

*Ohio
Section
Journal*

April 2023

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Hamvention 2023! Hope to see you there!

From the Technical Coordinator

Jeff Kopcak – K8JTK TC

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Hey gang,

For my [January article](#), when I saw KE8VIY's presentation demonstrating receiving and processing ADS-B aircraft broadcasts using SDRs, it inspired me to explore mine again. I've had a request or two to cover them here in the OSJ. There was also discussion about them after my recent presentation for Cuyahoga County ARES.

Software defined radio, or SDR, is a technology that replaces analog components such as mixers, filters, amplifiers, and detectors by implementing them in software. Like most communication systems, an antenna receives the signal passing it to the RF hardware. RF hardware, on receivers especially, is a wide-band VFO with a typical range from a couple MHz up to about 2 GHz. The IF, or baseband, is sampled by an analog-to-digital converter converting the signal to bits. Software is used to control frequency range received and process the digitized signal. Signal processing is often handled by a PC, smartphone, or tablet. However, some have powerful on-board processing. The processed signal is then handed over to the sound interface for listening with ordinary speakers or headphones.

Signal processing could be as simple as selecting AM or FM and listening to an analog radio station. Processing could include a chain software to further process a received signal.

Examples would be to decode digital modulation, such as P25 or DMR, then pass human intelligible audio to the sound interface. Other processing may turn received data into text in cases such as ADS-B, POCSAG (pagers), APRS, and packet reception.

Most common are SDR receivers. There are transceivers, like the HackRF One, and many ham radio offerings. Probably the most well-known vendor is Flex Radio because they've been doing government work and have been in the ham radio market for a long time. Other ham offerings include Elad, Xiegu, and the big-name radio manufacturers like ICOM, Kenwood, and Yaesu. I've used the "RTL-SDR" for about ten years. These use the low-cost Realtek RTL2832 chipset and commonly sold under the name "NooElec R820T SDR & DVB-T NESDR mini." Originally designed for [DVB-T](#) reception (European digital broadcast TV standard), it was found these could be hacked into a general 3 MHz wideband receiver. These were a focus of my series of articles called "[Dongle Bits](#)" published in 2015.



NooElec SDRs were inexpensive at \$20 each. At that price, I bought a bunch. A pair were almost always in use on my main desktop PC for trunked radio decoding of the [statewide MARCS](#) and [regional GCRCN](#) radio systems. A couple were in the shack for playing around doing radio things and another couple were in the travel bag mostly for trunked radio decoding while traveling.



NooElec RTL-SDR dongle (nooelec.com)

A problem with early NooElec SDRs, they were not frequency stable. “Warm-up” time was needed in order to stabilize frequency reception. Sounds like tube radios. Some recommended 45 minutes to an hour for them to warmup. Seemed excessive. I didn’t see much change after about 15 minutes.

PPM offsets for my dongles ranged from the lower 40’s to upper 50’s. When these dongles are used (as intended) to receive an 8 MHz (or so) wide DVB-T broadcast, a couple PPM isn’t going to make a huge difference. Receiving a 12.5 kHz wide P25 signal, 50 PPM will put the receiver on a different frequency.

If I heard police or fire sirens and wanted to fire up Unitrunker with the RTL-SDR dongles, it would be 2-3 minutes before signals could be decoded intelligibly. It would take that long for the dongle to warm up enough to fall within range of its determined PPM. I lived with adjusting PPM/offsets because ten years ago, I was too cheap to buy the TXCO controlled dongles.



RTL-SDR blog v3 dongle (rtl-sdr.com)

Since whenever I started with RTL-SDRs, a number of mine have gotten destroyed over the years. One shattered when I dropped it after Dayton a number of years ago. Another was no longer detected when plugged in. Most recently, one had some kind of firmware corruption which caused the device ID to change making it no longer recognized by drivers. After Guy’s talk on ADS-B, I went and looked at the prices of RTL-SDR dongles. The price of TXCO controlled dongles had fell to \$33. These are quality ones released by the [RTL-SDR Blog](#) site [available through Amazon](#). TXCO were \$60+ ten years ago when I went the cheap route. TXCO RTL-SDR dongles have an oscillator to stabilize the tuner to within one or two PPM. I bought a round of frequency stable dongles to replace the RIP ones and remaining

working dongles. Another advantage to these RTL-SDR.com dongles, they come with an SMA

connector as opposed to the MCX connector on the NooElec dongles. SMA is a standard antenna connector used by many ham radio manufactures for handhelds.

TXCO dongles are worth it. Since they're much lower in price than they used to be, there's no reason to screw around with ones that don't have a stable receiver. Now, starting Unitrunker it takes seconds to start decoding P25 signals. Product description indicates there is passive cooling. I will say they do get quite warm.

Some programs I've been mentioning throughout: [Unitrunker](#) is a program for decoding trunked radio protocols through discriminator (tap) audio or an SDR. It can decode [APCO P25](#), [EDACS](#) 4800/9600, [Motorola Type II](#), and [MPT1327](#) systems. One device monitors the control channel, another device is sent to receive voice traffic on other frequencies. Unitrunker can't decode voice traffic itself. Another program, such as DSDPlus, decodes voice frames.

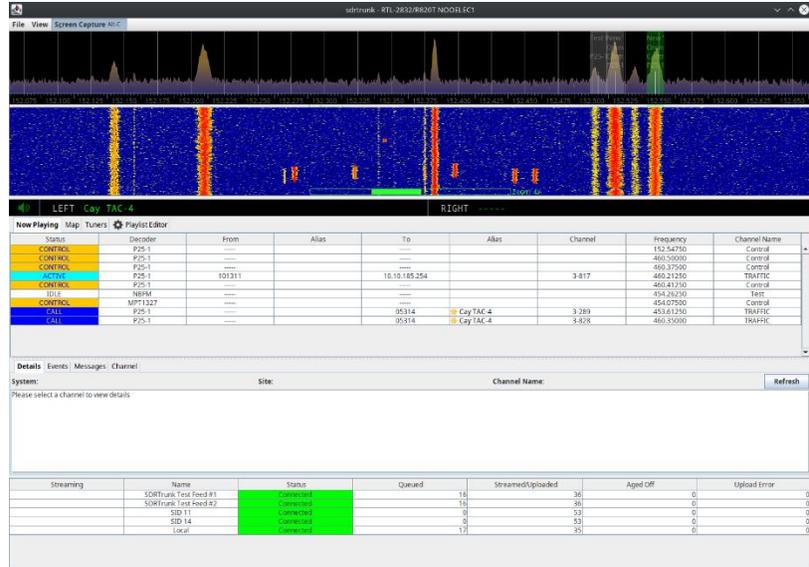
[DSDPlus](#) (often stylized DSD+) decodes multiple digital audio formats including P25 Phase 1, ProVoice, X2-TDMA, DMR/MotoTRBO, NXDN, and D-STAR (no audio). At one point, DSD did decode D-STAR voice frames because I played with it on a D-STAR net and the net controls were quite impressed. Maybe it was an add-on or beta that never became part of a final release. I remember compiling it in CygWin, a Linux terminal on Windows before Windows had [WSL](#). DSDPlus offered a "Fastlane" program which afforded more frequent updates and faster access to new features for a small donation.

Both programs have not had releases in years. Unitrunker's last release was in 2017 and DSD's last official release was in 2015 - with the last Fastlane update in early 2020. Unitrunker has, what I call an "eternal beta," version available in a [Google Group](#). I haven't seen any reference to that Group except in the Radio Reference forum. One must be accepted to the group in order to access the download. When I played with the beta a few years ago, I had problems decoding the MARCS system which I didn't have using the latest available 1.0.33.6 legacy version.

Another program I started using which does the job of Unitrunker, DSDPlus, some recording & streaming addons is called [sdrtrunk](#). It has a really nice feature set. Though, I think it's really setup to be a different program than Unitrunker. It was overwhelming first listening to a radio system.

Different talkgroups were coming out of the left and right channels, it doesn't follow conversations on successive transmissions, displayed talkgroup labels use the Radio Reference Alpha Tag, not Description tags which Unitrunker uses. When a transmission on a talkgroup ends, Unitrunker will linger for subsequent transmissions on the same talkgroup. If there are no more keyups on that talkgroup within a few seconds, it will move on to another active talkgroup. Sdrtrunk will immediately jump to another active talkgroup when a transmission completes - making it hard to follow back-and-forth conversations. It seems like only talkgroups of interest should be loaded and not a whole statewide system. Alpha Tags are shortened descriptions intended for radio displays versus the full Description of a talkgroup. Both are fields in the Radio Reference database. An example of an Alpha Tag is "18-CCAN" which is short for "Community Care Ambulance - Cuyahoga," the description. Description means a whole lot more to me about the agency. I didn't find system technical details such as peer sites listed in the program.

One thing I did notice right away, the decoder built into sdrtrunk is much better than DSDPlus. I've heard no garbled transmissions. Whatever they are doing to auto adjust for PPM and to decode voice frames works much better. I still like Unitrunker and it's recommended in the Radio Reference forum for system mapping. If I can figure out these issues, sdrtrunk seems like a better option especially since it is multiplatform and more of an all-in-one solution. I posted a number of projects



sdrtrunk (github.com/DSheirer/sdrtrunk)

using [RTL-SDRs on my site](#) over the years, including ones for receiving ADS-B, APRS, and P25 trunked radio. There have been minor software changes to Unitrunker in later versions, but it still works. Coming up on May the 4th be with you, Technical Specialist Jason – N8EI will be giving a presentation on the GAP Titan vertical antenna. [The Lancaster and Fairfield County Amateur Radio Club – K8QIK](#) will be hosting the meeting at the Fairfield County EMA building. Jason will be there virtually but stop by if you're in the area. Jason has many excellent presentations including ones already presented for the Ohio Section.

Thanks for reading and 73... de Jeff – K8JTK

From the Section Emergency Coordinator
Bret Stemen – KD8SCL EC
KD8SCL@gmail.com

State ARES Conference
 We have decided to move the Ohio ARES Conference to fall, this year. There are several reasons. First, there is just a ton of stuff going on, VHF contest, NVIS Day and more as well as venue issues. I just don't feel right in taking even more of your time for a conference.



Fall, probably September, seems like a much better time for us all to meet, so there you have it! I appreciate your flexibility.

NVIS DAY!

April 22! I hope you studied and built your NVIS antenna systems for this year's big day! We have a complete set of rules and guidelines on the arrl-ohio.org website! It's going to be great! I am still working on the SARGE's results and will have them ready soon. We had a good day at the SARGE with 2 of us working the radios and a back-up operator. 20M was the hot band while 40M was not so good.

Perk Up!

Take a look at volunteer organizations around you. Some are vibrant, active, and the people are busy but they love it. Others are shrinking, slow to react, and the people are...well...kind of tired of it. There's a disease that affects volunteers no matter the noble purpose of their groups. It is called lethargy.

In amateur radio, either ARES or a club, you can count on the 80/20 rule: 20% of the people do 80% of the work. And it's easy to get burned out. You've probably seen the meeting: a half dozen of the 'old guys' file into the room, talk about what they did over the past month, then pretty much wander back home. How do we stop this? How do we get the folks who've been doing this longer than some others have been alive, to perk back up?

The answer is an interesting opposite to what you might think. The way you get the members back, and even build something that other hams want to get involved with, is to DO STUFF! That's right- the more active a group becomes, the more interested its members tend to be. ARES is all about being a resource during a real emergency. How do we get ready, and how do we stay ready? We train. Serious, meaningful training. What happens if we're activated to help search for a missing person? What happens if there's a flood? What really goes on inside that EOC, and who are the players? How do I work one of those MARCS radios? How is our county's communications divided?

We don't live in an area where things hit the fan...we don't do wildfires, don't have hurricanes, earthquakes are rare, floods are usually very localized. That's true, but take a look at the safety agencies. THEY have the same issues- stuff just doesn't happen a lot around here. But they realize the need to stay ready! They train, they practice just as if the next call will set everything off. WE need to be the same way- trained, practiced and ready. If you're in leadership and don't feel qualified to provide that training, don't fret. Nobody expects you to be a wizard! The secret to good management is not to know all the answers, but to know the people who DO! Find someone on a department who can take you through these topics and more! They'll be happy to do that. Face-time and getting to know each other and your capabilities will join together to make life really interesting and worthwhile in the ARES world. You'll see over a period of months that your attendance will grow and people will come back!

Another aspect of being ready and trained is being able to show somebody you're qualified. Thus, the requirement for the four FEMA classes. Yes, amateur radio and ARES are a part- not only with other agencies on the outskirts who are planning to be ready for anything.

Elizabeth Klinc, KE8FMJ
OHIO Section Public Information Coordinator
ke8fmj@gmail.com



Don't forget the 2023 Section newsletter contest. We love to see those newsletters and are looking for the best. I've started to get a couple directly from the clubs. Please add ke8fmj@gmail.com to your mailing list. You do not want to miss out on the contest, so please be sure to add me to your mailing list. Don't let not following directions be the reason you didn't win!

There are 88 counties in Ohio. From North to South, East to West and through 10 Districts, there are volunteers serving in ARES in 88 Ohio counties.

And in this great state and its 88 counties, there are only 22 PIOs listed in the database from 18 unique counties. Only 18 counties out of 88 are represented by a Public Information Officer. Let me do the math for you – only 20% of Ohio has representation to the media for Amateur Radio Emergency Service. People are always saying we need to recruit younger hams. We need to get more people in the hobby. We need to let people know we are out there. If only 20% of the state have any



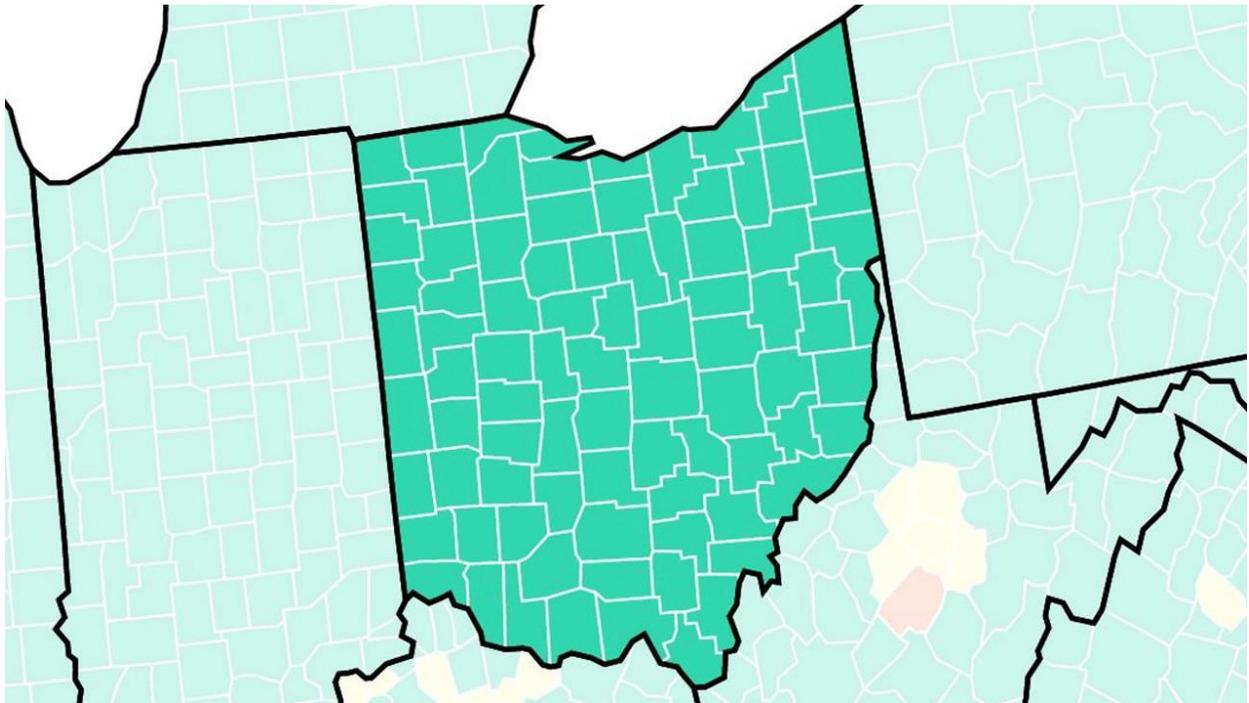
ties to the media in this day and age, how are we letting the public know of our activities and abilities?

From [ARRL](#):

PIO Responsibilities:

- Establishes and maintains a list of media contacts in the local area; strives to establish and maintain personal contacts with appropriate representatives of those media (e.g., editors, news directors, science reporters, etc.).
- Becomes a contact for the local media and assures that editors/reporters who need information about Amateur Radio know where to find it.
- Works with [Local Government Liaisons](#) to establish personal contacts with local government officials where possible and explain to them, briefly and non-technically, about Amateur Radio and how it can help their communities.
- Keeps informed of activities by local hams and identifies and publicizes those that are newsworthy or carry human interest appeal. (This is usually done through news releases or suggestions for interviews or feature stories).
- Attempts to deal with and minimize any negative publicity about Amateur Radio and to correct any negative stories which are incorrectly ascribed to Amateur Radio operators.
- Generates advance publicity through the local media of scheduled activities of interest to the general public, including licensing classes, hamfests, club meetings, Field Day operations, etc.
- Publicizes League-related stories of local news interest, including election and appointment of local hams to leadership positions, *QST* articles by local authors or local achievements noted or featured in *QST*.
- Maintains contact with the [Emergency Coordinator](#) and/or [District Emergency Coordinator](#). Helps prepare an emergency response PR kit.
- Assists the section PIC in recruiting hams for the section's Speakers Bureau; promotes interest among community and service organizations in finding out more about Amateur Radio through the bureau and relays requests to the PIC.
- Helps individual hams and radio clubs to develop and promote good ideas for community projects and special events to display Amateur Radio to the public in a positive light.
- Attends regional training sessions sponsored by section PICs.
- Becomes familiar with [ARRL Public Service Announcements](#) (PSAs), brochures and audiovisual materials; contacts local radio and TV stations to arrange airing of Amateur Radio PSAs; secures appropriate brochures and audiovisual materials for use in conjunction with planned activities.
- Keeps the section PIC fully informed on activities and places PIC on news release mailing list.

Interested in learning more? Consider taking the free online EC-015 Public Information Officer Training PR-101. This course is designed to give hams a quick overview in public relations activities. It uses the skills of experts in various aspects of public relations to provide volunteer Public Information Officers with the basic skills and expectations that a PIO needs to know to be effective in their home region. PR-101 covers everything from the basic news release to Web sites and video work.

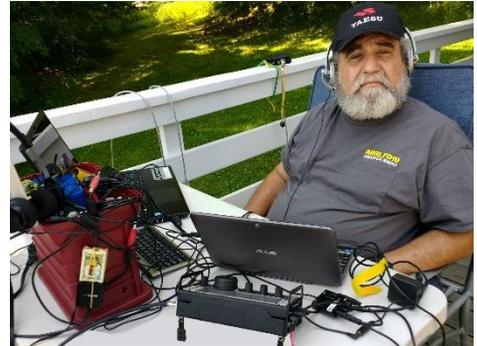


73,

Elizabeth, KE8FMJ
OHIO Section PIC
OHIO District 3 Emergency Coordinator
ke8fmj@gmail.com

From the Ohio Section Youth Coordinator
Anthony Luscre, K8ZT - SYC k8zt@arrl.net

It's a Pity Field Day is Just Once a Year, So Plan a POTA Party for Your Club



Club Operating Activities

Many clubs have a tradition of **Field Day** activity. Enthusiasm and energy run high. It is often one of the most significant events of the year, but it is often the only one for most clubs! I have some ideas to remedy this for your local club.

The first is a “**POTA Party**” **POTA** stands for [***Parks On The Air***](#). It involves the activation of National or State Parks around the world. Most POTA operations consist of one or two operators setting up in a park and making contacts. But POTA can be fun with more participants and that’s where a POTA Party comes in. A club or group sets up one or more stations in a park and involves as many members as possible in operation. Like FD, it's a great learning experience for new and seasoned hams. Whether it is putting up antennas, providing portable power, setting up stations or operating, it is a great way to gain new skills.

Let’s Have a POTA Party

As I write this, my local club, Cuyahoga Falls ARC (www.cfarc.org), has its first POTA Party scheduled for April 29th in Cuyahoga National Park (POTA # K-0020). Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society (NOARS) plans its POTA Party for May 13th at Findley State Park K-1950 (RSVP to pota@noars.net).

Your club can plan your own POTA Party:

1. Pick a nearby State or National Park
2. Check out the [***POTA website***](#) for details on park activations and park designations.
3. Register your activity on the POTA website under the [***scheduling section***](#).
4. Plan your equipment needs for the event (similar to how you do FD). Remember, some parks have restrictions on generators, using trees to support antennas, etc., so check ahead



to avoid problems. You may also need to make reservations, especially if using a park pavilion or other structure.

5. Publicize the event to club members. You may also want to invite non-club members.
6. Create a way for interested hams to sign up for the event. I used a simple Google Form to create an online signup mechanism for our POTA Party (click here to make a copy you can customize for your club's event- link.)

Other Events to Turn Into a Club Operating Party

In addition to a POTA Party, consider other events. Here are some suggestions:

ARRL VHF/UHF Party (in Ohio, especially the [June](#) or [September](#) events) – link. These are especially well suited to Technician class licensees as they have full operating privileges on these bands

[CQ WW VHF](#) Contest in July is similar but limited to 6 and 2 Meters

[Ohio State QSO Party](#) is held in August each year and is an opportunity to be a highly desired multiplier. Multipliers are based on your Ohio County. Your club might consider operating from one of the rarer counties.

[Other State QSO Parties](#). With 47 events held between February and October, there are plenty of dates to choose from; see the calendar of parties at www.contestcalendar.com/stateparties.html. Although you will not be a rare multiplier as in OH QSO Party, it is still a great way to have fun on the air.

[Ohio State Parks On The Air](#) is held each September- link. Sponsored by Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS), this groundbreaking event is in its ___ year and undoubtedly was one catalyst to the whole POTA movement.

Set up a Special Event station to commemorate a historical or local event. Plan it early enough to submit details to QST and CQ magazines for inclusion in upcoming issues (lead time is usually at least three months). Also, don't forget the Ohio Section Journal!

Pick almost any other contest with a multi-operator category and have fun with fellow club members from your club's station or a willing member that will loan their home station to the cause.

Of course, don't forget ARRL Field Day in June (I will have more on this in my column next month, or you can watch a recorded Zoom presentation from April 26th by Marty Woll, N6VI and me at <https://youtu.be/81bOpNd6Gvw>).

Tips for making the most of your club's operating party

If your club's members are not frequent testers, I have a presentation, "Introduction to Contesting." You can access it three ways- via the slideshow at tiny.cc/arcontest via a recorded presentation on youtube.... or I would be happy to do a live presentation for your club either in

person or via Zoom, depending on location and date. If you are interested in this live presentation, one on contesting software or any of my other topics (tiny.cc/k8zt-p), email me at k8zt73@gmail.com (make sure you include a phone number where I can contact you). Also, do not worry about not being seasoned testers, as most suggested events are more laid-back than major contests.

Consider setting running multiple modes during your party- SSB, CW and/or Digital (FT8 or FT4) to give members with different interests and skills a chance to operate and even learn new modes.

Please consider making your event open to non-club members. You can send your information to Tom Sly for inclusion in the “Club Section” of the monthly Ohio Section Journal and/or weekly Postscript.

If you are doing your event in a public location, consider having information available on Amateur Radio and your local club in particular. I will provide some of this with a youth and teacher slant in my pre-FD column.

An important reminder when setting up portable antennas is to be aware of electronic wires; they can kill. This includes lamp posts and other supports with possible power running through them.

Upcoming Events and Reminders

The **ARRL Teacher’s Institute** for the summer of 2023. As announced by ARRL- “We are now accepting applications for the 2023 Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology! This program provides teachers with tools and strategies to introduce wireless technology in their classrooms and expand their horizons with a hands-on professional development experience! For more information, visit www.arrl.org/teachers-institute-on-wireless-technology. Download, complete, and submit your application today – applications are coming in fast! Registration deadline is May 1, 2023, for the Summer 2023 programs and by August 31, 2023, for the October 2023 program.

The **Dayton Hamvention**® in Xenia, Ohio, takes place from Friday, May 19, through Sunday, May 21. Two significant pre-Hamvention events are taking place on Thursday, May 18- **Contest University** and **FDIM (Four Days In May)** sponsored by QRP-ARCI. I will present two sessions at Contest University- “QRP and Low Power Contesting” and “Year Long Contests- State QSO Party Challenge and CQ DX Marathon.” I will also present at the Hamvention’s Friday Antenna Forum- “The 10 Worst Antennas and How You Can Do Better”. I would love to see you in the audience for any of these. Also, don’t forget to stop by the ARRL booth at Hamvention to meet the Section, Division and National leadership.

That’s it for this month. I hope to hear you on the air from your club’s operating party or meet you in Xenia!

73,

Anthony, K8ZT (k8zt@arrl.net)

From the Section Traffic Manager

David Maynard, WA3EZN – STM

wa3ezn@att.net



The affairs of the OSSBN shall be under the control of the net manager and an advisory board comprised of three members. The net manager and one advisory board member shall be elected each year.

The teller called for votes from the members of the net from April 1st through April 7th and on April 8th the teller announced the results of the election. The results of the voting are KC8WH was elected Net Manager and KB8GUN was elected the new Advisory Board member. Duties of the elected Net Manager and new Advisory Board member shall commence on May 1st.

Current Net Manager – KC8WH

Current Assistant Net Manager – K8MDA

Advisory Board as of May 1

K8KRA 2021

W8GSR 2022

KB8GUN 2023

I would like to take this time to thank these men and all the those who check into the OSSBN, the CW nets and local VHF traffic nets for their support of the nets and handling traffic so efficiently. More information and useful links can be found on the OSSBN website www.ossbn.org.

If you have traffic you need to move take it to a VHF net or if it is going out of Ohio you can take it to the OSSBN. Here is [WHERE TO FIND AN HF OR VHF TRAFFIC NET IN OHIO](#)

OHIO SINGLE SIDEBAND NET

Morning session	10:30 AM	3972.5 KHz	every day
Afternoon session	4:15 PM	3972.5 KHz	every day
Evening session	6:45 PM	3972.5 KHz	every day

OHIO HF CW TRAFFIC NETS

HF CW NETS	NET TIMES	FREQUENCY	NET MANAGERS
Buckeye Early	6:45 PM	3.580	N2LC
Buckeye Late	10:00 PM	3.590	WB9LBI
Ohio Slow Net	6:00 PM	3.53535	N2LC

All CW net frequencies plus or minus QRM

OHIO LOCAL VHF TRAFFIC NETS

VHF NETS	NET TIMES	FREQUENCY	NET MANAGERS
BRTN	9:30 PM DAILY	145.230 PL 110.9	KD8GXL
COTN	7:15 PM DAILY	146.970 PL 123.0	KV8Z
NWOHARES	6:30 PM DAILY	147.375 PL 103.5	N8TNV
TCTTN	9 PM Sun, Tues, Fri	147.015 PL 110.9	WB8YYS
TATN	8:00 PM DAILY	146.670 PL 123.0	WG8Z

OHIO VHF TRAFFIC NETS

BRTN Burning River Traffic Net serving Cleveland and North Central Ohio

COTN Central Ohio Traffic Net serving Columbus and Central Ohio

NWOH ARES Northwest Ohio ARES Net serving Toledo and surrounding counties

TATN Tri-State Amateur Traffic Net

TCTTN Tri-County Traffic and Training Net serving North East Ohio

Auxillary Communications (AUXCOMM) Course returns in 2023

The Federal Governments Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM) Course Returns to the Dayton Hamvention in 2023

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) nationally recognized AUXCOMM course returns to the Dayton Hamvention this year. This free course will be held the three days prior to Hamvention from May 16 th – May 18 th, 2023, at a location near Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. There are only 30 slots available for this course, so you should submit your application now. Attendees will be taken on a first come first served basis. To apply, please send a copy of your FEMA issued course completion certificates for Independent Study courses IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800 and a copy of your active FCC issued amateur radio Technician's license, or higher, by 1 May 2023.

Please submit a copy of all required prerequisites, or any questions you may have, to the following email address: TrainingRequest@commscollabcenter.com

ATTN:Jolene Hollingshead

<https://hamvention.org/auxillary-communications-auxcomm-course-returns-in-2023/>

This from the Hamvention website.

Hamvention will be held May 19, 20 and 21, 2023 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center. For more information, please select the tabs below or use the navigation menu above to visit pages of interest. If you have a specific question that isn't answered on the site, please [contact us](#).

The entire staff of Hamvention volunteers is working hard behind the scenes to make our fourth year at Hamvention's new home at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Exposition Center even better.

Where it all started...Since 1952 Hamvention® has been sponsored by Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA). For many years it has been the world's largest amateur radio gathering, attracting hams from throughout the globe. About 1950, John Willig, W8ACE, had asked the Dayton Amateur Radio Association to sponsor a HAM Convention but was turned down. John wanted to have a quality affair. Speakers and prizes would be a drawing point. John finally found a champion in Frank Schwab, W8YCP (W8OK), the newly elected president of the club. A meeting was held and the DARA Board allocated \$100 to get started. The first organizational meeting was held in January 1952. The Southwestern Ohio Ham-vention was born. The first committee consisted of: John Willig, W8ACE, General Chairman Al Dinsmore, W8AUN, Arrangements Bob Siff, W8QDI (K4AMG), Prizes and Exhibits Frank Schwab, W8YCP (W8OK), Publicity Bob Montgomery, W8CUJ, Finance Clem Wolford, W8ENH, Program Ellie Haburton, W8GJP (W4ZVW), Women's Committee. The next year the name became "Dayton Hamvention®" and was registered as a trademark. April was determined to be the best time but the Biltmore Hotel, in downtown Dayton was booked. March 22 was the chosen date, causing a short lead time. How far did \$100 go? Not far! A 12" TV was raffled off to help raise funds. The FCC agreed to give license exams and Phil Rand, W1BDM, a pioneer in TVI elimination was on

the program. First prize, a Collins 75A2, was purchased locally. Hoping for 300 visitors, the committee was amazed that over 600 showed up! There were 7 exhibitors and 6 forums. The ladies program was successful with a luncheon at the Biltmore and a trip to a local TV station. In 1955 the Awards Program began with the "Amateur of the Year." The Flea Market has grown from 200 to more than 2000 spaces. In 1964 the Hamvention® moved to Hara Arena. Shuttle buses and handicapped parking were added in 1969. In 1973 it became a 2 day event with Sundays added in 1974. The program has grown to a "Souvenir Program" and in 1976 the dimensions changed from 6"x 9" to the current 8-1/2"x11". The growth of the Dayton Hamvention® can be attributed to caring, energetic people who enjoy being on a winning team.

The Dayton gateway W8RTL^^B will be linked to D-Extra X-Reflector XRF038C during Hamvention weekend. D-Plus REF038C will also be available for the weekend on W8RTL^^C. Use 446.1000 Digital Code Squelch CSQL use #13 as a D-Star simplex frequency at Hamvention®. DMR coverage is available via the N8NQH repeater 444.8750+ Color Code 13 using Talkgroup 310557 on Timeslot 2. See <http://tim-yvonne.com/ham/dmr/> for more information.

Talk In

For directions and assistance in the Dayton Area during your visit to Hamvention®, contact "Talk-In" on the DARA Repeater 146.94 (-), alternate 146.985 (-) -123.0 PL. The talk in crew will have up to date information on traffic conditions and parking and will be able to provide re-routing directions if needed. Talk In will be on the air starting at 7 a.m. on Thursday and Sunday and at 5 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. Be sure to listen.

There will also be a station offering traffic bulletins on 145.525.

Dayton Hams also monitor 223.94 (-) and 442.1 (+). MIDCARS will again monitor and provide travel assistance on 7.258 MHz. For the latest traffic conditions from the state visit <http://www.ohgo.com/>

One last comment on Hamvention. On Friday morning at 9:15 – Tom Sly will be presenting a forum on "Club Building" in forum room 4. He would



really appreciate it if we all would attend! He will have lots of information on making your club, large or small, an outstanding club that will stand out in your community. Clubs are one of the most important resources we have as hams to improve ourselves in the hobby, and the clubs we belong to can either help us move forward, or set up roadblocks to our progress. Don't let your club just exist – make it outstanding!

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

More hamvention information at: <https://hamvention.org/event-details/event-schedule/>

Great Lakes Division Convention!!

05/19/2023 - 05/21/2023 Dayton Hamvention

Location: Xenia, OH

Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://Hamvention.org>

New **distracted** driving law doesn't affect amateur radio

Am. Sub. S. B. No. 288 134th G.A. 392

(e) Any device capable of displaying a video, movie, broadcast television image, or visual image;

(f) Any other substantially similar wireless device that is designed or used to communicate text, initiate or receive communication, or exchange information or data.

An “electronic wireless communications device” does not include a two-way radio transmitter or receiver used by a person who is licensed by the federal communications commission to participate in the amateur radio service.

The Law

The new distracted driving law can be found in Section 4511.204 of the Ohio Revised Code.
<https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-4511.204/4-4-2023>

73

David, WA3EZN
Ohio Section Traffic Manager

ARES Training Update

Jim Yoder, W8ERW – ARES Data Manager

w8erw@arrl.net



ARES Training Update

I may go off the rail this month. I'll try not to get too far over the edge but If I do, please feel free to kick my duff if you see me at the next Hamfest. Sometimes perhaps we have too much time on our hands and it allows a mind to wander or perhaps wonder. As you might be aware, I have for several years now, been working with MESH networks, specifically the AREDN MESH Network. To do so requires an off the shelf router that has been re-flashed with the AREDN firmware. The firmware is based on Open WRT, a name derived from the original Linksys routers such as WRT54G. The early implementation of "The MESH" was on that device as well as others with the correct hardware configuration to do so. This was before AREDN came along and was started by the group, "Broadband Hamnet." They did a fine job and it was possible to establish a working Amateur MESH network.

Some time later as the MESH firmware began to add new features and function including stability, the Amount of memory required lead to a shift towards different hardware in order to take advantage of the expanded memory available. AREDN was then born after several of the BBHN developers wanted to take advantage of the newer Open WRT component of the MESH firmware that Linksys could no longer reliably support.

I have always wondered why the Router manufacturers have not recognized the Amateur Radio interest and developed something specifically for us. And our Amateur Radio manufacturers have not partnered with the Router folks to come up with an even better integration for the Amateur Radio service. Surely there are now thousands of our fellow Hams pursuing the value of MESH networking. Yes my mind wonders too.

Make no mistake, the AREDN team is working constantly to improve their platform. Newer WiFi networking hardware is frequently added to the supported product list. The firmware is in continuous development with each new release bringing improvements and new features. As I sit here in my shack, I can bring up the MESH status showing all the connected stations now in Seneca, Sandusky, Lucas, Wood and others including myself here in Highland County and our Ohio Section Technical Coordinator Jeff K8JTK. ARES in NW Ohio is going full on with deployments and are doing a fantastic job of building out a functional AREDN MESH. Here in SW Ohio groups are also working hard to do the same with great success.

There are too many names to mention. However, suffice to say, great things are happening around Ohio with the AREDN MESH network. Thanks to each of you for your talents and

providing what could become a very valuable resource for ARES when the need arises. The sky is the limit.

The good stuff now at last. I do this as it is important to me and I trust all of you, to recognize the contribution of so many towards our ARES mission and training. It's important as well to end on a positive note. So here are the ARES training numbers as they are today.

We have been adding active members who are engaging the training and submitting certificates to the database. Many to are upgrading their training status to higher levels. We now have 1,958 members in the database. Of those, 893 are at Level 1, 752 are at Level 2 and 223 are at Level 3. In addition, there are 81 who have completed AUX COM and another 70 have completed the PDS Professional Development Series courses. It is important to note also there are several who have submitted an enormous number of additional certificates covering a wide variety of subjects useful in ARES. Overall, I have recorded 10,503 certificates of completion.

ARES Training Update

I would like to take a few moments in this edition to clarify a few items that are issues everyone needs to be aware of in regards to ARES training.

1. **ARES training has several important functions.** Obviously training exists for the educational value that it provides. Training is necessary for us to effectively satisfy our ARES mission in supporting our served agencies. We have been fortunate not to have many or frequent situations requiring ARES assistance with deployments. Some of our served agencies require the completion of NIMS training and in some instances, specific additional courses or training. **NIMS training is basic** and an essential part of being useful and not another burden to those who will manage a disaster situation or an incident. In addition, **NIMS is just plain good information to have.** The four NIMS courses will allow you to understand how a disaster situation or incident is organized and managed. **It's good information for anyone,** not just those of us who may be called into service supporting our served agencies.
2. The reason a training database is maintained including the certificate copies of all completed courses is to **facilitate a single point of contact** that our EC's and above can go to when the need to verify training relative to a specific need identified by our served agencies arises. When required, this needs to happen very quickly. **Seconds count when people are suffering the results of a disaster incident.**
3. **Supporting our use of valuable spectrum is indeed a serious issue.** Commercial interests are constantly looking to acquire more spectrum and very often our allocations come into question. Spectrum is limited even considering the great advances in technology that have made usable the spectrum that was not technically usable in the past. **We must be diligent and guard the allocations we have.** Perhaps the best way to do so is demonstrate how we use the frequencies we have. The ARES program is a very

successful way to do this. We widely enjoy great respect and FEMA recognizes the value of ARES. We can add great relevance and meaning to this by engaging FEMA training. This demonstrates our serious commitment to public service and assisting our communities with a well organized response to their need for communications backup and more.

You can help me fulfill our ARES training response in several ways. The following are the how to items that make life easier not only for me, but our served agencies as well.

4. When you complete an online FEMA course, FEMA will send you an email with a link to your certificate. **Do not delete this.** Use the link to retrieve your certificate. **Save it in the original format, .pdf.** The .pdf format is universally accepted and allows for efficient storage of the certificates in the database. It really gets messy when I receive them other than individually and not as .pdf files. I often get certificates in .jpg format and often as well several in one large file. This makes it difficult to retrieve them when it becomes necessary and adds much more disk space to store them. Always save your certificates in a safe digital medium and in the original .pdf file format. It's cleaner, faster and much more efficient.
5. When you wish to submit several FEMA certificates, the easiest way to do so is **request your transcript from FEMA.** They will provide you with your current list of completed courses in a .pdf file and you will not need to submit individual course certificates. This too is a very efficient means to store verification data for all of your FEMA completed courses.
6. Your certificates and or transcript(s) should also be provided to your local county emergency coordinator. He too appreciates the .pdf file format.
7. You may send your certificates and or transcript(s) directly to me, w8erw@arrl.net, I will log them into the database and store them. You will save your EC a lot of time in doing so. He/She will not need to forward them to me.

The Database that I maintain can render several reports primarily for the use of your Emergency Coordinator. District Coordinators and individuals may find the reports useful as well. Please let me know what you would like and I will do my best to provide a report for your needs.

Let me once again say thank you to all those who support ARES and the training initiative. Ohio Amateurs are the best.

Thank you again,

Jim W8ERW
W8erw@arrl.net

***From the Section Affiliated Clubs
Coordinator - ACC***

Amanda Farone – KC3GFU

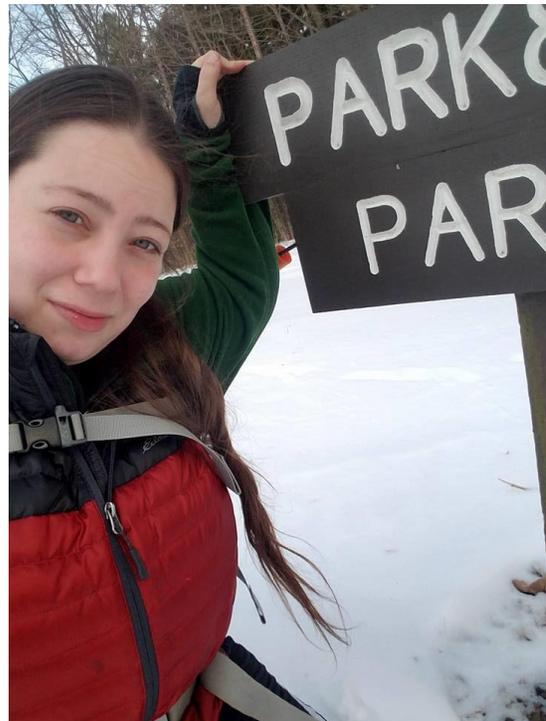
Afrone926@gmail.com

330-509-4095

“Successful radio clubs are a joy to experience. Easy to spot, they are usually populated by enthusiastic, gung-ho members who are involved with a full agenda of interesting things. They are generally at the center of most Amateur Radio activities in town.” – Dee Logan, WIHEO

This month I want to touch base on some tips for a healthier radio club. Covid seems to have taken a toll on clubs across the globe but it’s time to dust yourself off and get back to it. Recently, I have witnessed some normality and am excited by the attendance I am seeing at the hamfests so far this year. I’m going to start off with the most important tip I have for you.... HAVE FUN! Most people enjoy their hobbies because they are, well, FUN. We use our hobbies to escape from our everyday stresses and as long we fill that need, we will keep going back for more. The moment a hobby is no longer fun and instead another stressor, is the moment we set it down and walk away. Making sure that your club is offering fun programs and activities is vital to the future of your club. It’s important to find out what the membership is interested in and figure out a way to provide those things. A simple survey during a meeting, an online poll, or even just a general discussion. Every single member of your club is good at something and has their own area of expertise when it comes to amateur radio. Utilize their strengths to achieve special interest activities and programs for those that are a little less familiar. Another great tool is your newsletter. Publishing a good newsletter with loads of information will help inform your readers of upcoming events that they can participate in. There are so many ways to advertise these days things can get lost in the shuffle. Your members (and prospective members) often use your club newsletter to find all of the important information pertaining to your club, what you’re doing, and what is going on locally.

Something I hear consistently is that the same members are doing all of the volunteering. It’s the same small group of people that are giving ideas, volunteering to help with events and activities, showing up to show their support for club activities, volunteering for the yucky tasks that nobody else wants to do, etc. The ability of a club to tackle a wide variety of programs and projects depends upon having enough volunteers. We must be mindful that these people will eventually



“burn out”. We also have to be mindful that some individuals are willing to step up, but they aren’t willing to initiate the offer. Instead, they need to be asked. A good resource to have on hand for your club is a list of your members’ strengths and special interests. You can then utilize this to ask them specifically based on the clubs needs. You’d be surprised at who will step up when they feel needed.

Promoting fellowship is important to make individuals feel welcome. We see this fellowship within the amateur radio community all the time and it is one of the reasons I love this hobby! Elmers helping new hams is generally the first interaction. An Elmer can help guide a new or prospective ham and make sure they feel welcome. Antenna parties to help each other get on the air. Social events open to the public can show that you encourage non-members to participate. The call from an SK’s loved one to help with their equipment. We all have a unique common interest and that should give us an unspoken bond. We all know how many hobbies are within the amateur radio hobby. One of the benefits of getting out and meeting other hams is that we open a door to possibilities on learning a new special interest or just meeting some really great people. Fellowship and a warm, inviting club are also a great way to recruit new members. If people enjoy what your club is doing, if they see your club’s name in the spotlight often, and they feel comfortable and welcome around your members, they will WANT to be a part of your club. They will be PROUD to be a part of it. That’s what your club should be striving for.

National News

(from arrl and other sources)



International Space Station Operations Extended Through 2030

The International Space Station partners have committed to extending the operations of this unique platform in low Earth orbit where, for more than 22 years, humans have lived and worked for the benefit of humanity, conducting cutting-edge science and research in microgravity. The United States, Japan, Canada, and the participating countries of the European Space Agency (ESA) have confirmed they will support continued space station operations through 2030 and Russia has confirmed it will support continued station operations through 2028. NASA will continue to work with its partner agencies to ensure an uninterrupted presence in low Earth orbit, as well as a safe and orderly transition from the space station to commercial platforms in the future.

Since its launch in 1998, the [International Space Station](#) has been visited by 266 individuals from 20 countries. The space station is a unique scientific platform where crew members conduct experiments across multiple disciplines of research, including Earth and space science, biology, human physiology, physical sciences and technology demonstrations that could not be done on Earth.

Making a Big Decision -- Together

Dear member,

For only the second time in 22 years, we are considering a dues increase. Promoting and protecting amateur radio requires a strong and vibrant ARRL. Paying our dues (and some of you go above and beyond) is one way each of us does our part.

In my column in the April issue of *QST* ([read now](#)), I introduced the following question:

How does ARRL handle an increase in dues?

On May 1, we will launch an online survey, inviting all ARRL members to participate. The survey will include some short questions about raising dues and modifying the way some membership benefits are bundled. The survey will also include an opportunity to share your feedback. The participation of every member is important.

Do this before May 1: Review your ARRL website account

Before you can take the survey in May, you'll need to make sure you have a working ARRL website account that is associated with your membership.

Follow these steps:

1. Go to www.arrl.org/take-dues-survey. This is a member-only page.
2. If you are already logged in to your account, you'll see **CONGRATULATIONS!** on the members-only page that will host the survey in May.
3. If you are NOT already logged in to your account, follow the instructions on the page to log in. Or, select the Login button at the top of the web page, and you will be prompted to enter your ARRL website username (usually your call sign) and password. If you have not logged in since April 2022, please use these [Login Instructions](#).
4. **The survey will open on May 1.** Return to this web page to take the survey on, or after, May 1: www.arrl.org/take-dues-survey.

If you need additional help with your login, call us Monday - Thursday from 8 AM to 7 PM ET, and Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM ET at 860-594-0200 or email us at membership@arrl.org.

We'll send an update on May 1 once the survey is live.

Thank you for being a member and collaborating on this big decision.

73

David A. Minster, NA2AA
Chief Executive Officer

2023 ARRL Field Day Gear is Now Shipping!

[ARRL Field Day](#) is June 24 - 25. Get ready for amateur radio's largest on-air operating event with official 2023 ARRL Field Day merchandise available for order now. [T-shirts](#), [hats](#), [pins](#), [patches](#), and [stickers](#) are great ways to show off your involvement in this annual event. This year's colorful design features a globe centered on North America and the words, "Tune In The World." 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 with ARRL Field Day recruitment [posters](#) and attractive "Get on the Air" (GOTA) [pins](#) for newcomers.

Get your 2023 ARRL Field Day supplies from the ARRL [online store](#) or by calling the toll-free number 1-888-277-5289, from Monday through Thursday, 8 AM



to 7 PM and on Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM Eastern Time. If you are outside of the US, call 1-860-594-0355.

The complete 2023 [ARRL Field Day](#) packet is online. ARRL encourages participants to register their Field Day operations with the [Field Day Site Locator](#).

Club Corner

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

Let us 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?

Send it to: webmaster@arrl-ohio.org



[ARESOHio] Flying Pig 2023 - Hamilton County

We are in need of operators for an annual running marathon on Sunday, May 07. Please pass this on to anyone who may be interested.

Hello!

We are two weeks out from Marathon Sunday and we're about 15 operators away from covering everything in the way in which we've been asked. If you're new to the hobby, amateur radio public service, or this event specifically, I humbly ask for your consideration.

If you have any questions, I will clear my schedule as best I can to speak with you. I'm happy to share last year's notes about types/locations/times of required jobs if you're new to how it all works.

Volunteer Registration Instructions:

- 1) Click here for the volunteer registration page: **2023 Volunteer Registration**
- 2) Enter the following password to access your group-specific registration page: **qcen**
- 3) Be sure the small box next to the highlighted time frame for your group is "checked"
- 4) Enter required information
- 5) Check waiver box, sign name and click "Sign Up to Volunteer" to submit your information

Thanks in advance for your service.

-73- de N8TFD/Steve
513.985.9844 "home"
513.358.7835 "work"
859.393.6563 cell

Alliance ARC fundraiser

Our 2023 HF Rig Raffle is winding down in record time. We anticipate selling the remainder of our tickets in the next week or two. We'll then be drawing the winning ticket at our club meeting on May 10th. Our 2023 prize is a Yaesu FT-DX10.

This is the 4th year for our HF Rig Raffle. A portion of the money raised goes back into our community in the form of donations to local service groups at Christmas Time.

Since 2020, we've donated over \$3500 to Charities in the Alliance, OH area.

The final tickets will be sold face to face only. We'll be selling at the Athens Hamfest this weekend, and at the Warren ARA meeting on May 2nd.

The members & officers of the Alliance ARC would like to thank all for their continued support of our yearly fundraiser. Please watch for our in-meeting Fall Fundraiser where literally anything may turn up on the prize table. You can learn more about us on our website at w8lky.org.

73 DE John, WG8X (Fundraising chair, Alliance ARC).

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.*

If you are applying for your first license, please go to <http://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userlogin.do> and obtain an FRN. This website is self-explanatory and the FRN registration is free.

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.

Butler County Amateur Radio Association W8WRK

Laurel VE Testing Session - hosted by DIAL amateur radio club
Amateur Radio License Examinations at 9:00AM on Sunday April 29th at Fairfield Township Administration Building 6032 Morris Rd. Hamilton, OH 45011. Pre-Registration is required, go to: www.qsl.net/w8blv click on Exams and follow the instructions. Additional info may be obtained from Thurl Golden, KD8VLU (513) 939-4891 tgolden@fuse.net or Ron Spaulding, N8QF, (513) 617-6181 or n8qf@roadrunner.com. There are no Exam Fees!

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 11th; Apr 8th; Jun 10th; Aug 12th; Oct 14th; and Dec 9th, 2023.

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

Dial Radio Club, Middleton, OH

Will offer Amateur Radio License Examinations at 6:00PM on Wednesday March 1st at St. John

XXIII Elementary School, 3806 Manchester Rd., Middletown, OH 45042. Pre-Registration is required, go to: www.qsl.net/w8blv click on Exams and follow the instructions. Additional info may be obtained from Dave Williamson, KD8W, (513) 424-5819 or kd8w@ARRL.net or Ron Spaulding, N8QF, (513) 617-6181 or n8qf@roadrunner.com . There are no Exam Fees!

Findlay Radio Club

The club also sponsors exam sessions at 9AM the second Saturday of each month at the clubhouse. For more info on the club, check out our web page at www.findlayradioclub.org .

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 2023 are January 15th, March 19th, May 21st, July 9th, September 10th, and November 12th.

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 Jim Mekeel, KE8EMP, email KE8EMP@gmail.com or 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 **2023** Amateur Radio license exams at the **Kirtland Library**, 9267 Chillicothe Road, on the following dates:

Saturday, February 4
Saturday, April 1
Saturday, June 3

Saturday, August 5
Saturday, October 7
Saturday, December 2

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)

hosts exam sessions at the FAIRFIELD County EMA, 240 Baldwin Dr in Lancaster Ohio, 43130, on the first Saturday each month at 10:00 am. Please visit our website at <http://www.k8qik.org> for exam dates on our calendar and navigate to our Learning Center/Taking the Exam link for information and requirements. Our experienced VE team looks forward to serving the Amateur Radio community in Central Ohio. Contact me at ve_testing@k8qik.org to register.

Lisbon Area Amateur Radio Association

Beginning Feb 11, 2023 Testing on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Columbiana County EMA located at 215 S Market St. Lisbon, OH 44432. Walk-ins OK. Check in at 1:00PM. For more information go to www.K8GQB.com or contact NN8B at nn8b.oh@gmail.com

**** NO VE SESSION FOR JULY ****

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)

VE sessions are held the first Saturday of odd-numbered months (EXCEPT FOR March and July) at 10 AM in the North Olmsted Library, 27403 Lorain Rd., North Olmsted. Registration is preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. For more information or to register, contact Elaine, KC8FOS at ewilkinson1951@gmail.com. There will be a VE session held March 12th at the NOARS Winterfest held at Lorain County Community College in the John A Spitzer Conference Center, 1005 Abbe Rd N, Elyria, OH 44035. Please email Elaine – KC8FOS at ewilkinson1951@gmail.com to register.

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.

Important Links

ARRL Home: www.arrl.org

Find an ARRL Affiliated Club: www.arrl.org/clubs

Find your ARRL Section: www.arrl.org/sections

Find a License Class in your area: www.arrl.org/class

Find a License Exam in your area: www.arrl.org/exam

Find a Hamfest or Convention: www.arrl.org/hamfests

Email ARRL Clubs: clubs@arrl.org

The Ohio Section Youth Net



Youth Net

When: The second Sunday of every month at 7:30 PM EST

Where: The K8IV repeater located in Kent, Ohio (Echolink node K8BF-L) RF: 146.895 Mhz with PL 118.8

Who: Any licensed amateur radio operator who wishes to participate. Priority will be given to youth stations and those located in Ohio.

The purpose of this net is to encourage youth activity in amateur radio and to help new hams get more comfortable on the air.

*****Next Net is Sunday May 14th *****

Amateur Radio Ohio Vanity License Plates

This morning I wish to speak to an issue that has stuck in my craw for several years now and it's time all of us who either have or would like to have vehicle license plates with our call on them to push for a change in Ohio BMV regulations.

Some of you may not be familiar with a change in the regulation that happened several years ago. Amateurs now wishing to have a vanity license plate displaying your call are required to provide a copy of the FCC issued license upon application with the BMV. This not only applies for new applications, but for annual renewal as well. Notice that I said annual renewal. Yes, we are no longer permitted to renew for two years.

One issue with the regulations is the FCC no longer provides a hard or paper copy of the Amateur license, we need to download one from the FCC official web site. In addition, FCC directs that the only official record exists in their database. Imagine this scenario. An amateur receives a license or perhaps a renewal grant. He downloads the official copy and sometime later applies for an Amateur vanity plate at the local BMV. The FCC license grant is for 10 years. The license could be revoked and he still has the downloaded official copy with a 10-year grant. Since this is all that is required by the BMV, he would be issued Amateur vanity plates based on a no longer valid license. No one would know the difference.

My point here and my complaint is that this regulation as it regards to Amateur Radio fails to provide the desired fraud prevention that it was enacted to implement. Apparently, there was such fraud identified with other vanity plates that were identified with professional associations The BMV wished to prevent this from happening and the new regulation attempts to do so by requiring proof of membership or association with these groups including Amateur Radio. No, I am not suggesting we as Amateurs be exempt although that would be an excellent resolution to this problem. **However, the current regulation is pointless for us in light of the FCC statement indicating the only official record is the FCC database.**

It's time to make a change and I ask if you too feel the same, let's get some help from our attorney Hams and raise this issue with an Amateur friendly Ohio Representative. The current regulation fails to do what it was intended to do and places an extra burden upon us where it should not. If you agree with me, let's here your thoughts. Let's get something going and see this one kicked over the legislative goal post.

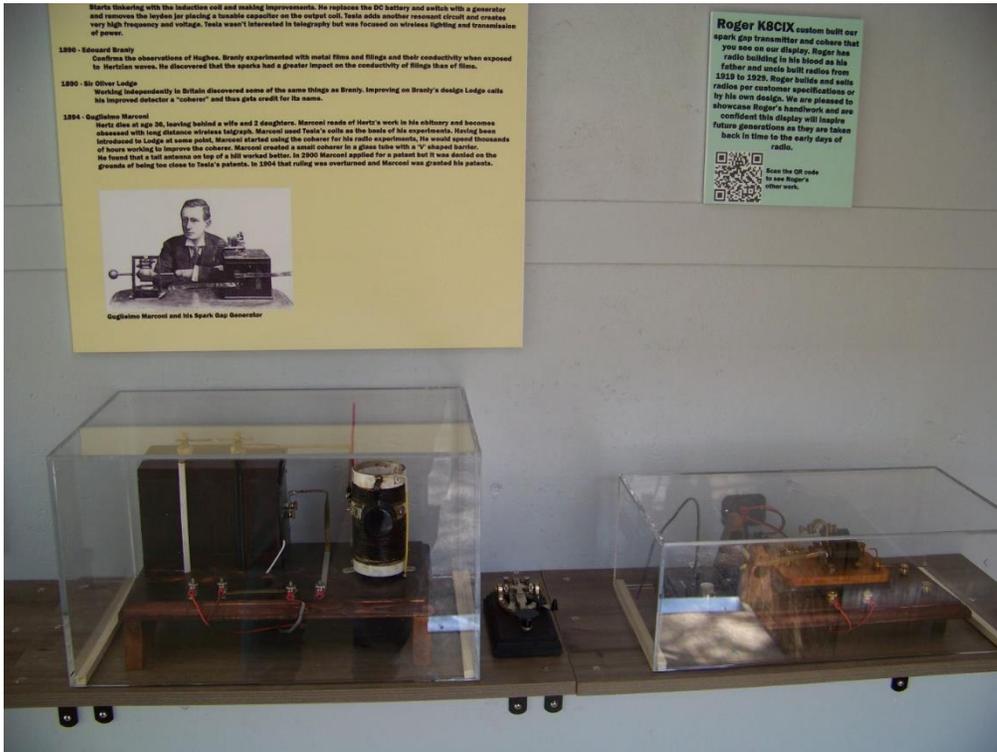
Thank you,
Jim W8ERW
w8erw@arrl.net



ATARA, All Things Amateur Radio Association’s STEM Trailer made its debut Saturday at Rising Park’s Seeds of Change event. The trailer, funded by the ARRL Foundation, gives families a hands-on STEM experience. Visitors can key a CW oscillator while learning about the history of Morse Code. There are three Snap Circuit stations set up for visitors to build an FM radio. A working replica of a Spark Gap Transmitter is also on display along with signage explaining the history of wireless technology and radios. There are display boards mounted on the walls addressing topics such as, the history of Morse Code, SDR, Raspberry Pi, Lightning protection, electromagnetic waves, and antennas. The trailer is equipped with a radio station including a telescoping mast and a ¼ wave vertical ground plane antenna. The trailer also has all the necessary equipment for youth to fox hunt.

The team had a great time helping families while they explored the trailer. It was exciting to see the children’s excitement as they keyed their name in Morse Code, built a FM radio, made a “spark” on the spark gap transmitter, and watched the waterfall on the radio station’s monitor. ATARA has plans to add more exhibits to the trailer and to continue to make improvements. ATARA would like to thank the ARRL Foundation for giving us this wonderful opportunity to reach youth and adults and show them the wonderful world of amateur radio!







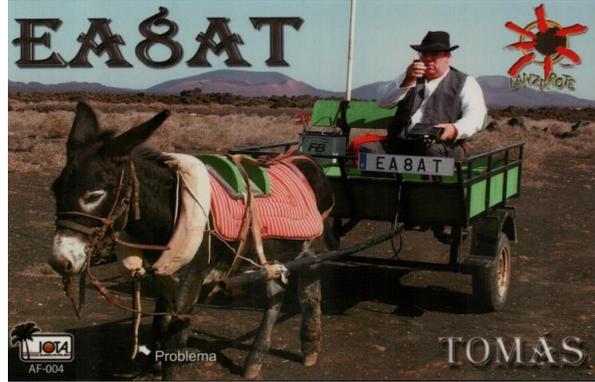
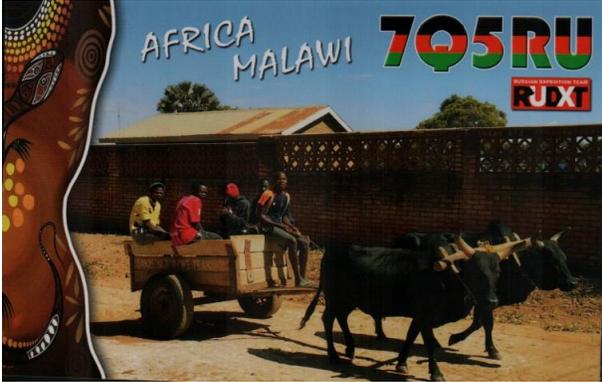
DX This Week – Why CW?

Bill AJ8B (aj8b@arrl.net, @AJ8B, or www.aj8b.com)
CWOPs Member #1567

This week I thought it would be great to review one of my favorite articles, Why CW? Rob gives a great discussion about Why we might consider CW. I have gotten great feedback in the past and I know you will enjoy it now.

I received several nice cards this week including 7Q5RU – The Russian DXpedition team of Malawi, EA8AT – Oscar in the Canary Islands, and ZR2A – Ulrich in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Let me know what you received.





DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH

One of our club members and a great guy, recently received recognition from a contest that he participated in. Ernie has the details:

The results are out for the December 2022 ARRL 160 Meter CW contest. I won first place in Ohio, in the Single Operator Unlimited, High-Power class. I also placed 3rd in the Great Lakes Division and 45th in the US/VE. I made 761 contacts over two nights for 101,728 points. Not my best score, but conditions that weekend were not great on 160.



The 160-meter station is an Icom IC-7610, Drake L-7 amp, and the antenna was an inverted "L" supported by my 30' tower and a tree.

Ernie W8EH

DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH

Why We CW? Rob Brownstein, K6RB

After more than 63 years of hamming – mostly CW – and seeing recent articles that predict a ham radio future that is largely digital and EMCOMM oriented, I feel compelled to weigh in. These days I frequently work people who were born years after I started pounding brass. Their frames of reference are certainly going to be different than mine. Their experiences on the bands, using different modes, are also going to be different. So, risking being called “an old fuddy duddy,” I want to make my case for why we do what we do, and why I don’t think we will end up in history’s dustbin anytime soon.



Each of us began our radio sojourn at different times and under different circumstances. Yet, here we are, in 2021, carrying on with Morse-encoded and decoded CW signals, just like I did starting in June 1958. Surely many things have changed since 1958. I have not read a paper newspaper in probably ten years. I have not watched a network TV show in probably 30 years. And I stopped reading paper books a few years ago and now read most everything on an iPhone or iPad. If you would have told me, in 1978, that I would be doing all these changes, I would have questioned what you are smoking or drinking. Yet here I am.

But, despite all these changes, I still get on the air, with a radio capable of sending and receiving CW signals, connected to an antenna, and engage in two-way exchanges with other people doing the same thing. Before I get to why I do so, let’s look at a capsule history of how we got where we are.

Some history

I’m not going to bore you with names and dates. Suffice it to say that near the end of the 19th century, we found that we could send encoded signals, wirelessly, to other places on the planet. Those first signals, by the way, were not the familiar tones we now hear. They were the familiar clicks that wired-telegraph telegraphers were used to hearing. A device called a “coherer” would, in the presence of an electromagnetic wave, change from high to low resistance, temporarily, and allow a current to close an



Marconi's wireless receiver, built in 1895.

Source: The Guglielmo Marconi Foundation: Historical Museum

electromagnet producing a “click.” It was very similar to the good old telegraph system except instead of wires; it used “radio” waves to make those clicks. And, instead of just one receiving operator hearing those clicks, many operators could hear those clicks at the same time. Wireless telegraphy was not focused on terrestrial applications. Wired-telegraphy already had that covered. Instead, it was focused on ship-to-shore, and ship-to-ship communications applications. Before radio, when a ship left port, and was no longer visible, it was incommunicado until it was sighted nearing another port. If it sank, no one knew unless survivors later were rescued and gave a recount of what happened. With wireless telegraphy, a ship could stay in communication even when it was no longer visible.

In the early 20th century, a UK inventor invented the first vacuum tube (a rectifier) called a “valve.” It was a diode that allowed current to flow in one direction only. Soon after a third electrode was added, and the device could now “enlarge” a current’s amplitude while preserving its time-varying characteristics. Like a photographic enlarger, this amplifier simply made the input signal larger but its “image” stayed the same.

Once we had diodes and amplifiers, it was possible now to dispense with broadband spark transmitters and coherers and replace them with electronic oscillator/transmitters and receivers. That’s when the familiar tones came into existence.

Like the wired-telegraph operators before them, wireless telegraph operators used hand keys to encode the CW signal. A manual key, as such, has an inherent limit to how quickly it can be keyed which in turn establishes a limit to how fast a message can be encoded and sent. The invention of the semi-automatic “bug” key helped to reduce fatigue and increase speed. Later, the invention of a fully automatic keyer further reduced fatigue and increased speed.



If you were to listen to a recording of a conversational QSO done in 1960 using tube-type gear and a keyer and compare it to the sound of a contemporary QSO using solid-state gear and keyer, you would hear very little difference. Thus, for at least 60 years, from a sound impression perspective, not much has changed.

What has changed, though, is the environment in which these CW signals are now sent compared to those sent in 1960. Our current environment is much noisier, electrically speaking, than that of 1960. And alternative means of communications abound compared with back then. In 1960, if I wanted to speak to my friend on the other side of town, my choices were to get on my bike and ride over to his house, or pick up my telephone, dial his number, and talk to him. If speed was of no consequence, I could drop him a letter or postcard. Today, I can email him, TXT him, do an audio/video call using Skype or WhatsApp. And here’s the best part, whether he is two miles away or 12,000 miles away, I can still do all of those same things.

So, why in the world would I want to acquire ham radio gear, put up an antenna, and attempt to communicate using Morse-encoded/decoded CW signals?

Some perspective

Going back say 200 hundred years, during a person's lifetime, not much had changed. You communicated locally by visiting someone, and you communicated over distance by writing a letter and mailing it. Most communication in those days, other than newspapers and town-hall meetings, were one-to-one, point-to-point communications.

With the advent of the telephone, that changed. If you could afford one, you could now talk, one-to-one with someone (if they had a phone) over a respectable distance. If they had no phone, though, you were stuck with traveling or writing a letter.

In the early 20th century, though, radio provided a means for one-to-many communications over large distances. At first there was a bit of chaos as radio was unregulated and hobbyists (hams) and commercial entities were contending for spectrum. The Federal Radio Commission (FRC), later superseded by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) imposed regulation over who could transmit wireless signals, and what frequency or frequency band they would have to use.

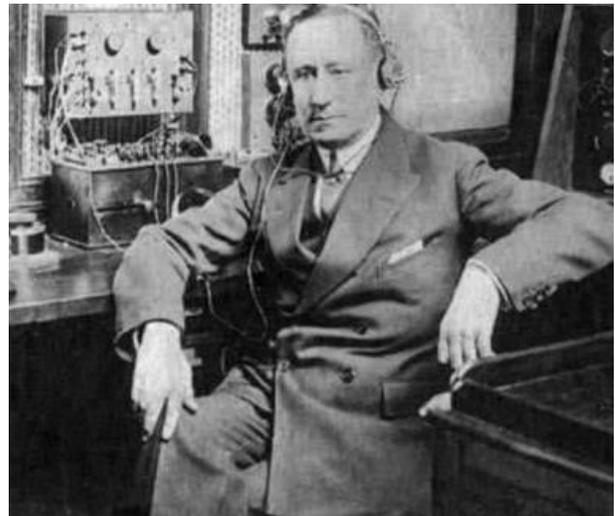
It did not take long for commercial radio networks to emerge and by the 1920s, radio programming in first-world countries was well at hand. In the 1930s, prior to World War II, radio was used to great effect by Churchill, Mussolini, Roosevelt, and Hitler. Never had a leader of a country had a means of communicating with huge groups of countrymen.

Meanwhile, the hobbyists (hams) who were given harmonically related spectra to play with first relied on Morse-coded CW signals and then began adopting voice-modulated techniques. The ham radio I encountered in 1958 had a lot of both – hams operating CW and hams operating AM phone. Because AM phone took up a lot more bandwidth than CW, the FCC and other IARU entities typically gave wider swaths of bandwidth to AM users than to CW users.

By the 1950s, some ham-radio use patterns began to emerge. CW operators and AM operators mostly engaged in two-way conversational activity but periodically events took place whereby participants competed to see how many quick-exchange QSOs could be made within a set period of time. The other big activity was trying to work as many hams in as many different countries as one could. The ARRL's DXCC awards were highly coveted.

From the 1950s until the mid-1960s, CW and AM were the primary modes although beginning in the early 1960s, suppressed-carrier single-sideband (SSB) transmissions began to grow. They had the advantage of higher power efficiency than AM and better spectrum efficiency, too. Furthermore, the problem of carrier interference from close-by AM stations was no longer an issue as the carrier was suppressed, not transmitted.

With increasing interest in SSB mode, and with the ability to use the same sub-systems for both transmitting and receiving, there was a surge in development of so-called "transceivers" where instead of using separate transmitter and receiver, one could use a single device for both. At first, transceivers were relatively expensive. But, with Heathkit's SB and HW series gear, prices



became much more palatable, and many more hams began trading in their separates and switching to transceivers.

Virtually all of these transceivers had both CW and SSB mode capability, but the popularity of SSB for DXing saw most mode switches sitting in the SSB position. Prior to the explosion of lower-cost transceivers, most European amateurs used CW mode because AM modulation was expensive and power inefficient. But once they had access to lower-cost US and Japanese gear, one saw a shift of European DX activity to SSB from CW, or, at least, equal measures of both. During this same period, the VHF and UHF bands, which had hardly been used also saw a surge in activity. On 2 meters, in particular, solid-state hand-held devices became a popular means for communicating locally by making use of a centrally located “repeater” that would receive and then retransmit a 2m FM signal. Coupled with increasing use of antenna-restricting HOA/CC&Rs in new housing in the US, people who may have been inclined to buy AM/CW gear and put-up antennas often moved on to other things or bought 2-meter HTs and became the so-called “shack on-a-belt” new hams.

Bringing us back to now

There is no question that ham radio is ageing. The average age of hams has increased inexorably since 1970. Those who see doom-and-gloom assume that as our generation moves on to that big ham shack in the sky, HF CW will become a footnote in a history book. And they may be right. But I’m not so sure.

First let me point out that in the late 19th century, with the shift from sailing vessels to steam engine vessels, people said sailing and sailboats would become historical artifacts. Consider this, though, today there are more boats with sails than ever before in our history. Today there are more people who know how to sail than there were 50 years ago.

In the mid-19th century virtually every item shipped across an ocean came by sailing vessel. Today, virtually no items are shipped by sailing vessel. Their use in commercial shipping is essentially zero. Yet, there are millions of sailboats and sailors. Why? Because it is a skill that is challenging to learn and enjoyable to practice. Hold that thought.

Ham radio was never a primary means of communications. It was always a hobby. It began with CW, then added AM phone, then added SSB phone, then added computer-generated digital modes. Although SSB activity appears to be waning and digital activity is swelling, CW activity seems to be holding steady or growing. This is particularly true for radio sport. When I sit down at my paddle, or bug, or J-38, I do not chide myself for doing something that is an anachronism in today’s world of global, hand-held communications capabilities. I do not weigh what it costs me to do a CW chat with some guy in Tokyo versus calling him on Skype or texting him. Of course, it is faster, easier, and more reliable for me to Skype or text him than to try working him with CW with QSB, QRM and QRN. So, why do I do it? Because acquiring the CW skills is a challenge and enjoyable to practice. Sound familiar?

More perspective

Except for Covid-19, there are still a lot of people that like to go ballroom dancing. There are people who like to ride horses. There are folks who go backpacking. Like those activities, to many people HF CW ham radio is just plain fun. Yes, you do have to work to acquire those skills, but once acquired, you can sit back and enjoy chatting, contesting, or chasing DX with your fingers.

Finally, one of the more recent ham-radio activities is Summits on the Air (SOTA), where people climb to the peak of a mountain, set up a portable antenna, and take out a small transceiver and proceed to work a bunch of people. Some of those people who climb or are worked are interested in collecting summits. Some of them just blunder into the mix and add a QSO. What a great way to combine the fun of exercise, being in the outdoors, and ham radio. But don't try that with digital because it means carrying a computer up there with you. And don't try that with SSB because, pound-for-pound, with the low power and greater bandwidth, the signal-to-noise ratio may limit how many QSOs you'll have. After nearly 10 years of advising CW Academy groups, my subjective finding is that at least 25 percent of the more than 200 students I have worked with came to CW by virtue of SOTA. My feeling is that when younger folks see the fun you can have using CW for SOTA, or radio sport, or just chatting (like texting), there will be some who will rise to the challenge of learning Morse and getting on the air. There may never be as many young hams as there were in my novice days of 1958, but I would not bet that HF CW will simply shrink to nothingness over time.

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Here is an update from Bernie, W3UR, of the DailyDX and the WeeklyDX, the best source for DX information. <http://www.dailydx.com/>. Bernie has this to report:

XU – Cambodia - XU7AKG (ZL3AIK), Captain Dave Taylor, says at the beginning of 2020 the "Telecommunications Regulator of Cambodia (TRC), stopped issuing new licenses or renewing existing licenses, citing a requirement that all HF transceivers have a Cambodian Type Approval. Seven resident amateurs have not been able to renew and no temporary visitor licenses have been issued. The "Cambodia Amateur Radio Group" has chosen the Yaesu FT-891 for its reasonable price and performance, to try to get that radio approved. Progress has been slow but the application is in. They are waiting for the government-approved importer, Borkeo, which they are required to go through. The "type approval" has now come through after two years of working on it. They are hopeful that license renewals and visitor licenses will come through soon too. The importer of the radios says it's looking good but finding a supplier is now a problem, since Yaesu says they cannot export to Cambodia.

ZD9 - Tristan da Cunha and Gough Islands - ZD9BV, Andy, informs he has "the antenna up again after such a long time" and that he was QR "last night but not much luck" as he only worked one station, from the Falkland Islands, on 20 meters CW. [Editor's note: It should be noted that ZD9BV was also reported on 15 meters CW (21.042 MHz) both Saturday and Sunday around 1800Z. I'll try to get more details.]

9Q - Democratic Republic of Congo - The Italian DX Team have announced their plans to activate 9Q during the first half of September 2023. The team includes IV3ZXQ, Maurizio;

I2PJA, Tony; I2YSB, Silvano; IK2CKR, Angelo; IK2HKT, Stefano; I1FQH, Franco; and I1HJT, Alfeo. They will be QRV on 1.8 through 50 MHz, yes Joe including 60 meters, on CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8 (always Fox/Hound). Plans call for five complete stations. For antennas they will have two Spiderbeams (5 bands), two hexbeams (6 bands), 30-meter loop, 5 element 6 meter Yagi, verticals for 160-40 meters and a dish for QO- 100. The pilot station for this operation can be emailed at idthpilot@gmail.com More details can be found at http://www.i2ysb.com/idth/index.php?option=com_content&view=featured&Itemid=101

VU7 – Lakshadweep - Earlier today the low band vertical was erected and there are plans to "spend more time on low bands the next 3 nights". Early on Friday, April 28th, Yuris will begin taking down the antennas as he departs early the following morning. Yuris also meet with VU3EBX, Aboobacker, the only local ham in the Lakshadweep Islands.

V6 - Federal States of Micronesia - JH1NBN, Yuki, has been working in Chuuk and QRV in his spare time as V6C. He took an IC-705 and a 5 meter long wire. He says conditions on 30 and 10 meters have been good. He is only running 10 watts. He will be departing tomorrow. QSL via JH1NBN (not his US call).

1S - Spratly Islands - As of early today 4F2KWT, Gilbert, was in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, Philippines waiting for the boat to take him to Kalayaan, Spratly Islands. All of his "gear is intact". He is scheduled to be QRV as DX0NE from April 30 to May 9. QSL via IZ8CCW.
<https://www.qrz.com/db/DX0NE>

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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!

Check out the WA7BNM Contest Calendar page (<https://www.contestcalendar.com/>) and CQ Magazine for more contests or more details. I also have a comprehensive list that can be imported to your calendar at www.aj8b.com/files

The contests in **red** are those that I plan to spend some significant participation time on. PLEASE let me know if you are working contests and how you fared.

Thanks!

Date(s)	Event	Info
All Year	CQ DX Marathon	http://bit.ly/3FyPiuI
May 1	AGCW QRP/QRP Party	https://www.agcw.de/contest/qrp-qrp/
May 3	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity	http://www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en/
May 4-5	MIE 33 Contest	http://www.ztv.ne.jp/isoda/33/index-e.html
May 6	Microwave Spring Sprint	http://bit.ly/3XM4RpW
May 6-7	7th Area QSO Party	http://ws7n.net/7QP/new/Page.asp?content=rules
May 6-7	10-10 Spring CW Contest	http://bit.ly/1FrFeBc
May 6-7	ARI DX Contest	http://www.ari.it/
May 6-7	Delaware QSO Party	https://www.fsarc.org/qsoparty/rules.htm
May 6-7	Indiana QSO Party	http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/index.html
May 6-7	New England QSO Party	http://www.neqp.org/rules/
May 6-7	SBMS 2.3 GHz and Up Contest and Club Challenge	
May 6-7	Veron SLP Contest	http://bit.ly/2L9eT1L
May 7	WAB 7 MHz Phone	http://bit.ly/31yE4kT
May 8	RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	http://bit.ly/3TxCrxl
May 10	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity	http://www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en/
May 13-14	Canadian Prairies QSO Party	https://cpqp.ve6hams.ca/
May 13-14	CQ WW Foxhunting Weekend	http://www.homingin.com/joek0ov/nfw.html
May 13-14	CQ-M International DX Contest	http://cqm.srr.ru/en/rules/
May 13-14	Volta WW RTTY Contest	http://www.contestvolta.it/
May 13-14	50 MHz Spring Sprint	http://bit.ly/3XM4RpW
May 17	RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	http://bit.ly/3TxCrxl
May 17	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity	http://www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en/
May 18	QRP Minimal Art Session	http://qrpsc.de/contestrules/mas/index.html
May 20-21	Arkansas QSO Party	https://arkqp.com/arkansas-qso-party-rules/
May 20-21	Baltic Contest	http://www.lrsf.lt/en/
May 20-21	His Majesty King of Spain CW Contest	http://concursos.ure.es/en/
May 20-21	NZART Sangster Shield Contest	http://bit.ly/3aviX6h
May 20-21	SARL VHF/UHF Digital Contest	http://bit.ly/H0IqQf
May 22	QRP ARCI Hoot Owl Sprint	http://www.qrpcontest.com/
May 22	RSGB FT4 Contest Series	http://bit.ly/3TxCrxl
May 25	RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	http://bit.ly/3TxCrxl
May 27-28	CQ WW WPX CW Contest	http://www.cqwp.com/

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.

SPRATLY ISLANDS. Gil, 4F2KWT will be QRV as DX0NE from Kalayaan from April 30 to May 9. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via IZ8CCW.

FIJI, 3D2. Cezar, VE3LYC will be QRV as 3D2LYC from Vanuca Island, IOTA OC-189, from May 1 to 5. Activity will be on 30 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

UGANDA, 5X. Pista, HA5AO is QRV as 5X2I from Busbala until May 10. Activity is on 40 to 6 meters using CW, some SSB, and FT8. QSL via HA5AO OQRS.

MALDIVES, 8Q. Kasimir, DL2SBY is QRV as 8Q7KB until May 7. Activity is on 30, 17, 12, and 10 meters using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4. QSL direct to home call.

PAKISTAN, AP. Members of the Pakistan Amateur Radio Society are QRV with special event call sign AP100TC until May 14 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Republic of Turkey. Activity is on 40 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4. This includes being active on Satellite QO-100. QSL via LoTW.

MOROCCO, CN. Special event station 5F15SIA is QRV until May 7 during the 15th International Exhibition of Agriculture in Morocco. QSL direct to CN8WW.

PHILIPPINES, DU. Jairus, 4F1DY plans to be QRV as 4F1DY/2 from Palawan Island, IOTA OC-128, from May 4 to 7. Activity will be on 20 and 15 meters using SSB. QSL via EA5GL.

GUINEA BISSAU, J5. Carlos, CT2GQA is QRV as J5JUA until the end of May. Activity is on 15 to 10 meters using mostly FT8. QSL to home call.

SAN ANDRES AND PROVIDENCIA, HK0. Operators PY8WW, PY7RP and PY7XC will be QRV as HK0/home calls from San Andres from May 4 to 11. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8, with a focus on the higher bands and 6 meters. Look for HK0/PY8WW to be QRV from Providencia, IOTA NA-049, from May 1 to 3. QSL to home calls.

OGASAWARA, JD1. Harry, JG7PSJ is QRV as JD1BMH from Chichijima, IOTA AS-031, until May 5. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and RTTY. QSL direct to home call.

WEST KIRIBATI, T30. Members of the Rebel DX Group are QRV as T30UN from Tarawa,

IOTA OC-017, until May 1. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, with multiple stations using FT8 in DXpedition mode. QSL via Club Log.

CORSICA, TK. Antonio, IS0JXO plans to be QRV as TK/IS0JXO from May 3 to 7. Activity will be on the HF and VHF bands using CW and SSB. This includes being active on Satellite QO-100. QSL to home call.

VANUATU, YJ. Michael, VK2BXE is QRV as YJ0MB. Activity is mostly on 40, 20, and 10 meters using SSB. QSL direct to home call.

NEW ZEALAND, ZL. Members of the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters are QRV with special call sign ZL100 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first Trans-Tasman amateur radio contact. QSL via operators' instructions.

Please see April QST, page 69, and the ARRL and WA7BNM Contest web sites for details

Upcoming Hamfests

We **DO** have some hamfests scheduled for 2023!! Yes, take a good look at the list, it's growing every day!



Ohio Hamfests

2023

05/07/2023 - [Lucas County Amateur Radio Emergency Service Trunk Sale and Swap Meet](#)

Location: Toledo, OH

Sponsor: Lucas County Amateur Radio EmergencyService

Website: <http://swap.lucasares.org>

[Learn More](#)

05/13/2023 - 05/17/2023 [RV Radio Network](#)

Location: Berlin, Ohio, OH

Type: ARRL Operating Specialty Convention

Sponsor: RV Radio Network

[Learn More](#)

Great Lakes Division Convention!!

05/19/2023 - 05/21/2023 [Dayton Hamvention](#)

Location: Xenia, OH

Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://Hamvention.org>

[Learn More](#)

05/27/2023 - [Scioto Valley Amateur Radio Club Hamfest](#)

Location: Piketon, OH

Sponsor: Scioto Valley Amateur Radio Club

[Learn More](#)

06/03/2023 - [FCARC Summer Hamfest](#)

Location: Wauseon, OH

Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club

Website: <https://k8bxq.org/hamfest>

[Learn More](#)

07/08/2023 - [Mansfield Trunkfest 2023](#)

Location: Mansfield, OH

Sponsor: Intercity Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://iarc.club>

[Learn More](#)

07/15/2023 - [NOARSFEST](#)

Location: Elyria, OH

Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society

[Learn More](#)

07/16/2023 - [Van Wert Hamfest](#)

Location: Van Wert, OH

Sponsor: Van Wert Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://w8fy.org>

[Learn More](#)

07/22/2023 - [Ashtabula County Hamfest 2023](#)

Location: Pierpont, OH

Sponsor: Amigos Radio Club Ashtabula

Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/arca-home/>

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OHIO'S



It's always good to start off the column with a positive footing and carry it throughout the column. After a week off from preparing a column, a number of pieces of "good stuff" have accumulated to share with you. So let's get started.



N8ZNR and my trip to Eastern Ohio to deliver a radio to a new home was the reason for no column last week. The radio was one I originally advertised in the OSJ's Swap column. So this proves that column does get results. Jerry Shore, N8SH, is now the proud owner of a classic SP600 receiver and reports that within two days of its delivery he had it playing. Then on Saturday, N8ZNR and I attended the **TUSCO ARA** Hamfest in Dover. We had never attended it before and found it better than expected. Especially after

learning COVID had caused it not to be held for the past two years and it was being held in a new location. It was good to see some long-time friends and meet some new folks. So it was a good weekend and road trip on many fronts. Plus I was able to bring home fresh liver and Amish area wine.

Another piece of good news from Brown County is the issuance of a new Technician ham license. Brian Edmisten of Georgetown recently passed his test and is now KE8YDQ. Let's all give Brian a big welcome.

The final virtual Spring Severe Weather training session conducted by the Wilmington National Weather Service Office will be on May 2 and there is still time to sign up for it. The Wilmington office still has a few in-person sessions on their schedule. Those are listed on the Wilmington NWS website.

If you currently have a Technician Amateur Radio License and are thinking of an upgrade to gain General license privileges, please remember the current General License pool is good only through June 30, 2023. As of July 1 a new pool of questions will be used for the next four years. With that said, several South 40 clubs offer frequent testing sessions and some may even offer assistance classes as the June date draws nearer. Between now and the end of June some of the clubs known to be holding exams are the **Portsmouth RC**, the **Milford ARC**, the **Southern Ohio ARC** and the **Lancaster Fairfield County ARC**. Contact your local club to find a testing location in your area.

Speaking of testing sites, the upcoming Dayton Hamvention will offer opportunities for one to gain their first license, or to upgrade an existing one, from 10 AM until 2 PM on Friday and Saturday, May 19 and 20. Tests will be conducted at the church across the street from the Hamvention site. These tests are conducted under the Laurel VE guidelines and thus there is no fee charged to take a test(s). Although those earning their first license will still be subject to the FCC license fee. However that fee is not collected by the VE team at the time of testing. There is no pre-registration and walk-ins are welcome. For more information, please check out the Hamvention website at www.hamvention.org. What could be a better souvenir of your trip to Hamvention than a new or upgraded license?

As you read this it's hard to believe that less than a month from now the 2023 Hamvention will be history. We've been informed the number of presale admission tickets sold are at an all time high and only a handful of inside vendor spaces remain. Another large tent has been ordered to take

care of the overflow expected from commercial vendors. It's been learned Kenwood and Tar Heal Antennas who were among those missing in the past couple of years have announced they will return this year. Lodging in the area is now rather difficult to locate. As for the flea market, a look at the sign up page indicates it too may soon be full. So look for another big crowd to descend upon Xenia on May 19-21 for the World's Largest Amateur Radio Operator gathering. Here's urging you to be one of those in attendance.

Bill Salyers, AJ8B says the tickets for the 38th annual **Southwest Ohio DX Association** DX dinner are going quickly as are the raffle tickets for the DX trip to the Turks and Caicos Islands.



The dinner and the drawing for the trip will occur during the Friday, May 19 DX dinner at the Dayton Marriott. A cash bar starts the evening's activities at 5:30 PM with dinner served at 7. Adrian Ciuperca, KO8SCA, will be this year's keynote speaker. Check out the www.swodxaevents.org website for more information and how

to order your tickets for either or both events.

Although not an official part of Hamvention activities, starting on Thursday, May 18, the World's Largest gathering of those interested in QRP and low power operations will begin at the Holiday Inn in Fairborn. The event is sponsored by the **QRP Amateur Radio Club International**. Many state this event's seminars, banquet and door prizes alone make a trip to Hamvention worthwhile. Find more information on www.qrparci.org.

Also during Hamvention the **West Chester ARC** will have the Voice of America Museum near Mason open for daily tours starting on Thursday, May 18 at 1 PM and continuing through Sunday at 5 PM. A Museum visit is highly recommended. Of special note is the recent renovation of the original WLWO transmitter that in 1942 made the first VOA broadcast to Europe. An admission is charged. It's a quick and easy drive from Xenia to Mason.



On Saturday morning, May 13 the **Bainbridge Area Ham Group** and the **Highland ARA** will each have their monthly breakfast gatherings. The Bainbridge group will meet at the Dutch Restaurant south of Bainbridge on SR 41 at 8 AM while HARA's Brunch Bunch anticipates having its return for the year to the Harmony Lake picnic shelter at Hillsboro's Liberty Park with its 10 AM gathering. For those Lancaster area hams choosing not to attend Hamvention, the **Lancaster Fairfield County ARA** will hold their monthly breakfast at the Lancaster Frisch's at 9 AM on the 20th.

Because Hamvention falls on the normal Saturday of the **Fayette ARA**'s breakfast gathering, they have decided to forego the May gathering for their members to make the trip to Xenia.

The next Elmer's Night for the **Scioto Valley ARA** will be on May 7 at the Scioto Trails Forest Clubhouse starting at 7 PM. Then on Thursday evening, May 18 they will meet at the Pike County

Airport for their monthly business meeting at 7:30 PM. And don't forget that on Saturday, May 27, they will hold a hamfest at the Pike County Fairgrounds in Piketon.

Thanks to Jennifer (N8JEN) and Michael (N8MRB) Bailey we've learned several Scioto County hams recently participated in the County's first haz-mat training exercise in several years. The drill consisted of a simulated accident and chemical spill. Most of the hams who participated are members of the **Scioto County ARES** and/or the **Portsmouth RC**.

For several years the **Athens County ARA** has provided communications and logistics support to committee sponsoring the annual Athens Marathon. To show their appreciation for this past support the outgoing committee recently made a totally unexpected and most generous contribution of funds to the ACARA. It is expected a portion of these funds will be used to make significant improvements to the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station at the Athens Red Cross.

If you can image cars racing through the service roads in Southern Ohio's state forests at speeds approaching 100 MPH, then the Southern Ohio Forest Rally might be something you have an interest volunteering your amateur radio skills for. Bill French, KE8AAL, says amateurs are needed to man check points along the routes through a city park and two state forests on June 8, 9 and 10. The courses will be through Chillicothe's Yoctangee Park on Thursday evening and then through the Zaleski State Forest near McArthur and the Shawnee State Forest at Portsmouth on the following days. Contact ke8aal@yahoo.com to learn how you can assist.



On the way back from our adventure to East Central Ohio last week Kathy and I made a stop at a large antique mall in the Columbus area. Imagine my surprise finding the items shown in the below photos.



I have heard there is a micro brewery in British Columbia that makes a beer they call DX.

Although Hamvention is still on the horizon, once it is over most clubs will start giving serious thought to Field Day activities. Some South 40 clubs have already taken steps to get the process underway with some already posting their information to the ARRL Field Day Locator. The **Lancaster Fairfield County ARA** will have their activity at the Central Ohio Coonhunters clubhouse at Carroll and the **Athens County ARA** has made arrangements to use the Athens County Fairgrounds. The **Highland ARA** will return to the Levo Century Farm near New Vienna and the **Cambridge ARA** will return to last year's location near New Concord. We note the **Southwest Columbus ARC** will operate from near Mt. Sterling. Our friends across the River at the **Tri-State ARA** will operate from the Tri-State Fire Academy in Huntington, WV. The **Queen City Emergency Net** will operate in Class F from the Cincinnati Red Cross Building. The **Scioto Valley ARA** plans to hold a picnic at their clubhouse during the weekend.

At the **TUSCO ARA** Hamfest I learned the official return of the always popular BreezeShooters Hamfest on June 4 at the Butler Farm Show Grounds in Butler, PA. Many in the Eastern reaches of the South 40 attend that show. I have attended this show several times. It is roughly a bit larger than the **Findlay ARA** show and always a good one. And talk about prizes! Information is available at www.breezeshooters.org. I also learned the annual Leavitt Car Show and Ham Radio Swap Meet will happen on September 16 at 801 Victor Street in Belpre. It runs from 10 AM until 3 PM with free admission and food plus door prizes. There will be a drawing for a Yaesu 891. Contact dana@leavittfuneralhome.com for more information.

The next Foxhunt in the Athens/Hocking County area will be the morning of May 13 according to Kirk, KC8JRV. Kirk states the fox will be located in Hocking County and those participating in the hunt are asked to follow the **Hocking Valley ARA's** Foxhunt Guidelines found at www.k8lgn.com.

We're going to close this time with some more good news and on a positive note with an announcement of Lawrence County's ham population increasing with two persons earning their ham license. Proctorville's Roland Craft II passed his Technician test and is now KE8YCP. And in Ironton Trevor Abner passed the Technician test and is now sporting the KE8YEN call sign.

That's it for another column. Here's hoping everyone remains safe and healthy and radio active.

And don't forget to do your civic duty on Tuesday, May 2. Visit your local polling location and cast your vote for the candidate(s) or issue(s) of your choice. Although there are not a large number of races or issues, every vote is important. Let's support all of those people who fought and died for our right to have a say in government and what goes on in our local communities.

John Levo, W8KIW, jlevo@cinci.rr.com or highlandara@gmail.com, 937-393-4951

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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](#)

One Question Questionnaire

Hey Gang,

Last weeks question **HAVE YOU EVER WON A MAJOR PRIZE AT A HAMFEST??**

With a total of 88 Responses: 15 (17%) said YES, and 73 (83%) said NO. Lots of Hamfests coming up in the Ohio Section – Good Luck!

The new question is:

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ON A TOWER ABOVE 50 FEET?

A) YES?

B) NO?

You’ll find the “One Question” questionnaire on the Ohio Section Website! <http://arrlohoio.org>
It’s all for fun and it’s not a scientific survey in any way, but we are learning some things that we



didn't know from these questions. I hope that you are enjoying answering these "One Question" questionnaires.

Final... Final

Too much good stuff here already! I'll save my comments for next week.

73,
Tom WB8LCD

"Swap & Shop" on the website

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. 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@arrlohio.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>



Ohio Section Cabinet

Section Manager – Tom Sly, WB8LCD	Section Emergency Coordinator – Bret Stemen, KD8SCL
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Section Youth Coordinator – Anthony Lascre, K8ZT	Public Information Coordinator – Elizabeth Klinc – KE8FMJ

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 to be added.



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://arrl-ohio.org/news/>



The pictures on the front page and throughout this newsletter are from various newsletters, Facebook posts and/or were sent directly to me in recent weeks. Take a good look at them, you just might be in one of the pictures! “SMILE... you’re in the Ohio Section News!!”

The Ohio Section Journal (OSJ) is produced as a comprehensive look at all the programs within the Ohio Section. I sincerely hope that you have enjoyed this edition of the OSJ and will encourage your friends to join with you in receiving the latest news and information about the Ohio Section, and from around the world!

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