



“April 29th, 2024”

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CQ CQ CQ de WB8LCD

By now I'm sure you've all heard the news regarding MFJ. I'm including the ARRL release here as a testimony to MFJ's history and legacy:

MFJ Enterprises, Inc founder Martin F. Jue, K5FLU, announced that as of May 17, 2024, the company will cease on-site production at their Starkville, Mississippi, facility. Ameritron, Hy-Gain, Cushcraft, Mirage, and Vecronics brand products will be affected by the shutdown.

In a letter posted to social media, Jue said he is looking forward to retiring.

Times have changed since I started this business 52 years ago. Our product line grew and grew and prospered. Covid changed everything [for] businesses, including ours. It was the hardest hit that we have ever had, and we never fully recovered.

I turned 80 this year. I had never really considered retirement, but life is so short, and my time with my family is so precious.

Jue founded MFJ Enterprises in 1972, after building a CW filter kit that sold for less than \$10. Since 1990, the company has acquired several other legacy brands within the amateur radio market. Jue shared that the company will remain open to sell existing inventory because they have “a lot of stock on hand.” They will also continue to offer repair services for the foreseeable future.

Jue expressed gratitude to the many longtime employees of MFJ, some of whom have been with the company for 40 years. He also thanked MFJ dealers and radio amateurs for their patronage over the decades.



He also sent a special message to ARRL Members, and loyal *QST* readers:

"I give my deepest heartfelt thank you to my fellow hams all over the world and especially to ARRL members and QST readers. In my youth, I was given a second-hand set of 1958 QSTs. I read them over and over until I practically memorized every word. This gave seed to MFJ. MFJ became a worldwide ham radio leader only because of you. As I turned 80, I cannot thank you all enough for 52 wonderful ham radio years. Thank you, 73s . . . Martin F. Jue, k5flu"

I hope you'll join me in wishing Mr. Jue an enjoyable retirement. (It certainly wouldn't hurt to send him a card!) Whatever you think of MFJ and their products, they held a prominent role in the Amateur Radio world for over 50 years. They will be missed by many. I hope that some of their product lines might be picked up by others and continue to be offered to the Amateur Radio community.

MFJ provided a very wide range of products, and many of those products were the "pieces / parts" that every ham needs for his station and operation. I would encourage some younger hams among us to consider the idea of filling the void that MFJ leaves in the availability of all the different kinds of products they offered. It could be a very interesting opportunity!



This past Saturday I was able to make it to the TUSCO Hamfest. Very nice indoor venue. Although it was a nice, warm, sunny day, you can't always count on that at the end of April in Ohio!

If you have trouble winning door prizes, this was your kind of place, they had an abundance of door prizes and were calling out winners all morning. Lots of very nice "gifts" for attending. Lots of tables set

up with some really neat older gear. It was a good morning to check in with a lot of folks I hadn't seen in a while.

Because of some family travels in early May, my next hamfest will be Hamvention! I'll be looking forward to seeing quite a few of you there. After that the Ohio Section has a lot of hamfests over the rest of the summer, all the way into winter! And don't forget Field Day is coming up the end of June. Lots of good Ham Radio Fun to be had! Hope I see you out there soon.

Share the Magic of Radio.

73,

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



National News

(from ARRL and other sources)

2024 ARRL National Convention at Dayton Hamvention

The 2024 ARRL National Convention is just 3 weeks away, on May 17 - 19, 2024. The event is being hosted by Dayton Hamvention in Xenia, Ohio.

ARRL has a significant amount of technical content planned for the convention program. (see the full rundown at www.arrl.org/expo). There are also presentations planned to challenge and inspire attendees

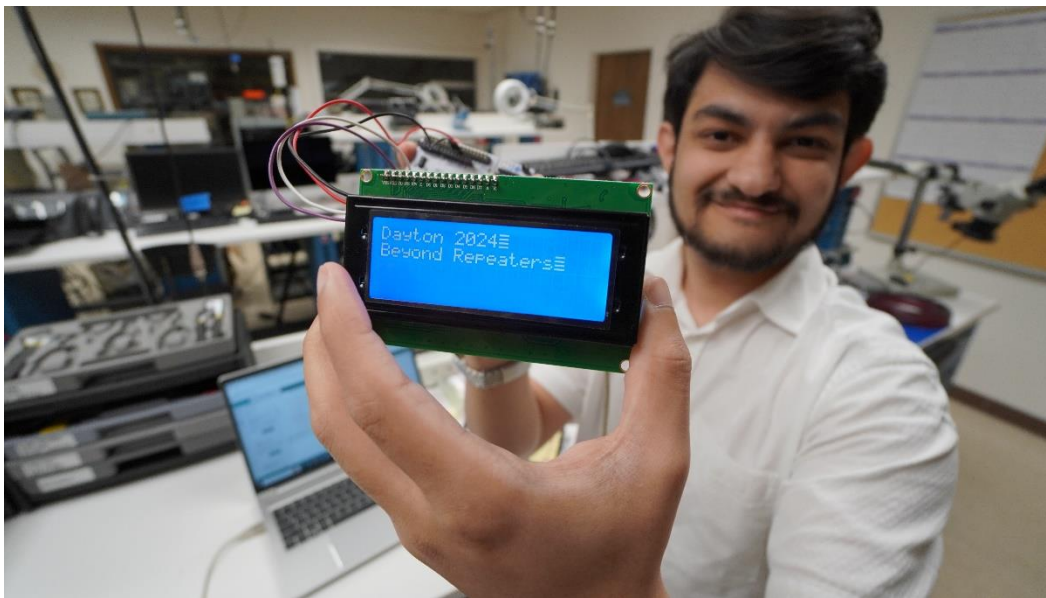


throughout each step of a radio amateur's journey in the world of wireless communication technology.

Calling All Technicians

"Beyond Repeaters: See How Far Your Tech License Will Take You" will be an exciting presentation from ARRL Digital RF Engineer John McAuliffe, KD2ZWN, who will be at the convention representing the ARRL Laboratory. Geared for Technician class hams, attendees will explore all that can be done within Technician class privileges. (Hint: it's a lot!)

McAuliffe will lead an engaging discussion that will focus on three main areas: UHF use and potential projects and activities that can be enjoyed beyond 70 centimeters; 10-meter digital modes, satellite, and long-range communications; and HF CW privileges including a short guide on how to build your own CW encoder/decoder.



ARRL Lab Digital RF Engineer John McAuliffe, KD2ZWN, holds one of the projects he will cover in his presentation in "Beyond Repeaters: See How Far Your Tech License Will Take You." [Sierra Harrop, W5DX, photo]

Build Your Ham Community

Amateur radio clubs can be a driving force for getting people licensed and keeping them engaged. In "Tips for Successful Radio Clubs", ARRL Field Services Manager Mike Walters, W8ZY, will share some of the best practices that can be learned from high performing ARRL Affiliated Clubs.

This forum will include a discussion of ideas and opportunities for radio clubs that are seeking growth and greater member participation. Topics



will include recruitment, licensing, training, engagement, and leadership development.

These forums are part of the 2024 ARRL National Convention track. Plan your must-see presentations using the ARRL Events app. Find the app in your devices' app store or at [this link](#).

You can learn more about Hamvention and buy tickets at www.hamvention.org.

Armed Forces Day Crossband Test May 11, 2024

The US Department of Defense will host this year's Armed Forces Day (AFD) Crossband Test on May 11, 2024. For more than 50 years, military and amateur stations have taken part in this event, which is an interoperability exercise between hobbyist and government radio stations. The event is open to all licensed amateur radio operators and will not impact any public or private communications. The AFD Crossband Test is a unique opportunity to test two-way communications between military communicators and radio stations in the Amateur Radio Service (ARS), as authorized in 47 CFR 97.111.

These tests provide opportunities and challenges for radio operators to demonstrate individual technical skills in a tightly controlled exercise scenario. Military stations will transmit on selected military frequencies and announce the specific ARS frequencies monitored. All scheduled times will be in Zulu (Z), and all scheduled frequencies will be upper sideband (USB) unless otherwise noted.



Information on frequencies, times, and other technical information can be found at [DoD MARS - Armed Forces Day](#). Information for QSL cards and contact information is available at [Armed Forces Day QSL request form](#).

AFD is classified as an observance -- not a federal holiday. It will be celebrated on Saturday, May 18, 2024, and it will be a time of honor. The establishment of AFD was first announced on August 31, 1949, by then US Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson. It was meant to replace the separate Army, Navy, and Air Force Days. All branches were combined to create the US Department of Defense. The first Armed Forces Day was held on May 20, 1950. The day is celebrated with special events, tributes, observances, and parades.

2024 ARRL Field Day gear is now shipping! [ARRL Field Day](#) is June 22-23. Get ready for amateur radio's largest on-air operating event with official 2024 ARRL Field Day [merchandise](#), now available. T-shirts, hats, mugs, pins, patches, and more are a great way to show off your involvement in this annual event. This year's design features the theme "Be Radio Active." The back of the t-shirt includes a check-off list of ARRL and RAC Sections - a fun way to keep track of your Field Day contacts.

Encourage club members, family, friends, and prospective hams to take part using ARRL Field Day with recruitment [posters](#) and "Get on the Air" (GOTA) [pins](#) for newcomers. Get your 2024 ARRL Field Day supplies from the ARRL [online store](#) or by calling 1-888-277-5289 toll-free in the US, Monday through Thursday 8 AM to 7 PM and Friday 8 AM to 5 PM Eastern Time. Outside the US, call (860) 594-0200. The complete 2024 [ARRL Field Day](#) packet is online. ARRL encourages participants to register their Field Day operations using the [Field Day Site Locator](#).



The [National Voice of America \(VOA\) Museum of Broadcasting](#) in West Chester, Ohio, will be open with special hours during Dayton Hamvention weekend from May 16 - 19, 2024.

The museum is about an hour away from the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia. Museum Executive Director Jack Dominic said they will be open May 16 and 17 from 1:00 - 9:00 PM, May 18 from 12:00 - 9:00 PM, and May 19 from 12:00 - 5:00 PM. Admission is \$10. A map from the Hamvention to the museum, as well as additional information is available [here](#).

The [West Chester Amateur Radio Association's](#) (WCARA), WC8VOA, ham shack is located in the museum building and includes exhibits like a collection of R. L. Drake radios and the recently restored WLWO (W8XAL) transmitter.



The historic Bethany Relay Station at the National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting [Photo courtesy of the National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting]

Club Grant Program to Return

The [ARRL Foundation Club Grant Program](#) is returning for 2024. After receiving additional funding from Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC), the next round of grants will be available later this year. More than \$500,000 in grants have been awarded to clubs across the country. This program centers around club projects that are transformational in nature (i.e., projects that have the greatest impact on the local community). Previously successful grants concentrated on the recruitment and training of new hams, STEM programs, emergency preparedness, and amateur radio technology development. ARRL Director of Development Kevin Beal, K8EAL, said, "ARRL is proud to partner with ARDC to administer the Club Grant Program. These grants offer an opportunity to have a significant impact on amateur radio's future."

More information will be announced on all ARRL news outlets in the coming weeks. Now is the time for your club to consider if you have a project that could qualify for a grant. Start thinking just how your club can impact amateur radio, today and in the future. Grants will be available for up to \$25,000 and will include reporting and media requirements. Stay tuned for additional information, and get ready for the next round of the Club Grant Program.

Registration for [Contest University](#) (to be held May 16, 2024, at the [Hope Hotel](#) in Dayton, Ohio) is now open. Now in its 15th year, this event is held the day before the opening of the annual [Hamvention](#) and is popular enough to suggest early registration to be able to receive the day's printed handouts. Materials from previous years are available on the Contest University website.

The [Nashua Area Radio Society](#) will be holding an online Ham Bootcamp on Saturday, May 11 from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM EST. Ham Bootcamp is a program that helps new, inactive, and prospective hams gain the skills and information they need to get on the air. The program is open to any interested amateur radio operator, or prospective operator, in the US and Canada. There is no charge to attend the online event. Information can be found at n1fd.org/bootcamp. You must register in order to receive the link to join the web conference. If you have any questions, contact [HamBootcamp](#).

Central States VHF Society 2024 Conference Registration is Open!!!

Hello everybody,

The Central States VHF Society Conference in Cedar Rapids, IA on July 25-27, 2024 is open for registration. A great technical program provides time to see operating rovers and microwave dishes, measure low noise amplifiers, measure your antenna gain, and learn through one and a half days of classroom style presentations.

Our family program shows off three historic facilities in the Cedar Rapids area. The National Czech and Slovak Museum showcases our Czech heritage in Cedar Rapids. The Bruce More Mansion tells the stories of two influential families in Cedar Rapids whose legacy still impacts our community. The Amana Colonies visit begins with a bus tour of the colonies including stops at a communal kitchen, a church, and museum. Lunch and shopping are on your own.

The Friday and Saturday luncheons provide an opportunity to dine with your new and old friends and listen to a very interesting speaker. The banquet provides a great meal, award presentations, keynote speaker, and a prize drawing with thousands of dollars worth of prizes. Amateurs and family members leave with something. We are pleased to announce our luncheon and banquet presentations.

Friday Luncheon: "902 MHz EME Roving October 2023 - 27 States in 21 Days + WAS #1", by Peter Van Horne, K6AU

In September 2023, I decided to make a 902 MHz EME roving trip starting October 1, 2023. The goals included AI, W5LUA, completing WAS #1 on 902 and helping the other active 902 EME operators complete as many states as possible.

Saturday Luncheon: "A DXer's Gridpedition to EN67. Or What's a Guy Like YOU doing in a place like this?" by Tom Vinson, NY0V

In this presentation, Tom will take you through his journey from HF DXing until he went on his first solo Gridpedition to EN67 in June 2023. Topics will include how he decided which grid to activate, the equipment and system used, how it turned out, and the lessons he learned.

Saturday Evening Banquet Keynote: "Sights Along the Way or Snorkel and Bounce" by Karen Orzech and Lance Collister, W7GJ

Lance and Karen will share their adventures in visiting exotic locations that Lance activated on 6 meter EME while Karen pursued photography and snorkeling hobbies.

You may wonder what happens at a Central States VHF Society Conference. The following

paragraphs describe the highlights of a conference. When you attend, you can experience all of these functions. You also meet many people who enthusiastically embrace activating the higher bands. There are many propagation and communication modes to experience.

Two antenna ranges provide an opportunity for members to measure the gain performance of their antennas. In past years, new designs performed well. Sometimes, a quick adjustment provided improved performance. Antennas ranging from 144 MHz to 10 GHz can be evaluated.

Low noise amplifiers extend range in weak signal environments. For many bands, amateur radio operators homebrew their own low noise amplifiers. The noise figure measurement bench provides an opportunity for the measurement of noise figure on a world class noise figure analyzer.

Since amateur radio operators rarely experience the show and tell of operational stations, many amateur radio operators bring rovers and microwave dishes to Central States VHF conferences to show other enthusiasts how simple or complex these stations can be. Weather permitting, we will be herded down the line of stations. Each owner then discusses the unique features of their stations.

Vendors display and sell their products in our vendor room. Some products are brand new. Some used. Some vendors salvage test equipment and commercial products to provide items that are useful in the VHF and higher bands.

Members share innovations, adventures, technological advancements, and operating practices in a series of presentations on Friday afternoon and all day Saturday. The hospitality suites provide an informal opportunity to interact with each other.

The registration link is: [56th Annual CSVHFS Society Conference-Annual Conference](#)

The Room Reservation link

is: <https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/G9668829>

Note that we have a special conference room rate when you use the link.

Updated information on the convention can be found on our web site

at <https://2024.csvhfs.org/>

We look forward to seeing you in Cedar Rapids.

Thank you,

Bill Caldwell, N0LNO

President

Central States VHF Society

Rod Blocksom, K0DAS

Vice President

Central States VHF Society

Club Corner

This is YOUR corner of the newsletter. Send me what your club is doing and I'll make sure that it gets in. Got a special event or club project that you want everyone to know about? Send it to me! Need help with a project? Send it to me.

Let me know what your club is up to. Are you going to have a special guest at your meeting or are you having a special anniversary?

Just send it to: webmaster@arrl-ohio.org



Please! Format as below:

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

How to Plan and Apply for an ARRL Hamfest or Convention

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

To apply for ARRL sanctioned status for your event, go to www.arrl.org/hamfest-convention-application.

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

VE Sessions:

The following information is for ALL exam sessions:

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

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

AE8FP Amateur Radio Test Team administers ARRL-VEC testing in the Central Ohio area. Our test dates for 2024 are as follows: January 20, April 27, June 22, July 20, and October 19. Time and location for these dates are 10:00am at the Westerville Fire Station #111, 400 W. Main St in Westerville, Ohio. The listed dates are co-sponsored by the Central Ohio Radio Club (CORC).

Pre-Registration is required, and open the 1st of each testing month. All information is available at www.ae8fp.net <<http://www.ae8fp.net/>>

Alliance Amateur Radio Club

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club holds quarterly VE testing, at the Christ United Methodist Church in Alliance. The address is 470 E. Broadway St, Alliance, OH (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/prDyEPp6siJun2ibA>).

Upcoming Exam Dates are

Saturday, March 16th, 2024

Saturday, June 15th, 2024

Saturday, August 10th, 2024

Saturday, October 19th, 2024

We begin registration at 8 AM, with testing at 9am.

More information can be found at www.w8lky.org/licensing/ve-exams/.

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

CARS

VE testing from CARS - Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society - at Elmwood Recreation Center,

6200 Wisnieski Parkway in Independence, Ohio 44131 Time: 9:15 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Always the 2nd Sunday of the odd month. Go to CARS www.2cars.org for detailed map of location. Call Metro W8MET 216-520-1320 for details

Clark County Amateur Radio Association (CLARA)

What: CLARA sponsored A.R.R.L. VE Testing - Walk-ins allowed. Pre-Register via email preferred.

When: On every second Saturday of each even numbered month starting at 10:00 AM Feb 10th; Apr 13th; Jun 8th; Aug 10th; Oct 12th; and Dec 14th, 2024. Where: Springview Government Center - Emergency Operations Center; 3130 E Main St; Springfield OH 45503 This is US-40 aka "old national road". From Route 40 enter Old Columbus Road, at the fork stay left driving straight onto Ogden Rd, then immediately turn left into the parking lot behind the EMA. Walk to the door with the "Employees Only" sign.

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

Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA)

If you are interested in testing for a new or upgraded license, please come see us at the DARA Clubhouse. If you have questions about testing, please email exams.w8bi@gmail.com

The Findlay Radio Club

The Findlay Radio Club sponsors an Exam Session the second Saturday of every month except September when we have our Hamfest. The Exam Session takes place at the Findlay Radio Club, 1333 West Sandusky St., Findlay Ohio 45839. The session begins at 9 AM. Pre-registration is recommended, but not required. You can pre-register at hamstudy.org. We can also give Exams remotely on-line on your schedule if you can't make to a session.

The club has meetings on the first and third Thursdays at the clubhouse at 7:30 PM. The meetings are also available on Zoom. Contact N8ET if you would like to log in. All are welcome.

We also meet at the club on Sunday afternoon from 2 until 5 (or later!) to talk about anything Ham Radio. The sessions are geared toward new Hams. Everyone brings their questions and equipment they would like to show off or learn how to use. This Sunday we are going to install and learn to use Flgigi, Flmsg, and Flamp. In past sessions we have built antennas, fired up new rigs, and generally had a good time!

The next meeting (Feb 15) will cover the same topic. Bring your laptop!

Geauga Amateur Radio Association (GARA)

Amateur License exam sessions are offered for all license classes (Technician, General, Extra).

Walk-ins are always welcome - no prior registration is required. No fee for the exam.

The GARA schedule of exams are these Sundays at 2pm. Dates for 2024 are Jan 14, March 10, May 12, July 14, Sept 15, and Nov 17, 2024. All sessions are at 2:00PM each month



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

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

Additional info may be obtained from Jackie Welch, N8JMW by email n8jmw2@gmail.com or calling at 440-228-2716. More information is available from the Geauga Amateur Radio Association website <https://geaugaara.org>

Huber Heights Amateur Radio Club

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

The Lake County Amateur Radio Association

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

Saturday, February 3	Saturday, August 3
Saturday, April 6	Saturday, October 5
Saturday, June 1	Saturday, December 7

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

To register, you will need a NCVEC 605 Form, which will be available at the test. If you would like to complete one ahead of time, be sure it is the Sept 2017 version or later. You can find it by Googling “NCVEC quick-form 605” and clicking on the url for a pdf of the form. Please note **the FCC requires you to provide a FRN** (FCC Registration Number). Social Security

Numbers are no longer accepted. If you are new to ham radio and don't have a FRN, Google "New FRN" and follow the fcc.gov link.

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

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

The Lancaster and Fairfield County Amateur Radio Club (LFCARC)

The Lancaster and Fairfield County Amateur Radio Club (LFCARC) hosts exam sessions on the first Saturday each month at 10:00 am in Lancaster Ohio at the Fairfield County EMA, 240 Baldwin Dr., Lancaster Ohio.

To register for an exam, [Click Here](#).

Questions: Contact me at ve_testing@k8qik.org.

Lisbon Area Amateur Radio Association

LISBON AREA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION (LAARA) 2024 SCHEDULE.

VE TESTING IS AT THE COLUMBIANA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

AT 215 SOUTH MARKET STREET, LISBON, OH 44432.

SIGN IN AT 1 PM AND TESTING AT 1:30 PM.

VE TESTING DATES FOR 2024

JAN 13; FEB 10; MAR 9; APR 13; MAY 11;
JUN 8; AUG 10; SEP 14; OCT 12; NOV 9; DEC 14.

WE CAN ALSO GIVE THE TEST AT OUR REGULAR MEETINGS THAT ARE NORMALLY ON THE 3RD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH. LAARA MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE COLUMBIANA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY AT THE SAME ADDRESS AS ABOVE. SEE THE K8GQB.COM WEB SITE FOR UPDATES.

MEETING TIME IS 6:30 PM.

WE HAVE ACTIVITY MEETINGS ON THE ODD MONTHS AND
BUSINESS MEETINGS ON THE EVEN MONTHS.

Madison County

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

The Milford Amateur Radio Club (MARC)

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

Please pre-register at www.milfordhamradio.org

Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society (NOARS)

Six VE testing sessions in 2024. Registration is appreciated but walk-ins are welcome. Contact Elaine, KC8FOS for more information or to register. ewilkinson1951@gmail.com or 216-337-4235

Saturday, Jan 6. Fairview Park Library. 21255 Lorain Rd., Fairview Park. 10 AM.

Sunday, March 10. NOARS Hamfest. Lorain County Community College. 1005 Abbe Rd. N., Elyria. 9 AM.

Saturday, May 4. Fairview Park Library. 21255 Lorain Rd., Fairview Park. 10 AM.

Saturday, July 20. NOARSfest. Lorain County Community College. 1005 Abbe Rd. N., Elyria. 9 AM.

Saturday, September 7. Fairview Park Library. 21255 Lorain Rd., Fairview Park. 10 AM.

Saturday, November 2. Fairview Park Library. 21255 Lorain Rd., Fairview Park. 10 AM.

Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS)

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

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

Tusco Amateur Radio Club W8ZX

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

Silvercreek ARA (SARA)

Hold six exam sessions per year for all license classes. Pre-registration requested but not required. Exam sessions for 2024:

Saturday, February 3rd - Wayne County Justice Center (Wooster)
Saturday, April 6th - Sharon Center UMC (Wadsworth/Medina)
Saturday, June 1st - Sharon Center UMC (Wadsworth/Medina)
Saturday, August 3rd - Wayne County Justice Center (Wooster)
Saturday, October 5th - Sharon Center UMC (Wadsworth/Medina)
Saturday, December 7th - Sharon Center UMC (Wadsworth/Medina)

All sessions begin at 10:00am. For directions and test information visit <https://w8wky.org/license-exams/>. Pre-Registration to expedite paperwork is requested, but not required at <https://w8wky.org/sara-ve-registration-form/>. Sign up and if you aren't ready or can't make it, just notify the VE team lead.

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

Alliance ARC Rig Raffle is Underway



The Alliance ARC (W8LKY.org) rig raffle is underway for its 5th year. Each year, the club chooses a HF Rig, and raffles it off with a portion of the profits being donated to local charities. Since 2020, over \$5000 has been donated to charities in the Alliance, Ohio area. We will be at several Ohio, and Western PA Hamfests over the next few months. You can learn more (and buy tickets) by going to https://www.w8lky.org/hf_rig_raffle/
73 DE WG8X (Fundraiser Chair, Alliance ARC)

Your Club news should be listed here!

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

ARLD017 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by The Daily DX, 425 DX News, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

UGANDA, 5X. Jack, NP2OR is QRV as 5X3L from the village of Kayabwe until May 10. QSL via LoTW.

MALTA, 9H. Special event station 9H6HE is QRV until May 31 in honor of the swearing in of Malta's 11th president, Dr. Myriam Spiteri Debono. Activity is on 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters using CW, SSB, and various digital modes. QSL via LoTW.

BOTSWANA, A2. Remo, HB9SHD will be QRV as A25SHD from April 30 to May 13. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands. QSL via LoTW.

EASTER ISLAND, CE0. A group of operators are QRV as 3G0YA until May 6. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via DJ4MX.

SCOTLAND, GM. A large group of operators will be QRV as GS3PYE from the Isle of Mull, IOTA EU-008, from April 27 to May 3. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters, and on Satellite QO-100. QSL via Club Log.

OGASAWARA, JD1. Harry, JG7PSJ, and Koutarou, JP1IHD, are QRV as JD1BMH and JD1BQP, respectively, from Chichijima, IOTA AS-031, until May 4 and May 3, respectively. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and RTTY. QSL direct to home calls.

MARKET REEF, OJ0. Bjorn, LA1UW, Tor, LA3WAA, Stian, LB5SH, and Kristoffer, LB0VG will be QRV as OJ0/home calls from April 27 to May 4. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8 with four stations. QSL via EA5GL.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. Randy, AA4RF is QRV as V4/AA4RF from St. Kitts, IOTA NA-104, until May 1. In addition, he is active from several POTA references as V49T. QSL via LoTW.

LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS, VU7. Lal, VU7LAL is QRV from Agatti and Kavarathi until May 31. Activity is on 40, 20, and 10 meters. QSL direct.

LAOS, XW. Vincent, XW4KV is QRV from Vang Vieng until June 1. Activity is on 15 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL direct to F4BKV.

IRAQ, YI. Sam, YI1YY has been QRV on 20 meters around 2340z. QSL via IK2DUW.

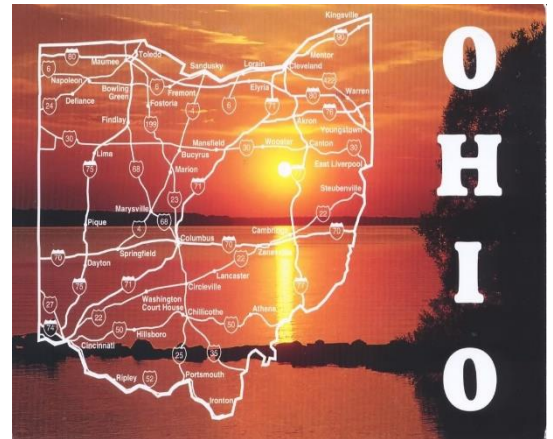
VANUATU, YJ. Chris, VK2YUS will be QRV as YJ0CA from Port Vila, IOTA OC-035, from April 27 to May 9. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using SSB mostly between 2100 to 1000z. QSL direct to home call.

SOUTH SUDAN, Z8. Diya, YI1DZ is QRV as Z81D from Juba until May 31. Activity is on 40 to 6 meters, and possibly 160 and 80 meters, using SSB and FT8. QSL via OM3JW.

UK SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS ON CYPRUS, ZC4. Dave, G4WXJ will be QRV as ZC4RH from April 28 to May 9. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4. QSL via DK6SP.

NEW ZEALAND, ZL. Special call sign ZL6WG is QRV until May 31 in support of the 98th NZART conference at the Museum of Aeronautics in Christchurch. QSL via LoTW.
Please see April QST, page 76, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites for details.

Upcoming *Hamfests*



Ohio Hamfests

2024

05/05/2024 - Lucas County ARES Trunk Sale & Swap Meet

Location: Toledo, OH
Sponsor: Lucas County ARES
Website: <http://lucasares.org>
Learn More

05/11/2024 - 05/16/2024 RV Radio Network

Location: Millersburg, OH
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Rv Radio Network
Learn More

05/16/2024 - 05/19/2024 Four Days In May

Location: Fairborn, OH
Type: ARRL Convention
Sponsor: QRP Amateur Radio Club International
Website: <http://qrparci.org/fdim>
Learn More

05/17/2024 - 05/19/2024 Dayton Hamvention, ARRL National Convention

Location: Xenia, OH
Type: ARRL Convention
Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association
Website: <https://hamvention.org>
Learn More

06/01/2024 - FCARC Summer Hamfest

Location: Wauseon, OH
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club
Website: <https://k8bxq.org/hamfest>
Learn More

07/06/2024 - Mansfield Mid Summer Trunkfest

Location: Mansfield, OH
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Intercity Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://W8WE.ORG>
Learn More

07/20/2024 - Ashtabula County Hamfest 2024

Location: Pierpont, OH
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Amigos Radio Club Ashtabula
Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/arca-home/>
Learn More

07/20/2024 - NOARSFEST

Location: Elyria, OH
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society
Website: <http://www.noars.net>
Learn More

<p>07/21/2024 - Van Wert Hamfest Location: Van Wert, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Van Wert Amateur Radio Club Website: http://w8fy.org Learn More</p>	
<p>08/03/2024 - 2024 Columbus Hamfest Location: Grove City, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Aladdin Shrine Audio Unit Website: http://www.columbushamfest.com Learn More</p>	<p>08/10/2024 - Cincinnati Hamfest Location: Owensville, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Milford ARC Website: https://CincinnatiHamfest.org Learn More</p>
<p>08/18/2024 - Warren Hamfest Location: Cortland, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Warren Amateur Radio Association Website: https://www.w8vtd.com/ Learn More</p>	<p>09/08/2024 - Findlay Hamfest Location: Findlay, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Findlay Radio Club Website: http://w8ft.org Learn More</p>
<p>09/22/2024 - Cleveland Hamfest Location: Berea, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Hamfest Association of Cleveland Website: https://www.hac.org Learn More</p>	<p>10/05/2024 - Northwest Ohio Amateur Radio Club (NWOARC) Hamfest Location: Lima, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Northwest Ohio Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Website: http://www.nwoarc.com Learn More</p>
<p>10/27/2024 - 2024 MARC Hamfest at MAPS Location: N. Canton, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Massillon Amateur Radio Club Website: https://www.w8np.net Learn More</p>	<p>12/07/2024 - Winter Hamfest Location: Archbold, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: FCARC Website: https://k8bxq.org/hamfest Learn More</p>

Plenty of Ohio Section Hamfests on tap for 2024! If you haven't got yours submitted to ARRL as of yet – go back up a couple pages to the top of the “Clubs” section for complete instructions on how to get your fest ARRL Sanctioned!

DX This Week – 2023 DX in Review Part 3

Bill - AJ8B (thedxmentor@gmail.com / www.aj8b.com)

Good DX to you! I really hope that you are taking advantage of propagation. I can recall just a few years ago, that I was wondering if sunspots would EVER increase. Now, we are a few years away from that same feeling. Take advantage of the great conditions. Just last evening around grayline, I mean around sunset, the following entities were on CW and SSB: JA, VK, ZL, KH0, BY, 9N, VU, XW, 3W, and XX. It was crazy! Let me know what you are doing! I am starting to think that no one is reading “DX This Week” – maybe because you are in front of the rig..well, that's OK.



After this week, I will be returning to the regular sized DX This Week instead of the family size. However, I have so much info to share that I did not want to spread it out too much. Hope you haven't minded!

DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH

Two weeks ago, I started a review of the 2023 Year in DX. This will be our final installment. This is courtesy of Bernie, W3UR, and Joe, W1JR. I hope you enjoy this walk down the past 12 months of DX!

DX Contesting: DX contests as usual were everywhere this year and lit up the sometimes-quiet bands using CW, SSB and digital modes. There was a noticeable increase of activity on 10 Meters. The WA7BNM Contest Calendar is a great source of contest activity. Also, the ARRL Contest Update bi-weekly newsletter that often has interesting tidbits on upcoming contests and operating etc. Remember that contesters should stay healthy so you can

operate long continuous hours during contests. The next Contest University (CTU) is scheduled during the Hamvention in May 2024.

ARRL and DXCC Matters: The ARRL has many bulletins that are of interest to DXers. Some new books were published in addition to updates on existing books including major updates to the ARRL Handbook and the ARRL Antenna Book. The ARRL Outgoing QSL Service is another service for league members, the ARRL incoming bureau is a free service to all radio amateurs. An important service is the LOTW (Logbook of the World) which is great for DXCC updates. It has over 1.8 billion QSOs on file. About 1800 DXers have qualified for the top of the **ARRL DXCC Honor Roll**. Over 260 persons reached the **ARRL DXCC Challenge** 3,000 level and for the first time the 3300 level was reached by EA8AK. Check out the latest ARRL DXCC Standings.

The ARRL may soon be changing QST distribution. Many members no longer require QST in printed form but prefer it on-line. Participants in ARRL contests using the low power category will now be limited to 100 Watts (instead of 150 Watts).

Finally, reports in the news media tell us that Bougainville, an autonomous region in Papua New Guinea (P29), has voted to become an independent nation in 2027. If this happens, it could be added to the active DXCC list. The VP8 prefix for the Falkland Islands still stands but the VP0 prefix is being used for the remaining South Atlantic Islands.

QSLing: The use and need for paper QSLs is rapidly decreasing and becoming a lost art form. Postage costs and shipping costs have gone through the roof and will increase in the USA in mid-January. Many expeditions are now requesting up to \$5.00 for a paper QSL confirmation. A few countries are still not accepting mail.

If desired, QSLs can often be ordered either direct or via OQRS (Online QSL Requests Service). LOTW is available for many of those operators who don't require a paper QSL. The ARRL out-going QSL service estimates it will handle less than 250,000 QSLs this year versus almost one million a few years ago.

QRZ.com: This is still a great place for information and is very up to date. Distance, bearings and email addresses are readily available. Sometimes there are some interesting biographies, stories and photos.

Club Log: This is an important source of information for DXers. Many DXers and expeditions often post their logs in a timely manner on Club Log so it is a good place to verify QSOs. It is also a source for OQRS.

The new Club Log DX Report is now published daily on the internet. It daily lists solar activity, active expeditions, most active modes etc. This gives you a good overall view of daily activity.

Technology: As usual rig improvements are increasing such as better filtering, noise elimination, signal-handling and software updates etc. Solid-state high-power amplifiers are increasing. Likewise, antennas, especially smaller ones, are being developed for people with limited space.

Accessories are a necessary part of operating. Nowadays building is often being replaced by buying. Many commercial sources are available. Remote operation is now becoming common practice especially where antenna structures are limited. End fed antennas are also becoming popular. Used gear is readily available at electronic flea markets and ham fests and

websites such as qth.com and ebay.com which are a great source of inexpensive equipment and accessories. Of course, software is constantly being updated especially for logging, contesting etc.

A recent technology innovation is **RIB** (Rig in a Box). It is now being tested and upgraded by AA7JV (C6AGU) at rare DX locations. This is a small remote station that can be left on land when there are environmental restrictions. It can be operated remotely from a boat or via the internet. The most recent RIB operations were at VP6A (Ducie I.) and E51D (Penrhyn Atoll, North Cooks).

RFI is still a huge problem especially from power lines and switching power supplies used on **solar power arrays**. Some manufacturers are addressing this problem, but others are not yet on board. Science News reports that a powerful laser can redirect lightning strikes.

IOTA World (Islands on the Air): This year improved radio propagation and the decrease of Covid increased operations from rare and semi-rare IOTA groups such as K7K (NA-070), MM0UKI (Rockall I. EU-189) and KL7RRC (NA-028). VE3LYC activated OC155 (2.6K) and OC299 (new 6.4K) but experienced many travel delays, difficult living conditions and medical difficulties. VU4W was active from AS-105.

The IREF which helped fund IOTA operations has now been disbanded. The IOTA program now has some accreditation restrictions especially when working remote operations.

YOTA (Youngsters on the Air): December is designated YOTA month and many stations from around the world were sporting special call signs, some with YOTA as the suffix. Several scholarships are now available for youth under 25 years of age such as WWROF, NCDXF, ARRL Foundation Scholarship Program and W2PV. Many YOTA operators are newly licensed or not yet licensed but supervised by licensed operators. These operators are very important for the future of our hobby. Some licensed operators are allowing youth to operate from their own station especially during the SSB contests, on the digital modes such as FT8 and some even on cw. Please give these stations a call to incentivize the operators. YOTA camp is scheduled for July 7- 12, 2024 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Several groups are conducting CW training such as CWops with CW Academy, the Long Island CW Club and the K1USN Radio Club that regularly transmit slow speed CW for practice.

Safety: This can never be stressed enough. During the past year there were at least two fatal DXer accidents. K5NA was electrocuted when a power line struck an antenna, he was helping a friend remove. DL6RAI died in Aruba when a tower collapsed while he was in the air. We can never be safe enough when working with towers and antennas. Proper safety belts are required. Even some certified professional climbers occasionally have problems but are still the best choice for many of us.

And now the Drum Roll: DX activity increased over 2022. There were approximately 54 entities that were NOT believed to have been active during 2023*.

Africa (13): 3C0, 5T, E3, FT/G, FT/J, FT/T, FT/X, FT/Z, S9, VK0/H, VQ9, ZD8 and ZS8.

Antarctica (1): 3Y0/P.

Asia (7): BS7H, BV9P, E4, EZ, P5, T6, and YK.

Europe (3): JX, R1F and SV/A.

North America (7): CY9, FO/C, KP1, KP5, TI9, XF4 and YV0. **Oceania** (15): 3D2C, FK/C, FO/A, KH1, KH3, KH4, KH5, KH7K, KH9, T33, VK0M, VK9M, ZK3, ZL8 and ZL9. **South America** (7): CE0/X, CE0Z, HK0/M, PY0/S, VP0 (S. Ga.), VP0 (S. Ork.), and VP0 (S. Sand.).

*Please note that some rare entities may not be on this list for 2023 because operations were short, set up schedules or only on VHF, EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) etc.

Those DXCC entities that are not believed to have been activated in ten (10) or more years have increased and now include: 3Y/P, BQ9P, BS7H, CE0X, EZ, FT/G, HK0M, KH3, KH7K, KP5, YK, YV0 and ZL8. This means that an avid DXer working hard at DXCC may take well over 13 years to make it to the DXCC Honor Roll. This list also serves as a guide to those planning expeditions to rare entities. As for me, the top of my need list for the DX Challenge has not changed in many years and not surprisingly goes to P5, BS7H and BQ9P in that order.

Looking ahead to 2024 and Beyond: Solar Cycle 25 is forecast to achieve solar maximum in 2024. HF radio conditions on the higher HF bands are improving. DX has really changed in the last few years with FT8.

Some DXers chase the ARRL DXCC Honor Roll, the ARRL DXCC Challenge, and/or the DX Marathon. Then there are the never-ending DX Contests and IOTA chasing. There are lots of things to do. Don't let the airways slow down for lack of activity.

Some rare to semi-rare expeditions such as TX5S (Clipperton) and CB0ZA (Juan Fernandez) are scheduled for early in 2024 followed by CY0 (Sable I.) in the summer. There is a chance the Rebel DX Group will activate 3Y0I, Bouvet Island with the dates yet to be announced. 3Y0K from Bouvet by a Norwegian group headed by LA7GAI is scheduled for January 2025 followed by 3Y0L (Peter 1) in February 2026. Many other operations are also promised during 2024 so it should be another exciting year for DX. Remember to stay tuned here and to check The Daily DX for future operations.

Try to stay active and join the fun. It's time to improve or repair if necessary, your 6 and 10 thru 15 meter antennas as well as keeping your 80 and 160 meter antennas working. Don't forget to support the various DX Foundations around the world that help make expeditions possible.

Finally: We hope this review has been informative especially for historical purposes. With all the activity this past year, I hope I haven't missed anything important. Any suggestions are appreciated. Most prior year editions can be viewed on the "K8CX Ham Gallery."

Once again, I am honored to be asked by Bernie, W3UR, to write this review for the 19th consecutive year and for his valuable assistance and help. Thanks especially to Frank, W3LPL, for his many helpful comments and input. Also thanks to my son Jim, AD1C, for his computer help and many others who helped put together this year's review.

Happy New Year and best of DX in 2024.

73, Joe Reisert, W1JR

NOTE: Obviously all the opinions etc. expressed are solely mine as are any errors that I have made. This End of Year Review is copyrighted. Therefore, copies or use of this review MUST first be approved by Bernie, W3UR and then a courtesy copy of the reprint sent to Joe@Reisert.org.

DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH

Here is what is happening in the World of DX:

This section of DX News comes from Bernie, W3UR, editor of the DailyDX, the WeeklyDX, and the How's DX column in QST. If you would like a free 2-week trial of the DailyDX, just drop me a note at thedxmentor@gmail.com

I have an update on the N5J, Jarvis Island DXpedition. Jarvis Island has been off the I air for 34 years. It is needed by 82 percent of Islands on the Air program participants. Accordingly, many people have asked the Dateline DX Association, the sponsors of this summer's N5J DXpedition, to arrange with Islands on the Air (IOTA) and Parks on the Air (POTA) program organizers to secure advance.

Because of the requirements set out in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service permit, while the stations and antennas and power are all set up on Jarvis Island, the local operators must conduct the DXpedition from the MV Magnet, which will be in the Jarvis Island National Wildlife Refuge, just offshore.

Both the IOTA and POTA programs have agreed to recognize QSOs made by the local operators, but will not allow QSOs made by internet remote operators to count. Therefore, QSOs made by AA7JV, George; HA7RY, Tomi; N1DG, Doug; KO8SCA, Adrian; and KN4EEI, Mike will count for the awards; other QSOs will not. The team's daily log uploads to Club Log will identify the operators. Additionally, at the beginning of each operator shift, the team will endeavor to post on the cluster the callsign of the operator so that chasers have some real-time notice. At this time, all phone operations are expected to be the on-island team, giving that mode 100 percent IOTA/POTA certainty. The IOTA code is OC-081, and the POTA code is K-0115.

In addition to AA7JV, HA7RY, N1DG, KO8SCA, and KN4EEI, there is an experienced team of 24 operators from eight countries operating up to six stations around the clock, ensuring that DXers around the globe have ample opportunity to add an all-time new one (ATNO_ or band fill to their DXCC totals.

This DXpedition is to one of the rarest entities that DXers will see in 2024. The organizing team seeks donations at their website.

Here are two operations that will occur at the end of the month.

First, OJØT, Market Reef, April 27-May 4: The OJØT team loaded its van yesterday with “boxes and crates of radio equipment, power amplifiers, hundreds of meters of RG213 coaxial cable, antennas, and so on.” LBØVG, Kristoffer, has built and tested an amplifier. The team has borrowed Starlink equipment to ensure a more robust internet connection, with the goal of running Club Log Live Stream 24/7. They hope to be able to use the 12-element 2M Yagi that they donated on their 2023 visit during the UHF-VHF FT8 Activity Contest May 1 from 1700 to 2100 UTC. They caution, however, that high winds and propagation may not work in their favor.

Secondly, ZC4RH, U.K. Sovereign Base Areas, April 28-May 9: Cyprus G4WXJ, Dave, says that his next activity from SBA Cyprus will be April 28-May 9. As in the past, this will be a holiday-style operation and activity will be intermittent. He will be using his ZC4RH callsign from grid locator KM64ux, with a Yaesu 857D and an Xiegu X-6100 running 100W into a dipole. Activity will be on 40-6M CW, SSB, and FT8/FT4.

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This is the final breakdown of the 2023 CQDX Marathon review. This information was provided by the Program Director, and my friend, WC3W, Mark. I know you will enjoy this as it gives a great perspective on band activity in 2023.

Some Operating Advice and Suggestions

Most of you have visited our website, which was redone last year, www.dxmarathon.com. Your operating staff spends lots of time keeping this web- site current and it is the primary conduit between my staff and all of our worldwide participants. Each section of this website holds lots of information that will help all of our participants. The website also includes the current year rules translated into 12 languages. If you don't see your language on the Rules Tab, please let me know and we will ask you to translate it and it will be posted. We have past records on the website so as you are contemplating which category that you wish to enter; you can calculate your scores in advance and decide by looking at past results. There is no early declaration required in our program; you can decide at the time you submit. By far, one of the most important helpful tools available to you is listed under the Resources tab. Here you can look at many subcategories. The most valuable will be the Valid Calls & Notes, and Invalid Callsigns.

Why are these so important? Please remember that each participant is responsible for the accuracy of their submission. If you make an error, you will incur a one-point deduction for each

mistake. As I earlier stated, we only had around 300 error free logs. I know from my own experience that my errors have decreased over time because of the time I spent verifying my submissions.

Many logging programs will give you the year-to-date score as you progress during the year. In 2023, we made our web-based tool available to you at www.marathon.ham2k.net. All you need to do is input a year-to-date adif file into the tool, and you will instantly get a progress report of country and zones worked. I encourage you to check this out.

When logging a QSO from a DX spot, listen carefully to the DX station to make sure the callsign is logged correctly. Nearly 40% of all point subtractions are due to busted or incorrect calls. It is truly amazing to see a station reported with the wrong call propagate through submittals. The database that we use to check calls for QRV's includes start and stop dates so make sure you are properly logging the correct dates. Subtractions resulting in the reporting on submissions of pirate operations continues to represent a significant error as well. We try to post as many of these pirates as we can on the website, but we do not catch all of them. Please carefully check these yourself.

Special Thanks to So Many

This has been a special year for the DX Marathon Program. There are many forces present that make this program what it is today. First of all, we would not exist without the generosity of our sponsors. These sponsors, that include both clubs and individuals, make it possible for the DX Marathon to exist. Without them, there would be no DX Marathon Program. We ask all the plaque winners each year to do two things...the first is to send us a photo of you in your shack holding the plaque, and, far more importantly, we ask each of you to send a personal email to the sponsor of the plaque thanking them for their generosity.

Secondly, I have a personal thank you to John Sweeney, K9EL who unselfishly managed this program for 17 consecutive years. That in itself is truly amazing. I have been involved in the program, managing the DX Marathon, for about 1 1/2 years and do it with the help of four people. John did it by himself for these 17 years. This was a herculean job and we all should be grateful for all the sweat equity he put into the program. Furthermore, John is still on our Board of Directors, and he has given our team much advice and help based on his rich history and experiences in the program. Thank you so much John. I had the honor at the W9DXCC program to present John with a plaque recognizing his service to the DX Marathon Program. We also have created a Super DX Marathon Program award in 2024, in honor of John, that will be presented to the participant with the highest 5-year consecutive score.

Just as importantly, I would like to thank my loyal and hardworking staff. They have spent hundreds of hours this year in making this program what it is today. Larry Loen, WO7R upgraded and rewrote the entire scoring system that will allow us to score many times the participants that we had this year, and with a greater level of precision. Sebastian Delmont, KI2D redesigned our website, created a one-step submission tool that greatly simplifies submissions, made available a year-to-date tool so that participants can gauge their progress in Marathon throughout the year...and has provided assistance and training to me on how to manage and make changes to our website.

John Samuels, K2CIB scans many DX publications daily and provides inputs to me on good calls, broken calls, pirates, DXpedition details, etc. He spends hundreds of hours a year keeping you, our participants, with updated information as soon as is possible. Doug McDuff, W4OX our compliance manager has assisted me in evaluating rules, etc. Finally, we are short a Data Manager but to bridge this absence, John Sweeney, K9EL has pitched in with his amazing spreadsheet skills and helped make it possible for me to present most of the data analysis that you are reading in this 2023 report. Thank you all for your dedication and commitment to our hobby making it fun and simple for our participants.

We also wish to thank our developers who have supported our program. I know it has not been easy as we transition to the new submission tool, but we do appreciate your continued support as we move the program forward. There will undoubtedly be further changes as we enhance and make the program more interesting to more people. Please hang in there with us and continue to support the Marathon, the fastest growing DX program in our hobby today. One added thank you goes to Jim Reisert, AD1C who every month provides us with busted DX spots. He also continues to update his ADIF to DX Marathon conversion program. Thank you so much Jim for your selfless contributions to the DX Marathon program.

We wish to thank all of our participants worldwide. As previously mentioned, we are an international program, and our aim is to expand participation in a number of areas including unrepresented countries. We cannot do this by ourselves as we do have limited resources. We ask that you spread the good news to your fellow hams in your respective countries. I would thoroughly enjoy zooming to clubs in other parts of the world as I have done in NA and SA. I would be more than happy to do these meetings, but I need your assistance.

I would like to thank those of you who have generously given donations to assist us in offsetting our costs. We do have costs throughout the year and to expand the program further, it is imperative that we build up our working capital. If you have \$5 or \$10 please consider donating through PayPal or by other means as described on our website. PayPal is international, works just fine and costs nothing, when you send it to a “friend”. Please consider.

WC3W Final Comments

It was an amazing year, this the first full year of my tenure as head of the DX Marathon Program. Frankly, my expectations were to get into the double-digit percent growth in 2023 like 10-15%. I was shocked at the +50% growth but indeed very pleased and excited. As I do club presentations, I can now see how our program simply has not become visible among the many worldwide hams that enjoy DX. My aim for the future years is to keep grinding out and doing as quality a job as is possible through our volunteers to produce a quality product for you, our customers, while at the same time expanding participation. I am working on a possible new logo and the three words that may be used are “Global—Simple—Fun”. Most of our participants, through their many comments in the submission which I so enjoyed reading this year, clearly stated they loved the program, and it was fun...no pressure...no complications. My desire is to keep it that way.

I know many of you have heard about the financial distress that CQ Magazine has undergone. We hope they resolve their problems. As is always the case in my business career,

there always has to be a “Plan B”. If they do not we, organizationally and financially, are solidly placed to continue on our own.

When I was a working person, I learned early on in my career that the best ideas for any product or service do not come from the R & D departments but instead come from your customers. I believed in spending huge amount of time face-to-face with my customers and listening. There is a reason why God gave us two ears and one mouth! I encourage all of you, during the course of the year, to use our Group IO site or simply send me an email with any ideas you might have that would enhance our program. We may not implement your ideas, but I can promise you we will listen and consider each and every one of them...do not be bashful. Tell us the good and the bad. It is the only way we can keep this the most popular DX program in our hobby.

Please enjoy your participation in 2024. The following pages post the many results for 2023. Enjoy and “Gud DX’ing.

73, Mark Wohlschlegel, WC3W

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CONTEST CORNER

Below is a list of upcoming contests in the “Contest Corner”. I think this is important for someone who is trying to move up the DXCC ladder since entities that are on the rarer side and easiest to work in contests. Some of my best “catches” have been on the Sunday afternoon of a contest when the rarer entities are begging for QSOs. Of course, the gamble is that if you wait until Sunday, conditions may change, or they simply won’t be workable. However, it is not a bad gamble. Of course, why not work the contest and have some fun!

Contest	Start Date	End Date
SP DX RTTY	4/27/2024	4/28/2024
10-10 Intl. Spring Contest, Digital	4/27/2024	4/28/2024
Florida QSOP	4/27/2024	4/28/2024
10-10 Intl. Spring	5/4/2024	5/5/2024

Contest, CW		
Arizona QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Connecticut QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Delaware QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Idaho QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Indiana QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Maine QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Massachusetts QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Montana QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Nevada QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
New Hampshire QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Oregon QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Rhode Island QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Utah QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Vermont QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Washington QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Wyoming QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
SWODXA DXDINNER	5/17/2024	
SWODXA DXForum	5/18/2024	
Arkansas QSOP	5/18/2024	5/19/2024
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	5/25/2024	5/26/2024

OHIO'S



As this column is prepared (Wednesday) the Wilmington NWS Office indicates the weather forecast for the **Athens County ARA** Hamfest in Athens should be nothing but fantastic. Therefore there should not have been many excuses for not supporting it with your attendance. As mentioned in past columns, this is one of my favorite regional hamfests. Not only is there a reasonable amount of goodies to look at, but the people there are some of the most friendly ones you will ever meet. Plus I think this is a good one for a “newbie” ham to attend to discover what hamfests are all about. Even for us old timers it’s a good one to get us tuned up for the big Hamvention show in Xenia later in the month.

On the same date and not that far up US 33 the Wilmington National Weather Service Office will present a Storm Spotter Training session at the Liberty Center in Lancaster. This class is for folks in Fairfield and Pickaway Counties to learn more about becoming spotters. Then on May 13 Martins Ferry becomes the site where the Pittsburgh NWS Office to hold an in person training session at the Belmont County Library.

The EMA Building at the Pike County Airport will be the site for the next **Scioto Valley ARA** Elmer’s Night. It will be at 7 PM on May 2.

For those wishing to earn a first license or upgrade their present one prior to Hamvention, on May 2 the **Madison County ARC** will conduct a test in London. On Saturday, May 4 the **Clinton County ARC** will host a session at the Boyd Cancer Center in Wilmington. The monthly **Portsmouth RC**’s Laurel testing will take place at the Portsmouth American Legion starting at 5 PM on Monday the 6th.

An alert comes from **Southwest Ohio DX Association** President Bill Salyers, AJ8B, that tickets for the annual Hamvention DX Banquet are going fast and should be ordered quickly at www.swodxa.org in order to secure a seat. Well known DXer Dave Anderson, K4SV, will be the keynote speaker. The banquet is May 17 at the University of Dayton Marriott and many regard it as the highlight of Hamvention weekend. It begins with a cash bar at 5:30 and the program and awards presentation starts at 7. Following the banquet there will be another cash bar and a separate room to socialize in. Dozens of great prizes are already committed to be awarded during the evening with ICOM donating an IC7610 as the grand prize. .

There are many events happening during HamVention but another of the most popular starts on May 16 and continues through the 19th. It is the annual **“Four Days In May”** and has grown to be a very popular and well attended event during HamVention weekend. Although mostly geared towards the QRP operator, the event offers a number of good speakers, exhibits, advice and operating pointers any amateur can use. It takes place at the Holiday Inn in Fairborn.

Another popular after hours event happening during Hamvention is the **West Chester ARC's** Voice of America Museum Open House. It will first open on Thursday, May 16 at 1 PM and also be open on Friday and Saturday until 9 and Sunday until 5. Admission is \$10. Travel time to the site of "those Zincinnati liars" transmitter site is less than an hour from Xenia and is well worth the trip.

Bob Clarke, WA4BC, has let us know that this past Saturday the **Greater Mason County ARA** provided communications assistance for the Maysville, KY Two Bridge Run. This unique event featured a 10 mile course that crossed the Ohio River twice using the Simon Kenton and Harsha Bridges. The GMARA has provided communications for this event for several years.



Memorial Day might be a few weeks away, but the **Southern Ohio ARA** is already calling for volunteers to assist their communications and line-up efforts to make it another safe year for it. Information Officer Mike Love, WB8YKS, asks for area amateurs to assist that day. SOARA has been providing communications assistance for many years. The Ironton/Lawrence County parade is said to be the oldest continuously held Memorial Day Parade in the nation.

Imagine calling CQ and then having to wait 45 hours to know if you have a valid contact or if anyone even heard you. According to a recent *Cincinnati Enquirer* article it takes 22 ½ hours for an Earth radio signal to reach the Voyager 1 spacecraft and another 22 ½ hours for the spacecraft's response to be received by the antennas on Earth. Something tells me this would not be acceptable in the amateur radio circles. However we must realize the spacecraft is now some 15.1 BILLION miles from Earth! Another amazing fact is the Voyager spacecraft and its Voyager II mate were launched on August 20, 1977. That's 47 years ago for something our top scientists hoped would last five years!

John Willis, KE8JEM, reminds **Highland ARA** members and friends the Club will again place flags on the graves of the 1,200 military veterans buried in the Hillsboro Cemetery. The date set is Tuesday evening, May 14 with a rain date of the 21st. Those assisting are asked to gather around 5:30 at the cemetery's chapel.

Those buried in the cemetery date to the Revolution, the War of 1812 and the Civil War as well as all conflicts since then. The most noted burials are those of William and Caspar Collins. William was the first territorial governor of what is now Colorado and Fort Collins is named in his honor. Caspar was killed during the Indian Wars and Casper, WY is named for him. Often several members adjourn to a local restaurant afterwards to continue the fellowship and enjoy the satisfaction of conducting this non-radio community event to honor our veterans.

According to **Athens County ARA** President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, the sponsors of the Southern Ohio Forest Rally are looking for radio amateurs to assist with this year's three day event. On Thursday, June 6, a single event will take place at Chillicothe's Yochtangee Park. The following day events move to the Shawnee State Forest where several stages will happen. Then on the 8th things get lively at the Zaleski State Forest where all the action is. Besides the need for radio operators, there are other non-radio opportunities to assist. Check the www.southernohioforestrally.com website for more information and how to apply to become a volunteer.



Because of the remodeling of the Washington CH Tim Horton's inside dining area the next gathering of the **Fayette ARA** will take place at the WCH Wendy's. **Highland ARA** President Ken Lightner, KE8JEL, states the Club's next Brunch Bunch is scheduled for May 11 at the Harmony Lake shelter house at Hillsboro's Liberty Park.

The Wilmington NWS Office has one remaining virtual spotter training class that can be attended by anyone from any location. It will be on May 14. You must register for it at www.weather.gov/iln.

April has been a great month for people in our region earning a first ham license or doing an upgrade. Therefore we are able to end the month with a lot of good news regarding the growth of ham radio in Southern Ohio and the Ohio Valley Region. According to Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, let's welcome Cyrus Stombaugh, KF8AZQ; Terry Leonard II, KF8BAE and Charles Arnold, KF8AZI. These new Technicians hail from Batavia, Oak Hill and Loveland. Ross County has also added KF8BAN, Tim Moore from Chillicothe, to its ranks. The recent **Athens County ARA**'s license session added several new hams to that part of the State. John Moss from Pedro is now KF8BAR and Allen Stephenson from South Point is now KF8BAT. Meigs County has added David Barnhard from Racine as KF8BAV. Highland County's David Rice from New Vienna is now KF8BAX. We also want to congratulate David Reed, Sr., KI5DQH, on his successful upgrade to Extra. David took a 2 ½ day Extra License class and test session offered on-line by the **Nashua Area Radio Society** in New Hampshire. He said it was a tough course, but as you see he pulled it off. David is a joint member of the **Scioto Valley ARA** and **Highland ARA**. If the Nashua club sounds familiar, they are one of the nation's leading ham clubs and were the 2019 Dayton Hamvention Club of the Year. Congrats to all.

Now that it's almost May, it will mean that outside chores, grass cutting, gardens and catching up on things that have been put off for some time are upon us. However busy you might get with those chores that life throws at you, don't forget to spare some time to get on the air and keep in contact with our amazing hobby.

That's it for this time around. So until next time, 73 and stay radio active.

John Levo, W8KIW

jlevo@cinci.rr.com or highlandara@gmail.com or 937-393-4951 (landline-leave a message)

Print an Official or Unofficial Copy of Your Amateur Radio License

(By Anthony Luscre, K8ZT)

As of February 17, 2015, the **FCC no longer routinely issues paper license documents** to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The Commission has maintained for some time now that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System (ULS). The FCC will continue to provide paper license documents to all licensees who notify the Commission that they prefer to receive one.

Licensees also will be able to print out an official authorization — as well as an unofficial “reference copy” — from the ULS License Manager. I’ve created a set of instructions on how you can request an **“official” printed copy of your license***



[Click here to download the instructions](#)

Ohio Section Cabinet

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



Hey Gang,

Have you taken a look at the **Swap & Shop** page on the Ohio Section webpage yet?? Here's a link that will take you there... <http://arrl-ohio.org/sm/s-s.html>

Do you have equipment that you just don't need or want anymore? Here's a great venue to advertise it, and it's FREE!! Is your club doing a fund raiser to help raise money? After a lot of thought, it was decided that the Swap & Shop webpage could also contain these types of items as well. The same rules will apply as do for the For Sales and Give-A-Ways and will only be posted for a month at a time. Please see the Terms & Conditions on the webpage.

If your club is doing a fund raiser and wants more exposure, please forward the information to me and I'll advertise it on the Swap & Shop webpage for you.

Now, I still want to remind you that it won't be listed in this newsletter because it would take up way too much space, so your ad will only appear on the website. It is there for any individual to post equipment Wanted / For Sale or Give-Away as well as for Club Fund Raisers. You might want to list your location so that prospective buyers know where you're at. No licensed vehicles/trailers or business advertising will be posted. Postings are text only (no pictures or graphics) will be posted for a maximum of 1 month from date posting and require a contact

phone number or email within the posting. Send your Wanted / For Sale or Give-Away post to: swap@arrloho.org

Back Issues of the PostScript and Ohio Section Journal

Hey, did you know that PostScript and Ohio Section Journal (OSJ) are archived on the website? You can go back and look at any edition simply by clicking:

<http://arrl-ohio.org/news/index.html>



Want to Share your Club Newsletter With Others?

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

Here's the link to the page.... http://arrl-ohio.org/club_news/index.html

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



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

Chit – Chat, and All That!

Do you know someone that's not getting these Newsletters? Please, forward a copy of this Newsletter over to them and have them "[Opt-In](#)" to start receiving them. Heck, just have them send an email to: webmaster@arrl-ohio.org and we'll get them added to the Ohio Section Emailing list.



We now have many thousands of readers receiving these newsletters weekly. Quite impressive, I'd say! I urge all of you to make sure that everyone, regardless of whether they are a League member or not, get signed up to receive these weekly Newsletters.



You can always “Opt-Out” at any time if you feel this is not what you were expecting. It’s fun and very informative. All of your favorite past newsletters are now archived too. You can go back at any time and read them.

Just go to: <http://arri-ohio.org/news/>

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