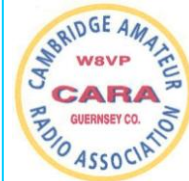


CARA COMMUNICATOR



Located at the Crossroads of Communications in East Central Ohio
Vol. 23 Issue 2, W8VP, 146.25/85, Est. 1913, March-April 2024

CARA 2024 OFFICERS

The following members were elected to an officer for 2024: President Jim Shaw, AB8P; Vice President Sonny Alfman, W8FHF; Secretary Evelyn Barton, KA8NZS; Treasurer Sonny Alfman, W8FHF; Activities Chair Sonny Alfman, W8FHF; Program Chair Dick Wayt, WD8SDH; PIO Lyn Alfman, N8IMW; Newsletter Editor Lyn Alfman, N8IMW; Trustees Evelyn Barton, KA8NZS; Steven Bunn, KD8MFC; and Dick Wayt, WD8SDH.

The 2024 officers will begin their duties at the next meeting on March 30.

QRZ JUMPSTART PROGRAM

QRZ, RT Systems, and GigaParts are teaming up to offer a more sustainable program that will run at least through the end of the year and will be expanded to include hams who have been licensed for 6 months or less. The new program offers a coupon code to the new ham that gives them an Explorer QRZ-1 handheld radio, programming cable, RT Systems programming software, New Ham Welcome Kit, and a Premium QRZ membership for only \$21.99.

This program is available to amateur radio operators licensed in the USA and expires March 24, 2024, or while supplies last.

To sign up, new hams should complete the application process at www.qrz.com/jumpstart. Jumpstart packages will begin shipping immediately.

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE



A total solar eclipse will occur at approximately 3 pm local time. The map above shows the eclipse areas. The green and yellow areas are where the totality will occur. The blue areas are partial totality areas, and the non-shaded (our area) is outside of the totality area. We will see a partial eclipse.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS

Remember to set your clocks ahead on March 10 at 2 am when Daylight Savings begins.

UPCOMING MEETING

CARA meetings March 30 and April 27 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.

2024 ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Jim Shaw, AB8P
Vice President: Sonny Alfman, W8FHF
Secretary: Evelyn Barton, KA8NZS
Treasurer: Sonny Alfman, W8FHF
Activities Chair: Sonny Alfman, W8FHF
Program Chair: Dick Wayt, WD8SDH
PIO/Newsletter Editor: Lyn Alfman, N8IMW

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

2024 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
OH 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

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/GCARES/NTS Net 146.850 MHz, PL 91.5 -- 2000 Tuesday
CARA Trivia Net, Mon., Wed., 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

March 10 – Winterfest, Elyria
<http://winterhamfest@noars.net>
March 17 – Toledo Mobile Radio Association Hamfest and Computer Fair, Perrysburg <http://www.w8hhf.org>
April 13 - Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club 68th Hamfest, Cuyahoga Falls, <http://www.w8vpv.org/hamfest>
April 13 - Mid-Ohio Valley Amateur Radio Club, Bidwell
April 27 - Tusco ARC, Electronics, and Computer Show, Dover, <http://www.w8zx.net/hamfest>

April 28 - Athens Hamfest, Athens,
Athens Co ARA <https://www.ac-ara.org/>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Jim Shaw, AB8P

The Cambridge Christmas Parade is one activity where we have provided communications for almost 45 years. We have provided parking assistance for the Guernsey County Senior Citizens Center for their annual picnic for several years. These are just a couple of events that we are involved in. Annually we have Field Day the third full weekend in June, the Ohio QSO Party in August, and Ohio State Parks on the Air in September as well as our Annual Picnic. Come out and attend some of our monthly meetings; your officers are deserving of your support. SKYWARN and ARES are also services that your club provides to our community.

I want to remind the membership that your club offers **FREE TESTING TO THOSE WHO WISH TO UP-GRADE OR WANT TO TAKE THEIR TEST FOR THE FIRST TIME.**

Involvement and Participation is the key to every successful organization. I hope to see you on the last Saturday of each month, except May and December, at the Guernsey County Administration Building. Meetings start at 10:00 AM.

All the best, and "73"
Jim Shaw, CARA Club President

CARA TRIVIA NET 4TH ANNIVERSARY

The CARA Trivia Net is presently on the Cambridge repeater 146.850 MHz, PL 91.5 Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings from 8 to 9 pm.

Anyone, who can make the repeater, is invited to participate. The Trivia Net, started on April 1, 2020, during the pandemic shutdown.



TORNADO SIREN TEST

A statewide tornado siren test will occur on Wednesday, March 20 at 9:50 am.

CARA members are asked to check into the net before the tornado siren test, listen for the tornado siren in their area at 9:50 am and check into the net afterwards to report your results.

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMS

Contact Jim Shaw, AB8P, by phone (740) 305-5041 or email ab8pjlshaw@yahoo.com concerning upcoming exam sessions.

GUERNSEY HERITAGE AWARD

Collect wallpaper? Need a new one for your 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.



EVENTS, ETC.

CARA'S 110TH BIRTHDAY SES

CARA celebrated its 110th birthday (December 4, 2023) with a Special Event Station (W8VP) on January 20 from 11am to 5 pm on 20 meters, despite the single digit weather and wind chills, from Jim Shaw (AB8P) and Marilyn Phalin's (KD8ZMG) residence (46006 King Street, Caldwell).

In attendance were Jim Shaw, AB8P; Dick Wayt, WD8SDH; Marilyn Phalin,

KD8ZMG; Randall Poore, KD8BYY; Larry Tomcho, KE8IVN; Junior McDaniel, KE8ZKR, and twelve guests: Clint and Lana Van Hoose; Connie Nicholson; Miley Tomcho; Jackie Mizik; Christopher, Haven, and Holden Cobb; Carlie Fisher; Brandy Shaw; and Brent George. The operators made 66 contacts.

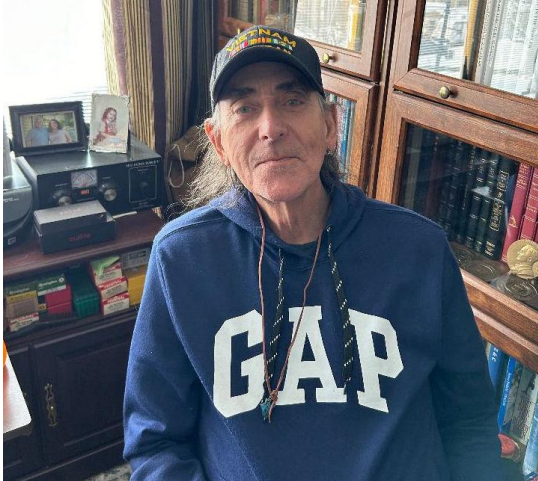


Dick Wayt, WD8SDH

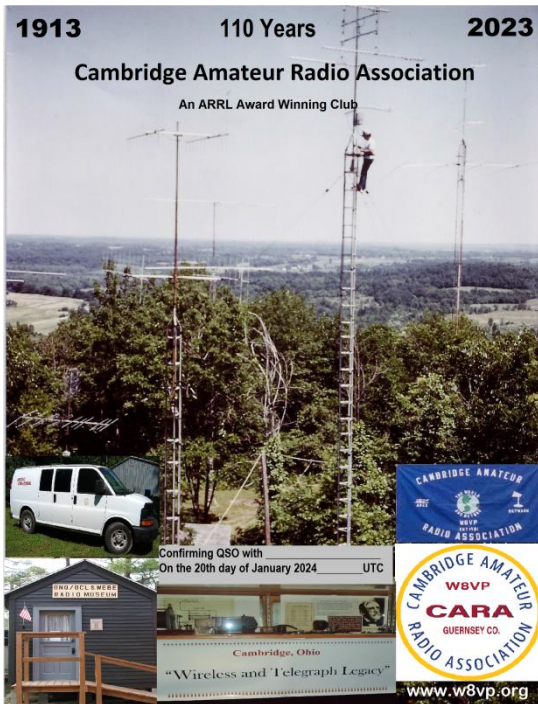


Randall Poore, KD8BYY

If you were unable to attend the event, you missed a fun event with a huge variety of refreshments, enough to feed a small army—hot dogs, sauerkraut, apple pies, cookies, etc. Marilyn Phalin, KD8ZMG, prepared and served the refreshments and did the dishes.



Carl "Junior" McDaniel, KE8ZKR
The SES certificate for this event was designed by Sam Johnson, K8SLJ.



Send certificate requests along with QSL info to ab8pjlshaw@yahoo.com. See www.w8vp.org.

OPERATORS NEEDED WITH SOLAR ECLIPSE PROJECT

The [Case Amateur Radio Club, W8EDU](http://www.w8edu.com), the club station at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, is asking for amateur radio operators to help with a research project centered around the April 8, 2024, solar eclipse.

W8EDU club member Adam Goodman, W7OKE, said the project centers around studying the effects of the eclipse on propagation to better understand the recombination time of the ionosphere.



"To do this, we are recruiting North American amateur stations interested in recording the Canadian time standard station CHU (Canada's WWV) for two weeks surrounding the eclipse," added Goodman. "Anyone with a [KiwiSDR](http://www.kiwisdr.com) or a rig that can interface with analysis/recording software such as [Fldigi](http://www.fldigi.org) is encouraged to reach out to us to participate."

W8EDU club member and project software manager Maris Usis, KE8TXG, said that while the software is simple to use, there is some detailed work involved. "We can help make it easier and there are good online instructions as well," said Usis.

All of the participation details are on the club's website at <https://w8edu.wordpress.com/chu-eclipse-data-collection/>.

W8EDU club faculty advisor David Kazdan, AD8Y, said the research project has received positive attention from

the [ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Program](#) community, the Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation ([HamSCI](#)) community, and Case Western Reserve University's engineering deans. "It is already a truly international effort, and we are collaborating with more than 20 stations across the continent, from collegiate and high school stations, to a representative from the Radio Amateurs of Canada, to a station in Mexico," said Kazdan.

The [2024 solar eclipse](#) will over Mexico, the United States, and Canada. ARRL is a partner with HamSCI to help promote this opportunity for radio amateurs to participate in an active science experiment, through the Solar Eclipse QSO Party.

WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY

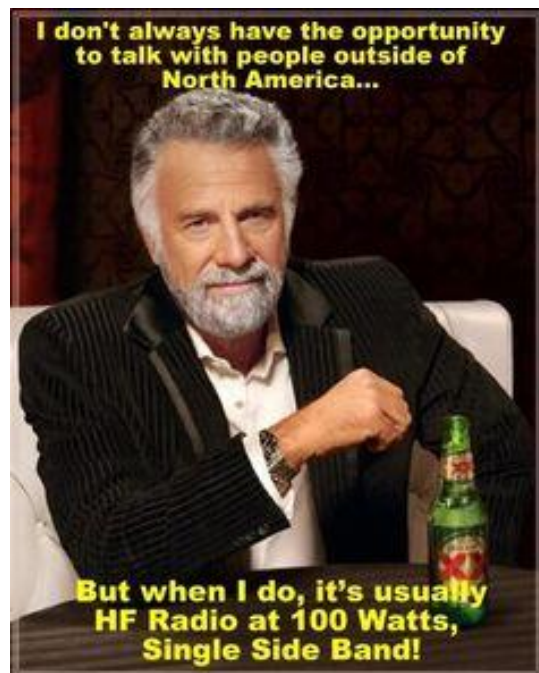
For World Amateur Radio Day (WARD) on April 18, 2024, the [International Amateur Radio Union](#) (IARU) has chosen the theme, "A Century of Connections: Celebrating 100 years of Amateur Radio Innovation, Community and Advocacy." WARD is the day when IARU Member-Societies show their capabilities to the public and enjoy global friendship with other amateurs worldwide. The IARU was founded in Paris, France, in 1925, and it has worked to promote innovation in amateur radio and to encourage the growth of the Service in communities throughout the world. The IARU will celebrate its centenary in 2025.

IARU has [represented amateur services at international and regional regulatory bodies](#) by relying on volunteers from many countries and communities. IARU has been a sector-member of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) since 1932, and the work of their

volunteers has successfully continued since that date. [ARRL](#) is a member of IARU Regions 3 and 2 because it represents the radio amateurs of Guam, the Northern Marianas, and American Samoa, which are located in Region 3. The administration of the IARU is performed by ARRL, which serves as the International Secretariat.

AMATEUR RADIO AWARDS DIRECTORY U.S.A.

I found this site on the internet. It seems there are numerous awards for just about anything that you can earn on the air—ours Guernsey Heritage Award is listed but with the old P. O. Box. Here is the link: <http://mirror.unpad.ac.id/orari/orari-diklat/pemula/organisasi/internasional/REG%20USA.pdf>.



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

- **Mar 14| PI Day**, 0000Z-2359Z, N3P, Burlington, NJ. David Sarnoff Radio Club. 14.031 MHz 14.314 MHz 7.031 MHz 7.227 MHz. QSL. Donald Corrington, 7 Pinewald Lane, Burlington, NJ 08016-3421. [n2re.org](#)
- **Mar 15-Mar 16| K4KDJ (Virginia Tech Amateur Radio Association) 100 Year Anniversary**, 2100Z-2100Z, K4KDJ, Blacksburg, VA. K4KDJ Virginia Tech Amateur Radio Association. 14.256 7.220 14.340 7.150. QSL. Virginia Tech Amateur Radio Association, 290 College Ave, Blacksburg, VA 24060.
- **Mar 23-Mar 24| Celebrating 50 Years as a Club**, 1700Z-0100Z, VC3GB, OwenSound, On. Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club. 14.263. QSL. Georgian Bay Amateur Radio Club, 142 Paradise Bay, Annan, ON N0H1B0, CANADA. [gbarc.ca](#)
- **Mar 30-Apr 10| Total Solar Eclipse in Hunt County Texas**, 0000Z-2359Z, W5E, Greenville, TX. Sabine Valley Amateur Radio Association. 7.235 14.280 21.400 28.450. QSL. K5GVL Sabine Valley Amateur Radio Association, PO Box 843, Greenville, TX 75403-0843. The Sabine Valley Amateur Radio

Association will be celebrating a once in a lifetime solar event. On April 8th 2024 our favorite star the sun will be totally eclipsed for over 4 minutes! This will allow direct observation of the sun's corona in real time. The SVARA will be operating W5E "Whiskey 5 Eclipse" from March 30th until April 10th to celebrate this unique and magical event! <https://k5gvl.com/w5e-total-solar-eclipse-special-event-station>

- **Apr 12-Apr 22| Celebrating 60 Years of Friendship and Ham Radio with the Hatch Green Chili Pepper Run to 33 NM Counties**, 1400Z-0600Z, N5M, All New Mexico. WA5LHM and WA5POK. 7.060 7.260 14.060 14.260. Certificate. Scott Kendall, WA5LHM, 1804 Louise St., Georgetown, TX 78262. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/996268021434046>
- **Apr 12-Apr 13| National Library Week 2024**, 1600Z-2100Z, K8L, Youngstown, OH. WF8U and KC3GFU. 14.074 7.074. QSL. K8L, 239 Elvira Ct., McDonald, OH 44437. Help us celebrate National Library Week 2024. We will be operating on both SSB & FT8, 20m and 40m. Send us a QSL to be displayed in our local libraries and share the magic of amateur radio! In return you will receive a SES QSL card with this year's theme. Please send QSL to: K8L, 239 Elvira Ct., McDonald, OH 44437. Find more information on QRZ or email kd8ely@gmail.com. www.qrz.com/db/kd8ely
- **Apr 13| Commemorating USS Midway conducting first airship ops on CV (7APR49)**, 1600Z-2300Z, NI6IW, San Diego, CA. USS Midway Museum Ship. 7.250 14.320; 140.070 PSK31; DSTAR on PAPA System repeaters. QSL. USS Midway Museum Ship COMEDTRA, 910 N Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101. www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw
- **Apr 13-Apr 14| Venice Shark's Tooth Festival**, 1500Z-2000Z, K4S, Nokomis, FL. Tamiami ARC. 14.320 SSB. QSL. Tamiami ARC, PO Box 976, Nokomis, FL 34274. Celebrating the area in Florida known as the "Shark's Tooth Capital of the World". All QSLs with SASE receive custom event QSL and a genuine, prehistoric shark's tooth memento of the contact. tamiamiarc.org
- **Apr 15-Apr 22| WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY 2024**, 1600Z-1600Z, W2W, Rochester, NY. ROC-HAM RADIO NETWORK. ECHOLINK CONFERENCE ROC-HAM 531091 ALLSTAR2585,47620,47918,531310 14.313 28.405. QSL. W2JLD/JOHN DERYCKE, 85 AMHERST ST, APT2, Rochester, NY 14607. This will be our 9th annual WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY celebration. Many conferences and nodes will be connecting for this event. Special event. T-shirts will be available to mark the occasion. Special event net is on APRIL 18TH@1700 UTC-0200 UTC CHECK OUT ROC-

HAM.NET for more details roc-ham.net

- **Apr 17| SRH Special Event Station at the Titan Missile Museum**, 2000Z-2200Z, K6SRH, Sahuarita, AZ. Sam's Radio Hams (SRH). 14.315. QSL. Paul Craft, 357 Morningside Terrace, Palmdale, CA 93551. See QRZ website for digital QSL and other event information www.qrz.com/db/K6SRH
- **Apr 19-Apr 23| Battle of Hobkirk's Hill**, 1700Z-2359Z, K4H, Camden, SC. Kershaw County Amateur Radio Club. 14.325 21.325 28.325. Certificate. E-certificate only. Email, info@kc4rc.com for, details. "2nd Battle of Camden"/Battle of Hobkirk's Hill <https://kc4rc.com>
- **Apr 20| Northwest Arkansas Train Mobile**, 1300Z-2200Z, N5T, Springdale, AR. Bella Vista Radio Club. 7.190 14.260 7.040 14.040. QSL. Don Banta - K5DB, 3407 Diana St., Springdale, AR 72764. bellavistaradioclub.org
- **Apr 27| International Marconi Day 2024**, 1700Z-2300Z, W1M, Rochester, NY. ROC-HAM RADIO NETWORK. 20M/14.313 10M/28.405 Allstar2585,47620,47918,531310. QSL. W2JLD/JOHN DERYCKE, 85 AMHERST ST, APT2, Rochester, NY 14607. roc-ham.net



Great Lakes Division

ARRL GREAT LAKES DIRECTOR



Scott Yonally, N8SY

ARRL BOARD MEETING

The ARRL Board of Directors met in Windsor, Connecticut, on January 19 - 20, 2024, for its Annual Meeting. ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, presided over the meeting, and the Board welcomed Vice Director of the ARRL Great Lakes Division Roy Hook, W8REH, as a newly elected member to the Board.



ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, [L], and ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Scott Yonally, N8SY [R], present a certificate to new ARRL Great Lakes Division Vice Director Roy Hook, W8REH [C].

The Board authorized a new, free ARRL membership for students. For decades, ARRL has offered a reduced dues rate for young hams, currently priced at \$30 per year. At this meeting, the Board established a new option for a no-cost Associate membership for full-time students aged 21 and younger.

The Board re-elected ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, to a fifth 2-year term. The Board also elected Director of the ARRL Pacific Division Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, to be First Vice President, succeeding Michael Raisbeck, K1TWF. Director of the ARRL Northwestern Division Mike Ritz, W7VO, was elected Second Vice President, succeeding Bob Vallio, W6RGG. ARRL Vice President of International Affairs Rod Stafford, W6ROD, was re-elected. The elections of McIntyre and Ritz to the Vice President positions mean that incumbent Vice Directors Anthony Marcin, W7XM (Pacific Division), and Mark Tharp, KB7HDX (Northwestern Division), will succeed as Division Directors, creating vacancies for Vice Director in those Divisions, which will be filled by appointment.

The complete minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors will be available soon on the ARRL website. Read more about the Board's actions in the ARRL Member Bulletin. The next meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors is scheduled for July 19 - 20, 2024.

ARRL is governed by an all-volunteer Board of Directors. Elections are held for five of the 15 ARRL Divisions each year, for terms of 3 years. *—From ARRL Letter January 25, 2024*



OHIO SECTION MANAGER



Tom Sly, WB8LCD
CQ CQ CQ de WB8LCD

I 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.

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*

Hamvention is now on the horizon. I’ll say it again: This is one of the “Premier Ham Radio Events” IN THE WORLD! And it’s right in your backyard. It’s where everyone who is anyone in the hobby will be, and usually able to talk with you. Anything and everything you ever wanted will be there, and most of it “on sale”. The latest and greatest new gear, and that elusive rig or parts from your past that will make your life complete. There are multiple forums running all day every day. You’ll hear from some of the most engaging people in the hobby on just about every “hot topic” you want to know more about.

Get your tickets, get your hotel/motel/campground or your local friend’s couch reserved now. You really don’t want to miss it.

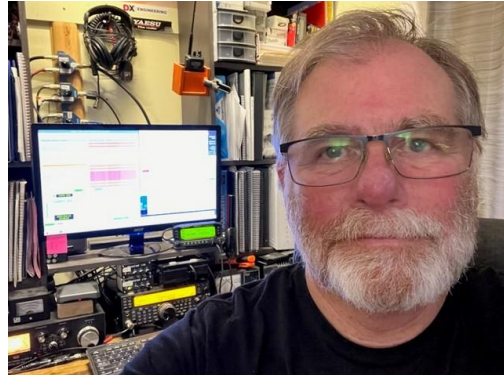
In the last few years POTA has really been a driver for activity on the ham bands. Add too that the nice sunspot cycle we’ve got going on Old Sol, and there are some really good conditions on all of the HF bands. When conditions are good, DXpeditions are all over the place. Lots of rare locations are being activated.

The new equipment, at every price point, is outstanding. This truly is another “Golden Age” of Amateur Radio! Don’t let it pass you by. –*Ohio Section Journal Post Script February 12, 2024*

Share the Magic.

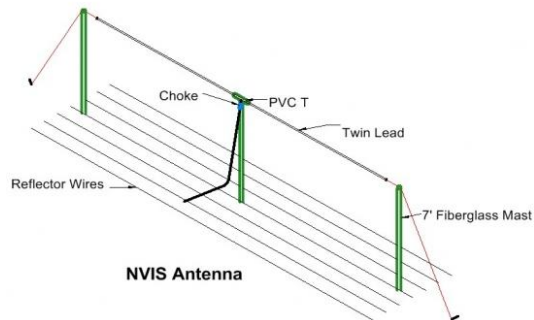
73, Tom Sly - WB8LCD
Ohio Section Manager
wb8lcd@arrl.org
330-554-4650

OHIO SECTION EMERGENCY COORDINATOR



Bret Stemen, KD8SCL, OH SEC

2024 OHIO NVIS DAY



Ohio NVIS Day was Saturday, April 27th. Like years past, the operation runs from 10 AM– 4 PM EDT. Transmit power should have stayed at 100 watts for accurate signal comparison. You were allowed to operate anywhere--home, portable, or club. The idea is to install one or two NVIS antennas and try them out.

Want to know more about what NVIS is? <http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/nvis.html> Learn all about Near Vertical Incident Scattering and how you can easily put up a NVIS antenna and participate in this great exercise.

**ARRL OHIO DISTRICT 9
EMERGENCY COORDINATOR**



Steve Wheatcraft, AA8BN

Ohio ARES District 9

District is testing Winlink hf vara P2P and Winlink packet P2P. If you're interested, contact aa8bn@arrl.net.

Please download Winlink. Download fldigi, flmsg, flamp from sourceforge. Download Soundmodem program from UZ7HO. Download outpost pmm and send and receive packet messages with BBS. Join the Ohio ARES® District 9 Packet Network. District 9 Net each Saturday on Guernsey County repeater 146.850MHz PL 91.5 at 10am.

73AA8BN Ohio ARES® D9 DEC



**ASSISTANT ARRL OHIO
DISTRICT 9 EMERGENCY
COORDINATOR**



Sonny Alfman, W8FHF, ADEC 9

ECHOLINK WEB INTERFACE

Echolink now has a web interface. The service appears to be a welcome addition for users. As always, after setup, users are encouraged to connect to 9999 -- the Echotest server -- to adjust their transmit and receive audio before connecting to other users. - *Lloyd Colston, KC5FM, FEMA Reservist, Retired Emergency Manager, All-hazards disaster planning, response, mitigation, and recovery; Incident Command System Trainer*

[Colston's service has included the Joint Information Center at the Utah Olympics, and Fire Management Assistance for the Grant fire response, among many others. - Ed.] - *From ARES Letter, February 21, 2024*



**GUERNSEY COUNTY
EMERGENCY COORDINATOR**



Dick Wayt, WD8SDH

ARES corner

When and how to speak NTS? I have written about this before but judging by what I hear on the various nets I participate in it needs repeating. First let's talk about when to speak NTS. If you are in a net that is recreational, such as Mid cars or Country cousins then don't worry about the verbiage. You are there to have fun, so have fun. So, when do we need to speak NTS? We need to speak NTS when we are in an NTS net passing traffic. The NTS does not exist for recreational purposes. It exists to pass traffic and that is a serious endeavor. While it is true that most of our traffic handling on a day-to-day basis is a low priority it is still practice for the real thing. Remember the way we train is the way we will respond in a real situation. When the stress level is high, band conditions are bad, and you are passing traffic that affects the well-being of others, it is essential to pass the traffic accurately and effectively. We are the most accurate and effective when we are speaking the same language. That language of NTS. The NTS has prowords and procedures that are spelled out in the MPG (Methods, Procedures,

Guidelines). The MPG is available on the internet or through ARRL. I would suggest you read it. The following are examples of improper MPG use that I often hear.

1. The phonetic alphabet. Learn the proper phonetic alphabet. When stress is high, and conditions are bad, cute or improper phonetics only add confusion.
2. Roger. Roger does not mean yes! Roger means you understand what was sent. The most frequent use of Roger is to confirm receipt of a message. You do not say roger your message number XXX or roger your EOC message. You simply say roger. It is implicit you understand the message and any more verbiage is unnecessary.
3. WILCO. Although not contained in the MPG, WILCO is a common pro-word that is sometimes heard on amateur nets. The meaning of WILCO is "I will comply". WILCO is never used with Roger, such as "Roger WILCO"!
4. I say again. The word repeat is not to be used to get corrections or fills. The MPG pro-phrase is "I say again". To request a fill simply use "Say again word after, word before, address or whatever the fill you need. When sending the fill the pro phrase "I say again" is used.
5. Q signals. Q signals are not to be used on a voice net. They are for Morse code or digital print nets. Do not say I am QRU! Simply say I have no traffic.

6. Ready to copy. This is the pro-phrase used by the receiving station to tell the sending station to start the message. Do not say go ahead or I am ready. If necessary the phrases “Weak copy go slow” or “Poor copy I will need help” are in common use.
7. Number. This is the pro-word that starts every message. It means everything after number is the message and is to be copied.
8. End. This is the pro-word that ends the message. You don’t need to say end of message number XX. Simply say end.
9. No Joy. Yes, there is a “No Joy” in the MPG. It simply means that you were not able to accomplish a task that was given to you. An example would be NCS telling you to change frequency and pass a message to another station. If for whatever reason you were not able accomplish the task you would simply report back to the NCS advising no joy. You don’t need to give an explanation or reason.

These are just a few of the errors I hear on various nets. The last procedure I would like to address is how to speak during a net. Speaking needs to be done slow enough that the other operator can copy. As you speak imagine yourself writing the message. This will help you to slow down. Also be sure to enunciate your words.

73 for now,
Dick WD8SDH

CARA HISTORIAN



Evelyn Barton, KA8NZS

Since I work at the Guernsey County Library, I decided to recommend a book this time.

RECOMMENDED READING



If you want to read a good nonfiction book about the astronauts, I would suggest *The Six: The Untold Story of America's First Women Astronauts* by Loren Grush. It is a non-fiction book written by the daughter of two NASA scientists. If you were ever interested in the training involved in becoming an astronaut, this would be a good read.

NATIONAL NEWS
RADIO HELP WANTED; MUST
LIKE GEYSERS, BISON, AND
HELICOPTER RIDES

Occasionally, The ARRL Letter shares job postings that may be of interest to radio amateurs, and this one may be the most scenic job yet -- Yellowstone National Park is looking for three radio technicians, according to posts on the park's social media and a listing on the USAJobs website.

The job listing says that the electronics technician (radio) positions are "located in Yellowstone National Park, in the Technology Services Radio Shop within the Administrative Division." There's even a provision for hazard-duty pay for mountaintop repeater helicopter flights and tower climbing.

On Facebook, the park has some fun with their post: "Does your idea of taking your career to new heights involve flying in a helicopter to 10,000 foot peaks? How about hiking, snowmobiling, and even skiing your way to telecom sites? Well... do we have the job for you! We are hiring not one, but 3... yes THREE, Electronic Radio Technicians," it says.

The lucky three who are hired for these positions will have their work cut out for them; the system has eight repeaters, more than 20 base stations, and 500 mobile and 1,000 portable radios -- all in a national park with 500 geysers and 5,900 American bison.

A radio technician works on a tower in scenic terrain in this photo from the job posting.



[Photo courtesy of Yellowstone National Park.] --From ARRL Letter January 18, 2024

GORDON WEST NAMED ARRL
NATIONAL INSTRUCTOR

ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, has also announced that Gordon West has been named ARRL National Instructor.



Gordon West, WB6NOA.

Goodgame leads ARRL programs that benefit amateur radio volunteer instructors and professional educators. "Gordon West will serve as the ambassador for the new ARRL National Instructor Program," said Goodgame. "The program will place greater emphasis on connecting prospective hams with opportunities to find ARRL Affiliated Radio Clubs, classes, and exams. The National Instructor Program will also support ARRL volunteer instructors with new resources for teaching amateur radio courses and for developing licensees."

Read more about this exciting collaboration on ARRL News.

Download the press release here (PDF) and visit www.arrl.org/gordon-west for more information. *—From ARRL Letter January 18, 2024*

ARRL NEW PUBLISHER OF GORDON WEST, WB6NOA

ARRL is the new publisher of the Amateur Radio License Preparation books and related resources authored by Gordon West, WB6NOA.

Current editions of Gordon West's popular license prep books will be available from ARRL and ARRL publication dealers soon. Look for the category "Gordon West License Prep" in the ARRL e-store.

The books, including future editions, will continue to be authored by Gordon West with Technical Editor Eric P. Nichols, KL7AJ. Nichols is a regular contributor to ARRL publications and has written several ARRL books. He has collaborated on the Gordon West books since 2013. *—From ARRL Letter January 18, 2024*

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 Examiner 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*

HEIL SOUND DONATES EQUIPMENT TO W1AW

The Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW, at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, has received a generous donation of equipment from the Heil Ham Radio division of Heil Sound.

The company's founder, Bob Heil, K9EID, is a pioneering audio engineer and avid radio amateur. At his direction, the company donated four Heil Pro Set Elite HC-6 headsets, three Heil Pro Set 3 stereo headphones, two Heil FS-3 press-to-talk foot switches, one Heil iCM

microphone, one Heil PR 30 microphone, and various adapters. The equipment has been placed into service at the station for use by visiting operators and for the voice bulletins transmitted each weekday evening by W1AW.

W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, says the gear is going to be of great use. "We are fortunate to host many visiting operators each year, but all that use takes a toll on the gear," he said. "The generosity of Heil Ham Radio to help us keep the equipment fresh is greatly appreciated." *—From ARRL Letter February 1, 2024*

DAYTON CONTEST DINNER 2024

The 30th Annual Dayton Contest Dinner will be hosted by the North Coast Contesters during the weekend of the 2024 Dayton Hamvention®, which is hosting the 2024 ARRL National Convention. The dinner will be held at the Hope Hotel, located on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, on Saturday, May 18, 2024. Social hour will begin at 5:30 PM and dinner will follow at 6:30 PM. Contest Director John Dorr, K1AR, is the Master of Ceremonies, and Chief Executive Officer of DX Engineering Tim Duffy, K3LR, is this year's speaker. The 2024 CQ Contest Hall of Fame inductees will also be announced at the dinner. Tickets are on sale now. For additional information, visit Dayton Contest Dinner - Ham Radio Contest Dinner in Dayton Ohio. *—From ARRL Letter January 18, 2024*

NEW RTTY CONTEST

The use of RTTY as a mode outside of contests is waning. The weekly RTTY Sprint practice sessions on Thursday evenings (US time), sponsored by the Northern California Contest Club, have been officially discontinued.

HOWEVER, a new Thursday evening (US timezones) RTTY Contest is has started - The Weekly RTTY Test (WRT). Organized by Tim Shoppa, N3QE, and Ron Koenig, WV4P, it's a *conventional, non-sprint* RTTY contest in the same time slot as the recently-departed RTTY NS. RTTY neophytes are encouraged to participate in the WRT, and the contest has a Facebook page to help get people going. CWT participants will be familiar with the "every unique call is a multiplier" rule. The exchange is name and state/province for US/VE, Name and country for DX.

Larry, K8UT, notes: "The Mortty_v5 CW/RTTY Keyer is in its final stage of development and should be released in January. We've completed three rounds of Beta testing and all production components are on order.

Some Key changes from Mortty_v4 to v5:

- Replaced Arduino Nano with RPi RP20450 microcontroller
- Replaced USB B-mini connector with USB C connector
- Merged both v4 Mortty modes into one app: CW Keyer (Winkey emulator) and TinyFSK
- Added rear-panel slide switch for mode switching (CW<->RTTY)
- Added rear-panel mode status LEDs (CW or RTTY)
- Added internal speaker fed by sine-wave Audio Sidetone, with rear panel volume control
- Added opto-isolators to radio outputs
- Added RF chokes on radio outputs and paddle input
- Improved SO2R support with discrete 1/8" TRRS rear-panel jacks (2 * PTT, CW, RTTY outputs)

Added individual front-panel status LEDs for both R1 and R2 (2 * PTT, CW, RTTY)

For you RTTY ops: There is also experimental RTTY code for SO2R RTTY (one cable, one com port, two radios) and RTTY Sidetone. Working with developers to enable that through their desktop apps. It might get posted as a separate download depending on how integration with loggers works. Stay tuned for that..."

Larry also notes that announcements of ordering availability will be made to the MORTTY groups.io group first. – *From ARRL Contest Update January 3, 2024*

INTERNATIONAL FIRST AMATEUR RADIO STATION ON MOON

The first amateur radio station on the moon, JS1YMG, is now transmitting. The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) successfully landed their Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) on January 19, 2024. Just before touchdown, SLIM released two small lunar surface probes, LEV-1 and LEV-2.

LEV-2 collects data while moving on the lunar surface, and LEV-1 receives the data.

The JAXA Ham Radio Club (JHRC), JQ1ZVI, secured amateur radio license JS1YMG for LEV-1, which has been transmitting Morse code on 437.41 MHz since January 19. The probe uses a 1 W UHF antenna with circular polarization and is transmitting "matters related to amateur business."

Radio amateurs have been busy analyzing JS1YMG's signal, with [Daniel Estévez's, EA4GPZ, blog](#) introducing the method

and extraction results for demodulating Morse code from the signal, as well as extracting the code string.

It's unclear how long signals will be heard. JAXA has said that SLIM was not designed to survive a lunar night, which lasts about 14 days, and is due to return in a few days.

SLIM was launched on September 6, 2023, and landed on January 19, 2024, with the mission of analyzing the composition of rocks to aid research about the origin of the moon. SLIM's landing made Japan the fifth country to achieve a soft touchdown on the moon. The landing was achieved with exceptional precision -- within 180 feet of its targeted touchdown location. – *From ARRL Letter February 1, 2024*

ARRL INTERNATIONAL DX SSB CONTEST

The [ARRL International DX SSB Contest](#), gets underway this weekend at 0000 UTC on Saturday, March 2, and concludes at 2359 UTC on Sunday, March 3. This is a great contest to work some DX and to add to your DXCC totals.

The contest exchange for stations in the U.S. (with the exception of Alaska, Hawaii, and U.S. territories and possessions) and Canada is a signal report and your state or Canadian province. This differs from contests like ARRL November Sweepstakes, and operating events like Field Day, where the sent exchange is your ARRL or Radio Amateurs of Canada Section abbreviation.

The exchange for DX stations located outside of the lower 48 states and Canada is a signal report and transmitter power output.

For complete rules and more information, visit www.arrl.org/arrl-dx/. --From ARRL Contest Update, February 28, 2024

FEATURED ARTICLES

HOW TO PREVENT ESD DAMAGE

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Here are some tips from Keysight Technologies, one of the leading electronic test equipment companies, on how to prevent ESD from damaging your electronics.

USE A GROUNDED WRIST STRAP



whenever you are handling equipment or boards. Using a grounded wrist strap prevents your body from building up charge and causing damage when this built-up charge discharges into your equipment or test boards. Make sure to connect that alligator clip to ground!

USE GROUNDED WORK SURFACES OR MATS for your boards. Do NOT use static generating or insulating materials as a work surface. Non-grounded mats and static generating/insulated materials can inductively charge boards, especially exposed ones. When connecting a charged board to equipment, the board can cause damage by discharging into the equipment's inputs.

KEEP CHARGED MATERIALS AT LEAST 0.3 METERS FROM EXPOSED ASSEMBLIES. This

includes plastics, foam, or other materials that can build up charge. Having a charged material near an exposed assembly can inductively charge the assembly. The assembly can then discharge into the equipment's inputs.

DISCHARGE YOUR CABLES BEFORE CONNECTING THEM TO YOUR EQUIPMENT.

Electrostatic charges can build up on test probes and test leads, so it's import to discharge them before connecting them to your test equipment:

- Ensure your device is off.
- Connect your cable to your device.
- Attach a 50 Ω shunt to the open end of the cable.
- Remove the shunt and immediately attach your device to your equipment. This prevents the center conductor of your cable from discharging stored charge into your equipment. A charged assembly can charge connected cables.

USE BOARD STANDOFFS AS NEEDED. In some situations, you need board standoffs to provide extra insulation for your exposed assemblies. This prevents your grounded mats from making unwanted connections on your board.

NEVER USE "PINK" PACKING MATERIAL FOR BOARD TRANSPORT OR AS A WORK SURFACE. While many people think pink packing material is ESD safe, in most cases it easily builds up unwanted charge. Unless continuous, thorough testing is done, treat pink packing materials as charged.

CAP UNUSED EQUIPMENT INPUTS to avoid accidental ESD and physical

damage. Damage often occurs by accidentally contacting equipment inputs. Capping unused inputs protects them from incidental ESD damage.

USE ESD-SAFE BAGS WHEN TRANSPORTING BOARDS. This protects boards from ESD damage while moving between ESD-safe locations.

DO NOT OVERDRIVE EQUIPMENT INPUTS. Start your testing at the least sensitive input setting and zoom in on your signal. Additionally, observe the maximum input levels for your specific equipment. The least sensitive setting is the most resilient, so starting there ensures that your inputs are at safe operating levels.

After I posted this to my blog, Dave, N8SBE offered some further tips. He writes:

- Grounded heel straps also help reduce static charge. Test them with a floor tester every time you put them on. The floor needs to be somewhat conductive—not metal—that’s a safety hazard—so use conductive wax on tiles, or conductive carpet to drain of electrostatic charges.
- Keep materials, such as styrofoam cups, that form electrostatic charges easily away from your workspace. A styrofoam cup can generate thousands of volts.
- Keep the humidity up in the workspace. That helps to keep static generation down as well.

I like to think that I follow ESD-safe procedures, but there are a couple of things here that I hadn’t thought about before. For example, I’d never really thought about discharging test equipment cables before connecting them. I think that’s a good tip.

To learn more, go to <https://www.keysight.com/find/PreventESD>

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When he's not worrying about electrostatic discharge, Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, teaches online ham radio classes and operates CW on the HF bands.

TIPS FOR MAINTAINING YOUR GENERATOR

Many of us have portable emergency generators that we bought for use during electric outages. After we use them, we store them away until we need them again. Many of us just put them away in the back of the garage or into a storage shed without giving it any thought. Here are some tips on how to store them properly:

- If there is still gas in the tank, either drain the gas or add some fuel stabilizer, such as STA-BIL. This will keep the gasoline from deteriorating and usually will make it last for 18 to 24 months.
- Run the generator with the fuel stabilizer then shut off the fuel supply valve until the generator stops. This will make sure that no gas remains in the carburetor or fuel line. Change the oil using the manufacturer's recommended oil viscosity. The recommendation is usually SAE HD30 for the warmer months, or 10W-30 for the colder months.
- Clean the generator with a clean cloth, and cover it with a plastic cover or a tarp.
- If you store any gasoline in an approved storage gas can, make sure you add STA-BIL to it. Better yet, pour the leftover gas into your automobile gas tank. Buy some extra oil and a small funnel so that you

can add oil next time you run the generator. It is sometimes hard to get the correct oil in the middle of an emergency, and small engines will burn oil on extended run, causing the low oil shutdown to engage.

- Buy an extra spark plug for the generator.
- Store your electrical extension cords and adapters with the generator so they will be right there when you need them.
- If the generator gave you any problems during the last run, take it to an authorized repair facility to have it looked at. The next emergency is not the time to be playing junior repairman with the generator.
- Keep a tag on the generator noting when it was last used and serviced, along with the age of the stabilized gasoline in the tank. Better yet, keep the gas tank empty.
- Read the generator manufacturer's instruction manual and keep a copy handy for reference!

NEWS, PRESS RELEASES, SPECIAL INTEREST

N3FJP Software Updates--Scott Davis, N3FJP, has updated a number of his logging programs for "the newer Prince Edward Island (PE) and Northwest Territories (NT) abbreviations where applicable." Updates for all of these programs are available for download from N3FJP.COM. *–From ARRL Contest Update January 3, 2024*

The N3FJP team has been busy releasing several updates and one addition to their popular contest logging software programs. For more information about N3FJP Amateur Radio Software,

visit <https://www.n3fjp.com/>. *–From ARRL Contest Update January 31, 2024*

VHF Contest Log 6.6.8 has been updated to support the Solar Eclipse QSO Party (SEQP). While the SEQP includes HF, the existing grid square exchange in the VHF software was the best fit for SEQP's inclusion. Select Solar Eclipse QSO Party in the settings menu. *–From ARRL Contest Update January 31, 2024*

RAC Contest Log 3.6.6 has been updated to support VE3RHQ point assignment. *–From ARRL Contest Update January 31, 2024*

Sights and Sounds

AA2SD January VHF Contest Rove Video--Scott Dantis, AA2SD, shared his experiences operating in the Limited Rover category during the 2024 ARRL January VHF Contest on his YouTube channel. You can view the video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_BGMl_gJCS0. *–From ARRL Contest Update January 31, 2024*

“Big Gun” Station--Curt

Bowles, VE3ZN, reflects in a blog post on how his radio life has changed since he decided to construct a "big gun" station. Beyond the nuts and bolts and towers and amps, he talks about the commitment required to maintain it, and how having access to such a station has changed his operating technique.

One upon a time, when contests were over on Sunday evenings in the Eastern US timezone, hams would gather on a well-known frequency, 3830 kHz (there were no megahertz back then), and exchange reports of how well they did in the contest. Over time, hams in other timezones wanted to report their scores, and by then more people discovered email, so in 1995 or 1996 Dave Pascoe,

KM3T, made an email reflector for the purpose of reporting scores. Fast forward to early December 2023: Dave announced the planned cessation of the 3830@contesting.com reflector on December 31, 2023, for a number of reasons, the primary one being that it is increasingly difficult to consistently deliver email messages. Then, last week, Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, webmaster of 3830scores.com, announced: In preparation for the sunseting of the 3830@contesting.com mailing list, I've added a new chronological list of score postings on 3830scores.com to mimic the list that is available on the mailing list archive. The new list displays all score postings for the past 3, 10, or 30 days and allows for weekly contests to be excluded (default) or included in the list.

If a post is updated, the timestamp associated with it is updated to the time of the update. A horizontal line within the list separates postings that are new/updated since the user last viewed the page from those that are older (this functionality is dependent on the user allowing browser cookies). Previously visited links to specific postings are indicated by a screened-back text color.

The site navigation menu at the top of the 3830scores.com page now includes a List Posts link to the new list. Happy contesting in 2024! 73 de Bruce, WA7BNM" *–From ARRL Contest Update January 3, 2024*

KiwiSDR RADIOS

Steve Babcock, VE6WZ, has a new YouTube video on how you can use KiwiSDR radios around the world to listen to your transmitted signal.

According to Steve, "This is not a new thing, but in this video I describe the method for those that may not be familiar

with it." Version 2 of KiwiSDR hardware is orderable via kiwisdr.nz. According to the website, this version will have a new RF front end with programmable attenuator and gas discharge tube for better input protection, a new GPS chip, and better reverse supply voltage protection. *–From ARRL Contest Update January 3, 2024*

Results and Records

2023 Ohio QSO Party Results

The results of the 2023 Ohio QSO Party (OHQP) are now posted on their website at <http://www.ohqp.org>. Click on 2023 Results in the left-hand column to access the full results. The organizers would like to thank all who participated, and hope to see you on Saturday, August 24, for the 2024 OHQP. - *Thanks to Jim Stahl, K8MR.*

That's all for this time. Remember to send contesting-related stories, book reviews, tips, techniques, press releases, errata, schematics, club information, pictures, stories, blog links, and predictions to contest-update@arrl.org. 73, Paul, N1SFE *–From ARRL Contest Update January 31, 2024*

Word to the Wise

Big Gun and Little Pistol

There are no hard and fast definitions of either of these terms. Big Gun generally means that the station is capable of producing big signals and being able to maintain high run rates despite crowded band conditions. Big Gun also comes with the implication of tall towers, extensive antennas, amplifiers, and great radio locations. Little Pistols are stations that, despite missing one or many of the physical components of a Big Gun station, make up for what they don't have with strong operating skills and on-the-

air "chutzpah." –*From ARRL Contest Update January 3, 2024*

Operating Tip

Benefits of Diversity on Receive

If you have two receivers in your radio, listening with two different antennas at the same time, one in each ear, can yield benefits. Being able to hear from different directions can separate the stations in the sound field, making easier to identify callers that may be worth more points. Sometimes the effects of ionospheric fading can be mitigated, since as a signal recedes on one antenna, it could be increasing on the other. –
From ARRL Contest Update January 3, 2024

Technical Topics and Discussion

ADIF

ADIF stands for "Amateur Data Interchange Format" and is useful when contact log information needs to be exchanged between different applications, or processed by websites. ADIF has had many revisions over the years; one can keep current on the current and past standards via the ADIF website: <https://www.adif.org.uk/>. Changes to the ADIF standard are reflective of what's in vogue for operating: recent changes have seen the addition of fields for Parks on the Air (POTA) information, altitude (useful for Summits on the Air, or SOTA contacts), and so on.

Using small Form Factor (SFF) PCs in the ham shack is a way to free up space for... more gear of course! Reconditioned SFF PCs end up on the usual online buying sites after they're tested and reinstalled with an operating system. They can represent a great value for a shack computer - for example, an HP Elitedesk 800 G3 with a 3.1GHz 4-core

intel i5 processor, 16G of memory, 25GB SSD, 4k resolution DisplayPort output, keyboard, mouse, Microsoft Windows 10 Pro for... \$110.00, currently on Amazon. –*From ARRL Contest Update January 3, 2024*

Switching Inductive Loads

Switching an inductive load as one might find with transformers, motors, and the like, can be tough on switch or relay contacts due to the back-EMF generated when the contacts are opened. Elektor Magazine's article on switching inductive loads discusses the theory behind switching at moments of zero-current, and provides a sample circuit for low power inductive loads. –*From ARRL Contest Update January 3, 2024*

LDMOS

LDMOS amplifier builders might find the surplus Eltek Flatpack2 series power supplies available on eBay to be useful. With 48-53.5v nominal outputs at 2kw to 3kw power levels, it's a straightforward way to power LDMOS pallets. Printed circuit boards that plug into the Elteks are also available on eBay - add a few components, and you're ready to get power in and out of these units and control them through their CANbus. Search github.com for "eltek Flatpack2" to get more information on these beefy power supplies, and example software to control them. –*From ARRL Contest Update January 3, 2024*

Conversation

Why Not Use Faster RTTY?

RTTY contests conventionally use 45.5 baud as the transmission speed. However, if you're using a computer to send/receive RTTY you're likely able to send and receive RTTY at 75 baud, nearly twice as fast! At the higher speed, contacts are quicker, and rates can be higher.

Configuration instructions for *NIMM Logger+* are at <https://n1mmwp.hamdocs.com/manual-operating/digital-modes/> - using *mmtty-for-75-baud-rtty*, and you can use your favorite search engine to find relevant information if your setup is different. But where will you find others to work at these faster speeds? BARTG's SPRINT75 contest in April is the one place where 75 baud RTTY is the only mode in use. Higher RTTY speeds are allowed in the ARRL RTTY Contest, but because there are relative few people currently using 75 baud, everyone sticks with the slower speed.

PS: Bud Mortenson's, VA7ST, website can help with troubleshooting your 75 baud configuration, especially if you have an issue with switching back to slow speed RTTY when S&P mode is used. -*From ARRL Contest Update January 3, 2024*



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. Jim

Shaw AB8P 740-305 -5041
ab8pjlshaw@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

FOOD CORNER

Most people have ham for Easter dinner along with some sort of potato dish and your favorite beverage. But Easter dinner does not have to be the same old boring spread. Perhaps for dessert you might add a bunny cake.

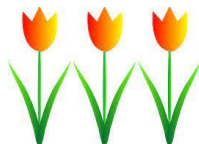


Bake your favorite cake in 2 round pans to form the bunny. One round pan forms the head. The second one is cut on opposite sides of the second round pan to form the ears. The remainder of the second pan forms the bow tie. The remainder of the second pan forms the bow tie.

And/or just add a salad tray as shown below with your favorite vegetable dip.



This tray used round crackers for the ears with the insides formed from sliced red pepper. Broccoli and a cherry tomato are used to form the bow tie on the body (cauliflower) of the rabbit. Broccoli fills in the tray between and above the ears. The face is formed by a round bowl filled with your favorite vegetable dip with asparagus whiskers, olive eyes and mouth and a cherry tomato for the nose. The rest of the tray is filled with celery, carrots, radishes, olives, and asparagus. You may want to use a different variety of vegetables as fillers on the sides, top, and bottom—whatever you and your family prefer.



HUMOR CORNER



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 June 1 newsletter should be sent to me no later than May 24.

Remember to be Radio Active!

73 de Lyn, N8IMW