Breaking News..

ARES Connect

I know that many of you have had the complaint that if you missed getting registered for an event your time was lost unless you tracked down an Admin and got them to register you and put your time in for that event. I agree, that option is not really convenient for you or the Admin, and it's a turn off for a lot of folks and because of that many of you even decided not to use the system at all!!! WELL….

We now have a fix for that!!!

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So, with all the fanfare that can be mustered up, I am here to announce that you now can go backwards on the calendar and pick up those events that you did but just didn't get registered for! I've been able to get the system modified so that we ALL now have the ability to go back and pick up those past events. I have already sent out some basic instructions to everyone that was registered in ARES Connect by late Thursday (October 24th) on just how to do this really cool new ability. I have those step by step instructions posted on the ARES Connect "How to's.." section..   http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/connect/index.html

All 1,300+ records have now been modified so that you now have a very modified "Admin" ability. That ability will allow you to go back and add your name and time to any event in the past. **This is an exclusive ability just for those of us in the Ohio Section right now.** No one else in the entire county can do what we are able to do. Once we have proven this out, then the rest of the country will have this option available to them as well. All that I ask of you, is to read the instructions BEFORE you attempt to go backwards and pick up that time. It's not hard, in fact, you'll find it pretty easy to do. But I do want to make sure that you know what you need to know BEFORE you attempt to doing this.

Now, that's not all either… A lot of you have complained that you don't see the reason to have to go in and register each day, week or month for recurring events. I agree with that too!!!! So, if you want to be automatically registered for those recurring events (ie.. nets, meetings…) – the Admins now have the ability to do this for you. Yes, this is only a full Admin privilege, but they now have the ability to go in and set you to be registered for recurring events. This means that once you are registered in the recurrence, you'll be registered and not have to go in each day, week or month to register for each of those same events. Does this sound like what you've been asking for??? Give your "Events Admins" a little time to get trained on this and they will be able to set you for the life of the recurrence if you wish.

I do want you to know that **we are listening** to those complaints and taking action to resolve them when we can. Some of your suggestions we just can't do because the system just isn't designed to do what you want it to do, but when we can, we are striving to change things to help make them easier for you to use.

Now, there's absolutely no reason for you not to register for events and record your time in a timely fashion. I really expect to see those numbers go up now! Please remember that Stan and I do have reports to do too. We need you to have your time entered in all of the past month's events by no later than the 7th of the next following month!!!!

Oh, I also want to add one addition item… On the "Thank You" email that the system sends out there is now a link that if you click on it, will take you directly to the area where you can record your time. How convenient is that!!!

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Newsletter Distribution

I do want to apologize for the past few weeks of the possibility that you may not have been receiving notice that PostScript / Ohio Section Journal was ready and waiting for you to download. It seems that we've had a bit of a change in some email services over the past 4 – 6 weeks that have blocked my notices from coming through. I talked with some of the email services directly and got them to agree to let these emails go through, but some didn't want to continue.

So, with that in mind we went to "Plan B"… We've now contracted the services of Mailchimp to send out the weekly emails. Hopefully by using Mailchimp that will take care of the emailing problems.

I am sorry this wasn't rectified quicker, but you can always go onto the website at any time and pull the latest edition down whether you get notified it's there or not.

Here's a link..   http://arrl-ohio.org/news/index.html

From the Technical Coordinator
Jeff Kopcak – K8JTK   TC
k8jtk@arrl.net

Hey gang,

I received a question last month from Andy - KD8SCV on setting up a digital hotspot transmit frequency compliant with "Line A." I'll address these as two separate issues. If the hotspot or simplex node is within the correct ranges of the band plan, Line A doesn't matter. You're going to need your copy of Part 97.

What is Line A? It is an approximate border between the U.S. and Canada that varies in exact location but is most often 75 miles (about 121 km) from the border.

According to Part 97.3(a):
(30) Line A. Begins at Aberdeen, WA, running by great circle arc to the intersection of 48° N, 120° W, thence along parallel 48° N, to the intersection of 95° W, thence by great circle arc through the southernmost point of Duluth, MN, thence by great circle arc to 45° N, 85° W, thence southward along meridian 85° W, to its intersection with parallel 41° N, thence along parallel 41° N, to its intersection with meridian 82° W, thence by great circle arc through the southernmost point of Bangor, ME, thence by great circle arc through the southernmost point of Searsport, ME, at which point it terminates.

This is the same wording as Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 90.7. Doesn't tell you much, like why does it exist? This information is a little sparse. Possibly to protect land mobile stations in Canada. Land Mobile Service (or LMS) is defined by the ITU as communications between base stations and mobile stations or between mobile stations. Think public service agencies and even private companies to coordinate people, resources, safety, or security.

Amateur Radio is allocated secondary status on most U.S. allocations above 1.25m or the 220 MHz band. 420-450 MHz is shared with federal agencies and military for radar applications such as PARCS located in North Dakota near the Canadian border. As it pertains to the

Amateur Radio service:
(1) No amateur station shall transmit from north of Line A in the 420-430 MHz segment. See §97.3(a) for the definition of Line A (Part 97.303(m)).

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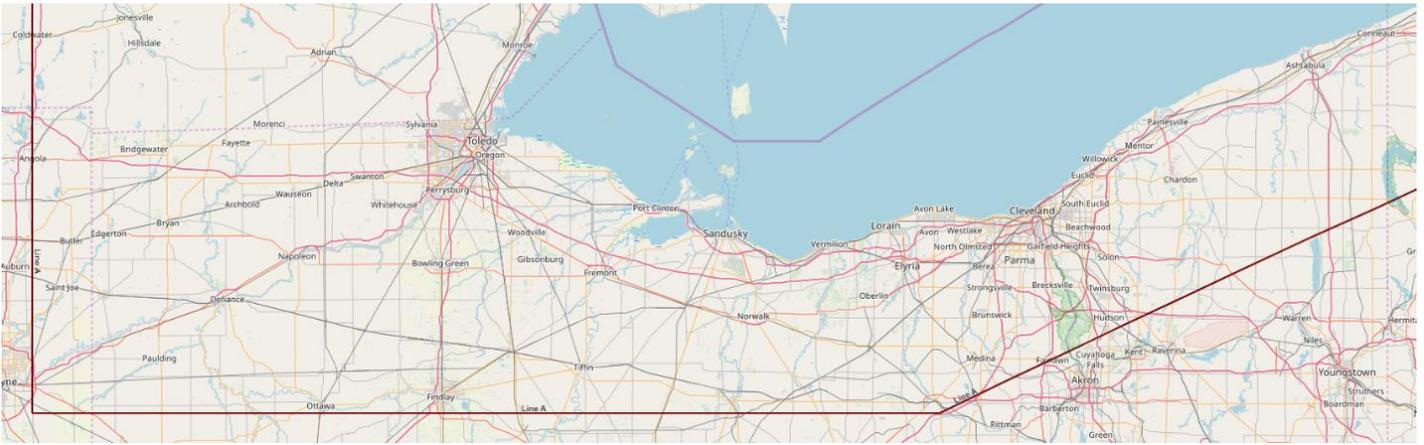
Line A (maroon) overlay. (FCC)

For stations in the western part of the state north of 41° N, no transmissions between 420-430 MHz can be made. This includes the cities of Ottawa, Findlay, Tiffin, Willard, New London, and Lodi. Close to the intersection of State Route 83 and Interstate 71, near the cities of Lodi in Medina county and Burbank in Wayne county, is where 41° N and 82° W intersect. From that location, Line A takes a northeast trajectory to Bangor, ME. North of Line A constitutes Medina, much of the Cuyahoga Valley, Hudson, bisects Streetsboro and Mantua, Hiram, West Farmington, North Bloomfield, and Andover.

For those wondering, there is a Line B, Line C, and Line D. In Canada, Line B is opposite to Line A while Line C and D divide the Alaskan border with Canada. There is no mention of Line C in Part 97. Land mobile stations licensed north of Line A or east of Line C requires additional coordination with Canadian authorities.

PARCS Radar station (Wikipedia)

The FCC has provided a couple resources that depict Line A and check Line A coordinates. The checking site won't accept Google Maps coordinate format. It requires NAD83. I found a converter that worked well. On a Google Map, left-click until a small gray marker appears on the map. Coordinates will appear in a pop-up in the lower-center of the map. 41.460459, -81.911875 for example. Copy them. Go to the West Virginia coordinate conversion website. Paste them under "Input Coordinates." "Lat/Lon WGS 1984" should already be selected. Under "Output Coordinates," select "Lat/Lon NAD83." Click Covert. Copy the output coordinates (removing the negative symbol and spaces) into the FCC Line A check site. Example Lat: 412737.6, Lon: 815442.7. The site will return "North of Line A" or "South of Line A" for the relative location.

As a general rule, don't transmit 420-430 MHz within 80 miles from the Canadian border and you'll be golden.

For everyone, the following applies in Part 97.303(m):
(2) Amateur stations transmitting in the 420-430 MHz segment must not cause harmful interference to, and must accept interference from, stations authorized by the FCC in the land mobile service within 80.5 km of Buffalo, Cleveland, and Detroit. See §2.106, footnote US230 for specific frequencies and coordinates.

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(3) Amateur stations transmitting in the 420-430 MHz segment or the 440-450 MHz segment must not cause harmful interference to, and must accept interference from, stations authorized by other nations in the fixed and mobile except aeronautical mobile services.

80.5 km is a little more than 50 mi. Check the FCC or Radio Reference sites for issued licenses between 420 and 430 MHz in Ohio. Many licenses are assigned in the Cleveland and Toledo areas.

My OSJ article last year, though pertaining to hotspots and satellites, addressed the hotspot frequency question nicely. I'll reiterate because this is important. Under Part 97, hotspot devices are considered an auxiliary station. In general, advice would be to 'check with the local frequency coordinator' but experience with the coordinating group indicates they won't be of any help. Where should you operate a digital hotspot or digital simplex node? I do like the ARRL's Band Plan because it spells out many details not included in graphical representations. *Note: this advice only applies to the U.S. band plan.* The band plan has allowances in the following frequency ranges for simplex, auxiliary stations and control links:

- 146.400 – 146.580. Usable (at 12.5 KHz spacing): 146.4125 – 146.5675
- 433.000 – 435.000. Usable (at 12.5 KHz spacing): 433.0125 – 434.9875
- 445.000 – 447.000. Usable (at 12.5 KHz spacing): 445.0125 – 446.9875

"Usable" indicates the lower and upper frequency limits that can be used and programmed into a digital hotspot. Don't forget to stay away from the national calling frequencies of 146.520 and 446.000. Some of these ranges are shared with repeater links so remember: **it is your responsibility to ensure correct operation of your equipment and find a frequency not already in use before using it!** There is **NO** excuse for not adjusting frequency to eliminate interference with other operators and equipment! Listen to the desired frequency by setting up a radio or scanner with the volume turned up. If you hear any kind of obvious traffic, data bursts, or digital screeching, pick another frequency then rinse and repeat.

Raspberry Pi Zero ZUMspot

Notice none of these allowances include frequency restrictions imposed by Line A.

Every hotspot user and repeater owner reading this needs to verify your operating frequencies and take corrective action, if required. Auxiliary stations cannot operate within the satellite sub bands. Many hotspots are operating there illegally. Satellite sub bands for 2 & 440 are:

- 2 m: 145.800 – 146.000
- 70 cm: 435.000 – 438.000

If your hotspot is operating near edges where deviation would fall into an unauthorized band segment, operating "out-of-band" (ie: weak-signal, satellite), or operating 420-430 MHz and located "North of Line A", you need to take corrective action now! Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!

Yahoo! Groups is going away! Since 2001, the service allowed users to "build relationships, stay in touch, share ideas, and discuss interests through the convenience of popular e-mail and Web-based tools." Many ham radio groups over the years have used or are using Yahoo! Groups to coordinate and collaborate.
An SSTV Net in Cleveland used Yahoo! Groups to share received pictures and offer support for stations having trouble with their setup. It was the first time I used the service.

TOP^

Special interest groups formed on a wide variety of topics including scanner information, D-STAR, DMR, and System Fusion.

A note sent to users laid out the timeline of the impending shutdown:

Beginning October 28 you won't be able to upload any more content to the site, and as of December 14 all previously posted content on the site will be permanently removed. You'll have until that date to save anything you've uploaded.

Moving or saving data needs to happen relatively quickly should you or group members want to keep the information. Read this knowledge base article to understand the changes and information on how to save content from your groups. Steps don't seem quick or easy.

An ARS Technica article provides more details on the shutdown. Citing a successful service with 110 million users in 2010, Yahoo failed to adequately compete in other areas after being acquired by Verizon. Verizon responded by cutting budgets and staff.

I mentioned Groups.io in July as a service I joined earlier this year to keep updated on different ham radio projects. Feedback has been positive, and many are recommending it as a place to transition before the shutdown. Groups.io doesn't serve ads, track users, and has a better reputation than Facebook, which I neither use nor trust. Featuring a modern platform for communities to connect through messaging, calendar, chat, polls, databases, photos, wiki, and integration with a list of other platforms. Great place for projects to post documentation and offer support or as a platform to keep in-touch with club members. Some indicated greater engagement with club members and more attendance.

A wiki article posted contains instructions for moving content to Groups.io. It indicates transfers need to be initiated before December 1, 2019 to guarantee the transfer of content from Yahoo! Groups to Groups.io – though Yahoo was having issues with Photos.

Last month, I was invited to give a presentation at the meeting of the Lake County Amateur Radio Association (LCARA). The presentation was about, well, me. I talk about my biography including schooling, how I got involved with groups, jobs, and other presentations I've put together. Most importantly, talk about the duties and responsibilities of the Ohio Section Technical Coordinator and technical resources available to hams in the Ohio Section. I had a great time as I don't get out to Lake county often and it was a fantastic day for a drive. The club was very welcoming. LCARA has many members passionate about different aspects of the hobby and they report on each during their meeting. A good time was had by all.

If you would like to know more about the TC position within the Ohio Section or want to know more about the technical resources available in our section, contact myself or a Technical Specialist.


Thanks for reading

73… de Jeff – K8JTK

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From the Section Emergency Coordinator
Stan Broadway, N8BHL - SEC
broadways@standi.com

Special Report:

The Simulated Emergency Test

The first week of October is always the ARRL's Simulated Emergency Test (SET). This test is designed to get us out and working in preparation for events we hope never come. It's not just a chance thing that amateur radio operators are the ones who know how and can get a communications signal from a disaster stricken area. We can also use our skills here at home- for an ice storm, missing person, communications loss or many other types of events.

As in the last couple of years, the overall Ohio exercise fell under the title "Black Swan".

Orchestrated by Assistant SEC Matt Curtin, KD8TTE, the Black Swan 2019 was recognized by the Ohio EMA, Ohio National Guard, Ohio Military Reserve and many other agencies.   Those agencies were acting on a severe weather scenario, with a resulting major power outage. Primarily an exercise in message traffic and interoperability, Black Swan 2019 had strangely formatted messages coming from all over the country concerning health & welfare, disaster response and sheltering.

Within that umbrella, our ARES SET for Ohio had the goal of re-focusing our attention to more local activities, getting people out and about, and most important producing a map of simplex coverage that can be applied in real life for a real event. And that's exactly what we did!

Here's an example of the outcome- Mike Huffman, W8MDC, prepared this map from Delaware County's results. This type of information will be invaluable if needed for a real activation.

On the state level, we so far have a lot of the state covered, with more reports coming in.

According to IS-213's submitted during the exercise, and a few official "AAR" reports (Form A) submitted this far, we had approximately 265 volunteers deployed around the state doing the simplex testing. I suspect the real number is quite a bit larger. It's encouraging to see this response!

We also know several counties are doing their own exercises as SET drills (Athens, Franklin, Lucas and more).

An additional part of SET was sending message traffic. Any amateur simply needs to know that stuff!! I have nearly ½" stack of messages delivered to the Sarge. Most were via HF digital, and most were ICS-213's. This is excellent. Now for the shocker (to me at least)… the Ohio traffic nets actually passed 213's successfully! This is major- it brings the traffic nets into the current century, where we can serve our agencies with the forms ~they~ require.
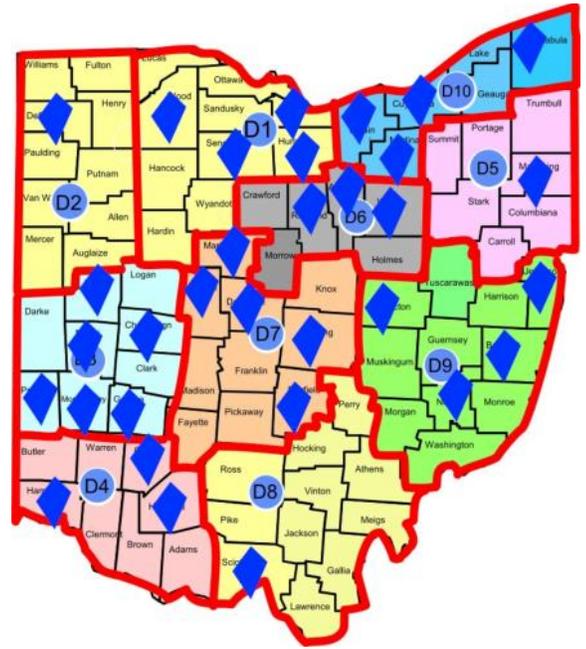
Brent Stover, District 1 DEC WD8PNZ, added this perspective (edited):

Just some of my thoughts on the SET. I really liked the concept of this year's SET and I personally felt it was one that was important, and everyone should have been made to participate. The information from the simplex map would have been very valuable to me should the SHTF. I arrived at the Emergency Services Building downtown Toledo at 8:30 to warm up the equipment. I started my calls at 9pm. On calling the EC's, Seneca answered and was doing an aggressive SET and did send me updates. Seneca County is my HERO! I was able to communicate via simplex to my ADEC Rob Hall who was about 12 miles away who was set up for HF digital and he was able to communicate with Columbus. A couple other amateurs from Lucas County who knew we would be on the county simplex frequency checked in to the net.

Just some of my thoughts. I feel this was an important SET and just once wish it was a mandatory participating event this one time. If things got bad, at least we would have a basic plan we could use and practice. That's my 2 cents worth.
Brent

Another participant in SET made the news-

In Greene County, Ohio, one public official not only observed the ARES Simulated Emergency Test (SET) this month but participated in it with Greene County ARES (GCARES). Greene County Sheriff Gene Fischer, KX8GCS ("Greene County Sheriff"), checked in when the Resource Net Control, Bob Baker, N8ADO, of Beavercreek, called for volunteers. Although the suggested scenario called for only using simplex, GCARES used the Xenia Amateur Radio Weather Net (XWARN) repeater to reach out for as many volunteers as possible. Net volunteers then switched to a simplex tactical net to communicate with the GCARES Command Center.

Before the SET, Fischer let Greene County ARES Emergency Coordinator Henry Ruminski, W8HJR, know that he planned to participate in the SET to determine how well his handheld radio would perform in an emergency situation. While he found it okay for getting into the resource net, it was less than adequate for effective simplex operation.

Sheriff Fischer had an intense introduction to ham radio in the spring of 2017 when the Dayton Hamvention® moved to Xenia, and his department dealt with traffic control and other issues created by the influx of more than 25,000 visitors.

At the urging of several hams, Fischer subsequently got his license, and his wife became relicensed. Fischer has since upgraded to General.

Ruminski said the SET was "relatively successful." Signals could have been better from some locations, but most stations were able to communicate with command, he said. Lessons learned will be used to improve future emergency communication plans. — Thanks to Henry Ruminski, W8HJR

EC's: PLEASE PLEASE send in your Form A After Action Report to Steve Ewald at the League! Ohio gets points for participating, and I'd like to see us at the top!

A word about commitment
You know, Brent's comments struck home with me. There were a number of counties who apparently just decided not to play in the SET. I don't know whether it's "Been there done that" or "Call me if you need me" but it cannot be acceptable. If you consider what all we might be called to do in Ohio, we simply have to stay in practice! We – all of you - have worked hard over the past years to bring amateur radio and ARES into good standing with our partner agencies, including the state. In order to keep that status, we have to show a commitment to improving! If you're going to join any organization, it seems to me that you should act on your commitment to be a part. Yeah, it takes time and a little effort. But it's worth it!   I thank those who show their commitment every day, every month! I urge those who lay back to get involved… it will be worth your time.

73, Stan N8BHL

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

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SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST SHOWS ANDERSON IS PREPARED
(By Justin Patrick Moore, KE8COY)

Hamilton County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) members participated in a Simulated Emergency Test (SET) exercise, Saturday October 5. The purpose of this event was to practice methods of emergency communications across Anderson Township. The SET is an annual nation-wide exercise sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national organization that supports amateur radio.

The Anderson Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was ground zero for county hams during the exercise this year. ARES member Marty Newhall, KE8CEI worked with the Anderson Fire Department to establish an Amateur Radio Station at the EOC as an auxiliary and backup communications system.

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Groundwork for this radio station was established by former Fire Department Chief Mark Ober with continued support from current Chief Richard Martin and Assistant Chief Bob Herlinger. Working together the station they put in place has the capability for city wide communication and could be used to provide a link to the Regional Operations Center (ROC). Another radio that is part of this set up can be used for long range communications to talk and send messages to the State Operations Center in Columbus (SOC), as was tested and achieved on that Saturday. As a ham radio station the equipment at the EOC has the potential to communicate across North America and even the world.

For the exercise this station was staffed by Keary Henkener a Fireman for Anderson is as well as being a ham and member of ARES. He serves as the liaison between the two organizations. The radio station at the EOC was also manned by Marty and Ed Frambes, K8EAF, a retired police officer who puts in many volunteer hours for ARES.

Using portable and mobile equipment the other participants fanned out to a number of different locations throughout Anderson and surrounding areas, from Coney Island to the Little Miami River Park, and many points in between. The purpose was to exchange messages from their locations in the field back to the operators at the Anderson EOC and pinpoint locations where radio signals might have trouble getting through.

With Anderson's location being on a hill between the Ohio River and the Little Miami River there are a lot of dips and valleys, or what radio operators call "holes". Radio signals can easily fly right over a hole. If an emergency situation takes place and a transmission cannot make it into or out of the hole, it could make a serious issue worse. In these situations hams have the habit and skill of using relay stations to get the message out. Hospitals and nursing home locations were among the many points tested.

The annual exercise confirmed that ham radio operators are prepared to provide emergency communications to the Anderson EOC, the SOC, and across the counties, state and even the country during a disaster.

From the Affiliated Club Coordinator
Tom Sly, WB8LCD - ACC
tomsly29@gmail.com

OUTSTANDING!

Two things I'm going to hit on this month to help make your club outstanding!

First off, Ham Radio is a fantastic hobby with lots of things to do, that most people just don't have available to them. Getting a license is the "Gatekeeper" to participating in all of the fun things that Hams do. Let's say you're just the average non-ham person out there on the street today. You hear about Ham Radio and think it might be kinda fun. You watch some Youtube videos, buy a book, study hard, find an exam session, pass the tech test and go home. You get your license and go online to buy a radio. Wow! There's a lot of stuff to sort through, so you go back to the club that had the VE session and go to one of their club meetings.

The donuts and coffee are OK. The presentation by the county dog warden is interesting, but not useful. You do manage to talk to a couple of old guys who tell you the first thing you need to get is a handi-talkie. You find one online, get it, and find out that getting it programmed for the local repeater is not as intuitive as you would have hoped for.   Wait a month, go to the next meeting and get a couple guys at the coffee break to help you get a couple repeaters loaded up in it. Over the next few days you listen, make a few calls, but there's not too much happening. Net Night comes along and everyone is there! They all call in one by one, get checked in and ask if there is anyone else. You key up, make the call, and you've got your first contact! "KE8ZZZ, congratulations on being a new ham, thanks for checking into the net tonight. Anyone else out there who would like to check in?"

 This might not exactly be the thrill that Mr. New Ham was looking for. If we are going to get new people coming into the hobby, and keep them interested and active, we have to be deliberate in helping them get on the right path. It helps if your club has at least one or two other activities running each month besides the meeting and the net so a new ham can come and participate in some sort of Ham Radio *operating* activity. Maybe even a regularly scheduled "New Ham Orientation". (This might even be a good event for clubs to work together on.) This could be their first opportunity to see lots of ham radio activities all at once, including some basic "hands-on" training in getting their own equipment on the air. One thing that has to be deliberate in all of this is promoting the concept that their Tech license is just the first step, and that they need to take the next step as quickly as possible! Upgrade to the General class license.

This is key. About 50% of the hams in the US hold a Tech class license. It's my belief that there are a lot of inactive hams, and/or hams that just let their license lapse because they were just not as excited about what they could do with their hobby only having a Tech license. As an "Outstanding" club, we need to be deliberate about motivating new hams to move up to the General class license as quickly as possible.

If you look at the exams, the step up from Technician to General class is really not that big a step. If you look at the step up in operating privileges between the Tech and General – it's HUGE! I truly believe that if we get new hams involved in the activities of the hobby and help them get to the next stage as quickly as possible, we will end up with interested and active hams, and club members.

Even if your club is one of the truly OUTSTANDING clubs, you can't be all things to all people. There are other organizations that your club members should belong to and participate in. There is one organization that *every* ham should belong to: ARRL. The American Radio Relay League is the only organization whose purpose includes representing our hobby to governments, legislators and the FCC. Without them, our hobby would probably not exist for very long. Looking at a Frequency Allocation chart, noting where Amateur Radio has frequency allocations, it's easy to see that we have Billions of Dollars worth of radio spectrum. It's all there for us to use for our own personal enjoyment. Without the ARRL looking out for our interests, Government, Military and Business interests would have our frequency allocations taken away from us at just about the same speed that radio waves travel!

It's hard to imagine that the percentage of people who hold an Amateur Radio license and are also ARRL members is well below 50%! Every one of our club members should be encouraged to be a member of the ARRL. Our survival into the future depends on it. But it could also be a big boost to the survival of your club. Of all the Amateur Radio publications (magazines, newsletters, podcasts, etc…) that I see every month, the one I look forward to the most is QST. I can always count on it to have articles on several areas that I have personal interest in, and, there are always articles on topics that I may not be currently involved with, but I certainly find interesting.

I get to see "the big picture" of everything that is going on in the world of Amateur Radio. By supporting the ARRL to our club members, especially new or returning hams, they will be exposed to a much broader view of all the areas of Amateur Radio they have available to them to participate in.

The ARRL also provides a huge amount of resources to support not only your individual participation in Ham Radio, but also to support your club efforts. To that end, they offer you a "Club Commission Program". The ARRL will pay your club a commission of $15 on every new membership application you submit, as well as a renewal commission of $2 on every renewal application you submit. Note: commission is for a "regular" membership only – there is no commission paid for family, blind or 21-and-under discounted memberships and this program cannot be combined with any other promotion or special offer. Membership applications and club submittal forms are located at:
http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Membership/ARRLAffiliatedClubMembershipApplication.pdf

If your club has 20 members who each renew their ARRL membership through the club program, your club will earn $40. If you also add 5 new ARRL members through the club program your club will get an additional $75 for a total of $115. If you need any additional information to get this program going at your club, send me an email or give me a call. (wb8lcd@arrl.net   or 330-554-4650)

I have 3 goals for my next year (2020) as the Ohio Section Affiliated Club Coordinator:
- First, I want to see the number hams in the OH Section continue to grow,
- Second, I want to see the number of hams who have their General class license grow to the largest percentage of hams in the OH Section,
- Third, I want to see the percentage of hams in the OH Section who are ARRL members grow.

If the OH Section can achieve these 3 goals next year, the OH Section will have had a fantastic year! Every club who participates in making this happen will be moving itself towards becoming, or, maintaining itself as one of the OUTSTANDING clubs of the OH Section. In the January edition of the OH Section Journal, I'll list the statistics that we'll be tracking, and I'll try to give us a quarterly scorecard as to how we are progressing through the year. In the meantime, we are approaching some prime operating time. As K8ZT once said to me

"It's time to put your butt in the chair and get on the air!"

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

73, Tom WB8LCD

From the Public Information Coordinator
John Ross, KD8IDJ - PIC
john.ross3@worldnet.att.net

FROM THE PIC

Would You Like Deer Meat Chili With that Boat Anchor?

I was reminded a couple of weeks ago the importance of small-town ham fests.

On a nice Fall Saturday morning I drove to Chillicothe for the Scioto Valley Amateur Radio Club's get together and was immediately reminded what I had been missing.

Just past Circleville I dialed up their repeater and to my surprise there was plenty of chatter! Sure, there was some talk about the ham fest but rest of the conversations were MUCH MORE entertaining. Breakfast was a big topic as was "why to do we need breakfast when we can eat the ham fest?"

Then there was the in-depth discussion about Deer Meat Chili!!! "I think it tastes too salty," said one ham. "Well, that depends on the deer." was one quick response followed by a series of different recipes and swipes at the chef.

I managed to break in for some directions, they were glad I was coming, and then back to the morning rag chewing.

The set up at the Lions Club was nice…several tables of premium merchandise. A cup of coffee and slow waking resulted in several Good Mornings and a fascinating story about Deer hunting.

All the time, I could hear these folks talking to each other, joking, laughing, swapping stories and just plain having a good time.

TOP^

Back to the repeater conversations. I realized that while these "good ole folks" were bantering back and forth there was something more important going on. While they were talking to each other they were also practicing the art of communications…and amateur radio! I know now that you could take any part of their transmissions, substitute the word EMERGENCY for Deer Meat Chili, and you would hear one of the finest, most effective nets that amateur radio has to offer.

We can learn all of the technical terms, buzz words and phrases pretty fast but real communication needs additional steps…It needs what the SVARC has…respect, friendship and comradery. Without those we can key a transmitter all day long and not send a message.

Clubs like the SVARC are the fabric of amateur radio They make up the very threads that hold our hobby together and keep it strong.

My thanks to the SVARC for helping an old ham remember the finer…maybe the finest.. things about amateur radio.

Also, my recommendation….continue to go to the larger ham fests but save a few weekends for the roads less traveled and stop by a friendly small town ham fest.

Michigan Amateur Radio !

Amateur Radio is alive and well in Michigan!

I had the chance a couple of weeks ago to talk to Ralph Katz…the new PIC for the Michigan Section.

Ralph is a seasoned ham but now entering the new world of media/public relations, publicity, newsletters and being a front man for the Michigan Section. As editors, writers and publishers we all know what Ralph is experiencing. His dilemma made me think that all of us maybe should pause, take a look at where were are, how we do things and evaluate…re-evaluate…what we do, how we doing and how could we make it better. A journalist pause, if you will.

I suggested to Ralph to start with the numbers…how many clubs, how many members, important dates and events. All things every PIO should do routinely as a measure of growth…or decline.

Getting to know the folks you need to communicate with and how often really helps especially if you can't meet in person. Logistics is a prime component to good communications. I also suggested he become best friends with his Section Manager! You need be at… or around… the same wave length as your manager…just like PIO's should be with their club president.

Ralph had a follow up question about Social Media…always a good question….about a medium that changes daily and not always for the best. You always want any media talking for you…not about you. It's a fine line among a fractured system of methods and processes that we need to watch carefully.

It might be a good idea….now that the end of the year is approaching…to sit down, look back at this past year, look forward maybe a couple of years, and re-adjust your compass, your approach and just where you want to be in the future. It may open new ideas, new ways to improve what's important to us all of….Amateur Radio.

TOP^

My best to Ralph on his new position. I know if he needs help ANY Ohio Section Member will be glad to chip in. And just for the record, as an OSU ALUM, (GO BUCKS) I have never typed the word Michigan so many times in one column!!!!!

2020 NEWSLETTER CONTEST

About a month from now we will begin accepting entries for the 2020 Ohio Section Newsletter Contest…the longest running contest in the country!!

The rules are the same…you'll need to two different months of newsletters to enter. Email them, or if they are electronic or web-based, send the link.

The deadline is the end of June and the winners will be announced at the Ohio Section State Convention that will be held during the DX Engineering Hamfest on August 8th .

We had a great crop of entries this year and great winners. Congratulations, again, to everyone…I'm looking forward to another great year.

PIC PODCAST

The PIC PODCAST is on assignment this month.

Stand by for a new show in December.

HALLOWEEN QSL

For the past couple of years, I have trying to carve my callsign into a pumpkin…didn't work.

So, here's my Halloween QSL.

73 and HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

John E. Ross KD8IDJ
Ohio Section Public Information Coordinator

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

Bottled water is a popular item to store in case of an emergency. It is normally readily available, and water should be able to be stored forever; right? So then why is there an expiration date on bottled water? Keep reading the answer is here!

SET 2019 for Ohio has been completed however the Central Ohio Traffic Net and some others may still receive SET test messages throughout the month of October. It appeared that there was a fair quantity of traffic passed. With Black Swan there was some interoperability with military stations using 60 meters. If you didn't participate or originate traffic you missed an opportunity to make Ohio really shine.

Each net and section is to report their activity to the ARRL using forms on the ARRL website. The activity reports will be analyzed, and a report will be issued later as sort of a grade for each section. The forms are easy to fill out and will report your net activity. These forms for SET Net Managers can be found at http://www.arrl.org/public-service-field-services-forms

Mathew KD8TTE has already completed the form for COTN. As an example the form is shown here.

2019 NM SET Report (FORM B)

Please fill out this report in triplicate (one copy to ARRL Headquarters, one copy to your STM, one copy for your files). **Deadline for reporting is February 3, 2020**.
Mail to ARRL HQ, or e-mail the form to sewald@arrl.org. Thank you.

ARRL Section:
        OHIO
Net Name: Central Ohio Traffic Net
Coverage Area: Central Ohio, roughly Ohio ARES District 7 (10 counties)
**Net Manager's   KD8TTE
Call   sign:**
E-mail address: kd8tte@arrl.net

**Date of SET   Oct 5-6, 2019
activity:**

Is the net associated with ARES?	NO	
Is the net associated with RACES?	YES	
Is the net part of the National Traffic System?	YES	
Liaison was maintained with which NTS nets?		
Traffic totals:	Emergency ____ 0 Priority ____ 12 Welfare ____ 33 Routine ____ 71 ICS- 213 ____ 6 TOTAL ____ 122	
Total time of operation:	25__Hours 55___Minutes	

	Computation of score			Points
a	TOTAL number of messages handled	122	X 1	122
b	Number of different stations participating	37	X 2	74
c	Number of different stations checking-in on emergency power	25	X 2	50
d	Number of new amateurs (licensed since 2015) participating	13	X 3	39
e	Number of different net control stations	7	X 5	35
f	Number of different stations performing NTS liaison (including stations who liaise *from* local nets to higher nets)	7	X 5	35
	TOTAL NUMBER OF POINTS FOR NET SET OPERATION			355

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

Morning session	**10:30 AM**	**3972.5 KHz**	**every day**
Afternoon session	**4:15 PM**	**3972.5 KHz**	**every day**
Evening session	**6:45 PM**	**3972.5 KHz**	**every day**

TOP^

OHIO HF CW TRAFFIC NETS

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

All net frequencies plus or minus QRM. The net information on these pages may contain errors concerning net times, dates and frequencies. I do apologize in advance for these errors and would appreciate knowing about them.

OHIO LOCAL VHF TRAFFIC NETS

VHF NETS	NET TIMES	FREQUENCY	NET MANAGERS
BRTN	9:30 PM MON, SAT 9:30 PM WED	147.150 146.700	KD8GXL
COTN	7:15 PM DAILY	146.970	KD8TTE
MVTN	7:00 PM Mon	146.640	KC8HTP
NWOHARES	6:30 PM DAILY	147.375	N8TNV
TCTTN	9 PM Sun, Tues, Fri	147.015	WB8YYS
TATN	8:00 PM DAILY	146.670 PL123	WG8Z

BRTN	Burning River Traffic Net
COTN	Central Ohio Traffic Net
MVTN	Miami Valley Traffic Net
NWOHARES	Northwest Ohio ARES Net
TCTTN	Tri-County Traffic Training Net
TATN	Tri-State Amateur Traffic Net

Why Morse Code?

If you can talk FM on two meters, or SSB on HF, why should you be concerned at all about Morse Code, also known as CW.

However, there are good reasons why you should learn Morse code. Having a level of Morse proficiency that is of real use on the air, meaning that you can copy at 12-13 wpm or more, will add immeasurably to your enjoyment of Amateur Radio.

Such rewarding HF activities as DX'ing, contesting and QRP operating still rely heavily on CW. Thousands of hams enjoy CW for its own appeal as a relaxing mode different from most other means of communication. And even on VHF and higher frequencies, you'll find that exciting activities such as Moon bounce and weak-signal work still require Morse skills for full participation. Every day is a good day to operate on CW, but set some time aside on New Year's Eve and Day to enjoy Straight Key Night (SKN). The annual event gets under way a 0000 UTC on January 1, 2019 (New Year's Eve in US time zones). The 24-hour event is not a contest but a day dedicated to celebrating our CW heritage.

Many newcomers exploring ham radio were discouraged by the need to learn Morse code. In the United States, that requirement to know Morse code to get an amateur radio license was dropped in 1991, and completely removed in 2007.

Morse Code used to be required as an entry requirement to HF ham communications. The entry level speed was 5 words per minute (WPM). That speed is slow enough to learn the basics, get on the air, and increase your speed through practice. Yes, I started as a Novice way back at 5 WPM and could copy about 13 WPM to get my General license.

I thought I'd want to get enough code speed to get on SSB voice. I did that but discovered something I didn't expect. Sometimes, the band was so poor that I couldn't hear a single voice station on SSB. But, when I tuned down to the Morse code CW portion of the band, lo and behold, there were CW contacts going on.
I learned that Morse code needs only about a tenth of the power of SSB to make a contact. Or, stated another way, if you use Morse code, it's like getting an amplifier for your transmitter for free! We all know that there are days you'd be desperate for a contact with SSB, and it appears that you can make contacts with Morse code!
In the early days if you lived in Ohio and wanted to test for a ham license you went to an FCC office in Cleveland or Detroit. The test I took for my general was given in an office setting with phone ringing and office type activity all around me. Since those early days the FCC decided to use Volunteer Examiners to do their testing. This provided a quieter and more relaxed atmosphere to take the test especially after the FCC dropped the code test requirements

If you didn't have a buddy to learn code with you had to use records like the Ameco code course like I did. You supplemented you record course by copying W1AW code transmissions over the air. At that time, it was common to count dots and dashed and mentally convert them to letters to write on paper.
Since then it has become commonly known that the best was to learn code was not to count dots and dashes but to learn the sound of each individual letter. Also available today are a multitude of websites, clubs and computer programs to use to learn the code the proper way.

Why not slower than 15 words per minute?
Because at a somewhat slower speed you can count the individual dots and dashes rather than having your brain treat each character as a distinct, integrated sound pattern. When you hear Morse code sent at 5 wpm for learning such a slow speed is counterproductive. You don't learn the sounds that lead to instantaneous recognition. And, far worse, it programs the brain to count individual dots and dashes — precisely what you don't want it to do! This eventually has to be unlearned and presents a formidable barrier to actually learning useful code.

To some degree, previous government regulations are to blame: In earlier times the FCC imposed a Morse code requirement of 5 wpm for the Novice Class amateur radio license, causing legions of radio amateurs to get on precisely the wrong track. And to this day there are well-intentioned individuals, clubs, and organizations that recommend starting at 5 wpm!

You should start on your road to success by throwing some time-honored ham-radio traditions out the window where they belong. These are:

Slow (5 wpm) code -- It ought to be illegal to teach anyone code at 5 wpm. Every minute spent toying with 5 wpm code is irrevocably wasted. In addition, as we'll see later, starting with slow code is a virtually guaranteed path to frustration and quitting. Morse at 5 wpm and Morse at 15 or 20 wpm are completely different critters, and you don't want to waste time on the wrong one.

Charts, mnemonics, musical cues and other "memory aids" -- These things make you think about what you're doing while trying to copy code. That is deadly to proficient copying.

Code tapes -- In very short order, and unconsciously, you'll memorize the tape. This will lull you into false confidence in your ability. That false confidence will be quickly shattered when you hear transmitted text that you haven't memorized.

Copying QSOs off the air -- You don't know the speed of code you find on the bands, and much code on the air is pretty badly sent. All this makes it useless for training purposes. Formal code-practice sessions, such as those on W1AW, are OK, however.

Now that you know what you're not going to do, let's start examining just how you can best gain code proficiency.

There are hundreds if not thousands of websites available about Morse code. To get you started below here are a few of the websites with information and programs to help you get started on you adventure into the world of Morse code. Remember that you are not going to count dot and dashes a 5 WPM, but you are going to want to start at a higher speed and learn the sounds.

W1AW Morse Code Practice Transmissions

W1AW transmits practice Morse Code at the following times (*See* code speed information *below*):

Day	Code Speeds	UTC Summer	UTC Winter	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Mon	Fast	21:00	20:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00
	Slow	00:00 (Tue)	23:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00
	Fast	04:00 (Tue)	03:00 (Tue)	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00
Tue	Fast	14:00	13:00	06:00	07:00	08:00	09:00
	Slow	21:00	20:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00
	Fast	00:00 (Wed)	23:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00
	Slow	04:00 (Wed)	03:00 (Wed)	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00

TOP^

Wed	Slow	14:00	13:00	06:00	07:00	08:00	09:00
	Fast	21:00	20:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00
	Slow	00:00 (Thur)	23:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00
	Fast	04:00 (Thur)	03:00 (Thurs)	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00
Thur	Fast	14:00	13:00	06:00	07:00	08:00	09:00
	Slow	21:00	20:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00
	Fast	00:00 (Fri)	23:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00
	Slow	04:00 (Fri)	03:00 (Fri)	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00
Fri	Slow	14:00	13:00	06:00	07:00	08:00	09:00
	Fast	21:00	20:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00
	Slow	00:00 (Sat)	23:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00
	Fast	04:00 (Sat)	03:00 (Sat)	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00

Code Practice Speeds
Slow code practice sessions progress through the following transmission speeds:
5 Words Per Minute
7.5 Words Per Minute
10 Words Per Minute
13 Words Per Minute
15 Words Per Minute

Fast code practice sessions progress through at the following transmission speeds:
35 Words Per Minute
30 Words Per Minute
25 Words Per Minute
20 Words Per Minute
15 Words Per Minute
13 Words Per Minute
Daily Morse Code Practice QST Source:
http://www.arrl.org/code-practice-qst-source

www.arrl.org/ Search for Morse Code

http://www.g4fon.net/

http://www.g4fon.net/CW%20Trainer.htm

http://www.justlearnmorsecode.com/
KJ6ART Code Course:
http://kj6art.com/?page_id=76
http://www.ac6v.com/morseprograms.php
https://www.w3vpr.org/node/385

If you start now you can be ready for Straight Key Night in January. You could also be ready for that next CW DX contest.

So then why is there an expiration date on bottled water? Of course; water doesn't expire; but you should still check the expiration date on the bottle before you drink it. According to Live Science; there are two reasons why water bottles come with expiration dates; and the first one; you shouldn't worry too much about; but the second one should make you think twice.

Since water is a consumable product; regulations and laws require bottles to be stamped with an expiration date even though water doesn't ever "expire." Rational people understand this; but the government feels the need to step in and protect us from ourselves anyway. The only reason they were put there in the first place was that a 1987 New Jersey state law required all food products to display an expiration date; including water; according to Mental Floss. Since it wasn't very cost effective for companies to label and ship batches of expiration-dated water to one state alone; most bottled water producers simply started giving every bottle a two-year sell-by date—no matter where it was going. Because the law is rather arbitrary; don't worry too much about drinking expired water just because a law demands a company stamp the bottle. However; the expiration date serves more of a warning about the bottle itself than the water contained inside.

Anytime the government get involved you can expect something strange to happen. So now when you drink that bottle of water you have something to smile about

Until next time remember "We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone"
Ronald Reagan
HAVE A HAPPY BEGGER'S NIGHT

73
David WA3EZN
SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGER - OHIO

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

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

Gamification & Amateur Radio II- Contesting

Before we get started with this month's column, I want to address a question I periodically get from hams around the state about youth in Amateur Radio-- "is there a school, scouting group, youth group involved in AR near me?" Unfortunately, I often don't have a good answer.

So, I would like to start a statewide registry of school, scouting and youth group Amateur Radio groups around Ohio. But as usual, I will need your help. If you are the contact person for a youth-oriented AR group in Ohio please follow this link to fill out a registration form or if you know someone who is involved please share this link with them- http://tiny.cc/osl-form. When registering you will have complete control of what information will be shared with the public about your group. I will make the approved registration information available on the ARRL Ohio Section website on my cabinet page- www.arrl-ohio.org/syc/index.html. Now back to our normal monthly column...

Last month's OSJ column covered **gamification**. One of the gamification examples was AR Contesting. This month I want to present a description of some of the major AR contests that occur during cooler/colder months of the year.

Fall and Winter in the Northern Hemisphere brings an increase in the number of major Amateur Radio Contests. After a late September/ early October warmup with the *Scandinavian Activity Contests (SAC)*, the *CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY* and the *California QSO Party (CQP)* the largest State QSO Party the contesting season kicks into high gear.

One of the biggest contests of the year is the *CQ Worldwide SSB* the last full weekend in October. The *CQ WW SSB* is a DX contest with multipliers for each new country and zone worked. The CQ Zones (CQZ) are an arbitrary division of the world into 40 zones. The U.S.A is divided between CQZs 3, 4 and 5 with Ohio falling in CQZ 4.

This contest is a great way to increase your DXCC totals and/or your CQ Zone totals. The CW version of this contest *CQ WW CW* is held the last full weekend in November meaning that most years it falls on Thanksgiving weekend (2019 is an exception as last full weekend is before Thanksgiving. Even if your CW skills are rusty or you are just a starter this is actually one of the easiest contests to make CW contacts in because of the short exchange and the fact that the country callsign usually gives you the zone anyway. See my article "*Having Fun with Morse*" and the podcast *Dit-Dit.com* where I discuss this idea.

TOP^

CQ Zone Map from EI8IC
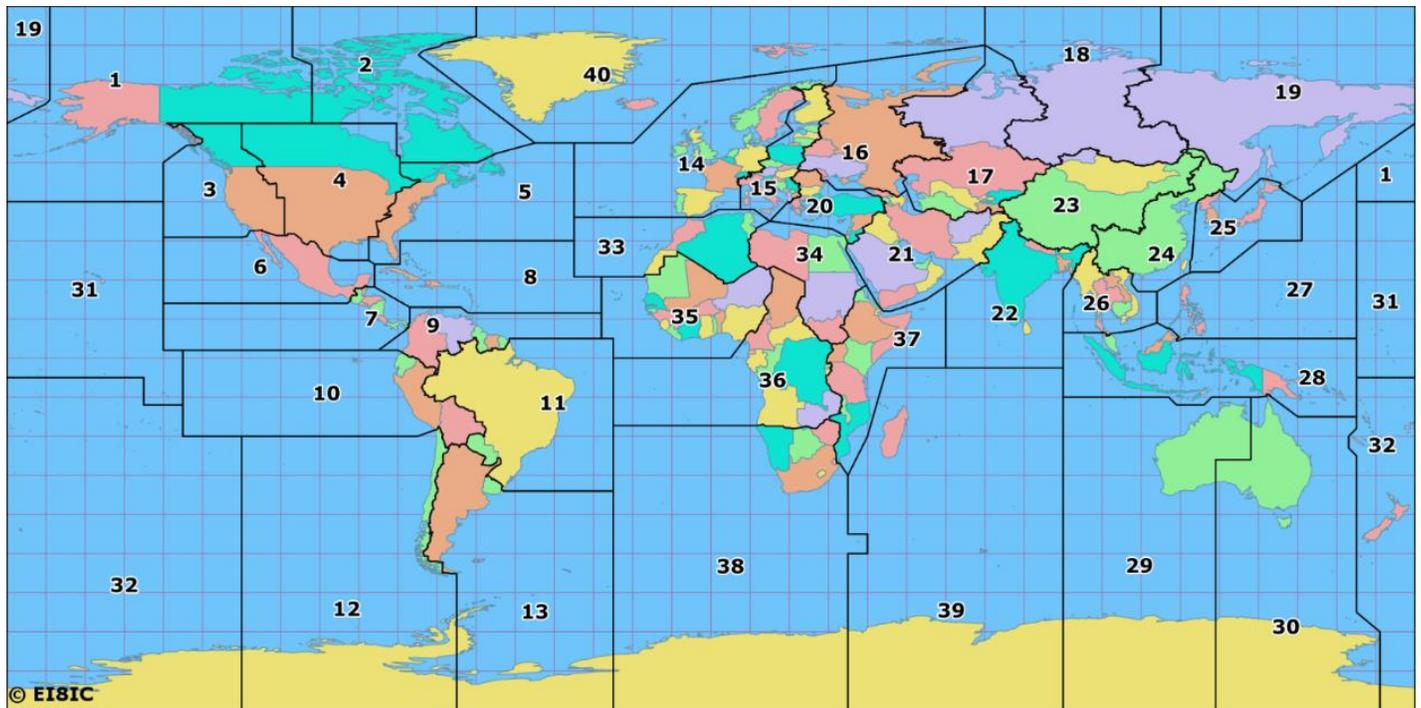

The next two major contests are the first and third full weekends in November-- the *ARRL Sweepstakes (SS)*. The CW version is first followed by the Phone weekend. Almost the complete opposite of the CQ WW the SS is a domestic US contest with a long and involved exchange. It is a great chance to add to you Worked All States (WAS) totals. **Both of the ARRL SS contests also have a youth element-- their School Club category. There are three divisions in this category: College and University, Technical School and Secondary (including K-12 Schools).** This contest is also unique that you can only work stations once total, not once per band like most contests. *CQ WW CW* finishes up November usually with Thanksgiving turkey leftovers.

December sees a continuation of contesting extremes with 10 Meters and 160 Meters Contest. The ARRL 10M contest is great when sunspot activity is high and very difficult when numbers are low. Unfortunately, we are at a low spot in the cycle so propagation will probably be spotty at best. But with 10 Meters you never know, e-skip and/or Trans equatorial Propagation (TEP) may give you some US and Caribbean and if lucky South American contacts. The 10 Meter contest is also great for those with Technician Licenses as they have SSB privileges there. Luckily 160 Meters works very well with low sunspot numbers, so this should be a great year for *ARRL 160M Contest* and *Stew Perry Topband Challenge*. You could easily complete most of your 160 Meter WAS during these two contests. Now someone may have told you that working 160M is really hard. Don't listen to them. For a really good station on 160 Meters, you need a big antenna, which means lots of real estate. But fortunately, during a contest, there are many super stations on the band that want your contact for points and they also have great receiving antennas.

This means that even a poor to modest setup can make many 160 QSOs during contests. I have a short (<60 foot) sloper antenna and run 5 watts but have WAS and 66 DXCC entities on 160 Meters, so give it a try!

TOP^

After a short break for Christmas contesting comes back full speed starting with an RTTY contest, the *ARRL RTTY Roundup*. The next two weekends are a little more laid back but still good opportunities to make lots of contacts with the *North American QSO Party* CW followed by the Phone weekend. The exchange for these is your first name but you are allowed to be creative so if you are not lucky to be named Ed you can choose a short nickname or struggle through Ebenezer or Beauregard. For me, all be using AL which also happens to be my initials as Anthony is too long and I am definitely not a Tony. Finally, we finish up January with another top band contest the *CQ World-Wide 160-Meter Contest CW* (the Phone version of this is last weekend in February).
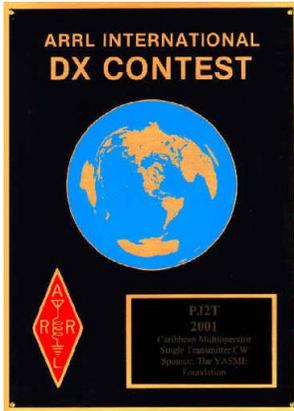
February is short but there is still time for another RTTY contest, the *CQ WPX RTTY* Contest and the *ARRL International DX Contest* CW (the phone version of this is the first weekend in March). The CQ WPX RTTY is one of three Prefix Contests. Where everyone is a potential new multiplier depending on their callsign. This is a good contest for new licensees with those KE8 callsigns or older KA8 who still have their original calls. In the ARRL DX W/VE amateurs work only DX stations while DX stations work only W/VE stations.

After the ARRL DX Phone contest, the third weekend of March has the *Russian DX Contest* (RDXC) this is an everyone can work everyone else contest on both Phone and/or CW so there is something for almost anyone. March closes with the second of the Prefix contest the *CQ WW WPX Contest* SSB.

April brings a plethora of State QSO Parties. First, the Florida QSO Party followed by a packed weekend of QSO Parties with the *7th Call District* (AZ, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA & WY) and the *New England QP* (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI & VT). Add in Indiana and Deleware's parties and you have 16 states in one weekend including 6 of the 11 rarest states.

The busy contest session takes a final break for Dayton Hamvention and Contest Univerisity and then ends the last weekend of May with the third Prefix contest the *CQ WPX CW*. By now the spring weather and May flowers are probably calling you outside anyway so take a contesting break!

Contesting Resources- *www.k8zt.com/contesting*

Contest Calendars

Sept
- *Collegiate QSO Party*
- *Scandinavian Activity Contests*
- *CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY*

Oct
- *California QSO Party (CQP)*
- *Scandinavian Activity Contests*
- *School Club Roundup- Fall*
- *CQ WW SSB*

Nov
- *ARRL Sweepstakes (SS)* CW
- *ARRL Sweepstakes (SS)* PH
- *CQ WW CW*

Dec
- *ARRL 10M contest*
- *ARRL 160M Contest*
- *Stew Perry Topband*

Jan
- *ARRL RTTY Roundup*
- *North American QSO Party* CW
- *North American QSO Party* PH
- *CQ World-Wide 160-Meter CW*

Feb
- *CQ WPX RTTY*
- *ARRL International DX Contest* CW
- *School Club Roundup-* Winter/Spring

Mar
- *ARRL International DX Contest* PH
- *CQ World-Wide 160-Meter Contest* SSB
- *Russian DX Contest*

Apr
- *Florida QSO Party*
- *7th Call District QP*
- *New England QP*

May
- *CQ WPX CW*

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

73, Anthony K8ZT

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

ARES Training Update

Here we are anticipating the arrival of cold temperatures, snow and the holidays. Indeed, the big box stores have already begun to display Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas wares. Did they really have to remind us that winter is just around the corner? I have not completed my antenna projects yet. Only a few Hamfests remain for the year as well. The beauty of fall colors and a few days without the need of either heat or cooling are a blessing, however.
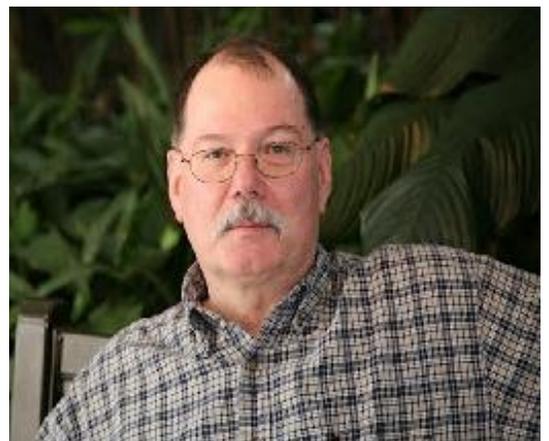
TOP^

As we know, ARES has been in the process of refining our direction for the future with revisions to training and organization in order to bring us up to current needs and expectations from our served agencies. The new comprehensive plan details are available online, http://www.arrl.org/ares-plan. Implementation of "Best Practices and Continuous Improvement" are the key elements of the new plan.

ARRL has revised the EC-001 course and it is now available to ARES members without charge. I've received several certificates of completion already. The EC-016 course is set to follow in the next few months with updates and revisions. EC-001 is suitable for all ARES members and the EC-016 course is directed to those who are in a management roll. I encourage everyone to have a look at these two courses as they are an excellent way advance your knowledge and preparedness for any ARES involved situation that you might be called upon to assist.

ARRL has also updated ARES resources including the ARES Plan, http://www.arrl.org/ares-plan the ARES Manual, Training Plans, Field resources Manual and others that outline the recent improvements and changes to our ARES organization. Please take a look as there is plenty of helpful information available. http://www.arrl.org/ares There are a few changes to the recommended training curriculum to be aware of.

Training statistics have once again grown with 1,648 Amateurs now in the database and 8,793 course completion certificates currently recorded. ARES connect registrations are now at 1,261 for Ohio. There have been increases in all the elements we are tracking including NIMS completion, Level 2; ICS-300, 400 completions, level 3, the AUX COMM course, Professional Development Series and others. 76% of the database has also registered with ARES Connect.

FEMA online courses continue to be updated and additional courses are being added. Please also be aware of prerequisite requirements that are subject to change when going for the Professional Development Series certificate and possibly others. You may need to take the latest course revision before advancing to the advance certificate completion.

Thanks to everyone for submitting your training certificates. I suspect many of you have completed courses and have certificates that you have not yet submitted. FEMA courses, locally administered courses, Red Cross certifications and others are suitable to be included in our training records. Please feel free to inquire if you have any questions. Again, thank you for the tremendous effort. Our Ohio Section leads the nation in support of the ARES training initiative.

Your questions are always welcome. Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns.

Jim W8ERW
w8erw@arrl.net

National News
(from arrl and other sources)

ARRL Creates New Online Groups for Members to Communicate with Leadership

ARRL's Committee on Communication with ARRL Members has opened new online forums where all radio amateurs — ARRL members and non-members alike — can discuss issues and topics in two-way conversation with ARRL leadership.

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The new groups are aimed at enhancing communication among ARRL leadership, staff, members, and prospective members, in a manner that enables timely updates and collegial discussion.

This project was based on the success over the past several years of the ARRL-LoTW (Logbook of The World) Group in responding to Amateur Radio operators' questions and generating discussion on ways to improve that program. "The LoTW initiative has clearly demonstrated the effectiveness of online Groups as a means of achieving the desired interaction," ARRL said in announcing the new groups.

ARRL has added three online groups:

- **ARRL-Contesting** — moderated by ARRL Contest Advisory Committee Chairman Dennis Egan, W1UE.

- **ARRL-Awards** — moderated by ARRL Radiosport and Field Services Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ.

- **ARRL-IARU** — moderated by IARU Secretary Dave Sumner, K1ZZ.

The existing **ARRL-LOTW** group, which has about 4,750 members, remains hosted by Groups.io but has moved.

Everyone who subscribes to an ARRL Group is also automatically subscribed to the "ARRL Groups" group. This administrative feature will allow ARRL to convey routine announcements relevant to subscribers of all ARRL groups.

ARRL IT Manager Michael Keane, K1MK, worked with Groups.io to set up the new groups.

In the months ahead, the Committee envisions creating more online groups to support two-way communication focusing on areas of additional interest to radio amateurs, including ARRL activities, services, initiatives, and policies.

ARRL currently hosts members-only online forums that include Awards and Contesting. While these forums will continue to operate, participants will be encouraged to post new threads in the appropriate new groups.

Participants will be expected to adhere to some basic ground rules:

- All questions are welcome, no matter how many times they have already been asked and answered, or how obvious the answers might be in the documentation.

- Neither personal attacks nor foul language will be tolerated. Violators will immediately be placed on "moderated" status, meaning their subsequent posts will require Moderator approval until the Moderator's trust has been regained.

- Individuals posting are reminded that these forums are open to everyone, including prospective hams and operators who are not ARRL members but may be thinking about joining. Civility and courtesy are expected, even when you may take issue with a post or thread topic.

The Committee on Communication with Members believes that providing more opportunities for two-way discussion between ARRL leadership and the broader Amateur Radio community will assist the organization in truly serving the needs of this community.

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FCC Turns Down Petition to Amend Amateur Radio Identification Rules

The FCC has denied a *Petition for Rule Making* to amend Part 97 station identification rules to better accommodate and simplify station identification during emergency nets, drills, or activations. ARRL member Robert A. Dukish, KK8DX, of Canfield, Ohio, had sought a change to Section 97.119(a) of the rules to allow a single point of transmission for station ID on those occasions. He proposed permitting a net control station or other designated participant to announce the call signs of every station taking part in the net or exercise, when tactical call signs often are in use, at 10-minute intervals, using automatic CW identification.

In turning down Dukish's petition, Scot Stone, the Deputy Chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's Mobility Division, said commenters overwhelmingly opposed the proposal.

"They argue that the current rule strikes the appropriate balance between the need to identify the source of transmissions and ease of communication," Stone wrote.

"Commenters state that, in their years of experience with amateur emergency communications, the station identification requirement has not proven to be a burden or obstacle, and that the current procedure actually contributes to efficient operations by providing a clear indication that a communication has ended and the channel is available."

Stone said some commenters asserted that Dukish's proposed procedure would be unworkable and cause confusion, while others characterized his proposal as a solution in search of a problem.

"The purpose of the station identification requirement is to make the source of transmissions clearly known to those receiving those transmissions," Stone wrote. "Separating the call sign from each transmission would defeat this purpose." Moreover, he said there's no evidence that the current station ID requirements have hindered Amateur Radio emergency communications.

Dukish had filed his petition in December 2018, and the FCC invited comments on it in February 2019.

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The Handbook Give Away

Hey Gang,

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

What's the catch? I want to get everyone checking in to the Ohio Section website as often as possible, and in order to register each month, you have to visit the website often! There's nothing else to it. I pay all expenses and I usually "Give Away" more than just a Handbook too!!
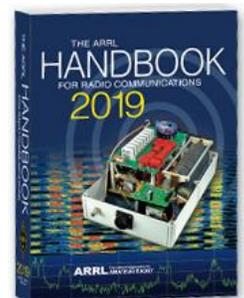
Many of you ask me just how do I know when the drawing is on? Well, that's easy all you need to do is check in on the Ohio Section Website on a regular basis and watch for the big **RED** Arrow that will appear on the left side of the page. This is the sign that the drawing is on and you need to get registered. So, keep a sharp eye out on the website and check in often!

Club Corner

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

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

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Skywarn Recognition Day 2020 - THE FINAL YEAR AT HOPKINS

Skywarn Recognition Day will be taking place nationally on Saturday, **December 7th, 2019** for 24 hours starting at 0000Z (Friday, Dec 6th, 7:00 PM Eastern until Saturday, Dec 7th, 7:00 PM Eastern). The NWS Cleveland Office will be participating from 12:00 PM until 7:00 PM on Saturday, December 7th, 2019. We will be operating under the call sign WX8CLE and will be active on UHF, VHF, and HF (HF bands to be determined later). We will also periodically spin the dial on local repeaters.

Just like last year, we will operate UHF/VHF inside the office and HF outside in the new vehicle. Anyone interested in attending is encouraged to sign up here, but since we will be partially operating from outside, last minute walk ins are welcome. Access to the inside of the building will be restricted based on attendance as the operating area can only accommodate a certain number of people at once.

Additionally, any sort of severe weather event could potentially result in us cancelling the operation. Those who sign up will be advised of any last-minute changes, or we can be contacted on the Skywarn simplex frequency of 146.475 (we will do our best to keep a radio on this the entire time).

When you arrive on site, please check in with the operators in the vehicle. They will then arrange access to the building should you desire to come inside. if no one is present, call us on 146.475 simplex.

As you may know, the Cleveland NWS office will be relocating in spring 2020 so this will be the last time to operate from the office at the airport!

The address for the National Weather Service Cleveland is 5301 W Hangar Rd, Cleveland, OH 44135. This is off of Brookpark Rd, between NASA and Hopkins, behind the UPS hangar.

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Upcoming Hamfests

11/02/2019 | GARC Hamfest
Location: Georgetown, OH
Sponsor: Grant Amateur Radio Club
Website: https://www.facebook.com/Grant-Amateur-Radio-Club-775764122477536/?modal=admin_todo_tour

11/03/2019 | Massillon ARC Hamfest
Location: Massillon, OH
Sponsor: Massillon Amateur Radio Club
Website: http://www.w8np.org

12/07/2019 | Fulton County ARC Winterfest
Location: Delta, OH
Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club
Website: http://k8bxq.org/hamfest

DX This Week
(from Bill, AJ8B)

DX This Week – H40GC – Part 1
Bill AJ8B (aj8b@arrl.net, @AJ8B, or www.aj8b.com)
CWOPs Member #1567

With CQWW SSB behind us, CQWW CW coming up, propagation on the low bands increasing, and a couple of DXpeditions on the air, there was quite a bit of DX to be worked this past week. DX Spots that originated in the Midwest included Asiatic Turkey, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, China, Colombia, Comoros, Denmark, European Russia, Faroe Islands, Fiji, Hawaii, Hungary, Iceland, Japan, Kuwait, Mariana Islands, Netherlands, Norfolk Island, Northern Ireland, Oman, Palau, Pitcairn Island, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, San Andres & Providencia, Scotland, Sweden, Ukraine, Vietnam, Wale, and Western Kiribati. Just wait for the sunspots to increase!
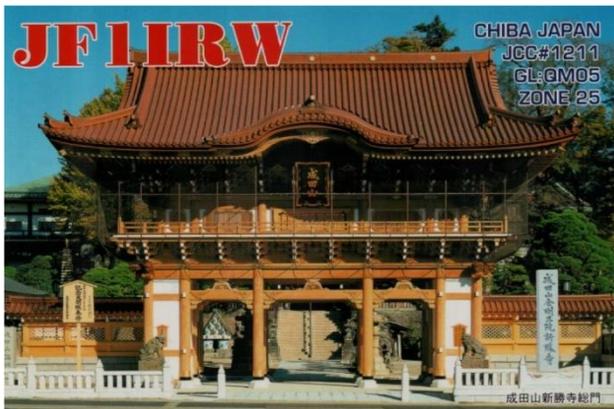
This week, the mailman delivered HB9TNW – Switzerland, LZ2RR – Bulgaria, and JF1IRW – Japan. (Pictured)   What did you get? Send me an image and some details!

One of the DXpeditions that is wrapping up is T30GC by Stan, LZ1GC. Stan is an outstanding operator, a great DXpeditioner, a humanitarian, and a former DXpeditioner of the Year as awarded by SWODXA. Stan had allowed SWODXA to publish an article about his DXpedition to H40, Temotu Province, and I thought it would be timely to reprint part 1 this week and part 2 next week.

H40GC DXpedition

Temotu Province, Santa Cruz Islands group (H40) in Pacific area is a very sought-after destination by many radio amateurs around the World! In 2016 and early 2017, Temoto Province (H40) occupied 30th place in the CLUBLOG list for the most wanted countries. It is currently in 46th place and is still needed by many radio amateurs in worldwide, especially on SSB. The H40GC DXpedition was my second activation of this rare country. My first activation was from Lata, Nendo Island (IOTA OC – 100) - between October 4 - 17, 2016. Deciding to return to Temotu for a second activation was made easier as there were less unknowns! Additionally, this time I had a serious commitment besides the HF activation of this country. I had to carry out a humanitarian mission under the auspices of INDEXA and with the generous participation of CDXA & CDXF, Kontrax Ltd - Bulgaria and Andy, LZ2HM. I would like to recognize the individual and corporative sponsors, amateur clubs, associations and organizations that sponsored me before the expedition in practice are also participants in this humanitarian mission. I am thankful to all.

In October 2016 during the H40GC DXpedition 2016, I had meetings with teachers and students from the only high school in Temoto Province - JCP College, located on Nendo Island. About 400 students are learning in this school. So, on the spot I got to know their problems and their needs. As early as 2016 I was convinced that the best way to help these boys and girls is to provide them with 1 or 2 laptops and other school supplies such as notebooks, pencils and pens. Such are luxuries in a province where the unemployment rate approaches 90 percent of the population. This makes it difficult for the students to buy even simple supplies. The school had not a single computer available! I think that helping young people and investing in them is the best thing that can be done for a country and its people because our future belongs to the younger generation!

Also, in October 2016, I had meetings with the head official and officers of the local provincial office for disasters and accidents. They also did not have even a laptop computer to help with their protection of the population living on the various islands belonging to Temotu Province. So, I was aware of what we, radio amateurs could do to help the people of Temotu. My view of helping Temotu inhabitants met with the understanding and support of INDEXA, under whose patronage this humanitarian mission was finally accomplished!

I write about all of this because my understanding is that it is not enough to travel and activate on radio amateur bands at various rare destinations around the world, but that we have to leave something of us there by doing something good that the locals can remember! This will also popularize our wonderful hobby!

The organization and preparation of the H40GC DXpedition 2017 took about 6 months. During these six months, I purchased the required airline tickets, received a renewal of the H40GC and H44GC licenses (from 27 June 2017 - 26 June 2018), booked a room for my stay at Lata Motel on Nendo Island and prepared the antennas and the technical equipment necessary for the expedition. Every day during these six months I was doing something in preparation. Even when I was at work or on weekends I was walking in the nearby mountain - my thoughts were on what I had to do for the expedition so I would not miss something!

On 24 September 2017, my trip to Nendo Island, Temotu Province in the Pacific began with a 3-hour flight from Sofia (Bulgaria) to Heathrow, London (England). I had 20kg of hand baggage and two check-in baggage - each weighing 23kg. After a 5-hour stay at Heathrow Airport, a 13-hour flight from London to Changi Airport, Singapore, followed. In Singapore, the same plane was loaded with fuel, and the trip continued (8 hours flight) to Sydney, Australia. From there immediately - I took a domestic flight operated by QANTAS Airways to Brisbane (Australia). At 09:30 on 26 September 2017 local time, I was already at the International Airport in Brisbane.

Next, I flew from Brisbane, Australia to Honiara, Solomon Islands (H44) on the next day - 27th of September 2017. The hotels in Brisbane are very expensive (over 100 EUR per a night), at least for people with my budget! So, I decided to stay at the Airport and repack my luggage to meet the various baggage limits imposed by different airlines.

The airport in Brisbane is equipped with many luggage scales that helped me to organize my luggage to minimize any overweight charges. I packed my bags and paper boxes all night. All my pockets were full of cables and different things which I needed for the expedition.

On September 27, 2017, after a 4-hour flight with Solomon Airlines from Brisbane to Honiara, I arrived on the Solomon Islands. The following two days in Honiara were used to get the originals of the H40GC and H44GC licenses. I was honored to visit the local telecom (TCSI) to meet and talk with Mr. Aaron Hopa - Manager of the local TCSI and get my license.

Considering Mr. Aaron Hopa as a good friend, I surprised him with a wonderful gift for his wife - Bulgarian perfume of rose oil! The meeting with Mr. Hopa was very useful because he helped me to buy two laptops (the donation to Temotu Province) by directing me to the best local computer shop.

On September 29, 2017, the day before my flight to Lata, Temoto Province, I visited the management of Solomon Airlines. It occurred to me to talk to someone of the leadership seek free shipping for the donations I had purchased. Having explained to them the purpose of my visit, a nice girl told me that I should discuss my proposal with Mr. Colin Sigimanu - Manager Commercial of Solomon Airlines. So, I did - I met Mr. Sigimanu - a respectful and stern man. After a brief discussion - a conversation in which I included a brief introduction to our hobby, he responded positively to my request, assuring me that he would take care of the matter. On leaving, he gave me his business card and said, **"If you have any problems with Solomon Airlines employees - show this business card. It will help you"!** At the time this sounded exaggerated, but his business card really opened doors. Twice if found that showing this card helped resolve issues that surely would have caused me conflict!

On 30 September 2017 at 12:30 local time, the small 36-seat Solomon Airlines airplane landed at Lata Airport, Temotu Province after a 1 hour 40 min flight from Honiara. I was very happy because I was again on Temotu (H40) and in a few hours later H40GC would be on the air!

The Chief of the Provincial Disaster Management Office of Temotu Province - Mr. George Tego, anticipated my airport arrival with a service car. I was quickly taken with my baggage to Lata Motel where I had a reservation. Mr. Tego also had previously arranged for 3-4 local people to help immediately with the erection of the 160/80/40 m bands vertical antenna. The next activity was the installation of the radio shack and initial antenna testing. After several adjustments to the tuning box, I started working 40m CW.

On 30 September 2017, at 08:38 GMT - H40GC was already on the air. The first contact was with VK3GA. After 2 - 3 minutes the PILE UP grew ever larger, which is normal - H40GC - Temotu Province, a rare DXCC country was on the air! On the second day as H40GC, I installed a multi-band ground plane antenna for 40 - 6-meter bands, including the WARC bands. In the following days until the end of the H40GC activity, despite the extremely poor propagation, I did my best to maintain a good QSO rate. The statistics for the operation show I managed to do it!

I tried to spend as much time as possible on the air - as much as 18 - 20 hours per day. During the night hours I worked 160/80/40 or 30m and during the day on high bands - 20/17/15/12/10. I worked all modes - CW, RTTY and SSB.

With minimal pauses for a sleep, food, internet and some antenna repairs, H40GC made nearly 18,000 contacts from 08:30 GMT on September 30 to 12:00 GMT on October 25TH, 2017! Unfortunately, a problem with the linear amplifier on 30 meters on the 10th day of the operation deprived me of the opportunity to realize at least another 1,500 QSOs on this band.

A few words about the propagation during H40GC activity - EXTREMELY poor propagation! I think, I nevertheless managed to use the small windows of better propagation when available on different bands so that I can give many radio amateurs the chance to make multi-band contacts with Temotu (H40).
More QSO's could have been made, but I was also engaged with the humanitarian mission of this expedition and that also cost me time and effort!

At the beginning of this article, I mentioned that I had a vision of what humanitarian mission could be accomplished during the H40GC DXpedition 2017 so that it would remain a lasting memory of the local population and help them effectively.

(Continued Next Week)

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Here is an update from Bernie, W3UR, of the DailyDX and the WeeklyDX, the best source for DX information. (http://www.dailydx.com/) Bernie has this to report:

South Orkney Island DX-pedition Press Release #7

VP8/VP8DXU (AN-008)

ARRL Colvin Award - We are honored to have received a significant grant from the ARRL's Colvin Award program. The Colvin Award is funded by an endowment established by Lloyd D. Colvin, W6KG (SK).

Consistent with Mr. Colvin's wishes and with the policies of the ARRL Board, the Colvin Award is conferred in the form of grants in support of Amateur Radio projects that promote international goodwill in the field of DX. For additional information about this award: http://www.arrl.org/colvin-award-grants

Clipperton DX Club - The Clipperton DX Club (CDXC France) has joined the list of club/foundation sponsors with a significant donation to the project. CDXC has been a long-time sponsor of PDXG DX-peditions, we appreciate the confidence CDXC has shown to our DX-pedition projects. http://wp.cdxc.org/cdxc-history/

Corporate Sponsors - We are pleased to announce that ON5UR QSL Printing has joined our list of corporate sponsors. Max (ON5UR) is a full service QSL printer that produces high quality QSL cards in many formats, including monochrome, full color, folded / single cards at competitive pricing. We appreciate Max's offer to be our QSL card sponsor.

Project Major Milestones - Beginning on October 24th team members will meet near Palo Alto, California to consolidate, integrate, test and pack the equipment for its transport to Punta Arenas, Chile. Arrangements were made for our customs broker to transport the equipment to their depot where a container will be prepared for the journey. Equipment shipments from European sponsors: WIMO, Spiderbeam, Mastrant, Clamcleat and Low Band Systems arrived from Europe, or via DX Engineering. The Elecraft equipment will be picked up at the factory, DX Engineering, RadioSport and Rig Expert products were previously received.

The team began making their travel arrangements to meet the Braveheart in Chile. At their own expense airline reservations are being booked, and a Punta Arenas hotel will house the team.

Braveheart left New Zealand on August 20th to meet her contractual obligations in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, including VP6R Pitcairn Island DX-pedition, first stop was Papeete, French Polynesia. She will return home sometime in April, 2020.

Antenna Strategy - Similar to our Ducie Island (VP6D) plan, the antenna team designed a strategy that considers Signy Island's location and topography. Vertical Dipole Arrays, constructed from Spiderbeam products, will be directed towards Europe, over water. For other geographies the topology is less suitable for VDAs so instead EAntenna Moxons will be used. Low band vertical antennas, using Spiderbeam and DX Engineering products, will be used for all geographies.

Fundraising - We appreciate the response from the worldwide DX organizations. So far, forty-four clubs / foundations have signed on, and equally important are the over 350 individuals who have supported the project, especially the 41 Premier Sponsors who each donated $200(USD), or more. We still have a long way to go but we're encouraged by the response. If you or your club aren't listed on our website please consider a donation.

73,
Team VP8/VP8DXU
Website: https://sorkney.com/
Please direct your questions to: info@sorkney.com

DX news

ARLD042 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by WB2REM, W3UR, The Daily DX, the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

VIETNAM, 3W. Alex, KU1CW is QRV as 3W9A until October 28. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using all modes. This includes being an entry in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest. QSL via LoTW.

GEORGIA, 4L. Operator 4L4WW will be QRV as 4L0A in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest as a Single Op/Single Band on 40 meters entry. QSL via LoTW.

CYPRUS, 5B. Jamie, M0SDV is QRV as 5B/M0SDV. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and SSB. He will be QRV as P3F in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest. QSL via LoTW.

SENEGAL, 6W. Operators F5VHJ, F6BEE and W6NV will be QRV as 6W1RY in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest. QSL via F5VHJ.

EAST MALAYSIA, 9M6. Saty, JE1JKL is QRV as 9M6NA from Labuan Island, IOTA OC-133, until October 28. This includes an entry in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest. QSL via LoTW.

OMAN, A4. Look for A44A to be a Multi/Multi entry in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest. QSL via LoTW.

BAHRAIN, A9. Fawaz, A92AA plans to be QRV as an All Band entry in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest. QSL direct to home call.

COMOROS, D6. Members the Mediterraneo DX Club are QRV as D68CCC until November 2. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. QSL via IK2VUC.

ISLE OF MAN, GD. Gordon, MM0GOR and Mark, M0UTD will be QRV as MD1E and MD1U, respectively, during the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest. QSL via LoTW.

THAILAND, HS. A large group of operators will be QRV as E20AX in the Multi-2 category in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest. QSL via LoTW.

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ST. LUCIA, J6. A group of operators are QRV as J68MD from Soufriere until October 29. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and FT8. This includes an entry in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest. QSL via N2HIW.

SURINAME, PZ. A group of operators are QRV as PZ5K until October 29. Activity is on the HF bands. This includes being an entry in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest. QSL via G3NKC.

SEYCHELLES, S7. Janusz, SP9FIH and Leszek, SP6CIK are QRV as S79W and S79CI, respectively, until October 29. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. This includes being an entry in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest. QSL to home calls.

EGYPT, SU. Members of Radio Arcala and Egyptian Radio Amateurs Society for Development will be QRV as SU8X in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest. QSL via OH2BH.

TURKEY, TA. A group of operators plan to be QRV as TC0F from Bozcaada, IOTA AS-099. This includes an entry in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest. QSL via TA2BN.

BELIZE, V3. Operators V31CT, V31MM, V31NY, V31ST and V31ZZ are QRV until October 30. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, FT8, FT4 and possibly EME. They will be active as V3M in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest. QSL all calls via WB2REM.

PITCAIRN ISLAND, VP6. A large group of operators are QRV as VP6R until November 1. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters with eight stations active using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. This includes being an entry in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest. QSL via LoTW.

LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS, VU7. Operators Sree, VU2OB, Shabu, VU2CAC and Samson, VU3XTG are QRV as VU7RI until October 30. Activity is on 80, 40, 30, 20 and 15 meters using CW, SSB and FT8. QSL via M0KRI.

INDONESIA, YB. Members of the Grobex Team Contest Indonesia will be QRV as 7A2A in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest. QSL direct to YB2DX.

VANUATU, YJ. Chris, VK2YUS is QRV as YJ0CA from Efate Island, IOTA OC-035, until October 30. Activity is on 40, 20 and 15 meters, and possibly 10 meters, using SSB. This includes an entry in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest. QSL direct to home call.

NEW ZEALAND, ZL. A youth team will be QRV as ZM4T in the Multi-2/High Power category in the CQ World Wide DX SDSB contest. QSL via LoTW.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ Worldwide DX SSB Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint and QCX CW Challenge are all on tap for this weekend.

The UKEICC 80-Meter CW Contest, CWops Mini-CWT Test and Phone Fray are scheduled for October 30.

The Canadian National Parks on the Air, CNPOTA, operating event runs for the entire year of 2019, with special stations active from Canada's parks and historic sites.

Please see October QST page 90 and the ARRL and WA7BNM Contest Web Sites for details.

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Special Events

11/02/2019 | 44th Anniversary, Sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald
Nov 2-Nov 17, 0000Z-2359Z, W8F, Detroit, MI. Livonia Amateur Radio Club. 14.260 7.040 14.040 7.240. Certificate. Tas Foley, K8TAS, 37255 Euraka Rd., Romulus, MI 48207. On Saturday, November 2, W8F will operate from the Dossin Great Lakes Museum, Detroit MI 1600-2030 UTC. SASE FOR QSL CERTIFICATE livoniaarc.com

11/11/2019 | Veterans Day Special Event
On Monday Nov 11, 2019 The American Legion Amateur Radio Club Post 641 (W8BVL) in Belle Valley, Ohio will be on the air from 12:00 Noon EST to 4:00 PM EST in Observance of Veterans day. We will be broadcasting on or around 7.225 and /or 14.275 depending on participants and ban conditions. For more info contact: Gary Oliver, KD8OSI garyoliver523@gmail.com

ARRL Contest Corner

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

V.E. Test Sessions

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

One Question Questionnaire

Hey Gang,

Wow, "Survey Says" --- 60% of you do have a S.A.M.E. weather radio in your shacks. That's really fantastic!! Now, since we have Halloween coming up this week, I do have to ask this next question.

I've got another NEW – one question – for you on the Ohio Section Website!

"Do you decorate your shack for Halloween?"

These One Question questionnaires are all in fun and I hope that you are enjoying answering them.

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

ARES Connect

I hope everyone read the "Breaking News at the top of this newsletter! There should be no longer any excuses for you not to use the system!!

ARES Connect

Enter ARES Connect

ARES Connect Helpful Instructions

I'm setting a goal for all of you out there. **Let's get everyone in the Ohio Section on ARES Connect before the end of this year!!!**

Do you need help with how to sign-up for an event or log your hours? How about you Administrators, do you have questions about approving your volunteer's hours or how-to set-up a recurring event? I've got the answer for all of you. I have a new webpage with step-by-step instructions on how to do those things and many more.

I also have updated the "Hints and Kinks" section. It now includes the most recent items that we have added to the system. Here's the page: http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/connect/index.html You can also find this link on the main page of the Ohio Section website as well.. It's just under the "Enter ARES Connect" link.

If you live in **Ohio** and you haven't registered yet, we need you to get registered now. We need you to only use this URL to get registered https://arrl.volunteerhub.com/lp/oh/. Using any other entrance to register will only slow down your registration process. Again, this is for those living in Ohio only. If you are an out of state person (not Ohio), you can simply change the **/oh/** to your 2-letter state designation. This will put you in the correct state for signing up.

Here's the top 10 hours earners so far for October:

	Name	Events	Hours
1	Greg Dersarkisian (KD8SSJ)	14	108.50
2	Daniel Schlick (KB8LKH)	14	87.50
3	Robert Northrup (Kc8psw)	13	74.00
4	James Yoder (w8erw)	14	64.78
5	Dan Stahl (KC8PBU)	52	61.52
6	Christopher Domenick (KC8CAD)	19	59.75
7	Diane Warner (KE8HLD)	14	54.00
8	Bret Stemen (KD8SCL)	21	52.00
9	John Major (KD8MMY)	16	51.00
10	Elizabeth Klinc (KE8FMJ)	32	50.50

As you can see from the above listing, we can get real time information that shows how many hours, who volunteered and what they volunteered for. There's a ton of information that we can draw out of the system.

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Special NIMS Training Available

ICS-300 on November 13-15, 2019 (29 seats available)
Training Location:
Franklin County Sheriff's Academy
6373 Young Road
Grove City, OH 43123

There will be some additional classes posted soon (**ICS-300 December 3-5, 2019** at Upper Arlington Fire Station 72, 3861 Reed Road, Upper Arlington and **ICS-400 February 4&5, 2020** at Upper Arlington Fire Station 72, 3861 Reed Road, Upper Arlington)   For more info: pktickle@franklincountyohio.gov

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EMA-G2300 INTERMEDIATE EOC FUNCTIONS
Hosted by: Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security November 13 - 15, 2019

Course Description: The G 2300 Intermediate Emergency Operations Center Functions is a three-day course with the goal of assisting individuals and jurisdictions who desire to develop or improve their Emergency Operation Centers (EOC). By the end of the course, students will be able to demonstrate, through activities and a Final Exam, the managerial and operational roles of the modern-day EOC as a NIMS Command and Coordination functional group operating within a Multiagency Coordination System (MACS).

Application Deadline: October 30, 2019
Time of Course: Registration: 7:30 am – 8:00 am (on day one)
Course Time: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Location: Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security
5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd Columbus, Ohio 43230

Supported By: The Ohio Emergency Management Agency

Recommended Participants: Federal, state, tribal, territorial, local level, business and nongovernmental emergency management personnel who may be designated to support an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) within their jurisdiction or organization. The materials were developed with the assumption that audience members may have little or no actual experience as a member of an EOC Staff.

Recommended Prerequisite:
ICS-100: An Introduction to the Incident Command System,
IS-2200: Basic Emergency Operations Center Functions
IS-700: An Introduction to the National Incident Management System
IS-800: National Response Framework, An Introduction
G-191: Emergency Operations Center/Incident Command Interface
IS-200: Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response.

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

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You can check enrollment/approval status via the Department of Public Safety Training Campus website.
Mission Statement To coordinate activities to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

Course Costs: This course is free to participants.
Additional Information: Lodging, meals, and all other expenses are the students' responsibility.
State Point of Contact: Matt Jaksetic, State Training Coordinator, Ohio EMA (614) 799-3666,
mtjaksetic@dps.ohio.gov

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Campbell County Office of Emergency Management Upcoming Training

James E. Sparks, Deputy Director of Operations

Campbell County Fiscal Court

Office of Emergency Management, Unit 2152

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

http://www.campbellcountyky.gov

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

Sport and Special Event Evacuation Training and Exercise - **November 6-7, 2019** - TEEX / **Tentative/Requested**

Emergency Propane Water Injection Course – **November 12, 2019** – Hebron Fire Protection District / Registration will open soon.

Managing Critical Incidents at Institutions of Higher Education: A Whole Community Approach (MGT-361) - **December 10-12, 2019** - TEEX / Register: https://goo.gl/Qa3tUs

Swap & Shop Has Come to the Ohio Section Website

Hey Gang,

Have you taken a look at the **Swap & Shop** page on the Ohio Section webpage yet?? Here's a link that will take you there… http://arrl-ohio.org/sm/s-s.html

There's already been some great activity going on up there, so I know that some folks have visited for sure. Do you have equipment that you just don't need or want anymore? Here's a great venue to advertise it, and it's FREE!! No, it won't be listed in this newsletter because it would take up way too much space, so your ad will only appear on the website.

It is there for any individual to post equipment Wanted / For Sale or Give-Away. No licensed vehicles/trailers or business advertising will be posted.

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

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

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Local Amateur Radio Club Assists Neighboring Club
(from John Levo, W8KIW)

On Saturday, November 2nd scores of amateur radio operators from South and Central Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky and Indiana will convene in Georgetown, Ohio for the 26th Annual Grant Amateur Radio Club Hamfest.

According to the American Radio Relay League a hamfest is "a meeting of people interested in amateur radio and offers exhibits, forums and a flea market for amateur radio operators or hams". They are also social events where 'hams' can have face to face conversations with people they talk with over the air as well as it is a public event where people interested learning more about the service and hobby can get first-hand knowledge from area amateurs.

The Ohio Section Manager for the American Radio Relay League as well as the Assistant Director for the Great Lakes Division will have an exhibit and can provide information from the state, national and international perspective. In addition to individuals selling personal radio and electronic equipment, many non-hams attend hamfests to find items and miniature tools for making crafts and using with other hobbies and interests. Food will also be available.

Because of health issues, this year the Grant ARC found themselves in a bind with a number of their members unable to assist with set up and tear down. A call for assistance was answered by Highland County's Highland Amateur Radio Club who has sold tickets to the event for several years. Thus, it was considered appropriate for HARA to assist the Grant club in a time of need.

Therefore, a delegation of HARA members will journey to Georgetown on Friday to assist with the set up and then on Saturday will help with tear down and clean up.

The hamfest will be held at the Brown County ABCAP Building, 406 West Plum Street in Georgetown. The doors open at 8 am and the event will conclude at 1. The $2 ticket will not only give attendees entry to the event but will provide chances for door prizes donated by Brown County merchants and a $1,000 grand prize gift certificate to R & L Electronics. Tickets may be purchased in the Hillsboro area by contacting Highland Amateur Radio Association secretary Kathy Levo at 937-393-4951 or at the door.

The hamfest is the major fund-raising project for the Grant Amateur Radio Club and those funds are used to maintain emergency communications equipment the club has installed in Brown County.

Final.. Final..

Hey Gang...

Wow.. what a week this was for sure. It seems that after 166,000 miles the old car was in need of some repairs. So, it spent several days at the dealership getting some really needed repairs done. Now it's just like brand new!

I had fun with the guys and gals of the Cuyahoga Falls ARC meeting. I did a presentation for them about the Ohio Section and how we stack up as a leadership Section for the entire country. The guys and I at the Mt. Vernon ARC breakfast on Friday had a mini VE Exam and we got a new Technician Class out of it! Congrats to him for sure!!

Sliding down the band a bit… Have you gotten on the air lately? It seems that many of you are getting licensed and then just not doing anything with it. Have fun with it! Get on the Air!!!

Is your club doing any special activities that you'd like the Section to know about? As you can see by the posts in the Club Corner, many clubs are already taking advantage of getting the word out to over 8,000 readers every week.

Do you have a story that you'd like to tell about something that you or your club has or is doing? Let me know about it and let's get it in the next edition!

Whelp… That's going to do it for this time around. Stay safe, enjoy the sunshine while we have it, and most of all… have FUN!!

73,

Scott, N8SY

Daylight Saving Time Coming To An End

Nov 3, 2019 - Daylight Saving Time Ends

Sunday, November 3, 2019, 2:00:00 am clocks are turned backward 1 hour to local standard time instead.

Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour earlier on Nov 3, 2019 than the day before. There will be more light in the morning and darkness will come earlier.

daylight saving time ends

Welcome New Subscribers

Christopher, KE8NAF; Linda, KA8ODP; Greg, WB8VRJ; Bruce, AK8B; Jerry, N8WBV; Jerry, N5JBG

New Webpages Added to the Ohio Section Website

Is your club's newsletter available to share? I've got a new webpage that has links to all of the known websites where club newsletters can be accessed throughout Ohio.

Now, as we all know when any list is published, it's outdated immediately. That's ok, just send me the link to your club's newsletter and I'll get it on the webpage – n8sy@n8sy.com

Here's the link: http://arrl-ohio.org/club_link/links-to-newsletters.html   Remember, we're all here to help each other. What a great way to share the news about Amateur Radio!!

Back Issues of the PostScript and Ohio Section Journal (OSJ)

Hey, did you know that PostScript and Ohio Section Journal (OSJ) are archived on the website? You can go back and look at any edition simply by clicking: http://arrl-ohio.org/news/index.html

New Amateur Radio Podcasts

Hey gang have you heard the new Podcast that the ARRL is putting out? It's called "So Now What?" It's a great way to learn about Amateur Radio for sure.. Here's the link: http://www.arrl.org/so-now-what

We also have a local Podcast by none other than own Pat Morrow, N8OQP – he now has is own radio station (internet broadcasting) that is doing broadcasts daily. You can find his Amateur Radio Podcast at: https://www.spreaker.com/show/radio-active_2

And let's not forget all those other Podcast shows on Twit.tv – Here's the link to them: https://twit.tv/shows?gclid=CjwKCAjw3c_tBRA4EiwAICs8CiOMJ-_zsH1XpXuJeO8NRjzbye2iss4XmwWwer72QZx1tWkm9QDFUhoCCZIQAvD_BwE

Deep Solar Minimum
(Spaceweather.com / Submitted by Greg, WD9FTZ)

In 2018, the sun was blank (without sunspots) for 221 days. That marked 2018 as a year of deep Solar Minimum.

2019 is shaping up to be even deeper. As of today, the sun in 2019 also has been blank for 221 days--and it's only October. This year is blowing past 2018 in the race to the bottom of the solar cycle, and by the end of the year, 2019 could rank as the deepest Solar Minimum in a century.

Chit – Chat, and All That!

Do you know someone that's not getting these Newsletters? Please, forward a copy of this Newsletter over to them and have them "Opt-In" to start receiving them. Heck, just have them send me an email   n8sy@n8sy.com and I'll get them added to the Ohio Section Emailing list. We now have over 8,000 folks receiving these newsletters weekly. Quite impressive, I'd say!

I urge all of you to make sure that everyone, regardless of whether they are a League member or not, get signed up to receive these weekly Newsletters. You can always "Opt-Out" at any time if you feel this is not what you were expecting. It's fun and very informative.

Hey, did you know that PostScript and Ohio Section Journal (OSJ) are archived on the website? You can go back and look at any edition simply by clicking: http://arrl-ohio.org/news/index.html

The pictures throughout this newsletter are from various sources. Take a good look at them, you just might be in one of those pictures! "SMILE…!!!!!"

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

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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!