mobile radio. If connecting to an HT, you will probably also need an adapter to connect the coax to your HT's antenna jack. Fixed base verticals, are similar but usually longer with more gain and are designed to be installed outside your house. There are two basic types- fiberglass single pole with antenna element(s) inside or metal J-Pole style with two vertical elements. Portable, flexible antennas can be twin-lead-based J-Poles, wire dipoles and other antennas that can be rolled up for transport.

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Beam antennas, whether being used on a fixed tower or mount or being handheld in the field have the maximum amount of gain and directivity of all the antennas for VHF/UHF Simplex. When used in fixed installations, beams for FM operation should be configured in a vertical orientation (with elements perpendicular to the ground), unlike SSB where beams are configured for horizontal polarization.

The above information comes from a few of my club presentations; for a complete list of my other presentations- tiny.cc/k8zt-p includes slideshows, video recordings, and links. If you are interested in any of these for a live, online presentation for your local club, please email me.

YOTA Announces New Three-Times-a-Year Contest

“Team YOTA” of Youngsters on the Air in IARU Region 1 has announced it will sponsor a new contest, the YOTA Contest. Open to all radio amateurs, it takes place three times a year and runs just 12 hours. YOTA said the aim is to boost on-the-air activity by younger radio amateurs and to support YOTA. The contest will take place on different 12-hour windows on three Saturdays.

The opening event will be on May 22, 0800 – 1959 UTC. The other two in 2021 will be July 17, 1000 – 2159 UTC, and December 30, 1200 – 2359 UTC.

YOTA has established eight different operating categories, which include sub-categories for operators age 25 and younger, but operators of all ages may participate. Covering 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters, the allowable modes will be CW and SSB.



The contest exchange will be the age of the participating operator. Different ages serve as score multipliers during the contest. Stations may work the same station once per band mode.

Contacts between the station’s own continent are worth 1 point, while working DX is worth 3 points. The most points will be achieved by working the youngest operators. “The younger the operator, the more points one will get for the QSO,” YOTA said.

The IARU Region 1 Youth Working Group is working with Hungary’s IARU member-society MRASZ, the Hungarian Amateur Radio Society. MRASZ is providing a contest log robot among other things.

Submit Cabrillo logs only. Contest winners will be announced once logs received have been checked in the various categories. Winners will be awarded with a YOTA Contest plaque.

The contest committee consists of the IARU Region 1 Youth Working Group: Philipp, DK6SP, chair; Markus, DL8GM, vice-chair, and members Csaba, HA6PX, and Tomi, HA8RT.

Contact the YOTA Contest Committee with any questions or further information.

73,
Anthony, K8ZT

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From the Section Traffic Manager

David Maynard, WA3EZN – STM

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OHIO SINGLE SIDEBAND NET ANNUAL ELECTION RESULTS



The affairs of the OSSBN shall be under the control of the net manager and an advisory board comprised of three members. The net manager and one advisory board member were elected. On April 8th the results of the election was announce. Mike Hayward KC8WH has been reelected to be the net manager. Ken K8KRA was elected to the Advisory Board for a three year term. .

OSSBN 2021/2022 Net Manager – KC8WH ELECTED

Advisory Board members effective May 1, 2021:

KA1G 2019
AC8NP 2020
K8KRA 2021

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who voted and all those who check into the OSSBN and the local traffic nets for their support of the nets and handling traffic so efficiently. I would also like to thank Dick WD8SDH for serving on the Advisory Board these last three years. More information and useful links can be found on the OSSBN website www.ossbn.org.

OHIO SINGLE SIDEBAND NET

["Specializing in the first and last mile of NTS delivery in Ohio."](#)

Morning session	10:30 AM	3972.5 KHz	every day
Afternoon session	4:15 PM	3972.5 KHz	every day
Evening session	6:15 PM	3972.5 KHz	every day

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OHIO HF CW TRAFFIC NETS

HF CW NETS	NET TIMES	FREQUENCY	NET MANAGERS
Buckeye Early	6:45 PM	3.580	WB8YLO
Buckeye Late	10:00 PM	3.590	WB9LBI
Ohio Slow Net	6:00 PM	3.53535	W8MAL

All net frequencies plus or minus QRM. .

OHIO LOCAL VHF TRAFFIC NETS

VHF NETS	NET TIMES	FREQUENCY	NET MANAGERS
BRTN	9:30 PM DAILY	145.230 PL 110.9	W8DJG
COTN	7:15 PM DAILY	146.970 PL 123.0	KD8TTE
MVTN	7:00 PM Mon	146.640	KC8HTP
NWOHARES	6:30 PM DAILY	147.375	N8TNV
TCTTN	9 PM Sun, Tues, Fri	146.94 PL 110.9	WB8YY5
TATN	8:00 PM DAILY	146.670 PL 123.0	WG8Z

These VHF net times and frequencies are those that have been reported to me by the net managers.

PSHR REPORTING

Are you reporting your PSHR scores accurately? I assume most stations are aware that they get a point for each message received, each message relayed, each message delivered and each message sent to a total points of 40 per month.

Lets look at category 4. Category 4 is for *participation* in scheduled, short-term public service events such as walk-a-thons, bike-a-thons, parades, simulated emergency tests and related practice events. This includes off-the-air meetings and coordination efforts with related emergency groups and served agencies. You earn 5 points per hour (or any portion thereof) of time spent in either coordinating and/or operating in the public service event; no limit.

This category recognizes the value of public safety communication events that Amateur Radio is often called to participate in. Simulated emergency tests, exercises, and drills are covered by this category. Points are gained by the amount of time that an Amateur Radio operator spends directly involved in operating the event. This also recognizes the value of off-the-air time it takes to meet with the organization or public service agency to plan and coordinate Amateur Radio involvement.

PSHR Category 4 is set up to recognize Amateur Radio operators for what they do in performance of public service events.

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Therefore, time spent in group and one-on-one ARES/RACES meetings, phone calls, email, and group administrative duties (processing and maintaining ARES/RACES member records and planning/conducting member training, for example) all are part of the 'public service communication event support' definition and would count.

Matt KD8TTE points out that his position is that COTN and message-handling activity on any NTS or independent net is certainly a scheduled public service event (we operate as a public service) and it's emergency communications training (how else are you going to operate in an emergency if you don't practice). I'm aware that there is a lot of oft-repeated verbal direction to the contrary but I believe that to be an erroneous reading of the League's direction, as well as based in misunderstanding of the relationship between the ARES and NTS programs.

Here's Matt's reading. MPG704A point 7.1 clearly refers to NTS and other traffic handling as a "public service activity" and 7.3.3 clearly defines the fourth category as "participation in scheduled short-term public service events." Our nets, whether regularly scheduled daily activity or to support an activation for exercise" are scheduled short-term public service events. An activation to support a real emergency falls into the next category, 5, emergency operations. The description of what constitutes emergency operations (not just on-the-scene) is instructive for what needs to count in category 4 since that is training for category 5. Reference this link to the PSHR rules ARRL NTS MPG, Chapter 7.

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%2520Service/MPG704A.pdf>.

If you are tracking your net time and claiming 5 points per hour of net participation please continue to claim your award points. If you have not been tracking you net participation and claiming the points please start now and do so. Thanks Matt for bringing this to our attention.

NEW FCC RF EXPOSURE (RFE) LIMITS



The FCC has announced that rule changes detailed in a lengthy 2019 [Report and Order](#) governing RF exposure standards go into effect on May 3, 2021. The new rules do not change existing RF exposure (RFE) limits but do require that stations in all services, including amateur radio, be evaluated against existing limits, unless they are exempted. For stations already in place, that evaluation must be completed by May 3, 2023. After May 3 of this year, any new station, or any existing station modified in a way that's likely to change its RFE profile — such as different antenna or placement or greater power — will need to conduct an evaluation by the date of activation or change.

“In the RF *Report and Order*, the Commission anticipated that few parties would have to conduct reevaluations under the new rules and that such evaluations will be relatively straightforward,” the FCC said in an April 2 *Public Notice*. “It nevertheless adopted a 2-year period for parties to verify and ensure compliance under the new rules.”

The Amateur Service is no longer categorically excluded from certain aspects of the rules, as amended, and licensees can no longer avoid performing an exposure assessment simply because they are transmitting below a given power level.

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“For most amateurs, the major difference is the removal of the categorical exclusion for amateur radio, which means that ham station owners must determine if they either qualify for an exemption or must perform a routine environmental evaluation,” said Greg Lapin, N9GL, chair of the ARRL RF Safety Committee and a member of the FCC Technological Advisory Council (TAC). “Ham stations previously excluded from performing environmental evaluations will have until May 3, 2023, to perform these. After May 3, 2021, any new stations or those modified in a way that affects RF exposure must comply before being put into service,” Lapin said.

The December 2019 RF *Report and Order* changes the methods that many radio services use to determine and achieve compliance with FCC limits on human exposure to RF electromagnetic fields. The FCC also modified the process for determining whether a particular device or deployment is exempt from a more thorough analysis by replacing a service-specific list of transmitters, facilities, and operations for which evaluation is required with new streamlined formula-based criteria. The *R&O* also addressed how to perform evaluations where the exemption does not apply, and how to mitigate exposure.

Amateur radio licensees will have to determine whether any existing facilities previously excluded under the old rules now qualify for an exemption under the new rules. Most will, but some may not.

The ARRL Laboratory staff is available to help amateurs to make these determinations and, if needed, perform the necessary calculations to ensure their stations comply. ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, who helped prepare ARRL’s *RF Exposure and You* book, explained it this way. “The FCC did not change any of the underlying rules applicable to amateur station evaluations,” he said. “The sections of the book on how to perform routine station evaluations are still valid and usable, especially the many charts of common antennas at different heights.” Hare said ARRL Lab staff also would be available to help amateurs understand the rules and evaluate their stations.”

RF Exposure and You is [available for free download](#) from ARRL. ARRL also has an [RF Safety page](#) on its website. The ARRL RF Safety Committee is working with the FCC to update the FCC’s aids for following human exposure rules — *OET Bulletin 65* and *OET Bulletin 65 Supplement B for Radio Amateurs*. In addition, ARRL is developing tools that all hams can use to perform exposure assessments

The Report and Order can be found online in PDF format at, <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-19-126A1.pdf>.

ARRL RF Safety page link: <http://www.arrl.org/rf-exposure>

ARRL RF Exposure and You link:

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/RFsafetyCommittee/RF+Exposure+and+You.pdf>

73, David WA3EZN
Ohio Section Traffic Manager

You can view the STM’s monthly report on the website.. <http://arrl-ohio.org/stm/stm.html>

[TOP^](#)

Introducing the Weather Alert Project 21

C. Matthew Curtin KD8TTE

Can you be a part of a system that supports relay and delivery of lifesaving weather alerts?

Help us build on previous work in radio-only messaging and alerting by volunteering for the Weather Alert Project 21. Volunteers should expect to join a schedule for operation one or more times weekly, and reliably staff a post that includes looking for and handling real-world alerts. Any active alert in your assigned coverage area is handled, and whether there's a message or not, you make an entry in a simple online activity log.



What do we need?

- **TRANSMIT STATIONS.** These Tx stations use a web browser to see active NWS alerts and copy the link address of alerts they are designated to transmit. That link is fed to a custom application that will format the message for human readers, automatically including the correct destination station and routing information, placing it in the transmit directory for the FLAMP application.
- **RECEIVE STATIONS.** These Rx stations will receive the radio messages and maintain a copy, along with the records showing when and how the messages were received.

In this proof-of-concept we'll retrieve the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) formatted message from the NWS web site to get the real-world messages for handling. Regular operation will allow us to identify problems we would encounter in handling these alerts in an emergency and the procedures needed to address them. (For example, during the course of development of the application, we discovered that not all target location information is always populated.)

This work builds on critical capability developed and exercised last year through the County Information Report Project 20 and BLACK SWAN 20 in cooperation with FEMA Integrated Public Alert And Warning System (IPAWS) Research & Development.

If you're interested and can get your station and operation schedule ready to help, please let us know by registering now. If your station is not HF NBEMS capable but you're interested and can operate RF Winlink, please also register now; we're expecting to add Winlink participants at a later time. Get more information and register to join the project at <https://www.blackswancomex.org/2021/weather-alert-project-21>.

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ARRL, American Red Cross Renew *Memorandum of Understanding*

ARRL and the American Red Cross (ARC) have renewed their long-standing *Memorandum of Understanding* ([MOU](#)) for another 5 years. The *MOU* spells out how ARRL and the American Red Cross will work cooperatively during a disaster response.

"We are pleased to extend our partnership with the American Red Cross," ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, said. "This agreement details how ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES) volunteers will interface with Red Cross personnel within the scope of their respective roles and duties whenever the Red Cross asks ARES volunteers to assist in a disaster or emergency response."



The *MOU* calls on both parties to maintain open lines of communication and to share information, situation, and operation reports, as allowed to maintain confidentiality. They will also share "changes in policy or personnel relating to this *MOU* and any additional information pertinent to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery." ARRL and the American Red Cross also will encourage their respective units to discuss local disaster response and relief plans. They may further cooperate in joint training exercises and instruction. The Red Cross will encourage regions or chapters to participate in ARRL Field Day, the Simulated Emergency Test (SET), and other emergency exercises.

"This agreement keeps in place the strong and mutually beneficial bond between ARRL and the ARC," said ARRL Director of Emergency Management Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW. "The Red Cross is a primary served agency for ARES teams, and it's important that we be able to work together toward common goals when responding to an emergency."

The agreement points out that any ARRL volunteers who are interested in also becoming Red Cross volunteers should understand that a background check is a requirement. Although ARES has no background check requirement, radio amateurs who register as Red Cross volunteers must abide by the Red Cross's background check requirement.



ARRL and the Red Cross may also cooperate in the sharing of equipment.

A *Statement of Cooperation* between the two organizations at the local level may be developed separately from the *MOU* to spell out the role of each in providing services to communities during or after a disaster event.

The new *MOU* was signed by Trevor Rigger, Senior Vice President, Disaster Cycle Services, American Red Cross, and by ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR.

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Camp for Young Radio Amateurs in the Americas is a Go for this Summer

The long-awaited inaugural Youth on the Air ([YOTA](#)) camp for young amateur radio operators in North, Central, and South America will go forward this July. The camp, set for July 11 - 16, will take place at the National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting in West Chester Township, Ohio, north of Cincinnati. The camp had to be postponed in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. The ARRL Foundation is a contributing donor for 2021 YOTA Camp.

"The camp will comply with COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines as set by the state of Ohio and the Centers for Disease Control, such as requiring the use of masks, distancing, and sanitizing stations," said Camp Director Neil Rapp, WB9VPG. "Attendees may be asked to take a COVID-19 test and/or self-quarantine prior to arrival, depending on the guidelines in place in July. The entire staff of the camp are either fully vaccinated or will finish the vaccine series by the end of April. Most volunteers have also indicated that they are fully vaccinated." Rapp said some activities may need to be modified to work with the COVID-19 precautions.

Rapp said that if the COVID-19 situation unexpectedly degrades in extreme fashion or the state declares that the camp is not safe to operate, the event will have to be postponed until 2022. "Due to the volatility of the public COVID-19 response, attendees are highly encouraged to avoid non-refundable tickets for transportation to Cincinnati," he advised.

Twenty-eight campers from the US, Canada, Mexico, and Iceland have already signed up for the 30 available positions, but Youth on the Air will continue to accept [applications](#) through June 1.

It costs nothing to apply. The camp's fee of \$100 is not due until the applicant has been accepted. Should a potential camper not be able to afford the \$100 fee, he or she may apply for a scholarship. The Youth on the Air website has [camp details](#).

This would mark the first camp ever for young radio amateurs in International Amateur Radio Union ([IARU](#)) Region 2. For additional information, [contact Rapp](#). [Read an expanded version](#).



Youth on the Air

Club Corner

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

Let us know what your club is up to. Are you going to have a special guest at your meeting or are you having a special anniversary?

Send it to: webmaster@arrl-ohio.org



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So Far, I haven't heard too much from you all about what your clubs are doing! I know everyone is meeting on ZOOM, I've been to a number of your meetings. What about activities? Have you been getting together and doing anything yet? Operating events, Fox Hunts, group builds, licensing classes, antenna projects? Maybe something I haven't even thought of? If so, I'd love to have you write it up and send it along with some photos so we can show everyone what your club is doing.

Just to keep it easy on me: If you want to have something written up for either the OHIO Section Journal, or the weekly PostScript, please follow these simple rules:

1. Please submit to me in MSWord. If you want to really help out – use the New Times Roman font, with a font size of 12. That will give you the best view of how it will actually look in the publication.
2. We LOVE photos, but.... Please send me photos as a .JPG file!

That will save me lots of time trying to convert, which doesn't always work for me.

DX This Week

DX This Week – Apps and Sites
Bill AJ8B (aj8b@arrl.net, @AJ8B, or www.aj8b.com)
CWOPs Member #1567

DX This Week – CA1LEW Interview

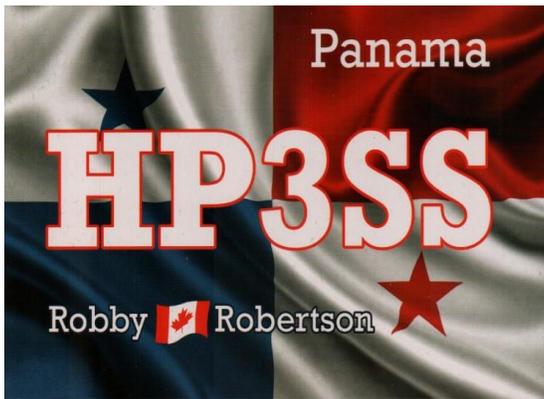
Bill AJ8B (aj8b@arrl.net, @AJ8B, or www.aj8b.com)
CWOPs Member #1567

The Midwest DX Cluster spots included Alaska, Argentina, Asiatic Turkey, Austria, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, European Russia, European Turkey, Faroe Islands, Fed. Rep. of Germany, French Guiana, Greece, Grenada, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Lebanon, Madeira Islands, Mauritania, Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Serbia, Spain, Taiwan, and United States. This brings the total number of entities spotted in the Midwest in 2021 to 168!

I received a few QSL cards including HP3SS – Robby in Panama and XE2T – Fernando in Sonora, Mexico, JG1SRB – Akira in Osaka, Japan and KL7EC – Jeremy in Wasilla, Alaska. What did you get?



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I wanted to share this interview with you from several months ago. I first worked Luis in 2016 on 10M SSB. We had a lengthy QSO with Luis asking most of the questions. It was very memorable, and I recalled that QSO fondly after working him again in 2019. He was kind enough to send some pictures along as well as my QSL card that he had received from the Buro. This is reprinted with the permission of the SouthWest OH DX Association.

Interview with CA1LEW—Luis

I worked Luis on 30M and then sent him an email asking him to answer a few questions. He agreed immediately and the results are below.

AJ8B: How did you first become interested in amateur radio?

CA1LEW: My interest was born in 1991, for work reasons I was in the Salar de Maricunga, in turn of 21 days of work 7 rest, a person arrived with a radio citizen Band (CB) Royce 639, installed a dipole type "V" Invested and began searching for stations. He invited us to talk and I found it very interesting, when I returned home I began to find out how I could do the same after a long time finding out in 2 months I had a Royce 639 radio installed and a 5/8 vertical ground antenna, starting at 27.555 MHz.



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AJ8B: When did you first get on the air?

CA1LEW: In September of 1991, with the name of the station "Galileo", later 32 AT 115, with the arrival to have 150 entities in 27 MHz.

AJ8B: Do you have a favorite band or mode?

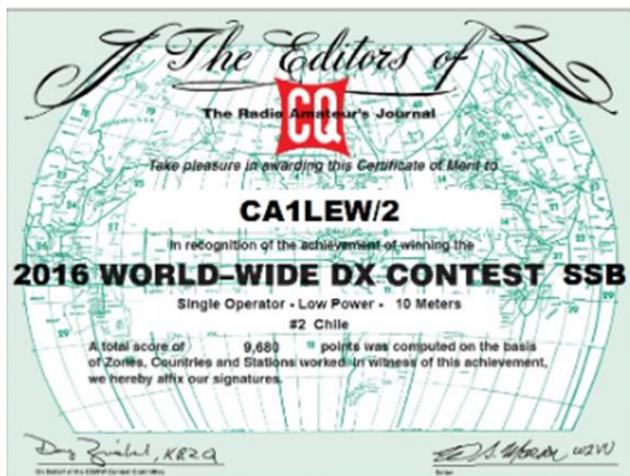
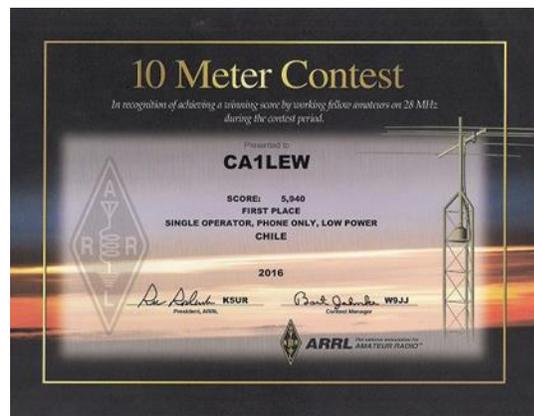
CA1LEW: I really like the 10m band and especially SSB. Today I also use FT8 and Satellites.

AJ8B: I know you have a lot of success chasing countries. Any secret to your success?

CA1LEW: I believe that the main thing, and something that helps, a lot is patience, and, above all things patience!

AJ8B: Do you participate in contests?

CA1LEW: If I participate in contests, with my own callsign and with DX group calls as well



AJ8B: Which contests are your favorites?

CA1LEW: ARRL 10m and the CQ World Wide DX Contest

AJ8B: What license levels do you have in Chile?

CA1LEW: In Chile there are 4 Types of License

Superior Category: XQ

General Category: CE

Novice Category: CA

Applicant Category: CD

Special Call: XR, CB, 3G

AJ8B: Describe what you are currently using:

CA1LEW: My station is composed at home by: Yaesu FTDX 1200 and a Dipole antenna "V" inverted. I really like going out to the field, it is very little that I transmit from home.

In 80m Band I lift an inverted "V" dipole at 35 meters high, mounted on a crane. In SSB I transmit a lot from the Former Chacabuco Saltpeter Office, located 100 km north of the city of Antofagasta.



Satellites from an area of hills within

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AJ8B: What advice do you have for those of us who try to break the pileups to work DX?

CAILEW: One of the rules of radio hobby is to listen a lot, respect for all things, and a lot of patience because we all have the minute of glory. The radio does not have borders nor do the distances exist, but we are all subject to the fluctuations of propagation, QSB, QRN. For us knowing spread is the main thing, because everything is far away—



Spain 10,927 Km
United States 8,465 Km
Australia 13,500 Km.
South Africa 8500 Km

AJ8B: What coaching / advice would you give to new fans?

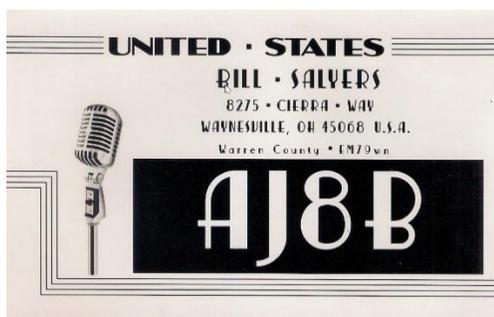
CAILEW: Radio amateur is not something you are born with; you just have to develop it. These days there is so much technology available to everyone and it is easy to buy equipment and antennas. The best thing for new radio amateurs is to go to the field to participate in field day, expeditions, etc.

This makes the difference, sharing the same interests with others. But the joy of watching an antenna lift is experienced only by those who do.

AJ8B: Thank you for taking the time to answer my questions. Is there anything you would like to share with us?

CAILEW: Thank the kindness of becoming part of this project, show others what we all do daily, but that being so far away we only imagine because we only know each other by ear.

I hope with all my heart to find them wherever we all go ...



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Here is an update from Bernie, W3UR, of the DailyDX and the WeeklyDX, the best source for DX information. <http://www.dailydx.com/>. Bernie has this to report:

FO/A and FO/M - Australs and Marquesas - W7GJ, Lance, is changing the dates for his planned 6M EME trip, noting his and everyone's frustration over COVID-caused delays. Air Tahiti has now published its fall flight schedule. Lance had adjusted his flights and lodging accordingly, to give extended stays on both entities, a total of a month combined. It means "favorable days" for 6M EME, "common moon windows with virtually all active 6M EME operators all over the world." He is looking forward to these first activations on 6M EME. He also notes the large growth in the number of stations active on 6M EME and new Q65 software. He plans on using the Q65-60A software. He's excited about it all. He says, "spread out when you call."

Lance is still working out excess baggage issues, since transportation of excesses are not guaranteed in advance. That can only be dealt with closer to departure. He says DXers, you have 6 months to upgrade your station and get familiar with 6M EME. If your signal is not stable enough for the new software, try JT65A or Q65-60B, and make sure your clock is accurate to within a second. Lance hopes for internet access at both QTHs. Both entities being in the TEP zone, he will also do some FT8 or Q65-30C for ionospheric prop QSOs. Rimatara is a one-man operation, 6M only, FO/W7GJ. He will be joined by KB7Q for part of the Hiva OA op, both under the TX7MB callsign. With the extended stay, the cost is also up and donations are appreciated. Lance's PayPal account is his email address and his mailing address is on QRZ.com. It is:

Lance Collister
P.O. Box 73
Frenchtown, MT 59834-0073
USA

<http://www.bigskyspaces.com/w7gj/Austral%20Islands%202020.htm> and <http://www.bigskyspaces.com/w7gj/Marquesas%202020.htm>. Lance also has the new "Magic Band EME email group." His web page has a form to sign up for it.

VP8 - Falkland Islands - Newly licensed VP8DKP, Clint, is the son of VP8ADR. Bobby Short. Clint is "starting out with HF" using an FT-450D and 40 meter dipole. Listen for him on FT8 on 40 meters during his evenings. "He will be delighted to swap QSL cards with any station he works as long as they send a SAE and a couple of \$ for the return post", says Bobby. QSL via Clint Short, Walker Creek Farm, Falkland Islands, FIQQ1ZZ.

JA – Japan - 8N1MORSE will be another special event callsign to celebrate the 230th anniversary of the birth of Samuel Morse and the 120th anniversary "Guglielmo Marconi's 1st successful transatlantic radio communication by Morse Code." Activity can take place between April 12, 2021 and February 28, 2022.

ON – Belgium - OT30CRD is the special call issued to the Club Radio of Durnal (CRD) in celebration of the 30th anniversary. Activity will be on all bands and modes. The call can be used through May 18th.

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5U – Niger - F4IHM, Adrien, is heading back to Niamey, Niger where he plans to once again be QRV as 5UAIHM between May 10 and June 15. He'll have an IC- 706MKIIG and a wire antenna. Activity will be on CW on 40 and 20 meters. QSL direct or via the bureau to F4IHM.

3A – Monaco - IW1RBI, Ennio, reports he is "organizing a new activation in the Principality of Monaco" and plans to be QRV again as 3A/IW1RBI. Due to COVID restrictions he is not yet sure on the exact dates. At the moment he is "assuming to go on a weekend between late May and mid-June or late July". He does not plan to go during "important contests".

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CONTEST CORNER

Below is a list of upcoming contests in the “Contest Corner”. I think this is important for someone who is trying to move up the DXCC ladder since entities that are on the rarer side and easiest to work in contests. Some of my best “catches” have been on the Sunday afternoon of a contest when the rarer entities are begging for QSOs. Of course, the gamble is that if you wait until Sunday, conditions may change, or they simply won’t be workable. However, it is not a bad gamble. Of course, why not work the contest and have some fun!

Check out the WA7BNM Contest Calendar page

(<https://www.contestcalendar.com/>) and CQ Magazine for more contests or more details.

The contests in **red** are those that I plan to spend some significant participation time on. PLEASE let me know if you are working contests and how you fared.

Thanks!

Apr. 29	RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	http://bit.ly/3avHbk3
Apr. 28	UKEICC 80m Contests CW	https://bit.ly/2SDPqQQ
1-May	AGCW QRP / QRP Party	http://bit.ly/3bwH1aZ
1-May	FISTS Spring Slow Speed Sprint	http://fistsna.org/operating.html
1-May	RCC Cup	http://tinyurl.com/76rrphvc
May 1-2	7th Area QSO Party	https://tinyurl.com/yvmvtymd
May 1-2	10-10 Spring CW Contest	http://bit.ly/1FrFeBc
May 1-2	ARI DX Contest	www.ari.it
May 1-2	Delaware QSO Party	www.fsarc.org/qsoparty/rules.htm
May 1-2	Indiana QSO Party	www.hdxcc.org/inqp/index.html
May 1-2	New England QSO Party	www.neqp.org/rules.html
May 4-5	MIE 33 Contest	https://tinyurl.com/8dekut84

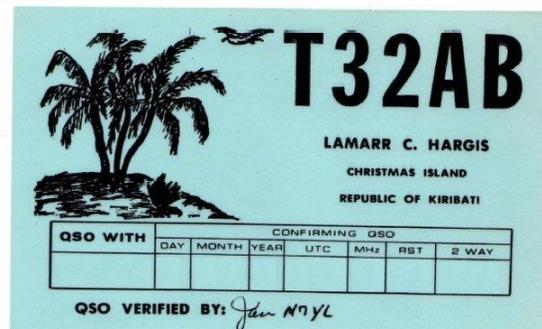
May 5	RSGB FT4 Contest Series	http://bit.ly/3mCNXXH
May 8-9	Arkansas QSO Party	https://arkqp.com/arkansas-qso-party-rules
May 8-9	CQWW Foxhunting Weekend	www.homingin.com/joek0ov/nfw.htm
May 8-9	CQ-M International DX Contest	http://cqm.srr.ru/en-rules
May 8-9	Volta WW RTTY Contest	www.contestvolta.it
May 10	RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	http://bit.ly/3avHbk3
May 16	FISTS Spring Unlimited Sprint	http://fistsna.org/operating.html
May 19	RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	http://bit.ly/3avHbk3
May 15-16	His Majesty King of Spain CW Contest	http://concursos.ure.es/en
May 15-16	NZART Sangster Shield Contest	http://bit.ly/3aviX6h
May 22-23	Baltic Contest	www.lrsf.lt/en
May 23-24	QRP ARCI Hoot Owl Sprint	www.qrparci.org/contests
May 27	RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	http://bit.ly/3avHbk3
May 29-30	CQWW WPX CW CONTEST	www.cqwpw.com
August 28	Ohio QSO Party	https://www.ohqp.org/
August 28	W8DXCC	https://www.w8dxcc.com

DX News

ARLD016 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by IOIJ, 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.



BELARUS, EW. Special event station EV76F is QRV as part of the Brest Hero-Fortress memorial station in honor of the 76th anniversary of the end of World War II. QSL via EW3W.

JAPAN, JA. Members of the A1 and Denpaken clubs are QRV with special event call sign 8N1MORSE until the end of 2022 to celebrate Samuel Morse's 230th birthday and the 120th anniversary of Marconi's first transatlantic transmission. QSL via bureau.

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MONGOLIA, JT. Members of the JTDXA Team are QRV with special event call sign JU100DX to commemorate the 100 years since the Mongolian People's Revolution. QSL via JT1CH.

SVALBARD, JW. Tom, LA6VDA will be QRV as JW6VDA from Spitsbergen Island, IOTA EU-026, from April 26 to May 9. Activity will be on the HF bands using SSB. QSL via LoTW.

POLAND, SP. Members of the Niepolomice Radio Club are QRV with special event call sign SN0IMED from the European Bison Breeding Center in Puszcza Niepolomicka until April 25 to celebrate Earth Day. QSL via bureau.

GREECE, SV. Special event station SZ200P is QRV until the end of 2021 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Greek Revolution of 1821. QSL via LoTW.

SOMALIA, T5. Ali, EP3CQ will be QRV as 6O1OO from Mogadishu for two months beginning on April 25. Activity will be in his spare time on the HF bands using mostly FT8. QSL direct.

KALININGRAD, UA2. Special call signs RK75AK, RK75FF, and RK75FU are QRV until July 31 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Kaliningrad. QSL via UA2FAK, UF2F, and RA2FU, respectively.

MEXICO, XE. Members of the Asociacion de Radio Aficionados de la Republica Mexicana are QRV with special event calls 6D1A, 6D2A, and 6D3A until May 16 to celebrate the club's 61st anniversary. QSL via LoTW.

The OK1WC Memorial, QCX CW Challenge and K1USN Slow Speed Test are scheduled for April 26.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint and Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest are scheduled for April 27.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, UKEICC 80-Meter CW Contest, Phone Fray and SKCC Sprint are scheduled for April 28.

ARRL Contest Corner

An expanded, downloadable version of *QST's* [Contest Corral](#) is available as a PDF. Check the sponsor's 'Website for information on operating time restrictions and other instructions.



[Upcoming Hamfests](#)

We **DO** have some hamfests scheduled for 2021!! Yes, take a good look at the list, it's growing every day!

Be sure to keep your eyes on this schedule as that when things start getting better and the vaccine rolls out to more and more, hamfests will surely get back to their normal schedule. Don't see your hamfest listed?? Did anyone register it with ARRL? It's really easy to do and you get a lot of FREE publicity if you do.



06/05/2021 - [FCARC SummerFest](#)

Location: Wauseon, OH

Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://k8bxq.org/hamfest>

[Learn More](#)

07/10/2021 - [Mansfield Mid-Summer Trunkfest](#)

Location: Mansfield, OH

Sponsor: InterCity Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://iarc.club>

[Learn More](#)

07/17/2021 - [NOARSFEST](#)

Location: Elyria, OH

Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://noars.net>

[Learn More](#)

07/18/2021 - [Van Wert Hamfest](#)

Location: VAN WERT, OH

Sponsor: Van Wert Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://W8FY.ORG>

[Learn More](#)

08/07/2021

[DX Engineering Hamfest](#)

&

[Great Lakes Division Convention](#)

Location: Tallmadge, OH

Sponsor: DX Engineering

Website: <http://dxengineering.com>

[Learn More](#)

08/07/2021 - [2021 Columbus Hamfest](#)

Location: Grove City, OH

Sponsor: Aladdin Shrine Audio Unit

Website: <http://columbushamfest.com>

[Learn More](#)

08/28/2021 - [Cincinnati HamfestSM](#)

Location: Owensville, OH

Sponsor: Milford ARC

Website: <http://CincinnatiHamfest.org>

[Learn More](#)

09/26/2021 - [Cleveland Hamfest](#)

Location: Berea, OH

Sponsor: Hamfest Association of Cleveland

Website: <http://www.hac.org>

[Learn More](#)

12/04/2021 - [FCARC WinterFest](#)

Location: Delta, OH

Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://k8bxq.org/hamfest>

[Learn More](#)

Upcoming NIMS Training Opportunities

Need to get those really hard to get ICS 300 and 400 classes to get to Level 3? They are now being offered with very limited virtual seating. Yes, these classes are being offered virtually now along with a lot of other classes that used to require in-class sessions. Want to see what and where these classes are being offered?

[>> Click Here <<](#)

Print an Official or Unofficial Copy of Your Amateur Radio License

(By Anthony Luscre, K8ZT)

As of February 17, 2015, the **FCC no longer routinely issues paper license documents** to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The Commission has maintained for some time now that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System (ULS). The FCC will continue to provide paper license documents to all licensees who notify the Commission that they prefer to receive one.

Licensees also will be able to print out an official authorization — as well as an unofficial “reference copy” — from the ULS License Manager. I’ve created a set of instructions on how you can request an **“official” printed copy of your license***



[Click here to download the instructions](#)

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One Question Questionnaire

Hey Gang,

Survey Says”..... Get the info from the last survey in my “Final Final”.

Ok, now on to the next question... Let’s see how many of you are optimists out there and are already planning on which hamfests you’re going to go to this summer.



“Will you be attending the DX Engineering & Great Lakes Division Convention?”

You’ll find the “One Question” questionnaire on the Ohio Section Website! <http://arrloho.org> It’s all for 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.

V.E. Test Sessions

Many V.E.’s have decided to start testing once again, but with restrictions that need to be adhered to for sure. Here’s the link to find that V.E. Test session and what is expected of YOU before going. <http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>



From The South 40

(from John Levo, W8KIW@arrl.net)



The South Forty

Following last week’s visit to the Jackson County ARC I received some comments regarding the Club. Therefore I’ve chosen to take a brief pause in the travel plans for this leg of the trip and share these items with you.



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Tim Henderson, N8GIY, supplied some additional early club information via Jennifer Bailey, N8JEN. According to Henderson the club was founded in the early to mid-1970s by John Ross (K8BST) and John Rupert (W8GPA). Henderson remembers that during his high school days it was a very active and strong club with a fondness for Field Day. Another reader stated the Club is currently inactive because of COVID and has not met since last year. He called attention to the early Club hamfests held in Coalton and later moving to Jackson proper. A Clinton County reader reminded me that prior to being transferred to Jackson, John Ross served the Highway Patrol's Wilmington Post as the district's radio technician-a position he later held in the Jackson district. He spoke of the frequent Clinton County six meter "Insect QSOs" when 'bed bugs, spiders and ticks' would be in contact with Bob Thompson, K8AFF 'ants, flies and fleas". I would really get interesting when Dean Bernard, W8WMQ, would join in adding 'wasps, moths and queen bees' to the mix. All operators are now silent keys.

Last week it was mentioned the number of new hams in Southern Ohio was expected to increase because of scheduled test sessions in Circleville and Hillsboro. Although no report has been received from the Circleville session, the Highland ARA reports a very successful exam was held. According to team leader Tom Mongold, KD8LDS, several brand new hams received licenses. Hillsboro's Chris Osborne is now KE8RVJ and David Wolfenbarger is KE8RVM. Fayette County added two new hams as Washington CH's Steven Frazier became KE8RVK and Larry Jones is KE8RVN. After a long absence Joe Holdren returned to ham radio as KE8RVL, Rindy Matthews is KE8RVP, Stella Wardlow is KE8RVQ and Kyle Fauber is KE8RVS. All are from Leesburg. New Vienna's Seth Hawthorn is KE8RVO and John Delaney, Jr. traveled from Cincinnati to become KO4PNS. Also from Cincinnati was Chad Houck, KE8RVR, who left with a General. Chillicothe's Daniel Hines, KE8RGK, and Hillsboro's Jennifer Ritter, KE8QKX, each upgraded to General. Seaman's Jared Schupert, KE8GAD, upgraded to Extra as did Jonathan Landon, KE8QED, who traveled from Springboro to fulfil his goal. Although a few candidates did not achieve their license goals, they all stated they will keep trying.

The Tri-State ARA held their meeting this past week at the Museum of Radio and Technology in Huntington, WV. The program was member Bill Reich, AL7AH, providing information about how to properly tune an antenna. The Club's Mark Killen, KD8QIG, says Reich worked as an electronic technician as well as teaching electronics for over 40 years. It was most informative. On Friday evening the Queen City Emergency Net held its monthly meeting via Zoom. Bob Bross, W8NFM, presented a program regarding rf and electrical connectors and the proper way to use and install them.

KE8QMY, Bruce Underwood, Jr, was the first to find the Fox during the Hocking Valley ARC's monthly Fox Hunt this past Saturday. Bruce is a relatively new ham having received his license in late January. The event had six teams trying to locate the 'fox'.

Because the Spring NWS weather drill was held during a weekday afternoon many Highland ARA members were unable to participate. Therefore the Club decided to hold a Highland County storm drill to involve those who were unable to participate in the statewide drill. Assistant EC Tom Archibald, K8TDA, called the Net Saturday morning and explained to all the purpose behind the Net and how the area's SkyWarn system operated. According to Archibald 20 stations participated in the drill. Of those, two participates received their licenses this past week. Only one area of the county had no participation. Stations in Fayette and Ross Counties also participated.

The Southern Ohio ARA and the Portsmouth RC have each been asked to provide communications and other assistance for the 2021 annual Lawrence County Memorial Day Parade. The parade is considered the oldest such parade in the nation and traces its beginnings to 1868. It begins at 10 am on Memorial Day in Ironton.

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Because of a death in the family of the presenter, the Athens County ARA's planned two meter tape measure antenna building program had to be cancelled. It will be rescheduled for a later date. However the planned ARRL test session was still held. Those results will be reported in a future South 40.

Upcoming license test sessions will be conducted by the Portsmouth RC on Monday, May 3 in Portsmouth and on May 11 the Lancaster Fairfield County ARA will hold a session in Lancaster. On May 15 the Cambridge ARA will conduct testing and the Tri-State ARA will hold a test session at the radio museum in Huntington on June 12. Unfortunately nothing has been announced for our Northern Kentucky friends.

The May QST issue lists the following silent keys from the region: W8GPA, John Rupert, Jackson; KG8HF, Larry Scott, West Portsmouth and N8MFN, Rick Collier from Batavia. Our thoughts go to their families and friends.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, gives a heads up to Athens County ARA members of a planned full scale LEPC emergency exercise on Thursday, June 17. It begins at 8 am with a pre-briefing and should be over with the debriefing concluded by 2 pm. This drill will mark the first operation of the Club's radio station at the Athens County EMA Center. Anyone able or interested assisting should contact Jeff-740-592-6124.

In February the Highland ARA voted to establish a presence on Facebook. The project was assigned to members Lori Bitzer, KE8JEH, and Sam Johnson, W8SKJ. Although still 'under development' the page is up and running with limited content. Johnson says to view the page, Facebook users should access their account and search for 'Highland Amateur Radio Association. He says the physical address is www.Facebook.com/HighlandK8HO.

Until next time when we resume our visits of ham radio clubs in the Southern Ohio region, be healthy, safe and radio-active.

73s, John, W8KIW

Final... Final



Welcome to Springtime in Ohio!

I'm hoping that now that this weekend is over, so is winter! I'm ready to move on.

First off, the "1 Question Survey" that just finished up -
WHAT AMATEUR RADIO ACTIVITY WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS YEAR AS WE BEGIN TO OPEN UP ACTIVITIES AGAIN?" -

had some responses that I thought were interesting. 5% of you said you were going to work on getting you license upgraded. Good for you – I wish you success and hope you'll drop me and email and let me know how you did.

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20% of you plan to get outside and work on your antennas. I'm not surprised at this, and I hope you'll write up something for us and take some pictures as you move along with the project. Hams are *always* interested in what other hams are doing and how it works for them. 29% of you want to get back out to "Field" style operations – Fantastic! If you're doing something special, let us all know what, when and where. We'll all want to give you a Q and help you have a successful operation (I'll try to get out to see you on Field Day, and hope we get to work you on OH State Parks on the Air). 11% responded that they are looking forward to Club Activities. Clubs are very important to Ham Radio. Clubs are where most people create life-long friendships and give their members a sense of community. Finally, the last option was "attend hamfests" – a whopping 35% of you said that this was what you were looking forward to! I'm surprised (but not really surprised) at this. Hamfests are not only a Tradition in the hobby, but they usually encompass all of the other answers in one!

Last weekend I attended the Massillon ARC's "Spring Tailgate Fest" along with my friend Tyson – K8TTX. It was really exciting to be back at a hamfest after over a year. While not huge by any means, it was well attended and I had a good time. Seeing old friends in person, and meeting some new friends for the first time, was way more meaningful than seeing your face in a little box on the ZOOM screen! The other thing I thought was significant about it was that money was changing hands and hams were going home with new treasures! And there was lots of good stuff there to choose from.



So, This actually leads me to the new 1 Question Survey. (You'll find it in the lower, left corner of the OH Section web-page located at <http://www.arrl-ohio.org/> . The question is:

“Will you be attending the DX Engineering & Great Lakes Division Convention?”

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Here's a little hint for you – the correct answer is “YES”! This is scheduled for Saturday, August 7, 2021. You don't want to miss it. This *will be* the best Hamfest/Convention of the year. I can't go into details yet, but as soon as I can, I will release complete information. What I can tell you is this: The Hamfest will be AWESOME with lots of dealers and a huge flea-market. The banquet will include a Keynote from one of the top ARRL officers and afterwards there will be a Wouf-Hong ceremony. Personally, I'm not easily impressed. But this has got me excited! Stay tuned, additional information to follow, soon.

You've probably notice a lot of press about “Radio Frequency Exposure” rules and the new FCC requirements for Hams effective May 3, 2021. While the topic is what I consider “Serious Stuff”, all the excitement around this current announcement is a bit over-stated. I would encourage everyone to do a written assessment of their operations and keep it with your license. I doubt you'll ever be required to present it, but it's a good exercise and it's better to have it on hand than to fumble with excuses if you ever would be required to present it. I would encourage you all to download and read FCC Bulletins OET-65 a, b and c to get the first-hand explanation of what this is all about. Then I want to direct you to the following video presented by Greg Lapin – N9GL – Chair of the ARRL RF Safety Committee:

<https://vimeo.com/540342124>

While this is rather long, it should answer your questions. This is put out by an organization called RATPAC which offers bi-weekly videos on many interesting Amateur Radio topics. Check them all out:

Past RATPAC Presentations: [Published Format list](#) // [Menu Format list](#)

LOTS of good information here!

Dave Maynard – WA3EZN - also included much good information on the new RF Exposure Regs in the Traffic Managers Report on page 16-18 of this issue.

Another item that has been brought up again by the FCC is the notice that we are not allowed to use Amateur Radio in the commission of any crimes. I'm not worried about this, and I doubt that you have anything to worry about either. But, we are regulated by the United States Government. By presenting the information to you, the ARRL is satisfying their requirement to the government to properly advise their constituents. No-one is being pointed out for any wrongdoing nor has anyone suggested that any wrongdoing has been done.

Back to that last 1 question survey, the second most popular answer was wanting to get out for “Field Operations” – coming in at 30%. That gets back to one of my main concerns for Ham Radio – Having Fun! If you do some research, then do some promotion, YOU could be a “rare one” operating from right here in OHIO. Check out the County Hunters. There are actually a couple of counties in OH that are just a bit tougher to work than others. Plan some DXpeditions without the need to leave the state. There are also some Islands in OH that stations on other continents would certainly be interested in working, check out the Island Hunters. Some folks like working stations that have a story to go along with them – Special Event Stations. Usually this comes with a certificate. Ohio has way too much history and historical figures and monuments for me to go into, but you get the idea. With any of these, to be successful you have to research your market and do some directed marketing to your target group. A notice in QST may not be adequate here. But, if you get the word out you could be the station running Q's faster than you ever have before. Give it a try, it's worth the effort.

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That's it for me this month. Get on the air, build something, try something new! Have fun and let me know what you're doing.

73, de Tom WB8LCD ARRL OH Section Manager
WB8LCD@ARRL.ORG
330-554-4650

“Swap & Shop” on the website

Hey Gang,

Have you taken a look at the **Swap & Shop** page on the Ohio Section webpage yet?? Here's a link that will take you there...

<http://arrl-ohio.org/sm/s-s.html>



Do you have equipment that you just don't need or want anymore? Here's a great venue to advertise it, and it's FREE!!

Is your club doing a fund raiser to help raise money? After a lot of thought, it was decided that the Swap & Shop webpage could also contain these types of items as well.

The same rules will apply as do for the For Sales and Give-A-Ways and will only be posted for a month at a time. Please see the Terms & Conditions on the webpage.

If your club is doing a fund raiser and wants more exposure, please forward the information to me and I'll advertise it on the Swap & Shop webpage for you. Now, I still want to remind you that it won't be listed in this newsletter because it would take up way too much space, so your ad will only appear on the website. It is there for any individual to post equipment Wanted / For Sale or Give-Away as well as for Club Fund Raisers. No licensed vehicles/trailers or business advertising will be posted.

Postings are text only (no pictures or graphics) will be posted for a maximum of 1 month from date posting and require a contact phone number or email within the posting. Send your Wanted / For Sale or Give-Away post to: swap@arrlohio.org

Welcome New Subscriber(s)

Brian King; Charles, N8RQT



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Back Issues of the PostScript and Ohio Section Journal

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>



Ohio Section Cabinet

Section Manager – Tom Sly, WB8LCD	Section Emergency Coordinator – Stan Broadway, N8BHL
Technical Coordinator – Jeff Kopcak, K8JTK	Section Traffic Manager – David Maynard, WA3EZN
State Government Liaison – Bob Winston, W2THU	Affiliated Clubs Coordinator – Tom Sly, WB8LCD
Section Youth Coordinator – Anthony Luscre, K8ZT	Public Information Coordinator – John Ross, KD8IDJ

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 an email to: webmaster@arrl-ohio.org to be added.



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/>

The pictures on the front page and throughout this newsletter 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 in the Ohio Section News!"



News Flash!

Want the latest Frequently Asked Questions and on-line calculator concerning the RF Exposure Rule that will be taking effect on May 3rd ??? >> [Click Here](#) <<

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The Ohio Section Journal (OSJ) is produced as a comprehensive look at all the programs within the Ohio Section. I sincerely hope that you have enjoyed this edition of the OSJ and will encourage your friends to join with you in receiving the latest news and information about the Ohio Section, and from around the world!