



## *June 2017 Edition*

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Tigers On the Air - K8TRG  
Newton Falls Middle School Amateur Radio Club



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## DAYTON HAMVENTION NUMBERS

Ok Guys and Gals,

You, like me have been waiting for some time now on the attendance numbers from the Dayton Hamvention. Well, my sources tell me that the attendance was..... 29,296!!

Wow.. That's really great, and I'm sure that the folks at DARA are proud of those numbers too.. Congratulations go out to everyone that had a part in making this Hamvention the greatest in the country!!

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## WINLINK AND FIELD DAY

(from Bryan [kc8egv@winlink.org](mailto:kc8egv@winlink.org))

The OHKYIN ARS will be running a WinLink station as part of the 'free' VHF/UHF station. After some research being done with the ARRL, it was agreed that the rules allow Radiogram messages to be sent via WinLink, as long as the message is sent via RF in or out of the Field Day site. The same requirement as a

voice message if you think about it.

If anyone else wants to join in on the WinLink fun during Field Day, send me a message using WinLink Express and a Radiogram >> OR << use an ICS-213 templated message. Be sure to update your software before sending messages so your templates are up to date.

If you can't send messages via RF from your Field Day site, you are still welcome to send a message to me so our club can receive credit for it.

I will be checking for messages in the WinLink system from Saturday at 14:00 local to approximately Sunday at 10:00 local. Please send your messages during this time for credit and I will reply to you.

If you want to test our your Winlink messaging between now and Field Day, feel free to send me a test message and I'll respond as I have time. This sure beats sending several messages via voice!

I hope to connect with many of you during Field Day so we all can get NTS bonus points.

73! Bryan - kc8egv

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Safety Officer.. is a critical concern during Field Day. Every year the Field Day packet contains a Safety Check List that all stations should follow. All Class A entries can earn an additional 100 points by designating a member of their group as "Safety Officer." This person must verify that all safety concerns on the Safety Check List have been adequately met.

The Safety Officer position is to be taken seriously. Real oversight is required; appointing a Safety Officer, affirming that all items on the Safety Check List have been completed properly, must be included with a groups Field Day entry with all other supporting documentation.

Social Media.. There have been many PR and publicity bonus points available in Field Day for a very long time. The addition of a social media bonus makes promoting your Field Day event even easier than before. Social Media refers to any online platform that promotes being connected with friends and family.. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest and LinkedIn are five examples of allowed Social Media platforms.

The Social Media bonus points will only apply on recognized social media platforms and NOT your clubs website.

## 2017 OHIO FIELD DAY PROCLAMATION ON-LINE

Just wanted to let you know, if you haven't already found it, that you can view and print the governor's Proclamation for the 2017 Field Day. Go to: [www.arrl-ohio.org/SGL/sgl.html](http://www.arrl-ohio.org/SGL/sgl.html) to get your copy for your Field Day site. You can also find a sample Press Release for your Field Day activities as well.

Thanks to Bob Winston, W2THU our State Government Liaison (SGL) for getting the governor to take time out of his busy schedule and getting this Proclamation for us.

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### **THE TECHNICAL COORDINATOR**

Jeff Kopcak – TC  
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Hey Gang,

Another Dayton Hamvention is in the books. Yes, despite the arguments – 'it's not in Dayton anymore blah blah blah' – the program guide still says “Dayton Hamvention.”

My dad, N8ETP and I have been attending Hamvention consecutively for the past 3 years. I've gone down a couple years by myself, stayed at numerous hotels in the area, bummed rides off friends, taken bus trips, and even stayed at the dorms on the University of Dayton's campus. Returning back each year quickly brings back memories of routes in and out of the arena along with familiar eating and travel destinations. The layout inside rarely changed. You knew where the prize booth was located along with

favorite dealers, vendors, clubs and organizations. The entire back parking lot was the flea market. There was the usual selection of arena eats – burgers, nachos, hot dogs, pizza, and ice cream – that often benefited a local school or community organization. Now, everything is different.

The Hamvention committee should be commended for the monumental task of moving the event from the now closed Hara Arena to the Greene County Fair Grounds in Xenia, Ohio within 9 months. I can't even imagine what it takes to setup an event that draws 25-30,000 people let alone move it to another location quickly.



Buildings at the new location are less than 20 years old. They were rebuilt after a tornado hit the fairgrounds in 2000. RV parking and an on-site bathhouse were available. There was ample parking on the grounds and at three remote locations with shuttle transportation. Quite different compared to the dilapidated arena where there always seemed to be a haze indoors due to the lack of air flow, falling ceiling tiles with mold and probably 30-year-old dust, and septic system with a propensity to explode.

Atmosphere of was more “fair” than “convention” because vendors and exhibitors were spread out over separated buildings (themed Maxim, Tesla, Marconi, and Hertz), displays were in outside tents, and an abundance of food trucks and carts similar to that of any county fair was seen. More eating area was needed compared to the amount we were used to at Hara. There were long lines and the limited seating, for maybe 50, filled quickly. I had an enjoyable standing lunch with members of the Wood County ARC.



If you were lucky enough to be there Friday, you were greeted by the “Welcome to Xenia” signs quickly followed by break lights and miles of cars waiting to get into the fairgrounds. Even the shuttles were stuck in traffic. The reason was discovered once we arrived. Cars were being parked at a rate of nearly one-at-a-time. Time was wasted waiting to see which isles were full and which ones had room for additional cars. This was quickly remedied Saturday as cars were being parked in multiple locations at once, effectively eliminating the traffic issue from Friday. Scratch that issue off the list.

In general, Hamvention is smaller. I knew this going in from vendors indicating they weren't going to have the space they were used to. Vendors made the most of it and generally seemed to work. As a result, vendors couldn't bring the usual amount of stock. Show specials for things like the very popular TYT MD-380, you could purchase one but couldn't leave with one. In one case, it would be shipped and arrive the following Tuesday. Kinda a bummer as many hoped to leave with a new toy. Vendors in the outside display tent got washed out with storms that rolled through. Not good for computers, sensitive radio equipment, and video cameras I saw out there. I was not able to find Mendelsons – a long time staple of the Hara flea market. I heard others asking too if they had been spotted.



Lastly, mud. The flea market and parking lots were in grassy areas, or at least started out that way. Friday wasn't bad as the ground was soft in a few areas of the flea market. Saturday morning, with the help of overnight storms, large farm tractors used for transporting patrons were contributing to the problem of turning the grassy parking lot into a mud pit. After everyone took shelter for even more storms Saturday morning, allll bets were off. The flea market isles were mud tracks. A good pair of rain boots were needed to help manage. It was funny watching rented scooters trying to manage a couple inches of mud. Not wanting to get our clothes dirty, we headed out about 3pm on Saturday and learned the parking lot suffered the same fate as the flea market. The committee, I think, anticipated this because they had rope and skid loaders for cars that needed assistance. We exited without assistance but still need to get our car washed twice to get MOST of the mud off.

All-in-all, I'll call it a success. Out of the things that could go wrong, these issues were the harder ones to plan and tackle. The traffic issue was resolved the next day. This shows they are already learning from the problems



that came up during the show. It was a suitable location for a venue change in 9 months. Anyone who is thinking of going next year, you should make your reservations now. The camaraderie, meet and greets, and running into fellow hams was as exciting as ever. If any of the planning committee is reading, I have an idea for a bigger location... just sayin'.

If you didn't catch the June 7<sup>th</sup> episode of Ham Nation, Michael Kalter – W8CI was the featured guest for the Hamvention recap. They talked issues and plans for the future. If you think they're only working on minor changes, you'd be wrong.

More: <https://twit.tv/shows/ham-nation/episodes/303>

There wasn't a ton of major announcements at Hamvention. Some of the more technical things I did pick up on:

- \* ICOM had a prototype of their latest direct-sampling SDR transceiver, the IC-7610. It resembles the IC-7600 with the SDR features of the IC-7300. They're looking at late summer availability once approved by the FCC.

- \* Kenwood featured their TH-D74 APRS & D-STAR 144/220/430 HT. This radio has been out for some time but were touting D-STAR has seen a resurgence because of this radio. I don't think people are going to start putting up D-STAR repeaters again because of one radio. Kenwood is looking for feedback from customers to see if there is interest creating an equivalent mobile radio to the D74.

- \* 220 MHz DV access point (DVAP) for the D74 and 4 new "DV AIR" devices by Robin AA4RC. AIR series are embedded devices supporting the DV Dongle, DV3K, and DVAP eliminating the configuration and need of a Raspberry Pi to make those devices portable.

- \* Yaesu had their new DR-2X repeater on display.

- \* Flex Radio has four new SDR radios. Two models integrate the Maestro control panel (touch screen and controls) into the radio. If you ever thought 'real radios have knobs,' there you go.

\* Just before Dayton, Connect Systems shipped the first batch of CS800D DMR dual band mobile radios. There is a waiting list for the next around assuming no issues with the first. Check the Connect Systems store and look for the 'CS800D waiting list' option for instructions.

The 300th episode of Ham Nation was the week before Dayton. I attended the Ham Nation forum which was still standing room only in the new room. I got to be apart of the forum promoting the D-STAR After Show net. Show hosts and net controllers were invited to the ARRL booth afterward to get our picture taken with Tom Gallagher – NY2RF.

With the highlights and festivities around Dayton Hamvention, the special event commemorating 300 episodes of Ham Nation kicked off the following Wednesday with episode 301. For one week, show hosts, after show net controllers, many with 1 x 1 special event call signs where on the HF bands and digital modes. With nearly an estimated 10,000 contacts made, digital didn't get the numbers we hoped. There were pileups for the nets but quickly dropped off for the remainder of the week. The idea for digital was to involve more hams that don't have privileges or means for an HF setup. Those that participated were happy digital was involved.

If you participated in Ham Nation 300, send your QSL card with an SASE to the stations worked. A commemorative card will be returned. The logs are being compiled for the certificates which will be available in the future, catch the show for details. Lastly, the points challenge is going on until August so you still have time to get involved if you missed the special event stations.



Last month, I started out with an introductory series on terminology used in ham radio DMR. I finished a second writeup on programming a code plug from scratch. Programming is focused around the TYT MD-380 but should apply to other CPSes too. It covers a fictitious repeater example, hotspot configuration (even for the DV4Mini), and simplex operation. Check it out and get familiar with your DMR radio by programming it! <http://www.k8jtk.org/2017/06/11/dmr-in-amateur-radio-programming-a-code-plug/>

Not at Dayton but shortly after, I saw a hands-on review of the new Tytera (TYT) MD-2017 DMR dual band hand held on Ham Radio 2.0. You heard right, a **DUAL BAND DMR HT!** I was excited for this radio even though there are not many VHF DMR repeaters – unless you're in New England it seems. The review indicated the channel selector knob was replaced with a Blackberry Curve-style roller trackball. My enthusiasm quickly deflated. WHY??!! I had a BB Curve. The trackball was a nice idea at the time but it was overly sensitive, got gummed up quickly – especially in a dirty environment, was hard to clean, and had to be replaced about once a year. The radio itself is similar to the MD-380 but differences include programming cable, software, code plugs, and a VFO. An MD-380 code plug won't open in the MD-2017 CPS. I'm sure a hacked program will be available to load code plugs on different radios. Seemed like a good radio otherwise, though I won't be getting one. Ham Radio 2.0 Episode 99: Debut of the TYT MD-2017 Dual Band DMR HT: <http://www.livefromthehamshack.tv/2017/05/29/episode-99-debut-tyt-md-2017-dual-band-dmr-ht/>

The next big ham holiday, Field Day, is right around the corner. Get out and join your club or find a club to join if you're not a member of one. It's a great time to bring friends and get them excited about ham radio. Hams that come out get bitten by the bug to expand their station or learn a new mode. Check the Field Day Locator for operations taking place near you: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator>. Sending 10 messages over

RF from your site gets you 100 points – including Winlink messages. I love to receive messages about your setup, stations operating, or social activities taking place. These can be sent via the National Traffic System (NTS) or Winlink – K8JTK at Winlink.org. Winlink post: [https://winlink.org/content/field\\_day\\_send\\_11\\_winlink\\_messages\\_200\\_points](https://winlink.org/content/field_day_send_11_winlink_messages_200_points)

With July around the corner, the 13 Colonies special event is coming up (<http://www.13colonies.net/>) along with the RAC Canada Day contest (<http://wp.rac.ca/rac-canada-day-contest-rules-2017/>). Thanks for reading and 73... de Jeff – K8JTK

Note: Ham Nation pictures taken by Tom – N8ETP.

Thanks for reading and

73... de Jeff – K8JTK

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**THE AFFILIATED CLUBS COORDINATOR**

Tom Sly, WB8LCD - ACC  
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Greetings to all from your new Affiliated Club Coordinator!

First and foremost, I would like to say “Thank You” to SM Scott – N8SY for the opportunity to serve you in this way. Same with your outgoing ACC John – KD8MQ. I'm amazed to see all the places they've traveled to in the last couple of years, and all of the things they have done to support the ARRL, and ultimately you and I. They both deserve your admiration and respect, and I hope that my contribution will be worthy of the groundwork they have laid.

I feel that my job for the ARRL is an important one. Their official listing has several bullet points of what I'm supposed to be all about, but let me tell you in my own words what I think they mean and how I will be approaching the position. First let me point out that in my view, the ARRL has two distinct and separate operations: 1. The National Organization and 2. The Field Organization.

The work of the National Organization is the serious stuff like interacting with governments on a worldwide basis, lobbying all for the benefit of the hobby. They do an outstanding job on our behalf, and Ham Radio exists today because of the ARRL's efforts to protect us from those who would like us gone (specifically industry who would love to have our frequency allocations). The larger their constituency, the more clout they will have with their lobbying efforts. This is good for us!





The work of the Field Organization is to make sure YOU have FUN with your hobby! If you have fun, you will naturally bring other folks into the hobby who also want to have fun. Clubs make it easy to have fun with any new activity because you can leverage off the knowledge of the other members to make you successful quicker, and the more you have success with any endeavor, the more fun it's going to be for you.

My job is in the Field Organization. It's basically to help you all have fun with your hobby through your involvement in your clubs! Of course, there will be some natural spill over to the National Organization as hams support the group that keeps their hobby viable. So, we all serve each other, but if the participants in any hobby aren't having fun – one by one they will all drop out and there won't be a hobby anymore. So I do view my job as important to the survival of the hobby I call my own.

There are lot's of activities to participate in with Ham Radio, but all of them require you to get on the air! Making Q's is one of the most fun things you can do in our hobby, that's why it's called “Ham Radio!” (Yeah, I know it's really called Amateur Radio.) So starting this new position for me in June gives me an easy topic to talk about where you, as part of your club, can have FUN with Ham Radio – Field Day! If your club doesn't show up for Field Day then you are missing out on one of the most Fun and participated in events in Ham Radio (in North America, that is). If your club doesn't do Field Day than find another club that does and ask them if you can become an “honorary member” for the weekend and help them out. Get a couple of your friends together and participate. Get on the air from your home stations and give out Q's. Now matter how you participate, you'll be having fun and making it more fun for everyone else, too! Chances are good you could work all states in a weekend!

Remember, Field Day is NOT a contest! But, everyone keeps score. Everyone's goal should be to do better than you did in prior years. That might mean you try a new location, use different antennas, try different bands and modes, get more people involved in your operation, learn about propagation. Whatever it is, do what it takes to get better! (Remember now, it's not a contest, but it sure is fun if you're winning!) By keeping score and good records of your set-up, you can look back at your operations and see what may have been the key factors in doing better or worse than prior years. You can also tell how you do in relation to other clubs. But you can't call it winning – because it's not a contest! (Unofficially now, since there is a score, you can win. And to quote my friend Ed – K8IV: “What could be more fun than winning?”)

So, if someone you know says they're not operating field day, and then gives you some lame excuse as to why (most commonly you'll hear “we did that 30-40 years ago”) you need to shake them up and get them out there! The new hams need the experience of the “Old Timers”. And even those “Old Timers” can learn a few things from the new guys. Some clubs are all business at Field Day, and there are others who make it a weekend of socializing on/off air. Find a place that suits your style and get out there! Have some Fun!

Now that's the easy part. I'll probably key in on having fun for the next couple months, but, the tough stuff is coming. Running a successful club program does not happen by accident. It needs to involve quite a few dedicated leaders who are going to work awful hard and spend a lot of their personal time doing it. You need to thank those guys! A simple “thank you” will go a long way, but, the best way you can tell them you appreciate what they are doing is to SHOW UP! Club leaders can get pretty discouraged when they work hard at putting a program together and then only one or two show up. They won't put as much of their personal angst into it next time and from there failure becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Please, don't put your club leaders in that position. You are one of the most important members of your club, and you can make a big difference in what happens there. Show up, be positive, help where you can. It only takes a couple of you doing that to make a big difference in a club!

Hope to hear you on the air during FD.

73, de Tom wb8lcd

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### **THE SECTION EMERGENCY COORDINATOR**

Stan Broadway, N8BHL - SEC

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We're in it up to our boot tops!

ARES in Ohio is in the midst of its active season. There are a lot of events- marathons with BIG crowds, large bicycle rides (Pan Ohio, GOBA and more) and even a national level Ironman. In addition, there are local parades, community events and more to keep even the modest counties active. For some, this can get old... the 'been there, done that' syndrome. But remember why we do these: first, to serve our neighbors and our communities! Second, because it's great practice for transferring our communication abilities over to a real emergency situation. And there's a new 'third': the harsh reality is we need to have eyes and ears at large public events to help safety forces with situational awareness. In other words, look for weird stuff and report it. These events can also serve as field tests for new technology- digital radio, video, etc., as we step up to new levels in communications. Most of all, they provide the opportunity for the experienced guys to lead by example and show how concise, professional communicating happens. EC's- get your local LEO's to provide terror awareness training, brush up on what to look for.

EC's you should be always on the lookout for activities in which amateur radio can be a benefit! The best way to keep your volunteers interested and excited is to ~stay active!~

How bad is it?

One item moving up the list in FEMA and OHEMA circles is 'rapid damage assessment'. Sounds like something we can provide, right? Seek out some new training on the rapid assessment side of damage assessment for our people! It's more critical than ever that EMA's provide fast estimates of damage in order to bring in state and federal help. Your EMA Directors should be able to help get this rolling for you!



The votes are in!

I have had conversation with a few people who are very interested in applying amateur radio to helping at polling places during elections. Marion County did that with good success last year, and a couple elections

officials have indicated they'd help running this up to be a statewide initiative if we're up for that. If you're interested....or if you hate the idea....please let me know your thoughts before we proceed.

### Get Registered!

Not for voting (you oughta be involved in that as a citizen) but for recognition by the state as a volunteer. Scott has circulated information about our new relationship with Ohio Responds- a database for registering volunteers. This is the clearinghouse to make certain we're covered under Ohio's liability protection statutes. <http://www.arrl-ohio.org/ohio-responds-page.html> gets you the background, and a link is there to register. **MAKE SURE YOU HAVE ALL FOUR FEMA COURSES FIRST!!!** You will not be included without them. There is also a question if you've had a background check in 5 years. It doesn't affect your ability to register, it's informational only at this point. Read Scott's page completely before registering... take the time now to jump over and get in the database!

### Field Day!!

It's that time of year again- for one of the most fun activities I can think of in amateur radio. For groups that have been doing it over the years, or groups that are just sitting on the side with their toes in the water (operating only a few hours or under limited circumstances) it's all fun. Just like any other activity in ham radio, the first goal is fun and fellowship! Operating the radio in a concentrated fashion is excellent practice and still fun! Don't forget the underlying purpose: to be able to provide all-else-fails emergency communication. Have fun, be safe and try something new this year!



### The Sarge is alive

You may remember that the Ohio EMA station, W8SGT (The Sarge) has been severely limited since last July's remodel. We have been down to two HF rigs, operating out of the FEMA EMP-vault (lovingly referred to as the 'meat freezer') or out of someone's home. A new room was constructed right on the EOC floor, and nice furniture was installed. The hangup has been antenna work- and now we're close to having that complete. Another workday or two should see the Sarge alive and well, with big signals thanks to our new FT-1200's and ALS amps! Thanks for your patience in the meantime- it's been a long time but we're really close to being finished!

### SET

Planning is underway for this year's Simulated Emergency Test- where we can put all this practice to use. This year has potential for being a 'big-time' operation! So stay tuned!

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

73, Stan, N8BHL

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**THE PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR**

John Ross, KD8IDJ - PIC

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**From the PIC**

The deadline for entering the 2017 Newsletter Contest is just about here...June 30<sup>th</sup>!

All entries need to be either postmarked or emailed by midnight June 30<sup>th</sup> to qualify.

So far...WOW! ...a lot of recent entries the past two weeks by snail mail, email and web posting so this year should be great.

If you have any questions call or email ASAP so we can make sure you're in.

**Dayton Hamvention 2017**



It's been about a month since the Dayton Hamvention at the new location at the Green County Fairgrounds and everyone is still talking about it.

Different...yes. Bigger...I think so. More food...you bet! Same enthusiasm about Amateur Radio...better than ever.

I had a great day on Saturday working our booth and talked to dozens of hams from all over the world. We are, collectively, an interesting group of folks and our passion for Amateur Radio is growing stronger.

It was good to see a lot of younger hams represented and the credit for that, I think, goes to all of us. I have never met a ham who wouldn't take the time to talk to new ham...or a would like to be... ham. As our hobby

grows and changes and we experiment with new types of communication the interest, the excitement begins to filter down. I know my career and my life would not be the same if wasn't for amateur radio. If we can open doors for future generations everyone wins.

Finally, I know a lot of improvements are in the works for next year. I'm sure by the it's all said and done Xenia will be the greatest destination ever for Amateur Radio!!!

### Amateur Radio In Pennsylvania



I spent about a week in Pennsylvania earlier this month and Amateur Radio is alive and well there.

Just outside of Philadelphia you can hit repeaters in Delaware, Maryland, Philly and dozens of small towns in between . Despite the hills signals are good and the hams there have a done great job with high towers and coverage. I was never out of range of a repeater...even with a handheld!

All of the repeaters I used were analogue and the traffic was pretty heavy! Apparently Amateur Radio signals are better than cell.

Just one caveat. If you travel on Pennsylvania on the turnpike the mountains and the tunnels pose an obvious problem. You can receive several signals but you'll need a little luck and a little power to make the contact.

That's it for this month.

73, John, KD8IDJ

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#### **THE SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGER**

David Maynard, WA3EZN - STM

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I would have liked to have gone to the Dayton Hamvention but was not able. I was off the air and assisting with a family emergency. Now that Hamvention has come and gone for this year it is time to begin thinking about the next big Ham Radio event, Field Day.

#### **FIELD DAY**

A few words about bonus points for field day. Here are the rules about originating radiograms and extra points.

7.3.5. Message Origination to Section Manager: 100 bonus points for origination of a formal message to the ARRL Section Manager or Section Emergency Coordinator by your group from its site. You should include the club name,

number of participants, Field Day location, and number of ARES operators involved with your station. The message must be transmitted during the Field Day period and a copy of it must be included in your submission in standard ARRL radiogram or no credit will be given. The message must leave or enter the Field Day operation via amateur radio RF.

Here is a sample message for Section Manager N8SY and Emergency Coordinator N8BHL:

1 ROUTINE AC8XX 17 ANYWHERE OH JUN 24  
SCOTT YONALLY, N8SY  
258 VALLEY HI DRIVE  
LEXINGTON, OH 44904  
419 512 4445  
BT  
XYZ RADIO CLUB HAVING FIELD  
DAY AT JOEY PARK WITH  
20 PARTICIPANTS AND 7 ARES  
MEMBERS 73  
BT  
XYZ RADIO CLUB FIELD DAY CHAIRMAN

STAN BROADWAY, N8BHL  
3677 PEEL RD  
RADNOR, OH 43066  
614 600 1635

The Section Manager message is separate from the messages handled in Rule 7.3.6. and may not be claimed for bonus points under that rule. Available to all Classes.

7.3.6. Message Handling: 10 points for each formal message originated, relayed or received and delivered during the Field Day period, up to a maximum of 100 points (ten messages). Copies of each message must be included with the Field Day report. The message to the ARRL SM or SEC under Rule 7.3.5. does not count towards the total of 10 for this bonus. Available to all Classes. All messages claimed for bonus points must leave or enter the Field Day operation via amateur radio RF.

Full Field Day rules are on the ARRL website at <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

Your Field Day messages can be sent on a VHF traffic net or on the Ohio Single Sideband Net on 3972.5 at 10:30 AM, 4:15 and 6:45 PM. You should get your message sent early into the Field Day operating period and remember to be patient as there could be a large volume of traffic on the nets.

#### GENERATOR SAFETY

If you are going into the field and away from commercial power for field day it is now time to check out the generator and review its use. Safety should be your number one priority.

I am sure that owning an electrical generator must be appealing to anyone who plans on being prepared for emergencies or part of an emergency response team. To us being able to generate electricity means we will be



able to remain on the air for Field Day, during blackouts or at the scene of any emergency or disaster. But are we thinking about safety when we set up and use the generators.

Here are some basics regarding generators. But the first thing to do is read the instruction booklet or manual that came with the generator. If the manual is lost or missing, contact the generator's manufacturer for another manual.

The correct way to use a generator is to connect a heavy-duty, outdoor-rated power cord to the generator. Radios and appliances can then be connected to the power cord. Make sure that the outdoor-rated power cord has a sufficient wire gauge to handle the electrical load.

Don't overload the generator. All generators have a power rating. They should be used only when necessary and only to power a limited number of appliances or equipment. The total wattage used by the appliances should be less than the output rating of the generator. If you put too many appliances on the generator, it could seriously damage the appliances, radios and electronics. Overloading the generator could also cause fires in the over heated power cord. A generator should be sized to handle twice the expected load.

While each type of generator has safety issues they all have certain things in common. One thing most generators have in common is that the electricity generated needs to be conducted through wires to receptacles and radios. On field day it is more likely that the generator will be exposed to layman not used to working with generators and long extension cords. Consequently they can be exposed or involved in trips and falls over the electrical extension cords. Animals, children or adults who behave like children in the same space as your generator or wiring can quickly make a bad situation worse and you must be prepared for this in your plans. Extension cords on wet ground are a shock hazard, as is operating a generator with wet hands or when you are wet. It is always a shame to lose good people to preventable accidents so don't take chances.

Fuel and fire safety is a must. Have a fire extinguisher handy and the fuel stored a safe distance from the generator. The area should be mowed at least for a 20-foot diameter. Fuel must be stored in a separate area as well as the fire extinguisher in an accessible convenient place away from the generator area. **NEVER REFUEL A GENERATOR WHEN IT IS RUNNING.**

Most generators produce heat. This can be a resource or a liability depending on how you manage it. You could cook on the exhaust manifold it is so hot or the same could become an ignition source for leaking fuel or nearby combustibles. Care must be taken to prevent burns to anyone in the area and also to prevent a fire while refueling the generator. It would be advisable to have an inspected fire extinguisher on hand just in case a fire would start.

I encourage you to practice proper poison prevention safety by learning the signs of carbon monoxide poisoning. An odorless, tasteless, gas that is a by-product of the combustion of just about any fuel, Carbon Monoxide (CO) is poisonous if it is not vented properly and if allowed to accumulate without sufficient oxygen in a confined area like a tent. Do you know the symptoms of CO poisoning? Symptoms in people include headache, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, irregular breathing, feeling tired or ill in a confined area like a tent or building and finally loss of consciousness and respiratory failure but fell fine away from the confined area . A generator should never be used indoors or in a confined area.

The surest way to know if there is carbon monoxide in the area is to use a Carbon Monoxide detector. If you smell exhaust fumes or suspect CO poisoning leave the building or area immediately, get to fresh air and call 911 for assistance.

Grounding is a difficult issue when using generators. For single-generator operation, powering a couple of station locations, there may not be any benefit in grounding. Making sure your generator has a good earth ground may help to avoid electrical shocks. Check the generator owner's manual for correct grounding information. With large distribution systems, grounding of the generator is best with at least an 8-foot ground rod and standard NEC procedures must be followed. Check this article on the Ohio website for a picture of how not to ground the generator.

Other considerations are placement for access, noise abatement, distribution of the feed cables and grounding if necessary.

GFI systems generally don't perform well in field operations due to long feed runs and ground loops with the various end locations. If your generator has a GFI you may have Ground Fault issues. Many small generator units are the inverter type and although efficient and light they can create a large amount of inverter hash that raises your HF noise floor to an unacceptable level. A brushless generator is best.

#### FINAL TIPS BUT WORTH REPEATING

Many generator parts are hot enough to burn you during operation. Stay away from the muffler and other hot areas. Keep children away from portable electric generators and their electrical connections and fuel at all times. Read the instruction booklet or owner's manual that came with the generator. Also check the generator owner's manual for correct grounding information.

Grounding the antenna feed for lightning is a much more sensible option with the possible cessation of operation during storms. That means disconnecting and sitting inside the car. Have fun and have a safe Field Day.

Additional Resources:

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/QST%20Binaries/QS0608Kleinschmidt.pdf>

<http://www.popularmechanics.com/home/how-to/a3603/how-to-buy-a-backup-generator/>

<http://www.arrl.org/electrical-safety>

[https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data\\_Hurricane\\_Facts/grounding\\_port\\_generator.pdf](https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_Hurricane_Facts/grounding_port_generator.pdf)

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/Lab%20NotesFieldDay.pdf>

<http://www.hamuniverse.com/emergencygenerators.html>

<http://www.redcross.org/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/power-outage/safe-generator-use#What-size-generator-will-I-need->

[http://www.nsc.org/NSCDocuments\\_Advocacy/Fact%20Sheets/Portable-Generator-Safety-Tips.pdf](http://www.nsc.org/NSCDocuments_Advocacy/Fact%20Sheets/Portable-Generator-Safety-Tips.pdf)

<https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2006/03/18/important-tips-ensure-safety-when-using-generators>



That all for is month,

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

73,

David WA3EZN

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### **OUT AND ABOUT**

Lyn Alfman, N8IMW - ASM  
[lynalfman@aol.com](mailto:lynalfman@aol.com)

May went by so quickly! I only attended the Coshocton County Amateur Radio Association meeting because the Cambridge Amateur Radio Association's May meeting was postponed a week due to the observed Memorial Day holiday. The Guernsey County Amateur Radio Emergency Service meeting and training session has changed its meeting day, time, and location to the first Monday of the month; therefore, they did not have a meeting in May. The Zanesville Amateur Radio Club did not meet in April or May, but they will meet in June.

I went to the Hamvention at the Green County Fairgrounds in Xenia on Friday and Saturday. I helped with the booth on Saturday morning. I saw and spoke with many local hams. The new venue was nice, but of course, there are always differences between having it in a large arena and a fairground. The buildings were clean, and some were even air-conditioned. The volunteers and staff were extremely accommodating. Friday was very sunny and hot, so, of course, I got sunburned. The remote parking was the best way to go. I parked at the high school, took the school bus, and was on the grounds in a matter of minutes.

I, unfortunately, will not be attending the Field Day activities this year. My grandson is getting married in South Carolina that Saturday afternoon. (Maybe I can find a Field Day location to visit after the reception before I head back to Myrtle Beach. )

Even though I will not be at Field Day, as PIO, I will place W8VP on the Field Day locator, send out a press release, send out invitations to attend Field Day to elected officials and served agencies, set up our information table handouts and information packets for the media, print out and go over the Field Day package with the participants, and arrange for someone to track and verify bonus points.

Have a safe and fun Field Day everyone! Remember to be "Radio Active"!

'73 Lyn, N8IMW

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## ARES TRAINING UPDATE

Jim Yoder, W8ERW – ARES Data Manager  
[w8erw@arrl.net](mailto:w8erw@arrl.net)

### ARES Training Update

The season of being busy is here, the Hamvention is behind us and a list of ARES activities has begun to take shape. The Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure, GOBA is scheduled to pass through Seneca County again this year requiring several days of ARES support and our Hams are working

on the logistics and assignments. Of course, Field Day 2017 will be here soon and all of us hopefully will participate and be able to

enjoy perhaps what is our most significant activity each year. It will again be a busy Summer of Ham activity. Have fun and play radio. Our work is serious, but fun is also an important part of what we do and enjoy as Amateur Radio Operators.

Again, I can report ARES training continues to grow and the numbers I report to our SM Scott N8SY are both encouraging and very impressive. If you aren't seeing them in Scott's news updates, get on the mailing list and stay up with all the happenings around the Ohio Section including our progress in getting ARES members trained. The numbers are increasing daily and as we continue to grow, the State of Ohio recognizes our benefit and our capability for supporting state wide efforts to manage disasters and critical response efforts as evidenced by the Ohio Responds program. The FEMA NIMS courses are an important part of these efforts and many of you have already been approved for participation. This is great work and is a serious credit to each of you and the Ohio Section.

As a reminder, I can provide a list for EC's and individuals if requested, of the training taken for your county ARES organization. Scott also updates regularly on the ARRLOhio.org web page, the list of those who have completed all four of the required FEMA courses, ICS-100, 200, 700 and 800. There are many of you in the database who need just one more course to be on that list and others only two. I encourage everyone to get on the list by completing your training. It does take a little time and the online training is not difficult. You will find the material is very logical and is structured to give you a good understanding of what will happen when we are called to assist our public service agencies in the event of a disaster situation. The training will give you the assurance that your efforts will be put to good use. Your experience and training as Amateurs is both needed and significant to managing an appropriate response to any disaster should one occur.

Again, I want to thank you for the diligent effort in completing FEMA NIMS training. If you have any questions or need to verify your courses, please let me know. SEC Stan Broadway is also a resource as well as your county EC who can help you with any questions etc. When you complete your training, don't forget to send your EC a copy of the certificates provided by FEMA and also to me. It doesn't matter how we get them as long as we do to insure you are documented. I receive them regularly as well from SM Scott and SEC Stan as well as our county EC's. You can submit individual certificates in .PDF format ideally or you can request a transcript from FEMA that will list them all in a single document. Either form for submission is acceptable and will be saved along with inclusion in the ARES Training Database.



Keep up the great work and be assured that your effort is both appreciated and recognized. The Ohio Section is making a terrific showing and it's all the great effort and dedication Ohio Hams are doing to insure we are ready when we are called to serve supporting our local communities and the Great State of Ohio.

73 and Thank you,

Jim W8ERW

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### **Ohio Repsonds**

Ok.. Here's the latest update on Ohio Responds. We now have 122 persons approved!! Let's keep this going. We have over 500 with all their certificates on file. Let's get everyone to get moving and sign up for Ohio Responds.

Signing up with Ohio Responds will give you liability protection under the State of Ohio. This is a real big things folks.. Where else can you

get liability insurance for FREE.

Now, admittedly their system was designed for another purpose, so in some places it doesn't match up well with Amateur Radio Operators and what we do. I have created a webpage where you'll find all the pertinent information for getting registered on Ohio Responds website with as little issues as possible. You really do need to read this information BEFORE you attempt to register, and you will need to have all 4 of your NIMS courses completed and in our statewide database first! There's some very specific information up there that you'll need to know to correctly complete the registration process since it doesn't match up well in some places with what we do. Here's a link to that webpage... <http://arrl-ohio.org/ohio-responds-page.html> You can also find this link on the main page of the Ohio Section website as well.

How do I know if I'm on the list or not? Here's the link to the list.

[http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/special/nims\\_roster.html](http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/special/nims_roster.html) Don't see your name on the list, and you've submitted your certificates? Contact me immediately!

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**LET'S TALK**

Scott Yonally, N8SY - SM

[n8sy@arrrl.org](mailto:n8sy@arrrl.org)

Hey Gang,

WOW, it's almost Field Day! Are you ready? I've been keeping a sharp ear to what all the clubs that I have visited as to what all they are going to do it get the points! I again will be attempting to visit with as many of you as I can during Field Day.

I need your help.. Please take pictures of your Field Day and send them to me. I'll display all the pictures in a gallery that I'm setting up on our website. Yes, I'll be out and about taking pictures, but I need your pictures too. Please send me your Field Day pictures to: [n8sy@n8sy.com](mailto:n8sy@n8sy.com)

Have you registered for the "Handbook Giveaway" drawing yet? If you haven't, go to: <http://arrrl-ohio.org/handbook.html> and get registered. You never know, you just may be the next winner for sure.



Are you getting those emails from me? If not, all you have to do is to "Opt-In" to receive them. Heck, just send me an email [n8sy@n8sy.com](mailto:n8sy@n8sy.com) I'll get you added to the mailing list. There's a link to do this on the Ohio Section website, it's on the bottom left corner. For your convenience. Here's a direct link to it: <http://arrrl-ohio.org/forwarder/forwarding.html> I urge all of you to make sure that everyone, regardless of whether they are a League member or not, gets signed up for one of these options. You can always "Opt-Out" at any time if you feel this is not what you were expecting. Did you know that the Ohio Section mailing list is almost 2,000 strong now? It is, and the ARRL emailing list for Ohio is over 3,600. We have 28,000 licensees' in Ohio, let's see if we can get this email out to all 28,000 by the end of the year! Just let me know that you want added to the listing. I do get 8 – 10 new people every week! If you know of anyone that might be interested in getting my emails that isn't already, please let them know!



On that same subject, there's another NEW – one question – questionnaire on the Ohio Section Website! This question is really important for me to know. It will only take about 2 seconds for you to answer it, and you can see how your answer stacks up with others instantly. If you haven't done it yet, please do. I really want to hear from you. And, if you have a question that you'd like to see on our questionnaire, please send it to me! I have had several of you already do that and I would love to see more!!

Are you a member of the ARRL?? If you aren't a League member, this is a great opportunity to become one. Want more information on how to join? Here's the link: <http://www.arrrl.org/membership-levels>. There's even a 90 day FREE trial that you can apply for if you've never been a member.. Got questions about being a member or what the League is all about? Send me an email [n8sy@n8sy.com](mailto:n8sy@n8sy.com) I'll be happy to call or write to you. We can even meet and have coffee if you'd like, and I'll buy!!

I'm sure all of you have heard me say that I'm always available for you, whether you're an ARRL member or not. It's true, and you can feel free to write or call me anytime. If you have any questions, concerns, or would just like to sit and chat awhile over a cup of coffee or something cold to drink, feel free to call or write me (419) 512-4445 or [n8sy@n8sy.com](mailto:n8sy@n8sy.com)

That's going to do it for this month. I hope to see you all at your hamfests, club meetings or on the air!

73, Scott, N8SY

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**THE OFFICIAL OBSERVER COORDINATOR**

John Perone, W8RXX - OOC

[w8rxx@arrl.net](mailto:w8rxx@arrl.net)

The total hours of listening in May were 826

No OO cards were sent

73, John, W8RXX

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**SPECIAL EVENTS STATIONS**

**Events Stations**

**07/03/2017 | Railroad Telegraphers**

**Jul 3-Jul 14, 0100Z-2300Z, K8T**, Bellevue, OH. Mad River & NKP Railroad Museum. 14.245 7.195 3.850 146.865. QSL. Rick Wolfe, KD8KWV, 358 High St., Bellevue, OH 44811. Celebrating the significance of the use of telegraphy with the advancement of the railroad. The telegrapher's primary duty was maintaining communication between the train dispatcher, who was usually many miles away, with trains and the whole rail system. We will be operating all modes from the Mad River & NKP Railroad Museum in Bellevue, Ohio. QSL request with SASE to Rick Wolfe, KD8KWV, 358 High Street, Bellevue, Ohio 44811

**07/06/2017 | Ohio State Parks The Grand Tour**

**Jul 6-Sep 8, 1900Z-0300Z, W8WDS**, Cincinnati, OH. Multiple Local Clubs. 146.520 14.260 7.235 3.810. Certificate & QSL. William Schramm, 4220 Endeavor Dr, Unit 204, Cincinnati, OH 45252. The Grand Tour is a special event running from July 7, 2016 to Sept 9, 2016. We will be operating Amateur radio stations each day from a different Ohio State Park. We will also dedicate each park's operation to a fallen/disabled Ohio Soldier/Sailor/Airmen. THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED. [ohiostateparks.gaterunner.com](http://ohiostateparks.gaterunner.com)

**07/15/2017 | Marvin Gilbert (KD8GPF) Special Event**

**Jul 15-Jul 16, 0800Z-1600Z, W8UCO**, Marysville, OH. W8UCO ARC (Union County Amateur Radio Club). 3.840 7.240. Certificate. Marvin Gilbert Special Event (W8UCO/KD8GPF), 24581 Sandusky Rd, Richwood, OH 43344. Commemorating 57 years of public service with Civil Defense/Union County Emergency Management Agency . Marvin C. Gilbert was a lifelong member of Trinity Lutheran Church, serving on various boards at the church, a member the Marysville Evening Lion's Club, the American Legion Post 79, served with the Union County Civil Defense and Union County EMA for 57 years, 25 of those years as Chief. He was also a committee member for the Marysville High School Hall of Fame, was a board member of the American Red Cross and a member of the Union County Republican Club, serving as Treasurer and Central District Committeeman. He enjoyed playing Dart Ball for over 50 years and getting together for his Wednesday afternoon card club but most of all, he cherished his granddaughter and attending her activities, never missing a soccer or softball game. A graduate of Marysville High School, Marvin served in the National Guard, worked 42 years at O.M. Scott's, retiring as a shipping manager. Born July 9, 1941 in Marysville. On May 2, 1965, he married his wife of 51 years, Sharon (Wasserbeck) and she survives in Marysville. Also surviving is his son, Brad (Tara) Gilbert of Marysville; his granddaughter, Emma Karen Gilbert of Marysville [ohiohams.net](http://ohiohams.net)

**07/24/2017 | Cabwaylingo State Park Dog Days of Summer**

**Jul 24-Jul 30, 0000Z-2359Z, W8V**, Cincinnati, OH. KE8BBB. 14.330 7.400 7.180. Certificate & QSL. Arthur F. Menges, KE8BBB, 2603 Foran Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45238. Special Event to run entire week at various times from various locations within 8123 acre state park. QSL Manager: Arthur F. Menges KE8BBB

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**OHIO HAMFEST CALENDAR**

06/17/2017 | Milford Hamfest 27th Annual  
Location: Milford, OH  
Sponsor: Milford Amateur Radio Club  
Website: <http://www.w8mrc.com>

07/08/2017 | GARS Germantown Hamfest  
Location: Germantown, OH  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Germantown Amateur Radio Society (GARS)  
Website: <http://GARSohio.org>

07/09/2017 | 20/9 Radio Club Hamfest,  
Computer & Electronics Show  
Location: Austintown, OH  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: 20/9 Radio Club, Inc.  
Website: <http://20over9.org>

07/15/2017 | NOARSFEST  
Location: Elyria, OH  
Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society  
Website: <http://noars.net>

07/16/2017 | Van Wert Hamfest  
Location: Van Wert, OH  
Sponsor: Van Wert Amateur Radio Club  
Website: <http://w8fy.org>

07/30/2017 | Portage Hamfair '17  
Location: Ravenna, OH  
Sponsor: Portage Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
Website: <http://hamfair.com>

We now have a complete listing of hamfests in Ohio on the website. Go to: <http://arrl-ohio.org/hamfests.html> to see everything that is currently scheduled, including the Great Lakes Division Convention!

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**A final – final..**

Today is June 16th, and it's National Flip Flop Day as well as National Fudge Day, yum, yum!!!

Now, on that note... Amateur Radio is exciting and a lot of FUN. It's also a learning experience for everyone! Share your enjoyment and learning experiences with those just coming into Amateur Radio!!

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