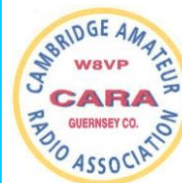


CARA COMMUNICATOR



Located at the Crossroads of Communications in East Central Ohio
Vol. 23 Issue 1, W8VP, 146.25/85, Est. 1913, Jan-Feb 2024

CARA AWARDS BANQUET

On December 2, the Cambridge Amateur Radio Association held its annual awards banquet at Mr. Lee's Restaurant in Cambridge. The organization celebrated the 110th anniversary of its founding. Great Lakes Division Director Dale Williams, WA8EFK, and Vice Director Scott Yonally, N8SY, were in attendance to present Lyn Alfman, N8IMW, the Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award, which is an ARRL national award given annually to a Public Information Officer.



Photo Courtesy of Evelyn Barton, KA8NZS

Also in attendance were: Guernsey County Emergency Management Agency Vice Director Rusty Roberts; District 9 Emergency Coordinator Steve Wheatcraft, AA8BN; District 9 Assistant Emergency Coordinator Sonny Alfman, W8FHF; Guernsey County Emergency Coordinator/CARA Trustee Dick Wayt, WD8SDH and his wife Teri; Guernsey County Assistant Emergency Coordinator/CARA Secretary/Trustee Evelyn Barton, KA8NZS and her husband Fred Barton, KB8MGI; CARA President Jim Shaw, AB8P; Marilyn

Phalin, KD8ZMG; Lori Mitchell, KD8WUZ; Shane McCance, KD8WUQ; Randall Poore, KD8BYY; Mark Jenei, KC8SBB; Junior McDaniel, KD8ZKR, and his wife Vicky; Dave Gregg, N8TRH, and his wife Ellen.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Jim Shaw, AB8P

To all of you who read our bi-monthly publication, THE OFFICERS OF THE CAMBRIDGE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION wish for all to have very HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON & A PROSPEROUS YEAR IN 2024. I hope you will support our club through it the coming year!

UPCOMING MEETING

CARA meetings January 27 and February 24 at 10 am in the Guernsey County Administration Building at 627 Wheeling Avenue in Cambridge. For more information or changes due to weather or other situations, visit www.w8vp.org/calendar.

2023 ELECTED OFFICERS

Acting President: Jim Shaw, AB8P
Secretary: Evelyn Barton, KA8NZS
Treasurer: Beverly Bunn, KD8MSL
Activities Chair/Program Chair: Sonny Alfman, W8FHF
PIO/Newsletter Editor: Lyn Alfman, N8IMW
Trustees: Evelyn Barton, KA8NZS; Dick Wayt, WD8SDH; and Steven Bunn, KD8MFC

2023 APPOINTED POSITIONS

Facebook Mgr: Eddie Sayre, KE8UIC
Website Calendar: Lyn Alfman, N8IMW
Archivist/Historian/QSL & LoTW Mgr/Corporate Trustee: Evelyn Barton, KA8NZS
W8VP Call Sign Trustee: Alan Day, K8AL
N8FXL Guernsey County ARES Call Sign Trustee: Sonny Alfman, W8FHF

OHIO APPOINTED POSITIONS

DEC9: Steve Wheatcraft, AA8BN
ADEC9: Sonny Alfman, W8FHF
Section PIO: Lyn Alfman, N8IMW
Guernsey CO. EC: Dick Wayt, WD8SDH
Guernsey CO AEC: Evelyn Barton, KA8NZS

OHIO SECTION CABINET

Section Manager Tom Sly, WB8LCD
Section Emergency Coordinator: Bret Stemen, KD8SCL
Affiliated Club Coordinator: Amanda Farone, KC3GFU
Public Information Coordinator: Elizabeth Klinc, KE8FMJ
Youth Coordinator Anthony Lascre, K8ZT

Cambridge Amateur Radio Association
P. O. Box 1474, Cambridge, OH 43725
www.w8vp.org, w8vpcara@gmail.com



ARRL Affiliated Club since 1947!
CARA IRS 501 c 3 corporation!

STATEWIDE NETS NET, FREQUENCY, LOCAL TIME

OSSBN 3.9725 MHz – 1030, 1615, 1845
Buckeye (early) 3.580 MHz – 1845
Buckeye (late) 3.590 MHz – 2200
Ohio Slow Net 3.53535MHz – 1800
OH HF Emergency Preparedness Net
(Ohio EOC) 3.920 MHz --1915 Tuesday
OH Digital Emergency Net (OHDEN)
3.584.500 KHz + 1500 Hz waterfall
using Olivia 8-500 (during EDT)—2000
Tuesday

LOCAL NETS

CARA/W8VP/ARES/NTS Net 146.850
MHz, PL 91.5 -- 2000 Tuesday
CARA Trivia Net, Thu.—2000, 146.850
MHz, PL 91.5
Local Discussion Group Nets—1830-
2000 on 446.000 simplex FM no PL on
Sunday; 223.500 FM on Tuesday; and
50.220 USB on Thursday

HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS

**01/14/2024 - Sunday Creek Amateur
Radio Federation Hamfest, Shade**

03/10/2024 – Winterfest, Elyria
<http://winterhamfest@noars.net>

**03/17/2024 – Toledo Mobile Radio
Association Hamfest and Computer
Fair, Perrysburg** <http://www.w8hhf.org>

TRIVIA QUESTION

Name the five oceans on Earth.

CHRISTMAS PARADE

The Cambridge Downtown Association's parade announcer stated that CARA is 110 years old and has been providing line up and communications for the parade for 44 years.

The following hams helped with the 2023 Cambridge Christmas Parade: Sonny Alfman, W8FHF; Lyn Alfman, N8IMW; John Sayre, KE8UIB; Eddie Sayre, KE8UIC; Larry Dukes, KD8QYV; Dick Wayt, WD8SDH; Bill Dickson, WB8TRK; Evelyn Barton, KA8NZS; Fred Barton, KB8MGI; Dave Heffner, W8DCH; Tina Heffner, W8TTR; Bob Gray, KE8NI; John Lamourine, KE8SIE; and Dave Greg, N8TRH.

W8VP FIELD DAY RESULTS

W8VP operated Field Day as 2A. We had a total of operators, loggers, and guests. We submitted 1364 points: 614 contact points and 750 bonus points. Our score came in at 584th out of 4445 total entries. As 2A, we came in 21st out of 29 in "8 land" (Ohio, Michigan, and West Virginia). We came in 16th out of 26 in the Great Lakes District. As 2A we came in 183rd out of 303 (not counting Battery or Commercial).



TRAINING

The following area amateurs took advantage of the SKYWARN training course offered by the Guernsey County Emergency Management Agency on November 15: Jim Shaw, AB8P; Randall Poore, KD8BYY; Robert Howell, N8WJ; Joan Howell, KE8ZAJ; Dick Wayt, WD8SDH; Kathy Frederico, KB3RDR; and Alan Day, K8AL.

SKYWARN™ Recognition Day was developed in 1999 by the National

Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League. It celebrates the contributions that SKYWARN™ volunteers make to the National Weather Service mission, the protection of life and property. Several CARA members participated in this activity.

SKYWARN™ Recognition Day QSL Cards

Participants can now obtain an electronic QSL card by visiting the [NOAA SKYWARN website](#). Step-by-step instructions are available to those who've submitted their log(s) to help them construct and print a 2023 QSL participation certificate. The deadline for submitting logs is January 31, 2024. Additional information is available on the [SKYWARN Facebook page](#). –From *ARRL Letter*, December 7, 2023

GUERNSEY HERITAGE AWARD

Collect wallpaper? Need a new one for you shack to help cover a bare spot on your wall? Did you know that the Cambridge Amateur Radio Association sponsors an award certificate for working Guernsey County hams? It's true!



Qualifications for this award are so follows:

- Non-Guernsey County amateurs need to make five contacts.
- Guernsey County amateurs must make ten contacts.

Repeater contacts do not qualify for this award. Submit your contact log to Evelyn Barton at ka8nzs@yahoo.com with call signs, dates.

CARA LUNCHES

Members and guests meet at noon on Thursdays at a local restaurant. To join us check out www.w8vp.org/calendar for the location of the restaurant of the week.

CARA TRIVIA NET

The trivia net (started on April 1, 2020) is presently on the Cambridge repeater 146.850 MHz, PL 91.5 Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 8 to 9 pm. Anyone who can make the repeater is invited to join participate.

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMS

Contact Jim Shaw, AB8P, by phone (740) 305-5041 or email ab8pjshaw@yahoo.com concerning upcoming exam sessions.



EVENTS, ETC.

ARRL STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT

Straight Key Night is held every January 1 from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC.

This 24-hour event is not a contest; rather it is a day dedicated to celebrating our CW heritage. Participants are encouraged to get on the air and simply make enjoyable, conversational CW QSOs. The use of straight keys or bugs to send CW is preferred. There are no points scored and all who participate are winners.

ARRL KIDS DAY

Kids Day is January 6 from 1800 UTC through 2359 UTC. Operate as much or as little as you like. Kids Day is designed to give on-the-air experience to young people and hopefully foster

interest in getting a license of their own. It is also intended to give older hams a chance to share their station and love for Amateur Radio with their children.

OHIO ARES VHF CONTEST

The contest is January 20. It time is 9 am to 4 pm local EST. Please register at <https://ohsimplex.org/submit-operation/>.

The contest is limited to 2 meter, 6 meter, and 70 centimeter FM bands. Within each band, there are three modes: FM Simplex, "Everything else" Simplex, and Digital simplex contacts. Contacts with a station count once per mode. No repeater contacts will count. The goal is to contact as many different stations in as many different counties as possible. The multiplier will be the number of counties you contacted. Extra points will be available for contacting an EC, AEC, DEC, ADEC, SEC, ASEC, SM, or ASM.

Scoring:

- Each FM simplex contact 5 pts.
- Each non-FM simplex contact 2 pts.
- Each digital simplex contact 10 pts.
- Contact with EC, AEC, DEC, ADEC, SEC, ASEC, SM, or ASM adds 25 pts.
- Contact with an EOC or with a portable station adds 25 pts.
- Operating from EOC add 200 pts.
- Operating from a portable location add 100 pts.
- Total contact score (all bands/modes added together) will be multiplied by the total number of counties contacted.

For more information on the scoring, please visit: <https://ohsimplex.org>.

WINTER FIELD DAY



Winter Field Day is a communications exercise. WFD is held on the last full weekend in January. WFD can be worked from the comfort of your home or in a remote location. You can participate by yourself or get your friends, family, or whole club involved. Winter Field Day is open to participants worldwide. Amateur radio operators may use frequencies on the HF, VHF, or UHF bands and are free to use any mode that can faithfully transmit the required exchange intact. Similar to the ARRL's Field Day, bonus points are earned in several ways, including using non-commercial power sources, operating from remote locations, satellite contacts, and more.

Winter Field Day is sponsored by the Winter Field Day Association. We passionately believe that Ham radio operators should practice portable emergency communications in winter environments as the potential for freezing temperatures, snow, ice, and other hazards present unique operational concerns. WFD is formatted to help increase your level of preparedness for disasters and improve your operational skills in subpar conditions. For more information go to <https://winterfieldday.org>.

SOTA10-METER CHALLENGE 2024

The challenge will run from 0000 UTC on January 1, 2024, to 2359 UTC on December 31, 2024. Solar Cycle 25 is beginning to create regular favorable DX conditions on the higher bands, and early

predictions indicate the cycle peak may occur during the summer of 2024.

Summits on the Air (SOTA) held a 12-meter Challenge in 2013, and since then, more than 90



associations have been added to the SOTA program, including many in South America, the Caribbean, and Asia. There is excellent potential for DX SOTA activity, and activators are encouraged to consider 28 MHz for their summit operations in 2024. Scoring will be done automatically by the database software. Activations and chases should be entered as normal. The software will note 10-meter QSOs and score them according to the rules. Usual SOTA rules will apply. Multi-band activations can also be entered as normal, and all results will be updated. Qualifying 10-meter QSOs will be scored separately from other SOTA activity. There will be a special 10-meter Challenge results page, and electronic certificates will be issued for all participants with their name, call sign, association, and score. For more information, including the rules for the challenge, visit the [Summits on the Air](#) website.

US ISLANDS (USI) AWARDS PROGRAM

The US Islands (USI) Awards Program is an amateur radio award program centered around chasing and activating river, lake, and ocean shore islands within the US and its territories and protectorates. USI is offering a special 30th Anniversary Award for hunters and activators from January 1 to December 31, 2024. As a club or as individuals, hunters can work toward confirming 30 different US islands during 2024. The award will be issued in five island increments. Activators can work toward activating or qualifying 30 different US islands, any combination of expeditions, or fixed locations. Activators and island

expeditions can also work toward operating from 30 different US islands in any combination of activations or qualifications. A minimum of 15 QSOs must be made for a new island qualification and an island activation to be considered for the award. The award can be issued to a club call sign, multiple members under one call sign, or an individual. There are also bonuses for qualifying new islands. More information and a detailed list of rules are available on the [USI website](#). –From ARRL Letter December 21, 2023

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS



CARA 110TH BIRTHDAY SPECIAL EVENT STATION

In celebration of its 110th birthday on December 4, 2023, the Cambridge Amateur Radio Association, Inc., operating under W8VP, will have a special event station on the air January 20 from 11am to 5 pm from Jim Shaw's (AB8P) residence (46006 King Street, Caldwell).

Members and guests are invited to stop by. Refreshments will be served.

Sam Johnson, K8SLJ, designed the SES certificate. See ARRL Special Event Stations on their website ARRL.org for more details.

Send certificate requests along with QSL info to ab8pjshaw@yahoo.com.
www.w8vp.org

The 10-year amateur radio special event and countdown to the 100th anniversary of the discovery of Pluto will continue on February 11 - 19, 2024 (UTC), and celebrate Clyde Tombaugh's discovery from the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff,

Arizona. Members of the [Northern Arizona DX Association](#) will operate from Lowell



Observatory and their home stations using the special event call sign W7P. The annual QSL cards, the event certificate, and more information about the event can be found at [W7P 2030 \(nadxa.com\)](#). –From ARRL Letter December 21, 2023

- **Jan 1-Feb 25| 100 Years of Organized Amateur Radio on Sydney's Northern Beaches, 2100Z-0700Z, VI100MB, Allambie Heights NSW, AUSTRALIA.** Manly-Warringah Radio Society (VK2MB). All bands, all modes. QSL. See website, for, information, AUSTRALIA. February 26, 2023 through February 25, 2024. The Manly-Warringah Radio Society, VK2MB will be celebrating 100 years of organized Amateur Radio on Sydney's Northern Beaches in VK2. The original Manly and District Radio Club started on February 26 1923. www.qrz.com/db/vi100mb or <https://www.mwrs.org.au>
- **Jan 2-Jan 3| 18th Annual Straight Key Month, 0000Z-2359Z, K3Y*,** Worldwide. SKCC - Straight Key Century Club. 3.550 7.055 14.050 21.050. Certificate & QSL. SKCC c/o Ted Rachwal - K8AQM, 6237 Twin Lakes Drive, Smiths Creek, MI 48074. *K3Y/0 thru 9 plus KH6, KL7, KP4 and DX member stations in six WAC areas

operating straight key, bug and cootie keys. QSL card confirms one QSO per area, up to 19 for all-area sweep. See URL for op sched/map, stats, etc.

<https://www.skccgroup.com/k3y>

- **Jan 6| MRAC 107th Anniversary, 1600Z-2200Z, W9RH, Milwaukee, WI.** Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club. ~7.250 ~14.250 ~21.350 145.390. Certificate. Email specialevent@w9rh.org, to receive, certificate. Celebrating 107 years of continuous service to the Milwaukee amateur radio community. Also celebrating 105 years of affiliation with the ARRL. Work us on HF, our VHF repeater, or WiRES-X (#43588). Certificate available upon email request. See web page for details. <https://www.w9rh.org/special-event-station>
- **Feb 10| Commemorating the End of Operation Desert Storm (27FEB91), 1700Z-2359Z, NI6IW, San Diego, CA.** USS Midway Museum Ship. 7.250 14.320; 14.070 PSK31; DSTAR on PAPA System repeaters. QSL. USS Midway Museum COMEDTRA, 910 N Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101. www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw
- **Feb 17-Feb 19| Ice Station W0JH - Frozen Minnesota Lake Portable, 1600Z-2300Z, W0JH, Stillwater, MN.** Stillwater (MN) Amateur Radio Association (SARA). 21.360 14.260 7.260 3.860. Certificate. Available by, email only, W0JHice@outlook.com, MN 55082. W0JH will operate portable from a frozen lake in Washington County, Minnesota (Grid Square EN34). In a meager attempt to drive away the remainder of Minnesota winter, the Stillwater Amateur Radio Association will be generating as much RF as possible over the President's Day long weekend.

(Please help us!!) Certificates will ONLY be sent via email in PDF format. (Send requests with standard QSL confirmation info to:

W0JHice@outlook.com). There is no need to send a QSL card. Info: W0JH at www.QRZ.com &

www.Radioham.org www.Radioham.org

- **Feb 18-Feb 19| GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY, 1500Z-2000Z, K4US, Alexandria, VA.** Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club (MVARC). 7.042 7.242 14.042 14.242. QSL. MVARC, P.O. Box 7234, Alexandria, VA 22307. mvarc.org
- **Feb 19-Feb 29| Dry Tortugas & The Florida Keys 2024, 0000Z-0000Z, N4T, Mount Joy, PA.** Molly & Friends. 14.336; SSB, CW, FT8/FT4, and satellites. QSL. Molly Sauder, 1509 Pinkerton Rd, Mount Joy, PA 17552. Here's your chance for a rare grid as well as ARLHS, IOTA, POTA, USI and WLOTA. We plan to be on air using SSB, CW, FT8/FT4 and satellites. Spot via POTA & DX Summit. mollyandfriends6@gmail.com
- **Feb 21-Feb 24| GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY, 0001Z-2359Z, WS7G, Monitor, WA.** COLUMBIA BASIN DX CLUB. 14.322/14.255 7.222/7.260. Certificate & QSL. BRIAN NIELSON, 11650 Road 1 SE, Monitor, WA 98836. <https://cbn.homestead.com/ws7g.html>
- **Feb 24| 20th Annual Freeze Your Keys winter operating event, 1400Z-2200Z, W0EBB, Leavenworth, KS.** Kickapoo QRP ARC. 7.035 CW 7.240 SSB 14.058 CW 14.325 SSB. QSL. Gary Auchard - W0MNA, 34058 167th Street, Leavenworth, KS 66048. Please include SASE for a QSL card. w0mna74@gmail.com or www.qrz.com/db/W0EBB



**Great Lakes Division
ARRL GREAT LAKES DIRECTOR**



Scott Yonally, N8SY

Hi Gang,
Wow, I can't believe that it's been over 40 years that I have used that very short opening phrase and it means just as much to me now as it did back then. I regard all of you as part of my family, my ham radio family! From the days when I edited and published a small newsletter (Airwaves) for my local club back in the early 1980's to now, what an amazing ride it has been.... AND... it ain't over yet!! On January 1st, I will be taking over as your Great Lakes Division Director. Yes, I have some very big shoes to fill for sure and I will do my very best for you.

I want to say "thank you" to all of you that invited me to your club activities and meetings over this past year. I had a lot of fun getting to meet some new friends and getting reconnected with some old friends that I haven't seen for years as well. I want you to know that I will be back to visit with you again soon. I made a promise to you that I would work hard

and always keep you, the loyal ARRL dues paying member first and I meant that with all my heart.

This coming new year a number of changes will be happening in the ARRL as well as within the Great Lakes Division. Some will be obvious, and some will be more behind the scenes, like moving the Division website to a completely new webserver for one. This new webserver promises to have much better uptime as well as much faster download speeds. For you, this means that the website will be available more and it will load faster for you.

Roy and I will be busy in January getting things ready for the upcoming Board of Directors meeting. Roy will be going out to Connecticut a day early, as he has a full schedule with his Vice Director orientation and getting to know his way, and the people, at Headquarters, and I've got several committee meetings scheduled.

January starts the hamfest schedule all over again. Here in the Great Lakes Division, we have over 50 hamfests a year, including the largest one in the country, Hamvention. This year Hamvention will also be the ARRL's National Convention as well, which means that there will be some very special things happening there. So, if you haven't started planning your hamfest schedule yet, you really need to start now.

If you are reading this newsletter on or before New Year's Eve, don't forget that "Badges on the Air"



will be taking place from 00:00 to 23:59 UTC December 31. What is Badges on the Air? It's just like the times we did the RED badges except this time it's for everyone that has any color ARRL badge, and YES, I've been on and passing out my 200 points here and there. I'm mostly on 20 meters, as it does seem to be the best band for me right now. But I do move around a lot and you can also find me on 10, 15, 40 and 75 meters too! So, catch me on the air and you'll get 200 points!

So, from my family to yours, Janie and I wish you the very best for 2024. May your glass always be full, and your amateur radio family be close. --From *Ohio Section Journal, December 2023*

I am happy to inform you that the scholarship application process is now open. There is a link on the ARRL homepage in addition to the link on the scholarship page. More than 100 scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$25,000 will be awarded in 2024. Hey, this is FREE money for your kids to go to college on! How many kids do you know that couldn't use a helping hand with their college tuition? All applicants must be active, FCC-licensed amateur radio operators and all applicants must submit a completed online application no later than January 10, 2024, at 12pm.

Go to: <http://www.arrl.org/scholarship-program>

The ARRL Foundation will be utilizing the same Scholarship Management Platform for the 2024 Scholarships that has been used for the past several years. Transcripts and additional required documents must be submitted WITH the application and not emailed separately. A number of scholarships require additional documents, such as a letter of

recommendation from a sitting Officer of an ARRL-affiliated club. Applications without accompanying transcripts and additional required documents (if applicable) will not be considered. The ARRL Foundation Scholarship Committee will review all applicants for eligibility and award decisions. Awards are mailed directly to recipients' schools.

Okay, that is going to do it from here this month. Stay safe and "Catch Me On The Air, at a meeting or hamfest!!!" But most of all...Have FUN!!!! --From *Dale's Tales December 2023*

73, Scott, N8SY
Great Lakes Division Director

ARRL GREAT LAKES VICE DIRECTOR



Roy Hook, W8REH

Introducing new ARRL Great Lakes Vice Director Roy Hook, W8REH

An Amateur Extra since 2013, Roy was originally licensed in 1966, upgrading to general the next year. He was a past president of the central Ohio Radio Club and current Chief of the 75 meter Rooster Net.

Following his 1973 graduation from the Ohio State University, Roy worked in an engineering role under the direction of Wendy's Dave Thomas until his retirement in 2016. --From information off his www.qrz.com page



OHIO SECTION MANAGER



Tom Sly, WB8LCD

CQ CQ CQ de WB8LCD

... I've declared 2024 as "The Year of the Club". Ham Radio faces several challenges in the coming years, and I believe that most of those challenges can be met with strong, active local clubs. Sure, there are lots of other entities, both larger and smaller, but I believe that clubs will be the nucleus that holds it all together. "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17) Local clubs are where we make the personal contacts and relationships with other Hams that will "sharpen" every one of us to be the best we can be in this hobby. I didn't become a ham just so I could be mediocre at it – I want to make the most of my Ham Radio experience. Everyone comes in as a "novice", but when you belong to an active club, chances are you'll go from novice to *awesome* a lot faster than you might have done it on your own.

As I've stated before as my 3 goals for my time as Ohio Section Manager, I want to: 1 – Give *every* Ohio Section Ham the opportunity and the experience of having the most fun with their hobby as they've every had, 2- Make more *active* Amateur Radio operators in the Ohio Section by increasing the number of licensed Hams, and 3- increase the number of ARRL members in the Ohio Section. All of which can be accomplished by helping the local clubs in the Ohio Section to be successful. Hence, "2024 – The Year of the Club" in the Ohio Section. Please, join me in that mission!

Starting with the first PostScript in January, I'll be adding a "Tips" listing in the "Clubs" section of the newsletter. This keys in directly with my #1 Goal – making sure that every one of your club members is having FUN with the hobby and as a member of your club! I've got a lot of things I've noted through the years, but I want to share your ideas too. I want to know what *your* club is doing right now that makes it successful at giving your members a FUN experience with the hobby. Please send me an email with your "tips", suggestions and stories to: tomsly29@gmail.com. –From *Ohio Section Journal PostScript December 11, 2023*

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.....

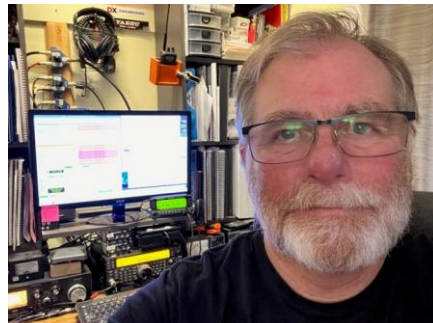
I'm also looking forward to jumping into 2024! As I mentioned before, I'm hoping that I can get out and about much more this year (last year was pretty brutal in my business and that kept me more occupied than I would have wished for). First up, I am planning to be at the Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation 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. –*From Ohio Section Journal Post Script December 18, 2023*

Share the Magic.
73, Tom Sly - WB8LCD
Ohio Section Manager
wb8lcd@arrl.org
330-554-4650

OHIO SECTION EMERGENCY COORDINATOR



Bret Stemen, KD8SCL, OH SEC OHIO ARES VHF CONTEST
Plan onparticipating in the Ohio Section ARES VHF Contest (simplex) on January 20 from 9 am to 4 pm EST. For more information see page 4 of this newsletter.

Bret, KD8SCL KD8SCL@gmail.com

OHIO SECTION AFFILIATED CLUB COORDINATOR



Amanda Farone, KC3GFU

Afrone926@gmail.com

330-509-4095

In this month's issue of the Ohio Section Journal, I would love to feature a really great club, Cambridge Amateur Radio Association.

Cambridge ARA (W8VP) is located in Guernsey County, was established on December 4th, 1913, and currently has 40 members (6 of which live out of state). They meet the last Saturday of the month, excluding May & December, at 10am in the Guernsey County Administration Building located at 627 Wheeling Avenue in Cambridge, OH.

2023 Officers:

President: Jim Shaw, AB8P

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: Evelyn Barton, KA8NZS

Treasurer: Beverly Bunn, KD8MSL

Trustees: Evelyn Barton, KA8NZS;
Steven Bunn, KD8MFC; Dick Wayt,
WD8SDH

Activities & Program Chair: Sonny
Alfman, W8FHF

PIO & Newsletter Editor: Lyn Alfman,
N8IMW

Q&A

Q: What is your favorite thing about your club?

A: *My favorite thing about our organization is the camaraderie of the members. Even when members move away, they keep their membership in the club to keep up on what members are doing. We have members in seven Ohio counties and four states.*

Q: What is one event your club does that you are proud of or sets you apart from other clubs?

A: *One thing that sets our club apart is our local trivia net on our repeater. Activities Chairman, Sonny Alfman, W8FHF, started the on-air trivia net on April 1, 2020, during the pandemic when the nation basically shut down as a means for our members as well as any amateur who could reach our repeater could participate in the net. It started out having the trivia net every night for about two years. When things began to open, it was decided to only have it Monday through Friday. This year with everything back to normal, the participants decided to only do Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights. Then eventually because of the local weekly net on Tuesdays, it was changed to only Wednesdays and Thursdays. Each net starts out by having the stations that check in to tell us about their day or what has happened since the last time they checked in. Then it asks for a topic of discussion, which is then followed by a trivia question and answer session. Again, anyone who can reach the repeater is invited to join in the fun.*

Q: How do you attract new members?

A: *We do a membership drive around March each year, offer free amateur radio license testing, and invite those*

interested in amateur radio to attend meetings and Field Day.

Q: Do you have any current projects the club is working on?

A: *Our organization has its nomination of officers in January, election of officers in February, and new officers assume duties in March. At the March meeting, a survey of projects and events is passed to the members for their input (room for other suggestions on survey). Last year projects included upgrades to the communication van and preparing the Waller-McMunn Museum to host open houses. The museum showcases our amateur radio and commercial broadcasting history (first broadcast station in southeastern Ohio), amateur radio histories of surrounding counties, and amateur radio equipment in general.*

Q: What is your favorite or most fruitful way of fundraising?

A: *As for fundraising, we do raffles once or twice a year.*

Q: Does your club host any Special Event Stations? If so, tell us about it.

A: *It was a difficult year health wise for much of our membership in 2023; therefore, we did not have any Special Event Stations for the year – normally we average two per year. For our 100th anniversary, we did a Special Event Station each month – twelve total.*

Q: Does your club do any training? If so, what?

A: *Some of our programs can be considered training. Members are asked on the survey what they would like to see as a program. Activities and Program Chair Sonny Alfman, W8FHF, who has been licensed since 1962, is always available to answer questions, mentor new and existing members by going to their homes to help set up radios, help*

them make dipole antennas, and much more.

Q: How does your club support the local community?

A: *Our organization has always provided communications to the community for parades, marathons, races, and other events for free as a public service.*

Q: What operating events does your club participate in?

A: *Despite members' health issues this year, we still managed to participate in various activities. We provided communications for parking cars and busing of attendees for the Senior Citizens Picnic in late May; participated in ARRL Field Day in late June; participated in the Salt Fork Arts & Crafts Festival with our show and tell booth in the Salt Fork Arts & Crafts Festival's Heritage Tent showcasing our club's history in early August; participated in the Ohio State Parks on the Air in early September; gathered for the annual Picnic in the Park in late September; participated in the Ohio Simulated Emergency Test in early October; participated in Jamboree on the Air in mid-October; hosted four museum open houses on May 6, July 1, September 2, and November 4; and provided support for Cambridge Christmas Parade on November 25.*

Q: Anything else you'd like to share with us?

A: *Because December is such a busy month for our membership due to the holidays, we will have a Special Event Station on the air on January 20th from 11am-5pm from the current President's home celebrating the 110th anniversary of the founding of our club. Details are available on the ARRL website and in the January QST.*

We look forward to 2024 hoping for better health for the membership, so we can get on the air more.

I think we can all agree that Cambridge ARA is a great asset to the Ohio Section and an outstanding example of what amateur radio is to their local community and beyond. They are an active and thriving club. If you are in the area, I encourage you to stop by one of their meetings or events. If you can't make it in person, show your support by participating in one of their Special Event Stations.

Join me again next month to see which club is featured next. Could it be yours?
--From Ohio Section Journal, December 2023

ARRL OHIO DISTRICT 9 EMERGENCY COORDINATOR



Steve Wheatcraft, AA8BN

District 9 EC and teams:
If you can, please participate in the Ohio Section 2024 VHF Contest / Exercise January 20. Mark your calendars and let your teams and clubs know. This is open to all hams.

This is wishing you all a happy holiday time with family and friends. See you next year in District 9.

73
Steve AA8BN
District 9 DEC
aa8bn@arrl.net 740 623 1000

INTERNATIONAL/NATIONAL NEWS

NEW GUIDELINES TO COMMUNICATE RF SAFETY

Radio amateurs now have a new tool from ARRL to help answer questions about their stations. Neighbors of amateur radio operators are sometimes concerned about transmissions and radio frequency exposure from amateur stations.

The [ARRL RF Safety Committee](#), with their international counterparts at the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB), the Irish Radio Transmitters Society (IRTS), and the Swedish Society of Radio Amateurs (SSA), has developed a new set of guidelines to help amateurs interact with and talk to their neighbors about RF exposure.

Chairman of the ARRL RF Safety Committee Greg Lapin, N9GL, said the new informational PDF found on the ARRL RF Exposure page, [Helping Amateurs Interact with Neighbors Asking About Radio Transmissions](#), was developed after a year of discussions about RF safety.

Lapin added that RF exposure regulations are based on decades of trustworthy research. He also encouraged all amateur radio operators to perform exposure assessments for their stations to make sure they meet those regulations. *--From ARRL Letter November 30, 2023*

ARDC AND ARRL ANNOUNCE \$2.1 MILLION FOR NEXT GENERATION OF AMATEUR RADIO

[Amateur Radio Digital Communications \(ARDC\)](#) and [The ARRL Foundation](#) announced a three-year commitment with over \$2.1 million in combined funding to support scholarships for radio amateurs, radio technology for



classroom teachers, and amateur radio club grants. This commitment reinforces a strong shared vision between ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® and ARDC to invest in the future of amateur radio through programs supporting the next generation of radio amateurs.

"ARRL and ARDC share a common vision for the future of Amateur Radio,"



says The ARRL Foundation President David Norris, K5UZ. "The Foundation exists to support the next generation of radio amateurs, and we are so proud to collaborate with ARDC to make these programs possible."

The ARDC Scholarship at The ARRL Foundation has supported nearly 100 amateur radio operators in pursuit of their educational goals since its inception in 2020. The renewed commitment will result in over 200 total scholarships,

awarded over the next three years, for radio amateurs pursuing higher education, with scholarships ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000. This competitive scholarship program is run through The ARRL Foundation Scholarship Program, and recipients who demonstrate academic excellence and financial need can use this funding for tuition, room & board, books, and other fees essential to advance their education. More information on eligibility and application deadlines may be found online at The ARRL Foundation website at www.arrl.org/scholarship-program.

The ARRL Club Grants program was introduced in 2022 with initial funding from ARDC. Thanks to this next round of collaboration, the ARRL Club Grants Program will continue in 2024.

Beginning with significant funding from ARDC in 2022, the ARRL Club Grants program is administered by The ARRL Foundation, together with the ARRL Field Organization. These club grants are critical to the future of amateur radio because of the importance of mentoring and helping licensees become active in Amateur Radio. ARRL encourages clubs to revitalize this critical aspect of their role by applying for funding to support programs in one of the available categories, including ham skills development, STEAM learning and education, or club station improvement, among others. This transformational program will launch in the Spring of 2024. More details will be provided through upcoming informational sessions and on The ARRL Foundation website at www.arrl.org/club-grant-program.

Additional funding from ARDC will extend the effectiveness of ARRL outreach programs to teachers and schools, including the ARRL Teachers

Institute for Wireless Technology. Monies will be used to purchase equipment to allow students to get hands-on STEM experiences through radio communications and radio technology. – *From ARRL Letter, December 7, 2023*

BANDWIDTH LIMITS REPLACE SYMBOL RATES ON RF BANDS

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) [published new rules](#) adopted last month that replace the symbol rate restrictions on the HF bands with a bandwidth limit of 2.8 kHz. The new rules go into effect January 8, 2024.

The bands and band segments affected by the rules change are those authorized for data transmission between 160 and 10 meters, exclusive of 60 meters (where no change was made).

In adopting a bandwidth limit in place of the baud rate limit the FCC agreed with ARRL that some limitation is necessary because "without a baud rate or bandwidth limit, data stations using a large amount of spectrum for a single emission could do so to the detriment of simultaneous use by other stations using narrowband emission modes."

ARRL has advocated for this change for a long time. The move opens amateur data communications to faster and more modern modes and restores the incentive for amateurs to experiment with and develop faster and more efficient data methods. Previously, ARRL obtained waivers to the symbol rate rules on a case-by-case basis to facilitate communications during situations like hurricane responses. These delays will now be removed, permitting drills to be conducted with the faster modes and more timely responses when needed.

The FCC also requested comment on removing similar symbol rate restrictions in the rules governing 135.7 - 137.8 kHz (2200-meter band), 472 - 479 kHz (630-meter band), and the very high-frequency (VHF) and ultra-high frequency (UHF) bands.

The VHF bands with baud rates are the 6-meter band, 2-meter band, and the 1.25-meter band. The single UHF band with a baud rate is the 70-centimeter band (420 - 450 MHz). The [Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making](#) (FNPRM) proposes to maintain the existing bandwidth limits in the Commission's rules for these VHF and UHF bands but seeks comment on whether they should be kept, and if so, whether the bandwidths should be changed. The Commission also sought comment on whether bandwidth limits should be adopted for application to the 2200 and 630-meter bands, and if so, what an appropriate bandwidth limit would be.

Public comments on these additional issues are sought in the FNPRM. The comment period is open until January 8, 2024. Replies to comments are due no later than January 22, 2024. If changes are later adopted, the rules will go into effect in the same manner as they did for the other bands -- after notice and publication in the *Federal Register*. – *From ARRL Letter, December 7, 2023*

40 YEARS OF AMATEUR RADIO IN SPACE

Melissa Gaskill, a science author from Austin, Texas, has written a comprehensive review about the 40-year history of amateur radio in space. In her article, "[Ham Radio in Space: Engaging with Students Worldwide for 40 Years](#)," Gaskill explores the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX), which

is now known as Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS). Gaskill said that while she wrote the article, she is not an expert on the subject but there are many who are including Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, International Space Station (ISS) Ham Project Coordinator since 2004.

Ransom said that amateur radio in space was a possibility even before 1983, when Astronaut Owen Garriott, W5LFL (SK), made history during the STS-9 Space Shuttle Columbia mission with the first amateur radio contact from space. NASA had been looking for ways to bring amateur radio to Skylab (a space station designed as an orbiting workshop for scientific research) and even the moon.

"Having amateur radio in space has added a heightened level of interest, not only for hams, but for the overall program as well," said Ransom. "Just being able to talk to a crew member on board a spacecraft is an amazing accomplishment."

Garriott's son, Richard Garriott, who operated amateur radio during a short-term mission on the ISS in 2008, will present a special webinar on December 7, 2023, at 1800 UTC to discuss his father's first historic mission. The presentation will be available to watch on [ARISS - YouTube](#). The event is hosted by ARISS International Chair Frank Bauer, KA3HDO.

ARISS is a cooperative venture of international amateur radio societies and the space agencies that support the ISS. In the US, participating organizations include NASA's Space Communications and Navigation (SCaN) program, the ISS National Laboratory -- Space Station Explorers, [ARRL](#), and AMSAT. *—From ARRL Letter, December 7, 2023*

NEW EXTRA CLASS QUESTION POOL COMING JULY 1, 2024

The New Amateur Extra-Class Question Pool has been released and is effective July 1, 2024. The [National Conference of Volunteer Examiners Coordinators \(NCVEC\) Question Pool Committee \(QPC\)](#) has released the 2024 - 2028 Extra-Class FCC Element 4 Question Pool and Syllabus to the public. The new [Extra-Class Question Pool is effective from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2028](#). The 2024 - 2028 pool is available as a Microsoft Word document and as a PDF. The 10 graphics required for the new Extra-Class Question Pool are available within the documents or separately in PDF and JPG file formats. Extra-class examination candidates preparing for their exams using the 12th edition of [The ARRL Extra Class License Manual](#) or the 5th edition of [ARRL's Extra Q & A](#) are encouraged to test on or before June 30, 2024. New editions of ARRL licensing publications will be available in May for exams taken on or after July 1, 2024. Read more on [ARRL News](#). *—From ARRL Letter, December 7, 2023*

FEATURED ARTICLE HOW TO IMPROVE HAM RADIO STATION GROUNDS

After antennas, station grounding is probably the most discussed topic in amateur radio. It's also the one having the most misconceptions—or is that myth-conceptions? One of the biggest myths: Ground is like a magic drain, diverting kilovolts from unwanted lightning and RF into the earth. Or maybe it goes through a secret portal to a black hole.

There's no magic here. Grounding involves down-to-earth planning for the

protection of your home electronics, ham station, and of course, you.

Deep Issues

It's time to dig into the topic of grounding (or "earthing" as folks in the UK call it). There are three basic ground types that hams deal with at their stations:

- Grounding an antenna mast/tower (outside, lightning protection)
- Antenna ground plane (on/under antenna—think RF, radials)
- Safety ground (inside shack, shock hazard protection)

Obviously, your goal as a station builder is to make sure as little current as possible flows through anything in your station, like expensive transceivers or amps. Here are some practical techniques to improve your ham radio ground.

Clean or replace ground

connections: Anything that's exposed to the outdoors will eventually weather and corrode. Over time, corrosion can build up on the ground connections, impeding the flow of electrical current. You can slow down or even eliminate this problem.

If you notice corrosion on your ground connections, it is important to clean them thoroughly. Use a wire brush or sandpaper to remove the corrosion and ensure a clean, conductive surface. Treat them with corrosion inhibitors like Karnalex Connector and Terminal Grease or Jet-Lube SS-30 Pure Copper Anti-Seize to improve conductivity. Replace worn clamps with new ones when necessary.

For a permanent solution, use ERICO Cadweld to connect wire to ground rods. It's a clamp replacement that welds the connection by thermally fusing the wire to the ground rod. Once attached, it

becomes a permanent, exothermic connection to a ground rod that will not loosen, corrode, or increase in resistance for the life of the installation. Cadweld works well with copper-bonded steel, galvanized, or stainless steel ground rods.

Add more ground rods: If you suspect the ground rod is not providing a sufficient low-resistance ground connection, you can add more. A second rod will decrease resistance about 40%. When using the typical 8-foot or 10-foot ground rods, you get the best results by spacing the rods at least 16 or 20 feet apart (2x grounded length), respectively. Use a single copper wire to connect all—6 AWG or thicker.

The top of the ground rod can (and should) be even with or below ground. To protect them and provide access for inspection, a 4-inch PVC cleanout can be a handy cover.

If you want to go the extra mile for performance, you can also tinker with the ground itself by adding a chemical treatment around the ground rod in a trench or pit. Over the years, amateurs have used various salts in combination with water to improve conductivity. It works but has some downsides, including rod corrosion and the need for regular maintenance.

The layered combination of powdered charcoal and salt (3 parts carbon/1 part salt) reduces the resistivity of soil around a ground rod. The ionic behavior of salt and charcoal helps to maintain moisture content around the earth pit, though it may require occasional watering.

GEM (Ground Enhancement Material) is another alternative. It is a low-resistance, non-corrosive, conductive carbon/Portland cement material that

improves grounding effectiveness, especially in areas of poor conductivity such as rocky ground, mountaintops, and sandy soil. It can be installed in trenches or as a ground rod backfill. The material sets within three days and becomes a highly conductive concrete that doesn't require maintenance and performs in all soil conditions.

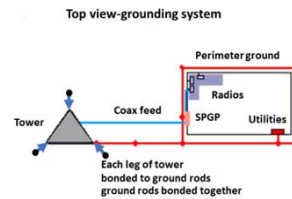
Utilize ground plates: Sheets of copper or galvanized steel can be installed in shallow soil or rocky ground when a typical ground rod (8 to 10 feet) cannot be driven in. These large metal plates can be buried in the ground, horizontally or vertically, to provide a low-impedance ground connection. They can be particularly useful in areas with poor soil conductivity thanks to their large surface area.

Grounding straps: Grounding straps are flexible conductive materials used to establish a connection between different parts of your ham radio system. Use grounding straps to bond metal components together and create a solid ground.

Flexible **solid copper straps** will maintain a proper, low-impedance connection long after small-gauge wires and tinned copper braids have weathered and disintegrated. They're used extensively for commercial equipment rooms, sheds, and tower installations for above-ground and underground connections to radiators, tower and ground rods.

Ensure proper bonding: Proper bonding of all metal components is essential for maintaining a good ground. Use heavy-gauge copper wire or copper straps to bond antennas, coaxial cables, and equipment to a common ground point known as a Single Point Ground Panel

(SPGP). The SPGP is typically close to the ham shack to keep the ground connection as short as possible. In addition, the electrical service entrance, telco, cable grounds and SPGP need to be bonded together. Sometimes these aren't in close proximity, so you'll need to run some ground wires. As you can see in the illustration, a perimeter ground is set up to connect these for better safety.



The perimeter ground helps conduct the surge energy around the building, minimizing the ground potential differences under the building during a lightning strike. The purpose is to minimize lightning currents that might flow through the structure. It also adds to the basic ground system by providing more connection points to the earth. The existing AC service entry ground is also connected.

One thing is very important—all equipment on the desk should be operated with the same cabinet potential. We want the RF transmitting shield connections between desktop gear to be as low as possible. To avoid ground loops, connect your ground wires in a star configuration to a single point on the ground bus, with wires as short as possible.

Proper Antenna Grounding

Techniques: Different types of antennas require specific grounding techniques to ensure optimal performance. Here's a breakdown of proper grounding

techniques for common types of antennas:

For *vertical antennas*, the ground connection is typically made using a ground radial system. Radials should be spread out horizontally and buried slightly underground. Try to use at least sixteen 1/4 wave radials. If you don't have the space, lay down a larger number of 1/8 wave radials or whatever lengths will fit the available area. For elevated antenna installations, two 1/4 wavelengths opposite each other will give good results.

Dipole antennas are typically grounded at the entrance point to your house, often with a lightning arrester attached to the SPGP.

Typically, *Yagis* are supported by antenna towers, which should be grounded at each of the three legs with a ground rod. All these connections need to be bonded, along with the coax feedline shield at the base of the tower.

Second Floor Radio Installations:

Sometimes a short ground lead is impossible, especially when your radios are on the second floor. Tom, W8JI, suggests that installing a ground plane at room level is the most practical way to minimize RF in the above-ground shack.

This ground system—which is really a counterpoise—can be strips of copper foil laid under the carpet or area rug, a screen, or grid of wires under the floor. Hobby suppliers sell copper foil tape that works very well. A grid of foil does not need to fill the entire space. Foil pieces one to two feet apart are nearly as good as a solid sheet. Connect these to the station equipment ground bus.

This counterpoise system makes the entire room, including the operator, “rise” in voltage to match the equipment chassis

voltages. It also spreads the current and voltage around, reducing intensity of localized electric and magnetic fields. If you can't do the floor counterpoise, sometimes a 1/4 wave counterpoise along the baseboard will work for the “problem” bands.

Lightning Striking Again?

There's no such thing as guaranteed protection, but you can certainly improve your odds. We've just scratched the surface regarding grounding. For some additional information, be sure to consult H. Ward Silver's *Grounding and Bonding for the Radio Amateur 2nd Edition*. It's an excellent reference for hams who want to learn about the hows and whys of grounding techniques.

Safety Tip—Call Before You Dig

Each state has a toll-free number to arrange locating and marking utilities. You really don't want to find a buried pipe or electrical service when driving a ground rod. Most are completely free, although it may take a few days to schedule a non-emergency visit. Call 811 to be connected with the service for your state or visit <https://call811.com>. —
Posted On All Bands, an Amateur Radio Blog by DX Engineering, by [Mark Haverstock, K8MSH](#) on November 17, 2023 at 2:41 pm

NEWS, PRESS RELEASES, SPECIAL INTEREST

******Important Information about ARRL Membership and Magazines******

All members continue to have access to four digital magazines: *QST*, *On the Air*, *QEX*, and *NCJ*. Printed-and-mailed issues of *QST* and *On the Air* magazines will not be included with current and new memberships effective January 1, 2024. Print subscriptions are available and sold separately. A summary of 2024 dues

rates and related changes are available at www.arrl.org/2024-dues-rates.

Beacon CS3B has been destroyed by a wildfire (<https://www.iarur1.org/2023/hf-beacon-cs3b-madeira-destroyed-in-wildfire/>). This beacon site was installed relatively recently, and was a part of the Northern California DX Foundation's (NCDXF) International Beacon Project (IBP), a series of HF beacons operating on 14.100, 18.110, 21.150, 24.930, and 28.200 MHz. --From *ARRL Contest Letter, November 8, 2023*

KD9SV Products has been acquired by DX Engineering. Since 1987, Gary Nichols, KD9SV, has been producing well-regarded low-band receiving equipment. Production of his gear for 160 and 80 meters will be assumed by DX Engineering. DX Engineering CEO Tim Duffy, K3LR, said: "We remain dedicated to making sure these types of well-respected legacy devices, which have helped so many operators around the globe, continue to be available for improved contesting and DXing results." --From *ARRL Contest Letter, November 8, 2023*

Find out how a lost cell phone turned into a version of a [modern-day foxhunt](#), with the biggest challenge being that it was lost in an area with no cellular coverage. The story might inspire other license-free hunts without specialized equipment. --From *ARRL Contest Letter, November 8, 2023*

Word to the Wise

Off Time Periods of non-operation during a contest. Operation includes the activity of listening, so listening during off-times is not allowed. --From *ARRL Contest Letter, November 8, 2023*



Operating Tip

Caution: Software Updates before a Contest In today's world of self-updating computers, be mindful of changes to your configuration that may inadvertently happen when software is upgraded. *Microsoft* Windows can change port assignments, sound devices, and so forth after updates, which could make radio control problematic. Updates to any software involved in your contest operation should be treated with caution just before a contest starts. A prudent person might spend a half hour before the contest verifying that everything is operating as it should be. --From *ARRL Contest Letter, November 8, 2023*

TECHNICAL TOPICS AND DISCUSSION

An accurate time setting for your PC is critical for operating the FTX modes and for when time is used in a networked multi-operator setting. On a DXpedition, where there's limited or no access to the internet, this could be a challenge. Inexpensive GPS USB dongles can be used in combination with software like [NMEA Time2](#) to obtain accurate time from GPS satellites, and a computer running Windows [can be made into an NTP server](#) for all of the computers on your network. --From *ARRL Contest Letter, November 8, 2023*

Be careful with spray lubricant, as it may be incompatible with some plastics. Here's an article from *This Old House* that offers the [best practices for using WD-40](#). According to the article, you should be especially careful around polystyrenes and polycarbonates. --From *ARRL Contest Letter, November 8, 2023*

An [article on the CAIG Laboratories website](#) recommends that their DeoxIT D5 liquids be used exclusively on metal

contacts, and not the surrounding non-metallic materials, such as phenolic. Phenolic and other materials can absorb the liquid with unintended negative consequences. --From *ARRL Contest Letter*, November 8, 2023

Keep Feed Line Lengths ASAP! (As Short As Possible) You can teach an old dog (I turn 70 next month) new tricks. Actually, this isn't a new trick or even a trick at all. After moving my dipole antennas much closer to my station, I was able to significantly shorten my feedlines (read: 20 feet versus my previous runs of some 60 feet). I also switched to RG-8, previously RG-58. The increase in gain was of epic proportions and I'm so glad I did it. Think about shortening your feedline runs and switching to the more efficient RG-8 coax. Then, watch your S-meter and signal reports ping up a few notches! Rick, K1CE
--From *ARES Letter*, November 14, 2023

ARRL Learning Center
As one of ARRL's member benefits, learn.arrl.org is an online learning environment designed to help you get the most out of your license. Content is organized around learning paths, making it easy to navigate and explore the field that interests you most — operating, serving your community in emergencies, and electronics and technology. --From *ARRL Current*, November 14, 2023

A Budget Code Practice Oscillator for Morse Code Learners Mark H. Hoffman, KC3BNV
Morse code is alive and well on the ham bands! If you're not yet part of the fun of CW operating, it's never too late to learn, and the simple project presented in "A Budget Code Practice Oscillator for Morse Code Learners" can help get you

there. Author Mark H. Hoffman, KC3BNV, created a simple circuit that's enclosed in a 3D-printed case. Check the digital edition of the December issue of *QST* for a video of the build that shows just how easy it can be. --From *ARRL Current*, November 14, 2023



TRADING POST
BUY, SELL, OR TRADE--If you have something to place in the Trading Post, send me as much detail as possible along with contact information. Please--**No guns, alcohol, or illegal substances or items!** Contact me at lynalfman@aol.com or call (740) 872-3888.

FOR SALE BY OWNER
YEASU FT 950 = EXCELLENT CONDITION \$ 850.00 has dvs-6 memory unit installed. This radio does not have a lot of hours on it, as it was used as a backup radio to my FT 1000 MP MKV. It has auto tune built in. I also have a MFJ 989D Tuner that has just came back from MFJ for service. I am asking \$ 400.00 for it. Jim Shaw AB8P 740-305 -5041 ab8pjshaw@yahoo.com





CARA HISTORY BOOK--*A Century of Radio: Cambridge Amateur Radio Association 1913-2013* by Evelyn Barton, KA8NZS, from CARA Publishing is available at <https://www.amazon.com/dp/1493586041>. It is full of colored pictures including current and former club members' QSL cards.

TAILORING AND OLD BUTTONS--Bev Bunn, KD8MSL, of Needles and Pins, does sewing alterations, embroidery, costumes, and period clothing, and is collecting old buttons for a project. bbbunn80@gmail.com

CLUB CLOTHING--Carolyn Poland, KA8UJA of Bluebird Embroidery, does custom embroidering and imprinting of t-shirts, hats, and other crafts. bluebirdembroidery@hughes.net.



ANSWER TO TRIVIA QUESTION

The five oceans on Earth are

- 1) Arctic Ocean,
- 2) Atlantic Ocean,
- 3) Indian Ocean,
- 4) Pacific Ocean,
- 5) Southern Ocean

FOOD CORNER



Everyone loves chocolate!

Have a craving for chocolate cake, but you do not have any eggs or butter in the house. Never fear. I have the perfect recipes for chocolate lovers who have no eggs or butter.

WACKY CAKE

Ingredients: 3 cups flour, 2 cups sugar, 6 T. cocoa powder, 2 t. baking soda, 1 t. salt, 2 t. vanilla, 2 T. vinegar, $\frac{3}{4}$ cup oil, 2 cups cold water

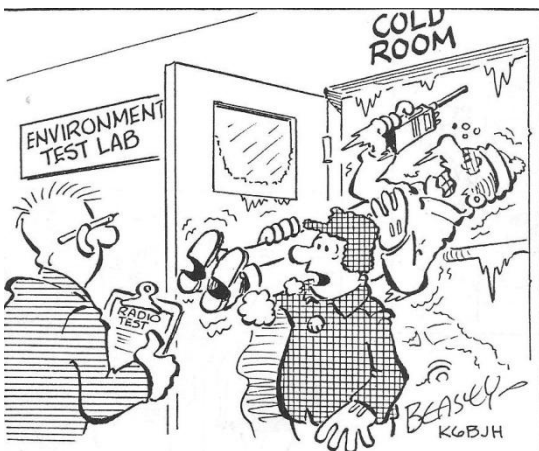
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Grease and flour cake pan(s).
- Sift together dry ingredients until well blended in a large bowl.
- Add liquid ingredients and stir until blended. Batter will be runny.
- Pour into prepared pan(s). Bake for 30 to 40 minutes or until toothpick in center of cake comes out clean.

MAYONNAISE CAKE

Ingredients: 2 cups flour, 1 cup sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ t. salt, 2 t. baking soda, 4 T. cocoa powder, 1 cup mayonnaise, 1 t. vanilla, 1 cup warm water

- Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
- Grease and flour pan(s).
- Stir together dry ingredients until well blended.
- Add mayonnaise, vanilla, and warm water. Stir until blended.
- Pour into prepared pan(s).
- Bake 30 minutes or until toothpick in center of cake comes out clean.

HUMOR CORNER



ED FAILED THE TEST, BUT THE RADIO SEEMS TO BE O.K.---NEXT TIME LET'S JUST TEST THE RADIO



OK, Show of hands...
Who's tired of snow?



EDITOR'S NOTE



Newsletter Editor Lyn Alfman, N8IMW

If you wish to place an article in this newsletter, it must either be an original piece by you, or if it is reprinted from another source, please be sure to get permission to reprint it and/or give credit to the original author and source. Contact me at lynalfman@aol.com or call (740) 872-3888.

Items for the March 1 newsletter should be sent to me no later than February 23.

Remember to be Radio Active!
73 de Lyn, N8IMW

**HAPPY NEW
YEAR!!!**

