[](http://arrl-ohio.org/news/)

***“******December 18th, 2023”***

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A person in a red and white garment holding a sign

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**CQ CQ CQ de WB8LCD**

This is the time of year that everyone is making a list, maybe even checking it twice. A list for Santa, a Christmas Card list, a grocery list, a list of events you need to attend, most importantly, that gift list you need to buy from. I hope you weren’t looking for some “secret tip” I’d have here to make the holidays a snap for you. Nope. I’m going to mention *another* list that you just might need to pay attention to.

The ARRL list of affiliated clubs and Special Service Clubs (SSC). Now that you’re on that leisurely break known as “The Holidays” how about taking a look at *your* clubs listing there? This is the year you need to get your annual reporting done, including your SSC renewal application by December 31st, so check your club’s listing, make sure it’s accurate and up to date. If not, notify the appropriate club dignitaries and ask them to get it done! I’m no Santa Claus, but in January I want to work from that list and I’m hoping to work off of accurate information.

While you’re looking at your clubs information, try looking at it from the perspective of “What does my club need *me* to do? There are a lot of job titles and positions to be filled in a successful club, make sure you’re doing your part.

Before we depart from 2023, I want to recognize and say “Thank You” to Great Lakes Division (GLD) Director Dale Williams – WA8EFK for the years he has served in that position. That position requires a lot of time, travel, expense and dedication. Dale has served us well and deserves our appreciation for a Job Well Done! Thank you, Dale.

Scott Yonally – N8SY deserves our thanks for the years of service that he has given in just about every position of the Ohio Section and the last few years as Vice Director in the GLD. Scott will become the GLD Director beginning on January 1, 2024, and I know Scott is planning to hit the ground running. If I had to use Scott’s automotive descriptions, he’s already at the starting line, the “line-lock” has the front wheels locked up, the rear wheels are spinning with smoke billowing out, and Scotts just waiting to the lights on the Christmas Tree to hit GREEN! It’s going to be a fun/wild ride!

Thank you too, to Roy Hook – W8REH for stepping into the position vacated by Scott as the Vice-Director for the GLD. Looking to get to know you better and appreciate your commitment to the hobby.

I’ve got two more weeks before the new year, and lots more folks deserving my (our) thanks. Stay tuned…….

I’m also looking forward to jumping into 2024! As I mentioned before, I’m hoping that I can get out and about much more this year (last year was pretty brutal in my business and that kept me more occupied than I would have wished for). First up, I am planning to be at the Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation Hamfest at Shade, OH on January 14th. I hope you’ll come out and see me there. I also want you to save the date Saturday March 23rd as we are planning an Ohio Section DIGITAL Conference for that day. We’re working hard to come up with a program that will have something for everyone and definitely be worth attending. Last week I shared the announcement from Hamvention that the event will take place May 17/18/19 2024 and that it would also be the site of the ARRL National Convention. I cannot stress enough how important it is to you as a Ham to be there! Just by being there you will see that as a Ham you are a part of something much larger than yourself. You’ll get to see everything that Ham Radio has to offer and you’ll get to meet hams from all over the world. Michael Kalter – W8CI is the Hamvention spokesperson for 2024 (hint: you might want him to speak to your club about Hamvention past and present).

One more thing I want to point out about 2024 – we’re fast approaching the peak of sunspot cycle 25. DXpeditions and Contests abound. POTA has become a major player in activity on the ham-bands. 2024 is going to be an exciting year to get on the AIR! 2024 is going to be an exciting year for every aspect of Ham Radio.

Share the Magic,

73,

Tom Sly - WB8LCD

Ohio Section Manager

[wb8lcd@arrl.org](mailto:wb8lcd@arrl.org)

330-554-4650

Logo, company name

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**Youth Net**

**When:** The second Sunday of every month at 7:30 PM EST

**Where:** The K8IV repeater located in Kent, Ohio (Echolink node K8BF-L) RF: 146.895 Mhz  with PL 118.8

**Who:** Any licensed amateur radio operator who wishes to participate. Priority will be given to youth stations and those located in Ohio.

The purpose of this net is to encourage youth activity in amateur radio and to help new hams get more comfortable on the air.

\*\*\*December is a busy month. We’ll take a break and restart on Sunday January 14th, 2024 \*\*\*

If you are a young ham, in the Ohio Section or elsewhere, please check in and say “Hello”!

Even if you’re far away from OHIO you can check in via Echo-Link. Echo-Link is a good tool to have, and it can be accessed from your laptop, tablet or cellphone. But there is a process to get validated to the Echo-link system. It’s simple to do, but you need to get it done before the day of the net! Go to [Introducing EchoLink](https://www.echolink.org/) for more information on getting started. If you’re an “Old Guy” (a gender neutral term meaning not a youthful operator) and you have some kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews or even some neighborhood kids who you would like to give a chance to talk to other kids about Ham Radio, this might be an excellent opportunity to give them that small nudge that could be the start of something positive they will carry with them through life!

***National News***

*(from ARRL and other sources)*

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| |  | | --- | |  |   \*\*\*I’m running this again because I’ve heard many of you suggest that it’s too expensive to get new hams licensed. This is a VERY BIG DEAL! |

**ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program**

Clubs around the country sponsor VE sessions in order to help new hams get their licenses and to help existing hams upgrade. One of the changes in the last couple of years if the introduction of the $35 FCC License Fee. The ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program, in effect since April 19, 2022, will cover the one-time $35 application fee for new license candidates younger than 18-years old for tests administered under the ARRL VEC program.

The $35 FCC application fee will be reimbursed after the ARRL VEC receives the completed reimbursement form and after the new license has been issued by the FCC. The reimbursement check will be mailed to the fee payer. Also, candidates who are under the age of 18 pay a reduced exam session fee of $5 to the ARRL VEC VE team at the time of the exam. The $5 fee is for all candidates under the age of 18, regardless of the exam level taken. Proof of age is required at the session. Visit [www.arrl.org/youth-licensing-grant-program](http://www.arrl.org/youth-licensing-grant-program)for the program instructions and reimbursement form.

Contact [ARRL VEC](mailto:vec@arrl.org) for assistance or for information on how your club can set up an ARRL VEC VE team and offer testing on a regular basis in your area, and how to take advantage of the reduced exam fee for youth candidates. It's extremely gratifying when a candidate passes their test and earns a license.

Clubs that already sponsor ARRL VEC exam sessions, we thank you for your service to our program!

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WRC-23 Reaches Acceptable Conclusion on 23-centimeter Issue

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23) continues A logo with text and a picture of a person

Description automatically generatedthrough December 15, 2023, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU)'s primary effort focused on Agenda Item 9.1 topic b to address amateur use of the 23-centimeter band and co-frequency use by several radionavigation satellite service (RNSS) systems in the 1240 - 1300 MHz band.

IARU's work that began 4 years ago with a preparatory study in the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) to address this agenda item has finally come to a close. Our concerted engagement in the ITU-R working parties, study groups, and WRC preparatory meetings ensured that the amateur services were properly represented during the development of two published ITU-R reports: M.2513 and M.2532. An ITU-R Recommendation, M.2164, followed these, which formed the basis for the discussions at WRC-23.

During the WRC-23 deliberations, strong positions were expressed by all parties involved.

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| A group of men in suits shaking hands  Description automatically generated  IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, offers thanks to Barry Lewis, G4SJH, for his success in leading IARU's work on Agenda Item 9.1 topic b. From left to right: WRC-23 SWG4B7 Chair Dale Hughes, VK1DSH; IARU Vice President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR; Tim Ellam, VE6SH; Barry Lewis, G4SJH, and IARU Secretary Joel Harrison, W5ZN. |

The result is a well-supported compromise for a footnote in the Radio Regulations regarding amateur and amateur satellite service operation in the 1240 -1300 MHz range. The footnote reminds administrations and amateurs of the need to protect the primary RNSS from interference, and it provides guidance for administrations to allow both services to continue to operate in this portion of the spectrum.

Administrations are the bodies that govern amateur radio in their respective countries, such as the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in the United States.

The Conference Plenary compromise was formally adopted on December 8 and is not subject to further consideration during the final week of WRC-23. The IARU team continues its work on other WRC issues, including developing agendas for future conferences.

IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, noted, "This is a very good result for the amateur services. The decision reached at WRC-23 on this agenda item makes no change to the table of allocations nor incorporates by reference M.2164 into the Radio Regulations. The addition of a footnote that provides guidance to administrations in the event of interference to the RNSS is a good regulatory outcome for amateurs and the primary users of this band."

The WRC also agreed to suppress Resolution 774, which closes the issue and satisfies the agenda item. [Read more in ARRL News](https://www.arrl.org/news/wrc-23-reaches-acceptable-conclusion-on-23-centimeter-issue)

[A group of men standing together

Description automatically generated](https://www.arrl.org/files/file/News/ARRL%20Letter/2023-12-14/WRC-23%20Team%202.jpg)

[WRC-23 began on November 20, 2023](http://arrl.org/news/iaru-and-arrl-attending-wrc-23-in-dubai-uae). The IARU team includes: ARRL Technical Relations Specialist Jon Siverling, WB3ERA; Paul Cloverdale, VE3ICV, for Radio Amateurs of Canada; Barry Lewis, G4SJH (IARU AI 9.1b Lead), Flavio Archangelo, PY2ZX, for Liga de Amadores Brasileiros de Rádio Emissão / IARU Region 2; Bernd Mischlewski, DF2ZC, for Deutscher Amateur Radio Club; IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH; Murray Niman, G6JYB, for the Radio Society of Great Britain; IARU Vice President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR; IARU Secretary Joel Harrison, W5ZN; Wahyudi Hasbi, YB1PR, for Organisasi Amatir Radio Indonesia; Peter Pokorny, VK2EMR, for the Wireless Institute of Australia; Dale Hughes, VK1DSH, for the Wireless Institute of Australia (SWG4B7 Chair), Roland Turner, 9V1RT, for Singapore Amateur Radio Transmitting Society (IARU), and Ken Yamamoto, JA1CJP, for the Japan Amateur Radio League.

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**Google’s Geothermal Gamble: Unleashing Earth’s Heat to Power Its Big Computers**

By: [Nidhi Goyal](https://www.industrytap.com/author/nidhi) | December 5th, 2023

Share

A large building with fans and smoke coming out of it

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*Image by*[*Google*](https://blog.google/outreach-initiatives/sustainability/google-fervo-geothermal-energy-partnership/)

**A Shift Towards Carbon Neutrality**

Many large technology companies are committed to achieving carbon neutrality or net-zero emissions in the near future. These companies recognize the urgent need to address climate change and are taking steps to reduce their environmental impact.

**Google’s Green Initiative**

Google has unveiled an innovative approach to powering its data centers with sustainable energy derived from the Earth’s core. Recently, the tech company revealed its collaboration with Fervo, a clean-energy startup, on a geothermal project based in Nevada. This initiative harnesses the Earth’s heat to generate electricity, eliminating the need for burning fossil fuels as well as reducing carbon emissions into the atmosphere.

As part of its plan to achieve 24/7 carbon-free energy by 2030, Google has launched a geothermal project in Nevada, aiming to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Despite being carbon neutral since 2007, Google faces the challenge of meeting energy needs equivalent to that of a small country, primarily due to data centers supporting Google Cloud and AI models.

Google utilizes geothermal energy in Nevada to power its operations, supporting the goal of achieving carbon-free status in six years. This reliable and flexible clean energy source complements renewables and contributes to 24/7 carbon-free energy on the grid. Google is also exploring advanced technologies  like battery storage, green hydrogen, and carbon capture, aiming to inspire others to adopt cleaner energy solutions.

A person smiling at the camera

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**Nidhi Goyal**

Nidhi is a gold medalist Post Graduate in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences.

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| |  | | --- | | A nebula in space with stars  Description automatically generated | | |  | | --- | | **A Full Year, Across the Full Sky**  From our cosmic backyard in the solar system to distant galaxies near the dawn of time, the James Webb Space Telescope has delivered on its promise of revealing the universe like never before in its first year of science operations. | | [**LEARN MORE**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0018tmjNmBQxTrvv1iGD3FSyKfBxabAGxbjSoQe2C84C_P7NspjIuSBl4P02XVo33EkMFyTLb22jhbb6UCkY7JP-SZHM8Cc7_23z6qddMR_MKzw0x_yXivSZ34aGXgLjnkSGsH0lehQZh0xsl21VPzMFEwJ6nePnW53s3QvX1ZZUZQs2XnOQo5HwC77EVk8d2kCP8nctu3x209hHspC904nDhIF_uILxt2IKCb0S52OlVziVHeWJuI2LgcQQ9ipcPCZzEmfScO6cLHoHawRFtpoBA==&c=gJlFBqWC7Zy32jodnOY978ARRFU7OTk5Rhcn42gBS1Pen8rv7_EMiQ==&ch=0T-Gj044DiZxPbjXJ-wOVnQuWdwxI7Yh7rYjCdUiW4CxgY3OZGth4g==) | |

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| |  | | --- | | **The First Crew Under Artemis** | |

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| |  | | --- | | In April, the four astronauts selected for NASA’s Artemis II mission were announced: Commander Reid Wiseman, Pilot Victor Glover, and Mission Specialist Christina Koch from NASA, and Mission Specialist Jeremy Hansen from the Canadian Space Agency. Artemis II will be NASA’s first crewed flight test of the Space Launch System rocket and Orion spacecraft to verify today’s capabilities for humans to explore deep space and pave the way for long-term exploration and science on the lunar surface.  ﻿While NASA is leading Artemis, international partnerships are a key part of advancing Moon to Mars exploration. In 2023, 10 additional countries signed the [Artemis Accords](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0018tmjNmBQxTrvv1iGD3FSyKfBxabAGxbjSoQe2C84C_P7NspjIuSBlwYRUpyzyaEQGouqwcFe_i_BDarW2-Xv92sPr7vYc2wK4Gkrl9j3dfiyAVG5pZlWFDaLi4m0TCXryuUIH7UfEJ3M5BWEQlFJ6c4SLAQwjKbumyfMIiY_KY8=&c=gJlFBqWC7Zy32jodnOY978ARRFU7OTk5Rhcn42gBS1Pen8rv7_EMiQ==&ch=0T-Gj044DiZxPbjXJ-wOVnQuWdwxI7Yh7rYjCdUiW4CxgY3OZGth4g==), which lay out a common set of principles governing the civil exploration and use of outer space. So far, 33 countries have signed the Artemis Accords. | |

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| |  | | --- | | [**MEET THE CREW**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0018tmjNmBQxTrvv1iGD3FSyKfBxabAGxbjSoQe2C84C_P7NspjIuSBl6Gf9JNhREDDu5ujFAm7E404_vA5Y0USos9FUSWSxzvRd_obJ9d5B4WBns7PoB_UvBjOuCwhKNObVxkEYPCd0s-eeyuT70tsUkcZb4T0HENAIpGUJpNDaT7FmQt9v9Ea3Q==&c=gJlFBqWC7Zy32jodnOY978ARRFU7OTk5Rhcn42gBS1Pen8rv7_EMiQ==&ch=0T-Gj044DiZxPbjXJ-wOVnQuWdwxI7Yh7rYjCdUiW4CxgY3OZGth4g==) | |

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***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 send it to: [webmaster@arrl-ohio.org](mailto:webmaster@arrl-ohio.org)

Please! Format as below:

If you want me to publish your club information, or even an article you have written, please send it in WORD format (.docx). Please use Times New Roman font size 12 for the body of the aritcle. Any photos please include as a .jpg or .bmp – the time you save me in doing all the conversions will be greatly appreciated.

How to Plan and Apply for an ARRL Hamfest or Convention

If your amateur radio club is planning to host a convention, hamfest, tailgate, or swapfest, please consider applying for ARRL sanctioned status for your event. To learn what it means to be an ARRL sanctioned event, and to get some ideas on how to prepare for and conduct a hamfest or convention, visit [www.arrl.org/arrl-sanctioned-events](http://www.arrl.org/arrl-sanctioned-events).

To apply for ARRL sanctioned status for your event, go to [www.arrl.org/hamfest-convention-application](http://www.arrl.org/hamfest-convention-application).

The ARRL Hamfests and Conventions Calendar can be found online at [www.arrl.org/hamfests](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests). In addition, the Convention and Hamfest Calendar that runs in *QST* each month also presents information about upcoming events.

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**VE Sessions:**

**The following information is for *ALL* exam sessions:**

It is now an FCC requirement to have an FCC FRN; active email address and active phone number before taking any exam. Please bring your FCC FRN, original license, a copy of your license (if a licensed ham), a valid photo ID and $15.00 - Cash preferred.

Effective April 19, 2022, the FCC will charge a $35.00 application fee for amateur radio licenses. The fee will apply to new, renewal, rule waiver, and modification applications that request a new vanity call sign. License upgrades will not have a fee applied. The fee will be per application. *VE's will not collect the fees at exam sessions.*

**AE8FP Amateur Radio Test Team** administers ARRL-VEC testing in the Central Ohio area. Our test dates for 2024 are as follows: Januray 20, April 27, June 22, July 20, and October 19. Time and location for these dates are 10:00am at the Westerville Fire Station #111, 400 W. Main St in Westerville, Ohio. The listed dates are co-sponsored by the Central Ohio Radio Club (CORC).  
  
Pre-Registration is required, and open the 1st of each testing month. All information is available at [www.ae8fp.net](http://www.ae8fp.net/) <<http://www.ae8fp.net/>>

**All Things Amateur Radio Association (ATARA)** We host testing sessions every second Tuesday of the month in Lancaster. To sign up please visit our website <https://atara-w8atr.fun> and contact us at [hamexams@atara-w8atr.fun](mailto:hamexams@atara-w8atr.fun).

**Butler County Amateur Radio Association W8WRK**

Laurel VE Testing Session - hosted by DIAL amateur radio club

Amateur Radio License Examinations at 9:00AM on Sunday April 29th at Fairfield Township Administration Building 6032 Morris Rd. Hamilton, OH 45011. Pre-Registration is required, go to: www.qsl.net/w8blv click on Exams and follow the instructions. Additional info may be obtained from Thurl Golden, KD8VLU (513) 939-4891 [tgolden@fuse.net](mailto:tgolden@fuse.net) or Ron Spaulding, N8QF, (513) 617-6181 or [n8qf@roadrunner.com](mailto:n8qf@roadrunner.com) . There are no Exam Fees!

**CARS**

VE testing from CARS - Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society - at Elmwood Recreation Center, 6200 Wisnieski Parkway in Independence, Ohio 44131  Time: 9:15 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Always the 2nd Sunday of the odd month. Go to CARS  [www.2cars.org](http://www.2cars.org/) for detailed map of location.  Call Metro W8MET 216-520-1320 for details

**Clark County Amateur Radio Association (CLARA)**  What: CLARA sponsored A.R.R.L. VE Testing - Walk-ins allowed. Pre-Register via email preferred. When: On every second Saturday of each even numbered month starting at 10:00 AM Feb  
10th; Apr 13th; Jun 8th; Aug 10th; Oct 12th; and Dec 14th, 2024.Where: Springview Government Center - Emergency Operations Center; 3130 E Main St; Springfield OH 45503 This is US-40 aka "old national road". From Route 40 enter Old Columbus Road, at the fork stay left driving straight onto Ogden Rd, then immediately turn left into the parking lot behind the EMA. Walk to the door with the "Employees Only" sign.

For more information contact Roland W. Ude, W8BUZ, (937) 605-4951 Email: [buzz@baylorhill.com](mailto:buzz@baylorhill.com)

**Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA)** If you are interested in testing for a new or upgraded license, please come see us at the DARA Clubhouse. If you have questions about testing, please email [exams.w8bi@gmail.com](mailto:exams.w8bi@gmail.com)

**Dial Radio Club, Middleton, OH**

Will offer Amateur Radio License Examinations at 6:00PM on Wednesday March 1st at St. John XXIII Elementary School, 3806 Manchester Rd., Middletown, OH 45042. Pre-Registration is required, go to: www.qsl.net/w8blv click on Exams and follow the instructions. Additional info may be obtained from Dave Williamson, KD8W, (513) 424-5819 or [kd8w@ARRL.net](mailto:kd8w@ARRL.net) or Ron Spaulding, N8QF, (513) 617-6181 or [n8qf@roadrunner.com](mailto:n8qf@roadrunner.com) . There are no Exam Fees!

**Geauga Amateur Radio Association (GARA)**

Amateur License exam sessions are offered for all license classes (Technician, General, Extra). Walk-ins are always welcome - no prior registration is required. No fee for the exam.

The GARA schedule of exams are these Sundays at 2pm. Dates for 2023 are January 15th, March 19th, May 21st, July 9th, September 10th, and November 12th.

Exams are held at the Geauga County Department of Emergency Services and Emergency Operations Center, 12518 Merritt Road, Chardon, Ohio 44024. The EOC is located just south of the University Geauga Hospital and just east of the Geauga County Safety Center (Sheriff's Office), off of State Route 44 between State Route 322 and State Route 87 on Merritt Road.

Please arrive a few minutes before 14:00 to allow adequate time to process the necessary paper work and take your test. Bring your 1) photo ID, 2) email address, 3) FCC FRN, 4) a printout of your current license if taking the General or Extra exam.

Additional info may be obtained from Jim Mekeel, KE8EMP, email [KE8EMP@gmail.com](mailto:KE8EMP@gmail.com) or the Geauga Amateur Radio Association website <https://geaugaara.org>

**Huber Heights Amateur Radio Club**

Huber heights amateur radio club does ARRL VE testing the second Saturday of each even numbered month. Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec. 9:30-11:00 For more information contact Jim Storms – AB8YK at [ab8yk@hotmail.com](mailto:ab8yk@hotmail.com)

**The Lake County Amateur Radio Association**

The Lake County Amateur Radio Association is holding its **2024** Amateur Radio license exams at the **Kirtland Library**, 9267 Chillicothe Road, on the following dates:

Saturday. February 3 Saturday, August 3

Saturday, April 6 Saturday, October 5

Saturday, June 1 Saturday, December 7

This bi-monthly schedule is the first Saturday of every even-numbered month (e.g., February being the second month, etc.). They are held at the Kirtland Library, 9267 Chillicothe Road. It is 1.7 miles south of I-90 on Route 306 (Chillicothe Rd). The library is on the left, just beyond the Marathon gas station. The tests will start at **12 noon.** Please arrive a few minutes earlier.

To register, you will need a NCVEC 605 Form, which will be available at the test. If you would like to complete one ahead of time, be sure it is the Sept 2017 version or later. You can find it by Googling “NCVEC quick-form 605” and clicking on the url for a pdf of the form. Please note **the FCC requires you to provide a FRN** (FCC Registration Number). Social Security Numbers are no longer accepted. If you are new to ham radio and don’t have a FRN, Google “New FRN” and follow the fcc.gov link.

If you are currently licensed, be sure to **bring a copy of your license to the exam.** The cost of the exam itself is $15.00, and if you wish to pay by check, it should be made out to the ARRL/VEC. Identification with your picture is also necessary, such as a driver’s license. If you have any questions, please contact Scott Farnham, KO8O, at (440) 256-0320, or [scottfarnham@roadrunner.com](mailto:scottfarnham@roadrunner.com)

**In addition** to the $15 test fee, the FCC now charges $35 to add you to the Amateur Radio database. The FCC will e-mail successful candidates instructions for payment directly to them. Payment must be made within 10 days of the e-mail. This charge does not apply to upgrades.

**The Lancaster and Fairfield County Amateur Radio Club (LFCARC**) hosts exam sessions at the FAIRFIELD County EMA, 240 Baldwin Dr in Lancaster Ohio, 43130, on the first Saturday each month at 10:00 am. Please visit our website at <http://www.k8qik.org> for exam dates on our calendar and navigate to our Learning Center/Taking the Exam link for information and requirements. Our experienced VE team looks forward to serving the Amateur Radio community in Central Ohio. Contact me at [ve\_testing@k8qik.org](mailto:ve_testing@k8qik.org) to register.

**Lisbon Area Amateur Radio Association**  Beginning Feb 11, 2023 Testing on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Columbiana County EMA located at 215 S Market St. Lisbon, OH 44432. Walk-ins OK. Check in at 1:00PM. For more information go to [www.K8GQB.com](http://www.K8GQB.com) or contact NN8B at [nn8b.oh@gmail.com](mailto:nn8b.oh@gmail.com)

**Madison County**  The Laurel testing group will offer testing on the first Thursday of January, March, May, July, September and November. Tests are held at 7:00PM at the Madison County EMA located at 271 Elm St. London, OH. No fee.

**The Milford Amateur Radio Club (MARC)**

VE testing is held the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM.  Location;  Miami Township Civic Center located at 6101 Meijer Drive, Milford, OH  45150.

 Please pre-register at [www.milfordhamradio.org](http://www.milfordhamradio.org/)

**Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society (NOARS)**   Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society (NOARS) VE sessions are held the first Saturday of odd-numbered months (EXCEPT FOR March and July) at 10 AM in the **Fairview Park Library, 21255  Lorain Rd., Fairview Park.** Registration is preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. For more information or to register, contact Elaine, KC8FOS at [ewilkinson1951@gmail.com](mailto:ewilkinson1951@gmail.com). There will be a VE session held **Sunday, March 10** at the NOARS Winterfest held at Lorain County Community College **in the College Center,** 1005 Abbe Rd N, Elyria, OH 44035. Please email Elaine, KC8FOS at [ewilkinson1951@gmail.com](mailto:ewilkinson1951@gmail.com) for more information or to register.

**Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS)**

The first Saturday of every even numbered month -10 am – at the PCARS club site in Ravenna. Please visit the PCARS web site and check out the information about VE testing in the latest newsletter at [www.portcars.org](http://www.portcars.org) .

If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to contact me at KB8UUZ@gmail,com

**Tusco Amateur Radio Club W8ZX**

VE Testing sessions are held on the second Saturday of every even numbered month at the Dover Faith Church, 420 N Wooster Ave, Dover, OH 44622. Pre-registration is not necessary. Doors open at 0830 for registration, exams begin at 0900. Cost is $15. You are required to have an email address and a copy of your FRN or current ham radio license. For more information please go to [www.w8zx.net/exam](http://www.w8zx.net/exam) or email [VETEAM@N8BAG.NET](mailto:VETEAM@N8BAG.NET).

**West Chester Amateur Radio Association (WC8VOA)**Exam sessions are held one Saturday each month at 10:00 AM-Noon at the VOA Bethany Relay Museum located at *8070 Tylersville Rd, West Chester, Ohio 45069.*For more information and links to register, please see our website: <https://wc8voa.org/licensing/>

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**Free Amateur Radio License Upgrade Classes**

Jim Grover, N8PZL

Frank Tompkins, W8EZT

Anthony Luscre, K8ZT

**General Class**

The Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club will again offer online classes to pass the FCC General Class Exam. The classes will be held via Zoom on six Sunday afternoons from 1:30 to 4:00 PM. The first class will start on Jan 14th. The classes are free and available to all interested hams with Tech licenses or studying to complete their Tech license by the end of the classes. Class materials will be distributed via Google Classroom, and the suggested book is “[*General License Course Study Guide*](https://hamradioschool.square.site/product/general-license-course-2019-2023/8?cs=true&cst=custom)” (2023-2027 edition), available from HamRadioSchool.com.

If you have your Tech license, this is a great way to expand the bands and modes you have access to. It will also provide a lot of practical information on Amateur Radio.

We need you to spread the word if you already have your General or higher license. Please contact friends, relatives, etc., who have Tech licenses and invite them to this class.

Please feel free to print out the following page and send it to them, post it at your nearby library or any other spot around town that may have interested viewers.

We will have just completed our fall Tech Class with 20 attendees on Nov 12th. We will have another Tech Class next fall or if we have enough demand before then.

A sign with text and a cartoon image

Description automatically generatedThe Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club offers free live online classes to get your

Amateur (Ham) Radio General Class License. Classes start on Jan. 14, 2024.

A qr code on a white background

Description automatically generatedFor information, visit- [tiny.cc/beahamg](http://tiny.cc/beahamg)

What is Amateur (Ham) Radio?- tiny.cc/wiar

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**Your Club news should be listed here!**

I know you’re out there doing things! Send me a write-up (MSWord please) and some photo’s (.jpg please) and we’ll get your club hi-lited here for the other OH Section Clubs to see! Send to [WB8LCD@ARRL.ORG](mailto:WB8LCD@ARRL.ORG)

**ARLD050 DX news**

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by The Daily DX, 425 DX News, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites.  Thanks to all.  
  
KUWAIT, 9K.  Members of the Kuwait Amateur Radio Society are QRV as 9K9BHR until December 18 in celebration of neighboring Bahrain's Commemoration Day.  QSL via operators' instructions.  
  
BAHRAIN, A9.  Members of the Bahrain Amateur Radio Society are QRV as A91CD until December 18 in celebration of Bahrain's Commemoration Day.  QSL via EC6DX.  
  
CAPE VERDE, D4.  Markus, OE3MCS is QRV as D44MCS from Sal Island, IOTA AF-086, until December 22.  Activity is holiday style on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8.  QSL to home call.  
  
FINLAND, OH.  Special event station OF9X is QRV until December 31. Activity is on all bands using CW, SSB, and FT8.  QSL via OH2BH.  
  
EAST KIRIBATI, T32.  Members of the Rebel DX Group are QRV as T32TT from Christmas Island, IOTA OC-024, until December 21.  Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4.  QSL via OQRS.  
  
GUATEMALA, TG.  Steve, K4IM is QRV as TG9AWS.  Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using mainly FT8 but plans to soon be active using CW and SSB as well.  His length of stay is unknown.  QSL via N2OO.  
  
FALKLAND ISLANDS, VP5.  Special event station VP8FLY will be QRV from December 19 to 31 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Falkland Islands Government Aviation Service.  QSL direct to VP8LP.  
  
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS, VU4.  Krish, W4VKU will be QRV as VU4N  
from Andaman Island, IOTA AS-001, from December 16 to 26.  Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters.  QSL to home call.  
  
BURKINA FASO, XT.  Harald, DF2WO is QRV as XT2AW from Ouagadougou until December 19.  Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4.  QSL via LoTW.  
  
VIET NAM, XV.  Roman, RN5M is QRV as XV9MA from Mui ne.  Activity is in his spare time on 160 to 6 meters.  His length of stay is unknown.  QSL via LY5M.  
  
LAOS, XW.  Vincent, F4BKV is QRV as XW4KV until mid-2024.  Activity is mostly on 15 and 10 meters using FT8.  QSL to home call.  
  
ROMANIA, YO.  Special event station YR8XMAS is QRV until January 10, 2024.  QSL via operators' instructions.  
  
REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO, Z6.  Gab, HB9TSW is QRV as Z68BG from the Slatina Air Base until December 19.  Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using only CW.  QSL to home call.  
  
ST. HELENA, ZD7.  Chris, HB9FIY and his wife Agata will be QRV as ZD7CA and ZD7AA, respectively, from December 16 to January 14, 2024. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using SSB and various digital  
modes.  QSL via EA5GL.  
  
CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF.  Bruce, K3NQ is QRV as ZF2NQ from Grand Cayman until December 20.  Activity is holiday style on 17, 15, 12, and 10 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8.  QSL via M0OXO.  
  
Please see December QST, page 65, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest  
websites for details.  
  
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[**Upcoming *Hamfests***](http://arrl-ohio.org/hamfests.html)

Logo, company name

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| ***Ohio Hamfests*** | |
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| ***2024*** | |
| **01/14/2024 -**[**Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation Hamfest**](https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/sunday-creek-amateur-radio-federation-hamfest-3)  **Location:**Shade, OH **Sponsor:** club members [**Learn More**](https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/sunday-creek-amateur-radio-federation-hamfest-3) | **03/10/2024 -**[**WINTERHAMFEST**](https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/winterhamfest-3) **Location:**Elyria, OH **Sponsor:** Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society **Website:** [http://winterhamfest@noars.net](http://winterhamfest@noars.net/) [**Learn More**](https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/winterhamfest-3) |
| **03/17/2024 -**[**Toledo Mobile Radio Association Hamfest and Computer Fair**](https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/toledo-mobile-radio-association-hamfest-and-computer-fair-2)  **Location:**Perrysburg, OH **Sponsor:** Toledo Mobile Radio Association **Website:** [http://www:w8hhf.org](http://www:w8hhf.org/) [**Learn More**](https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/toledo-mobile-radio-association-hamfest-and-computer-fair-2) | **04/13/2024 -**[**Mid-Ohio Valley Amateur Radio Club**](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/mid-ohio-valley-amateur-radio-club)  **Location:**Bidwell, OH **Type:** ARRL Hamfest **Sponsor:** Mid-Ohio Valley Amateur Radio Club [**Learn More**](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/mid-ohio-valley-amateur-radio-club) |
| **05/16/2024 - 05/19/2024** [**Four Days In May**](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/four-days-in-may)  **Location:**Fairborn, OH **Type:** ARRL Convention **Sponsor:** QRP Amateur Radio Club International **Website:** <http://qrparci.org/fdim> [**Learn More**](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/four-days-in-may) | **07/21/2024 -**[**Van Wert Hamfest**](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/van-wert-hamfest-8)  **Location:**Van Wert, OH **Type:** ARRL Hamfest **Sponsor:** Van Wert Amateur Radio Club **Website:** [http://w8fy.org](http://w8fy.org/) [**Learn More**](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/van-wert-hamfest-8) |
| **8/10/2024 -**[**Cincinnati Hamfest**](https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/cincinnati-hamfest-3)  **Location:**Owensville, OH **Sponsor:** Milford ARC **Website:** [https://CincinnatiHamfest.org](https://cincinnatihamfest.org/)  [**Learn More**](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/cincinnati-hamfest-3) | **08/18/2024 -**[**Warren Hamfest**](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/warren-hamfest-1)  **Location:**Cortland, OH **Sponsor:** Warren Amateur Radio Association  **Website:** <https://www.w8vtd.com/> [**Learn More**](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/warren-hamfest-1) |
|  |  |

Plenty of Ohio Section Hamfests on tap for 2024! If you haven’t got yours submitted to ARRL as of yet – go back up a couple pages to the top of the “Clubs” section for complete instructions on how to get your fest ARRL Sanctioned! As you can see, I’ve left a couple open slots here for your Ohio Section Hamfest!

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A person sitting in a chair

Description automatically generatedDX This Week – CQ Marathon Update

Bill - AJ8B **(**[**thedxmentor@gmail.com**](mailto:thedxmentor@gmail.com) **or** [**www.aj8b.com**](http://www.aj8b.com) **)**

I hope you have been on the air. The T32TT group has been very workable on almost all bands except for 80 and 160. (At least for me). The XT group in Burkina Faso has also been workable. If you are reading this column fore general interest and you have not yet been bitten by the DX bug, you should work them anyway. You never know when the bug will hit and there is no guarantee that these entities will be activated anytime soon.

I received the following update from Mark, WC3W. He is the CQ DX Marathon Program Administrator. If you have not participated in this yearlong event, I would really encourage you to do so.

**NEW SUBMISSION TOOL FOR DX MARATHON 2023**

**Ladies and Gentlemen of The DX Marathon Program**

We wanted to make all of you aware early of an exciting change we have been working on throughout 2023 to simplify the submission process for your 2023 results to be submitted between January 1-5, 2024.

Why are we doing this?  The answer is simple.  We are trying to continue to make participation easy for everyone AND we must position our program for future growth as we expand.  We don’t yet know what 2023 will bring in terms of participation but in 2022, we grew at a +46% rate.  We have exciting enhancements we wish to make in the future so we must pay careful attention to our processes to make it possible to continue to administer the program in a quality manner.

How does the submission process work? In the past, you created an Excel file and that was your submission. Some of you edited this worksheet manually, directly in Excel, but most used tools like AD1C’s to process an ADIF export from your logging program, or if you were using DX Keeper, you generated the Excel worksheet directly. This Excel file is still accepted, and you can upload it on our new Submission Tool to get started with your entry.

Now, however, you can skip all these steps, generate an ADIF file from your logging program, and upload this instead of the Excel file. The Submission Tool will help you select, review and edit your entry directly, making any additional tools and applications completely optional.

You can find a link to the new Submission Tool right in the middle of [www.dxmarathon.com](http://www.dxmarathon.com/).

The most significant benefit to you with the new tool is that it will allow you to review, and more importantly, EDIT, each one of your entries.

Why is this a benefit to you?  Well as you all know, you and only you are responsible for the integrity and accuracy of your reported QSO’s.  Just as the case in the past, you get a wrong CQ zone, you list a pirate, or you make a typo, your QSO will be rejected, and you will lose the point. The new submission tool does not check the integrity of your QSOs; that is for you to do just as you have in the past.

Stated another way, your results as reported are only as good as the accuracy of your log.  Therefore, we encourage all participants to carefully check all of your information before submission.  The tool will make this easier for you to accomplish.     
    
If you’ve been using Excel to keep track of your progress or use DX Keeper or AD1C’s tool to generate the worksheet, you can still keep your workflow.

We have beta-tested the tool for the last 2 months with over 100 participants.  The results that we have thus far are excellent and those that have used it are very impressed.  Of course, in a beta test, we did uncover some issues which have been corrected.

You will notice with the tool, that there will be a list of questions as you continue through the process to include your station data, your call, and your antenna details.  If you have a club affiliation, be sure to include that as well. If your club is not in the provided list, that’s fine, just make sure all of the club members settle on a single descriptive input, for example, the Northern Illinois DX Association should decide on NIDXA or whatever they choose (or even better, send us an email with the name and we’ll include it in the list).  The antenna questions will help define your entry classification, i.e. Unlimited, Limited, Formula, or QRP.

The tool is live now.  Go ahead and try it out.  As was the case in the past, you can have multiple submittals, the last of which will be the only one to be maintained.  Also, your early submittals are held confidential within our system and are not available in the public domain. I encourage all to start using it to avoid a panic rush when the official submittal is due between January 1-5, 2024.

We want to encourage more software developers to produce ADIF files that work flawlessly with our tool, and if their apps do a better job at selecting QSOs than our does, then they can produce an ADIF, or even an XML file, that only has one QSO per entity and zone, so no further decisions are needed.

Your DX Marathon administrative staff are always available to assist you.  I would also encourage you to join DX Marathon Group IO as that is a great forum to get many of your questions answered.

PLEASE TRY IT OUT NOW!  JUST DO IT!  If you have any issues, please email both Sebastian at [KI2D@dxmarathon.com](mailto:KI2D@dxmarathon.com) myself, at [wc3w@dxmarathon.com](mailto:wc3w@dxmarathon.com) and describe the issue.  Any other comments are appreciated.    
    
73    
Mark-WC3W    
CQ DX Marathon Program Administrator

# DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH

Here is an update from Bernie, W3UR, of the DailyDX and the WeeklyDX, and the How’s DX Column in QST. The DailyDX the best source for real-time DX information. <http://www.dailydx.com/> . Bernie has this to report:

**CHRISTMAS 2023 WISHES FROM THE LAND OF SANTA CLAUS,   
FAR NORTH OF EUROPE**

  

Santa’s broadcasting arm, Santa Radio OF9X, is now QRV on all amateur radio bands and all modes; CW, SSB and FT8, and will be active till the end of the year, December 31, 2023, 21.59 UTC. The activity is organized by Radio Club of Pusula, OH9W, and Radio Arcala, OH8X.

The genuine Santa from Northern Finland, next to the North Pole, is about to start his journey to delight the world's children of all ages in all parts of our dear planet earth. Sadly, Christmas 2023 is different from the past as Santa will have to carefully navigate through the troubled parts of Europe and the Middle East, passing through partly closed air spaces.

It's not only the elves that are busy preparing for the journey but also the hammerjacks at their radio stations. They will offer you a competitive spirit as we welcome you to greet Santa’s helpers on all band-modes and follow your personal progress on the OF9X Club Log leaderboard.  So, who are these hammerjacks we speak of, and what is their role of

 HAMMERJACKS?

That is the puzzle you must decipher this year, right after we get Santa on his way!

As a summary, regardless of our turbulent times, the innocent children in their hopes for world peace and saving their planet are at the center of Santa’s mission every year – and 2023 makes no exception.

We have news about **Bouvet Island and Peter I Island.** Fundraising has begun for the 2025, 3YØK, Bouvet Island DXpedition. A website is under construction for Bouvet and the 2026 Peter I Island trip. Their latest news release contains a detailed description of the vessel they will use to travel to Bouvet Island from the Falkland Islands, their loading process, and their staged landing plan. They are also planning a dedicated camp with low angle take-off to North America.

Next week: VU4, **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** Krish, W4VKU, should be QRT by this time from Lakshadweep, and will head to Port Blair, Andaman Islands to operate as VU4N. He says that his equipment will arrive this Saturday. After he has an electrician do some work, he will install antennas: 20-10M, 30-40M, and 80-160M verticals; a hex beam, and a receiving loop, in that order. He plans to operate SSB and FT8, the latter with MSHV and multianswer auto-sequencing on non-standard FT8 frequencies. MSHV will be set to prioritize stations farthest away. His operating frequencies and QSL information are available on the VU4N QRZ page.

Mid-December to mid-January: ZD7CA and ZD7AA, **Saint Helena Island.** Chris, HB9FIY, and his wife will be back on St. Helena Island and QRV as ZD7CA and ZD7AA for four weeks, between December 16th, 2023 and January 14th, 2024. Chris has concerns about fog that can cause flight delays but expects to be able to make it to the island. They will be field testing some Buddipole gear and “experimenting with some of our own creations.” Chris also notes that Saint Helena now has its first Parks on the Air (POTA) site, Diana’s Peak National Park. He hopes to activate it during their stay. QSL via LoTW.

March 19th -30th , 2024: 7P8EI, **Lesotho.** The EIDX Group has announced that, building on the success of their recent DXpeditions, including 9N7EI, 7Q7EI, 5V7EI and V26EI, 14 operators will be on the air as 7P8EI from Lesotho. March 19th -30th , 2024 The contingent will fly to Johannesburg, South Africa, and travel by road to Lesotho. They will run five high power stations on 160-10M CW, SSB, and digital modes. QSL via MØOXO.

Here is one to look forward to in the late summer 2024: CY9C, **Saint Paul Island.** The Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has agreed in principle to allow the CY9C expedition team the opportunity to conduct another DXpedition to the small northeast island of Saint Paul Island, Nova Scotia in late August to early September 2024. Planning has been ongoing, but the pace will quicken going into the new year, with antenna testing to begin in January. The nine CY9C team members are the same core group that conducted the CYØS Sable Island DXpedition in March 2023. This will be a 160-2M “tent and generator” DXpedition. Detailed information is available on the CY9C website.

Now a quick note about **Vietnam** - The new callsign for Eddy, XV1X, is XV9T. His other call, 3W1T, has been replaced with 3W9T. This happened because of telecommunications regulations changes within the country.

# DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH

A black text on a white background

Description automatically generatedBelow 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. I also have a comprehensive list that can be imported to your calendar at [www.aj8b.com/files](http://www.aj8b.com/files) .

There is one contest coming up that I will participate in for the first time. For those of you who want opportunities to increase your code speed and develop a better fist, this is the activity for you. It runs from 0000Z on December 24th to 2359Z on December 31st, or the last week of the year. What makes this contest unique is that you get points for the length of the QSO you are having. The minimum length of a qualifying QSO is 5 minutes. To score in this contest, you must be conversant in CW. However, it is incumbent that both stations find a speed that is comfortable for both of you. You get an additional point for every 5 minutes up to 30 points.

Just visit the www.wa7bnm.com website for more details.

  Over the last two weeks, I discussed working DX in a contest. I used Singapore, 9V, as my target DX. We also found ways to determine that there would most likely be stations on from 9V during the contest. We reviewed spots that were collected over the past two weeks to start tracking the time and frequency that 9V could be present in my area. results

We now want to put together a prediction and then test it. Let’s assume it is a week before the contest. We are going to run a prediction and then monitor spots for a few days to see how accurate or useful this tool might be.

My logging software, DXLab, has a propagation forecasting module. It requires 3 pieces of information; DX Conditions for a particular date, Your station information, and the target station information.

Since we are a week away, we are going to test the software to see how accurate it is. The first piece of information are the DX conditions. In DXLab, I can press a few buttons and the software will automatically fill the Solar Flux Index, the K Index and the Sunspot index for a particular date. I used the date of the next day.

Secondly, you need to enter your QTH data which includes a take-off angle and your power output. I used the manufacturers data sheet to get the take-off angle for my antenna.

The third piece of data is data on the DX target. This includes their Grid Square and/or Longitude and Latitude.

Once you click the “forecast” button, you will get a graph that shows the expected propagation from your QTH to their QTH. Once I generated this, I printed it off and then waited a few days. I compared spots that were on the cluster for the requested date to the predicted propagation and found the actual data to be close to the predicted. This gave me confidence to use this tool for contest predictions.

I have used this tool quite a bit, most recently to work the VU7A DXpedition with amazing results. I would really encourage you to check this out if you have never used a tool like this.

**\_\_****\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

A person wearing headphones

Description automatically generated with low confidence**OHIO’S**

Although most amateur radio club holiday events in the Southern Ohio/Ohio River Valley have concluded, there are yet a couple to happen. Two clubs will hold their annual Christmas dinners on December 19. According to Mark Killen, KD8QIG, the **Tri-State ARA** will have their annual Christmas dinner gathering starting at 7 PM at the Radio Museum in Huntington. On the same evening the **Athens County ARA**’s annual Christmas dinner will take place at the Athens Applebees. It will start at 5:30 PM, with club furnished hors d’oeuvres, followed by the individual ordering of meals from the menu at 6. During the evening the winner of the annual NC8V Memorial Trophy will be announced.

Then on December 31 the **Highland ARA** will hold its annual New Year’s Net on the Hillsboro 147.21repeater (100 tone). At the stroke of Midnight the giant Hillsboro manufactured CS Bell in front of the local historical museum will ring in the New Year. Its ringing will be broadcast over the repeater and at its conclusion the Net Control will take checkins. Anyone within the footprint of the repeater is invited to throw in their call sign and wish all the best for the New Year. Each year the Net grows. Last year stations from Kettering, McArthur and Springfield participated.

That rather wraps up the remaining South 40 Region ham radio events yet to happen through the end of the year. But there are some events already scheduled to happen in January we need to advise our readers of.

**Portsmouth RC** President Russ Jett announces the Club’s monthly meeting will be delayed a week because the normal schedule causes it to fall on New Year’s Day. Therefore it will be moved to January 8 at the Portsmouth American Legion Hall.

According to incoming Great Lakes Division Director Scott Yonally, N8SY, there are several dozen hamfests already set to happen in Ohio during 2024. The hamfest season will begin in Shade, Ohio on January 14 when the **Sunday Creek ARF** holds its hamfest at the Shade Community Center. The doors will open to the public at 8 AM.

On January 20 the **Fayette ARA** will conduct a Laurel VE test session at the Washington CH Public Library. Registration begins at 10 AM in the basement conference room. Please enter through the side door. All test elements will be given. As this is a Laurel test, there is no fee for testing made. However the FCC for new licenses does apply, but that is not collected at this time.

Kim Paquette, N8YWX, reports the 2024 **DeForest ARA** officers will be: President, Bill Hablitzel-K8WEH; Vice President, Duff Kindt-K8TFG; Treasurer, Jared Shupert-KE8GAD and Secretary Tory Peterson-N8XGR.

Lee Bishop, N8YHU, reports the 2024 **Highland ARA** officers will be: President, Ken Lightner-KE8JEL; Vice President, John Willis-KE8JEM and Secretary/Treasurer, Kathy Levo, N8ZNR. Jeff Collins, KD8VUY, will join Tom Archibald, K8TDA, and Dan Carruthers, KE8NPS as trustees.

A person adjusting a person's shirt

Description automatically generated

An ‘Atta Boy’ goes out to Nate Schneider, WD8MOI, for being recognized by Cincinnati and Columbus Red Cross officials for his 45 years serving as a volunteer to that organization. Nate received a special Red Cross pin to recognize this notable achievement. Additionally state officials and represenatives from the Cincinnati, Brown and Clermont County Red Cross Chapters attended a breakfast in his honor.

South 40 friend and contributor Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, informs us of a new ham in Fayette County. We learn that David Scott, Jr. of Washington CH passed his Technician license and is now KE8ZQX.

That’s it for the news items, but before closing I want to pass along a few good news ham radio items you may find of interest.

A person in a santa hat holding a box

Description automatically generatedOn the 9th N8ZNR and I could have started the day with our **Bainbridge Area Radio Friends** and their monthly breakfast but a later starting time appealed with attendance at the **Highland ARA**’s Brunch Bunch. Following it we could have headed to the **Scioto Valley ARA** Christmas dinner, but its timing overlapped with the plans to go to Huntington to visit the **Museum of Radio and Technology**’s ‘Get On the Air With Santa’. Later that day we attended the annual **Portsmouth Radio Club**’s Christmas dinner and fund raising auction. Although it was a long day, being with members of our ham family (plus meeting some new folks) made those hours and miles driven melt away. Yes you don’t need to be a member of a club to enjoy ham radio. But the amount of pleasure, enjoyment and network opportunities that being a part of an organization sure helps. If you are not a part of a local club, make checking into it a part of your 2024 New Year’s resolution. Try it. You might like it!

A person holding a child's heart

Description automatically generatedA sign on a brick building

Description automatically generatedAccording to Teresa Killen, KD8QIH, this year marked the 7th year for the **West Virginia Museum of Radio and Technology’**s ‘Get On the Air With Santa’ event. Each year the number of children and adults attending keeps growing. This year over 150 attended and over 50 youngsters got to use the radio to tell Santa what they wanted to receive Christmas morning. Additionally while the kids were talking to Santa, Mrs. Claus or Tinzel the Elf, the adults were roaming the exhibit halls and studying the show cases displaying thousands of amateur and broadcast radios, stereos, televisions, computers, a mock-up of a broadcast studio and oddles of other electronic items from the past to the present. Mark Killen, KD8QIG, and curator Geoff Bourne each stated the Museum is Huntington’s Best Kept Secret. They invite those in the amateur radio community to visit. The Museum is admission fee free and is open weekends and at other times by appointment. You can check them out at [www.mrtwv.org](http://www.mrtwv.org) or on YouTube. It is a visit and road trip well worth making.

A group of people sitting around tables

Description automatically generatedOver 70 attended this past Tuesday’s **Highland ARA** Christmas Dinner Party. What had to be the highlight of the evening was a testimonial from newly licensed Nick Finsel, KE8ZLL. Nick told about hearing hams on a scanner and wanted to learn more. He heard that something called Hamvention was going to be held and decided to attend and try to learn more. Although work caused him to get there late on Saturday, a chance first stop at the HARA flea market space lead to HARA members spending over 2 hours telling about ham radio and led to an invitation to attend their upcoming Field Day near New Vienna. Since Nick lives an hour and a half away at Sidney, it surprised the HARA group when he later informed them he was going to attend and spend the weekend. Not only did he attend, but he pitched in and helped set antennas and equipment up, got on the air and made contacts. Thus he became more enthused about earning a ticket. At a car show he met **Queen City Emergency Net** PresidentTom Delaney, W8WTD, who told him about an upcoming license class. For six weeks the class met with Nick frequently making the two hour one-way trip between Sidney and Cincinnati. At the conclusion of the class, tests were given and Nick passed not only his Technician but his General too.

But that’s not the Rest of the Story. What Nick did not know was that this sequence came so close to not happening, but divine provence stepped in. It seems various reasons caused HARA to be on the verge of surrendering their 2023 booth spaces until a newly re-licensed member stepped forward to convince them otherwise. It seems he had recently moved from New Mexico to Highland County’s Rocky Fork Lake area. And previously held a 5 land call sign until life got in the way and he let it expire. Now he was wanting to get relicensed and was looking for a club to connect with for assistance. He was surprised to see a banner on a tent for a club in his back yard. Until that moment he did not know about the local **Highland ARA** or it being the Hamvention Club of the Year that year. He talked with HARA members for some time, later joined the Club and passed his license through one of their VE sessions and became active. Based on this personal experience, he convinced HARA not to surrender the booth spaces and volunteered to take charge of the 2023 Hamvention flea market effort as a way of paying back the Club’s helping him regain his license. If it had not been for Jeff Hardy, KE8VEI, chancing upon the HARA booth in 2022 and then chairing the booth activation in 2023, Nick Finsel’s path to becoming KE8ZLL may have taken an entirely different path.

That’s it for another column. But before we part the Levo clan of Kathy-N8ZNR and John-W8KIW, son David (no call); daughter Jennifer-WA8KIW; daughter-in-law Carina-KK7EYH and our four legged Pete-K9DOG want to wish all of our readers a Blessed Christmas. We hope that between the decorating, shopping, entertaining, visits with family and friends, church services and other holiday related events that you find a bit of time to get on the air. Unfortunately as the ham population gets older we find many hams whose spouses have passed, children and relatives unable to visit and friends gathering with their own family for the holidays. So taking a few moments and chatting with a person over the radio may go a long way towards making their day. But most of all please remember the Reason For the Season.

Until next time, 73 and Merry Christmas.

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**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**](http://arrl-ohio.org/news/2020/print_your_license.pdf)

***One Question Questionnaire***

!!!!! I would really like to hear from as many of you as possible. How about going to <http://arrl-ohio.org> and giving me a click? (It’s in the bottom left corner of the page) While you’re there, you can click the Big Red Arrow to enter into this months Handbook Giveaway!

This week’s Question: Does your spouse have a Ham Radio License?

1. **YES**
2. **No**
3. **I’m Not Married!**

From last week’s question – Are you buying yourself an amateur radio gift for Christmas?

**a) 30% YES**

**b) 70% no**

Wow! I’m surprised….Well, I know a lot of us “Old Timers” already have 1 or 2 of just about everything!

(**This is a subliminal message:** Go to the Ohio Section Website, on the bottom left of the landing page answer this week’s question. AND DON’T FORGET – look for the Big Red Arrow and sign up for the November Handbook give away! It’s been reworked in the last week, so it should work for you…)

Bottom of Form

Ohio Section Cabinet

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Section Manager – Tom Sly, WB8LCD | Section Traffic Manager – David Maynard, WA3EZN |
| Section Emergency Coordinator – Bret Stemen KD8SCL | Section Youth Coordinator – Anthony Luscre, K8ZT |
| Technical Coordinator – Jeff Kopcak, K8JTK | Affiliated Clubs Coordinator – Amanda Farone – KC3GFU |
| State Government Liaison – Bob Winston, W2THU | Public Information Coordinator – Elizabeth Klinc - KE8FMJ |



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. You might want to list your location so that prospective buyers know where you’re at. 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](mailto:swap@arrlohio.org)

***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>

***Want to Share your Club Newsletter With Others?***

We have a webpage where you can download and read all of the newsletters that I get from around the state and even other sections!

Here’s the link to the page…. <http://arrl-ohio.org/club_news/index.html>

Please, if you don’t see your club newsletter posted, it’s because I’m not receiving it. Just have your newsletter editor contact me and I’ll get your club’s newsletter listed on the site!!

We all learn and steal (I mean, share) from each other’s work. So, get me your newsletter!!! Send it to: [webmaster@arrl-ohio.org](mailto:webmaster@arrl-ohio.org)

***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](mailto:Opt-In)” to start receiving them. Heck, just have them send an email to: [webmaster@arrl-ohio.org](mailto:webmaster@arrl-ohio.org) and we’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/>

*PostScript is produced as a weekly newsletter. I want to thank everyone that has contributed articles and ideas to make this an even better news source. I sincerely hope that you have enjoyed this edition and will encourage your friends to join with you in receiving the latest news and information about the Ohio Section, and news and events happening around the world! Occasionally you may find and error or two in this newsletter – be assured, they were put there on purpose to make sure you’re reading the newsletter carefully!*