Ohio Section Journal

Super Bowl Week Edition!!

From the Technical Coordinator
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Hey gang,

What the heck is Hamshack Hotline? As you might have guessed by the name, it may have to do with a Ham's shack and phone calls.

Good guess because that is correct! Hamshack Hotline, often abbreviated HH, is a free VoIP telecom phone service put together for the ham radio community by hams. Similar services to Hamshack Hotline offer regular telephone service via VoIP (Voice over IP) but charge monthly, per minute (albeit small) fees and regulatory fees. Hamshack Hotline offers a way to enhance or augment communication between hamshacks, Emergency operation centers, National Weather Service Skywarn spotters, club members, and allow experimentation with VoIP devices and protocols.

John – K1WIZ got together with some ham buddies and decided it would be neat to experiment with an IP PBX service and started Hamshack Hotline in February 2018. An IP PBX service is an Internet based Private Branch Exchange. PBX's were on-premise solutions used by businesses to provide internal communications. This allowed employees to pick up their desk phone handset, headset, or activate the speakerphone, dial an extension, say 2-4 digits typically, and connect to another employee's desk phone. This was very useful during times when making outside calls was very costly. There wasn't always "free calling." Companies and households would be charged per call or per minute.

A local PBX would interface with the public switched telephone network (PSTN) provided by a national, regional, or local telephony carrier allowing employees to make calls to any other phone number. Today, PBX services are almost all IP or packet-based systems and providers are cloud based meaning the Internet provides connectivity. Advantages include cheaper service, more features, and more connection options including mobile phone connectivity with an app.

Built on Asterisk, the same platform used for AllStar Link in Ham Radio and Small-Medium Business (SMB) phone systems, Hamshack Hotline offers traditional telephony functionality like full duplex phone calls, direct extension dialing, voice mail, notifications, Email notifications of voicemails, device flexibility, and FAX. There is no PSTN access through Hamshack Hotline. An amateur radio license is required limiting access only to licensed radio operators. A hard phone (also called a Desk Phone) which interacts with a configured phone service provider or providers and an Internet connection is required. Yes, the Internet is required to use system features and to make calls – as with any IP phone service.

Wired is somewhat more reliable when cellular circuits get overloaded, though any Internet IP connection can be used as connectivity. When using Hamshack Hotline over costly bandwidth connections (such as cellular or 4G) during a call, data is always being exchanged at about a rate of 66 KBits/sec each direction, for a total of 120 KBits/sec. This includes quiet periods or when the phone is on mute. Data is constantly flowing during the duration of the call.

Architecture of Hamshack Hotline has changed over the years as popularity has grown. There were around 650 lines two years ago and 850 at the beginning of last year. HH Phone book shows just under 1,400 lines as of this writing. Most are located in the US with 3-5 new lines added per day. All servers are "trunked" together, meaning all can dial extensions on other servers and be connected. Today there are 4 servers: HHUS serves the US and Americas, HHEU for Europe, and HHAP in Hawaii serving Asia Pacific. These servers are for approved and supported devices of the service.

The fourth is HHX run by Jeff – VA3ISP and is the "experimental" server. Experimental requires much more knowledge of PBX and VoIP systems. It offers the ability to integrate unsupported endpoints like Polycom, Grandstream, and softphones using an app called Groundwire on Android and iOS. Credentials to the experimental service are provided and that's it – no Help Desk or device support. To use the experimental service for a softphone, a hard phone line MUST be established on the network first.

Like traditional phone services, Hamshack Hotline offers Bridges which are similar to round-table conference or web conferencing services. They offer simultaneous full-duplex conversation, as opposed to half-duplex of most ham radio operations. Bridges can be public or private requiring PIN access to an executive board conference, for example. Both Hamshack Hotline and AllStar Link are Asterisk based. Allstar nodes can be connected as an "RF link" using Asterisk dial strings. AllStar can be connected to RF transmitters for ham radio and can act as radio-less hub nodes. A phone user in an EOC or local weather office can connect, listen, and interact with RF connected users through AllStar Link.

… It is Hamshack Hotline you're looking for

Before we get too far down the road and I start hearing the cries of 'this is not ham radio.' Hamshack Hotline does not intend to replace any communication methods. Most hams stop at 'when something uses the Internet, it's not ham radio.' It's ham radio to me if it's putting out RF. Hamshack Hotline doesn't put out RF at its core so it doesn't fit my definition of ham radio. Intent of this service is to "augment" methods by conserving primary communication channels – keeping them clear, placing back channel and managerial chit-chat offline. Aside from a way to chat with friends, the service is geared toward public service events and incidents where Emcomm is needed (flooding, power outage, weather events) and Internet communications are still possible between two endpoints. Additionally, it can automatically send voicemail blasts or paging instructions for an EOC activation, coordinate Skywarn activities, or simply notify members of regular club meetings. It also benefits those who are restricted from antennas in condos, apartments, or HOAs. Hamshack Hotline works well over ham radio MESH networks if there is an Internet route in and out of the network.

Section Technical Specialist and ARES Data Manager, Jim – W8ERW, has mentioned Hamshack Hotline many times in his OSJ articles. He has encouraged its use across the Sandusky and Seneca county areas. Hamshack Hotlines are installed in both EOCs and a conference bridge setup for event coordination.

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The phone bridge was used to coordinate events leading up to State Emergency Tests (SET) between team members. A curated list of import Hamshack Hotline extensions and bridge extensions is published and available to members as a quick reference.

Many of your Section Technical Specialists are on Hamshack Hotline: Bob – K8MD (who told me about HH initially), Tracey – W8TWL, Jim – W8ERW, and myself – K8JTK. Extensions can be found in the phonebook. Ham Shack Hotline setup is easy and reasonably cheap. If you are thinking of joining, create an account on the HHOPS Helpdesk system and read through the Knowledgebase articles. There are some key articles that touch on issues such as satellite-based Internet connections and high latency connections which function poorly or not at all with the service.

First, purchase a supported phone or phone adapter. All can be found used on Ebay. The device must be **UNLOCKED and factory reset**. This is very important! Sometimes passwords are used to keep users out of messing with the configuration of their deployed phone in a business setting. Clearing those passwords are a low priority, if at all, before the equipment is removed, refreshed and resold. This will result in tracking down the seller for the password or, worst-case, loss of investment if the phone cannot be unlocked. A list of supported devices is listed in the Hamshack Hotline Knowledgebase here. If you don't have an account, the list as of this writing with recent used pricing:

- Cisco SPA-112 – 2 Line Analog Telephone Adaptor - $30-40
- Cisco SPA-303 – 3 Line voip desk speakerphone - $30-50
- Cisco SPA-504g – 4 Line voip desk speakerphone - $30-60
- Cisco SPA-514g – 4 Line voip desk speakerphone - $30-90
- Linksys/Cisco SPA941/942 - $20-30
- Cisco SPA525G etc - $50-100+

K8JTK Hamshack Hotline – Cisco SPA-514g phone

The Facebook group and Mattermost chat service often have deals from members who want to resell hard phones to hams and is a place to obtain community support. Some phones feature Power over Ethernet (PoE), Gigabit Ethernet passthrough, or a color screen. A little research is required depending on desired features.

When the phone arrives, a ticket requesting provisioning of an extension is required. Open a New Ticket and select "HHUS (USA) New Line Request." You will need to provide phone model, your call sign, the MAC address of the phone, and your location information for the map. A MAC address is a unique identifier of each network interface device.

Technologies used in networking have unique MAC addresses including Ethernet, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and 4G interfaces. It's easiest to take a picture of the MAC address sticker on the phone. If there is no sticker from the manufacturer, the MAC address can be found in the phone's setup menu. Press the button on the phone that looks like a document, select item 10 Product Info, then 5 MAC Address. The web interface is another way. With the phone connected to the network, in a browser enter: http://<ip-address-of-phone>/ or http://<ip-address-of-phone>/admin/

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These may vary depending on phone model. If all else fails, look at the MAC, IP, or DHCP table in your router when the phone is connected to the network. Submit the ticket and your line will be provisioned with the next available extension number. The Helpdesk system is almost always shutdown during the holidays to give the support staff time off. Plan accordingly.

When the line is provisioned, a TFTP file will be created on their Helpdesk server with your phone's MAC address. TFTP is an old way of sending a file to a device and often used as a boot configuration file for devices. This file configures the phone for use with Hamshack Hotline. The HHOPS representative will let you know when the file is created and instruct you to follow the provisioning guide for that phone in the Knowledgebase.

A URL will be entered into a web browser similar to this:
http://<ip-address-of-phone>/admin/resync?tftp://apps.wizworks.net/spacfg-$MA.cfg

This tells the administrative web interface of the phone to resync phone functionality against the "spacfg-" file found at that Internet address. "$MA" gets expanded by the phone to fill in its own MAC address, that way each file remains unique on the server. It is not recommended to provision a device using TFTP over the Internet because of the lack of encryption and authentication, but it is effective. If the download completes successfully, the phone will reboot and you will be on the Hamshack Hotline system!

In general, you do not need to make configuration changes in your Internet router such as port forwarding. However, if you have more than the basic router/firewall provided by the ISP, you will have to make configuration changes and should have an idea of those changes. The need for changes will become obvious when you enter the URL from the provisioning guide and the phone doesn't reboot after a couple minutes. A TFTP helper and/or port forwarding may need to be enabled for the incoming configuration connection. Once the phone is configured, these provisions can be disabled as the phone will use the locally stored configuration on subsequent reboots. If you want to re-provision the phone at a later time, the same router/firewall changes will need to be re-enabled. Communication is handled by the phone reaching out and establishing connections with Hamshack Hotline servers. If any outgoing connections are allowed by your firewall, there will be no need for additional router/firewall changes for normal operation.
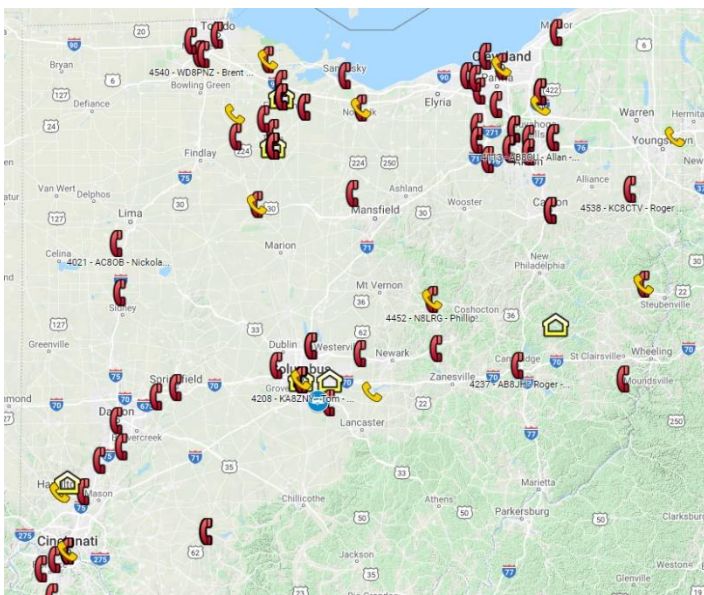
Hamshack Hotline phones in Ohio

Once connected to Hamshack Hotline, what can you do? Check the phonebook or map for stations you know and give them a call! Over the air RF Links can be dialed and attempt to make contact over RF. RF Link configurations require *99 to transmit and # to stop transmitting via the phone's keypad. Extension 94000 connects to Brandmeister DMR talkgroup 31688. A DMR radio or ID is not required to transmit. Your audio will be heard where other users monitoring the talkgroup can respond. Lastly, there are public bridges where you can meet other Hamshack Hotline users. Extensions 300, 302, and 314 are "Public" bridges 1, 2, and 3 respectively.

I purchased a Cisco SPA-514g after Dayton 2018 and have been on the system ever since. My extension is 4293 if you want to test your setup or chat. It's best to email me for a sked or leave a voicemail.

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The 514 phone is capable of 4 lines. In addition to Hamshack Hotline, I configured a line to access my AllStar node. It allows me to dial in, monitor, and control my node while freeing up radios to monitor other frequencies.

The Hamshack Hotline service went through growing pains as it became popular rather quickly. In response, they reconfigured and added servers to the network. Since then, I have not noticed any connectivity problems. Instructions in the Knowledgebase are mostly complete, though in some cases there are errors. They don't seem to be in a hurry to update the documentation. While troubleshooting is a valuable learning process, it's frustrating assuming the documentation is correct only to find out it is not correct. I try to keep in mind that Hamshack Hotline is a ham radio project. All infrastructure and support are provided by volunteers who have fulltime jobs and families.

The project has a tri-fold brochure to hand out at a club or Emcomm group meeting to drum-up interest in giving Hamshack Hotline a try. Shoot me an email or leave a voicemail at x4293 to test your Hamshack Hotline or to chat!

2020 ARRL Great Lakes Convention
The Great Lakes Division Convention and Hamfest 2020 sponsored by the Toledo Mobile Radio Association will be here soon. It is a two-day event with ARRL Great Lakes Convention Forums on Saturday, March 14, 2020 followed by the Toledo Hamfest on the 15th. I've been asked to give two presentations back-to-back on Saturday. Tentatively, the first on the Raspberry Pi and how it became a popular device with makers followed by NBEMS philosophy. I'm very proud of both presentations. The NBEMS philosophy has been presented as training in the Ohio Section and adopted by other ARES groups in other Sections. Details, locations, times, and tickets are all available on the convention's website. Hope to see you there!
Oh, IRLP...

On the topic of VoIP systems, the Internet Radio Linking Project (otherwise known as IRLP) has been a pay-to-play system. They use a PGP key system to authenticate and allow users on the system. According to their FAQ, there are two ways to obtain PGP keys to the IRLP system: "IRLP PGP keys are only assigned to users that support IRLP, either by purchasing IRLP hardware or by making a donation to the project." I had some experience with IRLP and felt I could build a node from scratch. I inquired about making a financial donation to the project to obtain a key and was told "no." O.. OK. Sometime later, I purchased hardware in the form of an SD card from the IRLP website with the approved operating system and my legally assigned PGP key, great! I played around with that for a while but was more intrigued with AllStar. The AllStar distribution I choose offered a way to setup an IRLP node using a legitimate PGP key – though they warned this may not be sanctioned. I setup my IRLP node on the AllStar/HamVoIP distribution and was good for a little over a year.

Well, this was "no Bueno" to the IRLP folks and they had enough. Sometime around the first of the year, IRLP removed PGP keys from the system for nodes who were not using approved IRLP hardware, including myself. Most reasons given for taking such action are outlined in a posting to the IRLP Groups.io Message board. Non-IRLP connections reduced their 'security policy.' If the policy is to have a closed network with only approved hardware on the system, mission accomplished. 'Links were non-RF links.' Some might have been, mine was an RF link. This one got to me: "HAMvoip also seems to have created an informal network of passing around IRLP Boards so folks could surreptitiously obtain keys without buying the IRLP hardware. Then harvesting the PGP keys for use in an unauthorized software package such as HAMvoip." I **WILL NOT** condone, support, or have any remorse for those who fraudulently obtained or generated keys to the system, if this was indeed taking place. No one has yet outlined the details of how these fraudulent keys were generated *and installed*. From my experience, I obtained my legally generated PGP key when I bought my SD card.

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It had to be created from administrator who, I'm presuming, authorized that key on the IRLP system because I did not create any key and my private key remains unchanged. If I had to jump through that hoop to be approved by an administrator, how were others getting around that? No details. IRLP was able to revoke my legitimate [public] key system-wide. This argument seems suspicious.

I'm a little more than miffed that I paid their tariff to access the IRLP system and now am blocked until I rebuild my node with only approved hardware. Only then I can obtain a new, valid key to the system. It is true that I did not follow, to the letter, using only approved IRLP hardware and software. That's their right to revoke my access, as it is their system.

Some replaced old or aging IRLP hardware with other systems or Raspberry Pi computers acting as repeater controllers. Others, like myself, wanted to have more linking flexibility and options. As it turns out, when IRLP removed keys for non-IRLP hardware from the key ring, without ANY advanced notice, they brought down a repeater during an emergency EOC net. Response was basically: you were doing something we didn't like "So you should not have been surprised" (link, same as above). Showing disregard for emergency communications and banning experimentation – two foundational pillars of the Amateur Radio service – there is no reason to support this type of behavior. I would actively remove IRLP from all communication plans and utilize more open linking systems.

Thanks for reading and 73…

73… de Jeff – K8JTK

From the Section Emergency Coordinator
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Ohio ARES has for the past several years sponsored the "ARES VHF Simplex Contest" which is really a misnomer, since we operate 54 MHz to really high frequencies. It's just too long a title that way. The purpose is much the same as our last SET - to enhance our ability to communicate on typical VHF bands during emergencies and power outages. This year produced an excellent response!

One major improvement comes with a huge thanks to Jason McCormick, N8EI, who put together an excellent website to support our activity: ohsimplex.org. Jason's site allowed us to register our operation, and post when and where we would be on the air. We had somewhere around 60 registered, from numerous counties. Activity was strong across the state. I believe everyone had a good time! Scored will be forthcoming, and they will also be placed on the website.

There are a number of tools we can use during emergencies, but we can't let them overshadow the 'mainstream' response modes such as basic two-meter FM simplex. This is one way to keep our skills (and antennas!) up and working. Thanks to all who played!

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Coming up April 4 is our Ohio ARES Conference. We'll be meeting again at the plush lecture hall at Marion Tech (OSU Marion) on that Saturday. Our goal is to both educate and give our county EC's and managers information they can take back home and put to use. We've had some really good speakers, and this year will be excellent. Our keynote will be Dr. Brian Griffin who for 20 years managed a 600-person all-volunteer medical team for the Arnold Sporting Event- largest athletic event in the world.

On April 25, the other part of our basic emergency arsenal gets exercised during Ohio NVIS Antenna Day. This has been a very successful event in which we construct and test different NVIS antennas. It is NOT a contest, rather a fun day of playing antennas and eating food! The weather's been part of the challenge in some years, and that gives us something to brag about.

We got a reminder that ARES readiness is NOT seasonal. The weekend forecast for our VHF contest day, January 11, included wind warnings, floods and other severe weather. The day went along fairly well until the frontal system reached western Ohio. At that point two confirmed tornadoes were recorded in the greater Dayton area, and at nearly the same time, winds toppled a church steeple and some other roofs in the Portsmouth area. Other than Skywarn (which was requested in Cincinnati and Dayton) we were not needed since regular communications were able to handle responders. We do have procedures in place: HF and DMR nets to relay information to the Ohio Watch Desk, as well as EOC to EOC messaging. Our task: to be ready constantly to actually USE those modes and do so professionally! We can't just convince ourselves we can do that while sitting in our recliners. It takes practice, working in good and poor conditions, to keep us seasoned and ready! Moral of the story: don't drop the ball, we should be ready at all times!

73, Stan N8BHL

You can view all of the SEC's monthly reports on the website.. http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/default.html

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From the Affiliated Club Coordinator
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ACC January 2020

Happy New Year to you All!

The new year brings with it many opportunities and much good news for Amateur Radio Operators. First off, roughly smack dab in the middle of the year we will reach the absolute minimum between Solar Cycles 24 & 25. We are at the bottom. That means from here on, at least for about the next 7 years, its all going to be good or getting better as far as propagation goes. Use this time to get those stations ready and hone your operating skills!

By now you've probably either established some new habits, or, fallen back into your old habits (I'm speaking about diet, exercise and getting things done around the house). I've got some New Year's resolutions for you that I want you to consider:

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1. Get on the air every day. Make it your goal to make at least 1 Q every day. If you're a DX'r, I'm sure you'll pick up a few new ones. If you're a CW op, your skill will have improved drastically through the year. If you're a rag chewer, you'll probably make some new friends. The point is, if you're not doing the activities of your hobby, then you really don't have a hobby.

2. Participate in the activities of your club. It only takes a few people to get together and have fun. Once the rest see what you are doing and the fun you are having doing it, they'll want to participate too. The best thing you can do to help your club grow is to be there and take part. If no-ones doing that, you really don't have a club.

3. Share your hobby with others! Invite family and friends to actually see what you are doing. Make some activities that they can participate in – put a HT in the hands of an unlicensed kid and he can instantly become a fox hunter. Supply him with a simple directional antenna and it becomes a lot more fun. Put a kid (or another adult) behind the mic and let them talk to someone in Duluth! It might just be the most interesting thing they've done all day.

We all talk about wanting to get the younger generation interested in the hobby. It's a fantastic goal and a great talking point. But, if we want to be successful at it, we need to find out what the kids are interested in and make our hobby speak to those activities. Remember Willie Sutton? He was a notorious bank robber. Every time he got caught, he did his time, got released then started robbing banks again. Until he got caught again. Finally, someone got interested in his story and interviewed him. They asked the obvious question: why do you rob banks? His answer: that's where the money is. Pretty obvious.

If we want to go where the kids are, we have to know what interests them. According to Carole Perry "In the last few years, I have found a tremendous interest of young people in robotics and maker fairs. Satellites, building cube sats, and space related activities is a close 3rd on the list. The next most popular aspect of the hobby with young hams is with dx'ing and contesting. This of course, reflects MY experiences with kids across the country".

I'm going to suggest that your club looks for a local maker fair or robotics group and gets involved with them. Hams could be a tremendous help to kids by getting involved and helping with all aspects of "building" things. We could become an invaluable resource to them in all aspects of building, all the way from laying out projects on a sheet of paper, to the proper use of hand tools. How about a couple of "build it" days presented to the cub scouts where, by means of a simple project, they are taught to use simple hand tools – a screwdriver, pliers, wrenches. You'd be amazed how many kids today don't have a clue!

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Move them up to include soldering, circuit diagnostics with a simple meter, simple household wiring. If we worked together on this, your club along with my club, we could come up with a curriculum that could cover 3 or 4 sessions with the kids that any club could pick up and run with, without having to re-invent the wheel. Throw in a session on fox hunting, again, putting it in their hands and letting them have the fun with it. We could become a valuable resource for lots of groups looking to "entertain" young kids once or twice a month.

For kids a little bit older than the cub scouts, real ham radio demonstrations that focus on working contacts via the satellites or the International Space Station. How about building an launching their own "satellite" via a balloon or model rocket launch?

The point is to bring the ham radio experience into the things they are interested in and show them how Ham Radio can bring them closer to their interests and be a lot of fun all at the same time!

I'd like to bring together a section wide group to work on something like this and then roll it out both to the public and to the other clubs in the OH Section. If this sounds like something YOU would like to be involved in, let me know and I will help to facilitate the start up. tomsly29@gmail.com

Here's another idea where I think we can all work together to try to get the younger generation interested in Ham Radio. Most clubs seem to have 1 or maybe 2 younger hams (read maybe 8-18). If they want to be involved, they have to hang out with the "old guys". I think I'm pretty cool, but, my 9-year old grandson has a different idea about that. They would much rather hang out with and participate with their peers. With only 1 or 2 in the local club, that makes it kind of tough. But, look at all the young hams in the OH Section and I bet there's quite a few. Let's have the discussion about setting up a "virtual Club" for them. Maybe get them together a couple times a year in person, but the rest of the time they could meet via the internet, social media, dmr nets, anything, just a forum where they could be together with their peers on a regular basis. So, if you would like to work on this project with me, we need to set up the format and the structure to make it work. Let me know and we'll start a working group to make it happen. Also, let me know who the young hams are in your clubs, so I can reach out to them to get them on board and be a part of this project. You know how to get ahold of me.

It all comes down to this, we can talk about the perpetuation of our hobby, or we can do something to make it happen. Talk is cheap. Put some skin in the game. We can make a difference. We could be where it starts to happen and we could set the stage for all the other sections in NA. That would be pretty cool. Think of it this way, if we can get the 8-18 crowd interested and involved, then later on you'll have hams in the 20-40 year age group coming into your clubs. That group is sorely needed – right away! Some of our clubs might die off (literally) in the next 10-20 years if we don't get some new, younger blood involved. The ARRL isn't going to do it for us. The schools aren't going to do it for us. The Scouts and the Soccer clubs aren't going to do it for us. WE have to step up – now. Let me know what you think and what you are willing to do to be a part of the solution!

Have you started making your plans for Field Day this year? It's really not too soon. Got any other interesting activities on your agenda? Let me know and I can get the word out here and maybe help boost your participation.

I'm looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible this year. Like I said starting out, we're hitting rock bottom in the sunspot cycle this year. It's a great time for an eyball QSO!

73 Tom WB8LCD

That's it for now. Let me know what's on your mind.   tomsly29@gmail.com

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From the Public Information Coordinator
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FROM THE PIC

THE "GREAT" 2020 NEWSLETTER CONTEST

Judging from the number of newsletters I've been receiving this year's newsletter contest may be the biggest ever!!

To date I have 47 entries! WOW! What a great start and it's only January.

Keep them coming. Remember you need two copies from different months to be successfully entered and you can email, snail mail or call and I'll come pick it up!
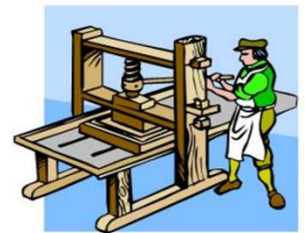
The deadline is still June 30th, judging is just after the July 4th holiday and the awards will be presented the second weekend in August at the hamfest in Tallmadge.

I keep in touch with the judges every month and they are asking when we can get together for another round…of looking at newsletters! So, if you have questions drop me a line and ask.

Last month we heard on our PIC PODCAST judge Steve Wilson. We continue this month with our newest judge Erin Cribbs. The link for the PODCAST is below and it's a great interview with some invaluable advice.

PIC PODCAST

← Here John's Podcast

Interview with Newsletter Contest judge Erin Cribbs on technical aspects of newsletters.

HAM AND EGGS AND AMATEUR RADIO

On Saturday Morning January 4th I was invited to the monthly breakfast meeting of the Southwest Columbus Ham Radio Club (SWCHRC). It was more than just Ham and Eggs…it was, well, ham and ham and ham…as in Amateur Radio! Somewhere between the breakfast chewing there was plenty of sides of Rag Chewing to go around….almost sounded like a breakfast net!
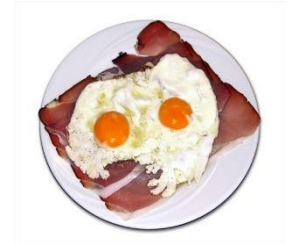
This is a small but industrious group of hams (20 showed up for breakfast) and boy they had lot to say just about everything!

I was impressed with their questions, and their answers, as they tried to help each other figure out problems, operating procedures, and anomalies. They jumped right in and offered great opinions and advice for every question…a great example of a how important a club can be in advancing the art of Amateur Radio. For these folks it didn't matter who was asking or how trivial the question seemed. They helped their fellow hams and a good time doing it!

While the club has a good looking website, they don't have a monthly newsletter. No problem…come to breakfast…it's like a newsletter you can eat!!!

I'm a big fan of newsletters for keeping a club informed and connected but the SWCHRC has a different approach and it works. Maybe too often we rely on the "the media", whatever it is, to do our communicating. Just sitting down over lunch or dinner and talking about ham radio can work just as well. The SWCHRC has honed this to an art and the club responds in droves (OK maybe only 20+ people) but it still works. As important as all of the gadgets and gizmos ham radio has to offer, we can't overlook one important part of the hobby…one or one, face to face contact. Sort of like a human QSL card.

So, if you find your club's communications a bit dry or lacking some pizzazz try a new menu of shaking hands, chowing down and listening with your ears instead of a receiver. If you don't, you're missing a lot of great talk and missing out on an opportunity to make new ham friends.

Thanks to the Dan Merrill from the SWCHRC for the invitation. Breakfast and ham radio never tasted better!!

DEADLINES AND REAL DEADLINES

The first thing I learned in Journalism School and as a reporter was about deadlines.
Don't miss them!

Most journalists and writers work for the deadline and sometimes it comes quicker than expected. I'm not sure what you call a deadline that comes earlier than expected but I think editors and printers call it ……a DEADLINE, too!

If you work with your local print media there are many changes that taking place that could adversely affect your deadlines and make them, well, deadlier!

Many newspapers and local community papers are now owned by the same company. That's the case in Central Ohio and shortly the papers will all be printed by a different company…out of state…and shipped back for delivery. Your paper may arrive at the usual time but it's the content that might be late! What this does this mean for you? Well, you must be very clear when you need your information to appear and chances are your normal deadline will be anything but normal. In some cases, it may be due a month in ADVANCE or maybe even longer.

As newspapers continue to struggle with circulation issues and increased digital competition you many find that local papers could cease publication altogether. It could also mean if they continue to publish and deliver circulation could be reduced to bi-monthly or even once a month.

There is no easy way out of this so it's best not to put your journalist eggs in one basket. Keep talking to your local paper reps but continue to look for other ways to promote your club and event. Just so happens we here in the Ohio Section have a great vehicle…our newsletters! Our stuff is top-of-the-line and we can control our own deadlines and circulation. Make sure you consider sending your newsletters to other clubs and maybe to clubs that a not ham radio organizations. You never know what kind of bond you build until you try. You'll be able to expand the interest in amateur radio, make new friends and maybe, just maybe, find some new hams as well.

Make your own deadlines and stick to them and keep to the information flowing, current and accurate.

Speaking of deadlines…mine is here now! Talk you next month and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

73

John Ross KD8IDJ Public Information Coordinator Ohio Section ARRL

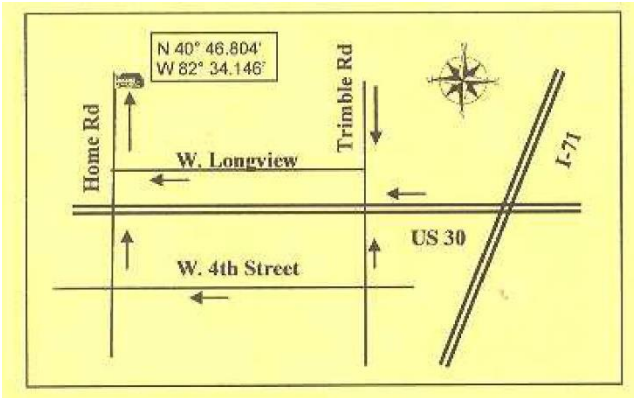### *From the Section Traffic Manager*
David Maynard, WA3EZN – STM
wa3ezn@att.net

Is your section traffic manager's workload to heavy? Is there a need to take the load off? More on this after this meeting announcement.

Mansfield Hamfest at 750 North Home Road
Mansfield Mid*Winter hamfest link http://www.iarc.club/hamfest/index.html

The Ohio Single Side Band Net will be meeting at the Mansfield Mid*Winter hamfest for its semi-annual meeting. The meeting will be at 11 am in the youth building. The Hamfest will be on Sunday February 16 at the Richland County Fairgrounds, 750 North Home Road, Mansfield Ohio. While advanced admission tickets sales are not needed but encouraged the price of admission will be $7.00. The gates will open for general admission at 7AM. Until then you can meet with the OSSBN on the air.

OHIO SINGLE SIDEBAND NET
"Specializing in the first and last mile of NTS delivery 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

The 6:45 net has been experiencing difficult propagation conditions. On those nights that a net can be held conditions have sometime been weird. The band has been so bad that on one net there was only a net control and two other stations, all from the same county. In the past the Northern Ohio stations running the net at night have had good copy with all stations that checked in. However, some of the Columbus, Cincinnati and southern Ohio stations could not be heard. Another night a southern Ohio station ran the net, and had only three stations check in. Propagation was again the culprit. On several nights the net has needed relay from stations in Iowa, North Carolina and Alabama etc. in order to get stations checked in and to pass traffic.

Because of the way in which the relatively long wavelengths of radio signals interact with the ionized layers of the ionosphere miles above the earth's surface, the propagation of radio waves changes drastically from daytime to nighttime. This change in radio propagation occurs at sunset due to radical shifts in the ionospheric layers, which persist throughout the night.
This appears to be a seasonal problem that starts with the time change each year. After the sun goes down the band goes long, and only local members can hear net control and check in without being relayed. I believe that the local members are making contact via ground wave which does not extend far enough for stations that are farther away to make contact.

The OSSBN may try to use 160 meters at 1.888 MHz but not many station have antennas for this frequency because of the 247 foot length of the antenna. However, this dipole does not have to be strung up in a straight line. Zig-zag deployment is a popular alternative to straight line.
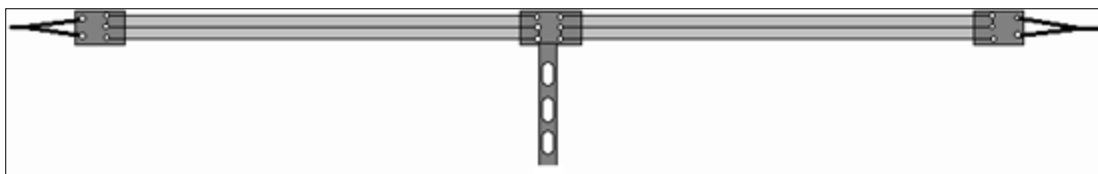
I have heard talk on the net about a Cobra UltraLite antenna shown here that is working well on 160 meters along with 80 and 40 meters. The 160-meter version is 140 feet long and may be of interest to those looking for an antenna that will get them on 160 meters. More information can be found on the internet.

Is your section traffic manager's workload to heavy? I received this email that started me thinking.

Hello David,

Hope all is well with you, I am trying to get WinLink up and running to give you help with getting the NTS messages, reading The ARRL WinLink 2000 info in the Tactical Addresses it states to consult with the STM regarding The National Tactical Address Protocol.

Hope to get this up and running soon to take some of the pressure off you. Also setting it up for use on ARES and SKYWARN. Planning to run on VHF using a KPC-3+ on 145.010, HF using a SignaLink USB and internet HAVE A GREAT NEW YEARS 73

WA3EZN traffic counts for December:
  Traffic report radiograms from voice nets 86
  Radiograms received via digital (NTSD) 90
  Radiograms received via digital and relayed 85
  Radiograms sent via digital (NTSD) 3
  Total radiogram traffic for December 2019 264
  Average 31 day "LOAD" 8.5 radiograms per day

When looking at my numbers I have trouble identifying any real load. There are five digital relay station for Ohio and the load just isn't there. If someone really wants to help traffic handling for NTS the OSSBN can use more help with net control stations and liaison stations to Eight Region and Eastern Area Nets. Calls for help by Mike KC8WH often go unanswered or have to be filled by stations already covering multiple net control or liaison positions. If you want to help, please step up and answer Mike's calls.

Here is something I found on the internet that may help traffic handlers understand the new telephone area codes that have come into use recently. It shows Ohio and surrounding telephone area codes.
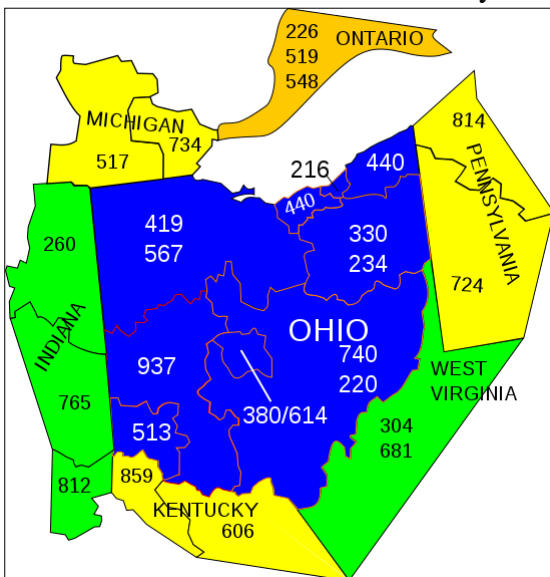
Let's talk more about PACTOR and NTS Digital

Radiogram-formatted NTS traffic on HF is being handled by digital means on the NTSD system. This system is a group of mailboxes, store-and-forward (MBO) station operators spanning the country. Many of these stations have the capability of receiving and sending traffic via several digital modes including packet, by HF and VHF, all interchangeably. For example, a message received on HF Clover can be forwarded via VHF packet without modification. This flexibility is one of the system's assets as it allows for forwarding along the best path at the time, resulting in the highest efficiency and reliability.

The chief concerns of the digital system, of course, are responsibility and accountability -- most MBO system operators are not concerned about NTS traffic that passes through their systems. Radiograms arriving at their stations are occasionally passed out the VHF port into the packet forwarding system with no guarantee that they will get to their destination. Many of these messages end up in the infamous "black hole" or "bit bucket." Naturally, this violates the most basic principle of NTS: getting the message through all the way, from originator to addressee.

What's the answer? The solution is to introduce responsibility and accountability into the mix, just like we do with traditional NTS nets and operators.

Interested MBO system operators are now certified as "NTS Digital Relay Stations" and as such, they accept responsibility for relaying traffic only to other NTS Digital Relay Stations or NTS-approved nets or nodes. They are appointed by, and are accountable to, their Area Digital Coordinator, who is elected by the Area Staffs and who serves as an NTS Official and official member of the Area Staff. The ADCs maintain and publish a roster of these stations and report their activity to HQ. This way, the traffic stays "in the family," giving it the best chance for proper delivery.

The network of NTS-approved HF Digital Relay Stations is a mighty tool that, when used properly, can provide support to the traditional NTS nets, at any level. The digital network can pick up and move traffic when normal NTS nets cannot, due, for example, to an overloading situation, or lack of normal liaison operators.

PACTOR can be viewed as a combination of two earlier digital modes, packet radio and AMateur Teleprinting Over Radio (AMTOR). PACTOR provides improved throughput because its transmission speed adapts to the quality of the link and it uses Huffman compressed characters. PACTOR operates over half-duplex links and uses an Automatic Repeat reQuest (ARQ) protocol, acknowledging each individual data packet with a short Control Signal (CS). Some PACTOR implementations provide a Memory-ARQ feature to determine and store the relative strength of each received bit. Copies of corrupted frames stored this way are correlated with frames received later, to provide a coding gain for improved error correction.

To initiate a PACTOR connection, the NTSD station sends a special synchronization packet which contains the standard Header byte followed by the call sign (address) of the Slave station in both a 100-baud and a 200-baud bit pattern. (Each address field allows for up to eight characters, with the character 0F hexadecimal following the call sign in each unused space.) This allows the 200-baud bit pattern to determine the quality of the channel: The Slave responds with CS1 (4D5 hexadecimal) if the 200-baud bit pattern was received without error, or CS4 (D2C hexadecimal) if not, which leads to an instant reduction of data rate to 100 bands. After receiving the first CS1 or CS4 from the Slave, the Master sends the first data packet with Header=AA hexadecimal and packet count=1. System specific data, including the Master call sign, is sent automatically at the beginning. If the Slave is busy, it can both acknowledge and reject a connection by sending one CS2 (AB2 hexadecimal) each time it receives a correct synchronization pattern. The Master terminates its connect request after receiving CS2 twice in succession.

PACTOR I is available on several modems including some PK-232MBX AEA modems but not until a software upgrade has been performed. But most NTSD stations are using PACTOR II or PACTOR III because of better and faster performance.

PACTOR-II is a fully backward-compatible improvement to the original PACTOR system. It is an adaptive mode that applies different modulation and encoding methods depending on the channel quality. PACTOR-II performs its initial link setup using PACTOR in order to achieve compatibility.

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An automatic handover to PACTOR-II is made only if both stations are capable of PACTOR operation. While PACTOR uses frequency-shift keying (FSK) modulation, PACTOR-II uses two-tone differential phase-shift keying (DPSK) modulation.

PACTOR-II modem

PACTOR-IIs highest data transfer rate without compression is 700 bit/s under optimum conditions, which can provide a maximum effective throughput of up to 1200 bit/s (for text with real-time data compression enabled). PACTOR-IIs improved error control coding enables it to operate on circuits with (S+N)/N ratios as much as 7 dB lower than PACTOR can tolerate. To go more in depth on the characteristic and operation of PACTOR is not my intention here. More in depth information can be found with an internet search. But this is not all. In order to be an NTSD station using a PACTOR modem you must also use the AirMail program.

AirMail is a radio mail program for sending and receiving messages via Pactor over HF radio, either via the ham radio system or participating marine and commercial services.

Airmail is a messaging program (similar to Outlook) specifically designed for connection to a HF radio mailbox station. Once connected to a compatible station, message transfer is completely automatic. On the ham bands, Airmail can transfer messages automatically with any station supporting the BBS or F6FBB protocols, such as Winlink-2000 (www.winlink.org), Winlink, F6FBB and MSYS and other Airmail stations. Airmail is also used as the client program by the SailMail marine system and other participating systems. A "dumb terminal" mode is also provided but ordinary QSO's are not the program's forte.

Airmail is a 32-bit program which runs under Windows-2000, XP, Vista, Win-7 and Win-8. Airmail supports all of the SCS modems as well as the Kantronics KAM+ and KAM-98, AEA/Timewave PK-232, PK-900, DSP-1232 and 2232, the MFJ 1276 and 1278B, and the HAL DXP-38 Clover/Pactor modem. (Sound cards are not supported).

Airmail is a program developed specifically for sending messages via HF radio and optimized for low-speed links, not an adaptation of an ordinary email. Airmail is written and supported by Jim Corenman, a cruising sailor who developed the program in an environment that rewarded efficient wireless communications- far from wired Internet connections.

AirMail is licensed without charge to the amateur radio community and is dedicated to the many sysops who have donated generously of their time and equipment to make the digital ham radio network a reality. Airmail can also be used with other participating systems. Airmail is not "freeware" and may not be used for other applications without permission; send an email to Airmail Support (Subject:"Airmail") for more information. If connecting to the MBO you must use AirMail to get the radiograms. You must also be careful to not cause duplicate radiograms to be generated.

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Stations using AirMail to retrieve radiograms must wait for the MBO to disconnect. If they get disconnected before the MBO disconnects the AirMail program will consider the radiogram not complete and will send the radiogram to the next station designated to take the radiogram thus generating a duplicate radiogram. We saw some of this in 2019 and I have already received one such duplicate this year. The AirMail program can be found by going to this links: http://siriuscyber.net/airmail/1

I am not the expert on NTSD and Pactor but have tried here to present some useful information. I have mostly stayed away from discussing WINMOR and Winlink and if possible, will discuss them at a later time.

73

David WA3EZN
SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGER - OHIO

You can view the STM's monthly report on the website.. http://arrl-ohio.org/stm/stm.html

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

Get A Ham Involved

Before we get started with this month's column, I want to ask for your assistance. I am working on a column on Amateur resources and activities for youth for a magazine. I am looking for photos of youth involved in Amateur Radio activities. Please email if you have any- k8zt@arrl.net. I also will need a signed photo release- link. Now back to our normal monthly column...
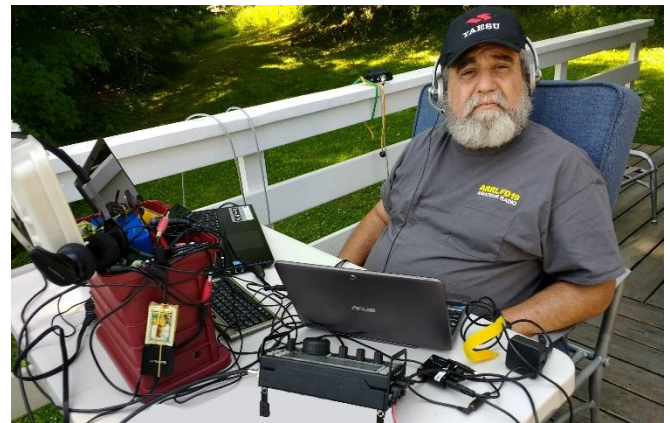
Last month my column focused on suggestions for Ham Radio New Year's resolutions. I hope you have adapted some of the ideas for yourself. This month I want to focus on a related subject **"Get A Ham Involved"** (you may have noticed this same phrase in our Ohio Section Manager Scott Yonally, N8SY's recent columns).

Get A Ham Involved (GAHI) has a lot of aspects to it from Scott's great suggestions on welcoming visitors at your monthly club meeting to creating a mentoring program for newbies. I want to focus on the development of a mentoring program aspect, but first I also had a suggestion on an item that "I borrowed" from the Mercer County Amateur Radio Club (West Middlesex, PA). Last year I did a presentation at one of their meetings and was very impressed with the way they began the meeting. Instead of asking if there were any guests that wanted to introduce themselves, they do an-around-the-room where **everyone** takes a turn introducing themselves. They give their name, callsign and where they live plus any announcements, they may have for the group that night. Give it a try.

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Now on to Mentoring...

Letter to a New Amateur

Dear New Ham

Congratulations on the new ham license (or your recent license upgrade). I know it probably took some work on your part to get that license from the FCC, but I am sorry to inform you that your license is actually a learner's permit.

Fortunately, I have some very good news for you. Almost all of us started out not knowing how to do all of those things when we got our licenses... (even if it included a 20 WPM code test, a long drive to an FCC Office, a glaring FCC examiner or sweating palms struggling to tap out Morse code).

So go forth and use that new ~~License~~ Learner's Permit to become a Real Ham!

Sincerely
OM

OM

The Old Man
Best 73's
1AW

Because just getting that FCC license is not the end to our learning the process of mentoring is extremely important to develop active, proficient hams. It is so important that Amateur Radio has a special name for those that mentor other hams, "Elmers".

Much of the Elmering that takes place is on an informal basis and that works for those that just happen to fall into the opportunity. The problem is there are few systematic mentoring programs so many new hams and potential hams fall through the cracks and never receive this invaluable service. I would encourage local radio clubs to create their own formal mentoring program and make it available to potential mentees, just as they often provide licensing classes. I would like to help facilitate this process by gathering information from clubs that are already doing this and how their program works. I will then share this with the readers of the OSJ in future issues. In the meantime, I have a couple of ideas on this project to share this month but really look forward to your suggestions on what you are doing or would like to do.

Mentoring Program Ideas:
- Identify club members that are comfortable and capable of mentoring new hams. Not everyone feels comfortable or is effective in this role. Focus on members that will project a positive attitude on Amateur Radio to new mentees.
- Identify the special skills of your potential mentors so you can best match them to future mentoring opportunities. Also gathering other information on your potential mentors such as other hobbies, occupations, ham radio focuses, etc. will help to better match Mentors with Mentees.
- Consider incorporating your mentoring program into your licensing classes and/or VE testing program
- Publicize the mentoring program on your club's website, in its newsletter, etc.
- Don't limit targets of your mentoring program to new hams, there are plenty of things even vintage licensees would benefit from learning

- Encourage newer hams to become mentors also. They are often in a unique position where they have recently acquire knowledge to pass on while being able to relate to the needs of newly licensed mentees
- Take advantage of on-air activities such as ARRL Field Day, Ohio QSO Party, etc. as part of your mentoring project
- On-air activities that Technician class licensees can participate in should also be a focus-- ARRL VHF Contest (in January, June and September), Ohio Section Simplex Day, Satellite operations, etc.
- An example of a mentoring need for both new and vintage hams might be new modes like DMR, FT8, FT4, etc.
- Your group might want to create a checklist of things for a new ham to learn-- everything from on-air activities, learning about what equipment they need, putting up antennas to registering for LOTW or setting up your page on QRZ.com
- Create a "resources list" for your mentors to use in mentoring. This can include written documents, web pages, Youtubes, etc. You might want to take a look at "Ham Radio Intro & Quick Start Guide"

Remember I would like to hear from you about what your club is doing. If you are a new ham or another potential mentee I would like to hear what you would like in a mentoring program. Email your info to me at k8zt@arrl.net.

So, go forth, have some fun and make sure you share it with a youngster!

73, Anthony K8ZT

From the Assistant Section Manager
John Perone, W8RXX – ASM
w8rxx@arrl.net

New Car RFI? Buyer Beware

That shiny new car may not be quite the mobile platform you were hoping for.

If you plan to install Amateur Radio equipment in a new or used vehicle, first check the frequencies you plan to operate for RFI. Most of us are aware of having difficulties with low band equipment in vehicles, but I recently experienced interference to 2 meters.

It was time to purchase a new car for my wife. She had previously owned two models of a popular family sedan in the past. Both of these cars had her trusty dual band (2 meters and 70 cm) mobile radio installed and it had operated successfully in each.

After a bit of test driving, we decided another of the same model was to join our family. We purchased a V-6 version. It had plenty of engine power and was fun to drive, but I digress.

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A New Transceiver for the New Car

With the new car it was time to purchase a 21st century radio. A beautiful new dual band transceiver was selected to replace the old veteran. The radio body was carefully installed under the passenger seat, the control head mounted in the center console, and the coax cable routed to the rear deck of the car for connection to the antenna. The complete hidden wire installation took a couple of hours.

Figure 1 — The offending signal at 146.7627 MHz 30 dB above the noise.

Finally, it was time to check radio performance. All was going well until the engine was started. I checked our local repeater on 146.76 MHz and found a very objectionable heterodyne. Other frequencies were fine. How could this be?

Upon further investigation the heterodyne was present at times without the key in the ignition. Just opening the car door resulted in RFI for a few seconds.

Figure 1 shows the offending signal at 146.7627 MHz 30 dB above the noise. The signal was picked up by a 2-meter flexible antenna connected to the spectrum analyzer and lying on the dash where the measurement was taken.

I should mention that the 146.76 repeater in Central Ohio is a high-profile repeater that is used for NWS weather spotting as well as other public safety nets. This heterodyne was unacceptable for our car.

I used my 2-meter handheld radio to check for interference. I just opened the squelch control and manually scanned the band. On other vehicles I found different RFI frequencies. I have heard of hams requesting to place their low band radios on the seat, plugging into the power outlet, connecting a short wire antenna, and tuning to their favorite bands before purchasing a vehicle.

My first thought was the manufacturer had used an inexpensive TV color burst crystal somewhere in the car. Many hams who operate on a 146.76 MHz repeater have heard the harmonic problems that a 3.58 MHz. crystal can cause. Many early CPUs, in all types of electronics, incorporated it ($41 \times 3.579545 = 146.76134$). This was not my source of interference, however.

I Take Action

After speaking to factory tech reps and much online research, interesting things were discovered. Three CPUs in the car operate at different clock speeds and are multiplexed onto a data bus. Two of the CPUs are attached directly to the back of the fuse panels located in the panels by our feet. This makes it impossible to place toroids or other filters on them. The third is located beside the battery under the hood. A product of this multiplexed bus is generating the RFI signal. The good old days of simple cars are gone.

I contacted my local dealer promptly explaining the problem. I was fortunate to find the assistant sales manager formerly was a radar technician and understood my problem. The dealer assisted in checking other vehicles in their inventory, as now they were interested in the problem. The dealer contacted the manufacturer explaining the issue and including my spectrum analyzer photos.

After a short time, I was told by the manufacturer, "nothing is wrong with your car." This is not what I wanted to hear.

The Solution to My Problem
How did I solve the problem? I got rid of the car. I must give credit to my local dealership. They allowed me to trade for a different vehicle without taking a loss. I guess this is why we have bought three cars from them in the past. Interestingly, the replacement car generates a signal on 146.785 MHz. Since this is not a local repeater frequency, it is not an issue for us.

Avoiding the Problem
The moral of this story is that, even if you have had good luck with RFI from cars in the past you can't assume that new models will behave the same way. While car shopping, take along a radio that covers the bands of interest and listen carefully while trying each accessory. [On my wife's car, the air conditioning compressor emits strong 2-meter RFI every time it starts up. — Ed.]

73, John W8RXX

ARES Training Update
Jim Yoder, W8ERW – ARES Data Manager
w8erw@arrl.net

ARES Training Update

The holiday season saw the usual decline in training activity. I am happy to report that we are seeing a predicted increase in certificate submissions and activity on ARES Connect already in the New Year. A busy year this is shaping up to be. Hamfests are underway with some big events again this year on the near horizon. The Great Lakes Convention should be an exciting event in March. The Folks at TMRA are working hard to make this a really relevant and interesting event. Mark your calendars for March 14 & 15 for the TMRA Hamfest and Great Lakes Convention http://www.toledoglc.org/. Also coming up is the ARES Spring Conference on Saturday April 4th. And surely let's not forget the Mansfield Hamfest on February 16th. There are many more. Please consult the ARRL-Ohio.org website for complete information on all of the activities we have going on in the Ohio Section.

So, here are the numbers as they stand today, we have 1,694 members in the training database. 240 members are Level 1, 679 are at Level 2 and 169 are at Level 3. 1,308 members have signed up with ARES Connect. There is now a total of 9,074 training certificates on file. Our highest year for certificate submissions was 2018 with 1,180 on file. 2019 was considerably smaller at 574. A total of 4,760 were recorded prior to 2014. 46 members have completed the Professional Development Series. 61 have completed Aux Comm. These are some really great numbers and truly represent the tremendous effort Ohio Section ARES members have given to our ARES Mission. We are off to a great start for 2020.

In addition to the FEMA courses we regularly track, there are some 250+ free courses available online that may be of interest depending on your desire to learn more. K8RJH now has 261 FEMA course completions on file. Ron has completed every FEMA online course that is available.

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It would be hard to set the bar much higher. There are also state level courses available although most are classroom classes rather than online. The ARRL EC courses are also available as is the Aux Comm course and the COM (L, N & T) courses. Skywarn and the Red Cross first aid certifications are also appropriate for submitting to the training database.

OK, one last thought this month. It's now January 21 and I have thankfully managed to shed nearly all the pounds I so easily acquired over the holiday season. Now this no small task as my wonderful XYL insists on creating some quite delicious offerings in the kitchen. The last couple of months seriously were pushing me higher on the scale and the temptations were often and appealing.   Winter can be and has been cold and rather slippery which makes it harder to get out and work off the results of my inability to resist these seasonal delights. I've made progress however and I'm looking to find one of those Cardio Glide machines to get back to where I need to be including a few more pounds that I've been carrying for much longer than I should have been.

Happy New Year everyone and thank you for the fine effort last year,

Jim W8ERW
w8erw@arrl.net

Local Giving Opportunity

If you haven't looked into what's out there for grant monies, well, let me introduce you to Walmart and their Giving Opportunities.

Walmart is seeking to create value in the communities around the world where we operate, strengthening them through local grants supporting programs that help them thrive.

Walmart's more than 2 million associates are residents, neighbors, friends and family in thousands of communities around the globe. Walmart works to strengthen these communities through both our retail business and community giving.

We support and invest in communities through local giving, encouraging volunteerism, and through programs to strengthen community cohesion.

Local Giving in the U.S.

Walmart believes that strengthening local communities creates value – for our business as well as society. That's why we empower each Walmart store, Sam's Club and distribution center to strengthen and support their local communities through local donations, fundraising and participate in corporate cause-marketing campaigns.

Stores, Clubs and Distribution Centers
Each year, our U.S. stores and clubs award local cash grants ranging from $250 to $5,000. These local grants are designed to address the unique needs of the communities where we operate.

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They include a variety of organizations, such as animal shelters, elder services and community clean-up projects. In FY2019, our stores and clubs provided more than $42 million in local grants. To learn more, check out our Local Giving Guidelines.

Now, this may not be something that your club can take advantage of as that you do have to be a 501 (c) (3) organization to apply for a grant, but I do know that many of our clubs around Ohio are, and if there's a genuine need, this just might be something that your club officers will want to look into.

Here's a link to all the details….   https://walmart.org/what-we-do/strengthening-communities/local-giving

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National News
(from arrl and other sources)

New Book from ARRL: Amateur Radio Contesting for Beginners

Contesting is one of the most exciting aspects of amateur radio — and for some, it's their primary ham radio activity. *Amateur Radio Contesting for Beginners* by contesting veteran Doug Grant, K1DG, offers practical information and ideas that will help you to get started in contesting — "radiosport" — or to build your skills, if you're already active.

Contesting tests station capability and operator skill, and it really *is* a sport, with a typical objective of contacting as many stations and multipliers — ARRL Sections, states, grids, or DXCC entities, for example — within the contest period.

"Doug Grant has written the ideal guide for anyone interested in contesting," said *QST* Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY.

Grant's book explains what equipment you need, typical contest formats, details of some more popular events, operating techniques, how to submit an entry, and how to improve your scores. No matter how modest your station or experience, you can compete, too!

A couple of events over the January 18 – 19 weekend to get you started include the **ARRL January VHF Contest** (CW, phone, and digital) and the **North American QSO Party, SSB**. See the **ARRL Contest Calendar** for information on other events.

Amateur Radio Contesting for Beginners is available from the **ARRL Store** or your **ARRL Dealer**. (ARRL Item no. 1243, ISBN: 978-1-62595-124-3, $27.95 retail, special ARRL Member Price $24.95). Call 860-594-0355 or, toll-free in the US, 888-277-5289. It's also available as an **e-book** for the Amazon Kindle.

For more information about ARRL-sponsored contests, including rules and results, and to view the contest photo gallery **visit** the ARRL Contests page.

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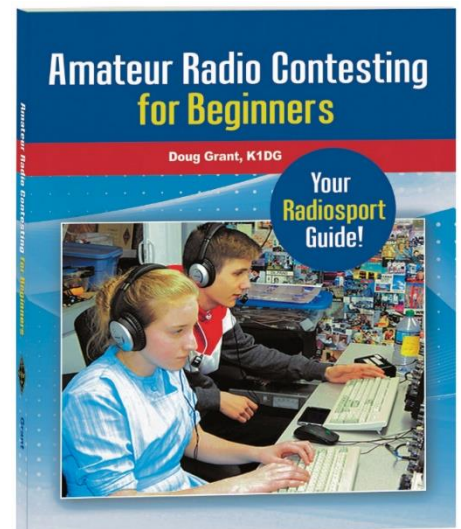
The Handbook Give Away

Hey Gang,

Have you registered for the "Handbook Giveaway" drawing for this month yet? If you haven't, go to: http://arrl-ohio.org/handbook.html and get yourself registered now!

What's the catch? I want to get everyone checking in to the Ohio Section website as often as possible, and in order to register each month, you have to visit the website often! There's nothing else to it. I pay all expenses and I usually "Give Away" more than just a Handbook too!!

Many of you ask me just how do I know when the drawing is on? Well, that's easy all you need to do is check in on the Ohio Section Website on a regular basis and watch for the big **RED** Arrow that will appear on the left side of the page. This is the sign that the drawing is on and you need to get registered. So, keep a sharp eye out on the website and check in often!

Club Corner

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

Let me know what you club is up to. Are you going to have a special guest at your meeting or are you having a special anniversary? Just sent it to: n8sy@n8sy.com

Lancaster / Fairfield County ARC Hosting Technician Classes

The Lancaster and Fairfield County ARC is hosting a Technician training class **Feb 1 & 8** with an exam session scheduled on the 8th. We are limited to 10 students and have 6 registered. Info is posted on our club webpage calendar http://k8qik.org/ and at the ARRL.

For more information contact Robert Northrup, kc8psw RobertJ74@columbus.rr.com

Mercer County Amateur Radio Club Hosting Special Guest

I am pleased to announce that Bob Allison, WB1GCM from the ARRL headquarters lab team will present two topics at the Mercer County Amateur Radio Club January 2020 meeting on **January 28th** starting at 6 PM at the Park Inn Radisson West Middlesex.

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Everyone is welcome to attend the January Mercer County Amateur Radio Club (MCARC) meeting and learn how ARRL reviews and tests new equipment - from the guy that writes the articles you see in QST magazine.

This is a meeting you do not want to miss.

73 and Happy New Year, Tim K3LR - MCARC President

####

The Highland ARA is starting a Technician Class in the not too distant future. I**nstruction will start on Sunday, February 9** and be held each Sunday afternoon into March. Each weekly session will last about two hours. A $25 fee will be charged which covers the cost of the ARRL Technician License Manual. More information is available from John Levo, W8KIW, 937-393-4951.

####

Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society (CARS) 2020 Winter Ham Radio Classes!

Thursday evenings starting **February 20, 2020** and ending April 2, 2020 at 6:30 pm. April 2nd will be a special VE Test session for all license classes.

To register, please follow the link at: www.2cars.org and complete the on-line application.

Classes will be held at the Seven Hills City Hall, 7325 Summit View Dr, Seven Hills, OH 44131 in room "C" at 6:30 pm every Thursday. All class materials are provided.

####

Massillon ARC Holding Classes for Tech and General licensing, and Code training.

All three classes will run simultaneously at club Headquarters, (Massillon Senior Center) 39 Lincoln Way West, Massillon, OH.

The classes will begin **Friday evening, February 14**, 7 p.m to 9 p.m, and continue every Friday evening for Ten weeks. Cost per person for entire class is $15 to cover expenses. A VE exam session will tentatively be scheduled for immediately after the last class.

Additional information can be obtained by visiting our Web site at: www.w8np.org or emailing Perry Ballinger at w8au@sssnet.com. For reservations call 330-705-8449 and leave message.

####

Mount Vernon ARC Holding Technician Classes

The Mt Vernon ARC will be holding a Technician Class License study session, capped off with a testing session this February and March.

Unlike previous years, we're going to run everything on Saturdays. We will have 4 study sessions **(2/15, 2/22, 2/29, and 3/7) from 10:00am to 2:00pm** with testing on Saturday March 14 starting at 10:00am. These sessions will be in the Red Cross Training Center, 300 N Mulberry Street, Mount Vernon. Could you post this info in the Ohio Section Newsletter for us?

For more information contact: Michael, KE8HGE at   g.m.jacobs@gmail.com

####

Skywarn Spotter Training Postponed

Due to another staffing shortage, the National Weather Service Cleveland Office will not be holding any in person Skywarn Spotter Training sessions during spring 2020. They are currently exploring the possibility of other training options.

Please stay tuned to their website for updates.

https://www.weather.gov/cle/SKYWARN_schedule

If you would like to learn more about the role amateur radio plays in Skywarn in the Cleveland area, please consider attending the February LEARA meeting on Tuesday, February 25. Dinner is served at 6:30 PM and the meeting begins at 7:30 PM. Please visit leara.org/meetings-and-events for more information and to make the required dinner reservation.

####

Cleveland Marathon

As always, I am looking for a lot of help for the Cleveland Marathon May 16 and 17. Yes, it's unfortunately on Hamvention weekend as usual and no, they aren't going to change the date of the marathon just because of that (yes people have suggested that. Seriously)

We normally need about 10 people to work the 5k on Saturday ending about noon and about 40 to work the actual Marathon on Sunday ending about 3p. If you are available to help, please sign up. If you need to leave early, that usually is not a problem so please don't be afraid to ask. Please sign up here.

As always, our event calendar is quite full, and more events will be added as they are confirmed. Please check the calendar link below often and sign up when able. For more information contact Mat at: KC8NZJ@GMAIL.COM

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Highland Amateur Radio Association holds Winter Field Day training
(Courtesy of John Levo - Highland Amateur Radio Association)

Realizing regional and local emergencies and natural disasters do not occur on ideal weather days, a group of local amateur radio operators involved with providing support communications to county, state and national governmental agencies and support organizations participated in a test of readiness this past weekend.

These members of the Highland Amateur Radio Association took part in a training exercise called Winter Field Day.

On Saturday morning, they met a location near Highland where they set up two high-frequency antenna systems plus one UHF/VHF system and the appropriate radio equipment to communicate with other stations locally, statewide and nationally.

Operating out of a barn, they were able to establish communications with almost every state and several sections of Canada. According to club officer Pat Hagen, Alaska may have been the furthest North American station contacted. However, there was a call received from a station in the Canary Islands and that over-the-air communications link successfully established.

HARA Information Officer John Levo said the approximately 20 members who participated in the exercise received valuable training on how to set up and establish radio communications links under less than ideal weather conditions with Mother Nature fully cooperating this year. They also experienced operating from a location lacking the comforts of a home station. Levo noted a highlight of the weekend was establishing radio contact with former Highland County resident and HARA member Dennis Egbert, who now resides in Alabama due his job relocation.

Former HARA President Lee Bishop said the Highland ARA will start of series of classes leading to the entry level Technician amateur radio license on Sunday, Feb. 9 at the Hillsboro Methodist Church. This first instructional class will begin at 2 p.m. with additional classes at the church each Sunday afternoon until March 29.

On March 29, a Federal Communications Commission certified group of examiners from the Clinton County Amateur Radio Association will administer a license examination. Following the passing on an examination, the FCC will normally issue the successful candidate their license and call sign within a matter of days.

Information regarding the class, examination or amateur radio in general can be obtained by contacting Levo at (937) 393-4951 or club president Jeff Collins at (937) 393-3115 or (937) 393-6579. The club's email is highlandara@gmail.com

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Upcoming Hamfests for 2020

02/16/2020 | Mansfield Mid-Winter Hamfest
Location: Mansfield, OH
Sponsor: Intercity Amateur Radio Club
Website: http://WWW.IARC.CLUB

03/01/2020 | WinterHamFest
Location: Elyria, OH
Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society
Website: http://noars.net

03/14-15/2020 | Toledo Hamfest,
ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention
Location: Perrysburg, OH
Sponsor: Toledo Mobile Radio Association
Website: http://www.toledoglc.org/

Great Lakes Division Awards Time..

Hey Gang,

It's time once again to ask you to send in your nominations for the following Division Awards. The awards will be given out at the Great Lakes Division Convention, but your nominations need to be sent in now!

Got someone in mind for any of the awards below? Send your nominations to Tom, W8WTD at w8wtd@arrl.org as soon as possible. Please be sure to have a goodly amount of information about the person you are nominating. This really helps the selection committee in their selection process.

Here's a list along with a description of each of the Division Awards.

GEORGE S. WILSON III W4OYI LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
The Radio Amateur in the Great Lakes Division whose lifetime achievement record merits recognition for outstanding contribution to the Amateur Radio Service. The nominee is active on the air and in Amateur Radio organizations. The Wilson recipient is an all-around Amateur whose lifetime activities, attitudes, and achievements might serve as an example to others. At the time of nomination, nominees must have been licensed Radio Amateurs for at least 30 years and be at least 50 years of age. Emphasis is placed on service to others rather than self, diversity of Amateur Radio interests and Activities, evidence of continuing self-challenge via Amateur Radio, and outstanding contributions to Amateur Radio. Devotion to Amateur Radio is balanced with attention to work responsibilities and family life. This award is presented at the discretion of the Awards Committee and Director. The recipient must be a current ARRL member.

GREAT LAKES DIVISION AMATEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD
The Radio Amateur in the Great Lakes Division whose outstanding record in the year preceding nomination merits recognition for contribution to the Amateur Radio Service. The Amateur of the Year, is an all-around Amateur, whose activities, attitudes and achievements may serve as a guiding example to others.

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Devotion to Amateur Radio is balanced with attention to work responsibilities and family life. The Amateur of the Year exemplifies the "Amateur's Code." In selecting the award recipient, emphasis is placed on service to others rather than self, diversity of Amateur Radio interest and activities, evidence of continuing self-challenge and outstanding contributions to Amateur Radio. The recipient must be a current ARRL member.

TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
The Radio Amateur(s) in the Great Lakes Division whose technical excellence exemplifies "continuation of the Amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art" and whose attitude exemplifies the highest dedication to service to others and to science rather than self. Particular value will be placed on evidence of continuing contributions to the Amateur Radio Service. Groups of two or more Amateurs may be nominated for a joint award in this category. Technical achievement may be demonstrated through activities such as the following: publications, research and development, creativity in hardware, software and firmware systems design and implementation, technical instruction, application of advanced technology to public service communications. This award is presented at the discretion of the Awards Committee and Director.
The recipient(s) must be a current ARRL member.

DX ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
The radio amateur(s) in the Great Lakes Division who has dedicated time, talent and service to DXing. The award is given especially in recognition of an exemplary lifetime DX record. Recipients are active o(n the air and in DX Amateur Radio organizations. The DX achievement recipient is also an all-around Amateur whose lifetime, ethical DX activities, good operating practices and notable achievements of the recipient might be viewed as examples to follow by others. At the time of nomination, nominees must have been licensed Radio Amateurs for at least 20 years and be at least 50 years of age. Emphasis is placed on DX totals (Honor Roll, DXCC Challenge, etc), DXpeditions served on, Elmering/Mentoring other DXers plus other outstanding DX related accomplishments. Devotion to Amateur Radio is balanced with attention to work responsibilities, and to civic and family life. This award is presented at the discretion of the Awards Committee and Director. The recipient(s) must be a current ARRL member.

YOUNG RADIO AMATEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD
Presented to a young radio amateur in the Great Lakes Division, 18 years of age or younger, in recognition of a record of outstanding contributions to the Amateur Radio Service. This record consists of activities and achievements in Amateur Radio, which may include support of the community through Amateur Radio, ability to recruit fellow students into Amateur Radio, scholastic achievement and extracurricular activities. The Young Amateur of the Year is enthusiastic and shows potential for leadership and further achievement. This award is presented at the discretion of the Awards Committee and Director.

JOSEPH J. PHILLIPS, K8QOE, NEWSLETTER AWARD
This award will be given to the highest scoring newsletter submitted in Great Lakes Division competition to the newsletter review committee. Each newsletter for the contest will have been declared newsletter-of-the-year for the Section it represents during the present year; however, when the timing of the Division Convention occurs too early in the year to permit selection of a newsletter for the year, winners for the previous year may be submitted. *(ed note.. Ohio's Newsletter winner has already been selected. It is the Radiogram from PCARS.)*

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03/21/2020 | Mid-Ohio Valley ARC Hamfest
Location: Gallipolis, OH
Sponsor: Mid-Ohio Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Website: http://sites.google.com/site/midohiovalleyarc/

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04/11/2020 | 66th Annual Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club Hamfest
Location: Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Website: http://www.cfarc.org/hamfest.php

04/18/2020 | Portsmouth Radio Club 2020 HAMFEST
Location: Portsmouth, Oh
Sponsor: Portsmouth Radio Club
Website: http://prc.altervista.org/

04/26/2020 | Athens Hamfest
Location: Athens, OH
Sponsor: Athens County Amateur Radio Association
Website: http://www.ac-ara.org/


DX This Week
(from Bill, AJ8B)

DX This Week – Solar Numbers Part 2
Bill AJ8B (aj8b@arrl.net, @AJ8B, or www.aj8b.com)
CWOPs Member #1567

DX Spots that originated in the Midwest included Afghanistan, Australia, Balearic Islands, Brazil, Canary Islands, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Dem. Rep. of the Congo, Ecuador, England, European Russia, Fed. Rep. of Germany, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan,
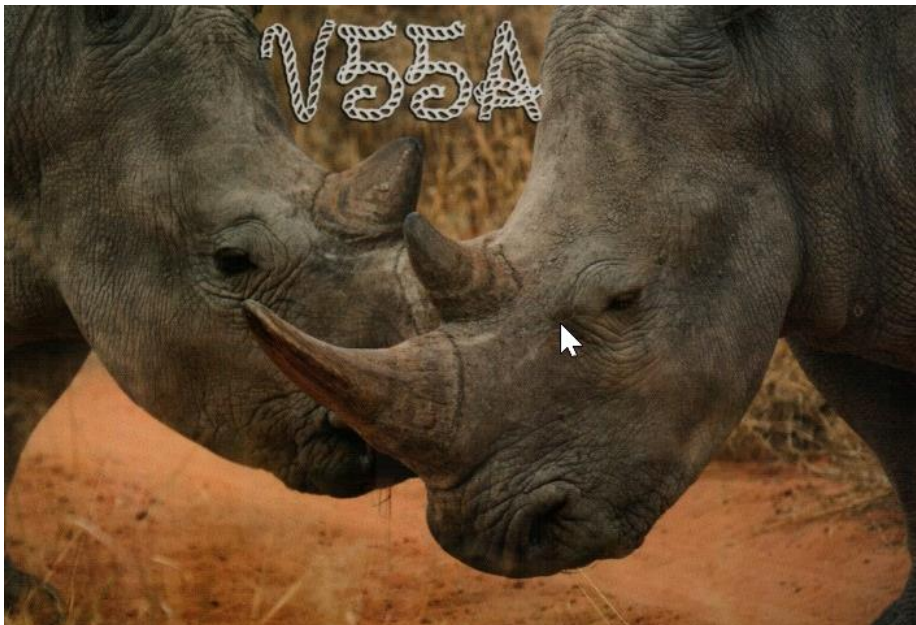
Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Palau, Poland, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Trinidad & Tobago, Ukraine, and Vienna Intl Ctr. Hope you were able to work some of these stations.

Each week I try to share some of the goodies that get me excited. Uncle Frank and I have our own "show and tell" every time we have a QSO. It is not to be braggadocios, but to share, to challenge, and to excite. I hope that you take it that way. I am happy to share your experiences, pictures, and QSL cards as well, just send them along!

The Mailman delivered QSL cards from IZ8YYU – Italy, CX5UA - Uruguay, XR6N – Chile, FO5RH – French Polynesia, D44TWO – Cape Verde, KP4JRS – Puerto Rico, 3B8M – Mauritius, and V55A-Namibia (Pictured) What did you get?

I am not a formal stamp collector, but, since 1972, I have kept any stamps received from outside of the US. I recently received one of the largest, most intricate, and picturesque stamps I have ever received. It was on a QSL received from BG2AUE in China. It is to the right.

Just like last year, I received some very nice email comments about the Solar Number Part 1article. Of course, we have to have patience as Cycle 25 is now appearing, but we don't know when it will peak or how high the peak will be. Patience, Patience, Patience!

These articles were written by Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, a leading expert on the topic. If you missed Carl's presentation at the W8DXCC Convention last June, it will soon be on YouTube. He will also be appearing at the second W8DXCC in June of 2020.

Solar Numbers – What they Mean Part 2:
By Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA
http://k9la.us/Propagation_101_23Sep07.pdf
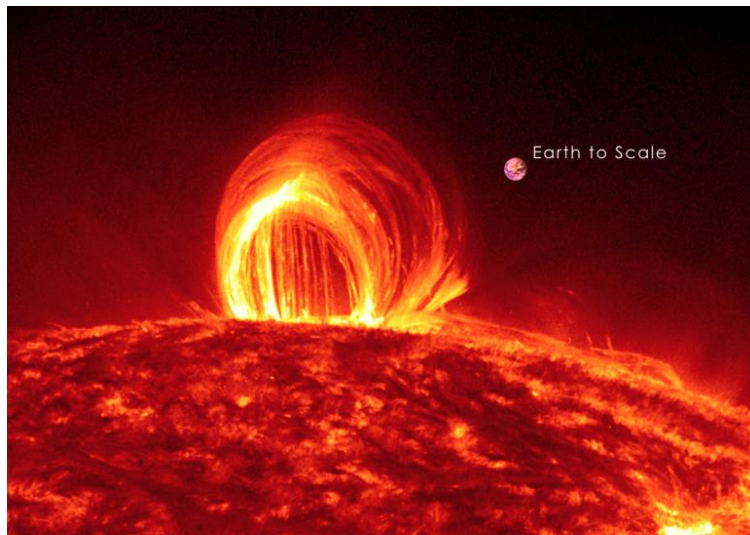
A CME is an explosive ejection of a large amount of solar matter and can cause the average solar wind speed to take a dramatic jump upward--kind of like a shock wave heading toward Earth. If the polarity of the sun's magnetic field is southward when the shock wave hits Earth's magnetic field, the shock 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.

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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:

4W - Timor-Leste - DXpedition 2020 By DL1MGB, Christian Janssen
For immediate release Press Release #1, 14 January 2020
The Lagunaria DX Group is planning a large scale DXpedition to Timor-Leste (4W) in October / November 2020.

We currently have one team member in Timor-Leste negotiating with different ministries, companies and accommodation facilities. Right now we have positive feedback from all. We even already have a confirmed reservation for two close by lodges to have enough space to host up to 10 stations. 18 operators will be ready to hand out this entity to the world. Serious participation in both CQWW contests included! More details and the first impressions from the island will be published soon on http://timor-leste-dx.de/. Learn more about the Lagunaria DX Group and visit our website http://lagunaria-dx-group.org/.

HU1DL – El Salvador - News #2 By DL7VEE, Rolf Thieme
Everything is well prepared. We are ready! Our flights are starting on January 29th from Berlin. We will arrive in our booked beach house late still at the 29th. All our equipment will be with us during the flights, so we hopefully will not have to wait for any late freight. The team is very thankful to our early sponsors. They helped us to minimize the costs for over-sized baggage, license fees, transfers, rental costs and costs for other ham related items.

With three 1-kW-stations with K3, micro KEYER II, Expert amplifier and a lot of band filters 24/7 activity is planned. There will also be one backup station. We will try to operate a fair mix of CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. Main target are the lower bands. No beams are with us this time. Perhaps we will be able to install two element wire antennas. Please check our homepage for any late news.

As we know the QRM situation on the usual FT8 frequencies in Europe, we will work mostly not on these ones and we will operate mostly in the F/H mode. Please don't call us on our transmit-frequency. And yes, we plan to be QRV on 60 m in CW and FT8.

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SWODXA DXDINNER® ANNOUNCEMENT

January 6th , 2020
Mike Suhar – W8RKO
msuhar@woh.rr.com

The SouthWest Ohio DX Association (SWODXA) is pleased to announce that we will again sponsor the DX Dinner, held in conjunction with the 2020 Dayton Hamvention®. This, our **35th** annual dinner, will be on Friday, May 15th, 2020, at the **Dayton Marriott, 1414 S. Patterson Blvd., Dayton, OH 45409**.

We will have another fantastic array of great prizes at the Dinner and the Forum!

There will be a cash bar starting at 5:30 p.m., with dinner served at 7:00. Following the event, there will be a separate room and cash bar available for more fellowship. This is an excellent opportunity to meet new hams and to renew old acquaintances as well as to learn about past DXpeditions and those in the planning stages.

The Marriott is very accommodating to a group our size. The dining room is on the ground floor so there are no steps, the dining room is very large, and there is ample **free**, on-site parking.

This dinner is always well attended by some of the most avid DXers in the world. The 2019 dinner had over 400 attendees! As in the past, there will be some major door prizes, and there is always great anticipation as to who will be named the "DXpedition of the Year®", the "IOTA DX-Peditioner of the Year", as well as the inductees in to the CQ DX Hall of Fame during the dinner.

Tickets can be purchased on the SWODXA Events website at www.swodxaevents.org/purchase-tickets/

Program details and a list of the prizes will be on the website as they become available and updates will be sent out regularly via Twitter. Follow us on Twitter - @SWODXA

You can check https://swodxaevents.org/latest-news/ for the latest news.

DX news

ARLD004 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by VE3FU, W2GD, The Daily DX, the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

GEORGIA, 4L. Mamuka, 4L2M will be QRV as a Single Op/High Power entry in the CQ World Wide 160 Meter CW contest. QSL via EA7FTR.

ISRAEL, 4X. A group of operators will be QRV as 4X2M in the CQ Worldwide 160 Meter CW contest. QSL via 4X4DZ.
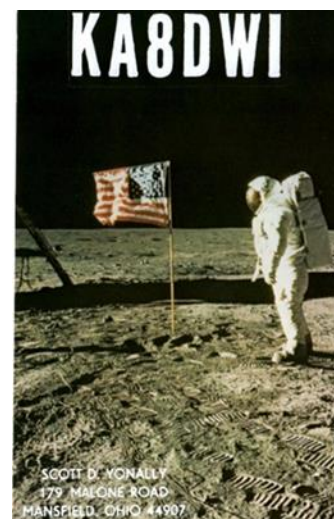
THE GAMBIA, C5. Russell, G5XW will be QRV as C5XW beginning January 28 for 10 days. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 17 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

BAHAMAS, C6. Harmon, WB4OMG will be QRV as C6AEI from Grand Bahama Island, IOTA NA-080, in the CQ Worldwide 160 Meter CW contest. QSL to home call.

CUBA, CO. Members of the DX Group of Cuba are QRV with special event call sign T40DXXE until the end of January to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Mexican DXXE Group. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8. QSL direct to CO8ZZ.

REUNION ISLAND, FR. Roland, F8EN will be QRV as FR/F8EN from January 25 to March 19. Activity will be mostly on 30 and 20 meters using CW. QSL via F6AJA.

ITALY, I. Operators S50X, S51V, S52P, S54W, S56DX, S56N, S57DX and S59A are QRV as IG9/home calls from Lampedusa, IOTA AF-019, until January 27. Activity is on the HF bands. They will be active as IG9/S59A in the CQ Worldwide 160 Meter CW contest. QSL to home calls.

CZECH REPUBLIC, OK. A group of operators are QRV with special event call sign OL725PLZ during 2020 to commemorate the founding of Plzen 725 years ago. QSL direct to OK1DRQ.

CURACAO, PJ2. Jeff, K8ND and Jim, W8WTS are QRV as PJ2ND and PJ2/W8WTS, respectively, until February 3. They will be active as PJ2T in the CQ Worldwide 160 Meter CW contest. QSL to home calls and PJ2T via W3HNK.

ARUBA, P4. Mat, DL4MM is QRV as P4/DL4MM using CW and SSB, and as P40AA using various digital modes on the HF bands until January 29. He will be a Single Op entry in the CQ Worldwide 160 Meter CW contest. QSL to home call.

TURKEY, TA. A large group of operators will be QRV as TC0X from Bozcaada Island, IOTA AS-099, in the CQ Worldwide 160 Meter CW contest. QSL via HG5DX.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA, UA. A group of operators will be QRV as UA7K from Kerch in the CQ Worldwide 160 Meter CW contest as a Multi/Single entry. QSL via LoTW.

CANADA, VE. Operators Chris, VE3FU, Dave, VE9CB and Frank, VO1HP are QRV as VO2AC, VO2AAA and VO1HP/VO2, respectively, from the Point Amour Lighthouse on Labrador until January 26. Activity is on 160, 80, 60 and 40 meters, using CW and FT8, including FM on various Satellites from Grid Square GO11. They will be active as VO2AC in the CQ Worldwide 160 Meter CW contest. QSL to home calls.

MEXICO, XE. Members of the DXXE group are QRV with special event callsign 4A15DXXE during 2020 to celebrate the group's 15th anniversary. QSL via LoTW.

INDONESIA, YB. Members of the Grobex Team Contest Indonesia plan to be QRV as 7A2A from Zone 28 in the CQ Worldwide 160 Meter CW contest. QSL via LoTW.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF. Stan, K5GO will be QRV as ZF5T from Brac Island, IOTA NA-016, during the CQ Worldwide 160 Meter CW contest. QSL via LoTW.

PARAGUAY, ZP. Manu, ZP9MCE will be QRV in the CQ Worldwide 160 Meter CW contest. QSL via LoTW.

SOUTH AFRICA, ZS. Special event station ZS95SARL is QRV during all of 2020 to celebrate the 95th anniversary of the founding of the South African Radio League. Activity is on the HF, V/UHF bands and Satellites. QSL via bureau.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ Worldwide 160-Meter CW Contest, Winter Field Day, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, Malaysia DX SSB Contest, REF CW Contest, BARTG RTTY Sprint and UBA DX SSB Contest will certainly keep contesters busy this upcoming weekend.

The QCX CW Challenge is scheduled for January 27. The CWops Mini-CWT Test, UKEICC 80-Meter CW Contest, Phone Fray and QRP 40-Meter CW Fox Hunt are scheduled for January 29.

Special Events

- **02/01/2020 | Biathlon World Championships 2020**
Feb 1-Feb 29, 0001Z-2359Z, II3BIA, Antholz South Tyrol, ITALY. ARI Sektion Bruneck. CW, SSB, and digital; 160, 80, 40, 20,15,10, 2 meters; 70 centimeters; 23 centimeters satellite Es'Hail 2 QO-100. QSL. Via bureau or direct to: ARI Sektion Bruneck, Montal 25, 39030 Bruneck/St Lorenzen, ITALY. www.ari-bruneck.com

- **02/01/2020 | Groundhog Day Special Event Station**
Feb 1, 1400Z-2100Z, K3HWJ, Punxsutawney, PA. Punxsutawney Amateur Radio Club. 14.330 7.235. Certificate. Stephen Waltman KB3FPN, 37 Clark St, Brookville, PA 15825. punxyclub.com

- **02/01/2020 | JY1 Special Event Memorial Station 2020**
Feb 1-Feb 29, 0000Z-2359Z, N9SES, Lake Station, IN. Arab QRZ Club. 3.25-3.50 7.025-7.050 10.103-10.110 14.252. QSL. Ayman Azar, 2861 Decatur St, Lake Station, IN 46405. www.n9ses.com/?page_id=18

- **02/01/2020 | Shuttle Columbia Special Event**
Feb 1-Feb 2, 1500Z-2300Z, K5C, Nacogdoches, TX. Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club. 14.260 14.174 7.220 7.174. QSL. Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club, 167 County Rd. 2093, Nacogdoches, TX 75965. All contacts will be confirmed via LoTW. QSL requests must include SASE. w5nac.com

- **02/08/2020 | Lee/Jackson**
Feb 8, 1600Z-2300Z, N4SCV, Gainesville, FL. Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 1424. 14.240 7.224. QSL. Madison Starke Perry Camp 1424, P.O. Box 998, Alachua, FL 32616. https://www.gatorscv.com/events

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ARRL Contest Corner

An expanded, downloadable version of *QST*'s **Contest Corral** is available as a PDF. Check the sponsor's Web site for information on operating time restrictions and other instructions.

CONTEST SUMMARY

Complete information for all contests follows the Conversation section

January 27
- QCX Challenge

January 28
- QCX Challenge
-

January 29
- QRP Fox Hunt
- Phone Fray
- CWops Mini-CWT Test
- UKEICC 80m Contest

January 30
- CWops Mini-CWT Test

January 31
- NCCC RTTY Sprint
- QRP Fox Hunt
- NCCC Sprint

February 1
- Vermont QSO Party
- 10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB
- Black Sea Cup International
- F9AA Cup, CW
- Mexico RTTY International Contest
- FYBO Winter QRP Sprint
- Minnesota QSO Party
- British Columbia QSO Party
- AGCW Straight Key Party
- FISTS Winter Slow Speed Sprint

February 2
- British Columbia QSO Party
- **North American Sprint, CW**

February 3
- RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB

February 4
- ARS Spartan Sprint

February 5
- QRP Fox Hunt
- Phone Fray
- CWops Mini-CWT Test
- UKEICC 80m Contest

Attention ALL Ohio…

Mark April 4, 2020 (Saturday) as our ARES OHIO SPRING CONFERENCE!

We have the Marion Tech lecture hall reserved (THANKS MARION ARES!!!) and we'll begin planning some important topics! More information will be forth coming.

This event is always "Standing Room Only" so we do ask that you register ahead of time so that we can be properly prepared for how many are coming. It's quick and painless and we will even send you a confirmation email back. Here's the link to get registered!!   http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/form.html

####

NVIS DAY IS COMING!
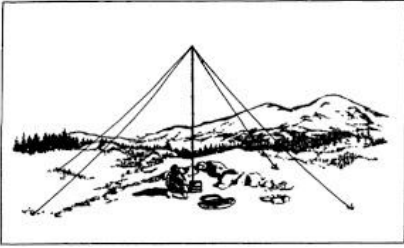
Is your station ready to establish and maintain high-reliability communication with other stations around Ohio when repeaters, phone, and internet service are impaired?

When infrastructure just isn't there, HF radio using Near-Vertical Incidence Skywave (NVIS) propagation offers the ability to stay in contact on frequencies of 2–30 MHz for distances of about 30–400 miles.

NVIS Day is the ARRL Ohio Section event to test your NVIS antenna designs and builds. Join us on Saturday, April 25th to show how well amateur radio can keep Ohio communicating! This is not a contest: it's an event for Ohio stations to operate with other Ohio stations and understand how well they hear and are heard.

THE DETAILS
Date: Saturday, April 25
Time: Start at 10 A.M., end at 4 P.M.
Power: Up to but no more than 100w
Exchange: six-digit grid, power, and true—measured—signal report
Schedule: This isn't a contest, so take your time! Try different designs! Have lunch!

V.E. Test Sessions

For the latest testing site information please **>> Click Here <<** The ARRL site tracks all of the VE testing sites that register with them, including W5YI and Laurel. ARRL gives you a number of different ways of sorting to find that site that is closest to you as well.

One Question Questionnaire

Hey Gang,

Ok.. "Survey Says"….. 53% of you have read the newest magazine from ARRL, "On The Air" That's fantastic! ARRL is working hard at coming out with new material. This one was particularly interesting since it is specifically designed to target the newer hams out there.

Ok, I've got another NEW – one question – for you to answer.

"Have you ever mentored an amateur who was not a relative??"

You'll find the "One Question" questionnaire on the Ohio Section Website! http://arrlohio.org   It's all in 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.

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ARES Connect

Everyone – please make sure to go into all of the events that you have signed up for and get your hours registered no later than **5 days after the event has ended**.

I need you to be as prompt as possible in reporting your hours. I'm noticing a number of events that aren't getting hours credited and that is due to you not going back into your account and registering your hours! Please, don't miss out on your hours just because you missed on very important step, record hours!!

Admins – Make sure that you are as prompt about approving those hours as well. We really need to be as prompt at getting those hours recorded as possible. Please, try your best to get those hours recorded **in less than 5 days after the event**. This really should be more than ample amount of time to make sure hours are recorded for every volunteer that signed up and get those hours approved.

Here's the top 10 hours earners thus far in January:

	Name	Events	Hours
1	Daniel Schlick (KB8LKH)	17	87.50
2	Bret Stemen (KD8SCL)	21	76.50
3	James Yoder (w8erw)	8	75.00
4	Greg Dersarkisian (KD8SSJ)	18	65.50
5	Jeffrey Payne (KE8AME)	13	61.00
6	Diane Warner (KE8HLD)	22	61.00
7	Dan Stahl (KC8PBU)	55	60.87
8	Christopher Domenick (KC8CAD)	13	58.00
9	Jonathan Imlay (KA8GPM)	14	58.00
10	Dwight Bonifield (W8TJT)	35	51.50

Let's get everyone in the Ohio Section on ARES Connect!!! Simply go to:
https://arrl.volunteerhub.com/lp/oh/ and get yourself registered and using the system.

Admins… If you are wondering how to get an overview of all of your events you can simply go into reports and using the new Event by Participation by Event (version 2) you can not only see who registered for your event, but you also can see if he/she has inputted their hours for it as well. Take advantage of this new report to help you get the time entered into your events.

We still have a number of recurring events created but no activity reported for them. Please, if this event is no longer needed, let me know and I can delete it from the masters. I know that many of you setup recurring events to learn how, but if they aren't going to be used, let's get them cleared out.

Also… If you are setting up events, please don't set a limit for how many folks can sign-up unless absolutely necessary. This causes issues when doing reports. It's also counter-productive since the reason for you to list the event is to get as many volunteers as you can to attend. When you set limits, it discourages folks from signing up.

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Special NIMS Training Available

ICS-400 ADVANCED ICS FOR COMMAND & GENERAL STAFF
Hosted by: Huron County Emergency Management Agency
February 11 – 12, 2020
Course Description: This 15-hour classroom course provides training for personnel who require advanced application of the Incident Command System (ICS). This course expands upon information covered in ICS-100, 200, 700, 800 and ICS-300 courses, which are the prerequisites for the ICS-400 course.

The target audience for this course is senior personnel who are expected to perform in a management capacity in an Area Command or Multi-Agency Coordination Entity.

Application Deadline: January 28, 2020
Course Registration time: 7:30 am – 8:00 am (on day one)
Course Time: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm – Both days
One-hour Lunch each day
Training Location: Fisher-Titus Medical Center
272 Benedict Avenue
Norwalk, OH 44857

Recommended Participants: FEMA designed the course for Senior Personnel who expect to perform in a management capacity in an Area Command or Multi-Agency Coordination Entity.

Required Prerequisites: Individuals must complete the IS-100.c Introduction to the Incident Command System, IS-200.c Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response, IS-700.b An Introduction to the National Incident Management System and the IS-800.c National Response Framework, an Introduction courses. In addition, ICS-300 Intermediate courses prior to attending the ICS-400 Advanced course and provide copies of their certificates of completion to the instructors on day one of the course.

Enrollment: Students must enroll via the Department of Public Safety Training Campus website: https://trainingcampus.dps.ohio.gov/cm/cm710/pstc/pstc.html. Course registration will generally close 10 working days prior to the course start date and applicants can check enrollment/approval status via the Department of Public Safety Training Campus website.

Course Costs: There is no charge for participants to attend this course. However, Lodging, Meals, Per Diem and all other travel expenses are the responsibility of the student or the parent organization.
State Point of Contact: Matt Jaksetic, Training Coordinator, (614) 799-3666, mtjaksetic@dps.ohio.gov

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ICS400 ADVANCED FOR COMMAND & GENERAL STAFF MGT905
Hosted by: Mahoning County Emergency Management Agency
March 30 – 31, 2020

Application Deadline: March 16, 2020
Course Registration time: 7:30 am – 8:00 am (on day one)
Course Time: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm – Both days   One-hour Lunch each day

Training Location: Boardman Fire Department, Station 71 7440 Market Street Boardman, OH 44512

Required Prerequisites: Individuals must complete the IS-100.c Introduction to the Incident Command System, IS-200.c Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response, IS-700.b An Introduction to the National Incident Management System and the IS-800.c National Response Framework, an Introduction courses.

In addition, ICS-300 Intermediate courses prior to attending the ICS-400 Advanced course and provide copies of their certificates of completion to the instructors on day one of the course.

Enrollment: Students must enroll via the Department of Public Safety Training Campus website: https://trainingcampus.dps.ohio.gov/cm/cm710/pstc/pstc.html Course registration will generally close 10 working days prior to the course start date and applicants can check enrollment/approval status via the Department of Public Safety Training Campus website.

Course Costs: There is no charge for participants to attend this course. However, Lodging, Meals, Per Diem and all other travel expenses are the responsibility of the student or the parent organization.
State Point of Contact: Lisa Jones, DSC 2, Ohio EMA, SAA Training Point of Contact, (614) 799-3824 ljones@dps.ohio.gov

G-386 MASS FATALITIES
Hosted by: Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security **February 20 - 21, 2020**

This is an "Elective" course in the Advanced Professional Series (APS) program **Application Deadline: February 10, 2020 Time of Course:** Registration: 7:30 am – 8:00 am   Course Time: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Location: Franklin County EM&HS - 5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd. - Columbus, OH 43230
Supported By: The Ohio Emergency Management Agency
Enrollment: Students must enroll via the Department of Public Safety Training Campus website: https://trainingcampus.dps.ohio.gov/cm/cm710/pstc/pstc.html

Course Costs: This course is free to participants. Lodging, meals and all other expenses are the students' responsibility.

County Point of Contact: Pam Tickle, Franklin County EM&HS (614) 794 – 0213, pktickle@franklincountyohio.gov

Below is a status update of upcoming training classes. Please look at the list, there is a variety of topics, and I would appreciate it if you would consider registering for one (1) or more if your schedule allows.

Some of the classes you can register for on the FCEM&HS website; go to the "Training Opportunities" site https://fcemhs.org/Training-Exercises/Training-Opportunities (where you can find the information flyer on all of the classes) and then click on the "FCEM&HS Training Registration" link https://fcemhs.org/Training-Exercises/FCEMHS-Training-Registration

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The rest of the classes you will need to register on the Ohio Public Safety Training Campus
https://trainingcampus.dps.ohio.gov/cm/cm710/pstc/

For those classes that are being instructed through TEEX, once you register with me, I will send you an approval email with a link to then register on the TEEX website.

CLASS	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
MGT-348 Medical Preparedness & Response for Bombing Incidents (Register via paper registration or the FCEM&HS website)	January 28&29	8am-5pm (16 hrs)	FCEM&HS
MGT-347 ICS Forms Review (Register via OH Public Safety Training Campus)	February 4	1-5pm (4 hrs)	FCEM&HS
G-386 Mass Fatalities (Register via OH Public Safety Training Campus)	February 20&21	8am-4pm (14 hrs)	FCEM&HS
AWR-364 STRIVE (Strategic, Tactical, and Resilient Interdiction of Violent Extremism) (Register via paper registration or the FCEM&HS website)	February 25&26	8am-5pm (16 hrs)	FCEM&HS
MGT-467 Sport and Special Event Public Information and Emergency Notification (Register via paper registration or the FCEM&HS website)	March 3&4	8am-5pm (16 hrs)	OSU Airport
OH/L-146 Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) (Register via OH Public Safety Training Campus)	March 25-27	8am-5pm (24 hrs)	FCEM&HS
AWR-376 Understanding Targeted Cyber Attacks (Register via paper registration or the FCEM&HS website)	April 7	8am-5pm (8 hrs)	FCEM&HS
AWR-213 Critical Infrastructure Security & Resilience Awareness of Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources (Register via paper registration or the FCEM&HS website)	April 15	8am-5pm (8 hrs)	FCEM&HS
MGT-317 Disaster Management for Public Services (Register via paper registration or the FCEM&HS website)	April 21&22	8am-5pm (16 hrs)	FCEM&HS

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Campbell County Kentucky Office of Emergency Management Upcoming Training

James E. Sparks, Deputy Director of Operations

Campbell County Fiscal Court

Office of Emergency Management, Unit 2152

O: 859-547-3152 · C: 859-743-4136 · F: 859-635-3132

http://www.campbellcountyky.gov

Campbell County Kentucky Office of Emergency Management **FREE** Training Opportunities

Isolation and Quarantine for Communities (MGT-433) – February 19, 2020 – RDPC / **Tentative/Requested**

Hazardous Weather Preparedness for Campuses (AWR-332) – March 4, 2020 – (NDPTC) / **Tentative/Requested**

Readiness: Training Identification and Preparedness Planning (MGT-418) – March 11-12, 2020 - TEEX / Register: https://train.ncbrt.lsu.edu/Student/Register?ClassID=26374

Registration Password: NCBRT418 If you have trained with NCBRT before, enter your FEMA SID, Last Name, and First Name. If your training record is found, your registration form will be pre-filled for you. Otherwise, click Register as New Person to fill out a blank registration form.

Evacuation and Re-Entry Planning Course – March 25-26, 2020 / **Requested through KYEM Training Division**

Pediatric Disaster Response and Emergency Preparedness (MGT-439) – April 8-9, 2020 / TEEX / Register: https://qrgo.page.link/GFf4

Debris Management Planning Course – April 15-17, 2020 / **Requested thought KYEM Training Division**

Intermediate ICS-300 for Expanding Incidents w/Forms (MGT-904) – April 22-24, 2020 / TEEX / Register: https://qrgo.page.link/HzT2

Ohio | Department of Public Safety

Emergency Management Agency

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor

Thomas J. Stickrath, Director
Sima S. Merick, Executive Director

News Release

www.ema.ohio.gov

For Immediate Release: January 6, 2020
Ohio EMA Offers Rebates to Homeowners for Tornado Safe Rooms
Application Period Opens Today, Runs Through April 6

COLUMBUS — Homeowners throughout Ohio now have the opportunity to apply to receive reimbursement for the purchase and construction/installation of a tornado safe room inside or outside their homes.

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency began accepting applications for its Ohio Safe Room Rebate Program today. A safe room is a structure specifically designed to provide near-absolute protection in extreme weather events. The Ohio EMA's rebate program provides a rebate of up to 75 percent to homeowners selected for the program.

"The entire state of Ohio is vulnerable to tornadoes," said Governor Mike DeWine. "Safe rooms are costly, but they can save lives – which is why we want to help homeowners with the expense."

In May, more than 900 homes and buildings were destroyed or significantly damaged when 21 tornadoes tore through Auglaize, Darke, Greene, Hocking, Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, Muskingum, Perry, and Pickaway counties.

"Safe rooms offer protection to a tornado's strong winds and resulting airborne debris and provides near-absolute protection for occupants," said Steve Ferryman, Ohio EMA mitigation branch chief. "We urge Ohioans to apply for these grants."

This is the eighth year for the Ohio Safe Room Rebate Program. To date, more than $1.5 million in rebates have been awarded to homeowners for the construction of more than 200 safe rooms across the state.

Safe rooms can be constructed/installed in one of several places in the home, including in the basement; beneath a concrete slab-on-grade foundation or garage floor; or in an interior room on the first floor. A safe room may also be buried in the yard or be a stand-alone structure near the home.

The deadline to apply to participate in the Ohio Safe Room Rebate Program is April 6 at 5 p.m. Residents selected for the program are eligible for a rebate up to 75 percent of the cost to install or construct a safe room – up to a maximum of $4,875.

For more information and to apply, visit: https://ema.ohio.gov/ema_saferoom/saferoom-concept.aspx
Additional Information: The Ohio Safe Room Rebate Program will use a computerized random selection process to select applicants. A priority list of applicants will be created from the selected applicants. Chosen homeowners will be notified by email of their position on the priority list on or after April 22. Ohio EMA anticipates grant funding will become available this year and having a list of participants who meet program requirements will expedite the rebate process.

Funding for the rebate program is through a partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs. Ohio homeowners would be responsible for 25 percent of the construction costs and any additional costs over the 75 percent maximum rebate of $4,875.

Safe rooms must meet FEMA requirements in FEMA publications 320 and 361 and cannot be constructed/installed prior to the rebate drawing and notification from Ohio EMA to proceed with construction.

Homeowners with questions should call Ohio Emergency Management Agency Mitigation Specialist Dan Clevidence at 614.799.3533.

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Winter Field Day Pictures...

(pictures from various sources)
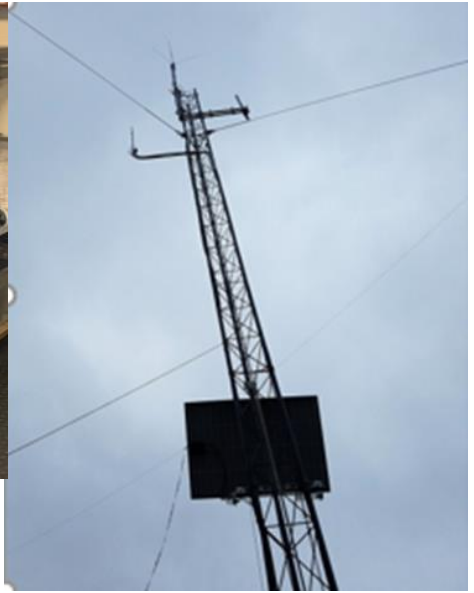
Final.. Final..

Hey Gang...

Wow.. This past week has been full of webinars, conference calls and even a really cool wedding. All in all, it was a busy week with lots going on. But it was great!

It seems that there's now a lot of rumors and speculation going around about why the ARRL Board let the CEO go. Don't always believe everything that those folks write. Most of them are like the folks at the National Inquirer, they'd have you believing that he came from Mars if they could. Some put their trash out there knowing that it is just that, trash. So, with that said, let's wait for the Board of Directors Meeting Minutes to come out and get the real lowdown on what's going on.

Ok, moving on to the saga of the moving furniture… It's still moving around. It seems that my shack has been the latest victim. My wife decided that the small couch in my shack would fit perfectly in our downstairs den. She surmised that since I don't get a lot of visitors in my shack, the couch in there must have been used very little and in "almost new" condition. So, the shack is now missing a couch and I've gotten a bookcase sitting in its place. Wow, what a trade that was! Well, it did open up some space in the room that I can now use to display all of my books. And, this does have some benefits. I discovered this week that my ARRL Handbook dates back to 2014! So, even though a number of you haven't won the Handbook that I give away every month, please be aware, I don't have a new one either! Well, since I'm not eligible to win one, I'm going to have to buy one for myself!

Let's change the channel… Please, if you haven't renewed or joined ARRL, maybe now is the time. Hey, there's a ton of benefits to belonging to the ARRL. Insurance is one of the biggest. There's nowhere else that you can go to get insurance as inexpensively as the ARRL for your equipment that also includes your antennas as well! This is just one benefit, how's about having the ARRL renew your license for another. Yes, you can simply have the ARRL renew your license when it comes due. No muss, no fuss. Then there's all of the ARRL awards that you are eligible for. Hey, membership to ARRL is less than $1 per week. I think that's doable for most everyone. Like I always say, if you just cut 1 McDonald's coffee per week out, you've got your membership paid for, AND… you'll get $3 back to boot!! Now, what a deal that is.

Oh, I will also add, ARRL does have a **90-day FREE** trial offer, if you are still not sure if this is something that you would enjoy. What have you got to lose? It's FREE. Oh, don't forget that if your YL is a ham you'll want to get her a membership as well.

Whelp, final go around before gong QRT… That's going to do it for this week. Stay safe, enjoy the sunshine when we have it, and most of all… have FUN and get on the air!!

73,

Scott, N8SY

2019 Ohio Section Yearbook

The 2019 Ohio Section Yearbook is now published and ready for you to read. This is a very comprehensive look at the Ohio Section and everything that we did in 2019. It's really a great way of learning about all the different functions that the Ohio Section is involved with.

I'm sure that there's things inside of this Yearbook that you never knew about.

You just gotta' take a look.. http://arrl-ohio.org/news/2019/2019_Yearbook.pdf
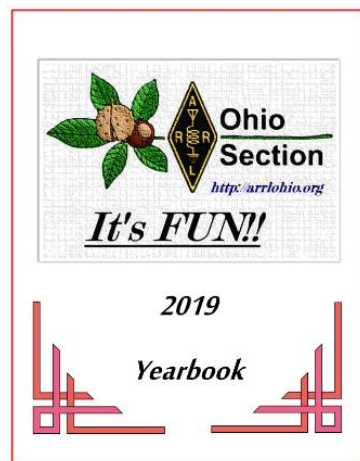
Back Issues of the PostScript and Ohio Section Journal

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

Welcome New Subscribers

Mat, KC8NZJ; Caleb, KK1G; Joshua Cross; Tom, WA8PYR

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Swap & Shop Has Come to the Ohio Section 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

There's already been some great activity going on up there. 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!! No, 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. No licensed vehicles/trailers or business advertising will be posted.

Postings are text only (no pictures or graphics) will be posted for a maximum of 1 month from date posting and require a contact phone number or email within the posting.

Send your Wanted / For Sale or Give-Away post to: swap@arrlohio.org

Updated Information...   *Want to Share your Club Newsletter With Others?*

We have a new webpage where you can download and read all of the newsletters that I get from around the state.

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

Please, if you don't see your club newsletter posted, it's probably because I'm not receiving it, or I just cannot convert it over to Adobe Acrobat. Have your newsletter editor contact me and let's see if we can get your club's newsletter on the site!! We all learn and steal (I mean, share) from each other's work. So, let's give this new webpage a real workout and send me your newsletter!!!   Send it to: n8sy@n8sy.com

Ohio Section Cabinet	
Section Manager – Scott Yonally, N8SY	Assistant Section Manager – John Perone, W8RXX
Section Emergency Coordinator – Stan Broadway, N8BHL	Section Traffic Manager – David Maynard, WA3EZN
Technical Coordinator – Jeff Kopcak, K8JTK	Affiliated Clubs Coordinator – Tom Sly, WB8LCD
State Government Liaison – Bob Winston, W2THU	Public Information Coordinator – John Ross, KD8IDJ
Section Youth Coordinator – Anthony Lascre, K8ZT	

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 me an email   n8sy@n8sy.com and I'll get them added to the Ohio Section Emailing list.

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

You can always "Opt-Out" at any time if you feel this is not what you were expecting. It's fun and very informative. All of your favorite past newsletters are now archived too. You can go back at any time and read them. Just go to: http://arrl-ohio.org/news/

Got questions, concerns or would just like to sit and chat awhile? Heck, I'll even buy the coffee!! Give me a call at (419) 512-4445 or email me at: n8sy@n8sy.com

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!