



“April 15th, 2024”

- [National News](#)
- [DX This Week](#)
- [Upcoming Hamfests](#)
- [VE Testing](#)

- [Club Corner](#)
- [Contest Corner](#)
- [One Question Questionnaire](#)
- [South 40](#)

CQ CQ CQ de WB8LCD

Exciting Times we live in! Last week’s Eclipse Was a crowd pleaser for everyone who saw it. Certainly something that not everyone has had the opportunity to see in “real time”. For all the hype, the EVENT was not something that got out of hand, although Amateur Radio was ready in the background should there have been incidents that would require communications back-up. And that’s really what our position should be. As an Eagle Boy Scout, I take the Scout Motto “always be prepared” seriously. That’s basically part of our mission as Amateur Radio operators. It’s not often, but when they need us, they really *need us!* I’m confident that when that event occurs, Amateur Radio operators will answer the call.



By the way, this newsletter is dated April 15th. I know I don’t have to tell you what that means. Good luck to all of you on that one!

I made it to my second Hamfest this year Saturday morning – The Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club (CFARC) fest near Akron, OH. I felt really bad about missing the last 2 fests, but as they say: “Do stupid things, win stupid prizes!” I’m recovering and it was really good to get out again. TUSCO is coming up, Athens, Lucas County, the RV Network and then it’s pretty much off to Hamvention! At Hamvention I’ll be doing time in the Great Lakes Division booth, don’t forget to bring your QSL card and drop it off at the booth when you stop by to say Hello. I will also be at the Carole Perry Youth Forum on Saturday Morning, The ARRL Membership Forum (also Saturday morning), and the Tips for Successful Radio Clubs Forum on Sunday morning. I also hope to get in plenty of “wandering around” time, and I’ll be at the DX dinner on Saturday evening.



Lots of good Ohio Hamfests coming up through the rest of the year – make sure you get out to them!

Mandatory Reading:

It seems we have had a lot of controversy within ARRL and its membership these last few years. Following is an article from QST, September 1927:

The Reason Why

By Hiram Percy Maxim, President, A.R.R.L.

SITTING back in the old armchair, with the last issue of QST read from cover to cover and with everybody else in the house asleep hours ago, I fell to thinking of amateur radio today and amateur radio of other days. As the blue smoke curls slowly upward from the old pipe, visions of early A.R.R.L. Directors' Meetings float before me. I see those old timers grappling with problems of organization, with QRM, with trunkline traffic and rival amateur leagues. I see sinister commercial and government interests at work seeking to exterminate amateur radio.

They were dark days, those early ones.

To-day I see Amateur Radio an institution, recognized by our American government and on the road to recognitions by other governments of the world. I see a fine, loyal A.R.R.L. membership of 20,000 standing shoulder to shoulder and believing in each other and still blazing the way in radio brotherhood taking shape, in the form of our I.A.R.U. And, as the last embers of the old pipe turn to grey ash, I ask how it all came about: that the A.R.R.L should have succeeded and all its opponents failed. The answer is clear. It is because with our opponents there was always some kind of a selfish motive to be served for someone, whereas in our A.R.R.L. we insisted from the beginning that no selfish motive for anybody or anything should ever prevail. Everything that A.R.R.L. undertakes must be 100% for the general good. That policy bred loyalty and confidence. With those two things an organization can prosper forever.

Draw your own conclusions, but no one, and no organization can claim perfection! I do believe that HPM was on to something here. If you would like to share your comments with me, please send them to me directly at tomsly29@gmail.com .

Share the Magic of Radio.

73,

Tom Sly - WB8LCD
Ohio Section Manager
wb8lcd@arrl.org
330-554-4650



Youth Net

When: The second Sunday of every month at 7:30 PM EST

Where: The K8IV repeater located in Kent, Ohio (Echolink node K8BF-L) RF: 146.895 Mhz with PL 118.8

Who: Any licensed amateur radio operator who wishes to participate. Priority will be given to youth stations and those located in Ohio.

The purpose of this net is to encourage youth activity in amateur radio and to help new hams get more comfortable on the air.

*** Sunday May 12, 2024 (Mother's Day) ***

If you are a young ham, in the Ohio Section or elsewhere, please check in and say “Hello”! Even if you’re far away from OHIO you can check in via Echo-Link. Echo-Link is a good tool to have, and it can be accessed from your laptop, tablet or cellphone. But there is a process to get validated to the Echo-link system. It’s simple to do, but you need to get it done before the day of the net! Go to [Introducing EchoLink](#) for more information on getting started. If you’re an “Old Guy” (a gender neutral term meaning not a youthful operator) and you have some kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews or even some neighborhood kids who you would like to give a chance to talk to other kids about Ham Radio, this might be an excellent opportunity to give them that small nudge that could be the start of something positive they will carry with them through life!

National News

(from ARRL and other sources)

Amateur Radio Saves Family in Death Valley National Park



Death Valley National Park is in a remote desert in southern California, where mobile phone networks are spotty at best. On Saturday, April 6, a radio amateur and his family were enjoying the park when their vehicle became stuck in mud in a dangerous area. Without access to a cell network, the ham called for help on the 10-meter band.

According to a news release from the Black Swamp Amateur Radio Club, Caleb Gustwiller,

KD8TGB, jumped into action.

Gustwiller was monitoring from Ohio when he picked up the distress call. He was able to hear the call sign and the general location of the ham in distress. He lost the signal to the noise, so he wrote a post in the Parks on the Air® Facebook group asking for other hams to listen for the calls.

Several hams contacted emergency officials in southern California, which led to the ham and their family being rescued within a few hours by park rangers. The club stated in their Facebook post: "Without Caleb hearing this distress call, it could have quickly become a very deadly situation for the operator and his family."



Much of Death Valley National Park sits below sea level, surrounded by terrain. [Sierra Harrop, W5DX, photos]

2024 ARRL Field Day Poster Released

A poster promoting 2024 ARRL Field Day has been released on the Field Day web page, www.arrl.org/field-day. The two-sided informational poster features this year's theme "Be Radio Active". It includes a space for clubs to fill in information about their planned activation so that members of their community can come visit the site.

More resources for promoting 2024 ARRL Field Day are being developed and will be available soon. ARRL Field Day always occurs on the fourth full weekend in June. This year, it happens on June 22 – 23.



GET ON THE AIR!

Be a part of the most popular on-the-air operating event in amateur radio.

Join your local community and get in on the action!

**PARTICIPATE IN YOUR LOCAL
ARRL FIELD DAY JUNE 22-23, 2024**

Get Ready for the 2024 ARRL National Convention and Youth Rally

A full slate of programming has been committed for the 2024 ARRL National Convention, which will be hosted by Dayton Hamvention®, May 17 - 19, in Xenia, Ohio. Hamvention is the largest



annual gathering of radio amateurs in the world.

Coupled with the National Convention, this year promises to be a Hamvention not to miss. Building on a yearlong theme to "Be Radio Active," ARRL has planned exhibits, forums, panels, and activities that promise to engage and inspire attendees in a wide range of amateur radio interests.

Hamvention has committed one of its four forum rooms to a track of ARRL National Convention presentations with topics that span public service, technology, on-air activities, instruction, and youth outreach.

- In the **Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®)** forum, ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, will discuss the role of SAFECOM in supporting the public safety community to improve the emergency communications ecosystem, as well as the importance of building mutually beneficial relationships with local emergency management officials.
- ARRL National Instructor Gordon West, WB6NOA, will lead an **Instructor Academy**, showing off many new training tools to help lead lively ham radio license classes.
- ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, will cover **Youth Outreach through Amateur Radio STEM Education**, covering ways to inspire students to pursue higher education and careers in technological fields.
- **Enhancing Transmitter Performance** will examine the ARRL Clean Signal Initiative, and presenters include ARRL Second Vice President Mike Ritz, W7VO; Rob Sherwood, NC0B, of Sherwood Engineering Inc., and ARRL Laboratory Manager George Spatta, W1GKS.
- Kyle Krieg, AA0Z, will present, **How to Control Your Ham Shack with A Node-RED Dashboard**, offering a tutorial for this easy-to-learn flow-based programming language that ham radio operators can use to build simple web-based dashboards that provide command, control, and automation in their ham shack.

- ARRL First Vice President Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, will examine the theory of ground, discussing dc grounds, RF grounds, and even talking about gravity, in her presentation, **Ground is a Myth!**
- ARRL CEO David A. Minster, NA2AA, will delve into the world of **Gaming the Amateur Radio Modes**, offering tips and tricks covering station design, operating, instruction, and mastering the art of amateur radio modes, including FT8.
- **Five Steps to a Successful POTA (Parks on the Air®) Activation** will be presented by Michael Martens, KB9VBR, of KB9VBR Antennas on YouTube.
- ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, will moderate a panel on **Good Operators and Interference** that includes Lark Hadley, KA4A, Director, Region Three, FCC Enforcement Bureau; ARRL Volunteer Monitor Program Administrator Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, and ARRL Laboratory Manager George Spatta, W1GKS.
- ARRL Field Services Manager Mike Walters, W8ZY, will present, **Tips for Successful Radio Clubs**.
- ARRL Radiosport Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, and Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, will provide an **ARRL Contest Program Update**.
- Explore the full scope of operating privileges and ham radio activities that can be done with a Technician - class license, in the forum **Beyond Repeaters: See How Far Your Tech License Will Take You**, presented by ARRL Laboratory Digital RF Engineer John McAuliffe, KD2ZWN.

Additionally, an ARRL Membership Forum will be held on Saturday, May 18, covering several



key areas of membership interest.

The forum will be moderated by ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Scott Yonally, N8SY, and panelists include ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR; First Vice President Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, and CEO David A. Minster, NA2AA.

On Saturday, May 18, a **2024 ARRL Youth Rally** will be a special feature of the National Convention at Hamvention. The Youth Rally is intended for students who are 11 to 21 years of age. While Hamvention offers free tickets for youth aged 12 through 18, advance registration for the Youth Rally is recommended. A preliminary Youth Rally agenda and registration instructions are on the ARRL website, at www.arrrl.org/expo. The Youth Rally registration fee is \$20 and includes a tee shirt (to wear on Saturday), badge, lanyard, and reusable tote bag.

Youth Rally participants will enjoy a full day of activities, discovery, sharing, and fun. Rally day begins at 9:15 AM on Saturday with the annual Dayton Youth Forum -- open to all Hamvention attendees -- moderated by well-known amateur radio educator Carole Perry, WB2MGP. The forum includes presentations from young hams covering a variety of amateur radio activities, topics, and technology. After lunch (on your own) Youth Rally registrants will gather in Forum Room 3 to get know each other and to explore a variety of amateur radio interests and activities. Learn about satellite communications, participate in a short sprint contest, contact a parachute mobile station, and participate in other fun! Bring a 2-meter handheld radio if you have one.

The Youth Rally will wrap up on Saturday with a presentation from the ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Program (CARP).

Learn more about the 2024 ARRL National Convention at www.arrrl.org/expo, where you can find the full listing of ARRL-sponsored forums, exhibits, and activities.

Hamvention is held in Xenia, Ohio, on the sprawling grounds of the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center. Visit the event's website at www.hamvention.org, where you can also purchase tickets, find the complete list of Hamvention forums, and learn more about the event.

Registration for [Contest University](#) (to be held May 16, 2024, at the [Hope Hotel](#) in Dayton, Ohio) is now open. Now in its 15th year, this event is held the day before the opening of the annual [Hamvention](#) and is popular enough to suggest early registration to be able to receive the day's printed handouts. Materials from previous years are available on the Contest University website.

The [Nashua Area Radio Society](#) will be holding an online Ham Bootcamp on Saturday, May 11 from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM EST. Ham Bootcamp is a program that helps new, inactive, and prospective hams gain the skills and information they need to get on the air. The program is open to any interested amateur radio operator, or prospective operator, in the US and Canada. There is no charge to attend the online event. Information can be

found at n1fd.org/bootcamp. You must register in order to receive the link to join the web conference. If you have any questions, contact HamBootcamp.

Club Corner

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

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

Just send it to: webmaster@arrl-ohio.org



Please! Format as below:

If you want me to publish your club information, or even an article you have written, please send it in WORD format (.docx). Please use Times New Roman font size 12 for the body of the article. Any photos please include as a .jpg or .bmp – the time you save me in doing all the conversions will be greatly appreciated.

How to Plan and Apply for an ARRL Hamfest or Convention

If your amateur radio club is planning to host a convention, hamfest, tailgate, or swapfest, please consider applying for ARRL sanctioned status for your event. To learn what it means to be an ARRL sanctioned event, and to get some ideas on how to prepare for and conduct a hamfest or convention, visit www.arrl.org/arrl-sanctioned-events.

To apply for ARRL sanctioned status for your event, go to www.arrl.org/hamfest-convention-application.

The ARRL Hamfests and Conventions Calendar can be found online at www.arrl.org/hamfests. In addition, the Convention and Hamfest Calendar that runs in *QST* each month also presents information about upcoming events.

VE Sessions:

The following information is for ALL exam sessions:

It is now an FCC requirement to have an FCC FRN; active email address and active phone number before taking any exam. Please bring your FCC FRN, original license, a copy of your license (if a licensed ham), a valid photo ID and \$15.00 - Cash preferred.

Effective April 19, 2022, the FCC will charge a \$35.00 application fee for amateur radio licenses. The fee will apply to new, renewal, rule waiver, and modification applications that request a new vanity call sign. License upgrades will not have a fee applied. The fee will be per application. *VE's will not collect the fees at exam sessions.*

AE8FP Amateur Radio Test Team administers ARRL-VEC testing in the Central Ohio area. Our test dates for 2024 are as follows: Januray 20, April 27, June 22, July 20, and October 19. Time and location for these dates are 10:00am at the Westerville Fire Station #111, 400 W. Main St in Westerville, Ohio. The listed dates are co-sponsored by the Central Ohio Radio Club (CORC).

Pre-Registration is required, and open the 1st of each testing month. All information is available at www.ae8fp.net <<http://www.ae8fp.net/>>

Alliance Amateur Radio Club

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club holds quarterly VE testing, at the Christ Ulnited Methodist Church in Alliance. The address is 470 E. Broadway St, Alliance, OH (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/prDyEPp6siJun2ibA>).

Upcoming Exam Dates are

Saturday, March 16th, 2024

Saturday, June 15th, 2024

Saturday, August 10th, 2024

Saturday, October 19th, 2024

We begin registration at 8 AM, with testing at 9am.

More information can be found at www.w8lky.org/licensing/ve-exams/.

All Things Amateur Radio Association (ATARA) We host testing sessions every second Tuesday of the month in Lancaster. To sign up please visit our website <https://atara-w8atr.fun> and contact us at hamexams@atara-w8atr.fun.

CARS

VE testing from CARS - Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society - at Elmwood Recreation Center, 6200 Wisnieski Parkway in Independence, Ohio 44131 Time: 9:15 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Always the 2nd Sunday of the odd month. Go to CARS www.2cars.org for detailed map of location. Call Metro W8MET 216-520-1320 for details

Clark County Amateur Radio Association (CLARA)

What: CLARA sponsored A.R.R.L. VE Testing - Walk-ins allowed. Pre-Register via email preferred.

When: On every second Saturday of each even numbered month starting at 10:00 AM Feb 10th; Apr 13th; Jun 8th; Aug 10th; Oct 12th; and Dec 14th, 2024. Where: Springview Government Center - Emergency Operations Center; 3130 E Main St; Springfield OH 45503 This is US-40 aka "old national road". From Route 40 enter Old Columbus Road, at the fork stay left driving straight onto Ogden Rd, then immediately turn left into the parking lot behind the EMA. Walk to the door with the "Employees Only" sign.

For more information contact Roland W. Ude, W8BUZ, (937) 605-4951 Email: buzz@baylorhill.com

Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA)

If you are interested in testing for a new or upgraded license, please come see us at the DARA Clubhouse. If you have questions about testing, please email exams.w8bi@gmail.com

The Findlay Radio Club

The Findlay Radio Club sponsors an Exam Session the second Saturday of every month except September when we have our Hamfest. The Exam Session takes place at the Findlay Radio Club, 1333 West Sandusky St., Findlay Ohio 45839. The session begins at 9 AM. Pre-registration is recommended, but not required. You can pre-register at hamstudy.org. We can also give Exams remotely on-line on your schedule if you can't make to a session.

The club has meetings on the first and third Thursdays at the clubhouse at 7:30 PM. The meetings are also available on Zoom. Contact N8ET if you would like to log in. All are welcome.

We also meet at the club on Sunday afternoon from 2 until 5 (or later!) to talk about anything Ham Radio. The sessions are geared toward new Hams. Everyone brings their questions and equipment they would like to show off or learn how to use. This Sunday we are going to install and learn to use Flgigi, Flmsg, and Flamp. In past sessions we have built antennas, fired up new rigs, and generally had a good time!

The next meeting (Feb 15) will cover the same topic. Bring your laptop!

Geauga Amateur Radio Association (GARA)

Amateur License exam sessions are offered for all license classes (Technician, General, Extra). Walk-ins are always welcome - no prior registration is required. No fee for the exam.

The GARA schedule of exams are these Sundays at 2pm. Dates for 2024 are Jan 14, March 10, May12, July 14, Sept 15, and Nov 17, 2024. All sessions are at 2:00PM each month



Exams are held at the Geauga County Department of Emergency Services and Emergency Operations Center, 12518 Merritt Road, Chardon, Ohio 44024. The EOC is located just south of the University Geauga Hospital and just east of the Geauga County Safety Center (Sheriff's Office), off of State Route 44 between State Route 322 and State Route 87 on Merritt Road.

Please arrive a few minutes before 14:00 to allow adequate time to process the necessary paper work and take your test. Bring your 1) photo ID, 2) email address, 3) FCC FRN, 4) a printout of your current license if taking the General or Extra exam.

Additional info may be obtained from Jackie Welch, N8JMW by email n8jmw2@gmail.com or calling at 440-228-2716. More information is available from the Geauga Amateur Radio Association website <https://geaugaara.org>

Huber Heights Amateur Radio Club

Huber heights amateur radio club does ARRL VE testing the second Saturday of each even numbered month. Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec. 9:30-11:00 For more information contact Jim Storms – AB8YK at ab8yk@hotmail.com

The Lake County Amateur Radio Association

The Lake County Amateur Radio Association is holding its **2024** Amateur Radio license exams at the **Kirtland Library**, 9267 Chillicothe Road, on the following dates:

Saturday, February 3	Saturday, August 3
Saturday, April 6	Saturday, October 5
Saturday, June 1	Saturday, December 7

This bi-monthly schedule is the first Saturday of every even-numbered month (e.g., February being the second month, etc.). They are held at the Kirtland Library, 9267 Chillicothe Road. It is 1.7 miles south of I-90 on Route 306 (Chillicothe Rd). The library is on the left, just beyond the Marathon gas station. The tests will start at **12 noon**. Please arrive a few minutes earlier.

To register, you will need a NCVEC 605 Form, which will be available at the test. If you would like to complete one ahead of time, be sure it is the Sept 2017 version or later. You can find it by Googling "NCVEC quick-form 605" and clicking on the url for a pdf of the form. Please note

the FCC requires you to provide a FRN (FCC Registration Number). Social Security Numbers are no longer accepted. If you are new to ham radio and don't have a FRN, Google "New FRN" and follow the fcc.gov link.

If you are currently licensed, be sure to **bring a copy of your license to the exam**. The cost of the exam itself is \$15.00, and if you wish to pay by check, it should be made out to the ARRL/VEC. Identification with your picture is also necessary, such as a driver's license. If you have any questions, please contact Scott Farnham, KO8O, at (440) 256-0320, or scottfarnham@roadrunner.com

In addition to the \$15 test fee, the FCC now charges \$35 to add you to the Amateur Radio database. The FCC will e-mail successful candidates instructions for payment directly to them. Payment must be made within 10 days of the e-mail. This charge does not apply to upgrades.

The Lancaster and Fairfield County Amateur Radio Club (LFCARC)

The Lancaster and Fairfield County Amateur Radio Club (LFCARC) hosts exam sessions on the first Saturday each month at 10:00 am in Lancaster Ohio at the Fairfield County EMA, 240 Baldwin Dr., Lancaster Ohio.

To register for an exam, [Click Here](#).

Questions: Contact me at ve_testing@k8qik.org.

Lisbon Area Amateur Radio Association

LISBON AREA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION (LAARA) 2024 SCHEDULE.

VE TESTING IS AT THE COLUMBIANA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

AT 215 SOUTH MARKET STREET, LISBON, OH 44432.

SIGN IN AT 1 PM AND TESTING AT 1:30 PM.

VE TESTING DATES FOR 2024

JAN 13; FEB 10; MAR 9; APR 13; MAY 11;
JUN 8; AUG 10; SEP 14; OCT 12; NOV 9; DEC 14.

WE CAN ALSO GIVE THE TEST AT OUR REGULAR MEETINGS THAT ARE NORMALLY ON THE 3RD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH. LAARA MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE COLUMBIANA COUNTY

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY AT THE SAME ADDRESS AS ABOVE. SEE THE K8GQB.COM WEB SITE FOR UPDATES.

MEETING TIME IS 6:30 PM.

WE HAVE ACTIVITY MEETINGS ON THE ODD MONTHS AND BUSINESS MEETINGS ON THE EVEN MONTHS.

Madison County

The Laurel testing group will offer testing on the first Thursday of January, March, May, July, September and November. Tests are held at 7:00PM at the Madison County EMA located at 271 Elm St. London, OH. No fee.

The Milford Amateur Radio Club (MARC)

VE testing is held the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM. Location; Miami Township Civic Center located at 6101 Meijer Drive, Milford, OH 45150.

Please pre-register at www.milfordhamradio.org

Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society (NOARS)

Six VE testing sessions in 2024. Registration is appreciated but walk-ins are welcome. Contact Elaine, KC8FOS for more information or to register. ewilkinson1951@gmail.com or 216-337-4235

Saturday, Jan 6. Fairview Park Library. 21255 Lorain Rd., Fairview Park. 10 AM.

Sunday, March 10. NOARS Hamfest. Lorain County Community College. 1005 Abbe Rd. N., Elyria. 9 AM.

Saturday, May 4. Fairview Park Library. 21255 Lorain Rd., Fairview Park. 10 AM.

Saturday, July 20. NOARSfest. Lorain County Community College. 1005 Abbe Rd. N., Elyria. 9 AM.

Saturday, September 7. Fairview Park Library. 21255 Lorain Rd., Fairview Park. 10 AM.

Saturday, November 2. Fairview Park Library. 21255 Lorain Rd., Fairview Park. 10 AM.

Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS)

The first Saturday of every even numbered month -10 am – at the PCARS club site in Ravenna. Please visit the PCARS web site and check out the information about VE testing in the latest newsletter at www.portcars.org.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me at KB8UUZ@gmail.com

Tusco Amateur Radio Club W8ZX

VE Testing sessions are held on the second Saturday of every even numbered month at the Dover Faith Church, 420 N Wooster Ave, Dover, OH 44622. Pre-registration is not necessary. Doors open at 0830 for registration, exams begin at 0900. Cost is \$15. You are required to have an email address and a copy of your FRN or current ham radio license. For more information please go to www.w8zx.net/exam or email VETEAM@N8BAG.NET.

Silvercreek ARA (SARA)

Hold six exam sessions per year for all license classes. Pre-registration requested but not required. Exam sessions for 2024:

Saturday, February 3rd - Wayne County Justice Center (Wooster)
Saturday, April 6th - Sharon Center UMC (Wadsworth/Medina)
Saturday, June 1st - Sharon Center UMC (Wadsworth/Medina)
Saturday, August 3rd - Wayne County Justice Center (Wooster)
Saturday, October 5th - Sharon Center UMC (Wadsworth/Medina)
Saturday, December 7th - Sharon Center UMC (Wadsworth/Medina)

All sessions begin at 10:00am. For directions and test information visit <https://w8wky.org/license-exams/>. Pre-Registration to expedite paperwork is requested, but not required at <https://w8wky.org/sara-ve-registration-form/>. Sign up and if you aren't ready or can't make it, just notify the VE team lead.

West Chester Amateur Radio Association (WC8VOA) Exam sessions are held one Saturday each month at 10:00 AM-Noon at the VOA Bethany Relay Museum located at 8070 Tylersville Rd, West Chester, Ohio 45069. For more information and links to register, please see our website: <https://wc8voa.org/licensing/>

AUXCOMM Class Registration Is Now Open

An AUXCOMM class will be presented on the three days immediately following Hamvention; that is, on May 20, 21, 22.

Prerequisites are FEMA IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800. To register for the class send an email to

jolene.hollingshead.civ@us.navy.mil with the subject line "AUXCOMM Registration" and attach the pdf copies of the FEMA IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800 certificates. In the body of the email, include the name of the public safety agency that you are most likely to support with auxiliary communications, your callsign, and a cell phone number.

The class will be held in the city of Beavercreek, six miles west of the Hamvention site.

This class is an affiliated event but is not organized by Hamvention. Do not direct questions to Hamvention or DARA. If you have questions, contact Bob Baker N8ADO, Greene County ARES Emergency Coordinator at n8ado@woh.rr.com.

Alliance ARC Rig Raffle is Underway



The Alliance ARC (W8LKY.org) rig raffle is underway for its 5th year. Each year, the club chooses a HF Rig, and raffles it off with a portion of the profits being donated to local charities. Since 2020, over \$5000 has been donated to charities in the Alliance, Ohio area. We will be at several Ohio, and Western PA Hamfests over the next few months. You can learn more (and buy tickets) by going to https://www.w8lky.org/hf_rig_raffle/. 73 DE WG8X (Fundraiser Chair, Alliance ARC)

Your Club news should be listed here!

I know you're out there doing things! Send me a write-up (MSWord please) and some photo's (.jpg please) and we'll get your club hi-lited here for the other OH Section Clubs to see! Send to WB8LCD@ARRL.ORG

ARLD015 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by ZL3GAV, The Daily DX, 425 DX News, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

VIET NAM, 3W. Alex, KU1CW is QRV as 3W9A and has been active on 15 meters using FT8 around 1800z. QSL to home call.

BHUTAN, A5. Janusz, SP9FIH and Leszek, SP6CIK will be QRV as A52P and A52CI, respectively, from April 19 to May 4. Activity will be on 40 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and various digital modes. QSL via Club Log.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, A6. Member of the Emirates Amateur Radio Society will be QRV with special call sign A60WARD from April 15 to 24 in recognition of World Amateur Radio Day. In addition, look for various A60WARD stations to be active with the suffixes /0 to /9 during this time. QSL A60WARD via EA7FTR and all others via operators' instructions.

EASTER ISLAND, CE0. A group of operators will be QRV as CD0Y from April 18 to May 6. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via DJ4MX.

NIUE, E6. Gavin, ZL3GAV will be QRV as E6SP from April 16 to 28. Activity will be holiday style on 160 to 6 meters using SSB, SSTV, FT8, and FT4 in DXpedition mode, with the possibility of CW and RTTY. QSL via LoTW.

LIBERIA, EL. Members of the Czech DXpedition Team are QRV as A8OK until April 16. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK, FT8, FT4, and on various Satellites. QSL via OK6DJ.

AUSTRAL ISLANDS, FO. Jeff, K5WE and Craig, W5CCP will be QRV as TX7W from Raivavae, IOTA OC-114, from April 16 to 30. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8, and FT4. QSL via K5WE.

HONDURAS, HR. John, AD8J will be QRV as HR9/AD8J from Roatan, IOTANA-057, beginning April 14. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters using CW, FT8, FT4, and possibly SSB. QSL via LoTW.

BONAIRE, PJ4. TJ, PE1OJR will be QRV as PJ4TB from April 13 to 28. Activity will be on 40 to 6 meters using SSB, FT8, and FT4. QSL via LoTW.

GREECE, SV. Several operators will be QRV with special call sign SX100D to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Second Hellenic Republic. Activity will be on 160 to 2 meters using CW, SSB, and various digital modes. QSL direct to SV2GWY.

SOMALIA, T5. Alex, IT9HRK plans to be QRV as T5/IT9HRK from Mogadishu. Activity will be in his spare time on 80 to 10 meters using mainly SSB, with some CW, RTTY, FT8, and FT4. He is here for several months. QSL via operator's instructions.

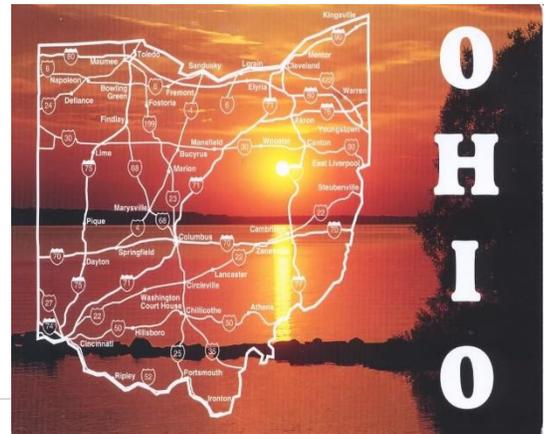
NAMIBIA, V5. Gunter, DK2WH is QRV as V51WH near Omaruru until April 30. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters. QSL to home call.

MICRONESIA, V6. Kevin, N4DVR plans to be QRV as V6DVR until April 20. Activity is on 20 to 10 meters using SSB. QSL via LoTW.

SERBIA, YU. Members of the Amateur Radio Union of Serbia are QRV with special event stations YT100R and YU100R until December 1 to celebrate 100 years of Amateur Radio in Serbia. QSL via bureau.

Please see April QST, page 76, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites for details.

Upcoming *Hamfests*



Ohio Hamfests

2024

04/27/2024 - [Tusco Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Electronics, and Computer Show](#)

Location: Dover, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Tusco Amateur Radio Club W8ZX

Website: <http://www.w8zx.net/hamfest>

Learn More

04/28/2024 - [Athens Hamfest](#)

Location: Athens, OH

Sponsor: Athens County Amateur Radio Association

Website: <https://www.ac-ara.org/>

Learn More

05/05/2024 - [Lucas County ARES Trunk Sale & Swap Meet](#)

Location: Toledo, OH

Sponsor: Lucas County ARES

Website: <http://lucasares.org>

Learn More

05/11/2024 - 05/16/2024

[RV Radio Network](#)

Location: Millersburg, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Rv Radio Network

Learn More

05/16/2024 - 05/19/2024

[Four Days In May](#)

Location: Fairborn, OH

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: QRP Amateur Radio Club International

Website: <http://qrparci.org/fdim>

Learn More

05/17/2024 - 05/19/2024

[Dayton Hamvention, ARRL National Convention](#)

Location: Xenia, OH

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association

Website: <https://hamvention.org>

Learn More

<p>06/01/2024 - FCARC Summer Hamfest Location: Wauseon, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club Website: https://k8bxq.org/hamfest Learn More</p>	<p>07/06/2024 - Mansfield Mid Summer Trunkfest Location: Mansfield, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Intercity Amateur Radio Club Website: http://W8WE.ORG Learn More</p>
<p>07/20/2024 - Ashtabula County Hamfest 2024 Location: Pierpont, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Amigos Radio Club Ashtabula Website: https://sites.google.com/view/arca-home/ Learn More</p>	<p>07/21/2024 - Van Wert Hamfest Location: Van Wert, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Van Wert Amateur Radio Club Website: http://w8fy.org Learn More</p>
<p>08/03/2024 - 2024 Columbus Hamfest Location: Grove City, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Aladdin Shrine Audio Unit Website: http://www.columbushamfest.com Learn More</p>	<p>08/10/2024 - Cincinnati Hamfest Location: Owensville, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Milford ARC Website: https://CincinnatiHamfest.org Learn More</p>
<p>08/18/2024 - Warren Hamfest Location: Cortland, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Warren Amateur Radio Association Website: https://www.w8vtd.com/ Learn More</p>	<p>09/08/2024 - Findlay Hamfest Location: Findlay, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Findlay Radio Club Website: http://w8ft.org Learn More</p>

<p>09/22/2024 - Cleveland Hamfest Location: Berea, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Hamfest Association of Cleveland Website: https://www.hac.org Learn More</p>	<p>10/05/2024 - Northwest Ohio Amateur Radio Club (NWOARC) Hamfest Location: Lima, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Northwest Ohio Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Website: http://www.nwoarc.com Learn More</p>
<p>10/27/2024 - 2024 MARC Hamfest at MAPS Location: N. Canton, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Massillon Amateur Radio Club Website: https://www.w8np.net Learn More</p>	<p>12/07/2024 - Winter Hamfest Location: Archbold, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: FCARC Website: https://k8bxq.org/hamfest Learn More</p>

Plenty of Ohio Section Hamfests on tap for 2024! If you haven't got yours submitted to ARRL as of yet – go back up a couple pages to the top of the “Clubs” section for complete instructions on how to get your fest ARRL Sanctioned!

DX This Week – 2023 DX in Review Part 1
 Bill - AJ8B (thedxmentor@gmail.com / www.aj8b.com)

Starting this week, I have two treats for you. First is a 2023 DX Year in Review prepared by Joe, W1JR, and Bernie, W3UR. This is being reprinted with their permission.



The second treat is a recap of the 2023 CQDX Marathon. Mark, WC3W, has not only taken on ownership of that program, but he has really escalated it! It is being reprinted here with Mark's permission.

I hope you enjoy these two.

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Starting this week and lasting for the next couple of weeks, I will have a review of the 2023 Year in DX. This is courtesy of Bernie, W3UR, and Joe, W1JR. I hope you enjoy this walk down the past 12 months of DX!

Radio propagation with the rise of Solar Cycle (SC) 25 greatly improved DX. Conditions on the upper HF bands and even some F2 6 Meter openings occurred. Many DXpeditions were activated especially near the end of the year. Most of them experienced better propagation but increased costs. The rise in use of WSJT-X by many DXers was obvious. Overall, it was a great year for DXers with many things happening so let's get started.

287 DXCC entities were activated during 2023, at least 20 more than in 2022. Three on the Club Log "DXCC Most Wanted List" top 20 were activated: 3Y0J (Bouvet), FT8WW and PR0T. Unfortunately, the 3Y0J operation from Bouvet experienced landing and extreme severe weather difficulties and made just over 18,000 QSOs, a big disappointment for many. For three months FT8WW made over 51,000 QSOs as a single operator. The PR0T team operated over a long weekend making over 18,000 QSOs.

Those active in the top 50 list included: 1S, 7O, H40, JD/M, KH8/S, T31, XZ and ZD9. Other semi-rare stations such as 3B9FR, 3D2AG (42KQ), 5W1SA, 9N7AA (65K), S01WS and VK9DX (45K) were active most of the year. FT8 DX activity except during major DX contests averaged 50-75% of the stations active on the bands during the year.

Many DX gatherings and conferences have now resumed although Covid is still out there. HamVention in Xenia, OH is ready to go joined with the ARRL National Convention. The International DX Convention in Visalia in April is still a go. Congratulations to K3VN and KO8SCA as the latest members inducted into the CQ Magazine DX Hall of Fame.

I dedicate the 2023 DXCC Year End Review to the memory of a great friend and DXer, Fred Laun, K3ZO (LU5HFI and HS0ZAR) for over 70 years in Ham Radio. He was a member of the Maxim Society, Director of the Yasme Foundation, FOC, CQ Contest Hall of Fame, and W3 QSL Bureau manager to name a few. A great helper, friend too many and generous anonymous donor too many Ham Radio projects worldwide. Fred will be sorely missed.

Ham Radio and the Internet: There is no doubt that the internet has had a profound influence on DXing. The DX Spotting Networks on the internet consist of multiple DX Cluster nodes worldwide. Many DX Cluster related sites such as DX Summit, DXHeat, VE7CC, RBN (Reverse Beacon Network), PSK Reporter etc. are great resources for timely DX spotting activity and DX info.

When spotting DX on a DX Spotting Network, make sure to show the exact frequency and mode of operation such as CW, SSB, FT8, FT8/FH especially when the frequency spotted is not in the expected spectrum. Please don't spot stations that you either aren't hearing or not sure of the call sign. Also don't ask for skeds or brag about your QSO etc. Most expeditions aren't watching a DX Spotting Network and many users don't appreciate these interruptions.

Radio Propagation: A recent report from NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC) dated October 25, 2023, predicted that Solar Cycle 25 may reach solar maximum by October 2024, about a year earlier than their previous predictions. Recent evidence such as an increasingly strong solar flares and CMEs and the impending reversal of the solar polar magnetic fields lend support to SWPCs recent prediction.

A recent QST article by Frank, W3LPL and a talk by Carl, K9LA are also of interest. Remember that Frank, W3LPL is still reporting up to date HF propagation information daily on The Daily DX mailing list based on the latest NOAA/SWPC web pages.

Also check SWPCs Cycle Prediction. Watch for long path propagation to improve. We'll just have to wait and see. It remains to be seen if a link can be proven between the four Jovial planets Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune and Uranus and the long-term solar cycle as theorized by some scientists. Also check out QSO Today which has been interviewing many prominent and interesting people in ham radio who talk about the hobby, radio propagation, DXpeditions etc.

2023 started with a bang when monthly average solar flux reached 182 and daily flux exceeded 200 for 12 days in a row in mid-January, the highest recorded values so far during Solar Cycle 25. Monthly average solar flux declined to 172 in February and to between 145 and 162 through June until it reached its second highest value of 178 in July when solar flux has much less effect on HF propagation in the northern hemisphere. Monthly average solar flux declined to between 154 and 159 through December except that it reached its lowest 2023 value of 142 in October, normally the best month for HF propagation. Daily solar flux remained below 155 during most of December except for eight days in a row from December 18-25 when daily flux was between 164 and 195.

Here are some useful propagation guidelines. Propagation is usually best on the upper HF bands when the A index is <15, the K index is <4, the solar wind is < 400 km/sec and the hourly solar flux is above 125. Solar flux persisting above 200 for at least eight days is usually required before 6-meter F2 which occurs reliably from October through February.

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Here is an update from Bernie, W3UR, of the DailyDX and the WeeklyDX, and the How's DX Column in QST. The DailyDX the best source for real-time DX information.

<http://www.dailydx.com/> . If you would like a free 2-week trial subscription, just send me an email. (thedxmentor@gmail.com) Bernie has this to report:

F5IRO, Freddy, a veteran of the 2009 FT5GA team, provides more information about the May 24- June 19 FT4GL DXpedition to **Glorioso**. Per Freddy, the plan is for FH4VVK, Marek, to operate two stations simultaneously – one on SSB and one on digital modes – on 160-6M. Marek will be bringing his own equipment. “To make this activity possible, he needs donations, additional materials and sponsors quickly.” Space is limited; therefore “the choice of equipment will be made according to the particular conditions of this DXpedition and donations received.” The team is open to “any proposals to try to make this adventure a great DXpedition.” Separately, the DXpedition team met this past weekend to tweak their vertical antenna for 40-10M. This week, they will test their 160 and 80M verticals. At the end of this week they will hand off most of the gear to the shipping carrier. F5IRO, Freddy, has posted photographs of the island’s electrical system. More information is available on the FT4GL Facebook page and a blog (in French with multiple translation options). The Daily DX, The Weekly DX, and I will continue to carry updates.

The **N5J, Jarvis Island** DXpedition team writes, “We are busy building and testing equipment. In addition to the RIBs, a lot of our gear is built by us, specifically designed for remote operation where reliability is key. We have finalized the station configuration. We will have six stations on the island. Four of the station are set up to be remotely operated and two will be locally operated, although we do have the flexibility to operate any station locally (from the boat) or remotely via Starlink and the Internet.”

As reported last week, PG5M, Gerben, is on **Pitcairn Island**, operating as **VP6G** through April 14. He has changed his announced 20 and 12M frequencies for FT8 to 14086 KHz and 24992.4 KHz, respectively; these changes are reflected in his expected transmit frequencies chart. Serving as QSL manager is MØOXO, Charles. Visit Gerben’s website for information about the station setup and VOACAP predictions by OH6BG.

Another DXpedition about to QRT is **A80K in Liberia**. The Czech DXpedition team arrived in Monrovia last week and are now on the air as A8OK. They are on CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8/FT4, and PSK on 160-6M, including the QO-100, RS-44 and IO-117 satellites. Based on local internet availability, they plan to use Club Log Live Stream wherever possible. QSL via OK6DJ, OQRS, and LoTW. They are posting photographs on their Facebook page.

Here is an update on **KH9 – Wake Island**. NL7RR, Tom, will be on Wake Island April 15-May 15. He says that he will be on 14200 KHz SSB around 0700 UTC each day with an ICOM IC-7300 at 100W into a Buddipole hex beam. QSL to his home address, QSL direct to his home address. P.O. Box 2387, Homer, AK 99603, Club Log, or LoTW.

DF2WO, Harald, will return to Kigali, **Rwanda** as **9X2AW** from May 2-17. He will be on CW, SSB, and FT8/FT4 on all bands, plus the QO-100 satellite, with a Yaesu FT-991 and multiband antennas, “unfortunately only with 100W.” QSL via MØOXO OQRS.

LB5SH, Stian, provides an update on the **Market Reef** DXpedition April 27-May 4. (Geography buffs: Market Reef is the smallest island in the world that is shared by two countries, Finland and Sweden.) He, along with LA1UW, LA3WAA, and LBØVG, have booked ferry tickets and have decided what equipment and antennas to take with them. LA1UW is building a 6M/4M Yagi. They will announce their 4M activity on DX clusters, “so keep an eye open if OJØ on 4M is of interest.” LB5SH will focus on SSB and FT8 but is working on his Morse skills too and “might give it a go, hoping it won't end in carnage.” He may send the word “SLOW” at times and asks that callees “show some mercy for this rookie CW op.” LA3WAA also wants to do more CW and SSB this time around and is building a new vertical that will cover 40-10M and an Inverted-L for 80M. LBØVG is testing out his homebrew kilowatt amplifier and is thinking of bringing gear for satellite operation.

The **6O3T Somalia** 2024 DXpedition team have announced their operating team. They are IV3JPP, Fabri; IV3DSH, Paolo; IZ8GCE, Frank; IV3ZXQ, Maurizio; IV3AZV, Mauro; and a yet to be announced “Young Operator”. This one is scheduled to later this year. The dates are being withheld due to safety concerns.

As far as **A5 – Bhutan** goes, SP9FIH, Janusz, says it's bad news. On the way home to Poland from PJ5/SP9FIH, Sint Eustatius, his bag was lost again. Lost bags were a problem on his way to PJ5. In this missing bag were his radio, power supply, Heil headset, wire antennas and ropes. He says his fingers are crossed it will all be found, with just one week until his departure for Bhutan. A52CI and A52P are scheduled for April 19 to May 4. <https://a5.dxpeditions.org/>

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CONTEST CORNER

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

Over the next several weeks, I will bring you a breakdown of the 2023 CQDX Marathon. This information was provided by the Program Director, and my friend, WC3W, Mark. I know you will enjoy this as it gives a great perspective on band activity in 2023.

Another year of amazing and unprecedented growth, establishing the DX Marathon Program as the “fastest growing DX program in our hobby today.” I want to thank each one of you personally for participating and for just having fun! All of the great feedback and testimonials makes all the work that my staff and I have done, in giving back to our hobby, worthwhile.

The formative words to describe 2023 were “growth” and “new records set”. We grew year-over-year at a 50% pace, and there were 115 previous records shattered in the program. We have worked hard to spread the word to the many hams worldwide who have not heard about the DX Marathon program. Cycle 25 and the use of FT8 technology has made it possible for many hams with antenna restrictions, and/or financial restrictions, the opportunity to participate in the wonderful world of DX.

Participation in the DX Marathon continues to grow. The growth in 2023 with a total of 28,301 unique callsigns worked by our participants was a 31% increase over 2022. We believe this growth spurt is a combination of the popularity of the DX Marathon program and the excellent conditions presented by Solar Cycle 25, making it possible for more and more operators to have fun working DX.

Nearly 350,000 QSOs occurred by all of our participants in 2023 which was a 56% year-over-year increase. The beauty of the Marathon program is that participation has been consistent regardless of propagation. We are, of course, enjoying the amazing Cycle 25, and no one can deny that great propagation impacts scoring levels that can be achieved, new records set, and participation, particularly for hams who don’t have mega stations. It is indeed a beautiful thing to work the world again on 10 meters with 100 watts.

In 2022, 18 scores exceeded 300 points. In 2023, nearly 100 scores exceeded 300 points, clearly a record in Marathon history. In 2023, over 110 records were broken, such as individual country scores, zones scores, and, amazingly enough, new milestones. The latter were achieved in the world highest mode category with all time high scores achieved in phone, digital, and CW scores. Jeber, PY4JW set the all-time phone score with 275 points. Steady and regular Lada, OK2PAY was able to achieve his best personal score of 309, and set the all-time record for CW, and lastly, Steve, N3SL recorded an all-time 320 in Digital. Great way to spend time during those cold Iowa winter days and nights!

During the scoring process, the DX Marathon staff carefully checks the accuracy of submissions. The DX Marathon does not require the validation of QSOs, but the program does require the accurate reporting of valid QSOs. There was a decrease in the error rate in 2023, which is indicative of participants checking logs more carefully. The spike in 2022 was, for the most part, due to the CQ Magazine’s policy on Russian QSOs. Even so, in 2023 we recorded slightly more than 300 logs that were completely error free!

For the first time in the past few years, the digital mode slightly fell in percentage of overall QSOs. The digital mode was used in 72.0% of the reported QSOs while CW was 14.4% and phone was at 13.7%.

The highest scores in the DX Marathon program have historically been dependent on 1) propagation and 2) the number of DXpedition activations. Both factors resulted this year in a top score in the Unlimited Class of 329 vs. last year's 307. Surprisingly, the Limited class had a top score of 324. Combining all of the scores equal-to or greater-than 300 yielded 86 entrants in the Unlimited, 9 in the Limited, 3 in Formula 100 and 1 in Formula 5. In 2022, there were a total of 12 over 300 across all classes!

As might be expected, with Cycle 25 advancing nicely, the percentage of QSOs submitted for the 10-, 12-, and 15-meter bands increased by 81%. These 3 bands represented 51% of all the QSO's submitted. 2023 resulted in a record high total of 366,214 QSOs.

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

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

I searched around a bit and finally joined the Mad River Contest Club (<https://www.madriverradioclub.org/>), or the MRCC. The areas that the MRCC covers is Ohio, Michigan, and the surrounding states. They have bi-monthly ZOOM meetings. I joined and attended my first meeting. Not to be surprised, there were some big-time contesters in attendance. I have wanted to upgrade my contesting skills and I think I have found an avenue to do that. I will keep you informed as to what I learn so I can share it.

Thanks!

Contest	Start Date	End Date
Holyland DX Contest	4/19/2024	4/20/2024
Michigan QSOP	4/20/2024	4/21/2024
Ontario QSOP	4/20/2024	4/21/2024
SP DX RTTY	4/27/2024	4/28/2024
10-10 Intl. Spring Contest, Digital	4/27/2024	4/28/2024

Florida QSOP	4/27/2024	4/28/2024
10-10 Intl. Spring Contest, CW	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Arizona QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Connecticut QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Delaware QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Idaho QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Indiana QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Maine QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Massachusetts QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Montana QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Nevada QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
New Hampshire QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Oregon QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Rhode Island QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Utah QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Vermont QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Washington QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Wyoming QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
SWODXA DXDINNER	5/17/2024	
SWODXA DXForum	5/18/2024	
Arkansas QSOP	5/18/2024	5/19/2024
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	5/25/2024	5/26/2024

OHIO'S



N8ZNR, K9DOG and myself journeyed to the Iron Triangle in Fostoria to view Monday's Solar Eclipse. While there I monitored some of the area's repeaters and found little activity. But I did hear a decent amount of simplex activity from the Toledo area. I don't know the amount of activity in our South 40 Region, but did know some planning to participate in the Eclipse Net and assisting local officials during the event. One thing I experienced was actually seeing a solar flare from the Sun's South Pole during the minutes of totality.

The **Tri-State ARA** will meet on April 16 at the Museum in Huntington. Members attending are asked to bring a can of some type of vegetables that evening to contribute to the 'hobo stew' that will be served at the May club meeting. For more information please contact Judy Taylor, WD8EOP.

On April 28 the Wilmington National Weather Service will present a Storm Spotter Training session for Fairfield and Pickaway Counties at the Liberty Center in Lancaster. The Belmont County Library in Martins Ferry is the site where the Pittsburgh NWS Office to hold an in person training session on May 13.

Those interested in older amateur and broadcast equipment may have an interest in attending the April 20 the swap meet and auction at the **West Virginia Museum of Radio and Technology** in Huntington. Vendors may start setting up at 7 am with the general public admitted at 8. There is a \$10 fee for the first table. Weather permitting, there will be a free outdoor tail gate area. Admission is free. The well attended auction starts at 12:30. But items going on the auction block are to be registered before noon.

At the upcoming April 21 **Athens County ARA** meeting Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, and Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ will conduct two concurrent antenna building programs. Kirk will lead one on building a 2 meter tape measure antenna while Jeff assists those building a 2 meter copper J-Pole. Each build will get underway to 1 pm at the Red Cross Building in Athens on April 21. Those interested in attending one of the builds should contact the appropriate program leader in order for the appropriate materials to be on hand.

Paul Jellison, K8IO, attended the recent **Highland ARA** meeting and gave an update on the various projects and activities of HARA's parent-The **Clinton County ARA**. According to him on April 27 during their monthly 'Last Saturday Breakfast' the Club will conduct the drawing to announce the winner of their \$500+ Sam's Meats meat package fund raiser raffle. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20 and are available from club members. Only 500 tickets are being sold and the tickets with him went quickly. Contact any CCARA member for tickets or more info. He also reported on the progress of the Club's LPFM broadcast station. The transmitter and other equipment has been received and tested. Installation of the antenna on the tower should happen within the next few weeks leading to the actual on the air testing. He also commented on Hamvention plans and the recent successful testing session that saw 10 new licenses or upgrades.

The April 2 **Hocking Valley ARA** meeting was cancelled because of a severe weather forecast. It has been rescheduled for April 16 at 7 PM at the Hocking County EOC in Logan.

On April 1, Tyler Smathers, KE8GSO, of Athens County became a Silent Key following a long battle with various health issues. Services have been held in Albany.

On April 20 there will be an ARES Training Session at the Johnson Memorial Methodist Church, 513 Tenth Street in Huntington. This session will cover message handling. Fred Herr, WD8AGH, requests those attending to bring paper and pencils. If you have ARRL Radiogram forms, please bring those too. However they will be furnished.

On Sunday the 28th, the **Athens County ARA** will hold their hamfest at the recreation center in Athens. It will begin at 9 am. This hamfest is one that will get your Hamvention attendance juices flowing.

Following the sale of the property where the Pike County 146.145 was located, the decommissioning of the tower and the removal of electrical service, the **Highland ARA** had to find a new location to relocate the repeater to. After an exhaustive search, a Southern Highland County site near Sugar Tree Ridge was approved by the property owner. According to Club repeater trustees Tom Archibald, K8TDA, and Jeff Collins, KD8VUY, the repeater was returned to the air with a decent footprint. The machine is now in the test stage of re-coordination. Coverage reports will be appreciated.

Southwest Ohio DX Association President Bill Salyers, AJ8B, reminds us that tickets for the annual Hamvention DX Banquet are now on sale. The banquet is May 17 at the Dayton Marriott beginning with a cash bar at 5:30 and the program and awards presentation beginning at 7. Tickets usually go fast for the event so it's advised to go on line at www.swodxa.org and order them ASAP. Dozens of great prizes are already committed to be awarded during the evening.

There are many events happening during Hamvention but another of the most popular starts on May 16 and continues through the 19th. It is the annual **"Four Days In May"** and has grown to be a very popular and well attended event during Hamvention weekend. Although mostly geared towards the QRP operator, the event offers a number of good speakers, exhibits, advice and operating pointers any amateur can use. It takes place at the Holiday Inn in Fairborn.

An upcoming VE session in the South 40 Region will be on April 18 when the **Milford ARC** has a test session in Milford. The **Dial RC** has moved its test session to April 20 and will take place at the Fairfield Township Building in Hamilton. The **Cambridge ARA** will hold their monthly test session at the Guernsey County Administration Building on Saturday, April 27.

Then on May 2 the **Madison County ARC** will conduct a test in London. On May 4 Wilmington's **Clinton County ARC** will host a session.

In My Opinion: I have just received my license plate renewal notice from the State for my vehicles. It reminded me of a pet peeve I have had for several years. In this day and age when computers talk to other computers “why do we still have to provide the State BMV with a physical copy of our ham license in order to renew our ham license plates?” For those whose renewals have been delayed because they forgot to enclose a copy when renewing by mail or those who have to return home find and make a copy to provide their local BMV Office it becomes a royal pain. Why can't the BMV computers check with the FCC computers directly to see if a ham license is still valid? Perhaps we need to start complaining to our elected state representatives and senators and start a movement to get this changed. Something to think about.

Again we end our column with more good news as we have more new hams in our South 40 region. Clinton County welcomes a new Technician (KF8ATN) in Christopher Harrison of Wilmington. Undoubtedly he is one of the students from the recent **Clinton County ARA** license class. Pickaway County's James Coffman now holds a General ticket. KF8AUE lives in Circleville. Not to be outdone, Warren County increases its ham population by Darren Bowers of Lebanon passing his Technician test to become KF8AUL.

So until next time, 73.

John Levo, W8KIW

jlevo@cinci.rr.com or highlandara@gmail.com or 937-393-4951 (landline-leave a message)

Print an Official or Unofficial Copy of Your Amateur Radio License

(By Anthony Luscre, K8ZT)

As of February 17, 2015, the **FCC no longer routinely issues paper license documents** to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The Commission has maintained for some time now that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System (ULS). The FCC will continue to provide paper license documents to all licensees who notify the



Commission that they prefer to receive one.
 Licensees also will be able to print out an official authorization — as well as an unofficial “reference copy” — from the ULS License Manager. I’ve created a set of instructions on how you can request an **“official” printed copy of your license***

[Click here to download the instructions](#)

Ohio Section Cabinet

Section Manager – Tom Sly, WB8LCD	Section Traffic Manager – David Maynard, WA3EZN
Section Emergency Coordinator – Bret Stemen KD8SCL	Section Youth Coordinator – Anthony Luscre, K8ZT
Technical Coordinator – Jeff Kopcak, K8JTK	Affiliated Clubs Coordinator – Amanda Farone – KC3GFU
State Government Liaison – Bob Winston, W2THU	Public Information Coordinator – Elizabeth Klinc - KE8FMJ



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>

Do you have equipment that you just don’t need or want anymore? Here’s a great venue to advertise it, and it’s FREE!! Is your club doing a fund raiser to help raise money? After a lot of thought, it was decided that the Swap & Shop webpage could also contain these types of items as well. The same rules will apply as do for the For Sales and Give-A-Ways and will only be posted for a month at a time. Please see the Terms & Conditions on the webpage.

If your club is doing a fund raiser and wants more exposure, please forward the information to me and I'll advertise it on the Swap & Shop webpage for you.

Now, I still want to remind you that it won't be listed in this newsletter because it would take up way too much space, so your ad will only appear on the website. It is there for any individual to post equipment Wanted / For Sale or Give-Away as well as for Club Fund Raisers. You might want to list your location so that prospective buyers know where you're at. 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

Back Issues of the PostScript and Ohio Section Journal

Hey, did you know that PostScript and Ohio Section Journal (OSJ) are archived on the website? You can go back and look at any edition simply by clicking:

<http://arrl-ohio.org/news/index.html>



Want to Share your Club Newsletter With Others?

We have a webpage where you can download and read all of the newsletters that I get from around the state and even other sections!

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

Please, if you don't see your club newsletter posted, it's because I'm not receiving it. Just have your newsletter editor contact me and I'll get your club's newsletter listed on the site!!



We all learn and steal (I mean, share) from each other's work. So, get me your newsletter!!! Send it to: webmaster@arrl-ohio.org

Chit – Chat, and All That!

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



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



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

Just go to: <http://arri-ohio.org/news/>

PostScript is produced as a weekly newsletter. I want to thank everyone that has contributed articles and ideas to make this an even better news source. I sincerely hope that you have enjoyed this edition and will encourage your friends to join with you in receiving the latest news and information about the Ohio Section, and news and events happening around the world! Occasionally you may find an error or two in this newsletter – be assured, they were put there on purpose to make sure you're reading the newsletter carefully!