

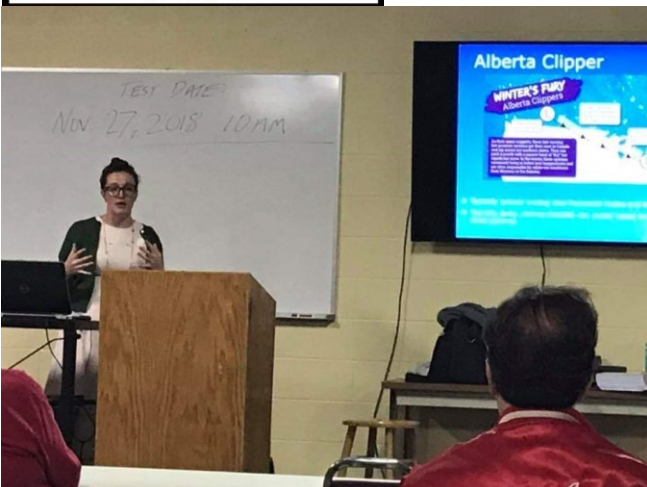


# January Edition

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**Geez, 14 menus  
and all I want is to  
turn on repeater  
offset.**



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## *From the Technical Coordinator*

**Jeff Kopcak – K8JTK TC**

[k8jtk@arrl.net](mailto:k8jtk@arrl.net)

Hey gang,

For some time, the ARRL and myself have recognized the [importance of makers](#) as a way to breathe new life into the hobby. In one of my last in person appearances, our State Government Liaison, Bob – W2THU, posed the question to me: ‘how do we get younger people into the hobby?’ Some time ago my answer would have been “digital” but, in recent years, has shifted to makers - not only as a way to get younger people but a way to get like-minded people into the hobby.



What are makers? [Adam Savage](#) of MythBusters: “Humans do two things that make us unique from all other animals; we use tools and we tell stories. And when you make something, you’re doing both at once.” There is no single definition. Responses are broad and varied. A broad definition includes someone who creates something, usually in relation to creating, inventing, and learning. Frequently associated with makers are makerspaces, also called hackerspaces or fablabs. These offer shared resources by way of amenities such as machine shop, wood shop, welding shop, electronics lab, 3D printer, laser engraver, art supplies, blacksmithing, molding and casting, robotics lab, CAD software, glass blowing, space for experiments, and even entrepreneurship classes. These are things you might like to have, own, but are too expensive, unreasonable to own, or would be only utilized for a project or two.



*Amateur Radio licensing class in a makerspace*

instead of hams leading the way, we’re now lagging behind by adopting developed technologies and making them work for our own purposes. Prime examples being DMR, P25, and NXDN. There are no call signs in these radios. Radios identify themselves with a 5- or 7-digit ID. Other issues aside, D-STAR was at least developed by hams and implemented by manufactures.

A blog post by Rob – KJ7NZL makes very strong arguments [why the ham radio community needs to embrace hackers now more than ever](#). Hackers are usually promoted as something “bad” when it is hackers that figure out how something works and then explore possibilities. Sure, license numbers are on the rise in the hobby but no one is pushing the limits of RF technologies. I’ve always been proud of the fact hams were using receiver voting systems and ways to detect a weakening signal at one receiver while, at the same time, increasing at another receiver. This, well before cell phone carriers built their networks on the same technology. However,

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Rob makes a number of compelling points to attract hackers. **“Stop Primarily Promoting Emergency Communications.”** I’ve always seen Amateur Radio having two distinct draws to the hobby: emcomm and experimentation. While I agree with his point personally, I’m also pretty biased. Under “Basis and purpose” at the beginning of [Part 97](#) is the following:

*The rules and regulations in this part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:*

*(a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to **providing emergency communications.***

Bold added to highlight. While promoting is not providing, it’s still the first reason of purpose. There are significant amounts of time and effort by our leadership and everyone involved with aspects of emcomm, including myself, to build and maintain relationships with governmental entities, keep up with regulation, political and policy changes, and training - to name a few. Lessen their efforts is likely throwing the baby out with the bath water. At the same time, I’m not talking about preppers and anyone with a Tech license and [a Baofeng](#) who really thinks they’re going to save the world. If the SHTF, I’m going to be more worried about my family and getting my behind to safety. Grabbing an HT might be on the list, but it won’t be top of mind. As Rob points out in his post, the hacker community isn’t going to care about sending messages during thunderstorms. When you mention Amateur Radio to those not in the community, most go to the prepper or underground bunker imagery because that’s what they know ham radio to be. Not those making, creating, and hacking things to improve, not only the hobby but maybe the portable life-chronicling device everyone carries around called a phone. Not promoting this important hacker aspect of the hobby has brought us to where we are today. The technical side is seen as less important.

In the same vein as preppers and Baofeng users, hackers need to be responsible. Your ham license does NOT give you any right to illegally access or manipulate private property without permission or accessing other radio systems over-the-air. Don’t think so? Ask a judge if you have any right to be on the statewide or regional public safety systems as a ham or regular citizen. No, no you absolutely do not.

**“Start Promoting Software Defined Radio.”** There is a lot of potential in SDR devices and I feel hams aren’t utilizing these devices to their maximum potential. SDR might usher in talent. If we, hams, keep downplaying technologists by saying ‘ooooohhh, it needs a *COMPUTER*, it’s not ham radio!’ this hobby is already dead. *Thanks, thanks a lot.*

Luckily, SDR devices are readily available from \$20 for an RTL-SDR RTL2832U to thousands for a FlexRadio, and everywhere in-between.

You can do [a lot with the inexpensive RTL-SDR](#), much of it using ham modes and bands. I’m happy to say one of the people I’ve learned the most about radio signals is a licensed ham, Mike Ossmann – AE3H of [Great Scott Gadgets](#), the company behind the [HackRF One](#).



Technical regulation, I believe, is also hampering these efforts. Why are we still limited to baud rates of 300 on some bands? Why are we not at the point of reasonable bandwidth requirements? I have no friggin’ idea. Let’s really find out what we can do within 2.8 kHz. Baud rate and the [encryption/privacy debate](#) are two topics I think we need to figure out - three weeks ago.

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Privacy debate includes the self-[doxing](#) requirement of having our own personally identifiable information (PII) available to the public. Many people, in particular women, do not want their address available on the Internet.

**“Provide Communities That Foster Technical Discussion and Exploration.”** I didn’t realize this was as big



*Antenna building class (castlemakers.org)*

of an issue. Likely in reaction to the blog post, I’ve had stations appear on the K8JTK Hub saying they were looking for places to have technical discussions. A younger ham stated something to the effect, ‘I’m looking for places that have technical discussions. I’m not looking to make a quick QSO and talk about the weather.’ I could think of a couple technical nets but not dedicated reflectors or talkgroups for in-depth technical discussions. I informed him that while my system is open, there wasn’t only technical discussions taking place, but he was welcome to use it if he encountered or wanted to hold such discussion. Then we had an hour long (or more) QSO on everything from cryptocurrency to Internet routers and Wi-Fi access points. It’s not going to be for everyone, but it was nice to have in-depth technical discussions.

Rob created a YSFReflector to facilitate technical discussion: **#33360 - Radio Hackers**. Dashboard: <http://hackers.yzf.kj7nzi.net>. Immediately saw comments ‘oohhhh, it’s using YAESU radios and WIRES-X.’ *I love it*. Not really. Everyone conflates the YSF/YSFReflector system, which is an open source Fusion reflector system, with WIRES-X, which is closed-source and proprietary to Yaesu and Yaesu equipment. Yaesu System Fusion as a standard, the technology in the radio and repeaters, is also closed-sourced. YSFReflectors are easy to setup and likely the reason Rob went there first.

[Hackerspaces](#) are excellent communities to promote the technical nature of ham radio. If your club is not involved with a hacker or [makerspace](#), support a club that is involved. Or start talking with one [near you](#). You’ll probably find they are waiting for a club or someone to partner with on radio, circuits, or electronics. What are you doing to promote the technical side of the hobby?

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

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***From the Section Emergency Coordinator***

***Stan Broadway, N8BHL - SEC***

[broadways@standi.com](mailto:broadways@standi.com)

Well, in the fire business, there is one word you absolutely DO NOT use in a firehouse- it starts with “Q” and ends with “iet”. Even the utterance of that reserved word by accident is a curse that unloads boxfuls of runs... most that rob your sleep in the middle of the night when your patient who started their problem at 8PM waits dutifully until 3 AM to give up and call 911.

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Note they will get the same excellent level of care, we'll just be sleepy. The same, I believe, holds true for hospitals. I am going to stand against the host of gods controlling the night and report to you that "We have been quiet!" More than usual, of course thanks to the Chinese. But the truth is our services haven't been requested most of 2020 and absolutely over winter. While we haven't had the opportunity to be seen in public, we haven't stopped learning.

The 80-meter net has been suspended until (and IF) the band decided to come back. We have not completed the 160-meter antenna feedline yet, so we're not on the air on that band. The Chinese virus has affected our ability to recruit and operate with additional manpower, so we're running at minimums for the present.

Many hams in Ohio have been participating in the Red Cross national Winlink exercises. They are now staging an exercise every Thursday, they're easy and fun. I highly recommend you get involved, even if you are using Winlink over the Internet directly (telnet session). Winlink is the logical "next step" for ham radio's digital messaging. The flexibility of sending email anywhere to anyone is really cool! So if your net is busy with fldigi (and many nets across Ohio are) consider adding Winlink to your toolbox.

Another activity to test our ability to communicate under "dark sky" conditions (no Internet, etc.) was our recent "ARES Simplex Contest". This year operation was fun - with a wide-open band and great weather.

As I write this, we have over 75 entries - almost twice last year's submitted scores! And I know from my own operating that the number of counties contacted was way up from the last couple years. This year, we actually had a band!! Our overall average per station was 8.5 counties!

We had stations from 34 counties in the log - Summit was the most active, followed by Athens.

We had some good suggestions for next year- including the potential of digital voice simplex.

Some comments:

- THIS WAS MY FIRST CONTEST. IT WAS ENJOYABLE AND LEARNED A LOT. I HOPE I CAN DO BETTER NEXT YEAR.
- GREAT FUN, EDUCATIONAL FOR MY AREA OF COVERAGE. MIGHT GO ROVER OR PORTABLE NEXT YEAR. WASN'T AWARE OF IT IN TIME FOR THIS YEAR, I NEED TO PAY MORE ATTENTION.
- FIRST TIME I'VE EVER WORKED A VHF CONTEST
- BANDS WERE REALLY OPEN! IT WAS GREAT TO HEAR SOME DX COUNTIES THIS YEAR.
- FIRST TIME EVER WORKING 6 METERS. WORKED 6M, 2M, 1.23M & 70CM FOR THIS EVENT
- I WAS SURPRISED HOW MANY CONTACTS I MADE THAT WERE MORE THAN 1 COUNTY AWAY WITH MY SETUP. N8BHL WAS THE MOST DISTANT CONTACT AT 62 MILES. I WISH THERE WAS MORE PARTICIPATION.

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- THIS WAS A SOLO, 7 COUNTY ROVER EXERCISE. I STARTED WITH HOLMES AND TUSCARAWAS COUNTIES TO PUT THEM ON THE AIR AND STILL MAKE SEVERAL CONTACTS. SELECTED SITES THAT WOULD ALLOW DECENT ACCESS INTO STARK AND WAYNE COUNTIES. WENT THROUGH STARK, WAYNE, MEDINA AND SUMMIT COUNTIES ON THE WAY TO PORTAGE COUNTY. OPERATED WITH A YAESU 8900 GOING INTO A YAESU 2000 TRIBAND ANTENNA AT ABOUT 25' ABOVE GROUND LEVEL. IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL DAY WEATHER WISE AND HAM OPERATION WISE.
- Excellent way to test your equipment without repeaters. I'll do better next year! "73"

And THAT'S what it's all about! Oh, yeah, the top score? Michael Brugger, N8CEY posted 10,973 as a rover. Bill Storr, N8LTR posted the top home score at 7735 from Summit County, with 17 counties worked. Aside from Michael's rover counties (28), the station with the most counties was KB8BKA operation out of Morrow County. Ralph Carder managed to work 44 counties (!!)) and while this was his first ever contest, he was running them like a pro when I reached him! N8XWO, John McCutcheon in Athens County was second in counties with 30 - all made within three hours operating time. Nice! There were 22 stations who worked double-digit counties. That's an amazing shift from years past.

The primary purpose is (1) to have fun and (2) to see where your simplex signal can reach. That information will be critical for you during any kind of power-outage where we're reduced to non-repeater, simplex communications. I hope you all had fun, and I thank you for being there! We'll refine some stuff and be back next year for even more fun!!

73,

Stan, N8BHL

**\*\* You can view all of the Section EC's monthly reports on the website..**

<http://arrrl-ohio.org/SEC/default.html>

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### ***Statement of ARRL Director of Emergency Management on ARES Connect***

Concerned by the low adoption rate of ARES Connect reporting software 2 years after its introduction by ARRL, ARRL's Director of Emergency Management (DEM) Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW, instituted a review of the application that included, among other analyses, a survey of Section Managers and Section Emergency Coordinators around the country. At the same time, recent discussions between ARRL and the ARES Connect software vendor have made it clear that ARRL's evolving needs for an emcomm/public service reporting package are not aligned with the vendor's future plans for the product from which ARES Connect is derived.

Following a review of all available information, members of the ARRL Emergency Management Committee, ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Minster, NA2AA, and ARRL President Roderick, K5UR, concurred with DEM Gilbert's decision to discontinue the use of ARES Connect and seek development of a software reporting package more tailored to the needs of ARES.

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All ARRL Sections that have been using ARES Connect should plan to transition to the ARES Form 4 reporting form until a replacement system is identified. ARRL HQ will continue to support ARES Connect through June 30, 2021. Questions related to the decommissioning and transition can be directed to the Director of Emergency Management Paul Gilbert, [KE5ZW](mailto:KE5ZW).

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***From the Public Information Coordinator***

***John Ross, KD8IDJ - PIC***

[john.ross3@worldnet.att.net](mailto:john.ross3@worldnet.att.net)



**FROM THE PIC**

**2021 NEWSLETTER CONTEST ENTRIES “HOT”**

*“They’re comin’ in hot”* The entries for the 2021 Ohio Section Newsletter Contest are rolling in...a record number of entries so far in January! From what I’ve read it will another great year and even tougher for the judges to pick the winners...and that’s a good thing. The editors and writers are on their game already and with just 5 months left before the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline this will be a special year.

We have already made the decision to have the judges review and vote electronically like last year. It opened up a whole new dimension for the judges. There were able to access and see how the newsletters look in the “real world” just like club members are viewing them. The rules haven’t changed. You need to submit two editions of your newsletter...from different months...to be eligible. If you link your newsletter to your club’s webpage make sure there is a really visible, BIG, button so all the judges have to do is click and open. If you’re just sending a link...make sure it works! Sometimes links get corrupted during the email process. You can still send printed copies if you like. I will scan them as a PDF file so they can read electronically.

One of the most important things we discovered last year was how different electronic newsletters look on different devices like tablets and smartphones. Take a look at your newsletter on something different and, if you can, make some layout or font changes to make it more readable.

Again, the deadline is June 30<sup>th</sup>. We will announce the winners in late July or early August.

You can email your entries to: [webmaster@arrl-ohio.org](mailto:webmaster@arrl-ohio.org) or my home address either email will get it to me. If you prefer, you can email it to my home email address which is listed below if you prefer...send it to me any way you like.

Good luck and keep the entries coming!

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## 2021 DAYTON HAMVENTION CANCELLED

By now you have probably heard the 2021 DAYTON HAMVENTION has been cancelled.



In case you have any questions about tickets...here is the official announcement:

*Unfortunately, several setbacks in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic make necessary the difficult decision to cancel Hamvention 2021. Hundreds of volunteers have been working to do everything necessary to bring this Hamvention to the many amateur radio enthusiasts and vendors who support the Dayton Hamvention.*

*Vaccine distribution both in the United States and around the world is lagging behind what was planned. In addition, the emergence of a more communicable form of the COVID-19 virus increases the potential for further public health problems in the next few months. We make this difficult decision for the safety of our guests and vendors.*

*Those who had their tickets, inside booths or flea market spaces deferred last year will be deferred again. Those who purchased 2021 tickets, inside booths or flea market spaces will also be deferred. If you desire a refund instead please email [tickets@hamvention.org](mailto:tickets@hamvention.org) and we will contact you. Stay tuned for information about a QSO party for the 2021 Hamvention weekend. We are looking forward to the 2022 Hamvention!!!*

*Executive Committee, Dayton Hamvention 2021*

Tough decision but the right call. I think we are looking forward to a return to normal which may not happen until 2022. Everyone really misses the DAYTON HAMVENTION and the local ones as well.

Stand by for more news!

## WORK AT HOME...LISTEN AT HOME



I can tell you that working from home for about a year now has had its advantages...good and bad.

The refrigerator is a lot closer...need to social distance myself from that a little more. You can work in attire that is not acceptable at the office...or anywhere else near a window. But you CAN listen to amateur radio and even make a few QSO's while you're punching the time clock. My home office is my ham

shack...complete with 5 monitors, three keyboards, four ham radios and a lot of other radio stuff.

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I listen all day and talk when I can...all great fun and more radio than I would normally do in a day at the office. If I only worked the radio at night, I would hear some of the same contacts but during the day it's a different group of hams and many different topics. You don't have to have a long conversation but it helps to keep using our frequencies when we can so we can keep them.

Handheld or base...it doesn't matter...hams will be hams and we need to talk.

That's it for this month...stay safe.

73, John, KD8IDJ  
[john.ross3@worldnet.att.net](mailto:john.ross3@worldnet.att.net)

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***From the Section Youth Coordinator***  
***Anthony Luscre, K8ZT - SYC***  
[k8zt@arrl.net](mailto:k8zt@arrl.net)

***Meet Katie, KE8LQR, the New Assistant Section Youth Coordinator***

Katherine (Katie) Campbell KE8LQR has been appointed Assistant Section Youth Coordinator for the ARRL Ohio Section.

I was waiting until I had a chance to get together with Katie to discuss her new position before writing about it in this column, but of course, COVID made it hard to get together. Finally, over her Christmas break, we were able to have a Zoom conference.



I asked Katie to introduce herself through a short Bio--

“Hello! My name is Katie, and my callsign is KE8LQR. I have been a ham for almost two years, and I became interested in amateur radio through a club that my school started. I hold an Extra class license, and I am also the president and QSL manager of my school's amateur radio and electronics club, K8LPS [*K8ZT note- Columbiana Exempted Village School District in Northeast Ohio*].

I am a member of YACHT, Young Amateur Communication Ham Team, and attend their nets regularly. Currently, I have been interested in chasing DX, and I am working towards my DXCC and WAS. I am also involved in CW. I learned CW from the Long Island CW Club's kid's classes, and I am currently in the advanced class. Aside from ham radio, some of my hobbies include knitting, reading, and playing the piano and flute.”

I hope you will all welcome Katie to her new position.

## Online Presentations

Earlier this month, I did a program for the **RATPAC** (Radio Amateur Training Planning & Activities Committee) group. The presentation was focused on resources available via RAT PAC Videos and other resources that might be useful for local clubs planning programs for their monthly meetings (whether they are online or in-person).

First, here is a brief description of RATPAC-- *“Radio Amateur Training Planning and Activities Committee (RATPAC) comprises ARRL section managers and appointed field leadership. They host nationwide Amateur Radio Zoom presentations twice-a-week, Wednesdays on general radio topics and Thursdays on amateur radio emergency communications. The topics are selected from audience recommendations that the planning committee then seeks topic experts or discussion panel members. The presentation audience consists of thousands of amateur radio operators worldwide who participate directly in the Zoom sessions or with video links of the presentation and related documentation sent out after each session.”*

RATPAC does not have a web page and they disseminate their information via two main routes:

1. **Group.io Mailing Lists** (you are invited to join any or all)
  - a. **SEC-ARES** group for announcements and discussions <https://groups.io/g/SEC-ARES>
  - b. **NewHams** group for same announcements with different discussions <https://groups.io/g/NewHams>
  - c. **RATPAC** group for the same announcements and much less discussion <https://groups.io/g/RATPAC>
2. **A Spreadsheet** listing upcoming and previous presentations, Available in two formats
  - a. Published Format- [tiny.cc/ratpac-list](https://tiny.cc/ratpac-list)
  - b. Menu Format- [tiny.cc/ratpac-ss](https://tiny.cc/ratpac-ss)

RATPAC Video Presentations Lists					
Date	Topic	Presenter(s)	Category		
Apr 09, 2020	Open Agenda - Traffic Handling discussion	Various ARRL Speakers	Field Organization	<a href="#">View Video</a>	<a href="#">Download Vid</a>
Apr 14, 2020	American Red Cross Exercise - May 30	Mike Walters, W8ZY	Emergency	<a href="#">View Video</a>	<a href="#">Download Vid</a>
Apr 15, 2020	ARES LAX - What works, What doesn't	Oliver Dully, K6OLI	ARES	<a href="#">View Video</a>	<a href="#">Download Vid</a>
Apr 23, 2020	Hawaii ARES Presentation	Clem Jung, KH7HO	ARES	<a href="#">View Video</a>	<a href="#">Download Vid</a>
Apr 29, 2020	USVI Hurricane Communications	Fred Kleber K9VV	Emergency	<a href="#">View Video</a>	<a href="#">Download Vid</a>
Apr 30, 2020	San Diego Winlink	Rob freeburn, K6RJF	Winlink	<a href="#">View Video</a>	<a href="#">Download Vid</a>
May 06, 2020	Field Day Public Relations	Sid Caesar, NH7C	Public Relations	<a href="#">View Video</a>	<a href="#">Download Vid</a>
May 07, 2020	Winlink Forms & Development	Mike Burton, N6KZB	Winlink	<a href="#">View Video</a>	<a href="#">Download Vid</a>
May 21, 2020	AUXCOMM-NCM	Marv Hoffman, WA4NC / Tom Brown, N4TAB	Emergency	<a href="#">View Video</a>	<a href="#">Download Vid</a>
Jun 03, 2020	ARES Structure & Planning	Meaningful Group Discussion	ARES	<a href="#">View Video</a>	<a href="#">Download Vid</a>
Jun 10, 2020	Hawaii ARES Reporting/Logging	Joe Speroni AH0A	ARES	<a href="#">View Video</a>	<a href="#">Download Vid</a>
Jun 11, 2020	Ham Radio in SHARES	Steve Waterman, K4CJX	Emergency	<a href="#">View Video</a>	<a href="#">Download Vid</a>
Jun 24, 2020	AREDN (Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network)	Randy Smith, WU2S	Emergency	<a href="#">View Video</a>	<a href="#">Download Vid</a>
Jun 25, 2020	Winlink from the Winlink	Phil Sherrod, W4PHS	Winlink	<a href="#">View Video</a>	<a href="#">Download Vid</a>

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The spreadsheet currently has over 60 sessions listed. Upcoming events have a Zoom join link to participate in the live session; previous sessions have links to view a video recording, download the video, and link any associated documents or resources. You are encouraged to post one or both links to the spreadsheet on your local club or personal website, include them in your club newsletters, social media, or other communications.

Each spreadsheet format has four tabs with sessions sorted by Date, Topic, Presenter, and Category. You can view my slideshow “[Ham Radio- Online Meeting Resources](#)” or view the video recording at [View Video](#) for more details. The remainder of the slideshow focuses on non-RATPAC videos and resources that you might find useful for club programs.

I will also be doing another program for RATPAC on Jan 27th- “**Pandemic Ham Radio Activities; An Opportunity to Grow**”, discussing adapting to COVID-19 in club functions.

73,  
Anthony, K8ZT

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***From the Section Traffic Manager***  
***David Maynard, WA3EZN – STM***  
[wa3ezn@att.net](mailto:wa3ezn@att.net)

### **JANUARY 2021**

**FCC has Warned hams on Using Ham Radio for Illegal Acts.** The Bureau reminds amateur licensees that they are prohibited from transmitting ‘communications intended to facilitate a criminal act’ or ‘messages encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning,’ the agency said in a statement Sunday. The whole story can be found in Scott's latest postscript (1-18-21) on the website <http://www.arrl-ohio.org/news/index.html> . The Public Notice and FCC Enforcement Advisory can be found at this internet address:  
<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-21-73A1.pdf>



The use of Amateur Radio for criminal acts, secret or insurrection communications should not surprise you. As easy as it is to purchase ham radio equipment to use with or without a license is nothing new. Chinese ham radios are sold all over the place now and that includes the internet.

Remember that the OSSBN is now starting at 6:15 due to poor band conditions. You are asked that if you have traffic be on frequency on time a prepared to pass your traffic. At this time an attempt will be made to pass all traffic prior to having role call and before the band goes long. Everyone should also be on frequency by 6:15 and prepared to take traffic. Those able to hear weak stations will be needed to relay traffic and thanks you all for doing so. As the band improves, we are able to have a role call and comments some evenings.

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With the cancellation of the Mansfield Midwinter Hamfest the Ohio Single Sideband Net is once again going to have to find a way to hold their next meeting. Keep tuned in and checking into the OSSBN for discussions and updates on the next meeting. Maybe this will be fixed by the new Covid vaccinations.



### OHIO SINGLE SIDEBAND NET

"Specializing in the first and last mile of NTS delivery in Ohio."

<b>Morning session</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>3972.5 KHz</b>	<b>every day</b>
<b>Afternoon session</b>	<b>4:15 PM</b>	<b>3972.5 KHz</b>	<b>every day</b>
<b>Evening session</b>	<b>6:15 PM</b>	<b>3972.5 KHz</b>	<b>every day</b>

### OHIO HF CW TRAFFIC NETS

HF CW NETS	NET TIMES	FREQUENCY	NET MANAGERS
<b>Buckeye Early</b>	<b>6:45 PM</b>	<b>3.580</b>	<b>WB8YLO</b>
<b>Buckeye Late</b>	<b>10:00 PM</b>	<b>3.590</b>	<b>WB9LBI</b>
<b>Ohio Slow Net</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>3.53535</b>	<b>W8MAL</b>

All net frequencies plus or minus QRM. .

### OHIO LOCAL VHF TRAFFIC NETS

VHF NETS	NET TIMES	FREQUENCY	NET MANAGERS
<b>BRTN</b>	<b>9:30 PM DAILY</b>	<b>145.230 PL 110.9</b>	<b>W8DJG</b>
<b>COTN</b>	<b>7:15 PM DAILY</b>	<b>146.970</b>	<b>KD8TTE</b>
<b>MVTN</b>	<b>7:00 PM Mon</b>	<b>146.640</b>	<b>KC8HTP</b>
<b>NWOHARES</b>	<b>6:30 PM DAILY</b>	<b>147.375</b>	<b>N8TNV</b>
<b>TCTTN</b>	<b>9 PM Sun, Tues, Fri</b>	<b>146.94</b>	<b>WB8YYS</b>
<b>TATN</b>	<b>8:00 PM DAILY</b>	<b>146.670 PL123</b>	<b>WG8Z</b>

These VHF net times and frequencies are those that have been reported to me by the net managers.

While on the subject of nets the West Virginia Mid Day Net meets daily at 11:45 AM Local Time 7.235 or 3.810 MHz. And the West Virginia Fone Net meets daily at 6:00 PM Local Time on 3.810 MHz. I mention this as a possible resource for them when there is no West Virginia representative on 8RN to take their traffic. Also as a reminder there is no digital station for West Virginia traffic and seldom is there a representative on the Interstate Sideband Net ISBN

## WHAT IS AN OFFICIAL RELAY STATION

This is a traffic-handling appointment that is open to all classes of license. This appointment applies equally to all modes and all parts of the spectrum. It is for NTS traffic-handlers, regardless of mode employed or part of the spectrum used.

The potential value of the skilled operator with traffic know-how to his country and community is enhanced by his ability and the readiness of his station to function in the community interest in case of emergency. Traffic awareness and experience are often the signs by which mature amateurs may be distinguished.

Traditionally, there have been considerable differences between procedures for traffic handling by cw, phone, RTTY, ASCII, packet and other modes. Appointment requirements for ORS do not deal with these, but with factors equally applicable to all modes.

The appointed ORS may confine activities to one mode or one part of the spectrum if he wishes. There is no versatility requirement, although versatility does indeed make it possible for anyone to perform a more complete public service. There is, however, the expectation that the ORS will set the example in traffic handling however it is done. To the extent that he is deficient in performing traffic functions by any mode, to that extent he does not meet the qualifications for the appointment.

The requirements and qualifications for the ORS appointment includes:

- Full ARRL membership and Novice Class license or higher
- Code and/or voice transmission capability
- Transmissions, by whatever mode, must be of the highest quality, both technically and operationally. For example, CW signals must be pure, chirpless, clickless, code sending must be well spaced and properly formed. Voice transmission must be of proper modulation percentage or deviation, precisely enunciated with minimum distortion
- Must follow standard ARRL operating practices (message form, ending signals, abbreviations or prowords, etc.)
- Regular participation in traffic activities, either independent or ARRL-sponsored.
- Being able to handle all record communications speedily and reliably and set the example in efficient operating procedures
- Reporting monthly to the Section Traffic Manager, including a breakdown of traffic handled during the past calendar month
- Recruitment of new hams and ARRL members is an integral part of the job of every ARRL appointee. Appointees should take advantage of every opportunity to recruit a new ham or member to foster growth of Field Organization programs, and our abilities to serve the public.

<http://www.arrl.org/official-relay-station>

## SENDING STATION ACTIVITY REPORTS

Those stations sending, receiving and delivering radiograms should report their activity each month. In Ohio the monthly Station Activity Reports are filed by radiogram with WA3EZN the Section Traffic Manager in Hilliard OH. Monthly activity reports are to be sent to the WA3EZN within the first days of the next month and received by the STM by the sixth of the month. Traffic handling conducted on the non-amateur or Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) frequencies are not to be counted in amateur radio activity reports to the ARRL.

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The results of these reports will be tabulated and sent to the ARRL for publication in the QST. A simple three word text is all that is needed, October Traffic 10, with the 10 being the number of points earned for traffic handling for the month. I encourage all stations to file this month report. Here is an example report, please keep them to three words.

1 Routine KD8XXX 3 Yourtown Ohio February 1  
Dave WA3EZN  
Hilliard Ohio  
Break  
JANUARY TRAFFIC 10  
BT  
YOUR SIGNATURE AND CALLSIGN

Another important report is the ARRL **Public Service Honor Roll (PSHR)** report. At the end of each calendar month, just add up your qualifying points. If it reaches the 70-point level (or more), you've qualified for your Public Service Honor Roll! Score to be listed in the QST. If it doesn't reach this level it is still very important to report you scores every month.

Simply send a radiogram to David WA3EZN – Hilliard, Ohio – No address or phone number is needed. David will compile the report and send to the Section Manager and forward the report onto ARRL Headquarters so that Headquarters staff may prepare these for listing in the Field Organization Reports segment of *QST*.

Your traffic count radiogram should look like this:

2 Routine KD8XXX 10 Yourtown Ohio February 1  
DAVE WA3EZN  
HILLIARD OHIO  
BREAK  
JANUARY PSHR 40 40 10  
0 0 0 TOTAL 90  
BREAK  
YOUR SIGNATURE AND CALLSIGN

**NOTE:** Of course, you would use your call and city or town. Avoid adding additional words or information in the text as this simple format is what will be expected and adding additional words such as 73 or slant bars (/) can cause confusion. Have your report received by WA3EZN no later than the sixth of the month so he has time to compile the data and meet the ARRL QST deadline. If reports are not received in time by the Ohio Section Traffic Manager, the report will not appear on the ARRL Ohio Section website at <http://arrl-ohio.org/> nor will they go to ARRL HQ for printing in QST Magazine.

Here's how to count your Public Service Honor Roll points.

The six areas for rating are:

- Participating in a traffic or public service net, one point each net (max. 40)
- Handling formal messages (max. 40 points)

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- Serving in an ARRL-sponsored volunteer position, 10 points each position (max. 30)
- Participating in a scheduled, short-term public service event, including off-the-air meetings (5 points per hour - no limit)
- Participating in an unplanned emergency response (5 points per hour - no limit)
- Providing and maintaining an automated digital system handling ARRL radiogram-formatted messages or a web page e-mail list server oriented toward Amateur Radio public service. (10 points per item)

### **Brass Pounders League BPL**

To qualify for BPL you must have originated 100 radiograms or handled enough traffic to qualify for 500 PSHR points.

We are all familiar with the volunteer opportunities of the ARES programs. Is a program like CERT, Search & Rescue right for You?

### ***Ohio Community Emergency Response Team***

The Ohio Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations. CERT offers a consistent approach to volunteer training and organization that professional first responders can rely on during disaster situations, which in turn, allows responders to focus on more complex tasks.



The CERT program was designed as a grass root initiative and specifically structured so that local and state program managers have the flexibility to form their CERT programs in the way that best suits their communities.

- Citizen Corps works through a national network of state and local Citizen Corps Councils, if local communities choose this advisory option, then leaders from law enforcement, fire, emergency medical and other emergency management, volunteer organizations, local elected officials, the private sector, and other community stakeholders that serve as an advisory board.
- Local Citizen Corps Councils implement Citizen Corps programs. These programs may include CERT, Medical Reserve Corps, Neighborhood Watch, Volunteers in Police Service, Fire Corps and other affiliate programs that provide opportunities for special skills and interests. They also organize special projects and community events.
- For CERT programs not endorsed by a local Citizen Corps, the program must be sponsored by a local emergency response organization such as a local fire department or emergency management office.
- Citizen Corps affiliate programs expand the resources and materials available to states and local communities. They do this by partnering with programs and organizations that offer resources for public education, outreach and training; represent volunteers interested in helping to make their communities safer; or offer volunteer service opportunities to support first responders, disaster relief activities and community safety efforts. For more information check out these web pages:

<https://www.ema.ohio.gov/CERT.aspx>

<https://www.ready.gov/cert>  
<https://ema.ohio.gov/CERT-socialmedia.aspx>  
<https://www.cert-la.com/cert-ohio/>

Above all else stay safe, stay home and wear you mask if you go out. Until next time remember to obey the state 10PM curfew, don't assemble in large groups, wear you masks and try to have a good day.

73

David WA3EZN  
Ohio Section Traffic Manager

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



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### ***From the State Government Liaison***

**Bob Winston W2THU – SGL**

[w2thu@arrrl.net](mailto:w2thu@arrrl.net)

Happy New Year to all! I sure did not expect this pandemic to result in the Dayton Hamvention being cancelled two years in a row, but that is exactly what happened, along with many other smaller hamfests all over Ohio. Fortunately, amateur radio clubs have learned how to conduct business and offer some very good programs via Zoom and other virtual modes. The onset of vaccinations will eventually allow us to meet in person again. However, the use of the internet to share our meetings with hams around the world may become the norm post Covid-19.



### **STATUS OF THE ANTI-TEXTING BILL –**

There has been some activity on this bill (SB-285) that I did not mention in my previous article. There were two hearings in May 2020 before the *Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee*. At the second hearing, there were 25 witnesses who testified in favor of the bill, ranging from the Ohio State Patrol to the AAA Auto Club.

Interestingly, at the third hearing held on 22 September 2020, there was testimony against the bill by the Office of the Ohio Public Defender. The Public Defender argued that although they agreed that distracted driving should be a primary offense, they felt the penalties were way too harsh because a guilty party would be sentenced to mandatory prison time for operating an electronic device when they did not intend to cause any harm. The Public Defender suggested that our society needed a cultural change, such as occurred with attitudes toward drunk driving and use of seatbelts, to solve the distracted driver problem.

The bill is still in the Senate committee.

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## **AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE PLATES UPDATE -**

As you recall, I sent my registration materials to the BMV in Columbus to avoid COVID-19 issues at my local registrar. That was a mistake. It took 4 months to get my renewal sticker which arrived just 3 days before the automatic extension for Ohioans to renew their plates expired. During this time, I drove out of state with expired license plates, not knowing if other jurisdictions were aware of Ohio's extension. Fortunately, nothing happened. But you can bet that next July I will stand online at my local registrar, as I've done for years, to renew my ham plate. You should, too.

## **LEGISLATIVE ACTION PROGRAM –**

I received an email from Chuck Patellis, W8PT reminding me of another ARRL program that serves to work with legislators in the interests of amateur radio. The Legislative Action Program (LAP), created by the League in 2005, was developed to lobby for Federal Legislation that would benefit our hobby. It differs from my role as Ohio SGL in that I am concerned with state and local laws.

Each ARRL Division Director appoints the Legislative Action Coordinator (LAC) for each section within the Division. Here in the Great Lakes Division, we have three Sections and our Ohio LAC is Brent Stover, WD8PNZ of Maumee. Chuck told me that he and Tom Sly, WB8LCD are Legislative Action Assistants for our section. W8PT offered to help our Ohio SGL program when needed. Thank you, Chuck,!

I close by congratulating Scott Yonally, N8SY in his new role as Great Lakes Division Vice Director and welcoming Tom Sly, WB8LCD as our new Ohio Section Manager. Good luck to you both.

**73, Bob W2THU**

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## ***ARES Training Update***

***Jim Yoder, W8ERW – ARES Data Manager***

[w8erw@arrl.net](mailto:w8erw@arrl.net)

### ***ARES Training Update***

Welcome to 2021, it's here. Not much is happening. The election is over with and thank goodness we'll hear no more political ads for a while. Were this pandemic over, that would certainly be a wonderful relief also. Hamfests and other gatherings have already been cancelled for the year. Yes, I'll quit complaining. The snow accumulation for the year so far has been light and the sun here is shining brightly this morning. And I am wondering if I might just use that next stimulus check for some new station equipment. I at least need something to get a station ready for the new RV that the XYL and I should be taking delivery on this coming Saturday morning. Things are indeed looking up for the New Year. I can see a camping visit to Hamvention in 2022 and perhaps others even later this year.



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I was initially somewhat dismayed with the announcement of ARES Connect going away. It's taken me like many of you I am sure, this long to get to a modest level of mastery with the system. And now it's being abandoned. The latest word from Newington is that users were polled, and the participation was far less than desired or anticipated. The vendor also had no plans to provide additional updates that would be more suitable to our purpose. Headquarters has made the decision to look for a new vehicle that is easier to use and more in tune with our needs and hopefully that will come to pass soon. In the interim, we will revert to the existing paper method of reporting with some updates and additional elements added.

The Seneca Radio Club has installed a new Fusion repeater on the 145.450 machine, and I hear it is working rather well. There are also some planned additional improvements to the antenna and feedline. Providing both analog and digital capability, this new machine should see a lot more activity in the near future. Thanks Jeff WB8REI, Mike KD8QDL, Gregg WJ8Y and the members of the Seneca Radio Club for your diligent work on this project.

ARES Training ended the year with some respectable numbers. The database now has over 1,900 members and 9,755 training certificates logged. We also hit 1,500 registered members for ARES Connect. Unfortunately, that milestone has lost its inertia with the planned demise of the system. The year also brought many upgrades to both Level 2 and 3 throughout the year. New certificate submissions have already begun for the New Year. Keep up the good work. This is a truly wonderful showing for the Ohio Section.

With any luck we can now begin to see some de-escalation of the political scene. Two issues are still relevant, however. We as licensed Amateurs must be sure to refrain from any illegal activity as noted in a recent FCC advisory. Prosecution and loss of license would be the result of not doing so. Also, the role we as Amateurs can play during an emergency has become more obvious with the developments over the past year. The need to be prepared is ever present. More of our served agencies have realized the need to have backup of the sort that we can provide. Additionally, this brings with it the need for FEMA training along with a continued effort to exercise and make visible our communications capabilities. I encourage everyone to consider that our visibility and capabilities during an emergency are our strength when it comes to preservation of our spectrum allocations. Please continue to participate in FEMA training. ARES needs to be a strong element of our Amateur Radio presence.

Thank you everyone for another great year and I look forward to a very productive year to come. Please do let me know if I can help you in any way. All of your Ohio Section leadership is here to serve you our fellow Amateurs. We also welcome our new Section Manager, Tom Sly WB8LCD along with a new position for Scott Yonally N8SY as our Great Lakes Division Vice Director.

73,

**Jim W8ERW**  
[w8erw@arrl.net](mailto:w8erw@arrl.net)

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## ***Training Opportunity***

### **EMA-G272 WARNING COORDINATION**

**Hosted by: Ohio Emergency Management Agency March 15 – 16, 2021**

**Course Description:** This course is the latest in the hazardous weather series of courses produced in partnership with the National Weather Service (NWS). Every year, the United States experiences more severe weather than any other country in the world. In order to reduce deaths, injuries, and property losses, emergency managers must work closely with the NWS and the news media to provide effective warnings that can be received and understood by people at risk. This course is intended to help facilitate that process. Course topics include: The Social Dimensions of Warning Response; Developing Effective Warning Messages; Developing an Effective Community Warning Process; and Working with the News Media to Create a Weather Warning Partnership. In addition to lecture and discussion, the course includes case studies, exercises, and an opportunity for interaction with representatives of the local news media.

**\*\*This course is an Elective for the Advanced Professional Series\*\***

**Registration Deadline:** March 1, 2021

\*Seats are limited so please register early

**Time of Course:** Registration: 7:30 am – 8:00 am (on day one)

Course Time: 8:00 am – 2:30 pm

**Location:** Virtually via Microsoft Teams

**Recommended Participants:** Intended for local emergency managers.

**Recommended Prerequisite:** Please consider enrolling in the IS-271 Anticipating Hazardous Weather and Community Risk or IS-247 Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), before attending this course. The IS courses are available online by going to <http://training.fema.gov/IS/> and clicking on the "ISP Course List" link on the left side of the page.

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

**Microsoft Teams:** If you do not already have a Microsoft account, you will need to sign up for one. There is no cost associated with setting up an account. Please let the State Point of Contact know if the email you use is different from the email you have on file with you Public Safety Training Campus profile.

**Course Costs:** This course is free to participants.

**State Point of Contact:** Matt Jaksetic, State Training Coordinator, Ohio EMA (614) 799-3666, [mtjaksetic@dps.ohio.gov](mailto:mtjaksetic@dps.ohio.gov)

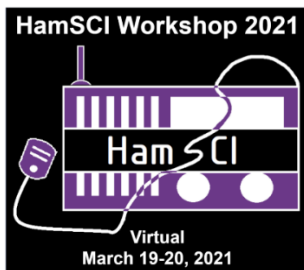
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## National News

(from arrl and other sources)

### HamSCI Issues Call for Abstracts for March Virtual Workshop



HamSCI has issued a call for abstracts for its virtual [workshop](#) March 19 – 20, hosted by the University of Scranton and sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

“The primary objective of the HamSCI workshop is to bring together the amateur radio community and professional scientists,” said HamSCI founder Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF. The theme is midlatitude ionospheric physics, “which is especially important to us because the vast majority of hams live in the midlatitude regions,” Frissell said.

Invited tutorial speakers will be Mike Ruohoniemi of the Virginia Tech SuperDARN initiative and Joe Dzekevich, K1YOW. Elizabeth Bruton, of the Science Museum in London, will be the keynote speaker. Submit abstracts by February 15.

The March conference will also serve as a team meeting for the [Personal Space Weather Station](#) project. Frissell said he will coordinate with respective teams for their abstracts. The HamSCI workshop welcomes abstracts related to development of the Personal Weather Station, ionospheric science, atmospheric science, radio science, spaceweather, radio astronomy, and any science topic “that can be appropriately related to the amateur radio hobby.”

Submissions related to the workshop theme of midlatitude ionospheric physics are encouraged. Abstracts will be reviewed by the [Science/Program Committee](#), and authors will be notified no later than March 1. Virtual poster presentations are welcome, but due to time constraints, requests for oral presentation slots may not be guaranteed.

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### Orlando HamCation Online Event and QSO Party Set

Orlando HamCation has announced it will sponsor the [HamCation QSO Party](#) over the February 13 – 14 weekend (UTC), “to create a fun way for amateurs to celebrate the Orlando HamCation experience over the air.” The HamCation QSO Party will be a 12-hour event on HamCation weekend. HamCation 2021 was to host the ARRL National Convention, which now will take place in 2022.



“The QSO party will replicate the camaraderie and social experience of attending HamCation and provide a way to have fun on the radio, since HamCation 2021 will not be held due to COVID-19,” the HamCation QSO Party Committee said. The HamCation QSO Party will run from 1500 UTC on February 13 until 0300 UTC on February 14. It will be a CW and SSB operating event on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Any station may work any other station.

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Categories will be High Power (more than 100 W output), Low Power (100 W output or less, but greater than 5 W), and QRP (5 W output or less). All participants will be single operators; there is no multioperator category. The exchange will be your name and state/province/country, and the outside temperature at your location. “We are including temperature at your QTH as a way of highlighting Orlando’s mild February weather,” the committee said.

Nine HamCation special event stations with 1 × 1 call signs will be on the air with combined suffixes spelling out HamCation (e.g., K4H, W4A, K4M, etc). Each contact will count as one point, and stations may be worked once on each band and mode. Entrants will report their scores on [www.3830Scores.com](http://www.3830Scores.com); no logs are required. Final results will be based on the information submitted to the website.

Station guest operators must use their own call signs and submit their scores individually. Plaques and certificates will be awarded.

### **Virtual HamCation Set**

The [Orlando HamCation](#) Special Edition online event over the February 13 – 14 weekend will take the place of what would have been the HamCation 2021 in-person show.

The online event will include youth, technology, contesting, and vendor [webinar tracks](#). ARRL will also present two webinars on Saturday, February 13.

- ARRL Member Forum at 1 PM EST, moderated by ARRL Southeastern Division Director Mickey Baker, N4MB.
- Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) presentation at 3 PM EST, moderated by ARRL Director of Emergency Management Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW. The ARES presentation will include panelists from ARRL Section Emergency Coordinators in Florida.

Live, online prize drawings also are scheduled during the HamCation Special Edition online event.

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## ***Club Corner***

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

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

Just sent it to: [webmaster@arrl-ohio.org](mailto:webmaster@arrl-ohio.org)

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## *2021 Cleveland Marathon*



I'm excited to announce that the 2021 Cleveland Marathon and 2021 Hamvention will be on different weekends. Hopefully this means we will be able to get many more volunteers for the marathon. As you may know, it takes at least 40 people to staff the marathon and the City of Cleveland even officially activates ARES for it.

To volunteer for the marathon, please click here <https://forms.gle/f6dYw8vb6KAptaVk8>

I know it's early, so expect to hear me talking about this a lot more over the coming months.

- Cleveland Marathon May 15-16, 2021

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## *Winter Field Day Jan 30-31 At Alum Creek State Park*

Winter Field day is January 30-31st

I encourage everyone that can to participate in it.

Purpose: To foster Ham camaraderie, field operation, emergency operating preparedness, and just plain on the air, outdoor fun in the midst of winter for American, Canadian, and DX Hams. Don't let those winter doldrums keep you locked up in the house... get out and play some radio!!

When: Winter Field Day runs for 24 hours during the last full weekend in January each year from 1900 UTC (2pm EST) Saturday to 1900 UTC (2pm EST) Sunday. For 2021 the dates are January 30th and 31st. Station set-up may commence no earlier than 1900 UTC (2pm EST) on the Friday before. Station setup may consume no more than 12 hours total.

How & when you schedule/spend those 12 hours is up to you. Bands: All Amateur bands, HF, VHF, & UHF except 12, 17, 30 and 60 meters.

Modes: Any mode that can faithfully transmit the exchange intact without a conversion table... CW, SSB, AM, FM, DStar, C4FM, DMR, Packet, PSK, SSTV, RTTY, Olivia, Satellite, etc... (note FT8 & FT4 cannot) More information about winter Field Day can be found at <https://www.winterfieldday.com/>

Ed, KE8ANU and three other amateur radio operators from the Union County area will be informally camping at Alum Creek State Park at sites B21 and B23 participating as an outdoor station using commercial power provided at the campsite.

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If you are interested in camping at Alum Creek State Park please get your own campsite to sleep in and join us at one of the sites to help operate the outdoor station. Let us know if you plan to be at Alum Creek State Park Campground for Winter Field day by e-mailing [pota@ares.unioncountyohio.us](mailto:pota@ares.unioncountyohio.us) We will also be activating Alum Creek State Park for Parks on the air (POTA).

For more information about parks on the air please visit <https://parksontheair.com/>

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## ***DX This Week***

*(from Bill, AJ8B)*

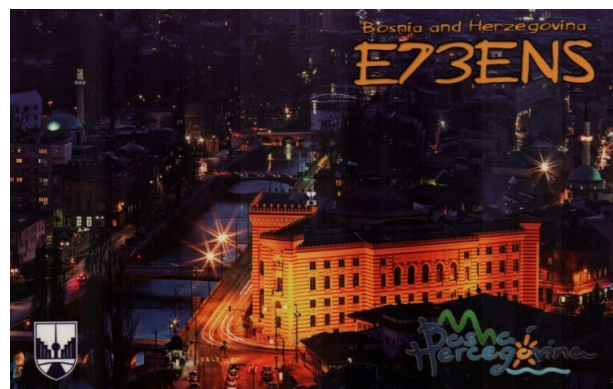
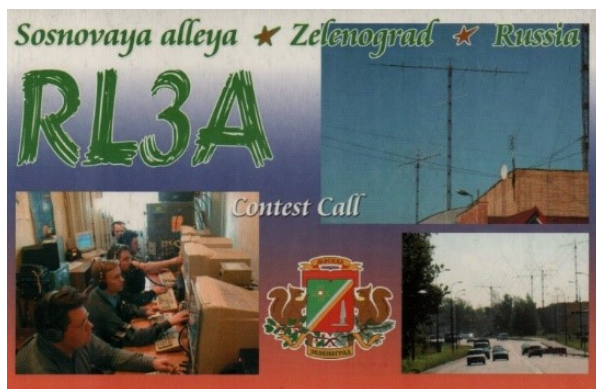
### ***DX This Week – Solar Numbers Part 2*** ***Bill AJ8B (aj8b@arrl.net, @AJ8B, or www.aj8b.com)*** ***CWOPs Member #1567***



As the new year begins, there was quite a bit of DX to work. The Midwest DX Cluster spots included Alaska, Algeria, Argentina, Azores, Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Canary Islands, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Dominican Republic, England, Fed. Rep. of Germany, France, French Guiana, Greece, Hawaii, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Madeira Islands, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, Montserrat, Netherlands, Panama, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Sardinia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Trinidad & Tobago, Uruguay, US Virgin Islands, and Venezuela. This brings the total number of entities spotted in the Midwest to 97!

### ***DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH***

I received cards from RL3A- The Contest Station near Moscow, YS1MAE – Mario in El Salvador, and E73ENS- The Radio Club in Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina. Let me know what you received.



### ***DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH***

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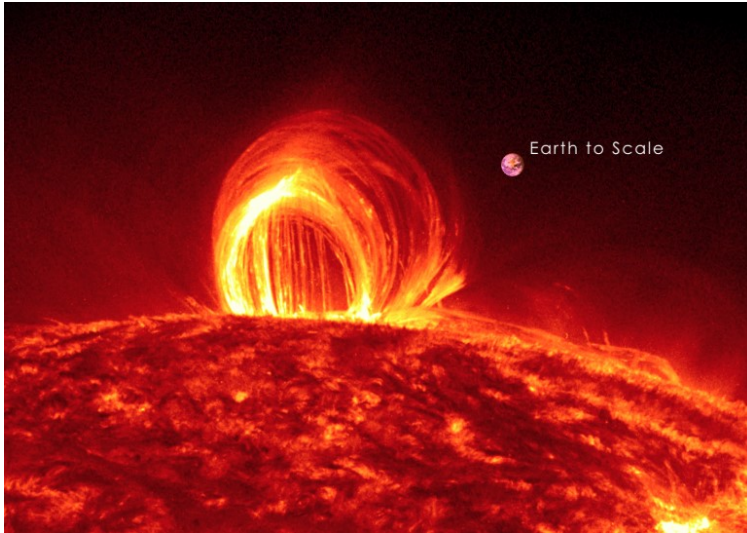
Last week was installment #1 of the discussion of Solar Numbers and when they mean by Carl, K9LA. Below is the second installment. Thanks to Carl for permission to reprint.

Solar Numbers – What they Mean Part 2:

By Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA

[http://k9la.us/Propagation\\_101\\_23Sep07.pdf](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.

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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](http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/noaa-scales-explanation).

Normal propagation (no disturbances) is expected when the space weather indicator is minor. A comment is appropriate here. Both the Solar and Geophysical Activity Report and WWV/WWVH give a status of general solar activity. This is *not* a status of the 11-year sunspot cycle, but rather a status on solar disturbances (flares, particles, and CMEs). For example, if the solar activity is reported as low or minor, that doesn't mean we're at the bottom of the solar cycle; it means the sun has not produced any major space weather disturbances. In order to predict propagation, much effort was put into finding a correlation between sunspots and the state of the ionosphere. The best correlation turned out to be between SSN and monthly median ionospheric parameters. This is the correlation that our propagation prediction programs are based on, which means the outputs (usually MUF and signal strength) are values with probabilities over a month time frame tied to them. They are not absolutes; they are statistical in nature. Understanding this is a key to the proper use of propagation predictions.

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

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

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

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## ***CQDX CQDX CQDX CQDX CQDX CQDX CQDX CQDX CQDX***

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:

### **A2 – Botswana**

By VE7VR, Dave Johnson

This Botswana trip was planned for 2020 but was postponed 1 year due to covid-19. We are hoping that was enough time. All flights, vehicle and overnight stays have been confirmed so unless this comes off the rails again, we should be on the way April 28-May 24, 2021. This will be my 3rd trip to Botswana. I lived there for 9 months in 1972 and was on the air using A2CEW. In 2018, my wife and I returned, and I was on the air in a limited way as A25VR. Propagation was so bad I only managed 96 Qs in 6 days of trying. This



year we will be back for a 3-week self-driving 4X4 camping safari. Each day I will set up camp, which will include a 40 ft. Spiderpole (or high tree) with inverted Vs for 10M-80M. SSB and CW only. Our primary focus is on the safari experience, but radio will be part of it. I will be bringing an Icom IC-7100 with 10-100 watts depending on available power. Probably half our stops will be battery power only. I will also have an Elecraft KX-2 as a spare rig. Hoping that propagation will allow a few memorable Qs while surrounded by Lions, Hyenas, Zebras and Baboons. QSL VE7VR (A25VR)

**5U – Niger** - F4IHM, Adrien, is expected to be QRV shortly as 5UAIHM (not 5U4IHM). Yes, that is the callsign. I suspect the clerk who typed up the license mistook the 4 for an A. Sometimes it is best to just move on and accept the license as is as it could take a long time to get it fixed. I have seen a copy of the 5UAIHM license. This does occasionally happen and the ARRL DXCC Desk has seen multiple other unintended callsigns and has approved them over the years. This is what the legal authorities issued, and Adrien rightfully so will use that callsign.

**OA – Peru** - Celebrating 200 years as a republic, the Peruvian Radio Club is putting some special callsigns on the air throughout this year. They are OC200P, OC200E, OC200R and OC200U. Note, those single letter suffixes spell the word “PERU.” Only one of those calls will be on at a time, OC200P in January, May and September; OC200E in February, June and October; OC200R in March, July and November, and OC200U in April, August, and December. Contact all four in any order and you are eligible for a certificate from them. There are bronze, silver and gold levels of the award, for working all four once, twice or three times, but only once per month. QSL to OA4O.

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**SM – Sweden** - SD400SU is a special call from the SK3BG group, the Sundsvall Amateur Radio Club, celebrating the town’s 400 years. SD400SU will be on the air throughout the year. <http://sundsvalltown.se/>

**KL7 – Alaska** - The 2021 Alaska RST QSO Party is a special event being organized by the North Country DX Association, the “NCDXA,” callsign K7ICE. This started January 15 and goes through February 15 with callsigns KL7RST, KL7RST/KL7, VY1RST/KL7, VE8RST/KL7 and VY0RST/KL7, who plan to be “all bands and modes” from various QTHs in Alaska. Free of charge certificates will be available. QSL via K7ICE, with more info on QRZ.com.

**160M - 9K2HN – Kuwait** - NY9H, Bill Steffy, in Pennsylvania got through on 160 meters FT8 on Friday, after two hours of trying. The signal was between -22 and -10. While trying he also worked DL, HK, PY, TI and HI. He says perseverance and persistence pay off.

***DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH***

# CONTEST CORNER

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

Check out the WA7BNM Contest Calendar page (<https://www.contestcalendar.com/>) for more contests or more details.

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

Thanks!

Jan 23-24	BARTG RTTY Sprint	<a href="http://bartg.org.uk/wp/contests">bartg.org.uk/wp/contests</a>
Jan 23-24	UK/EI DX Contest Rules	<a href="http://www.ukeicc.com/dx-contest-rules.php">www.ukeicc.com/dx-contest-rules.php</a>
Jan 27	UKEICC 80 Meter Contest CW	<a href="http://bit.ly/2SDPqQQ">bit.ly/2SDPqQQ</a>
Jan 30-31	REF CW Contest	<a href="http://concours.ref-union.org/contest/?page_id=2">concours.ref-union.org/contest/?page_id=2</a>
Jan 30-31	UBA SSB Contest	<a href="https://bit.ly/W0gZiE">https://bit.ly/W0gZiE</a>
Jan 30-31	Winter Field Day	<a href="http://www.winterfieldday.com">www.winterfieldday.com</a>
Jan 29 – 31	CQWW 160M	<a href="https://cq160.com/">https://cq160.com/</a>
Feb. 2	RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	<a href="https://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2020/r80mcc.shtml">https://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2020/r80mcc.shtml</a>
Feb. 3	UKEICC 80m Contests SSB	<a href="https://bit.ly/2SDPqQQ">https://bit.ly/2SDPqQQ</a>

Feb. 6	FISTS Winter Saturday Sprint	<a href="http://www.fistsna.org/operating.html">http://www.fistsna.org/operating.html</a>
Feb. 6	AGCW Straight Key Party	<a href="https://bit.ly/3ngQSpB">https://bit.ly/3ngQSpB</a>
Feb. 6	Minnesota QSO Party	<a href="https://www.w0aa.org/mn-qso-party/">https://www.w0aa.org/mn-qso-party/</a>
Feb. 6-7	10-10 Int'l Winter Contest	<a href="http://bit.ly/1FrFeBc">http://bit.ly/1FrFeBc</a>
Feb. 6-7	British Columbia QSO Party	<a href="http://www.orcadxcc.org/bcqp_rules.html">http://www.orcadxcc.org/bcqp_rules.html</a>
Feb. 6-7	Vermont QSO Party	<a href="http://www.ranv.org/ranv.html">http://www.ranv.org/ranv.html</a>
Feb. 6-7	Mexico RTTY International Contest	<a href="https://bit.ly/35kiJ20">https://bit.ly/35kiJ20</a>
Feb. 6-7	North American CW Sprint	<a href="http://ncjweb.com/north-american-sprint/">http://ncjweb.com/north-american-sprint/</a>
Feb.8-12	ARRL School Club Roundup	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup">http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup</a>
Feb. 10	RSGB 80m Club Championship, DATA	<a href="https://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2020/r80mcc.shtml">https://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2020/r80mcc.shtml</a>
Mar. 27 – 28	CQWW WPX SSB	<a href="https://www.cqwp.com/">https://www.cqwp.com/</a>
May 21	SWODXA DXDinner	<a href="http://www.swodxaevents.org">www.swodxaevents.org</a>
May 29 – 30	CQWW WPX CW	<a href="https://www.cqwp.com/">https://www.cqwp.com/</a>
August 28	Ohio QSO Party	<a href="https://www.ohqp.org/">https://www.ohqp.org/</a>

## 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.



### January 25

- [K1USN Slow Speed Test](#)
- [OK1WC Memorial \(MWC\)](#)
- [QCX Challenge](#)
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### January 27

- [SKCC Sprint](#)
- [QRP Fox Hunt](#)
- [Phone Weekly Test - Fray](#)
- [CWops Mini-CWT Test](#)
- [UKEICC 80m Contest](#)

### January 26

- [Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest](#)
- [QCX Challenge](#)
- [RTTYOPS Weeksprint](#)

### January 28

- [NAQCC CW Sprint](#)
- [CWops Mini-CWT Test](#)
- [RTTYOPS Weeksprint](#)

### January 29

- [NCCC RTTY Sprint](#)
- [QRP Fox Hunt](#)
- [NCCC Sprint Ladder](#)
- [CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW](#)

### January 30

- [Feld Hell Sprint](#)
- [REF Contest, CW](#)
- [UBA DX Contest, SSB](#)
- [RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint](#)
- [Winter Field Day](#)

### February 1

- [K1USN Slow Speed Test](#)
- [OK1WC Memorial \(MWC\)](#)
- [RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB](#)

### February 2

- [Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest](#)
- [ARS Spartan Sprint](#)
- [RTTYOPS Weeksprint](#)

### February 3

- [QRP Fox Hunt](#)
- [Phone Weekly Test - Fray](#)
- [VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest](#)
- [CWops Mini-CWT Test](#)
- [UKEICC 80m Contest](#)

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## Special Events

- **01/30/2021 | Kansas Day**

**Jan 30, 1600Z-2100Z, KS0KS**, Edgerton, KS. Santa Fe TRail Amateur Radio Club. 14.250 14.055 10.115 7.250. QSL. Santa Fe Trail Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 3144, Olathe, KS 66063. The Kansas Day special event celebrates the day Kansas joined the Union. Kansas joined the union on January 29, 1861. Kansas is known as the Sunflower State and became the 34th state to be admitted into the Union. <https://sftarc.org>

- **02/01/2021 | JY1 Special Event Memorial Station 2021**

**Feb 1-Feb 28, 0000Z-2359Z, N9SES**, Lake Station, IN. ArabQrz Club. 14.250 14.030 7.185 7.030. QSL. Ayman Azar, 2861 Decatur St, Lake Station, IN 46405. See website for participating stations from other countries. All HF/VHF/UHF, All Modes. Hamsphere Users can also participate in the event [www.n9ses.com/?page\\_id=18](http://www.n9ses.com/?page_id=18)

- **02/06/2021 | 100th Anniversary**

**Feb 6-Feb 27, 1800Z-2359Z, W6UW**, San Jose, CA. Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association. 21.320 14.250 7.250. Certificate. Don Village, K6PBQ, 3290 Woody Lane, San Jose, CA 95132. [w6uw@arrl.net](mailto:w6uw@arrl.net) or [www.qsl.net/sccara](http://www.qsl.net/sccara)

- **02/06/2021 | Ground Hog Day Special Event**

**Feb 6, 0900Z-1500Z, K3HWJ**, Punxsutawney, PA. Punxsutawney Amateur Radio Club. all modes, all bands. Certificate. Stephen Waltman, KB3FPN, 37 Clark St., Brookville, PA 15825. SASE for certificate. [www.punxclub.com](http://www.punxclub.com)

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- **02/06/2021 | Shuttle Columbia Special Event**

**Feb 6-Feb 7, 1400Z-2359Z, K5C**, Nacogdoches, TX. Nacogdoches ARC. 7.216 14.260 21.350 28.350. QSL. Army Curtis, 167 CR 2093, Nacogdoches, TX 75965. All contacts will be confirmed via LOTW

- **02/07/2021 | Commemorating Howard E. Anthony, Father of Heathkit**

**Feb 7, 1200Z-2359Z, KD2FSI**, Randolph, NJ. KD2FSI. 21.300 14.300 7.300 3.900. QSL. David R. Hackett, 3 High Ridge Road, Randolph, NJ 07869. On Sunday February 7, 2021 from 1200Z -2359Z, Amateur Radio Station KD2FSI will operate as a special event station using a variety of vintage Heathkit gear to commemorate the life and legacy of Howard E. Anthony, the father of the Heathkit brand of electronic kits. Starting in the morning with 75 meter SSB, we will work our way up to the 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands and then back down again towards the evening. I will post additional information on my public Facebook page as the event draws near and the actual operating frequencies and modes in real time the day off. We hope all amateur radio operators with any type of equipment (new or old) will join us as we commemorate Mr. Anthony, the person responsible for starting Heathkit, the finest electronic kit company ever. 73, Dave Hackett KD2FSI  
[davehackett@cs.com](mailto:davehackett@cs.com) <https://www.facebook.com/dave.hackett.9085>

- **02/13/2021 | George Washington's Birthday at his Boyhood Home, Ferry Farm VA**

**Feb 13, 1400Z-2000Z, W4B**, Fredericksburg, VA. Stafford Amateur Radio Association (SARA). 14.225 7.195 447.275. QSL. Stafford Amateur Radio Association (SARA), PO Box 6331, Fredericksburg, VA 22403. SASE required for return of a QSL card. <https://www.ws4va.org>

- **02/13/2021 | George Washington's Birthday at Mount Vernon**

**Feb 13-Feb 14, 0800Z-1400Z, K4US**, Alexandria, VA. Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club. 14.260 14.074 7.040. QSL. MVARC, P.O. Box 7234, Alexandria, VA 22307. MVARC will be hosting a modified special event station to commemorate our first president's 289th birthday. Members will be operating remote stations this year due to COVID, with many broadcasting from the original grounds of the former plantation of George Washington and his wife, Martha Washington. [k4us@mvarc.org](mailto:k4us@mvarc.org)

- **02/13/2021 | I ❤️ Pluto Special Event**

**Feb 13-Feb 21, 0000Z-2359Z, W7P**, Flagstaff, AZ. Northern Arizona DX Association. 14.290 21.290 7.290 14.090. Certificate & QSL. W7P - I ❤️ Pluto Special Event, % Bob Wertz, NF7E, 6315 Townsend Winona Rd., Flagstaff, AZ 86004-1493. This will be an annual countdown S. E. to the 100th anniversary of the discovery of PLUTO, held every February, up to and including 2030. We are celebrating this historic discovery of Pluto, in 1930, by Clyde Tombaugh, at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona. Please note the frequencies will be + or- 10, as to not interfere with any nets operating during that time period. [www.nadxa.com](http://www.nadxa.com)

- **02/13/2021 | Ice-olation Station WØJH**

**Feb 13-Feb 15, 1400Z-2355Z, WØJH**, Stillwater, MN. Stillwater, MN Amateur Radio Association. 21.360 14.260 7.260 3.860. Certificate. Shel Mann, N0DRX, 1618 Pine St West, Stillwater, MN 55082. We will have multiple stations simultaneously operating on different bands and different modes. In keeping with COVID-19 social distancing protocols, we will operate from our individual QTHs this year. In a meager attempt to drive away the remainder of Minnesota winter, the Stillwater Amateur Radio Association will be generating as much RF as possible over the President's Day long weekend. Certificates will ONLY be sent via email in PDF format. (Send requests with standard QSL confirmation info via email to: [Ice2021@radioham.org](mailto:Ice2021@radioham.org)). There is no need to send a QSL card. Info: WØJH at [www.QRZ.com](http://www.QRZ.com) & [www.radioham.org](http://www.radioham.org). [www.radioham.org](http://www.radioham.org)

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## One Question Questionnaire



Hey Gang,

Survey Says”..... 92% of you have your external power supplies properly fused. That’s so good to hear!

Ok, now on to the next question... Now that we know that you have your external power supply all properly fused, let’s see if you can find that fuse in a schematic diagram, and that’s the question for this next week.

***“Are you skilled at reading schematic diagrams?”***

You’ll find the “One Question” questionnaire on the Ohio Section Website! <http://arrloho.org> It’s all for fun and it’s not a scientific survey in any way, but we are learning some things that we didn’t know from these questions. I hope that you are enjoying answering these “One Question” questionnaires.

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### ***From The South 40***

(from John Levo, [W8KIW@arrl.net](mailto:W8KIW@arrl.net))

#### ***Notes from the South 40***

Jennifer Ritter of Hillsboro is now KE8QKX according to the **Highland ARA**’s VE Team Leader Tom Mongold, KD8LDS. Jennifer passed her Tech license test at the recent Hillsboro session.

Word has been received from the **Tri-State ARA** of the closing (until further notice) of the West Virginia Museum of Radio and Technology because some staff members tested positive for COVID-19. The sudden development caused the Club’s scheduled meeting for this past Tuesday to be held via Zoom.

Speaking of nets, the COVID has really taken a toll on in person meetings for the past several months. However the **Clinton County ARA** intends to have one on Thursday, February 4 at the Foster Boyd Cancer Center in Wilmington. It begins at 7:30 pm.

The **Portsmouth RC** will conduct a Laurel VE Test Session on Monday evening, February 1 at 711 Findlay Street in Portsmouth. The location is across from the Portsmouth School’s Administrative Offices. All elements will be given at the session beginning at 5 pm. Because of the pandemic, advance registration is required. Contact Jerry Lockhart, W8HIC, at 304-710-0321 to reserve your seat. There will not be the normal club meeting following the testing.



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The **DeForest ARC** will conduct its February 9 meeting over the Cherry Fork 147.00 repeater. It will start at 7 pm. The **Highland ARA** will also hold an over the air meeting that evening using the linked Hillsboro and Greenfield two meter repeaters. According to incoming President Pat Hagen, N8BAP, he will call the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Older readers may remember the days in the 50s and 60's when you could work the world (or at least earn WAS) on six meters. In those days folks used Heathkit Sixers, Gonset Gooney Birds, Lafayette HE45s and things like halos, squalos, quads and Ringos for antennas. Members of the **Athens County ARA** are now digging those rigs out from storage and putting them back on the air each Sunday and Wednesday evening at 5 pm on 50.4 mHz. If you have one of those classic rigs, or even one of the newer multimode HF ones that include 6 meters, why not give a listen some evening? A dipole antenna cut for six meters will give some amazing results.

According to our **Greater Mason County ARC** correspondent Brent Wells, N4BDW, you might keep your ear open for a new net that's forthcoming from the Northeastern Kentucky area via the 146.775 Vanceburg, KY AE4SK repeater. The proposed date for the net to begin has yet to be determined, but it likely will be at 8 pm on Friday nights and be called the 'Lewis and Clark River Trail Net'. It's hoped to attract Ohio River Valley amateurs from Huntington to the eastern suburbs of Cincinnati.

From the pages of the February *QST* we note the following items regarding our Southern Ohio Region: sharp eyed *QST* readers might have noticed the W1AW QSL File on page 28 shows a QSL card belonging to John Snyder, N8XSV, from Washington CH. Sadly the Silent Key listing has the name of KB4EDM, James Brell, from Maysville, KY.

The results of the recent Ohio Simplex Test are now posted at [www.ohiosimplex.org/scores](http://www.ohiosimplex.org/scores). It was nice to see activity acknowledged from Adams, Athens, Butler, Fairfield, Greene, Guernsey, Hamilton, Highland, Meigs and Ross Counties. I also personally know stations in Clinton, Muskingum, Scioto and Warren Counties were operating.

Some Southern Ohio area clubs have notified me they will participate in next weekend's Winter Field Day. It appears the **DeForest ARA**, **Athens County ARA**, **Queen City Emergency Net** and **Highland ARA** will participate in non-group environment settings in order to adhere to health department suggestions. The event starts at 2 pm this coming Saturday and continues until 2 pm on Sunday (January 30-31). Because some changes to the rules have taken place because of COVID it's advisable to first take a look at the rules. They can be found at [www.winterfieldday.com](http://www.winterfieldday.com).

Well, that's a wrap until next time. Until then, best 73. Stay safe, warm, well and radio-active

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## *Weather Underground and Other Ham Weather Stations*



Hey Gang,

This has really grown into a really cool area with reports literally coming in from all over the state!!

It's really fun to see just how much the weather varies across the state and this gives you access to each individual station very quickly and easily.

Hey gang, if you haven't looked at your Weather Underground dashboard lately you might want to. It seems that the nice folks there have taken the time to upgrade your dashboard.

The new design is still being worked on from what information that I could gather, but they have done a really nice job. The new design is really easy to view and contains the same information at before, but it's laid out in a really professional manor.

Now, our list of stations is growing all the time. How's about your station? Is it listed with us? It doesn't necessarily have to be a Weather Underground reporting station.

I'd love to have any weather station that is connected to the internet available for all of us to view, especially when the weather gets bad out. The more stations reporting the better.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this effort. If you haven't, you really should take a look at the various weather stations around the state when we get bad weather coming in. You can really see just where the line of storms are as they cross through the state. It is very fascinating to watch it all unfold right you're your easy chair, and all the data is real time! Here's a link to all of those listed... <http://arrl-ohio.org/wus.html>

We're got a really good collection of stations from all over and have tons of room to add more for sure. How's about sharing your weather information with all of us! All that you need to do is send me your Weather Underground ID and your call sign and I'll take it from there. Sent it to: [webmaster@arrl-ohio.org](mailto:webmaster@arrl-ohio.org)



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## *V.E. Test Sessions*

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



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## ***FINAL VERY FIRST FINAL***



This is my first official “column” in the OHIO Section Journal in my new position as OH Section Manager. Before all else, please join me in saying “Thank You” to Scott for his years of service as the OH Section Manager. Scott has spent a serious portion of his life serving the Amateur Radio community in this position and has left the OH Section in wonderful shape and with a good reputation. And if that’s not enough, Scott is now serving as the Vice Director of the Great Lakes Division, continuing to work on *your* behalf, for the betterment of the hobby. It’s our job to be worthy of Scott’s efforts, and I don’t doubt you all for a second in that effort.

So here I am, in one day, stepping into what Scott has spent years creating. It’s a little bit like being hit by a bus! I hope to be up to speed soon, and Scott is certainly giving me a hand as I get acclimated.

The past year (2020) has been strange. I’ve never lived through a Pandemic before, and I’m sure that’s true for the rest of you, too. I’ve never lived through a period of political unrest like we’ve seen. Sometimes it feels like the earth is just spinning out of control! But the earth has been here long before me, and probably will remain long after me. And you. Looking back on this past year I think many of us felt just a bit paralyzed by the circumstances, hoping that if we just waited long enough, they would pass by. I can see now that that’s a “non-starter”. It’s our move. We can sit and wait, or we can make things happen.

Lots of Ham Radio activities have been cancelled over the past year and into the new year. Things come up, and sometimes events need to be cancelled. But now as we’re moving into our second year of cancellations, we need to find alternatives. If we just keep cancelling without replacing, we’re dead. So, we need to get creative. Lots of you have found new alternatives in technologies such as ZOOM. Probably the number 1 alternative for many of our activities over this past year. As I continue to make visits with clubs around the sections, I’m going to be looking at how all of you exploit the different mediums we have to work with. If your club is doing something new and innovative, let me know so I can share that with the rest of us.

One of the things that has been a constant drumbeat for the past 5 – 10 maybe even 20 years is that we have to get a younger base in the hobby. That’s truer now than ever, and although there are some things happening it seems to be slow, and it’s not “intentional”. If we want to attract a younger demographic into the hobby, we need to look attractive to that younger demographic. We need to change our image. If you ask the proverbial “Man on the Street” about Ham Radio, for the most part, he doesn’t recognize that it still exists, or he visualizes a bunch of “old guys” sitting in their basement talking to each other about the “Good old Days”.

We’ve got two things we need to accomplish to change that image so that we *will* be an attractive option for a younger group to get involved with. Number one: ***WE*** have to be having fun with our hobby! That really shouldn’t be a tough objective, but, as we’re all getting older, it’s real easy to sit on that couch and be entertained.

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Ham Radio is a hobby that requires a personal involvement and participation to get the most out of it and have the most fun with it. ( I'm going to let someone else nag you about maintaining your health so that you are able to be an active participant in the hobby!) The huge advantage we have with Ham Radio is that we have so many different ways to have fun! I've always said that Ham Radio is many different hobbies within a hobby.

First and foremost, get on the air and make some Q's! Keep your two-meter rig on. Most new hams have a Technician class license, get a handi-talkie, plink the repeaters and find no one there to talk to! Instantly they have to wonder what they've gotten themselves into. Be someone's first contact on the repeater! Welcome them into the hobby and let them know they made a good move by getting involved. Then lead them into all the other ways that you're having fun: DX'ing, contesting, working digital modes, making satellite contacts, QRP operating, working with circuits and building equipment, experimenting with antennas, ATV, EmComm operations, fox-hunting, restoring vintage gear.... Ham Radio is much more exciting than just checking into the 2-meter net once a week! Get out there and have some FUN!

Number two: we have to be more self-promoting about our hobby. All you PIO's (official and unofficial) need to be getting the word out. Advertise your meetings, Advertise you activities. Then, send in a write up about how your meeting went, take pictures and write up (sort of like an "after action" report) and send that to your local newspaper, radio station, TV station. Put it on your personal Facebook page. The point is – get the information out there! And don't expect that just because you send something it will be publicized. But every time you do send something, showing that we are an actual, viable organization with regular activities, they'll start to take notice and our chances improve.

How about the other local organizations? With our ham radio clubs we're usually pretty specific about the types of topics we want our meeting speakers to talk about. Other organizations are more general in their nature. They want to know what's going on in their communities. You – we – could fill a need they have for a program! Think in terms of the Lions Club, Church organizations. Everyone wants to get in front of the kids, how about starting with the Parent-Teacher organizations and showing them the educational benefits that ham radio can have for their kids? We need to use our creativity to get in front of the public so that WE can create the image of Ham Radio that we want them to have.

So, it's actually pretty simple. Get out there and have fun with your hobby! Let others know how much fun you're having! It's simple, but it requires *action*. Don't be a couch potato.

73,  
[Tom – WB8LCD](#)  
Ohio Section Manager

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### ***“Swap & Shop” on the website***

Hey Gang,

Have you taken a look at the **Swap & Shop** page on the Ohio Section webpage yet?? Here's a link that will take you there...

<http://arrl-ohio.org/sm/s-s.html>



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Do you have equipment that you just don't need or want anymore? Here's a great venue to advertise it, and it's FREE!!

Is your club doing a fund raiser to help raise money? After a lot of thought, it was decided that the Swap & Shop webpage could also contain these types of items as well.

The same rules will apply as do for the For Sales and Give-A-Ways and will only be posted for a month at a time. Please see the Terms & Conditions on the webpage.

If your club is doing a fund raiser and wants more exposure, please forward the information to me and I'll advertise it on the Swap & Shop webpage for you. Now, I still want to remind you that it won't be listed in this newsletter because it would take up way too much space, so your ad will only appear on the website. It is there for any individual to post equipment Wanted / For Sale or Give-Away as well as for Club Fund Raisers. No licensed vehicles/trailers or business advertising will be posted.

Postings are text only (no pictures or graphics) will be posted for a maximum of 1 month from date posting and require a contact phone number or email within the posting. Send your Wanted / For Sale or Give-Away post to: [swap@arrlohoio.org](mailto:swap@arrlohoio.org)

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### *Welcome New Subscriber(s)*

**Gary, WW8H**



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### *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>



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#### Ohio Section Cabinet

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

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## Chit – Chat, and All That!

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



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



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

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



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**Stop... We'll be back next week with another exciting adventure for your reading pleasure!!**

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*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!*