

# *PostScript*



## Ohio Section

August 07<sup>th</sup> Edition

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## Newsletter Contest Winners Announced

Hey Gang,

If you missed the Columbus Hamfest / Ohio Section Conference this year, you really missed out on a great adventure for sure. John Ross, KD8IDJ announced the winners of the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Ohio Section Newsletter Contest. Here's John's comments.



WOW! WOW! WOW!

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.

With that...here are this year's winners:

First Place...**Radiogram**...Portage County Amateur Radio Service

Second Place...tie...**The Spirit of '76 and '88**...Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association and the **Wave Bender**...the Western Reserve Amateur Radio Club

Third Place...**The Mike & Key**...Greater Cincinnati Amateur Radio Association

Honorable Mention...tie...**ATCO Newsletter**...Amateur Television In Central Ohio Group and the **CARA Communicator**...Cambridge Amateur Radio Association.

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

Finally, for a group of seasoned, professional and experienced journalists to respond so overwhelmingly 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.

Now there's a little more to this story that needs to be said. The first-place winner, Radiogram, will go on to compete in the Great Lakes Division Newsletter Contest this October in Michigan. They will be competing with the very best that Michigan and Kentucky has to offer for the coveted Joseph J. Phillips, K8QOE Newsletter Award! Let's all wish them luck!

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### **2017 Phillip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award**

*(from the ARRL Board of Directors Minutes)*

31. On the motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Allen, the following resolution was ADOPTED (with applause):

WHEREAS Dennis P. Moriarty, K8AGB of Canton, OH has been hosting the Canton Amateur Radio Club's information booth at Field Day for over a decade, greeting fellow hams, visitors and elected officials; and ,

WHEREAS he authors, prints and mails between 20 and 50 letters that are distributed to schools & universities, newspapers and radio stations, served agencies

such as the County EOC, Salvation Army and Red Cross, other clubs and members of the Amateur Radio community; and,

WHEREAS his efforts consistently present Amateur Radio and the activities of the Canton Amateur Radio Club in a positive manner throughout the Northeastern Ohio area;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the ARRL Board of Directors awards the 2017 Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award for Excellence in Public Relations on behalf of Amateur Radio to Dennis P. Moriarty, K8AGB.

The Ohio Section takes it hat off to you sir, and sends its most gracious "Congratulations" to Dennis! We salute YOU!



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## Handbook Give Away Winner

And the winner is...

Eric Benedict, WD8MHR from Shalersville

I do want to thank EVERYONE that participated!! We had over 2,200 folks register this month, which set a record. Keep looking for the big RED arrow on the main page and get registered for a chance to win! Please remember, you need to register every month to be eligible to win!

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## Allan Severson Award Recipient Announced

Jim Yoder, W8ERW was announced as the 2017 Allan Severson Award Recipient at the Columbus Hamfest / Ohio Section Conference this past weekend. Jim becomes the 23<sup>rd</sup> recipient of this prestigious award.

The Allan Severson Memorial Award is bestowed on an amateur radio operator in the Ohio Section who has demonstrated a continuing dedication to the advancement of amateur radio and to the Ohio Section.

The award had been established in 1992 and was named "Ohio Ham of the Year" until 1999. That year it was renamed after Allan, of Lakewood, Ohio, who had become a silent key in 1997.

The award winners are all hams who, like Allan Severson, have dedicated themselves to the advancement of the American Radio Relay League in Ohio.

Although Allan had served the Section as Section Manager and went on to a distinguished career as Great Lakes Division Director on the ARRL National Board of Directors, the annual award announcement only mentions one sentence about him which is part of every memorial award certificate. That sentence quickly demonstrates the reason for the renaming of this award. "Allan's devotion to serve amateur radio inspired a whole generation of Ohio Section leadership."

As very few of you know, Jim has been working in the background for many years now in various positions for the Ohio Section, but most recently as the Database Manager for our NIMS training. The Ohio Section is the only Section in the country right now that is not only tracking our ARES members for their NIMS courses completed, but can produce copies of the certificates submitted, if and when needed in an emergency.

Jim's been doing a great deal of work making sure that everyone who has submitted even one certificate for a NIMS course completed is logged and recorded, and with over 5,100 courses logged and growing, it's truly a very big job with a huge responsibility.

I want to personally thank Jim for all of his hard work, planning and dedication to the Ohio Section. Please help me give a big round of “Thanks” to Jim for everything that he has, and is doing to advance Amateur Radio and the Ohio Section.

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## FT8 Mode is Latest Bright Shiny Object in Amateur Radio Digital World

(from ARRL Bulletins)



It’s still in beta testing, but FT8 — the latest digital bauble to capture the imagination of the Amateur Radio community — has been luring away many of those already using the popular JT65 “weak-signal” mode. FT8 is included in a beta release of [WSJT-X](#), version 1.8.0-rc1. Among its biggest advantages is a shorter transmit-receive cycle, meaning quicker contacts. The [notes](#) for the “candidate” release say that FT8 offers “sensitivity down to –20 dB on the AWGN channel,” as opposed to –30

dB for JT65. Contacts are four times faster than with JT65 or JT9, however. An entire FT8 contact can take place in about 1 minute.

The new mode is named after its developers, Steven Franke, K9AN, and Joe Taylor, K1JT. The numeral designates the mode’s 8-frequency shift keying format. Tones are spaced at 6.25 Hz, and an FT8 signal occupies just 50 Hz. Unlike JT65 or JT9, transmit and receive cycles in FT8 each last about 15 seconds. Like JT65, FT8 requires accurate time synchronization. An auto-sequencing feature offers the option to respond automatically to the first decoded reply to your CQ.

“FT8 is an excellent mode for HF DXing and for situations like multi-hop Es on 6 meters, where deep QSB may make fast and reliable completion of QSOs desirable,” Taylor’s release notes assert.

The beta release came out just days before the July CQ VHF Contest and proved to be a boon to many operators who took advantage of FT8 on 6 meters. In a limited outing for the CQ VHF, Frank Donovan, W3LPL, made 22 FT8 contacts on 6 meters, “during which the FT8 software reported SNRs from my receiver below –10 dB (measured in a 2,500-Hz bandwidth). Some of the 22 QSOs may have been difficult to complete on CW.”

Enthusiasts will have to wait a little longer for Logbook of The World ([LoTW](#)) to accept FT8 contacts. Because FT8 is still in beta, it has not yet been added to the ADIF tables. A new *TQSL* configuration will be released when the new mode has been accepted to ADIF, which could happen within a week.

Operational documentation for FT8 has not yet been finalized. “We know that the advent of new mode FT8 means that new material is needed for the *User Guide*,” Taylor told the Yahoo [Meteor Scatter and Weak Signal Group](#) this week. “We will be working on that in the near future.”

A new [Facebook group](#) has been established for FT8 experimenters.

Want more information about the ARRL? Here’s a link.. <http://arrl.org>

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## Fun Things To Do

*(from various newsletters)*

So, you think that you have one of the best amateur radio mobile installations to be found? Well here is your chance to show off that mobile rig and have the opportunity to compare it to dozens of others: HF, VHF, UHF, you name it. This is where Amateur Radio really gets fun.

C'mon out on Thursday, August 17, 2017, 6:00 - 9:00 pm The Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) will be sponsoring the 8th annual Amateur Radio Mobile Cruise-In Night at the A&W Restaurant - 769 East Main St in Ravenna. Hams from all over Northeast Ohio will be cruising in to check out the wide variety of mobile radio setups and get some ideas for their own vehicles.

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NOARS Picnic Meeting Monday, August 21, 2017 Duck Pond Nickel-Plate Diagonal Rd Carlisle Township 5:30-Dusk Bring a covered dish or dessert. Hamburgers, hotdogs, buns, condiments, and beverages, as well as, paper plates, plastic ware, and napkins are provided. Bring your family, friends, and an appetite. Go to <http://www.noars.net/picnic/> for map and directions.

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Union County Hams and Egg Breakfast- Saturday, September 9, 2017 - 8:30am  
Breakfast will be at Friches Big Boy located at 15700 Delaware Ave Marysville, OH 43040

Check into the N8IG repeater, 145.350 (-) MHz with a Tone of 127.3 Hz, in the morning between 8:00 and 8:30 to be added to the head count for seating!

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Tri-State ARC Hamfest, August 12<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:30 am, New Baptist Church, Huntington, WV

Highland ARA Brunch Bunch get together, August 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 am, McDonald's Playland, Hillsboro

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## My Final..

UPDATE.. Last Friday I visited my orthopedic surgeon and he says that I'm recovering just fine. Although I still have to wear my arm brace for about another month while everything continues to heal, I'm in good shape. He has recommended that I still take it easy for a bit and not do anything that would stress my elbow, so I'm still on "light duty" for a bit until I get his ok I guess.



Typing is a challenge, but I seem to be overcoming it. I have found some comfortable positions for my brace that will allow me to type some. I am re-learning how to write with this on, but my handwriting wasn't all the good from the beginning anyway. Now I just write more like a doctor than before!! So, with that said, if you find typo's in this newsletter, please attribute it to my arm being in a brace, at least until I can come up with a better excuse! I'm still able to talk to you via email or phone, so if you have questions, or just want to talk, please feel free!



would love to see more!!

Hey Gang, there's another NEW – one question – questionnaire on the Ohio Section Website! This question asks about and is something that I want 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

Got questions, concerns or would just like to sit and chat awhile? Heck, I'll even buy the coffee!! Give me a call at (419) 512-4445 or email me at: [n8sy@n8sy.com](mailto:n8sy@n8sy.com)

73,

Scott, N8SY..

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***It's FUN!!***

<http://arrl-ohio.org>