



Ohio
Section
Journal

February 2023

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This is an exciting theme because we are confident it encompasses the world of Amateur Radio today in just one word. There are so many exciting innovations worldwide in Amateur Radio; we want to capture the spirit and expect to see many of these throughout the coming year, as well as presented at HV23. Will you be involved in an “Innovation!” with us?

From the Technical Coordinator
Jeff Kopcak – K8JTK TC
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Hey gang,
I finally did it. What would that be? Over the Christmas holiday, during my time-off, I cleaned and organized the shack. Unseasonably warm weather at the end of December made this job much easier. I don't know how many years I've been threatening to do this. PC problems kicked off the whole cleaning process and I (finally) upgraded to Windows 10. N8SY pointed out: shouldn't you be upgrading to Windows 11? Yeah, no.



Dust, dead bugs, miscellaneous parts from various projects, all the baggies, twist ties, and boxes are all cleaned up. Using small stackable plastic containers with lids (available at the local superstore) organized computer parts, Raspberry Pi parts, radio cables/accessories, and keep parts of a project together. Some time ago, bought a Power over Ethernet (PoE) network switch from a co-worker. Finally set that up and it's now powering my Cisco phone used for Hamshack Hotline, Hams over IP, and AmateurWire. In addition, gained more Ethernet ports as those were in short supply.

Parts of the shack were reconfigured. I wanted a spare/second power supply. Astron stopped making their desktop switching supplies with analog meters. I found an SS-30M with analog meters on QRZ and purchased it from a local ham. That supply will be used to power network radios for AllStar Link and Wires-X. An old laptop is put back into service running the Wires-X node, full time. Wires-X was previously running on the same PC I use for operating and I didn't want to keep that one running all the time.

I did much soul searching in regard to the shack PC. It is coming up on 10 years old. A Micro-ATX PC, Intel Core i5 4th generation (they're up to 12th gen), 16GB RAM, 128GB SSD, and Windows 7. Due to family commitments and as a result of the shack being declared a disaster (by me), I wasn't operating much the last 2-3 years. Most of 2022, I operated Winlink making few other contacts.

My intention was to get some operating time over the holidays and didn't plan to spend that much time redoing things. While operating, quickly remembered ongoing problems with the PC. Cluttered with apps I was testing or no longer used, miscellaneous documents from net reports or drills – these were the least of my problems.

It had serious audio issues. As someone who operates mostly digital on the HF bands, this is incredibly annoying. The Windows audio subsystem, at times, simply failed to start where a red X would be shown over the speaker icon in the system tray. This prevented any audio program from functioning. Rebooting once (or twice) would clear that issue.

Random receive cycles in WSJT-X (FT8) would not decode any stations. RX cycles before would decode fine, a number following would also be fine. The waterfall looked OK (not distorted).

However, at seemingly random times, there would be 0 decodes. I started to pray that a fresh install would clear these issues.

In recent years, I've been using smaller desktop form factor computers. Not needing to replace poor included motherboard peripherals (other than graphics cards, separate issue), [NVMe M.2 storage](#) (very fast solid-state drive), and use of USB devices, I don't need many full sized PCs. Included motherboard peripherals, like sound and Ethernet, are very good and don't need to be substituted with expansion cards as was the case 20 years ago. M.2 SSD storage comes in a very small form factor: 22mm x 30, 42, 60, 80, or 120mm with read/write speeds of 7,000-7,500 MBps. Good 2TB NVMe M.2 storage devices are available for \$150.

IBM had an excellent reputation for producing solid hardware. That soured a little when they were sold to Lenovo. I've had good luck with Lenovo devices at work compared to other vendors. Lenovo's ThinkCentre PC line are enterprise orientated machines offering mid-to-high specifications. Even though older models have reached end-of-life, Lenovo still releases BIOS updates. In comparison, most vendors release a new motherboard followed by maybe a handful of BIOS updates during its lifecycle. Continued BIOS updates address compatibility problems and patch exploits. I'm impressed their end-of-life PCs are still updated.



Lenovo ThinkCentre M900 Tiny (Lenovo)



M.2 Solid State Drive - 22mm x 80mm (Wikipedia)

I looked at and purchased "renewed" Lenovo ThinkCentre Tiny PCs from Amazon, an M900 & M910Q. Amazon renewed are pre-owned and refurbished PCs resold to keep E-waste down. There are condition guidelines published by Amazon. However, as I found out, quality is left to third-party sellers and varies greatly.

This form factor measures 1.36" x 7.20" x 7.05" weighing in at 1.3 lbs. (M900). Renewed M900 specs: Intel Core i5 6600T, 16GB DDR4 RAM, 512G SSD, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, and Windows 10 Pro 64 for \$422 (purchased late 2021). M910Q: Intel Core i7-6700T, 32GB RAM, 1TB NVMe SSD, DisplayPort, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and Windows 10 Pro

was \$349 (purchased mid-2022). They've come down quite a bit and are now \$180 and \$274 respectively.

While you get the chassis, motherboard, and CPU (presumably) from Lenovo, everything else is stripped from these renewed PCs. M900 had ADATA SSD and RAM, though a fairly well-known discount name they're not OEM parts. The M910Q came with a "KingFast" M.2 SSD. That's right, just KingFast – no model number. The M900 came with a Lenovo branded power supply while the M910Q came with an aftermarket supply that makes an audible sequel when powered. I suspect generates interference, too.

I've had issues restoring disk images to the KingFast drive – Acronis complains it can't read the drive at times. Both included a keyboard and mouse but they are no-name junk. These ThinkCentre's likely came with Wi-Fi cards from the manufacturer. Those cards are removed and substituted with USB dongles. While I am not using nor did I test any of the dongles, USB dongles for Bluetooth and Wi-Fi are generally bad only working acceptably at short ranges. Additionally, I cannot tell original configurations of these machines because service tags and serial numbers are removed.

Initially purchased these for Homelab projects (virtual machine hosts) and situations where I need a physical Windows machine when a virtual machine wouldn't cut it. Thought these might be a good replacement for the shack PC. After using them and seeing the poor choice of components, wouldn't trust these for much of anything. If one desired to go the route of renewed PCs, I would invest in known good replacement parts which adds to the cost. Additionally, the CPUs were only two generations newer than my existing PC. I scrapped the idea of using these or similar "renewed" PCs for my shack.

What about new? Brand new machines like these would be great solutions in a car, camper, mobile shack, or boat due to their small form factor. With regard to USB, I need a minimum of six USB ports. While USB specifications and devices are supposed to be compatible, in practice this is rarely the case. To avoid headaches, I require USB cables controlling essential and important components (Signalink, CI-V, mixers) be plugged directly into USB ports on the motherboard. I only use USB hubs for things I don't consider essential (radio/scanner programming cables, RTL-SDR dongles). ThinkCentre Tiny PCs have 4 USBs in the back and 2 in the front. That number isn't going to work for when I want to use additional devices.



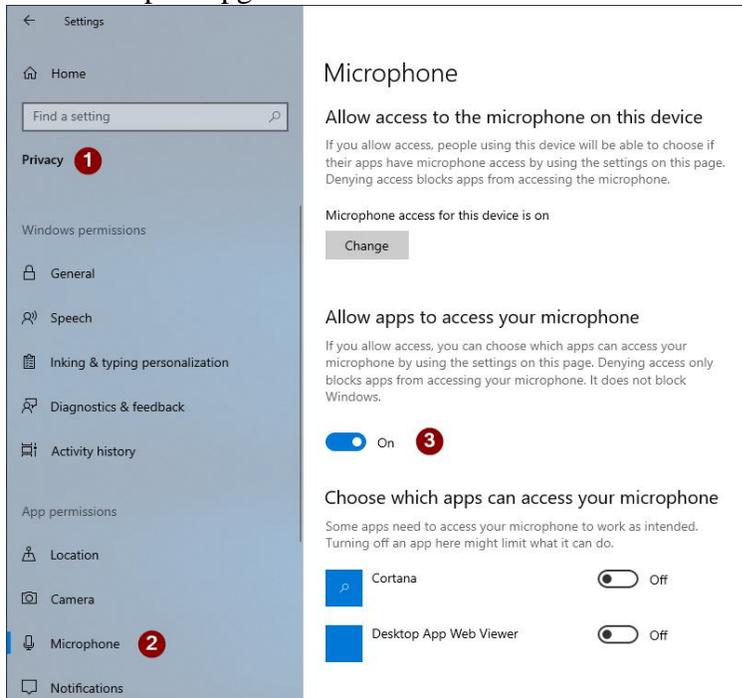
Beelink SEi8 Mini PC (Beelink)

I looked at Intel's Next Unit of Computing (NUC) offering and mini PCs from BeeLink. They too did not have a sufficient number of USB ports. Using more than one small form-factor PC would be another idea. Unfortunately, don't have room for another monitor and keyboard. If I ever found a quality keyboard, video, and mouse switch (KVM, or just the K and M), it may solve that. Also, power sources in the shack are becoming scarce. Not to mention current economic issues like higher prices, supply chain issues, shortages, and limited stock. I decided against a new PC until I discover better options or will revisit this when the economy rebounds.
HA!

Deciding to keep the same PC, it was wiped and Windows 10 – LTSC installed. No hardware upgrades were performed. There wasn't much debate for staying with Windows or going to Linux. Programs I use run natively on Windows, such as: radio programmers, scanner programmers, Winlink, Vara, Ham Radio Deluxe, and GridTracker.

Long-Term Servicing Channel (LTSC) is designed to keep the same functionality while not changing operating system features over time. LTSC is a decrapified version of consumer Windows 10, and it's from Microsoft. It has none of the advertising. No Microsoft Store. No Cortana (virtual assistant). Telemetry still exists based on configuration screens. I used Group Policy Editor and Registry Editor to [disable telemetry](#). A [Pi-Hole](#), or similar, can block tracking at the network level. Consumer support for Windows 10 [ends in 2025](#), LTSC is supported [until 2027](#). Note: people confuse LTSC with the IoT version of Windows 10. This is probably a Microsoft branding issue. They are not the same.

An LTSC license is expensive at \$210, or more. Though I did see a China based seller listing them for \$19!?!? - Caveat Emptor. I purchased through CDW. I'm willing to pay for bloat to be stripped from my Windows operating system. If you don't want to play the license, that version can be found by doing some digging. I tried a number of the ways to remove bloatware in consumer versions of Windows 10 with programs and random scrips found online in the past. Removed crap often returns as part of "feature updates." Windows 11 does not yet have an LTSC version and the reason I did not upgrade directly to 11, possibly released later this year. A clean install of Windows 10 resolved my audio issues and my WSJT-X decode issues are gone as well. On Windows 7, switching between or launching applications would cause hesitation in applications that were running in the background. Opening the browser would cause digital programs to stop transmitting for example. That too is gone in Windows 10. I am happy with the results post upgrade.



Allow apps to access your microphone for ham radio sound card programs

There are some important settings to note in Windows 10 related to ham radio sound card programs. I'm overzealous turning off access to things that don't need access. Most everything in Settings → Privacy I have turned off. Doing so prevented ham radio sound card programs from functioning correctly.

Programs such as: Echolink, Fldigi, DM780, FreeDV, WSJT-X, Vara, etc., etc., etc. Operating ham radio sound card programs in Windows 10 (and likely 11), Microphone access **must** remain enabled. Even though none of those programs are listed as accessing the microphone. While labeled Microphone, this setting prevents programs from accessing all sound input devices. These are input devices listed under the

Recording tab in Sounds. Programs like SDRs use output from one program as input for TX, a double whammy.

1. Close any programs using sound devices
2. Go to Start → Settings → Privacy (Privacy & security in Windows 11) → Microphone
3. Set “Allow apps to access your microphone” to **enabled/on**
4. Re-open programs that were using audio devices and sources

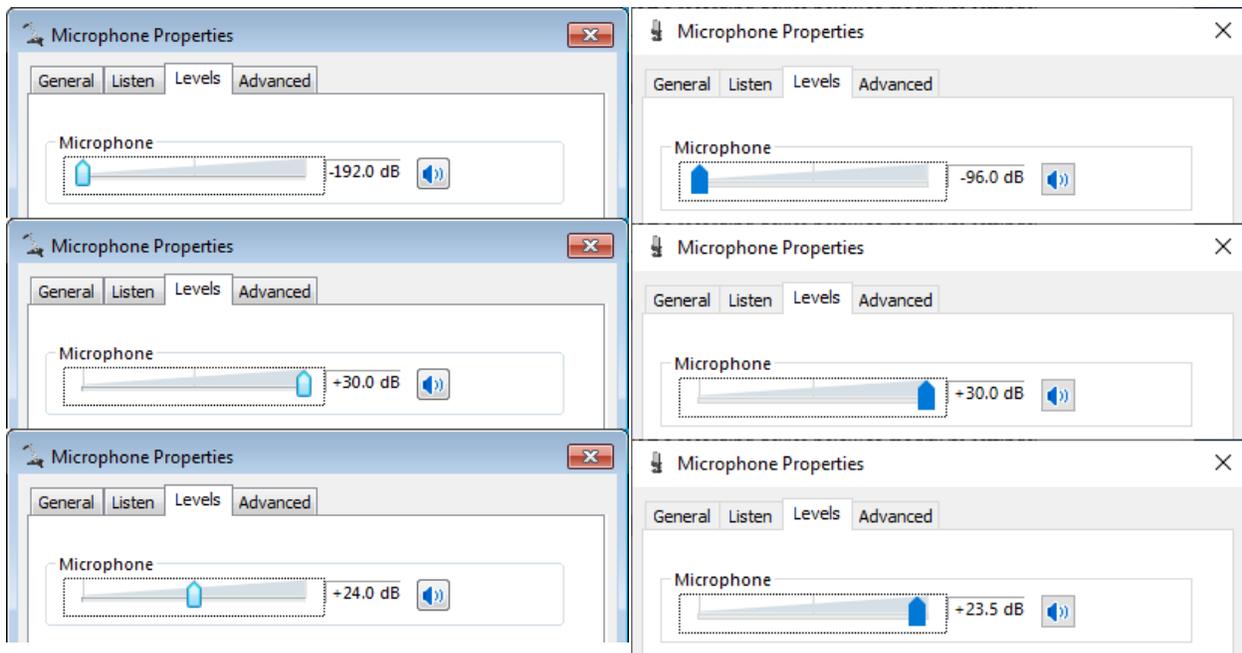
Sound card digital programs will now work. If there are still issues, move on to troubleshooting audio levels and verify correct audio sources are chosen in the respective program’s settings.

In Windows 7 and [my guide for settings levels when using ham radio sound card audio programs](#), I recommended setting levels to 50%, or half. Some pointed out manufacturers indicated to choose the decibel scale, not the percentage scale I was referring. None of the references said why users should use that scale over percentage. After all, the slider didn’t change switching between the two scales.

After doing some digging and testing, figured it out. Different versions of Windows use different scales - even for the exact same audio device. The 50% setting will likely be different between Windows 7 and Windows 10.

Used my SignalLink to obtain these dB ranges:

- Windows 7 – speaker (transmit audio): -128.0 dB to 0.0 dB
- Windows 7 – microphone (radio receive audio): -192.0 dB to +30.0 dB
- Windows 10 – speaker (transmit audio): -128.0 dB to 0.0 dB
- Windows 10 – microphone (radio receive audio): -96.0 dB to +30.0 dB



Different scales for a SignalLink USB microphone device on Windows 7 (left) and Windows 10 (right)

In this case, speaker ranges are identical with -10.5 dB being 50% for both operating system versions. However, microphone input at 50% on Windows 7 is +24.0 dB. On Windows 10,

+24.0 dB is roughly 96%. A wide variation and I noticed the level difference right away. Understanding this helped me translate my audio settings from Windows 7 to 10. I did find a Microsoft Learning document explaining [Default Audio Volume Settings](#) pointing out the differences in different versions of Windows.

I am very happy the shack is no longer a DMZ. My sound card digital programs are working again and I have a clean desktop install – for now, lol. Haven't yet been consistently operating due to work and family commitments. When you do find me on the air, I'll be (likely) logging contacts for [Volunteers On The Air](#).

I would like to formally welcome the newest member of the Technical Specialists group, Ronald – NQ8W. He comes to us with a number of ETA International certifications in electronics, computers, and wireless communication. Ron is a former Master Electrician with degree in Mechanical Drafting. He obtained his GROL and has Emergency Communication certifications. When I talked with Ron a while ago, he was very pleased with the work of our Technical Specialists and wanted to give back with his skills. Welcome to the group!

Speaking of the Specialists. Earlier this month, I was invited to be the guest speaker at the [Cuyahoga County ARES](#) meeting. The topic: me, the Ohio Section Technical Coordinator. Not long before I was appointed Technical Specialist, I had no idea there was a technical organization at the section level. After being appointed TC, a group in Columbus asked for me to speak about 'what does the TC do?' Out of that came an opportunity to educate hams about the ARRL Field Organization and the work of our Technical Specialists. I had a great time at the Cuyahoga ARES meeting. There was plenty of discussion on technical topics and RFI stories (I cover troubleshooting techniques) after the presentation. If your group would like to know more about the technical and experimentation side of the Ohio Section, send me an E-mail.

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

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

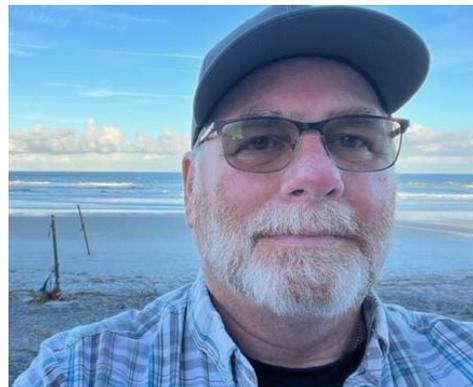
From the Section Emergency Coordinator

Bret Stemen – KD8SCL EC

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ARES Simplex Contest Results

The 2023 ARES Simplex Contest final results are in. I am pleased with the results.



This is a great way to test your equipment for proper operations and what your equipment is capable of. Think about setting up an exercise for your local group to test your simplex capabilities within your county.

Thank you to those of you that took the time out of your busy schedule to participate in the contest and your comments.

Here are the final results.

Participants: 38

ARES Leaders: 11

Counties: 19

QSO Points: 3305

Contacted Counties: 247

Hours of Operation: 146

ARES Leader Contacts: 97

EOC Contacts: 89

APRS Ops: 7

Portable Ops: 5

Rover Ops: 8

Total QSO Points: 39,525

Top 10 points:

1. K8GQB, Columbiana Co. 10,656
2. KD8EZI, Medina Co. 4,769
3. W8Z, Rover. 2,966
4. N8XC, Preble Co. 2,774
5. W8MAL, Rover. 2,200
6. N8ESG, Rover. 1,792
7. WD8LEI, Wood Co. 1,099
8. WO3X, Summit Co. 1,043
9. AB8M, Cuyahoga Co. 826
10. KE8QEP, Portage Co. 800

Top Score: K8GQB – 10,656 pts

Top Rover: W8Z – 2,966 pts

Top EOC: W8WOO – 4,070

Top Portable: KE8OTQ – 192 pts

Top Fixed: K8GQB – 10,656 pts

Thanks again for everyone's support and contribution to the Ohio Section ARES and amateur radio, your contribution is a valuable asset to the section.

In other news:

NVIS Day will be April 22nd, mark your calendars and start planning with your local clubs and ARES groups, we are planning on activating the SARGE. For more information, <http://www.arrl-ohio.org/SEC/default.html>, look for NVIS Day.

New Hams:

I would like to express my sincere congratulations to all the new hams that have recently passed their exams received their license.

Have you been on the air yet or checked into a local net?
Have you gotten involved with your local club and/or ARES group?

It does not take much to get on the air the first time. All you need to start is an HT and the proper programming for your local repeaters (may have to upgrade the rubber duck antenna) depending on your area, this is where joining a local club and/or ARES group will be beneficial. Most VE teams will offer information about the local club and ARES group and some clubs will even offer up to a 1 year of free memberships to you. This is a great place for you to meet other hams and to create new friendships as well as getting advice and information from experienced hams. Depending on your budget, you can get advice on an upgraded HT, mobile radio, antennas and other equipment that might be interested in when building or creating your ham shack. Most clubs will have "How To" or informational programs at the end of their meetings, these programs are great way to learn something new and a refresher for others.

A great example is, one of our counties recently had an event and there were a couple of new hams that participated and only had an HT, they were able to communicate on a simplex frequency during the event to net control and others along the course.

If you are not sure how to check in to a local net, all you have to do is listen to the net and follow instructions. Don't be afraid to check-in to the net or talk to another ham on local repeater. Don't be afraid to ask questions, there is no such thing as a dumb or stupid question.

Current club and ARES members, please be sure to talk with the new hams, encourage them and mentor them anyway you are able to and encourage them to get involved with club and ARES activities.

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. Most clubs aren't sending directly to me, yet. Please send them to ke8fmj@gmail.com. The good news is that others are kindly forwarding them to me. However, you do not want to miss out on the contest, so please be sure to add me to your mailing list.

A topic of discussion that happens often in clubs is how to keep Ham Radio relevant. A lot of our population is getting older. We keep looking for ways to recruit new members and the younger generation. A lot of talking happens; sometimes, good ideas are even presented. How often do we see these ideas implemented, though? How many clubs have seen a significant growth or can feel that they are making a big difference with amateur radio? It has been especially difficult lately with the pandemic and restrictions put upon us on meeting. Even I, personally, have lost a lot of good people and friends lately in our shared hobby.

Among all this I recently received an email from a PIO wishing to share his club with me. To say I was impressed is an understatement. We should all strive to reach this level of involvement. Please allow me to share this club with you now by relaying part of the email.

From Jim Breibach, KE8SWY, PIO of All Things Amateur Radio Association (ATARA):

Who is ATARA? ATARA is a highly active amateur radio club based in Lancaster, OH. As our name implies, we are about always learning and exploring any segment of amateur radio that interests our members. We are a relatively new, and ARRL affiliated club. We started in June of 2021 with just a handful of hobby enthusiasts and are about to pass the 50-member mark as our club continues to grow rapidly.

Our club was started with the foundation and framework to include youth, minorities, and non-licensed individuals alike to share and enjoy the hobby of amateur radio. ATARA has an official Outreach group lead by two female club members, we have a youth lead Social Media Coordinator (SMC) position that will be sharing aspects of our club meetings and events on social media; including live video segments.

We have an off-grid team that is in a constant state of training and readiness including many field events performed without the use of commercial power. We setup OFF-GRID for both winter and summer field day and will be celebrating our club mascot Cliff's birthday at each summer field day. We have well planned educational segments at the start of every club meeting where a subject matter expert (SME) either from the club or as a guest speaker shares their knowledge of something related to ham radio. Our SMC will start sharing these educational segments live soon.

We have a Training director that offers frequent technician class trainings and will soon be offering training for the general class. We have qualified emergency response and first aid trainers that offer classes and trainings to the club. We have an exceptional Volunteer Examiner team that offers testing the second Tuesday of each month.

Our Elmer program helps old and new hams in passing years of knowledge to all who wants. This program includes all aspects of Ham Radio and making sure that each member of ATARA and beyond knows that they have an arm of ATARA to grow their hobby.

We have a Public Information Officer (PIO) that puts together a well thought out newsletter that is shared on multiple partner sites. We have a safety officer that presents relevant safety topics at each meeting and supports our public events.

Early this summer, after becoming aware of the grant opportunities from the ARRL Foundation, the All Things Amateur Radio Association put together an exploratory committee to review the grant opportunities available from the ARRL. We evaluated each possible segment against our current capabilities. Our committee believed that we could leverage the opportunities of the Grant funds in the STEM Learning and Outreach category to become a force multiplier and

transform our outreach and benefit to the youth and adults at the events we already support and other groups that we believe our project would help us reach. We currently have fourteen planned community events on our calendar with outreach already occurring or planned for homeschool groups, scouts, after school organizations and the like for additional educational events with our project.

Please join me in congratulating ATARA on their many achievements in a relatively short time span. A strong positive amateur radio story is just what we need to promote our hobby to the fullest. If there are any other clubs within the Ohio Section with any success stories such as these, I would love to hear them. Let's share all ideas with each other on how to really promote and make relevant our shared love of ham radio.

73,

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*From the Section Youth Coordinator
Anthony Luscre, K8ZT - SYC
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I Have a Mission for You!

GLHOTM- Get a Local Ham On Ten Meters

I need your help. I want you to help a local ham find some Amateur Radio fun and enjoyment this month. If you have a working HF station, you can help me. Here are the steps:

1. Find a Technician or inactive General or Extra Class Licensee that has not tried HF (High-Frequency) Bands of Amateur Raio



2. Invite them to your house next weekend (any time between 7:00 PM Friday, March 3 and 7:00 PM Sunday, March 5th). Don't worry; there will be plenty of activity with the ARRL International DX Contest.
3. Identify the portions of the band(s) that they can operate SSB Voice with their license.
 - a. Technicians- 28.300 to 28.500 USB (keep dial below 28.496 to ensure your full signal is in the band). Don't worry that only 10 Meters is available, as the band has been open and doing gangbusters (see chart below with 10M DX contacts since Jan 1, 2023)
 - b. General- see chart to the right
 - c. Extra Class- see chart- tiny.cc/chart-maps
4. Explain to them how the following work (see links for help with each one if needed):
 - a. HF Contacts- tiny.cc/bghfvhf
 - b. Contest Contacts- tiny.cc/arcontest
 - c. ARRL International DX Contest & Exchange (Exchange is your state)- contests.arrl.org/ContestRules/DX-Rules.pdf
 - d. Your Radio
 - e. Contesting Logging Software (or use paper and pencil)- tiny.cc/n1mmfd
 - f. Tips for making contacts- tiny.cc/r-r-d
5. Help them by demonstrating a contact with your call sign and then encourage them to make a contact with their callsign*.
 - a. Show them how to tune in DX station calling CQ (using a DX cluster or N1MM's Telnet and Band Map can be a great help here)
 - b. Explain when they should call and what they should say
 - c. Explain how they need to respond with their exchange
6. Repeat and Have Fun!!

General Class Band Allocations SSB		
Band	Phone	
10	28.3000	28.9000
15	21.2750	21.4500
20	14.2250	14.3500
40	7.1750	7.3000
80	3.8000	4.0000
160	1.8000	2.0000

Ten Meters

I called this mission “**GLHOTM- Get a Local Ham On Ten Meters**” for a few reasons:

1. That is the only HF Band that Techs can use Phone (SSB)
2. Ten Meters has been open and very hot the last few months
3. I have a new presentation- “10 Meter Band Fun For All” that I would happily present to your local club.



You can also catch the presentation at the [QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo](#) or [Toledo Mobile Radio Association Hamfest](#) on March 19th. You can view the slideshow of the presentation here- tiny.cc/1omband.

As I mentioned, 10 Meters has been hot. During last weekend's CW version of the ARRL International DX contest, I worked 80 countries on 10 Meters with my 5-watt signal. Below is a table of contacts I have made on 10 Meters (again with only 5 watts) since the beginning of 2023.

122 DXCC Worked on 10 Meters 52 Days (Jan 1 to Feb 21, 2023) 5 Watts							
3B9	RODRIGUEZ IS	EA8	CANARY IS	J8	ST VINCENT	SP	POLAND
3C	EQU. GUINEA	EA9	CEUTA & MELILLA	JA	JAPAN	SV	GREECE
3D2-F	FIJI	EI	IRELAND	K	UNITED STATES	TA	TURKEY
3X	REP. OF GUINEA	ER	MOLDAVIA	KH6	HAWAII	TF	ICELAND
4L	GEORGIA	ES	ESTONIA	KL7	ALASKA	TG	GUATEMALA
4O	MONTENEGRO	EW	BELARUS	KP2	VIRGIN IS	TI	COSTA RICA
5B	CYPRUS	F	FRANCE	KP4	PUERTO RICO	UA	EUROPEAN RUSSIA
5Z	KENYA	FM	MARTINIQUE	LA	NORWAY	UA0	ASIATIC RUSSIA
6Y	JAMAICA	FR-R	REUNION	LU	ARGENTINA	UA2	KALININGRAD
7Q	MALAWI	FS	SAINT MARTIN	LX	LUXEMBOURG	UR	UKRAINE
7X	ALGERIA	G	ENGLAND	LY	LITHUANIA	V2	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
8P	BARBADOS	GD	ISLE OF MAN	LZ	BULGARIA	V3	BELIZE
9A	CROATIA	GI	N. IRELAND	OA	PERU	V5	NAMIBIA
9K	KUWAIT	GJ	JERSEY	OD	LEBANON	VE	CANADA
BV	TAIWAN	GM	SCOTLAND	OE	AUSTRIA	VK	AUSTRALIA
C5	GAMBIA	GU	GUERNSEY	OH	FINLAND	VP2-E	ANGUILLA
C6	BAHAMAS	GW	WALES	OL	CZECH REP.	VP2-V	BRITISH VIRGIN IS
CE	CHILE	HA	HUNGARY	OM	SLOVAK REP.	VP5	TURKS & CAICOS IS
CN	MOROCCO	HB	SWITZERLAND	ON	BELGIUM	VP8-F	FALKLAND IS
CO	CUBA	HB0	LIECHTENSTEIN	OX	GREENLAND	XE	MEXICO
CT	PORTUGAL	HC	ECUADOR	OY	FAROE IS	YL	LATVIA
CT3	MADEIRA IS	HH	HAITI	OZ	DENMARK	YO	ROMANIA
CU	AZORES	HK	COLOMBIA	P4	ARUBA	YU	SERBIA
CX	URUGUAY	HL	SOUTH KOREA	PA	NETHERLANDS	Z3	MACEDONIA
D4	CAPE VERDE	HR	HONDURAS	PJ2	CURACAO	Z6	REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO
DL	GERMANY	HZ	SAUDI ARABIA	PJ4	BONAIRE	ZB2	GIBRALTAR
DU	PHILIPPINES	I	ITALY	PY	BRAZIL	ZD7	ST HELENA IS
E7	BOSNIA-HERZ.	IS0	SARDINIA	PZ	SURINAME	ZF	CAYMAN ISLANDS
EA	SPAIN	J5	GUINEA-BISSAU	S0	WESTERN SAHARA	ZL	NEW ZEALAND
EA6	BALEARIC IS	J6	ST LUCIA	S5	SLOVENIA	ZP	PARAGUAY
				SM	SWEDEN	ZS	SOUTH AFRICA

* Please note under the current rules of ARRL, the operator making the second contact may not be eligible to send in a log due to the following rule-

- "STTN.1. A transmitter used to contact one or more stations may not be subsequently used under any other call sign during the contest period, except
 - a) for family stations where more than one call sign has been issued, and then only if the second call sign is used by a different operator.
 - b) for remote stations used by individual amateurs that have limited or no access to their own stations."
 - This rule does not permit any operator to use multiple call signs at the same station to manufacture contacts to another station in the contest
- Full rules- <https://contests.arrl.org/ContestRules/DX-Rules.pdf>

That's it for this month; I hope to work you on the air soon, maybe on 10 Meters!

73,

Anthony, K8ZT (k8zt@arrl.net)

From the Section Traffic Manager

David Maynard, WA3EZN – STM

wa3ezn@att.net



See what you can do with an Amateur Radio license

You probably are or will start with a Technician license. An amateur service license is normally granted for a 10-year term.

The first thing you need to remember is that having a ham license is just getting the U.S. Government approval to transmit on certain frequencies set aside for Amateur Radio use, and find out what you CAN and CANNOT do. It used to be a requirement to have a copy of the FCC Part 97 rules at the each operating location.

Getting a ham radio license is not difficult. It's not very different than getting a state driver's license or pilot's license. It's simply permission to go forth and do all sorts of things, as long as you don't break these rules: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-47/chapter-I/subchapter-D/part-97>. The rules are to numerous to list here but here is an important one:

§ 97.119 Station identification.

Here is part of what the rules say. "Each amateur station, except a space station or telecommand station, must transmit its assigned call sign on its transmitting channel at the end of each communication, and at least every 10 minutes during a communication, for the purpose of clearly making the source of the transmissions from the station known to those receiving the transmissions. No station may transmit unidentified communications or signals, or transmit as the station call sign, any call sign not authorized to the station."



DRAKE TR-22 *Versatility plus!... in a*
2 Meter FM Transceiver

Over-the-shoulder, mobile, or at home
Completely transistorized, compact, portable
Capacity for 6 channels. Built-in telescoping
antenna, and connector for external antenna.
Use barfoot or w/ht accessory amplifier. Ex-
ternal 12 VDC or internal Ni-Cad batteries,
built-in 120 VAC battery charger.

Complete with: Dynamic Mic, 0-10 Carving Cw, 126 VAC and 12 VDC Cords, Speaker! Headphone Plug and 10 Ni-Cad Batteries.

\$199.95 Amateur Net

AK-22 Amplifier \$149.95
MK-22 Mobile Mount \$2.95
881-T-1440 Waiver Act \$27.95

R. L. DRAKE COMPANY  **DRAKE** 540 Richard St., Wrentham, Ohio 43342
Phone: 613-866-2421 • Telex: 288617

GENERAL: • Freq. coverage: 144-148 MHz • 6 channels, 3 supplied • Push-to-talk Xmit • DC Drain: Rev, 65 mA Xmit, 450 mA • Size: 5-3/8" x 2-5/16" x 7-1/8", 3-3/4 lbs.

RECEIVER: • Transistorized crystal-controlled superhet • 1st IF: 10.7 MHz, 2nd IF: 455 kHz • Ant. Input Imped: 50 ohms • Sensitivity: 3 µV or less @ 20 dB S+N • Audio Output: 0.7 W • Built-in speaker.

TRANSMITTER: • RF Output over 1 W • Freq. Dev. adj. to 15 kHz/min., factory set to 5 kHz.



1971 Drake TR-22 Crystal controlled 2 meter hand held radio

Most technicians first radio will be a 2 meter hand held radio. What can I do with a 2 meter radio? The 2-Meter Amateur band frequencies are reserved for the exclusive use of those licensed in the United States by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as Amateur Radio Operators or "Ham Radio Operators". Ham radio operators use the 2-meter band for general conversations as well as for emergency communications.

While listening to the 2-meter ham band you can expect to hear normal conversations or "rag chew" as the hams call it. You may also hear a ham operator on his way home from work asking his wife if she needs anything from the store. You may hear a ham operator reporting a traffic accident and requesting emergency services.

You may also hear ham radio operators providing on the scene emergency communications during times of disaster. Often you will hear a ham operator reporting on conditions long before the general public has been advised of the situation via the normal news media. Even before you hear the information listening to a police or emergency services scanner you may have already heard about the situation if you are monitoring the 2-meter ham band.



Here is a comparison of the change in the size and operation of 2 meter “hand held” radios. The one on the left is a Drake 12 channel TR-22 crystal controlled radio. The one in the middle is a Yaesu FT-727R programmable 2 meter 440 radio. Neither radio had CTCSS capabilities. The one on the right is a Wouxun KG-UVD1P programmable 2 meter 440 radio with both touch tone and programmable CTCSS tones.

How does the 2-Meter Amateur Radio Band work?

In most communities, the local Ham radio operators own and maintain repeaters on the 2-meter band, which assists their communications by increasing the distance that they can communicate with each other while still maintaining the quality of an FM transmission. These repeater stations are located in high locations such as mountaintops or tall buildings in the big cities and consist of a powerful transmitter and a high-gain antenna allowing Ham operators to extend their coverage areas, often as much as 200 miles or more. These stations often have alternative forms of power such as generators, solar power and batteries, which keep them in operation when the commercial power supply has been discontinued due to weather or other disasters. Individual ham operators have also found alternative power sources for their equipment so that they can operate even when there is no commercial power available.

Ham radio operators are very inventive in their approach to communications and can often find a way to communicate when normal communications such as cell phones have been interrupted. As an example, Ham radio operators have been able to make phone calls using the 2-meter band for many years before the invention of the cellular telephone.

More information about the 2-Meter Amateur Radio Band.

Because it is local and reliable, and because the licensing requirements to transmit on the 2-meter band are easy to meet in the United States and many other countries, this band is the most popular Amateur Radio band in the United States. The 2-meter band is often the band on which Ham radio operators make their first contacts.

Obtaining a Ham operator's license consists of taking a simple test containing 35 questions covering such topics as operating procedures, rules and regulations and some minor electronics theory. It is no longer required to pass a Morse code test to be licensed to operate on the 2-meter or any amateur radio band. 2-meter radio equipment is also very affordable and can be as simple as a small hand held transceiver or a powerful base or mobile transceiver.

This popularity also means that it is the most often used band for emergency communications such as providing emergency communications between Red Cross shelters and local authorities. Many neighborhood disaster relief organizations use the 2-Meter Amateur Radio band for their official communications during times of emergency.

To learn more about 2-Meter Ham radio and what is required to obtain a license contact the ARRL (American Radio Relay League) at <http://www.arrl.org>. They can provide you with local contacts for training classes in your area and test dates and locations. Your local Amateur Radio Club members will also assist you in all aspects of obtaining your license including what type of equipment you need to get started. You will discover that Ham radio operators are a great bunch of people. They provide this irreplaceable public service for free.

What is the 2-Meter Amateur Radio band anyway?

According to Wikipedia, "The 2 meter amateur radio band is a portion of the VHF (very high frequency) Spectrum, comprising of frequencies stretching from 144.000 MHz to 148.000 MHz." These communications are generally FM or frequency modulated transmissions although

some operators do operate using SSB (single sideband) or CW (Morse code). These modes of operation allow for longer distance communications without the use of repeater stations.

More information about the 2-Meter Amateur Radio Band.

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The 2-Meter Amateur band frequencies are reserved for the exclusive use of those licensed in the United States by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as Amateur Radio Operators or "Ham Radio Operators". Ham radio operators use the 2-meter band for general conversations as well as for emergency communications. Ham radio operators are often the first called upon to assist in major disasters with communications between the public and emergency services such a law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services. The American Red Cross has recognized that the 2-Meter Amateur band is a very effective way of providing communications during times of emergency and Ham radio operators provide 90% of the coordination efforts during a major emergency. During an emergency a 2-Meter band receiver could save your life or that of a loved one.

To learn more about 2-Meter Ham radio and what is required to obtain a license contact the ARRL (American Radio Relay League) at <http://www.arrl.org> or call (860) 594-0300. They can provide you with local contacts for training classes in your area and test dates and locations. Your local Amateur Radio Club members will assist you in all aspects of obtaining your license including what type of equipment you need to get started. You will discover that Ham radio operators are a great bunch of people. They provide this irreplaceable public service for free.

OHIO VHF TRAFFIC NETS

OHIO 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
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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 serving Hamilton Ohio and surrounding areas
TCTNTri-County Traffic and Training Net serving North East Ohio

Above is a list of radiogram traffic nets held on local repeaters. Generally all licensed hams are welcome to check into these nets. If I were you I would listen to several net in your area to learn how they work.

So, what else can you do? The Technician license gives **access to all Amateur Radio frequencies above 30 megahertz**, allowing these licensees the ability to communicate locally and most often within North America. It also allows for some limited privileges on the HF bands used for international communications. Here are some more ideas for ham radio activity to help get you started (in no particular order):

Public Service

Often people get interested in amateur radio to provide a service to the community. There are many opportunities to get involved in helping out with events such as walkathons, marathons, bike races, etc. Communications support may be provided by a ham radio club or, more likely, the local [Amateur Radio Emergency Service](#) (ARES) group. The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) is another public service organization, normally associated with a governmental agency such as the county sheriffs department. Sometimes ARES and RACES are combined into one group. The ARRL has a [web page](#) that compares the two organizations.

Most ARES and RACES groups have some kind of “registration database” for you to sign up. However, it usually works best to reach out and find the local hams that are in charge of these groups and let them know you are interested. Find out when they hold their meetings and on-the-air nets and join in. Make yourself visible and available.

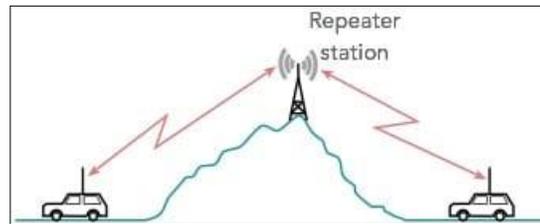
Emergency Communications

Often we hear new hams say they are interested in emergency communications or as the ARRL says “When All Else Fails”. They’ve heard about or experienced land line and mobile phones getting overloaded during blizzards, hurricanes and wildfires and want to have alternative communications.

Being prepared for emergencies boils down to two basic questions: 1) what are the conditions that you are preparing for? 2) who do you want to communicate with? Most likely, you need to be ready for a power outage of some duration, which implies the use of battery backup or a gasoline generator to power your radio equipment. Who you want to communicate with varies from just your immediate family over short distances to being able to contact other hams much

further away. Thinking through the answers to these two questions will get you started on creating the desired communication capability.

With A ham shack in your hand finding A VHF/UHF Repeater



Another way to connect with the local amateur radio community is via VHF/UHF repeaters. These things are the utility mode for communicating locally.

Develop Your Home Station

Many hams start out with a VHF/UHF handheld transceiver (HT), which gets them on the air quickly. This really is a ham shack in your hand, which is useful for many activities. By itself, the HT has limited range, so many hams are interested in extending its range. One thing you can do is attached an external antenna to the HT to give it greater radio coverage. This will increase your simplex range and allow you to hit more distant repeaters. Another thing to consider is establishing a VHF/UHF home base station, which provides more output power to increase coverage.

Single Sideband on VHF

While the majority of VHF operating is using FM, there is a whole other world out there in the weak-signal operating modes. Hams call this “weak signal” since we are often pulling signals out of the noise to make a contact. Signal Sideband (SSB) is the preferred voice mode when signals are weak since FM performs poorly when the signal level drops. You’ll also find quite a bit of Morse Code CW (Continuous Wave) communication used since it is even better than SSB when the signals are weak.

Some ham operate SSB from a mountaintop using their portable VHF station. To play with SSB, you need an all-mode transceiver that operates on VHF such as the Yaesu [FT-857D](#) or [FT-817ND](#). You’ll also need to get a suitable antenna, one that is horizontally polarized and probably a yagi antenna with gain.

The 6m band is known as The Magic Band because it can suddenly come alive with signals bouncing off sporadic-e clouds in the ionosphere. On most days, 6 meters acts like any other VHF band with mostly local propagation. But when the sporadic-e hits (very common in the summer months), you can talk across North America. When the normal sunspot cycle is strong,

we can also get F2 propagation, which allows contacts to be made into Europe, South America and Asia.

Another great use of the 2m and 70 cm bands is to contact outer space. The International Space Station (ISS) has a ham radio station on board and most of the astronauts have their amateur radio license (see [ARISS](#)). The primary use of this station is for contacts with schools as part of NASA education outreach mission. However, the astronauts sometimes decide to make contacts on their own time. It really depends on the interests of the astronaut and a few of them have really gotten into making random ham radio contacts. Also, very often there is a packet radio station transmitting from the ISS such that you can “digipeat” through the station to contact other hams on earth. It is even a fun exercise to see if you can successfully track the ISS and then hear the packet station transmitting. The ISS is in low earth orbit (LEO), so it is usually overhead for only 10 minutes or so, depending on the pass.

Another type of space operation is using OSCAR ([Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio](#)) satellites, which are basically repeaters in the sky. These satellites are also in LEO so you repeat through them to contact other hams while you both have the satellite within range. Some of these satellites use FM, so you can work through them using just a dualband (2m/70cm) HT and a small yagi antenna. It does take a bit of study and practice to track the satellites, figure out the right frequency, point the antenna and adjust for Doppler shift. But that is what makes it a fun learning experience and radio challenge. See the [AMSAT web site](#) for more information.

The [Summits On The Air](#) (SOTA) program is a great combination of hiking and portable ham radio operating. The basic idea of SOTA is to operate from a designated list of summits or to work other radio operators when they activate the summits. The designated summits are assigned scoring points based on elevation with scoring systems for both activators (radio operators on a summit) and chasers (radio operators working someone on a summit).

You can operate 2m FM using an HT and small Yagi antenna from Aspen Ridge in Colorado. A basic VHF SOTA station is a handheld FM transceiver with a ½-wave telescoping antenna. The standard rubber duck on a handheld transceiver (HT) is generally a poor radiator so using a ½-wave antenna is a huge improvement. Just stuff the HT and antenna in a backpack along with the usual hiking essentials and head for the summit. See [How To Do a VHF SOTA Activation](#).

Packet Radio and APRS

Some new hams are interested in digital communications via amateur radio. This is a great way to blend computer technology and radio communications. There are many ways to do this but packet radio is one of the most common on the VHF/UHF bands. Simply put, packet radio uses relatively slow speed modem tones (1200 or 9600 baud) fed into an FM transceiver using a Terminal Node Controller (TNC). The transmissions are in “packet form” using the AX.25

protocol, which is handled by the TNC. Think of it as “SMS text messaging before there was text messaging.”

APRS track of WGØAT as he ascends a SOTA peak.

One of the most common usages of AX.25 packet is the [Automatic Packet Reporting System](#) (APRS). APRS is quite versatile but the most common use is position reporting, with a robust set of internet-based mapping tools to plot the position of a particular ham radio stations.

Work the High Frequency Bands

I’ve mostly given examples of VHF/UHF operating, but a Technician license does give you some useful operating privileges on the High Frequency (HF) bands. In particular, Techs have voice privileges on 10 meters (28.3 to 28.5 MHz). When the sunspots are active, 10m is an awesome worldwide DX band. You literally can talk around the world. To do this, you’ll need a transceiver capable of SSB on the 10m band and a suitable antenna. The antenna does not have to be exotic, a simple dipole or 1/4-wave vertical can do well.

If you get hooked on the fun of HF DX, then you’ll want to start working on your General Class License. But that is a topic for another day.

There are so many things, it's a difficult question to answer, but here's some ideas:

- Talk to people (both local and far away) on your drive to work
- Help in emergencies and natural disasters by providing communications.
- Provide communications in parades or walkathons and other public service events.
- Help other people become hams. (We call it "Elmering.")
- Hook your computer to your radio and communicate "computer-to-computer." Hams use radio modems.
- Collect QSL cards (cards from other hams) from all over the United States and foreign countries and receive awards.
- Participate in contests or Field Day events.
- Provide radio communication services to your local Civil Defense organization through ARES (the Amateur Radio Emergency Service) or RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) ...or even FEMA, (the Federal Emergency Management Agency.)
- Participate in transmitter hunt games and maybe build your own direction-finding equipment.
- Have someone to talk to on those sleepless nights at home.
- Receive weather pictures via satellites.
- Build radios, antennas, learn some electronics and radio theory.
- Talk to astronauts in space, or use the moon to bounce signals back to people on the Earth.
- Experiment with Amateur TV (ATV), Slow-Scan TV (SSTV), or send still-frame pictures by facsimile.
- Lash your ham radio to the public telephone system and call your friends toll free.

(Auto patching)

- Communicate through orbiting satellites. (There are many in ham satellites in orbit that are owned and operated by the amateur community! And you can use them without any cost whatsoever!)

...and this is only the beginning! You are limited only by your imagination and ingenuity.

OHIO SINGLE SIDEBAND NET

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

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

Caveat: This article is not intended to cover all facets of ham radio. Pictures are used for historical and size comparison and in no way should be considered an endorsement of any products.

73

David

WA3EZN

[Ohio Section Traffic Manager](#)

ARES Training Update

Jim Yoder, W8ERW – ARES Data Manager

w8erw@arrl.net



ARES Training Update

It's starting to get warmer and the days are longer. Time to get to the antenna projects it surely is. I have an Off Center Fed dipole that just arrived today. The length is 137 feet and thankfully I now have the room to get it up in the air. My plan is to plant three 4x6 treated posts with about four and a half feet in the ground and the remainder of the 16 feet used to support several sections of surplus military mast that I have. Thanks to some clever engineering by N8OHO Mark when I did this while living in Tiffin, a couple of pieces of 2x4 cut in half lengthwise and arranged so that the mast will fix securely in between them will be fastened to the broad side of the posts. There will be two of these on each post along with a short piece of Unistrut used to clamp the mast tightly to the 2x4 half pieces. I'll use wing nuts and washers to do this. The beauty of this, Mark's contribution, is how it allows for adding additional lengths of mast section from the bottom to achieve a proper height. The top mast section will have an eyebolt for attaching the end of the antenna via a length of rope suitable for the application that I got at Dayton. I will also add a guy down to a 4 foot screw anchor to insure the antenna doesn't pull the posts over. Now the hard part will be using a post hole digger to create a hole in the ground. That might be a bargain I will likely strike with my grandson Blake and costing me a few dollars for the job. I don't think the educational value of it will suffice. This ought to get me on HF handily and I can use one or more of the post and mast combinations to raise a vertical for VHF/UHF work. Now not very long after I penned the above, my XYL informed me that the garage door opener was not working from the control button in the garage. If that was not enough, the knob on kitchen door into the garage fell apart. It was 71 degrees and dry here today and I didn't get a lick of work done outside on the antenna farm. I did manage a trip to Lowe's however. Who doesn't enjoy that?

I use a NAS, Network Attached Storage, device to save most everything from the PC. This includes photos, owners manuals, recipes, and a slew of MS Office files including the ARES training database. The NAS is a pair of Iomega, now Lenovo, devices each having two hard drives which are redundant copies. They originally came with a pair of 1 terabyte drives and about 12 years ago I replaced the drives with a new pair of Western Digital Red drives. One of those just died. I never expected a hard drive running continuously to ever last that long. I kept a spare around for years and I thought surely I'd be using it long before now. I wonder how long one of the SSD's would last.

Our training numbers continue to grow from both new ARES Hams and those who are progressing towards Level 3. We have 893 at level 1, 751 at Level 2 and 223 at Level 3. 81 members have completed the Aux Comm certification and another 70 have submitted their Professional Development Series certificate. I have been keeping the records now for approximately 12 years. Sadly during that time I've recorded 68 members who's key has gone silent. I've mentioned him previously although not by name. He is a Cuyahoga County member and he has completed 348 FEMA courses. There is the bar my friends. No I don't expect that to spark much excitement, but it is indeed a significant accomplishment.

I would encourage everyone to take the 4 NIMS courses. NIMS will give you an excellent overview of how a disaster response is managed. Nearly all first responders including police, fire and EMS follow the process. Your county EMA will also be well versed in NIMS. The process is very well organized and logical. Having this training will allow you to fit right in where needed when we as communicators are called upon to serve our communities and Ohio. An even more close to home reason is the support this provides us when we need to defend our use of spectrum.

Thanks everyone. Your support of ARES and training are one of the reasons the Ohio Section is recognized all over the country. You are appreciated.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions. I would be glad to assist you.

Jim W8ERW w8erw@arrl.net

From the Section Affiliated Clubs

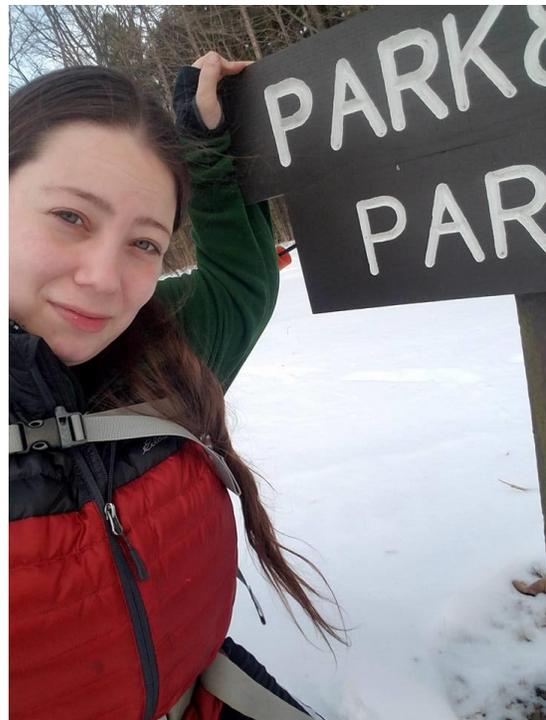
Coordinator - ACC

Amanda Farone – KC3GFU

Afrone926@gmail.com

330-509-4095

Wow, does anyone else feel like February has flown by? For me, this month has brought on some new perspectives of a radio club and what it truly means to be a successful club. My “home” club (Western Reserve ARC) decided to hand out some “feedback cards” at our monthly meeting, and asked the members to write down some things they would like to see the club participate in, programs, workshops, etc. The feedback received was very surprising. We immediately started brainstorming and came up with at least one thing per month, through the end of the year, that the membership has asked for. I encourage you to ask yourself if YOUR club is providing the things you are looking for from



them and if not, why aren't you talking about it? We need to remember to be active and involved in the clubs we belong to for them to be successful. I'd like to challenge you to participate in the activities of your club and suggest activity ideas. The best thing you can do to help your club grow is to show up and take part. On the topic of club activities, I'd really enjoy hearing about them and would also like to promote them. If you are planning an activity, send me an email and tell me about it! (afarone926@gmail.com).

I'd also like to talk about Special Service Clubs. Is your club an ARRL Special Service (SSC) Club? Not every club falls under the definition of an SSC (such as contesting clubs), however your club should be seeking to attain that designation. Per the ARRL definition "A club that exists to go above and beyond for their communities and for Amateur Radio is what defines a Special Service Club (SSC). They are the leaders in their Amateur Radio communities who provide active training classes, publicity programs and actively pursue technical projects and operating activities." What this means is that your club exercises commitment to: New Ham Development and Training, Public Relations, Emergency Communications, Technical Advancement, Operating Activities, and other Miscellaneous Activities. If you believe your club qualifies for this status, simply go to (<http://www.arrl.org/ssc-application>) and fill out the application form. If you feel as though your club does not qualify, I encourage you to take those specified areas and brainstorm with your club to see where you can improve and implement ways to work towards obtaining your SSC status.

As a final note...I'd like you to start thinking about Field Day 2023. It's never too early to start planning and tossing around ideas. I will be out and about that weekend to visit and I am excited to see all the set-ups!

National News

(from arrl and other sources)

W8LT - A History of Amateur Radio at Ohio State University

W8LT is the call sign for the Amateur Radio and RF Club at The Ohio State University (OSU).

The university club has a long history, and archive records indicate that 1926 was the year it officially became a club, likely making it the oldest one on campus. W8LT is just 3 years shy of celebrating its 100th anniversary.

In the early 1920s, the call sign started out as 8LT, until the Radio Act of 1927 added a "W" to all radio call signs. Then, W8LT had been closely associated with WOSU Radio, the university's non-commercial station, which began as WEAO in June of 1922. The two stations were believed to have shared a small building near campus until the mid-1950s.

In 1957, both stations were moved to small military-style Quonset huts. From July 1961 to January 1963, the club was unable to find a location anywhere on campus, so all of their equipment was put into storage in club member Bill Hale's, K8JIX, basement and brought out only for ARRL Field Day each June.

Eventually, W8LT found a new home in the bell tower at Ohio Stadium, a room directly below where the bell rings after every home-game win. That location allowed a 500-foot-long wire antenna to be stretched from the tower to a nearby smokestack at OSU's power station. The result was a very powerful signal that could be heard clearly on stations around the world.

When Ohio Stadium was renovated, W8LT moved again, this time to Bevis Hall, where it remains today near the location of the old military - style Quonset huts.

Today, the club continues to grow with 15 active members, including students, staff, and alumni.

Faculty Advisor Larry Feth, K8HTC, said that the club takes every opportunity to recruit new members and offer license testing sessions.

More information is available on the [W8LT website](#) and on their [Facebook page](#).

W8LT is an ARRL Affiliated Club and participates in the ARRL [Collegiate Amateur Radio Program](#).



NASA's SpaceX Crew-6 Mission Launches Monday

Join us for [live coverage of NASA's SpaceX Crew-6](#), the sixth crew rotation flight to the International Space Station by a U.S. commercial spacecraft.

The Crew Dragon Endeavour spacecraft will carry (from left, above) Roscosmos cosmonaut Andrey Fedyaev, a mission specialist; NASA astronaut Stephen Bowen, mission commander; NASA astronaut Warren Hoburg, pilot; and United Arab Emirates astronaut Sultan Alneyadi, mission specialist.

Launch is targeted for 1:45 a.m. EST, Monday, Feb. 27, from our Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Watch live coverage beginning at 10:15 p.m. EST Sunday, Feb. 26, on NASA TV.

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station Seeking Contact Proposals

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program is seeking formal and informal educational institutions and organizations, either individually or working together, to host an amateur radio contact with a crew member on board the International Space Station (ISS).

ARISS anticipates the contact will be held between January 1, 2024, and June 30, 2024. Crew scheduling and ISS orbits will determine the exact contact dates. To maximize these radio contact opportunities, ARISS is looking for organizations that will draw large numbers of participants and integrate the radio contact into a well-developed education plan. The deadline to submit a proposal is March 31, 2023. Proposal information and more details, such as

expectations, proposal guidelines, and the proposal form, can be found at <https://www.ariss.org/apply-to-host-an-ariss-contact.html>.

An ARISS introductory webinar will be held March 1, 2023, at 8:00 PM EST. The Eventbrite link to sign up for the free webinar is <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ariss-proposal-webinar-for-spring-2023-proposal-window-registration-515706320487>.

ARISS is a cooperative venture of international amateur radio societies and the space agencies that support the ISS. The United States sponsors are ARRL, the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation (AMSAT), Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC), NASA's Space Communications and Navigation program (SCaN), and the ISS National Lab Space Station Explorers (SSE).



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 you 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



Findlay Radio Club

The Findlay Radio Club had a DMR workshop on Saturday afternoon February 25. Everyone who stopped in said the afternoon was a success. It was amazing to see how many DMR radios and hot spots club members had (some for several years!) that they had not gotten to work! A few club members who were familiar with DMR brought it all together for the rest of us and got us going. At the end of the afternoon everyone who had come in with a non-functional radio went home with a working DMR radio.

The event brought out members we had not seen for a while, and even brought out some folks that are not yet members. The clubhouse was full of people all afternoon. Everyone said we need to do something like that again.

The club has a business meeting on the first Thursday of the month, and a program night on the third Thursday of the month. This month's program will be an antenna building demonstration which will probably morph into a Saturday afternoon antenna building session.

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 .

Sandusky Radio Experimental League Spring Fox Hunt

W8LBZ Sandusky Radio Experimental League is excited to announce our spring Fox Hunt! Come test your Radio Direction finding skills and find the Fox! **SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2023 AT 1 PM.** 2909 W Perkins Ave, Sandusky, OH 44870-1926, United States.

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!

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, August 5
Saturday, April 1	Saturday, October 7
Saturday, June 3	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

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

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 March 12th *****

DX This Week – Solar Numbers part 2

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

How many of you anticipated adding Bouvet to your entity count? I certainly did. However, due to several factors, I have to admit I only spent one very late night chasing them on 30M CW. Twice I thought I had the QSO, but it wasn't to be. It certainly was the most anticipated DXpedition in my 30 years of chasing DX! Below is an open letter about not getting in the 3Y0J log and whose fault it was. It

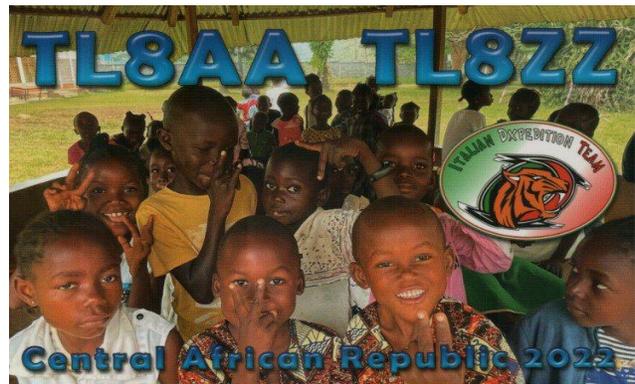
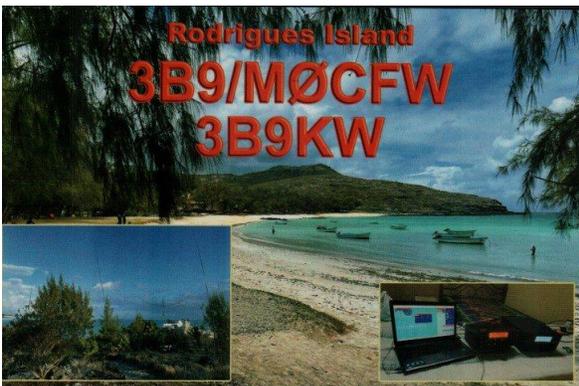


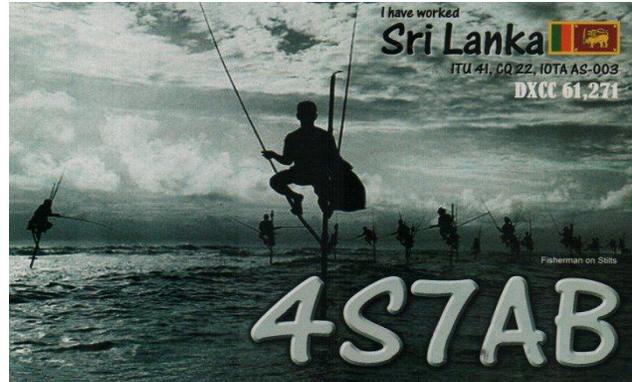
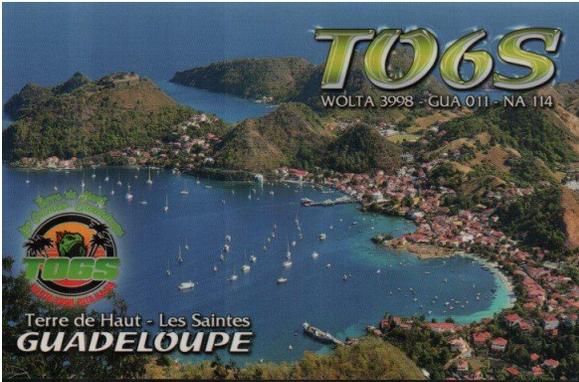
was written by one of our more frequent contributors and recent addition to the DX Honor roll, K8DV, Dave. I think you will find it very interesting.

Also, this week, I have part two of the solar number's explanation. I like repeating this every year as it helps to keep me sharp.

Finally, I received several QSL cards including: 3B9KW – Kazu on Rodrigues Island, 9A3IE – Bojan in Croatia, A35GC – DXpedition to Tonga, TL8AA – DXpedition to the Central African Republic, TO6S – DXpedition to Guadeloupe, and 4S7AB – Kamal in Sri Lanka. This was my first confirmed Sri Lanka QSO. It took me back 15 years or so as Kamal does not use LoTW. I had to send a card with an SASE and hope for the return. He was good to his word so this is #307 for me.

See you in the pileups!





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3Y0J, Why Am I Not in the Log?

So how many of you are disappointed like me that you did not make the 3Y0J log? I am sure there are more than just a few. This is or was the biggest DXpedition to come along in many years and had lots of hype surrounding it, had tons of media blitz as well. Given their plans there would be no reason that any of us would not end up in the log. The team was made up of many seasoned DX'ers and many that had been on several large scale DXpeditions. With all this most of us had this sense of confidence that we would not only get in the log but most likely be in the log multiple times on multiple bands and modes.

But like with any best laid plans reality hits and plans must be changed or modified to fit the current conditions. This is what the 3Y0J team got hit with upon reaching Bouvet. Even with all the great technology we have and satellite views, nothing was going to be able to prepare anyone for what they were greeted by upon arrival. To say the least this was not a walk up with a suitcase in one hand and radio equipment in another to say the least. But they were determined to activate Bouvet and had to modify the plan from large scale DXpedition to a lower scale activation due to the difficulties of just getting on the island never mind getting tons of equipment to shore. Even with that there was a difficult climb to the camp/operating site. Certainly not a mission for those of faint at heart.

Some of you may be in the same boat as me, you have managed to hone your skills and ready you station the best you can to be ready to contact that last few you need on your quest to get to number one Honor Roll for DXCC. I am currently at 332 current and 336 overall and Bouvet is in that last 8 I need on my quest to number one Honor Roll. Like others I watched the Bouvet DXpedition with lots of interest and read every update that I could find from the first announcement and was continuously impressed with what the team was doing to ensure success and controlling the things in their control. I also made sure my station was as ready as I could get it, some of you that know me know that back in July 2022 I lost my tower and SteppIR Yagi to a tornado. So, to get ready I put up a new OCF dipole and a elevated vertical for 30 meters so I could dedicate a radio to just that band as I have found in the past that was always a good band

for here in southwest Ohio for working DX in just about anywhere in the world. I also setup my alerts to let me know when they were active so if I was not near the rig I could keep up with activity and get to the radio if needed. I also got setup to use a remote station if needed to increase my odds by having a better antenna available to use. A good DX'er will always have as many tools as possible available to them and work all modes and bands.

You have heard the old saying, "Timing is everything!" Well, this is true for me as for the last several years I have been going to Orlando to Hamcation in February. I made my flight reservation back in October and this was going to take me away from the rig for 4 days with limited access to the remote and only able to remote into my own station for digital modes such as FT4/FT8 as long as I did not lose power. I monitored all the alerts I was receiving and going to those frequencies to see if I was able to decode them and only was able to decode them once while I was out of town at Hamcation but was unable to make contact. The night before leaving for Hamcation I spent several hours on 30-meter CW chasing but without success. I would be remised if I did say this, I am disappointed in the DX community that felt that they needed to cause D'QRM on their transmit frequency and the pirates that gives false hope to those that worked you, this is very sad that ham radio and DXing has stooped to that level.

As easy as it would be to blame the 3Y0J for me not being in the log, it is not their fault, they did something that most of us could not/would not do. I look at what could I have done to make it in the log as at the end of the day it is up to me to make it in the log. Taking 4 days away from the station even with access to remote control is still not the same as being in front of the rig. That is on me, not having my tower and Yagi back in the air that is on me too. I was hedging my bet that they would be on Bouvet for the time announced and thought there will be time once I get back from Hamcation. So, with all that I felt comfortable that I had time and would make the log.

Well like any best laid plans that is not how it turned out, they announced that due to weather and worsening conditions they would be leaving Bouvet early as they had already survived one storm and there was one coming in that was going to be equal or worse and they made the call for their own safety that they needed to cut the DXpedition short. Is this disappointing, sure it is but it was the right call as a new one for me is not worth anyone getting hurt or worse, KILLED.

I am sure that the entire 3Y0J team is disappointed and I bet all of them are going to rerun the turn of events over and over in their mind thinking about what we could have done different. Given the timing and having only what resources they had on hand, they made the best of what they had and made several thousand QSOs filling in that missing country for many DX'ers around the world.

So 3Y0J, Why Am I Not In the Log? The simple answer is me! I could blame you, the D'QRM, the band conditions and so on but the bottom line is it was not my turn, I made some incorrect assumptions and decided to go hamfesting while they were on. I prepared the best I could, I thought I was ready, so now I am looking at it, thinking what I could have done differently to increase my chances.

Times like this I remember what my Dad KZ4G (SK) told me years ago, DXCC is a journey not a destination and you work them one at a time.

My hope is at some point there will be operations again from Bouvet and at some point the other seven I need, only time will tell. In the meantime, there is still plenty of QSOs to be

made, more band slots to fill. New tower and Yagi to get flying. Like many of you I am disappointed by I am not mad at the 3Y0J team just as I sure they are too as I truly believe they wanted to get in a lot more logs than they did.

Keep tuning the bands and feel good for those that made it in the log as they must have been better prepared than you or I were that did not. To quote an old saying, “Just wait until next time”, and perhaps we will not be wondering “Why Am I Not in The Log?”

73, Dave, K8DV
DXCC HR
9 Band DXCC
2300 Challenge

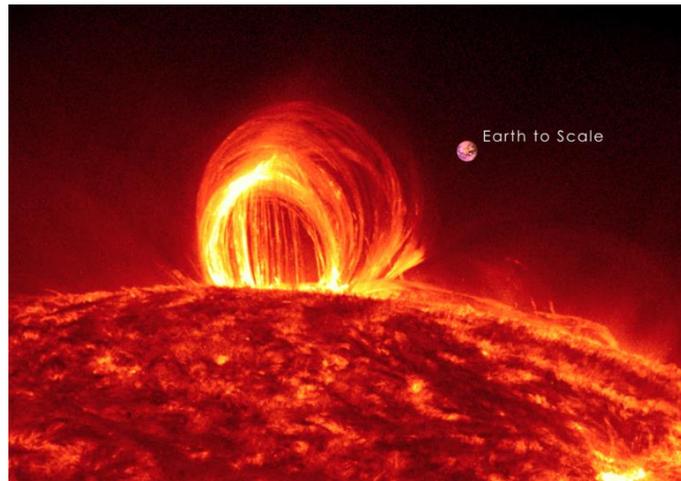
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Last week was installment #1 of the discussion of Solar Numbers and when they mean by Carl, K9LA. Below is the second installment. Thanks to Carl for permission to reprint.

Solar Numbers – What they Mean Part 2:

By Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA

A CME is an explosive ejection of a large amount of solar matter and can cause the average solar wind speed to take a dramatic jump upward--kind of like a shock wave heading toward Earth. If the polarity of the sun's magnetic field is southward when the shock wave hits Earth's magnetic field, the shock wave couples into Earth's magnetic field and can cause large variations in Earth's magnetic field. This is seen as an increase in the A and K indices.



In addition to auroral activity, these variations to the magnetic field can cause those electrons spiraling around magnetic field lines to be lost into the *magnetotail*. With electrons gone, maximum usable frequencies (MUFs) decrease, and return only after the magnetic field returns to normal and the process of ionization replenishes lost electrons. Most of the time, elevated A and K indices reduce MUFs, but occasionally MUFs at low latitudes may increase (due to a complicated process) when the A and K indices are elevated.

Solar flares and CMEs are related, but they can happen together or separately. Scientists are still trying to understand the relationship between them. One thing is certain, though--the electromagnetic radiation from a big flare traveling at the speed of light can cause short-term radio blackouts on the sunlit side of Earth within about 10 minutes of eruption. Unfortunately,

we detect the flare visually at the same time as the radio blackout, since both the visible light from the flare and the electromagnetic radiation in the 1 to 10 Angstrom range from the flare travel at the speed of light--in other words, we have no warning. On the other hand, the energetic particles ejected from a flare can take up to several hours to reach Earth, and the shock wave from a CME can take up to several days to reach Earth, thus giving us some warning of their impending disruptions.

Each day the Space Weather Prediction Center (a part of NOAA, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration) and the US Air Force jointly put out a Solar and Geophysical Activity Report. The current and archived reports are at [SWPC page](#). Each daily report consists of six parts.

Part IA gives an analysis of solar activity, including flares and CMEs. Part IB gives a forecast of solar activity. Part IIA gives a summary of geophysical activity. Part IIB gives a forecast of geophysical activity. Part III gives probabilities of flare and CME events. These first three parts can be summarized as follows: normal propagation (no disturbances) generally occurs when no X-ray flares higher than class C are reported or forecasted, along with solar wind speeds due to CMEs near the average of 400km/sec.

Part IV gives observed and predicted 10.7-cm solar flux. A comment about the daily solar flux--it has little to do with what the ionosphere is doing on that day. This will be explained later.

Part V gives observed and predicted A indices. Part VI gives geomagnetic activity probabilities. These last two parts can be summarized as follows: good propagation generally occurs when the forecast for the daily A index is at or below 15 (this corresponds to a K index of 3 or below).

WWV at 18 minutes past the hour every hour and WWVH at 45 minutes past the hour every hour put out a shortened version of this report. A new format began March 12, 2002. The new format gives the previous day's 10.7-cm solar flux, the previous day's mid-latitude A index, and the current mid-latitude three-hour K index. A general indicator of space weather for the last 24 hours and next 24 hours is given next. This is followed by detailed information for the three disturbances that impact space weather: geomagnetic storms (caused by gusts in the solar wind speed), solar radiation storms (the numbers of energetic particles increase), and radio blackouts (caused by X-ray emissions). For detailed descriptions of the WWV/WWVH messages, visit www.swpc.noaa.gov/noaa-scales-explanation.

Normal propagation (no disturbances) is expected when the space weather indicator is minor. A comment is appropriate here. Both the Solar and Geophysical Activity Report and WWV/WWVH give a status of general solar activity. This is *not* a status of the 11-year sunspot cycle, but rather a status on solar disturbances (flares, particles, and CMEs). For example, if the solar activity is reported as low or minor, that doesn't mean we're at the bottom of the solar cycle; it means the sun has not produced any major space weather disturbances.

In order to predict propagation, much effort was put into finding a correlation between sunspots and the state of the ionosphere. The best correlation turned out to be between SSN and monthly median ionospheric parameters. This is the correlation that our propagation prediction programs are based on, which means the outputs (usually MUF and signal strength) are values with probabilities over a month time frame tied to them. They are not absolutes; they are statistical in nature. Understanding this is a key to the proper use of propagation predictions.

Sunspots are a subjective measurement. They are counted visually. It would be nice to

have a more objective measurement, one that measures the sun's output. The 10.7-cm solar flux has become this measurement. But it is only a general measure of the activity of the sun, since a wavelength of 10.7-cm is way too low in energy to cause any ionization. Thus 10.7 cm solar flux has nothing to do with the formation of the ionosphere. The best correlation between 10.7-cm solar flux and sunspots is the smoothed 10.7-cm solar flux and the smoothed sunspot number--the correlation between daily values, or even monthly average values, is not very acceptable.

Since our propagation prediction programs were set up based on a correlation between SSN and monthly median ionospheric parameters, the use of SSN or the equivalent smoothed 10.7-cm solar flux gives the best results. Using the daily 10.7-cm solar flux--or even the daily sunspot number--can introduce a sizable error into the propagation predictions outputs since the ionosphere does not react to the small daily variations of the sun. Even averaging 10.7-cm solar flux over a week's time frame can contribute to erroneous predictions. To reiterate, for best results use SSN or smoothed 10.7-cm solar flux and understand the concept of monthly median values.

For short-term predictions, the use of the effective SSN (SSNe) may be helpful. In this method, an appropriate SSN is input to the propagation prediction software to force it to agree with daily ionosonde measurements. Details of this method can be found at <http://www.nwra.com/spawx/ssne24.html>

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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:

KH9 - Wake Island NL7RR/KH9, Tom, is back on the island for two more weeks. His radio is an IC-7300 and the antennas a Buddipole and a hexbeam. He operates 20-6M SSB. QSL direct to NL7RR. Tom says it's great to be back and having fun with the beam. He typically is on every day/night at around 0630Z, if it is not raining, mostly on 20 meters. Where he sets up to operate there is no shelter from the rain.

T33 – Banaba - T30 - Western Kiribati - DF6FK, OM, and DL2ZAD, YL, Norbert and Judith, have been in Tarawa, T30, waiting for their transport to Banaba, callsigns T33BB and T33BA. See our February 17 report. But Norbert says "Our T33 dream ended today." After daily visits to the government offices they found no ship is going to T33 in the near future, so they will "be a bit QRV" as T30BB and T30BA.

3B6/7 - Agalega & St. Brandon Islands - OM5ZW is leading the 3B7M expedition to St. Brandon. Approvals have been obtained. It will be OM5ZW, OK6DJ, OM3PC, OM5RW, OM4MW, OK2ZA, OM4AYL and OM4MM, February 24, starting about 17Z, to March 5. The

group plans to be on CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8 and FT4, 160-6M and QO-100 satellite, with 3-4 stations. They note that no one has operated from there since 2018. QSL to OK6DJ through OQRS. <http://3b7m.com>

3A – Monaco - 3A/IW1RBI by IW1RBI, Ennio, and friends hope to be on SSB, CW and FT8, mostly fox and hound mode, April 20-23. The group plans to be on 80-10M. QSL through Logbook of the world or to their home QTHs, bureau or direct. Logsearch will be available on Club Log and maybe OQRS QSLing too. But, they "have not yet reached the necessary budget," after contacting various sponsors. If the plan comes through, the stations will be a pair of IC-7610 radios, an IC-7300 and an IC-910, limited to 100 watts in Monaco, and the antennas three 80-10 verticals, a 2-element Moxon for 6 and a pair of 2M beams – all covering 80-2 including 60M, SSB, CW and FT8.
<https://www.qrz.com/db/3A/IW1RBI> <http://www.3a-iw1rbi.com/>

CY0 - Sable Island - With the CY0S DXpedition to Sable Island just under four weeks away the team has announced K9CT, Craig Thompson, has joined the on island team. They will be QRV on 1.8 through 50 MHz.

FT#W - Crozet Islands - As reported earlier today FT8WW, Thierry, began operating on SSB today on 10 meters. He was reported on 28.350 MHz, listening up, around 1030Z. I do not have any other details. F6EXV, Paul, confirms it is him. For those who still need Crozet for your DXCC make sure you read W3LPL's, Frank's, propagation forecast below. Thank you also to OH6BG, Jari, has "created a dedicated propagation prediction site for FT8WW" at <https://voacap.com/dx/crozet/> Frank notes his experience so far has been "that the 0300-0500Z 17 meter opening (vs the 12-13Z) to FT8WW is much better, perhaps because the we're not competing with many strong European DXers during those times".

Ghana (9G4X) DXpedition Announced - The Accra Amateur Radio Club, 9G2DX is hosting a DXpedition next month that includes veteran DXpeditioners: Gregg, W6IZT; George, N4GRN and Hal, W8HC. Rounding out their 9 member team is: Haim, 9G5AF; Bob, W9AP; Joe, K9UR; Mike, WB0SND; Curt N2ZX and Zeev 4X5ZS. They will be QRV March 22-30 including participation in the CQWW WPX Phone Contest March 25-26.

The DXpedition has been granted a special call sign, 9G4X for use during their 8 day operation from the Sankofa Beach House Resort located on the coast south of Accra in Langma Village.

During the contest 9G4X will operate in the M/2 category while outside the contest, the team will operate 3 stations 160m-10m with a 4th station dedicated to 6m as well as a 5th station QRV on QO-100. The team also looks forward to working with some of the local 9G hams sharing DXpeditioning and contest operating experiences that they hope will encourage the locals to pick up and continue after departure.

DX Engineering is the major sponsor of this 9G4X DXpedition. DXE has graciously provided a 5-element 6m LFA Yagi from EAntenna that will be used during the DXpedition, and which will be donated to the 9G2DX Club station afterward for their continued use during the 6m season.

Watch the 9G4X page on QRZ.com for more details and donation information. PayPal: ghanadxpedition (at) gmail (dot) com.

QSL via K4NHW, OQRS and LoTW

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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	bit.ly/3FyPiui
Mar. 1	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity	www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en
Mar. 1	UKEICC 80m Contests SSB	https://ukeicc.com/80m-rules.php
Mar. 4-5	ARRL SSB DX Contest	www.arrl.org/arrl-dx
Mar. 4-12	Novice Rig Round-Up	www.noviceriggroundup.org
Mar. 5	UBA Spring Contest 80m CW	http://bit.ly/2KKA9b9
Mar. 6	RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	bit.ly/3TxCrxl
Mar. 7	AGCW YL-CW QSO Party	www.agcw.de/contest/yl-cw-party
Mar. 8	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity	www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en
Mar. 11	YB DX RTTY Contest	https://rtty.ybdxcontest.com
Mar. 11	QRP ARCI Spring Thaw SSB Sprint	www.qrpcontest.com/qrparci_thaw
Mar. 11-12	EA PSK63 Contest	https://tinyurl.com/5awufshf
Mar. 11-12	Idaho QSO Party	www.pocatelloarc.org/idahoqsoparty
Mar. 11-12	Oklahoma QSO Party	http://k5cm.com/okqp.htm
Mar. 11-12	North American RTTY Sprint	http://ncjweb.com/north-american-sprint

Mar. 11-12	RSGB Commonwealth CW Contest	bit.ly/3TxCrxl
Mar. 11-12	Stew Perry Topband Challenge	www.kkn.net/stew
Mar. 12	AGCW QRP Contest	www.agcw.de/contest/qrp
Mar. 12	FIRAC HF Contest	www.firac.de/html/contest.html
Mar. 12	UBA Spring Contest 2m CW/Phone	http://bit.ly/2KKA9
Mar. 12-13	Wisconsin QSO Party	www.warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm
Mar. 15	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity	www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en
Mar. 15	RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	bit.ly/3TxCrxl
Mar. 18	AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	www.agcw.de/contest/vhf-uhf
Mar. 18	PODXS 070 Club St. Patrick's Day Contest	http://bit.ly/38ugUiF
Mar. 18-19	SARL VHF/UHF Analogue Contest	http://bit.ly/H0IqQf
Mar. 18-19	Virginia QSO Party	https://bit.ly/3IeqHvl
Mar. 18-20	BARTG HF RTTY Contest	http://bartg.org.uk/wp/contests
Mar. 19	UBA Spring Contest 80m SSB	http://bit.ly/2KKA9
Mar. 20	Bucharest Digital Contest	https://yo3test201x.blogspot.com
Mar. 23	RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	bit.ly/3TxCrxl
Mar. 25	FOC QSO Party	www.g4foc.org/qsoparty
Mar. 25-26	CQWW WPX SSB Contest	www.cqwp.com/
Mar. 26	UBA Spring Contest 6m CW/ Phone	http://bit.ly/2KKA9
Mar. 27	RSGB FT4 Contest Series	bit.ly/3TxCrxl
Mar. 29	UKEICC 80m Contests CW	https://ukeicc.com/80m-rules.php
May 27-28	CQWW WPX CW Contest	www.cqwp.com

ARLD008 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by LU4AAO, OK6DJ, The Daily DX, 425 DX News, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

AGALEGA AND ST. BRANDON ISLANDS, 3B6. A group of operators are QRV as 3B7M from Saint Brandon Island, IOTA AF-015, until March 5. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8 with four stations. This includes being active on Satellite QO-100. QSL via OK6DJ.

PHILIPPINES, DU. David, VE3OI is QRV as DU2WAA near Currimao, Ilocos Norte. Activity is on 20 to 10 meters. QSL via LoTW.

KYRGYZSTAN, EX. Bob, DU7ET is QRV as EX0ET from Bishkek until the end of March. QSL direct to home call.

GUINEA-BISSAU, J5. Livio, IZ3BUR is QRV as J52EC. Activity is on 15 and 10 meters using mostly SSB. His length of stay is unknown. QSL direct to home call.

ST. VINCENT, J8. Sandro, VE7NY, Allan, VE7SZ and Rob, N7QT are QRV as J8NY from the main island of St. Vincent, IOTA NA-109, until March 7. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. This includes being a M/2 entry in the upcoming ARRL International SSB DX contest. QSL via LoTW.

WAKE ISLAND, KH9. Tom, NL7RR is QRV as NL7RR/KH9 for two weeks. Activity is generally around 0630z on 20 to 6 meters using SSB. QSL direct to home call.

ARGENTINA, LU. Members of the Radio Club QRM Belgrano will celebrate their 55th anniversary on the air from February 25 to March 5. Activity is on the HF, and V/UHF bands using QRS CW, SSB, SSTV, and FT8. QSL via LU4AAO.

PALAU, T8. Operators JH7IPR and JF6CHA are QRV as T88UW and T88CH, respectively, from Koror Island, IOTA OC-009, until March 2. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using mainly FT8 with CW and SSB if operating conditions permit. QSL to home calls.

BELIZE, V3. Walt, W0CP and Mary, K0ZV are QRV as V31DJ and V31DK, respectively, from Placencia until March 11. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

NAMIBIA, V5. Wynand, V51WW will activate Etosha National Park, V5-0001, on February 26 from 1100 to 1400 UTC. Activity will be on 20, 15, and 10 meters using SSB. QSL direct to home call.

MICRONESIA, V6. John, V63JB is QRV from Ulithi Atoll, IOTA OC-078. He is a staff member at a local school here. Activity is currently on 30 meters using FT8 but hopes to expand to 20 meters, and use SSB. QSL via operator's instructions.

AUSTRALIA, VK. Special event station VI100MB will be QRV from February 26 to February 25, 2024 to celebrate 100 years of the Manly-Warringah Radio Society. QSL via LoTW.

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS, VU4. Gopan, VU3HPF and Ram, VU2JXN will be QRV as VU4T from Port Blair, South Andaman Island, IOTA AS-001, from March 2 to 5. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 meters using CW and maybe some SSB. They may also be active on Satellite QO-100. QSL via LoTW.

MYANMAR, XZ. Akio, JE2QIZ is QRV as XZ2B from Yangon. He is active in his spare time on 15, 12, 10, and 6 meters using CW. QSL via JH3SIF.

SOUTH SUDAN, Z8. Diya, YI1DZ is again QRV as Z81D. QSL via OM3JW.

CHATHAM ISLANDS, ZL7. Volker, ZL1VV is QRV as ZL7/ZL1VV from Te One until

March 2. Activity is in his spare time on 20, 17, 15, and 10 meters using SSB. QSL via LoTW.

The QCX CW Challenge, ICWC Medium Speed CW Test, OK1WC Memorial, RSGB FT4 Contest, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, QRP 40-Meter CW Fox Hunt, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops Test, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Mini-Test 40, Mini-Test 80 and the UKEICC 80-Meter Contest are scheduled for February 27 to March 1.

The AWA John Rollins Memorial DX CW Contest runs from March 1 to 5.

Please see February 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

03/11/2023 - [MOVARC Hamfest](#)

Location: Bidwell, OH 45614, OH

Sponsor: Mid-Ohio Valley Amateur Radio Club

[Learn More](#)

03/12/2023 - [Winter Hamfest](#)

Location: Elyria, OH

Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://winterhamfest@noars.net>

[Learn More](#)

<p>03/19/2023 - Toledo Mobile Radio Association Hamfest Location: Perrysburg, OH Sponsor: Toledo Mobile Radio Association Website: http://www.tmrahamradio.org Learn More</p>	<p>04/15/2023 - Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club Hamfest Location: Cuyahoga Falls, OH Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Website: http://www.cfarc.org Learn More</p>
<p>04/22/2023 - Tusco Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Electronics, and Computer Show Location: Dover, OH Sponsor: Tusco Amateur Radio Club W8ZX Website: http://www.w8zx.net Learn More</p>	<p>04/30/2023 - Athens Hamfest Location: Athens, OH Sponsor: Athens County Amateur Radio Association Website: http://www.ac-ara.org/ Learn More</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>05/13/2023 - 05/17/2023 RV Radio Network Location: Berlin, Ohio, OH Type: ARRL Operating Specialty Convention Sponsor: RV Radio Network Learn More</p>
<h2 style="color: red;">Great Lakes Division Convention!!</h2> <p>05/19/2023 - 05/21/2023 Dayton Hamvention Location: Xenia, OH Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association Website: http://Hamvention.org Learn More</p>	
<p>05/27/2023 - Scioto Valley Amateur Radio Club Hamfest Location: Piketon, OH Sponsor: Scioto Valley Amateur Radio Club Learn More</p>	<p>06/03/2023 - FCARC Summer Hamfest Location: Wauseon, OH Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club Website: https://k8bxq.org/hamfest Learn More</p>

<p>07/08/2023 - Mansfield Trunkfest 2023 Location: Mansfield, OH Sponsor: Intercity Amateur Radio Club Website: http://iarc.club Learn More</p>	<p>07/16/2023 - Van Wert Hamfest Location: Van Wert, OH Sponsor: Van Wert Amateur Radio Club Website: http://w8fy.org Learn More</p>
<p>08/12/2023 - Cincinnati Hamfest Location: Owensville , OH Sponsor: Milford ARC Website: https://CincinnatiHamfest.org Learn More</p>	<p>08/20/2023 - WARA Tailgate Swap Meet Location: Cortland, OH Sponsor: Warren Amateur Radio Association Website: http://w8vtd.org Learn More</p>
<p>09/10/2023 - Findlay Hamfest Location: Findlay, OH Sponsor: Findlay Radio Club Website: http://findlayradioclub.org Learn More</p>	<p>09/24/2023 - Cleveland Hamfest Location: Berea, OH Sponsor: Hamfest Association of Cleveland Website: http://www.hac.org Learn More</p>

OHIO'S



It seems like the Christmas decorations were just taken down and March is upon us. Southern Ohio's weather has been most finicky with below normal temperatures one day and record highs the next. Who should want to go South when you have temperatures in the 60s and 70s in mid-February? And we sure can't complain about the amount of snow we had to shovel this year. Perhaps it's because the weather has been such that the repeaters and the HF frequencies visited by a lot of South 40 region hams have been rather quiet? But the reports from a number of clubs already with a couple meetings under their belts indicate it looks like ham radio activity will be alive and well this year. So let's take a gander at some of those plans.

The first Wilmington National Weather Service Office virtual and in-person Spring severe weather spotting classes are now in the books. The first in-person class was on the 21st in Mt. Orab and over 280 people logged into the first virtual session on February 22. But if you missed either you still have opportunities at additional virtual classes on March 7 and May 2. An in person class will occur at 6 PM on March in Lancaster and is followed by a joint Fayette-Highland County training class on Thursday evening, March 16 in Washington CH. Information and registration for the remaining virtual sessions is currently available on the Wilmington NWS website at <https://www.weather.gov/iln>. Other in-person classes will be posted to the Wilmington NWS website as they are scheduled.



The **Scioto Valley ARA** held a successful test session in Chillicothe this past Saturday. John Hartmus III, WB8GRX, reports that six individuals either earned a first license or upgraded an existing one to a higher level. We want to welcome David Ellenberger, Deshawn Sommers and Jessica Schobelock who passed their Technician tests. David is now KE8WPZ and Jessica is KQ4GIU while Deshawn is awaiting Commission action. A special acknowledgement goes to William Klos for not only passing the Technician but making it to General. He now is KE8WPR. Larry Jones, KE8RVN, did an upgrade to General and Joe Corbin, KE8SYZ, now holds an Extra. It's also learned that Bethel's Jeremy Trester passed his Technician and is now KE8WPI. I anticipate he tested at the recent **Milford ARC** session. Congradulations to all.

For those folks who didn't quite make it there are some upcoming opportunities for those to try it again as well as opportunities for others to attempt it for the first time. March 4 marks the next test session for the **Lancaster Fairfield County ARC**. It starts at 10 AM at the Fairfield County EOC. On Monday, March 6 tests will be given at 5 PM prior to the **Portsmouth RC's** monthly meeting. The **Milford ARC** will hold a test session prior to their March 16 meeting at the Miami Township Civic Center. The testing starts at 6 PM. Then on March 18 the **Highland ARA** will conduct a Laurel session at the Highland County EMA Office in Hillsboro. Pre-registration is requested at <https://www.10C0D48ADAC23A7FEC16-hara9>, but walk-ins will be accepted if space is available. It starts at 10 AM.

Presently the **Athens County ARA** and the Queen City Emergency Net and OHKYIN ARC are conducting amateur radio license classes with each concluding with a test session. Testing in Athens will be on March 20 at the Red Cross Building. Contact Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, at 740-592-6124 for further information. The Cincinnati group has yet to set a date according QCEN President Tom Delaney, W8WTD.

Grant ARA President Steve Neal, K8CWC, tells us that health issues caused the Club's annual Christmas dinner to be postponed this past holiday season. It has now been re-scheduled to take place on March 16 at the County Inn Restaurant in Mt. Orab. Things will start at 6 PM.

Bill Salyers, AJ8B says tickets for the 38th annual **Southwest Ohio DX Association** DX dinner are now on sale in addition to raffle tickets for a chance to win a stay at the Harbour Rock Villa in the Turks and Caicos Islands. During the stay, the winner will



have access to a fully equipped station. The raffle drawing for the trip will take place 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. This year's keynote speaker will be Adrian Ciuperca, KO8SCA who was a part of the international team who just concluded the 3Y0J activation of Bouvet. Check out the www.swodxaevents.org website for more information and how to order your tickets for either or both events.

If you're looking for an easy to get to hamfest, once you hit the Cincinnati area it's freeway all the way to Cave City, KY where on Saturday, March 4 the Cave City Convention Center's doors will be opened to host the **Mamouth Cave ARA** hamfest. The buying or tire kickers will be admitted at 7:30 to what usually is a great show with a good number of inside vendors and a good outdoor tailgate area if the weather permits. Although a few hours away, it's a show seeing more and more Southern Ohioians attending. Last year saw members of the clubs in West Union, Portsmouth, Georgetown, Hillsboro, Milford and Chillicothe attend.

If you are looking for a hamfest that's closer to home, then the upcoming **Mid Ohio Valley ARC's** hamfest at the Fellowship of Faith Church at Bidwell on March 11 might appeal to you. If you have questions please contact docdiesel@hotmail.com or phone 740-339-1025.

On March 26 the **Athens County ARA** will have an antenna building session where those attending can build a 40 meter end-feed halfwave antenna. For information regarding the costs, materials needed to be self supplied, etc. contact Paul Schulz, WD8SVC, via email at luhrgian@yahoo.com.

Then in April it becomes an extremely busy month for **Athens County ARA** members. This year they start the month by providing communications for the annual Lake Hope Iron Furnance Run and then conclude the month with their popular April 30 hamfest. And in between they will provide communications for the annual Athens Marathon/Half Marathon on the 22nd. If you would like additional information on any of these events or see how you can help, please contact Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, at 740-592-6124.



One of our "South of the Mason Dixon" readers tells us about what sounds to be an interesting special event operation the Bluegrass Amateur Radio Society is conducting March 19. The special event commemorates the very popular Kentucky Bourbon Trail tourist attraction. It will be a 40 meter operation running from 8 AM until 4 PM.

The Adams County **DeForest ARA** will have its next meeting on Tuesday evening, April 11. The meeting starts at 7 PM at the downtown West Union ABCAP Senior Nutrition Center which is directly across the street from the Adams County Courthouse. Following the meeting there will be a presentation by KE8GAD, Jared Shupert, about batteries and solar charge controllers.

While leafing through the current QST I noted Tom Sherwood, W8AAZ from Huber Heights has a 'Hints and Kinks' suggestion in the magazine's column. The magazine also indicates the passing

of Bessie Leeper, KF4TCL, of Ashland, KY and KK4UO, Stephen Lewallen, from Cattlettsburg, KY.

On April 22 there will be a Federal EMA Training Institute ‘Emergency Management Radio Resources’ workshop at the Wellston Fire Department. The purpose is to educate State and local EMA officials about the communications resources the amateur radio community can provide during an emergency. Emphasis will be placed on the RACES program. Along the same lines, some **Highland ARA** members have again been invited by the county EMA director to be a part of the Core Planning Committee for the upcoming review of the Highland County 5-Year All Hazard Mitigation Plan. This is the second time HARA has been invited to participate.

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

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 **WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE ACTIVITY AT HAMVENTION??**

Survey Says A) Flea Market 36 (40.91%) B) Commercial Vendors 26 (29.55%) C) Forums 17 (19.63%) and D) Special Interest Dinners and Activities 9 (10.23%)



The new question is:

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN AN OFFICER IN YOUR LOCAL CLUB?

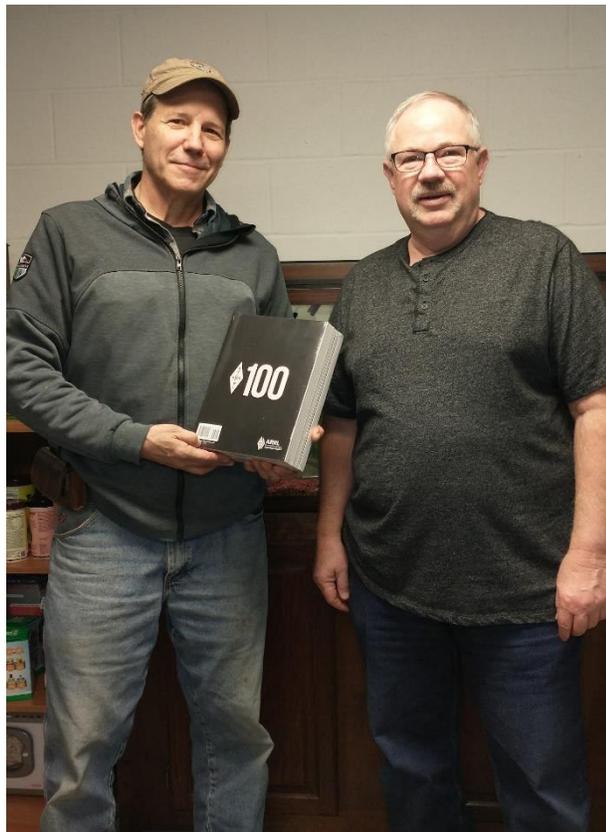
A) YES?

B) NO?

You'll find the "One Question" questionnaire on the Ohio Section Website! <http://arrloho.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.

Nex week I'll announce February's handbook winner! Good luck!
The **BIG RED ARROW** is on the webpage – get your entry in!

January's winner was W8MSW – Steve Shaffer III from Lucky, OH. Steve picked up his book in person at Casa de WB8LCD!



V.E. Test Sessions

Many V.E.'s have decided to start testing once again, but with restrictions that need to be adhered to for sure. Here's the link to find that V.E. Test session and what is expected of YOU before going. <http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>



Final... Final

I'll keep my comments short here.....

This month's Ohio Section Journal has an abundance of good information to get you up to speed on Amateur Radio in general, but more specifically activity in the Ohio Section. The Ohio Section Cabinet members are a group of hams dedicated to helping *you* get maximum enjoyment out of your hobby. If and when you see them out and about this year, at hamfests, club meetings and other activities, be sure to introduce yourself to them and let them know what you're doing and how we can help you get the most from this FANTASTIC Hobby! The hamfest list is growing – please – get out and visit your local fests. For a lot of clubs this is their only form of fund raising outside of dues.

Finally, I want to thank you ALL! YOU make this the Greatest Hobby in the World!

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@arrl-ohio.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
Technical Coordinator – Jeff Kopcak, K8JTK	Section Traffic Manager – David Maynard, WA3EZN
State Government Liaison – Bob Winston, W2THU	Affiliated Clubs Coordinator – Amanda Farone, KC3GFU
Section Youth Coordinator – Anthony Lascre, K8ZT	Public Information Coordinator – Elizabeth Kline – 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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