



Thanksgiving Edition



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THE TECHNICAL COORDINATOR

Jeff Kopcak – TC

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Hey Gang,

I've been playing around with a couple new radios. With the holidays approaching, these will make great gift ideas.

Cheap radios for new or young hams are hard to come by. Many opted for the under \$30 Baofeng (or Pofung) UV-5R and for good reason. They're cheap. Perfect options for new hams, young hams, or public service events where radios are prone to damage and misuse. Destroy it and its \$30 vs a couple hundred, or 7, to replace. Cheap radios could replace older radios that maybe didn't have PL, were lower power, or single band. You got what you paid for though. Inconsistencies in firmware versions lead to differing sets of features, programming software wasn't easy to use, neither was installing the programming cable, complaints about the lack of support, and lack of a usable manual. I stopped using these radios because of the many tests proving they were good



about transmitting everywhere at once (across the entire band). As hams we are given plenty of leeway in how we use our frequencies. It's up to each of us to make sure our radios comply with Part 97 and do not interfere with other licensed radio services. The ARRL published their findings in a November 2015 QST article. Ohio Section Technical Specialist Dave – KD8TWG demonstrated this with a couple of radios he had purchased: <https://kd8twg.net/2015/10/17/a-quick-and-unscientific-spectral-analysis-of-two-baofeng-radios/>.



Ok, so don't use these radios. What radio, that meets Part 97 requirements, is available for the price? This was a problem. There was no real option. About the cheapest dual-band radio was \$150. DMR radios competed on price and features but, until recently, were only single band. I finally found a better option. Unfortunately,

the company has "Baofeng" in the name which makes things even more confusing. A company called "Baofeng Tech" or BTEch, is a US based company offering a similar radio called the UV-5X3 for under \$60.

The radio looks and acts like a UV-5R. Baofeng Tech updates the firmware, modifies the radio installing better filtering on the transmitter, and includes an easy-to-read nicely printed 85 page manual. The UV-5X3 comes with all the same accessories including belt clip, antennas, charger, and ear piece. All original Baofeng accessories work too. To my surprise, they even squeezed in the 220 MHz (1.25m) band! Baofeng Tech assured me their radios meet spectral requirements for Part 97. I had mine tested at the Cleveland Hamfest by KD8TWG. On VHF the 3rd harmonic was a little higher than 40db down, UHF was spot-on. The CHRIP free programming software is the only programmer that currently works with this radio. RT Systems UV-5R programmer for the original Baofeng radios does not work with the UV-5X3.



Now there's no excuse to get a very reasonably priced radio compliant with Part 97 spectral requirements. It even comes with free shipping if bought through Amazon. For someone looking to play around with 220, this is a great tri-bander radio. Check out this radio as an option, from a US company, for new or young hams: <https://baofengtech.com/uv-5x3>. Product images from Baofeng Tech.

I've wanted to install a dual-band DMR mobile radio in the shack. Yeah, all the DMR repeaters in the area are UHF. I like to have the flexibility of a dual-band. Connect Systems was one for the first, if not the first, to release a dual-band DMR mobile radio earlier this year. Talking with Jerry at Dayton (President of Connect Systems), they had just shipped the first batch of CS800D radios and were expecting to get another batch 'in a couple months.' I heard very good things from hams that have purchased from Jerry's company previously. Connect Systems is accessible via email and social media for support, they worked to fully resolve product issues, fixed issues with firmware quickly, and let customers try out their new equipment while seeking feedback. I didn't hesitate to get on the waiting list.



I finally got the radio at the beginning of August and I like it a lot. The radio itself looks like a Motorola CM300D or nearly identical in layout, including microphone, to the Kenwood TM-281A. Radio covers VHF: 136-174 @ 50W, UHF: 400-470 @ 45W. The head and microphone are removable and extendable with a cat5 Ethernet cable. It will hold 4,000 channels and 130,000 contacts with firmware updates – more contacts than the **ENTIRE** DMR-MARC user database! It's got a couple quarks which I'm told are to be fixed in future firmware releases. Biggest annoyance being the display doesn't always update after a button is pressed. The programming software is straight forward if you've ever programmed a DMR radio

before. The Ohio Section website has a pre-built codeplug: <http://arrl-ohio.org/digital/digital.html>. N0GSG makes a great codeplug editor and codeplug converter that I found useful: <http://n0gsg.com/contact-manager/>. His editor now supports the CS800D, TYT MD2017 & MD9600.

The Connect Systems CS800D was a little pricey when I bought it (\$399 + \$15 for the programming cable) but has since dropped in price to \$299. I feel this radio could have been more popular if the radio was not released in batches. Jerry was great about communicating and explaining the situation. Like any distributor, they were beholden to the timetables from their manufacturer. Nothing they could do about it. I think that allowed other options to enter the market sooner and resulted in lost potential sales. It's a great radio and recommended for someone looking for a dual-band DMR mobile radio from a US based company. CS800D product page: <http://www.connectsystems.com/products/top/radios%20CS800D.htm>.

If you've picked up a CS800D, check the Software page for recent firmware updates: <http://www.connectsystems.com/software/software%20CS800D.htm>. Product image from Connect Systems.

Technical Specialist reports

Dave – KD8TWG has been busy as usual. In addition to testing radios at the Cleveland Hamfest, he tackled the issue of "operational security." This has been a topic of discussion in the area as of late and on social media. He was seeing arguments that operational frequencies needed to be obscured for the purposes of "securing" an operation. Without encryption, there is no such thing. As Dave points out, any modern scanner can scan VHF and UHF bands within seconds.

It's even easier with SDR receivers that allow you to look at the entire band scope at once. Check out his post about Hiding Frequencies for "Operational Security": <https://kd8twg.net/2017/08/14/opsec/>.

In October, another Section Technical Specialist, Jason – WG8B, gave a presentation to the Dayton Amateur Radio Association about his area of expertise: bike mobile operations. Jason provided feedback on his program:

The briefing focused on using bike mobile capabilities to support public service events and covered topics such as

- Suitable antennas. Bikes are not good ground planes, and dual band antennas are important when supporting public service events from a bike since carrying extra antennas and swapping them out is not easy.
- Speakers and microphones that work while bicycling while allowing you to safely operate a bike.
- Properly mounting equipment to not only protect the equipment but also protect the bicycle and rider.
- APRS operations from a bicycle

Most of the questions revolved around antennas. I won't repeat specific questions to protect the innocent so to speak, so I'll just clarify what I think good antenna requirements are for VHF/UHF bicycle mobile operations. First and especially when supporting public service events, omnidirectional antennas are absolutely required.

On a bike, there is no practical way to steer antennas with directional patterns whether they be gain antennas or magnetic loops. You will be changing direction quite frequently, and you need to hit repeaters from any aspect. Second, high-Q antennas such as magnetic loops require precise tuning, something that's not possible while on a bicycle. Stick to an antenna that does not require tuning. Your radio should be working for you while on a bike during public service events not the other way around. There's already enough going on, and safety is first. Third, any antenna bigger or longer than a bicycle flag is not likely safe. There are balance issues with weight above the bike's center-of-gravity, and just about the worst shape aerodynamically is an antenna. So how hard do you want to pedal? Also, I've had problems with low hanging branches with just a bicycle flag. Anything taller is going to be problematic. My recommendation is still to use a dual band J pole like Ed Fong's DBJ-2 taped to a bike flag or a single band half wave dipole like Larson's NMO 150B HW. While not the absolutely best antennas performance-wise, they will still hit every repeater in my local area and then some with a 5W HT. And these are very simple and small form factor antennas that just work and won't get in the way when on a bike.



Finally, if you would like to see the briefing, I've made it accessible here:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B2Yn_hki2v0bIFnNVVRbW9kc3c

Jason's presentation has lots of tips and pictures for making a bicycle mobile installation a success. If you would like to have Jason at your meeting, drop him a note!

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

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THE AFFILIATED CLUBS COORDINATOR

Tom Sly, WB8LCD - ACC

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First I was a son, and a brother. I joined the Christian Church. My first major achievement in life was becoming an Eagle Boy Scout. Shortly after that, I became a Ham Radio Operator. Only after that did I become a licensed driver, a High School Graduate, a Husband, a College Graduate, a Father, a successful Business Owner, a Grandfather. Through all of that, I have remained an active amateur radio operator, with only a few brief periods where I might have been off the air. I've been a ham for most of my life. And, I'm very thankful that I've had the opportunity to enjoy this as my hobby. I'm thankful for the many friends and acquaintances that I've made because of amateur radio. I'm thankful for the education I've received because of amateur radio. I'm thankful for all of the opportunities that have come my way, because of, amateur radio!



Just last month I had the opportunity to attend the Great Lakes Division HamCon at Michigan International Speedway. I want to say "thank you" to all the hams and clubs in Michigan who got together and put that on. They all did their part – Big Time! The venue is outstanding and should serve future HamCon programs very well. The forums were fantastic, as was the banquet. They all did their part in putting this all together. Sure, there were a couple things that weren't perfect, but I'm betting they get those things

worked out for next time. I do believe the Great Lakes ham population let them down by not turning out. It would be a shame if they couldn't turn this into a very successful, regular event, but without the support of the individual ham, it's a tough act to keep going. Sometimes being thankful is best shown by "being there" and supporting the folks that are trying to provide opportunities to do something fun.

This also plays out at the club level. It takes a lot of good people putting in an outstanding effort to make a good club program. Sometimes you're going to do all the legwork, put it all together, and get very few members to show up. You can't let that discourage you. You've got to put on the best program you can, even if it's only for the couple club members that came out, while everyone else stayed home to watch TV. But if you stick with it, if you turn out an exceptional product, you'll get the participation.

Putting out an exceptional product (club program) doesn't happen at the last minute. Now is the time to be planning out your agenda for 2018 – yeah, the whole year! Every month you've got to have a club meeting, and you usually have a speaker of some sort. My advice – keep it on Ham Radio topics. Lay out your topics a year in advance, six months at a minimum. Once you know what you want the topics to be, you can set about finding the local, or even not so local expert who is willing to do the presentation for you. Have your presentations on topics of interest to you and your club members – don't settle for something less. Every month you should have at least one other “activity”. These can be easy to get filled in on your calendar in advance. Things like Field Day, Ohio State Parks On The Air, building projects, special educational programs. Once you get all of these things on your calendar, it's easier to start getting things lined up with lots of lead time, rather than last minute planning. Sometimes it's nice to just hang out with your friends. A Saturday morning breakfast or lunch can be just the thing to keep people in touch with one another. These can be very casual, so not a whole lot of planning necessary. But, not everyone can make the regular monthly meetings, so this can be a good way to have those members still have a part of the “club experience” even though they can't be there for the real meeting.



The Ohio Section is, without a doubt, one of the “hottest” places to be if you're a Ham Radio Operator! Let's make 2018 our year to raise it up a couple notches. If you're a leader in a club (holding an elected position, or just a good member) let's make this our year to have more interaction between clubs. Got an extra good speaker, or an interesting build project – ask some of the other nearby clubs if they would like to be involved with you. Get some “friendly” competition going in any of the hundreds of contests going on over the course of a year. Heck, make up your own contest just so you can get something going on to get your own club members active on the air. Special event stations – another opportunity to enlist surrounding clubs to participate with yours doing something fun, but not necessarily a competition – everybody wins! How about we do a Work

All Ohio Counties weekend? We publicize it to the county hunters all over the world and let them know this is when they can get OHIO's counties? If we all worked together, I bet we could motivate a lot of Technician Class hams to upgrade to General, and a bunch of General class hams to upgrade to Extra! If you have an upgrade class coming up, get it posted – make sure everyone knows it's open to all hams, not just members of xyz club. Wouldn't it be cool if we could make Ohio the state with the lowest percentage of Techs and the highest percentage of Extras?

From my own personal experience, I know that if you get motivated, get active and do the things of amateur radio, at the end of next year, you too will be thankful for this great hobby! You will have had the time of your life, met some really great people and be all ready to do it again in 2019.

Hope to hear you on the air!

73,
Tom, WB8LCD
OH ACC

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THE SECTION EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

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Let's Change Our Paradigm!

Here's the question: Since 9/11 the emergency response world has changed, never to be the same. In the past several years the methods of how our agencies respond and handle events, from small to immense, have been extended to agencies such as ARES. We are expected not only to know how they act, but to be able to prove our own ability to act with them as partners. How do we do that best?



Nowhere was that more obvious to us than last year's RNC/NAACP/Red Cross spinup last year in July! ARES members were ~expected~ to be certified and credentialed in order to play. We were, we did, and we received accolades.

But for ALL of Ohio ARES, it's time to put up or shut up.



That's a little harsh, but the time has come for ARES to follow through on our stipulations which require proper training for our members. It's been a long time since we first announced the necessity for our volunteers to complete the four "magic" NIMS courses, 100, 200, 700 and 800. These are the foundational courses which describe how an emergency operations center and the entire emergency response is handled in a uniform, dynamic form. In the fire service, we have used these very principles as we roll up on a minor house fire, all the way to a

dramatic, mass casualty disaster. The simple truth is that ARES wants to work with our partner agencies as just that...partners.

In order to be a true "service" and not just a bunch of helpful hobbyists, we have to be able to prove our worth. Consider the recent months of disasters in Houston, Florida, and the Caribbean.

Hams were requested and dispatched there for vital activity. If we sent hams there who were not able to function as a part of that massive effort, it would reflect badly on Ohio and we would probably not get asked again.

But there's another side to ARES. There are plenty of activities that fall in the range of "Public Service" yet don't involve EOC operations, emergency response agencies or really the need for our four magic courses. SkyWarn nets, bike rides, runs and the like are all events that ARES members (certified or not) regularly participate. Are these any less worthy than the relatively fewer true emergency events? So, if we summarily dismiss a bunch of long time ARES members who don't have their cards are we doing any good?



And “YES” there are a few who just don’t “get it” - that owning a ham license is NOT instant qualification to participate in emergencies. They just refuse to take the step and take the training. Yet their time and energy still helps ARES.

So, after a great deal of thought, we have decided to follow the example of amateur radio licensing. Entry-level operation can be had through the Tech license. Yet there’s incentive to upgrade to General/Extra because far more activities are permitted, and you can enjoy much more of the hobby. So why not create that same environment for ARES?

Tier II membership into ARES will be designated for general membership. **Tier II** operators will be encouraged to participate in public service events, work projects with equipment and stations, and do the type of work ARES members have done for years. **Tier II** members will **NOT** be activated for service during emergencies that involves operation in EOC’s, or for partner agencies who require the FEMA certification. In the event that additional manpower may be needed (The Big One) they, like spontaneous volunteer amateur operators outside ARES, may be assigned to secondary tasks. While **ALL** time invested by our volunteers is valuable, **Tier II** operators will be at the “Entry Level” of ARES in Ohio.



Tier I operators in ARES will be those who have completed the four FEMA courses, having certificates on file with both their county EC and the Ohio ARES Training Database. These are the prime operators who will be activated when requested by our partner emergency agencies such as the EMA. We hope to create incentives to entice **Tier II** operators to upgrade within the ARES system. It will be the duty of each county EC to maintain a roster defining the capabilities of each member, and to maintain an activation system for **Tier I** members. EC’s are required, AEC’s are strongly suggested to be **Tier I** operators.

So, we will be strongly encouraging the **Tier II** members to “upgrade” so that they can have all the benefits as a **Tier I** member does, being able to register with “Ohio Responds” database for liability protection under the state. FEMA courses are already a requirement for that, and it’s a great benefit that we hope we’ll never need.



I appreciate your comments!

When it counts, Ohio was there!

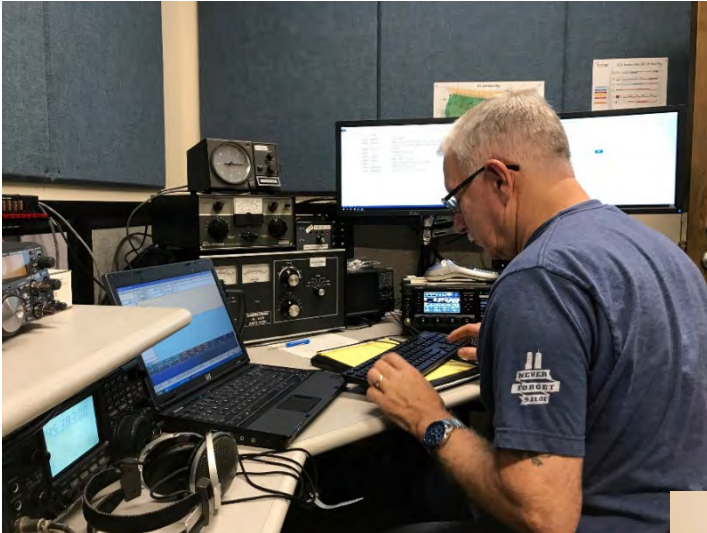


Ohio was invited to participate in the Caribbean, and our representatives returned highly praised for their work. George Reidel, N1EZZ, was sent immediately after the first big storm. He was singularly involved in transmitting messages from St. John’s...and wound up hunkering down as the second hurricane swept the island. He finally got a return to the states courtesy of Kenny Chesney’s private transportation. (Fancy, huh!) We also know Mory Fuhrmann, N8KKW, spent a cycle in Puerto Rico with the Red Cross. John Probst, KA8RVI, deployed with OH-5 DMAT for three weeks in PR. Also from District 3, Gary Clark II, KC9TND, went to Texas for Harvey and then to Florida after Irma both for the

Red Cross. Michael Carter, W8BSI, deployed with OH-TF1 (Ohio Task Force 1) after Harvey. Great work from all who gave of their time. You represented Ohio well!

On another topic, **please understand that you can be a member of ONE ARES county organization, not several.** If you are asked to assist, that's just fine! But membership is limited to one county. It does NOT necessarily have to be your county of residence. Membership in more than one county messes with reporting numbers both for membership and participation hours, so we do want to keep things straight.

The Sarge is operational!



The W8SGT (The Sarge) station at the OH EOC is fairly well complete! After a loooong time, we have the stations in place and are operating on the air from our new room which opens onto the main floor. We have two each FTDX-1200's and AL-1200's for two of the stations. The center position is aimed primarily at VHF/UHF and features an IC-745 for 100 watts on two meters, the Kenwood 2000, and an assortment of dual band rigs. We are adding a DMR radio very soon! These shots were taken during the SET, showing DEC7 and Sarge staffer Mark Griggs, KD8YMN and SEC Stan, N8BHL operating.

Many thanks to who participated in the SET!

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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MURPHY'S LAW

Chases Laws of Car Repairs

1. Leakproof seals- will.
2. Self starters -won't.
3. Interchangeable parts-won't.
4. Any tool dropped while repairing a car will roll underneath to the exact center.
5. After you have repaired it yourself you will have one small part left over that doesn't go anywhere.
6. Every automobile comes with a build in abyss which things that you have dropped fall into, never to be seen again.

THE PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR

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FROM THE PIC

2018 Ohio Section Newsletter Contest

Well, in just a couple of weeks, you can start sending your January newsletters...the 2018 Ohio Section Newsletter Contest is primed and ready for another great year. Officially, the contest starts in January...but if you publish your first newsletter in December you can enter it in the 2018 contest. The rules are pretty the same as last year...you'll need two entries to be entered.

The complete set of rules will follow and if you have any questions call, email or catch me on the radio. Believe me, this contest is a great thing. We have a talented and dedicated group of editors and writers...all great communicators in many ways. Our judges are on board for another year and they are looking forward to sending our winner back to the Great Lakes Division competition.

Here the rules....and Good Luck!

2018 ARRL OHIO SECTION NEWSLETTER CONTEST RULES



In today's publishing world, there are now many different types of formats for submission of a newsletter to be entered in the Ohio Section Newsletter Contest (paper, electronic text, pdf, desktop publishing and html, to name a few). Each one of these different formats has its own unique positives and negatives, and as such are not part of the judging / scoring of the contest. Section C of the rules breaks down how the newsletter will be judged / scored without any bias toward any particular type of publishing format.

Here are the rules for the 2018 entries:

- A.) An eligible newsletter must be regularly published at least four (4) times per year by an Ohio Amateur Radio organization. The Ohio Section Journal and the newsletter for any club that the current PIC is affiliated with are not eligible.

- B.) Each organization submitting a newsletter for the contest must enter at least two (2) issues starting with January 2017 for judging. All Amateur organizations that have regularly been sending newsletters to the Ohio PIC are automatically entered (as long as these publications qualify under rule A, or C if applicable). Unless you are automatically entered, the deadline for entries is Saturday, June 30, 2018, and all entries must be in the hands of the Ohio PIC by that date.

C.) Electronic (Web based) produced newsletters may also enter. Non-amateurs, in the Public Relations industry will do the judging. They will be judging on style (15%), content (35%), service to membership (35%), and clarity of presentation (15%). Style means newsletter design of all pages. Content means amount of useful information contained in the newsletter. Service to members means amount of information using individual members' names. Clarity of presentation means readability of the newsletter including accuracy of English grammar.

C.) No entries can be returned and all decisions of the judges on content and eligibility are final. The Ohio PIC only serves to certify entries, to provide the judges with entries, and to announce their decisions only.

D.) The decision of the judges is final.

Like previous years, we are keeping our Honorable Mention categories. It allows the judges to award special and unique efforts.

TV Shows and Amateur Radio



Once again, I found a TV show that put Amateur Radio to shame...and it was my favorite show NCIS!

A couple of weeks ago the plot was to use amateur radio to try and catch a criminal but the real crimes were committed by the show's writers. First, one of the NCIS agents pretended to be a ham. He wasn't licensed and apparently was using the call sign of another ham operator. I don't think either is allowed. The agent proceeded to make contact and kept asking for the "handle" of the other guy. Not good and neither was the way they portrayed the other guy...a kind of bumpkin with less than a professional operating skill. There were also mentions of "weird ham radio operators" a couple of times and a complete lack of understanding and appreciation for what we do and how we do it.

If they really wanted to show a true picture they could have just asked any of the over 700,000 licensed hams. I'm sure no one would have turned them down and might have really helped solve the crime!

So, I fired off an email to NCIS. I tried to be nice and professional and explain how Amateur Radio really works. So far no response. But if I come up missing in a couple of weeks you know that either a CBS censor has found me or a real NCIS agent showed up at my door!



Good Hams on Good TV



Now for some better news about ham radio. This past week on Wednesday, November 15th, the D.E.A.R.S. radio club was one of the featured stories on a webcast called Ham Nation, <https://twit.tv/shows/ham-nation>. Jim Mayercak, WX8J, was interviewed by Gordon (Gordo) West, WB6NOA, as they viewed slides of the recent (and past) activities that make their radio club so unique. This was a great opportunity to tell more of the world of the great things the students are doing and put Dresden Ohio on the radar of hams world-wide.

You can still log into their website and watch the show...and a lot of other presentations as well.

Thanks to Lyn, N8IMW, for the heads up!

Last month I wrote about the YL's among us and a few days later I received a great email from Carol Laferty, K4SAF, the Receiving Treasurer of the Young Ladies Radio League.



My column was published in the Wave Bender (thanks to Jane Avnet) and here's what Carol had to say:

*I read your comments in the YL article in **The Wave Bender**. Thank you for being so supportive of the YLs in amateur radio. I am the Receiving Treasurer for YLRL for the U.S. & Canada. For this year we have 359 members in the U.S. & Canada. Our DX Receiving Treasurer relayed to me that we have 104 DX, for a total of 463 this year. As Receiving Treasurer, I keep the official YLRL database for the U.S. & Canada.*

There was a time back 50 years ago or more that we had around 2000. One of my OM ham buddies believes the reason for such a drop is that QST no longer has a YL column. That's probably as good a theory as any. There are many more YLs on now than then, but so many are Techs, who don't do much more than check into a 2 meter net once in a while. Many of the YLs on the nets I check into seem so mic shy.

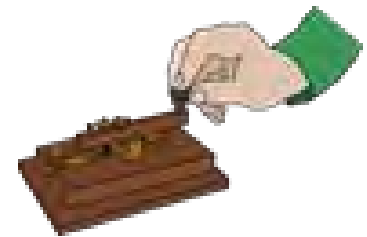
I got my license in 1957 at age 15, and was a Novice on CW, of course, for the customary one year. By the end of that year, my teenage pals and I were pretty proficient in cw. I still enjoy it very much and operate it more than SSB.

Your club's newsletter is excellent. Jane Avnet started sending it to me about a year ago. I can see why it is an award winning newsletter with all the info and articles in it.

Thanks Carol and I'm glad to see there are many YL's in our ranks making many great contributions to Amateur Radio.

Stocking Stuffer Radios

Hallmark stores have a unique stocking stuffer this year...a blister pack of two micro-sized transceivers!



Really...these things are small...about the size of a half-dollar with a four inch rat tail antenna. No stats on the frequency or power (they say they are FCC compliant) but on the back is a complete list of the alphabet and numbers...in MORSE CODE!!

They run on four hearing aid sized batteries and I couldn't find a button...or a jack...for the apparently optional code key!

The length of the antenna might be a giveaway to the frequency....somewhere in the UHF band.

So on Christmas Day if you hear some unexpected code on some unusual frequencies...write it off as a Hallmark Moment!

That's it for month...have a great Thanksgiving.

73, John, KD8IDJ

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THE SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGER

David Maynard, WA3EZN – STM

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Are you one? Are you one of those who do not know how a directed net works?

A directed net like the OSSBN has a net control station that is in charge of the net. He or she calls for check-ins in a specific order. Therefore, all stations should do like we were told as children; you do not speak until spoken to. And by that, I mean you check in with your call sign when the net control station asks for check-in. That goes for the evening net where check-in is by area. If you miss the time to check in during the call for your area check in when the net control says, “any other stations inside the state.”

And now on the more serious side of traffic handling here is a list of things that I hear on the OSSBN that are just wrong. We all need to make improvements and become more efficient.

Please roger my traffic...just say “number”

Please copy number.... just say “number”

Today's date...just give the date

Going to.....is not an NTS pro-word don't use it

Going to your station....just give them the call

Break for text.... just say “break”

Break for signature...just say “break”

End number.....just say “end”

Roger number.....just say “roger”



Roger your traffic... just say "roger"

Common text.... Is not used anymore it is "BOOK"

Common parts.... is not an NTS pro-word just say "BOOK of"

On the phone nets the pro-word that the receiving operator uses to signify that he/she has copied the radiogram 100% correctly is "Roger". QSL is used on CW nets and NOT on phone nets. The proper way to end a radiogram is "end" unless it is the last radiogram in a book. Then it is "end book." In between radiogram in a book you should use "break" to signify the end of that particular radiogram in the book. Wait for the receiving station to say "roger" before continuing.

It is redundant, and not efficient to say, "I roger your number 2364, routine". Just only say, "Roger."

Ok, why all the fuss? Why are we pushing these rules? There is a very simple answer. If we all follow these rules it simplifies the net and makes the net move faster. It also helps the other stations on the net and the net control station by saying what they expect to hear. Like I have often heard, you the KISS system, Keep It Simply Simple.

And not to return replies to received messages. I would like to remind our traffic handlers about handling instruction HXC. If you deliver a radiogram to the addressee with this handling instruction you are to send the originating station a delivery report. This can best be done by using ARRL routine messages forty seven and sixty seven.

In ARRL sixty seven you are to report the message number and the reason for non delivery. It is also very helpful when reporting non delivery to include the phone number if it was not a good number. This allows the sending station to know that the correct number was received by the delivering station

I also want to remind those sending traffic reports or responding to HXC request that brevity is the best policy. Your message should only contain the necessary words to convey you meaning.

ARRL SIXTY SEVEN states:

"YOUR MESSAGE _____ UNDELIVERABLE BECAUSE OF _____. PLEASE ADVISE"

Therefore your message TEXT should look like this:

ARRL SIXTY SEVEN 123 NO OUTLET

When reading the message text to a recipient it would be read:

Your message 123 undeliverable because of no outlet Please advise.

Here are examples of poor HXC messages.

Your message 123 to John Henry was undeliverable because no one would take the message and I tried four times, sorry

In ARRL forty seven you are to report the message number, who it was to and the date and time of delivery.

An HXC message text should be as simple as this text.

ARL FORTY SEVEN states:

Reference your message number ____ to ____ delivered on ____ at ____ UTC.

Therefore a good message would be:

ARL FORTY SEVEN 123 KE8XXX OCTOBER 31 1713 73



TIS THE SEASON FOR LISTS

Well here we are in November already. The October SET has been competed and we can settle back and wait for that inevitable white stuff. By the time you read this we will be on the doorstep or very close to Thanksgiving. I hope each and every one of you has a full and bountiful table on Thanksgiving. Since this is the season of list here are some lists of things do and not to do.

1. Buy you turkey early; the TV news says the price is going up.
2. Hunt up your recipes and review what you will need for that dinner
3. Make a list of the ingredients you will need
4. Shop early for those ingredients to avoid the crowds
5. Find someone to prepare the dinner and do all the work
6. Find relatives to go to for Thanksgiving in order to avoid all the work
7. Last resort; find a restaurant that will be open and make reservations J

If you not going anywhere on New Years here is something fun to try. The ARRL Straight Key Night is coming up on January 1, 2018. Why not dust off that old straight key and give it a try. Who knows you may like it and have some fun. Straight Key night starts at 0000Z and ends at 2359Z (UTC). More details can be found at www.arrl.org/straight-key-night.



Wishing you all the best for the holidays. Now it's time for a nap!!

73,

David, WA3EZN
Ohio Section Traffic Manager

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

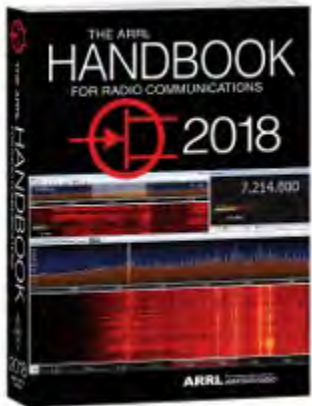
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Handbook Give Away

Special Thanksgiving Drawing

Hey Gang,

This coming Thursday is Thanksgiving and I want to do something to celebrate! So, we're going to be having two drawings for a 2018 ARRL softcover Handbook this month!!! One for Thanksgiving, and one at the end of the month. The first winner will be announced on Thanksgiving Day - November 23rd. Wow, what a way to celebrate Thanksgiving. The second winner will be announced on December 1st. Here's the link to get registered <http://arrl-ohio.org/handbook1a.html>



Each winner will be notified by email, so PLEASE use a valid email when completing the form.

Hey... If you enter **BEFORE** the November 22rd deadline for the Thanksgiving drawing, you'll automatically be entered for the drawing at the end of the month too!! It just can't get any better than that!

Remember, to enter the drawing all you need to do is fill in a couple of boxes on the form. That's it to be entered. There's nothing else required (Oh.. You do need to be a resident of Ohio to win..)

The winner will be mailed the Handbook at my cost. This is to get our Ohio folks to check out the Ohio Section website. Got the idea? Best of luck to you!!

Don't forget, I'm going to give another Handbook at the end of the month as well!!

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OUT AND ABOUT

Lyn Alfman, N8IMW - ASM

lynalfman@aol.com

In October, I was involved with or attended the following:

- Cambridge Amateur Radio Association's Special Event Station
- Zanesville Amateur Radio Club (W8ZZV) meeting.
- Guernsey County ARES (KD8MHB) Simulated Emergency Test drill.
- Ohio Amateur Radio Association (W8ORA) meeting.
- Marietta Amateur Radio Club (W8HH) covered dish picnic and meeting
- Newark Amateur Radio Association (N8ARA) meeting
- Cambridge Amateur Radio Association (W8VP) meeting
- Laurel Volunteer Exam session
- Byesville Halloween Parade
- Six local weekly nets
- Seven amateur radio meals



I wrote and submitted an article, which was published in the *Daily Jeffersonian*, about local historian and club benefactor Mr. David Adair, who was presented with an Honorary Life Membership in the Cambridge Amateur Radio Association, by President Jim Shaw, AB8P.

The presentation took place just prior to CARA's (W8VP) Special Event Station on October 1 commemorating the History of Coal Mining of Guernsey County from Mr. Adair's B & O railroad caboos located adjacent to the Waller-McMunn Museum. It seemed like the perfect venue for this event since the history of the local railroads were tied to the local coal mines. By the way, W8VP made 140 contacts on 40 meters.

Mr. Dave Adair, left, and President Jim Shaw, right

Remember to be "Radio Active"!

'73 Lyn, N8IMW

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ARES TRAINING UPDATE

Jim Yoder, W8ERW – ARES Data Manager

w8erw@arrl.net

This month I am changing direction a bit in order to talk about our JOTA experience in Seneca County. ARES member and Scout Leader Dan Rinaman AC8NP had asked us to help with the local Scouts as they participated in JOTA. We set up in the county EOC with the ultimate goal of qualifying the scouts for their Radio badge. EMA director Dan Stahl KC8PBU joined us along with Assistant Director Mike Klaiss KC8BUJ. Jeff Potteiger WB8REI, Jim Hersberger W8ERN, Gary Magers KD8TLD, Mike Mastro KC8QDL, Gregg Flechtner WJ8Y and I all worked to put together a great presentation for a nice group of local scouts.



We started Saturday morning with KC8PBU giving an overview of the EOC operation and the many ways in which the EOC can be activated when the need arises. Dan explained how good communications is the most essential part of managing an emergency or disaster. We led the scouts on a tour of the EOC facility including the communications room and the roll Amateur Radio Operators play during a disaster situation.

Next, we demonstrated a remote HF Radio setup utilizing an AREDN MESH network, video links and the MESH Chat application.

The scouts made JOTA contacts using the iCOM 718 installed in the EOC and operated the setup remotely from an iPad. We used the COMMCAT application and Skype to control the HF radio while the Scouts observed and operated both the radio and remote-control arrangement. Both locations were covered by live video over the MESH network. MESHChat was also used to communicate between the radio room and the remote location in another location at the EOC.

Next we demonstrated CW over a 2 meter setup and had the Scouts copying CW to demonstrate how Morse Code can be very effective in providing communications when other means are less than perfect. The Scouts were impressed with how well CW works and enjoyed our discussion on the history and application of CW as a viable method of communicating even in today's modern digital world.

We broke for lunch which was generously provided by Mike Mastro KC8QDL who owns and operates along with his wife, our Tiffin Buffalo Wild Wings. This was an especially nice treat for the Scouts and at the conclusion; Mike also presented each of the Scouts with a gift card for Buffalo Wild Wings. Thank you, Mike, and BW3 for a wonderful lunch and some great encouragement for the Scouts to become involved with Amateur Radio. Mike is an active member of ARES who always supports us with his knowledge and encouragement.

Finally, the Scouts participated in a table top exercise led by EMA director KC8PBU. Dan was able to give them real examples of how the EOC is brought into action when a disaster requires an effective and well-organized response.



FEMA

He explained the NIMS process and the rolls of the significant positions necessary to manage a disaster situation and allowed the Scouts to assume the various positions in the exercise. Questions were posed to the Scouts to assess their understanding and the answers were discussed.

I would like to extend a big thank you to the Scouts and their leaders for allowing us to present the EOC operation and the ARES Amateur Radio roll supporting our public service agencies. A huge thank you as well goes to all of the Amateurs who gave up a Saturday and a lot of earlier preparation to provide a great Scouting and ARES experience. Some interest was shown as well by the Scouts and we may see one or more of these fine young gentlemen in our upcoming Technician class.

As usual, our training statistics continue to grow. We now have almost 600 Ohio Hams who have completed their NIMS training. Ohio ARES members have taken and submitted close to 5, 500 classes to the training database. Again, this is very impressive and it grows almost daily. NIMS is scalable to any size and form of disaster and provides the structure and responsibilities for each crucial element of a well-organized response. The process is flexible and is organized to allow for change as the needs evolve and develop in response to the scope of a disaster situation. The NIMS curriculum has been designed and refined with input from representatives from all the appropriate stakeholders including First Responders, business and industry, support organizations like the Red Cross, Salvation Army and of course Radio Amateurs.

NIMS training is essential for anyone who might become involved and is now required by most organizations that we as Amateurs might be called upon to support. The knowledge is invaluable to everyone who might play a role in disaster response efforts and it will give you the confidence you need to be a productive part of both response and recovery efforts. We never know when a disaster will strike and along with keeping our equipment ready, training such as NIMS is critical to our ability to respond appropriately and safely.

For many of you, especially those directly involved with being First Responders, training is ongoing and is a continuous effort. The training database includes many additional courses taken by those who are also active ARES participants. These courses are welcome and can be submitted for inclusion in your training records. Often, they also qualify for the required core NIMS training classes. Training documents should be provided to your local ARES Emergency Coordinator and forwarded to me via email. When I receive them, they are entered into the database and the certificate copies are stored for future reference. The ideal format is as .pdf files including your Call and course identification such as, W8ERW-IS-00100.b.pdf. This allows for quick and efficient retrieval when this becomes necessary to document your training.

For ARES leadership and individuals wishing to verify training, I can provide training reports for your specific interests. Please let me know if you would like or have need of this information. I would be happy to assist you.

The holidays are fast approaching. So, Happy Thanksgiving to everyone and Thank you for your hard work and dedication to our ARES program. Ohio Hams are making things happen. Your comments, questions and concerns are always welcome. Your Ohio Section is here to serve your needs and to make Ohio the best place to be a Ham.

73 and Thank you,

Jim W8ERW

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CENTER OF HOPE DONATION

Every year, since year one of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service's existence, we have donated to a local charity, the Center of Hope, in Ravenna, OH.

The Amelia DiGirolamo Center of Hope is dedicated to enhancing the nutrition of low-income people in Portage County where local food pantries are not present. Hot meals are offered at no cost five days a week and are typically served to between 75-100 individuals each day. Groceries are available monthly through the Christian Cupboard. Opportunities for socialization, cooking classes and referral services are also offered. Out of every \$1.00 donated, 94 cents goes toward direct service to their clientele. That puts the Center of Hope at the very top of the scale for percentage of funds that actually reach their intended target! There are over 100,000 individuals who receive service through the Center of Hope each year.

In 2006, our first year as a club, we donated approximately \$300 to the Center of Hope. Each year since then, we have donated the club's portion of our 50/50 raffle at the November meeting, plus any other donations we could collect from members and friends.

Our annual contributions have increased in amount almost every year. This year there were 50/50 prize donations from several members and our friends at DX Engineering. These included 3 handheld radios, two 2018 ARRL Handbooks, an antenna analyzer, Arduino development kits and many, many other items! 50/50 ticket sales for the evening totaled \$1700! Grand Prize winner David Fairbanks, N8NB took home the grand prize of \$850 in cash!

With the club's donation of the other half of the 50/50, and the generous donations made by and collected by the membership, our total contribution to the Center of Hope for 2017 was **\$6,445.00**. When totaled up over the past 12 years, our contribution to the Center of Hope currently exceeds **\$28,950.00!** Amateur Radio has certainly had an impact on our community.

Tom Sly, WB8LCD
PCARS Secretary



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FROM THE EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH ASM

Anthony Luscre, K8ZT

k8zt@arrl.net

Ham à la mode

I am often asked by fellow hams just what Mode of Amateur Radio is the best for them to demonstrate to get the interest of students. Most of them had assumed that voice (SSB) would be the best because it was easily understandable. Unfortunately, the idea of talking into a device with another person anywhere in the world is much too commonplace nowadays. Some have suggested Morse Code (CW) as it is unique to Amateur Radio today. Unfortunately, the students cannot immediately understand what is being communicated so this presents a barrier. Fortunately the uniqueness and idea of a “secret code” do have some appeal, especially for younger students (see my [Morse Code page](#), especially [Clothespin Key](#)). But there is also the other problem that CW often reinforces the public's idea that Amateur Radio is antiquated and not relevant today.



Fortunately, I have found two forms of ham communication that do get attention and interest of students. The first is actually not mode specific; it is contesting (but only if presented in proper context). I will devote a future article on how you can best use the idea of competitive radio to interest students. The second form, the one we will focus on in this article, is a very new mode- FT8.

Now some of you are probably asking, “what is FT8”?

FT8 is the newest “sound card” mode from Nobel Laureate Joe Taylor K1JT. Some of you may be familiar with a similar mode JT65; both allow contacts with very low signal strengths.



Also I just did a presentation to our local radio club, so I will share the link to that below (plus a link from another presentation by Larry, K8UT).



By the way are you aware that many of the Ohio Section Cabinet are willing to do presentations at your club meetings? [[Scott do we have a link for Section Speaker Buro?]]

So why does FT8 hold promise for interesting students? I think the fact that it is not only a “sound” heard on the radio but also a visual image on the computer screen appeals to a population used to video with their audio. FT8 has many positives as a demonstration mode:

- Video to accompany the audio
- Requires no special understanding of a code (CW)

- Shows multiple stations at the same time
- Not only is station call-sign shown, but with helper apps like [JT-Alert](#) & [AlarmeJT](#), station country/location, distance, azimuth, etc. are displayed
- Automated spotting allows both visual and textual display of station activities around the world including stations hearing us



For more information on FT8 visit the digital section of my website- www.k8zt.com/digital



Until next month I wish you success demonstrating Amateur Radio to a student and/or non-ham.

73,
Anthony, K8ZT

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THE OFFICIAL OBSERVER COORDINATOR

John Perone, W8RXX - OOC
w8rxx@arrl.net

The Ohio OO's listened a total of 956 hours in October and sent 2 - OO cards. There were 0 good operator cards sent.

73, John, W8RXX

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FUN THINGS TO DO & HAMFESTS TOO



2017 CQ World Wide DX Contest

CW: November 25-26

Starts 0000 UTC Saturday; Ends 2359 UTC Sunday

Log Deadlines: CW – 2359 UTC Dec. 1, 2017

*** 12/02/2017 | Tigers 44444 The Holidays**

Dec 2, 1400Z-2000Z, K8TGR, Newton Falls, OH. Newton Falls Technology and Multimedia Club. 146.52 14.275 14.250. QSL.

NFHSTMC, 909 1/2 Milton Blvd, Newton Falls, OH 44444. Will be running a special event station at the 2nd Annual Tigers 44444 The Holidays Craft Show and School Holiday Spectacular. Check in to receive a special QSL card. www.k8tgr.org (FYI.. **This is one of our great school Amateur Radio Clubs... I'm sure that it will be a treasure to work them!**)

*** 160 Meter CW Contest**

Starts 2200 UTC Friday, ends 1600 UTC Sunday (December 1-3, 2017). This is a forty-two hour period with no time limitation.

Objective: For Amateurs worldwide to exchange information with W/VE amateurs on 160-meter CW. DX-to-DX QSOs do not count for contest credit. Stations located in overseas and non-contiguous U.S. Territories may be worked by DX stations. This includes Alaska KL7, the Caribbean US possessions KP1-KP5, and all of the Pacific Ocean territories KH0-KH9, including Hawaii KH6. These stations can work BOTH domestic stations (US and VE) as well as DX stations around the world. Check your software before the contest to be sure it will accept these QSOs.

Online Log Submission: Participants can now submit their Cabrillo-formatted contest logs via the web. A new [online log submission web page](#) can be used to upload your log as a file or by copy-and-pasting the log text into a text window. The log will then be checked for proper formatting and completeness before uploading to the log-checking database. You will then receive a confirmation number and a confirming email.

If any errors or discrepancies are discovered, they will be clearly labeled so that you can fix the log and try again. The email log submission process is still available if you prefer to use that method and all accepted logs will be listed on the [ARRL Logs Received](#) page.

*** Massillon ARC 90th Birthday Celebration**

December 9th 8 AM to 5 PM Special Event Station W8NP operating on 20 & 40 meter Side-Band and some CW. Some Massillon Operators will also be working from home using a serial number. For more information contact Don Wade, W8DEA at: w8deal@juno.com

*** 10 Meter CW / Phone Contest**

Second full weekend of December. Starts 0000 UTC Saturday; runs through 2359 UTC Sunday (December 9-10, 2017)

Objective: For Amateurs worldwide to exchange QSO information with as many stations as possible on the 10 meter band.

Online Log Submission: Participants can now submit their Cabrillo-formatted contest logs via the web. A new [online log submission web page](#) can be used to upload your log as a file or by copy-and-pasting the log text into a text window. The log will then be checked for proper formatting and completeness before uploading to the log-checking database. You will then receive a confirmation number and a confirming email. If any errors or discrepancies are discovered, they will be clearly labeled so that you can fix the log and try again.

*** CW Rookie Roundup**

**The third Sunday of December from 1800 UTC through 2359 UTC.
2017: 17 December (CW)**

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12/02/2017 | FCARC WinterFest

Location: Delta, OH

Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club

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

That's it for 2017! We already have the schedule starting for 2018 with a bunch of hamfests already on the schedule. You can visit that schedule anytime by going to: <http://arrl-ohio.org/hamfests.html> where you will see everything that has been scheduled!



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USING GOOGLE MAPS FOR DISTANCE

(By: Gregory Drezdson, WD9FTZ)

Have you ever wondered how far it was from point A to B without a GPS?

In case you were not aware, Google Maps allows a user to approximate a straight-line distance, in statute miles, using the “measure distance” feature in their maps.

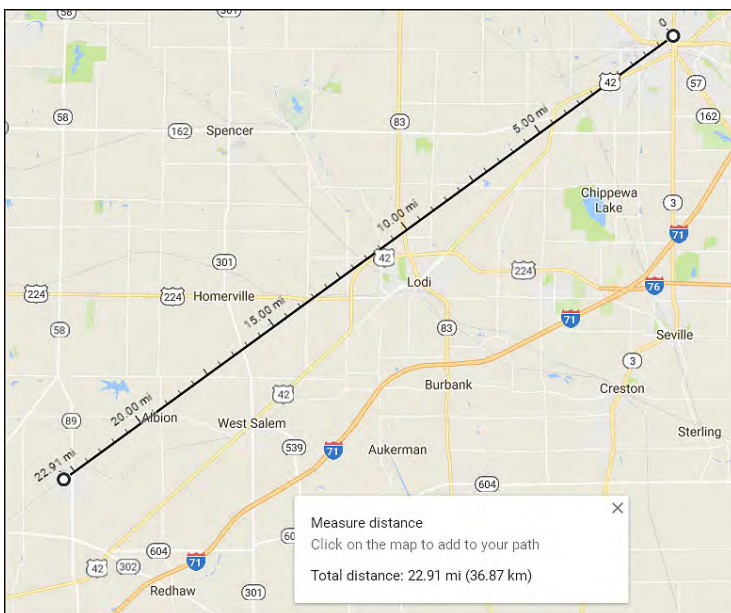


Figure 1 - Medina to Polk VHF Repeater Distance

First, you go to Google Maps and select the point the user defines as a start point. You can use the “location” tab above the “+/-” tab on the lower right of the screen. [Note: this might be a couple of clicks until you see the location pennant.]

Once you have defined the location you want to measure from, you **RIGHT** mouse button click on that location, and a screen will appear noting options and select “measure distance.”

Next, you look for your destination point and click on that location. Presto – Google Maps will show you the distance using a distance measuring line, similar to a tape measure, and you have the straight line, as the crow flies, distance.

and you are ready to start an other measurement if needed.

To clear your measuring line, right mouse button click again on the map to clear the measurement,

Google Maps’ “measure distance” also allows a user to approximate the distance to another amateur station, to a repeater and more.

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MORE ABOUT D-STAR, DMR & FUSION



Scott,

I wanted to let you know that I read and enjoy your newsletter every week.

This week you talked about the digital voice modes, and while you hinted at a convergence in these you really didn't talk about what is happening today in the world of these modes converging.

Perhaps you are not aware of the work being done by all of the hard-working folks from the "Digital" world, and what they call 4K Transcoding. This group has brought together DSTAR and DMR and working to someday include C4FM Fusion in the mix, and perhaps P-25 as well.

This is not just vaporware or a wish but they actually have it working effectively today, right this minute on a network that you can connect to using either a DSTAR or DMR radio to communicate, and I challenge anyone in being able to tell if the person talking is using DSTAR or DMR to get their message out.

To join in on the DSTAR side of things all you need to do is connect your DSTAR Repeater or hot spot to any of the reflectors in the "Constellation" XRF002A, XRF310A, XRF555A and use it like you would any other reflector.

From the DMR Side you need to use the DMR Master as XLX313, key up the Talk Group 4001 to connect, and back to Talk Group 9 to talk and communicate, using any DMR Hotspot.

This and many other topics concerning open source digital voice communications are discussed on this system every Thursday Evening at 10PM Eastern Time.

Recently several of the real "brains" of the group gave a presentation on this at Pacificon and that presentation is open to the public. It can be found here at: <http://www.k6jm.com/2017PacificonMultiMode.pdf>

Just wanted to pass along this really neat advances in technology in Amateur Radio.

Thanks again for everything you do!!!

73 de AB4WS,
Jack Prindle
Ky. District 7 ARES DEC



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LET'S TALK

Scott Yonally, N8SY - SM

n8sy@arrl.org

Hey Gang,

Wow.. I can't believe that this Thursday will be Thanksgiving already! Time has really flown by quickly this year for sure. I don't know about where you live, but here in the small village of Lexington we've had several snows and heavy frosts, which means that winter will soon be upon us.

It's been another very busy week visiting with all of you at your various club meetings and functions. I do have to tell you, this week has really been a banner week for giving out a number of "Special Recognition Awards" to some very deserving Amateurs in the Ohio Section. Five of those very deserving Amateurs are: Michael Carter, W8BSI; Gary Clark, II, KC8TND; John Probst KA8RVI; George Riedel, N1EZZ and Mory Fuhrmann N8KKW – for all of their hard work and dedication during the recent hurricanes. They were the "Boots on the Ground" from the Ohio Section, and we're very proud of each and every one of them. I also presented Randy Fisher, KL7RF with a "Special Recognition" for all of his hard work in Coshocton County with Black Swan, and many other programs and duties that he is involved with there. Congratulations to ALL!



Now, let's switch bands... I was talking with a friend of mine the other night when he asked me if I had done something to the audio on my HF radio. He told me that it sounded like I was overdriving it when he heard me on the air. I told him that I hadn't done anything that I was aware of, and that's when he asked me if I monitored my signal. Now, like most of us, I said no, I don't have an additional receiver that I listen to. That's when he hit me with something that I didn't know that you could do, and I just have to share this great information with all of you that he gave me.



Did you know that you CAN monitor your HF signal from a distance? You can, and it works really great! No, I'm not talking about installing another receiver somewhere, but yet I am. Have I gotten you confused yet? Well, here's the lowdown on how you can monitor your HF signal from another receiver site, and never leave your shack. It's called **SDR**. What's SDR? SDR stands for **Software Defined Radio**. Today's technology allows us to build radio receivers that sample radio signals and process them on a PC or an embedded system. Software Defined Radio (SDR) refers to the technologies that make these exciting things possible.

There is a website that has been created to popularize this SDR technology <http://sdr.hu> From there you can find many SDR receivers that are being sharing on-line. So, with that information, you can now listen to your own radio signals without even having to buy any SDR hardware!

All you need is a web browser, and we all have that for sure! All that you do is connect to this website, select that receiver that you want, and the frequency that you want to listen to, and you're off to the races!! Now you can LISTEN to your own signal whenever you want, or you can listen in on any conversations that are going on around the ham bands. Oh, let me also say that you can also listen in on way more than just the ham bands too. For those folks who also use DMR, it's a little like the PARROT feature, only it's not recorded and played back, with SDR you get to hear your signal real time, and from various receivers around the globe!

The receivers on the website are numerous, and most have the ability to allow for multiple independent connections. This allows several users on the same site to listen in on what they want, and not be interrupted. The software uses a waterfall just like most of the new digital HF modes use. You just shift the tuning bar over to anything that is appearing on the waterfall and you are locked on to that signal! I think the best thing about all of this is the fact that it's all FREE... You don't need to buy, build or mess with anything. If you have a computer that can connect to the internet and a sound card, and most everyone one does now days, then you've got it all. No muss, fuss or messing around. Yes, I did actually also connect using my cellphone as well. Wow... This is amazing! You can go portable, or just use it to listen in whenever and wherever you want!

Now, back to my audio problem, it was simple to fix. There's a switch on the bottom of my desk mic that turns on or off the High Emphasis, it got turned on somehow. So, the fix was to just switch it off... problem solved!



There's another NEW – one question – questionnaire on the Ohio Section Website! I was really surprised to see that only about 25% of you have a 32 inch, or larger TV in your shack! I would have thought the numbers would have been much larger for sure. I love my creature features!

Now, for the next fun question, and it comes from Darl Deeds, NA8W. With the new computers these days, they have the ability to have several monitors connected so that you can have some tasks on one monitor and other items appear on another one. Now, I will tell ya', I personally know one ham that has 5 – 22 inch monitors hooked to his computer at one time.

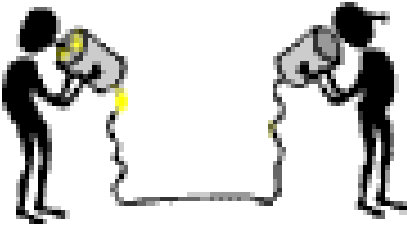
Yes, it's like being in NASA's control room for sure! So, with that being said, the question this week is this: **How many monitors do you have connected to your computer?**

It will only take 2 seconds for you to answer it, and you can see how your answer stacks up with others instantly. Go to: www.arrl-ohio.org and look on the left side of the page. I really do want to hear from you on these questions. And, if you have a question that you'd like to see on our questionnaire, please send it to me!

Are you a member of the ARRL? Have you let your membership lapse? Want more information on how to join, or rejoin? Here's the link: <http://www.arrl.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 becoming a member or your current membership? Send me an email 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

That's going to do it for this month. I sincerely hope that you have enjoyed reading all about what's happening within the Ohio Section Cabinet this month, and that's why we call it a "Journal". I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the many hamfests, club meetings that I attend, or even on the air!

73, Scott, N8SY

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A final – final..



It's my pleasure tonight to get to present the 111th Affiliated Club certificate to the Southern Ohio Amateur Radio Club (SOARA)! They are our newest Affiliated Club and I am doing the presentation at their Christmas Party. Wow.. what a Christmas gift this is! Please help me say Congrats to SOARA for becoming the newest Affiliated Club in the Ohio Section!!

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!!

Know someone that's not getting these Newsletters? Please, forward a copy of this Newsletter over to them and have them "[Opt-In](#)" to start receiving them. Heck, just have them send me an email n8sy@n8sy.com and I'll get them added to the Ohio Section Emailing list.

I urge all of you to make sure that everyone, regardless of whether they are a League member or not, gets signed up to receive these Newsletters. You can always "[Opt-Out](#)" at any time if you feel this is not what you were expecting.

This newsletter is written in a format that will allow you to print it out so that you don't have to read it on your computer screen only anymore. Consider printing out several copies and leaving them on the front table of your next club meeting. What a great way of spreading the news!

And finally, I want to remind everyone that this Thursday is Thanksgiving. It's normally a day that finds us stuffing our faces full of every kind of food imaginable.





Now, as some of you know, my ancestors did not come over on the boat, they were already here and greeted the Pilgrims on the Plymouth shores, and there's actually a monument to the Native Americans at Plymouth Massachusetts recognizing all that they did for the Pilgrims.

The Native Americans actually kept the Pilgrims from starving those first couple of years by teaching them how to survive in this new world. We in the Amateur Radio world call this "ELMERING!!" What do you say, are you up to

the challenge? Become an Elmer to a new or even an older Amateur that needs your help.

Janie and I do want to express our sincerest THANKS to YOU and YOURS for everything that you have done to make the Ohio Section great!

As you stuff your face this Thursday, please remember those who **have and are serving our nation**. For it is these folks that make our Thanksgiving possible!

Also, please don't forget about those who have far less than what we have, be generous, and give when you can.

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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!
