



July 2017 Edition

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THE TECHNICAL COORDINATOR

Jeff Kopcak – TC

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Hey Gang,

Have you recently built something? Came up with a solution to a problem in the shack? Achieved a milestone? Now, ask your club newsletter editor if they are looking for content from club members. I'll bet they say "yes!" Hams are interested in good articles written by club members sharing their experiences with projects and adventures. You'll be surprised to find out how many other people are interested in the same thing or how it will motivate others to experiment with something similar. Believe me, it happens.



One of the reasons you see me here in the OSJ is because of articles Ken - KG8DN asked me to write for the LEARA newsletter a few years ago. If you don't write articles as part of a job or for fun, the last time many of us wrote anything was probably in school. Those writing technique brain cells were fried long ago. I will cover techniques, ideas, and some lessons learned to assist you in putting together a fantastic article for the club's newsletter.



First and most important, meet with the newsletter editor or shoot them an email letting them know the topic you want to write about and get an idea of their requirements. Requirements such as: how much space will I have, will there be room for pictures and diagrams, when is the deadline to have everything turned in. Page requirements will help you focus the article emphasizing certain topics and provide detail versus insignificant points that don't fit with the rest of the story. The editor may have some general questions to help jump-start the process.

This works too as stories wrote themselves with a question or three. Note these questions and refer back to them if you have writer's block. If the topic isn't exactly ham related or different than the usual type of articles found in the newsletter (ie: more public service than technical), ask about that too or write it with a technical focus.

With the editors' requirements in mind, make an outline (bullet point list) of general topics to cover. What do you see as the major milestones of the project? Maybe something like: design considerations, building, and operating. Once the main points are established, include a few detail points. For a build project, this might look something like:

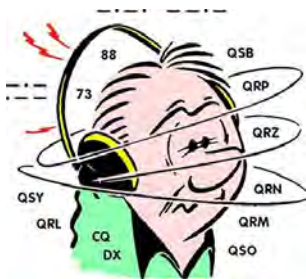
- Design
 - Power source (AC, DC, USB, car, battery)
 - Inputs (radio audio, computer audio)
 - Outputs (radio audio, computer audio, line monitor)
 - Connections (speakers, headphones, USB)
 - Indicators (LED: power, audio level, PTT)
 - ...

- Build
 - Placement of components (circuit board, level adjustments mounted on the side)
 - Connectors (USB, serial, audio)
 - Sizes (hidden switch, large lighted switch, large LEDs)
 - ...
 - Housing (Altoids tin, wooden box, oil pan, baking tray, hobby store find)
 - Mounting (wall, portable, back of radio)
- Operation
 - Testing (digital net, friend over the radio)
 - Tweaking (changed component values)
 - Adjustments (audio level knobs in front, manual pot inside)
 - ...
 - Anticipated results (clean audio on PSK)
 - Actual results (splattered across the entire band – only kidding)

After the general outline is assembled, it's time to start thinking about the details. People have different writing styles. Some plan the entire article top to bottom and write as such. Others start with the detail points and form a story around it. Some just write their stream-of-consciousness then add or delete details in revisions.



Whatever your style, introductory paragraph should have generalizations about the topic giving the reader something they can relate to: “have you ever heard...,” “did you ever wonder about...,” “I first learned about...,” “while I was doing X, I heard about Y,” “when I first got my license I was thinking what about doing Z.” The first paragraph or two should illustrate the topic in “broad brush strokes.” No specific details about the topic, yet. Quaky antidotes are always good. The last sentence should setup the specific topics covered in the article. This is referred to as the thesis. The thesis can outline specific topics: “I’m going to talk about experiences designing, building, and operating my new widget.” Or general: “here’s how I got this project off-the-ground” with specific topics detailed in the article. Either way, the main bullet points created earlier should form the thesis and drive the main topics covered in the article.

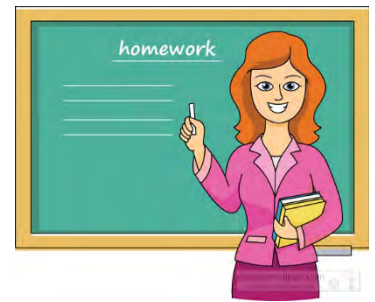


After topics are established for the reader, start by first talking about the problem you were trying to solve. Talk about things like: “I wanted to add JT65 capability to my QRP rig,” “I’ve used available interfaces before and wanted mine to do A and B because C,” “I wanted to learn Linux so I used a Raspberry Pi to make a portable NBEMS station,” “I wanted to learn Python and now the club’s station can be operated remotely.” Fill in the details about how you went from a problem to a working solution using the detail bullet points outlined earlier as a guide. Was the solution similar to another design found online or did you create one from scratch? Why did this solution work for you? What value did it add for you? What lessons did you learn about your chosen path? What problems did you incur and how did you solve them? Describe to the reader the functions of different pieces or purposes of the different stages. Example: “this stage takes the audio from the radio and amplifies the level for the computer,” “this takes the computer audio and drops the level for the radio.” When in doubt, answer the 5Ws: who, what, when, where, why.

It’s incredibly easy to get wrapped up or focused on the details. Remember your reader probably doesn’t have the same level of experience and is only mildly interested in your project.

Bombard them with minute details and their head will explode. Give them some table scraps, they'll find something interesting and keep reading. Don't rattle off specifications like: 'I choose the ARM v5 blah blah processor because flux capacitor blahs blahs +1,000,000,000V than the equivalent direct-conversion Arduino ATmega2560 16 MHz blah blah PWM at 4097 bit encryption...' No one cares.

Concise descriptions in (mostly) plain English are always better: "I wanted an audio path between the radio and computer that keyed the transmitter from the software. It must be isolated to prevent buzzing and hum noises from potential ground loops." Most hams know what those terms mean. If some technical detail is paramount to the story, relate it to something most non-technical hams would understand: "the Raspberry Pi hard drive is an SD card, which is the same type of storage used in nearly all cell phones and digital cameras."



If space allows, note any other solutions researched and discuss reasons those alternative methods were abandoned. Take a position then argue with yourself: here's my idea, here were other possible solutions and why I didn't accept them or why they didn't work. An absence of supporting facts shows a lack of critical thinking and understanding of the subject. The closer the audience is to a subject, more convincing and disproving other theories will be required. Use of snarky comments shows arrogance, so leave them out. Finally, wrap it up. Include anecdotes, accomplishments, funny stories, or final comments about the project. Were you happy with the results? What do you use the device for? Did you find other or different uses for the project than you envisioned?

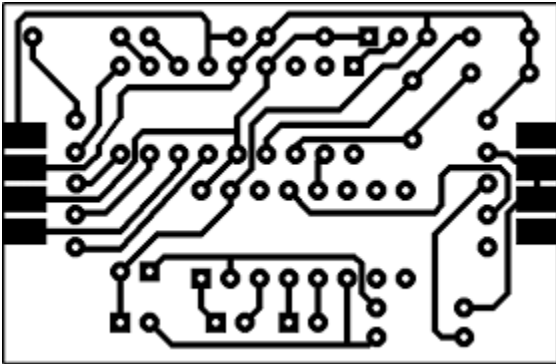


Pheew! Now I'm done right? Well, far from it. The article is written, now revise, revise, and revise. Re-read your work to make spelling, grammar, and context corrections all while making sure it flows well together – does anything I wrote make sense? The free LibreOffice Writer is great but Microsoft Word has a phenomenally better grammar checker. For me, it works best to print the entire article, read it, make revisions on paper as I go along, enter them into the computer, print it out again, make more revisions, put it down for a few days – repeating this process about 5 or 6 times. Printing takes me away from the computer allowing me to focus on the article. I picked up this habit in grad school when I got a C on a paper. I knew if I spent more time revising, my grade could have been better. Whether I'm not in the right mindset, got a lot going on, stressed, or not committed, my revision regiment eventually produces something I'm proud of. If you're not good with revising, ask a buddy or spouse to help you out.

The newsletter editor is there to give you some direction. Don't expect them to do all the work. They have enough to do. Unlike news or publishing organizations that have paid staff to scrutinize the article, the editor probably has little experience or standing with your topic. If they offer to proof read and make suggestions or comments, utilize it. Don't expect them to validate every detail, statement, correct every spelling mistake or grammar error. Don't take offense to their feedback either. They're trying to help by providing constructive criticism while making the newsletter appealing to readers. Don't send them a bunch of pictures without relating them to the work. It will be embarrassing when they put the wrong picture in the wrong section because ya' didn't make it clear!



For images, designs, or facts found elsewhere, give credit to the source of that information. You wouldn't like it if someone stole your design and claimed it as theirs. In school, they made this big deal about using specific style guides for a bibliography. I haven't used any of that stuff. I'll make a note, usually with a website or URL, in line with the text or put a section at the end giving credit for *their* hard work.



Personally, I love to see pictures of the device in operation, installed, or the person working on it. Leave out anything more than basic diagrams and schematics. Details in those images will be lost when sized for the copy. Detailed images, documents, diagrams, and videos can be uploaded to a website, if available, or use a free online storage service like Google Drive or Dropbox. Both have provisions to create a shared directory that others can **only view** (that is important!). Link to that folder or specific file at the end of the article: “for more pictures, a more detailed write-up, or schematics, go to this URL.” Videos are good if they're kept to about 2-4 minutes in length showing the person using their

project and talking a little about it.

These can be uploaded to YouTube for exposure or to the online storage folder. Longer detailed videos or build videos should be separate. If the viewer wants to learn more, they can check-out the longer versions.

While the examples provided here were geared toward a build project, this outline can be used for sharing knowledge on a software defined radio dongle you picked up, a new digital mode you learned, operating adventure, or new toy many have yet to see. If you're still looking for more methodology ideas, grab any issue of QST and follow the format of a similar article to yours. With a little work, you can become a published author and help your club out in the process!

Thanks for reading and . . .

73, de Jeff – K8JTK

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THE AFFILIATED CLUBS COORDINATOR

Tom Sly, WB8LCD - ACC

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Hey there! How'd you all do at Field Day this year? Do me a favor, if you, or your club, participated in Field Day, 2017, send me a copy of your score sheet, as submitted to the ARRL. I want to see just how the OHIO Section scored compared to the other ARRL Sections. There's really no reason on God's gray earth why we shouldn't be the top section in the whole of North America! And, if for some reason, we weren't, then we've got our work cut out for us in 2018. Last month I talked about having fun, and that will continue to be my theme this month, but with just a little twist that maybe you weren't expecting.



Every club has two distinct groups in it: 1 - the officers, whose job it is to make sure everyone else is having fun, and, 2 – the membership, those who are being served by their club's officers. Being a club “Officer” can sometimes be a thankless job. I can tell you that there are some club officers who put their heart and soul into serving the members of their club. In the coming months, I'll have quite a bit to say about what those officers can do to make the club experience a good one for their members.

I'll talk about the programming and activities that club members are looking for and appreciate. I'll talk about all the things the club officers are responsible for overseeing for the benefit of the membership. But right now, I want to talk about the responsibilities of the members of any club they belong to!



The dilemma is kinda' like that of the chicken and the egg. Which one came first? If no-one can really say, then maybe the best way to work at the issue is to look at it from both sides and agree that both sides need to work together to solve the problem. If you are a club officer, by definition you are working on the problem. But what about the other 75-85% of you who are the club members? There are a lot of things you can do (with no commitments!) to help make your club successful.

1. Show up. Just by being there, you are saying a lot to the club officer's, which will motivate them to plan other activities! Let's say you've got a monthly meeting, a weekly net and maybe one or two other activities or meetings each month. I'm talking about maybe 10-12 hours per month! Even if you only did half that stuff, it's still only 5-6 hours a month. Figure out all the hours you WASTE per month watching stupid shows on TV or just doing other stuff you really don't care about. You can't find a few hours in there that would be better spent participating in your chosen hobby? When members show up and participate in club activities, your club officers will be highly motivated to doing more good things for the club!

2. You want to motivate your officers? Try saying “Thank You”. You could do it in person. You could send them an email or a text. If you were really ambitious, you could send them a written thank you card in the mail. As a club officer, it can get pretty disheartening when you don't get any positive feedback that your members appreciate what you're doing on their behalf. That might add another 5-10 minutes to your monthly time commitment to the club. BFD. (Yes, it is to the officers who feel appreciated for what they do.)

3. Have you ever said “Our club ought to.....” but never offered to make it happen? Every club leader is looking for those suggestions. If you add on “and I can help you do that” or “I will find a great speaker on that topic” you have just made yourself a valuable club member, even if you only do it once or twice a year! And you've made the club more interesting and valuable to every member who takes the time to participate in that activity. Nice work!



4. Be that guy who is **INCLUSIVE** at club activities! See someone you don't know, walk up to them and say hello. It's every club member's job to make sure that new hams and/or prospective members are made to feel welcome at your activities. I have personally seen people walk into a club meeting or activity, spend an hour or more there, and have **NO-ONE** say a word to them. Why would they even want to go back to someplace like that, let alone pay your dues to become a member?

Sure, the president can make sure you have an opportunity to be introduced at the meeting, but if you aren't made to feel like you can become a part of the group, you aren't coming back. I promise, if you do just these things, your club will experience a revival like you never expected! Sure, you're going to be nominated to be in charge of some things, and I hope you accept that responsibility. You'll have more fun with your hobby and so will the other participating members of your club!



Here's a special note to you older guys: Ham Radio has become an “Old Man's” hobby. We need to change that. If we get some young peoples interested, they come out and see a bunch of old guys who don't want to do anything because they're old and tired, do you think they are going to want to be a part of that? **NO WAY!** We (Yeah, I'm one of you too) have to get out there and have the time of our lives doing fun things so that the younger folks can see that it actually is a **FUN** hobby! Then, when they're all excited about the fun we're having, they'll want to be a part of it too!

I don't want to get political, but I want to quote John F. Kennedy: “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country!” Put that into the context of your club. If everyone worked for the success of the club, how could it not be successful? And I don't just mean lip service – I mean some real picking up where the weak spot is and holding it up. I've heard people accept roles or jobs in a club by saying “I'll do it if no-one else will.” Really? That's your level of commitment? Sometimes it's better to let something go undone than to do a miserable job at it. And if it always has to be done by your club officers, they're going to burn out rather quickly! I like to quote historical figures, and one of my favorite quotes is from Winston Churchill. In some of the worst times in Britain during WW II, Mr. Churchill said “It's not always good enough to do your best, sometimes it's necessary to do what is required.” It's all about attitude!

Just remember this: If your club needs to be turned around, put back on the right path, have some fire breathed into it – it needs the club members doing their part to support the mission of the club. That mission should have something to do with having fun with and learning more about your hobby! Like most things, it's going to be a process – not an event. It'll take some time, effort and commitment. I can promise you – it will be worth it!

73, de Tom wb8lcd

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THE SECTION EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Stan Broadway, N8BHL - SEC

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Did you have a good time at Field Day? As important, did your gang learn anything? Remember the background is to practice being able to set up an emergency communications station. Watch the news coverage of the various Internet hacks and ransoms... the loss of Internet function may be closer these days than ever before. We need to be ready!!



ARES Management Team

I recently sent out a report on the first monthly meeting of DEC's. It's a move to enhance our "team" leadership and apply our group knowledge to managing ARES. I think it'll show a great improvement!

**We're asking EVERY EC to review your membership rosters. Make sure every person on the roster is still participating. Make sure if they are FEMA qualified, and that they and the state database have their certificates. Because this is needed for the Department of Public Safety ID credentials, please get the required information for that: Full name, driver's license (and state) cell phone number and cell carrier and their email. Also the year, make, model and license for their main vehicle if possible. EC's should maintain this to be fed into the ODPS database in case of activation. We're asking that EC's HAVE THIS INFORMATION BY SEPTEMBER 1, and pass it to their DEC.

We are establishing standing project teams for such topics as training, resource management, exercises, hospital programs, neighboring section relations, and digital (voice/data) activities. These need not be the only items- we value YOUR suggestions and input always! Let me know if you have ideas for this!

Ohio Responds

We have talked a little about ARES and amateur radio's association with the "Ohio Responds" program. Here are the details, and reasons why YOU should register right away!

Ohio has two laws in place that *limit liability* for volunteers working in emergency situations.



This essentially means we can't be sued for accidental mishaps we might create. In order to be covered by this legislation, our volunteers need to be registered in the database for "Ohio Responds".

This started life as a medical response program, but has grown to cover many different disciplines. Registering with the program will not put you in jeopardy of getting a phone call and being sent to Timbuktu. It is only a registry. Likewise, when you register, you DO NOT have to enter all your training again- we understand that ARES already has a database for training, and it's on us to maintain that. YOU DO HAVE TO HAVE THE FOUR FEMA COURSES!! Without those courses in our database, you will not be approved.

Go to: <https://www.ohioresponds.odh.ohio.gov/> and "Register Now" to get your name on the list! It's very important!!

OQP

The Ohio QSO Party is coming up- a great, fun contest. So what? I believe contesting is the best way to improve your operating skills under pressure to be fast and accurate. Besides, it's fun!

SET

Ohio SET will be the weekend of October 7-8, and it's shaping up to be big! ASEC Mat Curtin, KD8TTE, is working up an exciting exercise that will tie Ohio counties together, and even tie Ohio with other sections and states! An invitation has already been emailed through the Ohio EMA Director's Association to every member, informing them of the event and inviting them to join with an exercise within their own county. It's an excellent time to test their own resources and abilities to communicate with the 'outside' agencies such as Ohio EOC/JDF and The Sarge (W8SGT).



The four-state region of Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio are particularly affected by a series of supercells that bring severe weather, including massive wind (including tornadoes), hail, flash-flooding, and so on.

Impacts include property losses, overwhelmed local responders, exhaustion of mutual aid capability, escalation to state EMAs, and the deployment of NGOs, volunteer partners, and state resources to coordinate neighborhood (CERT) response, perform damage assessment, establishment of shelters, operation of points of distribution, operation of volunteer reception centers, and other mass care services. During "intense" periods, the county and state agencies themselves lose communications capability, requiring amateur radio operators to maintain contact, sending bulletins to the field, and receiving reports from the field.

Critically, players extend beyond amateur radio, and partner organizations and agencies simulate their own operations and inject into the scenario at appointed times. In Ohio, the Ohio Military Reserve (OHMR) simulates POD and VRC operations and, while Ohio EOCs are without phone and Internet service, operates SHARES stations that communicate with amateur stations on the 60M channels.

Focused on the 7-8 Oct weekend, high-intensity play runs for 24 hours in each section, moving west to east in 12-hour intervals. High-intensity play means that the agencies have lost communications and we're talking ARES deployments, rather than just heightened awareness and operation of third-party traffic or other support of the public directly. The idea is to stand up operations in the section within this window, not necessarily to operate for the entire period:

IA 6 2200Z Oct - 7 2159Z Oct
IL 7 1000Z Oct - 8 0959Z Oct
IN 7 2200Z Oct - 8 2159Z Oct
OH 8 1000Z Oct - 9 0959Z Oct

Returning to low-intensity play until ENDEX on Sun 15 Oct at 0559, giving us two full weeks of operation. The long period of low-intensity play should give everyone an opportunity to play as their schedules permit, time for traffic to relay from one station to another, etc.

There are two ways to think of SET: One: lean back in your recliner, "Been there done that, don't need no practice". Two: "This sounds like fun! I can see us creating a good test for all, and a chance to teach some of the newer guys what we've learned!" Obviously, both you and your ARES group will benefit more with attitude two.

Amateur Radio Shines

We are in the season where we find ourselves standing at water stops, intersections and in the middle of parades, rides, runs, walks, crawls... all those public activities we cover. Yes, it takes up time, but man does it feel good to provide our service! And people are watching. Please volunteer when asked to help cover an event! The more we are seen by our agencies doing good things for our communities, the fresher we'll be in their minds when it hits the fan. Thank you for all your time and energy!

You can view the SEC's monthly reports on the website.. <http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/default.html>

73, Stan, N8BHL

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THE PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR

John Ross, KD8IDJ - PIC
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From the PIC

2017 Newsletter Contest – Results

Judging for the 2017 Ohio Section Newsletter Contest wrapped up last week...and WOW...what a great experience!

Just when I thought the newsletter judging could not get more intense...it did...and the judges were blown away with this year's entries.



The most frequent statement I heard was “these are all good.”



Perhaps the most important revelation of the night was when the judges realized the printed newsletters had “upped their game” with graphics, readability and content that nips right at the heels of the on-line newsletters. That is a benchmark moment. Frankly, there was some concern over the past three years that when the on-line versions became more prevalent the normal printed newsletters would find it hard to keep up. Well, they did keep up and in a big way.

Actually, what the judges saw is a true reflection of Amateur Radio...ever changing, pressing the envelope and growing in the process. It's a tribute the Ohio Section clubs and their newsletter editors...showing us the more they are challenged...the more they respond...all to the betterment of Amateur Radio.

It was very, very difficult to pick the winners...they were...are...all that good. It's a great problem to have and I believe it could only happen in Ohio!

For a group of seasoned, professional and experienced journalists to respond so overwhelming positive to the newsletters speaks volumes to the hard work of every editor, every club and every member. It was a great night...a great time to be an Amateur Radio operator.

As for the results...the announcements and presentations will come on August 5th at the Columbus Hamfest and Ohio Section meeting.

Next month I'll detail of the winners.

Congratulations to everyone!

After Judging



As we wrapping up the judging last week one of the judges...a Pulitzer Prize nominated journalist with decades of experience... starting “unloading” on me!!

Keep in mind this is a guy I've known and worked with for years and he started with the rapid fire questions...“Why ham Radio?”, “What's the advantage, can't you just use a cell?” “Why would anyone want to be become a Ham?” “What do you really do besides talk to each other?”

Well, for second I wanted to hook him up to the output of my 1500 watt liner amp...but then I realized he was giving me a great opportunity and a great lesson. In my professional life, I've trained hundreds of executives and public relations folks how to talk to the media...how to present their point of view and cast themselves and their company in the best possible light. I was now on the other end of that sword and needed to think quickly.

So I began to calmly explain amateur radio, a little history, the advantages of being a ham and some of the things we do to foster better communications.

Well, it worked...he smiled and under this breath I'm sure I heard him say "this guy has still got it."

All of this got me thinking that every PIO and Editor needs to be ready to respond to challenging questions from, not only the media, but from non-amateurs as well. We need to be ready with good facts, good information and a professional approach that makes our hobby stand out and stand strong.

Take some time and practice answering questions. I promise it will come in handy in the future.

That's it for this month...more on the newsletter winners next time. I'll see you on August 5th at the Ohio Section Meeting and hamfest.

That's it for this month.

73, John, KD8IDJ

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THE SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGER

David Maynard, WA3EZN - STM

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From all reports that I have received Field Day in Ohio was a great success. Aside from a few showers it was a warm sunny day. From the hog roast to the pot lucks I heard the food was good and plentiful. Many contacts were made and visitors shown what ham radio is all about and what it can do.



The OSSBN was plenty busy handling field day radiograms well after field day was shut down. The OSSBN meets three times a day at 10:30 AM, 4:15 PM and 6:45 PM on the frequency 3972.5. All stations are welcome to check-in to the nets. Speaking of the OSSBN their semi-annual meeting is coming up at the Columbus hamfest the first Saturday in August.



27th Annual Columbus Hamfest - Saturday August 5th, 2017

By the time the Ohio Section Journal is out the hamfest and meeting will be just a few weeks away. The Columbus hamfest moved to a new location in 2016. It is still held at the Aladdin Shrine Center, but the Aladdin Shrine Center has moved to 1801 Gateway Circle, Grove City, Ohio 43123, just south of I-270 off I-71 at Stringtown Road.

From the north take I-71 South, to the first exit past I-270. Exit at Stringtown Road and turn right, then take an immediate right onto Marlane behind TJ's restaurant. Follow Marlane to Gateway Circle. The APRS Marker is W8FEZ.

If you are north bound on I-71 take the Stringtown road exit. At the light at the end of the ramp turn left, go over I-71 and take an immediate right onto Marlane just past the southbound exit ramp. Follow Marlane to Gateway Circle.

For Hamfest information email W8FEZ@arrl.net or check out this link [2017 Columbus Hamfest Flyer](http://columbushamfest.com/media/40841264b60c8a9ffff80b9ffffe41e.JPG)
<http://columbushamfest.com/media/40841264b60c8a9ffff80b9ffffe41e.JPG>

If you operated field day you may have been using a generator for you electricity. If you were in the field and not in a building or EOC you probably got a feeling for how it would be in an emergency when the power grid fails.

Hardly a week goes by that I don't hear of a power outage here in Columbus. These are small outages caused by weather, trees or vehicle accidents. But what will happen if a large section of the grid goes down and you do not have electricity available for many days.

You will not have electricity for you stove, microwave, refrigerator, freezer or lights. This includes heat in the winter and air conditioning in the summer. But it will also mean no ham radio if you are not prepared.

The power grid is one of those things that most of us take for granted, but it's time to acknowledge that it's getting older, reaching capacity and under attack.

In a USA article "Bracing for a big power grid attack – One is too many" USA Today states "About once every four days, part of the nation's power grid — a system whose failure could leave millions in the dark — is struck by a cyber or physical attack." Without a preparedness blueprint in place, most of us would be in bad shape with an extended grid outage. Here is the link to that article:

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2015/03/24/power-grid-physical-and-cyber-attacks-concern-security-experts/24892471/>

You may not agree with my assessment of the situation however, what I want you to do is to think about the possible scenario of days without power. Here are a few reminders of what you will possibly need to prepare for a power outage that disrupts basic services.

If you are not in the dark, you soon will be. Several light sources will be needed. These can be multiple flashlight or battery lanterns. Small flashlights that use AAA batteries can be used because the batteries are more easily available. It is not a bad idea to have a small flashlight on you person and every room you inhabit. Could you find your way out of an office or building in pitch black conditions?



Some crank powered flashlight serve a double function as a flashlight and backup charger for emergencies. Also consider a rechargeable flashlight or rechargeable batteries for your flashlight. They are more expensive but if kept charged they will come in handy. There are crank and solar battery chargers, plus your car can charge batteries while you travel using a 12 volt adapter.



Candles, oil lamps and Colman lanterns are a possible light source. Keep in mind that if it burns it is using oxygen that you may need if you are in a tightly sealed building or room. One disadvantage of these sources of light is that they use fire which if not used carefully can cause a fire inside your tightly sealed building or room.

If you plan on using your cell phone to communicate be aware that in a major disaster history shows that cell phones service is hampered by more calls than the system can handle. Also your cell phone battery will soon die so you will need a plan to keep it charged. So get a solar charger, and/or car charger, and/or crank USB charger. There are portable power sources on the market now that can help keep your cell phone charged and working.

Assume that you may not have 911 or internet service. Have lists of important phone numbers written down and printed out. Each member of your family should keep one of these lists with them at all times in case of emergencies.

We all rely on GPS for directions and maps. But in an emergency if roads are damages, flooded or blocked GPS can leave you frustrated because it cannot see the roadblocks. Prepare ahead of time by having paper maps of your area so you can get where you are going even if the roads you normally use it blocked.



More than likely if the power is out you TV does not work either. Get a crank or battery powered radio that can listen to emergency radio broadcasts and TV audio. You should also have a weather alert radio with battery back-up. These are a good source of information also.

Consider getting some FRS/GMRS radios to keep in contact with non-ham family members during the power outage or disaster. Even better is to get the family members licensed and use ham radio to communicate.

If the power does go out, dramatically limit access to freezers and refrigerators. They will stay cold longer closed. Personal knowledge tells me that after a 48 hour power outage we suffered no food loss from the freezer because it was never opened during the power outage.



If you can't have a generator, can't afford one, or don't know how to deal with one, you can still be further prepared. Know where your power panel is and what each breaker services in your home and practice going to check the panel at least once a year with your entire family. If you can afford it consider a generator.

If you have a generator do you have a way to get power from the generator to the freezer? It seems simple but where did you store that extension cord? Maybe consider an extra one set aside for emergencies.

Food and water is another thing to think about. If you have ever grocery shopped just before a predicted snow storm hits you have seen a mild version of what will happen in a power outage or disaster. Food will disappear off the shelves rapidly and may not be able to be replenished if the power is out and gasoline not available for delivery trucks.

When I lived on the farm this was not a problem. But if you don't live on a farm your food supply is dependent on the grocery store. You and only you can provide for your family. The government is going to be so overwhelmed that it could be days before food and water is available. You should have enough food and water on hand to last your family several days or weeks depending on conditions.

Now if you have some non-perishable food supplies you probably will not want to eat the cold or uncooked. If you can grill have an extra gas cylinder for your gas grill. You can also use a charcoal grill but will need to have extra charcoal the number of bags depending on space and family size. A gas range might have a pilot light but could also require power. Figure that out BEFORE a power outage. A small camp stove can also provide a low fuel quick meal.



If you have never tried cooking on your back-up cooking method you should use it at least twice a year so you are familiar with how it operates. This will not only get you familiar with this method of cooking but will tell you what accessories are needed to do so. I have picked up some used Boy Scout metal pot, pan and plates meant for camping. These come in a compact kit for easy storage and will come in handy if needed.

Jerky, chocolate, dried fruit and hard candy keep well and make a good treat after a few days of no power, no internet and no TV.

The MINIMUM goal is enough food and water for 72 hours for everyone in the family – including pets. A longer stockpile is better, especially if you can stock a bit more of the food you are eating already, you can use and replace it so it will always be good and safe. And don't forget to get a manual can opener or two. That electric can opener on the counter may not be available for use.

Water could be another problem. If you don't have city water and get your water from a well will you have electricity to pump the water? If you do have city water will they be able to maintain the water pressure without electricity? This is something else that you should have a large enough supply to last for cooking and drinking for several days or weeks.

And since clean water might be scarce, do you have extra paper plates and plastic silverware? If water is scarce you may not want to use it to wash dishes. Also, if you eat that means your probably are going to have garbage. Garbage bags are very important as they can be used to cover a window blown out in a storm. But how do you hold the window cover or garbage bag in place? Where is your stash of duct tape?



My purpose here was to touch on how to prepare for a power outage that disrupts electricity and basic services such as communications, water and trash pickup. Not everything has been covered in this short article so if you have additional things you think I missed please add them to your list of things you need to get or do.

One last thing, you should have a central contact point with a family member or friend outside of your area.

This can be very important if you get separated from family member and cannot make local contact. Keep those traffic reports coming and as Scott says: BE SAFE OUT THERE.

That all for is month,

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

73,

David WA3EZN

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OUT AND ABOUT

Lyn Alfman, N8IMW - ASM

lynalfman@aol.com

June went by fairly quickly; however, I did manage to attend the Cambridge Amateur Radio Association meeting, the Zanesville Amateur Radio Club meeting, and the Amateur Radio Club of American Legion Post 641 in Belle Valley meeting. I also attended the Guernsey County ARES meeting and training session as well as the Guernsey and Noble Counties Long Term Recovery Partnership meeting.

I, unfortunately, missed Field Day this year because of attending our grandson's wedding in South Carolina. The nearest Field Day was 20 miles away, and we had family time all weekend.

For July, I also plan to attend as many meetings as I can.

July is our traditional 4th of July cookout, city band concert, and fireworks with the family. I also hope to travel some more and take care of my vegetable garden. Enjoy your summer activities but play it safe.

Have a safe and fun Field Day everyone! Remember to be "Radio Active"!

'73 Lyn, N8IMW

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ARES TRAINING UPDATE

Jim Yoder, W8ERW – ARES Data Manager

w8erw@arrl.net

ARES training submissions have slowed down for the summer as we all take time to enjoy ourselves with family and friends while children are out of school and the weather feels more like vacation than work. I trust everyone has gotten an opportunity to take some time off and partake in an activity that is both fun and relaxing.



The training numbers do continue to increase and we now have 758 active members listed in the database who have taken a total of 5,064 courses. 561 members have completed the four required NIMS courses. Once again I thank you all for the diligent work and your commitment to ARES and the public service work that we do. Not only do you support the community, but you are also supporting Amateur Radio. The recognition of the important role we place in public service communications gives us strength and support. Competition for spectrum is intense and we are able to maintain ours because we use it not only for our own enjoyment, but the welfare of others. Thank you.

Well, I have crossed the fence into the digital age. After picking up a Texas Digital Radio at Hamvention in Xenia and later a TYT handheld rig and Shark Hot Spot, I think I am ready to begin exploring this new technology. Like most new ways to practice our hobby, this too comes with a lot of reading and new understanding. For me it will come with a lot of searching and looking for answers that I barely understand how to ask for. The concept is pretty easy, but the implementation presents a lot of mystery and new understanding. Seneca County should have a new DMR repeater "W3BWW" operational shortly. The coordination has been applied for and initial testing is nearly complete. I look forward to using this new machine and the huge possibilities it represents.

The new repeater should provide local Hams with an additional capability along with the inherent capability to link to the statewide network as well as nationally. This has tremendous opportunity for ARES and the support of public service activities.

Occasionally I receive requests for reports from the county Emergency Coordinators that include the membership and or the training completed. This can easily be accomplished and if you have the need for this information, please let me know and I will be happy to provide it to you. Changes in call signs and other administrative details can be updated as well along with your additional or initial training documents. Ideally I would like to receive them in the following format: W8ERW-IS-00100.b.pdf. Any changes or additions should be provided to your local Emergency Coordinator and then forwarded to me, Jim Yoder; w8erw@arrl.net.



Thank you all for the great work and diligence in completing your ARES required training. Please let me know if there is anything that I can help you with.

73 and Thank you,

Jim W8ERW

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Ohio Repsponds

Ok.. Here's the latest update on Ohio Responds. We now have 142 persons approved!! Let's keep this going. We have over 560 with all their certificates on file. Let's get everyone to get moving and sign up for Ohio Responds.

Signing up with Ohio Responds will give you liability protection under the State of Ohio. This is a real big things folks.. Where else can you get liability insurance for FREE.



Now, admittedly their system was designed for another purpose, so in some places it doesn't match up well with Amateur Radio Operators and what we do. I have created a webpage where you'll find all the pertinent information for getting registered on Ohio Responds website with as little issues as possible. You really do need to read this information BEFORE you attempt to register, and you will need to have all 4 of your NIMS courses completed and in our statewide database first! There's some very specific information up there that you'll need to know to correctly complete the registration process since it doesn't match up well in some places with what we do. Here's a link to that webpage... <http://arrl-ohio.org/ohio-responds-page.html> You can also find this link on the main page of the Ohio Section website as well.

How do I know if I'm on the list or not? Here's the link to the list.

http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/special/nims_roster.html Don't see your name on the list, and you've submitted your certificates? Contact me immediately!

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LET'S TALK

Scott Yonally, N8SY - SM
n8sy@arrl.org

Hey Gang,

Wow.. Is it wet out there or what?? We've had several of our counties get activated with flooding within the last couple of days, so be prepared!

Field Day.. Yes, it's over for this year, but I know several clubs out there that are already underway on planning for Field Day 2018! I did go to 15 different sites this year! I was exhausted and STUFFED by the end of my travels. I really want to thank all of you for your wonderful hospitality and fantastic food. We won't even discuss how much weight I put back on. Fear not, I am fasting to get it back off!



Field Day Pictures.. If you haven't taken a look, I have a lot of pictures from many of the Field Day sites posted in a gallery. Hey, one of those pictures may be of you! You can find this gallery at: <http://arrl-ohio.org/FD-2017/index.php> This gallery also allows you to download any picture to your computer as well..



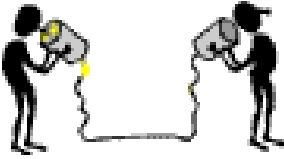
Have you registered for the "Handbook Giveaway" drawing for this month yet? If you haven't, go to: <http://arrl-ohio.org/handbook.html> and get registered. You never know, you just may be the next winner! Just look for the Big Red Arrow on the left side of the main page..

Hey Gang, there's another NEW – one question – questionnaire on the Ohio Section Website! This question is really important for me to know. It will only take about 2 seconds for you to answer it, and you can see how your answer stacks up with others instantly. If you haven't done it yet, please do. I really want to hear from you. And, if you have a question that you'd like to see on our questionnaire, please send it to me! I have had several of you already do that and I would love to see more!!



Are you a member of the ARRL?? If you aren't a League member, this is a great opportunity to become one. Want more information on how to join? Here's the link: <http://www.arrl.org/membership-levels>. There's even a 90 day FREE trial that you can apply for if you've never been a member.. Got questions about being a member or what the League is all about?

Send me an email n8sy@n8sy.com I'll be happy to call or write to you. We can even meet and have coffee if you'd like, and I'll buy!!



I'm sure all of you have heard me say that I'm always available for you, whether you're an ARRL member or not. It's true, and you can feel free to write or call me anytime. If you have any questions, concerns, or would just like to sit and chat awhile over a cup of coffee or something cold to drink, feel free to call or write me (419) 512-4445 or n8sy@n8sy.com

That's going to do it for this month. I sincerely hope that you have enjoyed reading all about what's happening within the Ohio Section Cabinet this month. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the many hamfests, club meetings that I attend, or even on the air!

73, Scott, N8SY

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THE OFFICIAL OBSERVER COORDINATOR

John Perone, W8RXX - OOC

w8rxx@arrl.net

The Ohio OO's in June monitored a total of 1230 Hours.

One advisory notice OO card was sent, however 3 "Good Operator Reports" were sent.

Good Operator Report Cards notify a station of Excellent radio signal quality or operating procedures that set a fine example for all radio amateurs.

Having a station that has great audio without distortion, being on frequency, using proper phonetics, and identifying at proper 10 minute intervals without overdoing it might just reward "YOU" a Good Operator Report Card from one of the hard working Ohio OO's.



Here is the Official NATO phonetic alphabet that is generally understood by Amateurs in all countries.

A - Alfa	N - November
B - Bravo	O - Oscar
C - Charlie	P - Papa
D - Delta	Q - Quebec
E - Echo	R - Romeo
F - Foxtrot	S - Sierra
G - Golf	T - Tango

H - Hotel	U - Uniform
I - India	V - Victor
J - Juliet	W - Whiskey
K - Kilo	X - X-Ray
L - Lima	Y - Yankee
M - Mike	Z - Zulu

Here are Unofficial Phonetics Used By Many DXers

- A.....AMERICA, Amsterdam
- B.....BOSTON, Baltimore, Brazil
- C.....CANADA, Columbia, Chile
- D.....DENMARK
- E.....ENGLAND, Egypt
- F.....FRANCE, Finland
- G.....GERMANY, Guatemala, Geneva, Greece
- H.....HONOLULU, Hawaii
- I.....ITALY
- J.....JAPAN
- K.....KILOWATT, Kentucky, King
- L.....LONDON, Lima, Luxembourg
- M.....MEXICO, Montreal
- N.....NORWAY, Nicaragua
- O.....ONTARIO, Ocean,
- P.....PORTUGAL, Pacific
- Q.....QUEBEC, Queen
- R.....RADIO, Romania, Russia
- S.....SANTIAGO, Spain, Sweden
- T.....TOKYO, Texas
- U.....UNITED, URUGUAY
- V..... VICTORIA, Venezuela
- W..... WASHINGTON
- X.....X-RAY
- Y..... YOKOHAMA
- Z..... ZANZIBAR, Zulu

73, John, W8RXX

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ARISS to Celebrate 20th Anniversary with SSTV Event

(from ARRL Bulletins)

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) program is planning a slow-scan television ([SSTV](#)) event starting on Thursday, July 20, and continuing for 2 days, to commemorate its 20th anniversary.

Transmissions, set to get under way around 2125 UTC, will feature 12 images from past and present ARISS activities. The SSTV signal should be available nearly anywhere on the globe at some point during the event.

“Starting with our first meeting in November 1996, our joint operations on *Mir*, becoming the first operational payload on ISS in November 2000, to our [more than 1,100] school contact (so far), ARISS’s accomplishments have been tremendous,” ARISS International Chair Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, said, in first announcing the SSTV event last. “We have touched the lives of many and inspired and educated countless students to pursue science, technology, engineering, and math careers.”

The event plans to use a computer on the ISS Russian Segment, which stores images that are then transmitted to Earth using the onboard Kenwood TM-D710 transceiver, the ARISS announcement explained. Those receiving the images can [post them](#) for public viewing.

SSTV signals will be transmitted on 145.80 MHz using FM. The SSTV mode is expected to be PD120, with PD180 as a possible second option. Free SSTV decoder software is available on the Internet.

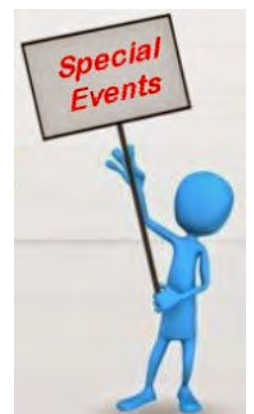
ARISS asked educators to consider ways in which they might use this opportunity to inspire their students by having them take advantage of this chance to capture images directly from space to their computers.

All ARISS events are dependent on other activities, schedules, and crew responsibilities on the ISS and are subject to change at any time. News and updates are on the [ARISS website](#), the [AMSAT website](#), the [AMSAT-BB](#), the [ARISS Facebook page](#), and the ARISS Twitter feed [@ARISS_status](#).

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SPECIAL EVENTS STATIONS

- **07/24/2017 | Cabwaylingo State Park Dog Days of Summer**
Jul 24-Jul 30, 0000Z-2359Z, W8V, Cincinnati, OH. KE8BBB. 14.330 7.230 7.180.
Certificate & QSL. Arthur F. Menges, KE8BBB, 2603 Foran Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45238.
Special Event to run entire week at various times from various locations within 8123 acre state park. QSL Manager: Arthur F. Menges KE8BBB
- **08/03/2017 | Mahoning Valley Olde Car Club Show**
Aug 3-Aug 8, 2359Z-2359Z, W8C, Youngstown, OH. Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association. 7.250. Certificate. David Salmen, 113 Fairview Ave # 7, Canfield, OH 44406.
W8C is a special event station celebrating the 39th annual Mahoning Valley Olde Car Club Annual Car Show.



The MVOCC was founded in 1978 by a small group of Mahoning Valley residents with a common interest in old cars. The first outdoor car show was held in August of 1979 and since then is slated for the first Sunday in August, every year. We offer a printable certificate for QSO's with the W8C station by email from the address below. Optionally we will mail a printed certificate to requests mailed to the address below. If requesting a printed certificate please include \$2.00 to cover postage and handling. DO NOT send a "SASE" (self addressed stamped envelope), we will provide the envelope. If emailing please put "Rally Certificate" in the subject line. In either case include your name and call. Email: wb8iba@yahoo.com; Address: 113 Fairview Ave #7 Canfield, Ohio 44406 wb8iba@yahoo.com

- **08/03/2017 | Pro Football Hall of Fame Festival**

Aug 3-Aug 6, 0000Z-0000Z, W8AL, Canton, OH. Canton Amateur Radio Club. 21.320 +/- 14.285 +/- 7.200 +/- W8AL repeater 146.790/141.3H . Certificate. Canton Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 8673, Canton, OH 44711. On the Air times subject to operators available. Send QSL Card and \$2.00 for postage & Handling. www.w8al.org

- **08/12/2017 | Carnation Festival - Celebrating Alliance, Ohio as the birthplace of the Scarlet Carnation, Ohio's state flower**

Aug 12, 1400Z-2000Z, W8LKY, Alliance, OH. Alliance Amateur Radio Club. 14.250 14.035 7.240 7.035 . Certificate. Alliance Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 3344, Alliance, OH 44601. Other frequencies & modes as circumstances permit. Stations contacted may download a certificate from our QRZ page. w8lky@w8lky.org or www.w8lky.org or www.qrz.com/db/w8lky

- **08/19/2017 | SARA 40th Anniversary**

Aug 19-Aug 26, 0000Z-2359Z, W8WKY, Akron, OH. Silvercreek Amateur Radio Association. 14.275 7.285 3.875. Certificate & QSL. Jason D McCormick, N8JDM , 2790 Vincent Dr, Barberton, OH 44203. www.w8wky.org

- **09/09/2017 | Celebration of the Opening of Burr Oak State Park**

Sep 9-Sep 10, 1600Z-1600Z, KC8AAV, Glouster, OH. Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation. 28.400 7.245 3.800. Certificate. Russ Ellis N8MWK, 8051 Kochis Road, Glouster, OH 45732. This special event is in conjunction with the Ohio State Parks on the Air contest. iamkc8aav@gmail.com

- **09/11/2017 | Hocking County Fair**

Sep 11-Sep 17, 1900Z-0200Z, N8H, Logan, OH. Hocking Valley Amateur Radio Club. 28.405 21.380 14.275 7.270. QSL. HVARC, 52 E. Second St., Logan, OH 43138. On air 1900Z to 0200Z Daily. www.qsl.net/k8lgn

- **09/16/2017 | Johnny Appleseed Festival 50th Anniversary**

Sep 16-Sep 17, 1200Z-1400Z, K8GQB, Lisbon, OH. Lisbon Area Amateur Radio Association. 14.260 7.180. Certificate. Scott Dunn, 9168 Steubenville Pike Road, Lisbon, OH 44432. Times are daily. info@k8gqb.com or www.k8gqb.com

- **09/23/2017 | VOA Bethany Relay Station 73rd Anniversary**

Sep 23, 1300Z-2100Z, WC8VOA, West Chester, OH. West Chester Amateur Radio Association. 14.275 14.250 7.285 7.225. QSL. West Chester Amateur Radio Association, 8070 Tylersville Road, West Chester, OH 45069.

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OHIO HAMFEST CALENDAR



07/30/2017 | Portage Hamfair '17
Location: Ravenna, OH
Sponsor: Portage Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Website: <http://hamfair.com>

August
08/05/2017 | 2017 Columbus, Ohio Hamfest / Ohio Section
Conference
Location: Grove City, OH
Sponsor: Voice of Aladdin Amateur Radio Club, W8FEZ
Website: <http://columbushamfest.com>

The following forums are scheduled for Columbus Hamfest / Ohio Section Conference..

- 9:00 – 10:00 Tom, WB8LCD Presenting on clubs and how to maintain members and keep them interested
- 10:00 – 11:00 Scott, N8SY ARRL Forum - Newsletter Contest winners will be announced and certificates awarded by John, KD8IDJ. I will be presenting the Allan Severson Award – Gee.. I wonder who will be the recipient this year? We will also have a Q&A for everyone on ARRL and where things are going
- 11:00 – 12:00 Mike, KC8WH OSSBN Semi-Annual business meeting

08/20/2017 | Warren ARA Tailgatefest
Location: Cortland, OH
Sponsor: Warren Amateur Radio Association
Website: <http://w8vtd.org>

08/27/2017 | 9th Annual Cuyahoga Falls ARC
Tailgate Hamfest
Location: Stow, OH
Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://www.cfarc.org/tailgate.php>

09/10/2017 | Findlay Hamfest
Location: Findlay, OH
Sponsor: Findlay Radio Club
Website: <http://www.findlayradioclub.org>

09/23/2017 | OH-KY-IN ARS Hamfest
Location: Cincinnati, OH
Sponsor: OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society
Website: <http://www.ohkyin.org>

09/24/2017 | Cleveland Hamfest and Computer Show
Location: Berea, OH
Sponsor: Hamfest Association of Cleveland
Website: <http://www.hac.org>

We now have a complete listing of hamfests in Ohio on the website. Go to: <http://arrl-ohio.org/hamfests.html> to see everything that is currently scheduled, including the Great Lakes Division Convention!

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A final – final..

Today is July 17th, and it's Yellow Pig Day! In 1934 Babe Ruth draws his 2,000th base on balls at Cleveland, and we're still feeling it!

Now, on that note... Amateur Radio is exciting and a lot of FUN. It's also a learning experience for everyone! Share your enjoyment and learning experiences with those just coming into Amateur Radio!!

Know someone that's not getting these Newsletters? Please, forward a copy of this Newsletter over to them and have them "[Opt-In](#)" to start receiving them. Heck, just have them send me an email n8sy@n8sy.com and I'll get them added to the Ohio Section Emailing list. I urge all of you to make sure that everyone, regardless of whether they are a League member or not, gets signed up to receive these Newsletters.



This newsletter is written in a format that will allow you to print it out so that you don't have to read it on your computer screen only anymore.

You can always "[Opt-Out](#)" at any time if you feel this is not what you were expecting.

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