



February 2024  
Our 105th Year  
Volume 62, Issue 2

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Website:  
<http://www.mvara.org/>

*The Voice Coil*  
Newsletter of the  
Mahoning Valley Amateur  
Radio Association  
Established 1919

## Prez Sez

We have recently reformed the Education Committee, who are hard at work getting everything together. Dave Brett will be the chairman for the committee. We are going to be doing a Tech Class coming up in March so if there is anyone that you know wanting to take the class, please let us know. We also have some other things in the works that you will find out about later as plans come together.

We are also working in a sub-committee that will be handling the STEM program that we are working on with the Youngstown School System. We have a couple of meetings to go to with the school and will know more at our February meeting.

Your help is needed with this program though. The program the schools want to put in place is quite ambitious for the few guys that have offered to help. It would be only one or two days of your time to encourage these students into becoming HAM radio operators. We need to get more youth into this service. So please see or



contact me if you can help out. You can get all the contact information on our website [w8qly.org](http://w8qly.org).

73,  
Scott, KE4UHC

## Have you renewed your membership?

No?

A membership form is attached along with this month's newsletter:

[Membership.pdf](#)

Please complete and return to Nancy, KD8QNY



## Meeting Location:

February 8, 2024, 7pm  
GOP Headquarters  
8381 Market St.  
Boardman, OH 44512

## 2024 Officers

**President:** Scott Wilton, KE4UHC

**Vice President:** Dave Brett,  
KD8NZF

**Secretary:** Doug Sage, KB8TPG

**Treasurer:** Nancy Brett, KD8QNY

**Trustees:**

Joe Vasko, N8SEJ (2)

Richard Bouvia KT3GOD (2)

John Morris WM8B (1)

Nik Johnson K5NIK (1)

**Newsletter Editor:** Mark  
Haverstock, K8MSH (1)

**Awards Manager:** Dave Fairbanks,  
N8NB, 330.501.5031, 4770 Logan  
Ave. Youngstown, OH 44505

The Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc, meets the second Thursday of every month. Location and time are subject to change. Dues are \$20.00 per year, \$10.00 each for additional family member. Contact Nancy, [nanceanne34@gmail.com](mailto:nanceanne34@gmail.com) for details.

The club call is **W8QLY**; equipment operated under this call includes a two meter voice repeater at 146.745 (-600, 110.9 PL). Club email: [mvara.w8qly@gmail.com](mailto:mvara.w8qly@gmail.com)

MONDAY NIGHT NET operates every Monday at 9:00. PM on 146.745 MHz.

SKYWARN NET - First Wednesday of the month at 8:30 PM on 146.745 MHz as weather warrants.

ARES NET- First and third Mondays of each month at 8:30 PM on 146.745 MHz; prior to the Monday Night Net.

## AK6R

Our Speaker for February is Bob Brehm, AK6R. Bob is the Chief Engineer at Palomar Engineers.



Palomar is a manufacturer of antennas and RF products used with antennas and radios. They specialize in products such as chokes, baluns, and transformers. Bob has been a ham for most of 60 years and is a very popular speaker on antenna and RFI topics.

Please mark your calendar for the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting and join us in welcoming Bob to MVARA.

## Questions, Questions

Do you have any ideas for questions we can ask for our Good news and Information Net on Monday? If so, we want to hear from you.

We would rather have nothing too complicated so it's easy to understand and easier to give a short answer. Questions related to ham radio are preferred but not necessary.

Send your questions to us at [mvara.w8qly@gmail.com](mailto:mvara.w8qly@gmail.com) and you just might hear your question on-the-air.



### License Refresher:

Answers: E9A01 (C) E9A02 (D) G2C01 (D) G2C02 (A)

## Current Activities

**Feb. 8:** General meeting, 7 pm, GOP HQ, Boardman.

**Mar. 3:** License testing session, 6:30 pm, GOP Headquarters  
8381 Market St. Boardman, OH

**Mar. 5:** Tech license class, Boardman Library, 7680 Glenwood Ave, Boardman, OH  
44512, on March 5, 2024 at 6:00 pm. More details on page 13.

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### Comments, Questions?

Email: [mvara.W8QLY@gmail.com](mailto:mvara.W8QLY@gmail.com) Snail-mail: MVARA, P.O. Box 14141, Poland, OH 44514

**Meeting ideas/ suggestions?** Contact Dave, KD8NZF, [KD8NZF@zoominternet.net](mailto:KD8NZF@zoominternet.net)

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## Voice Coil Submissions

We're looking for descriptions and pictures of club activities, project articles, technical articles, news items, swap and shop, and other information of interest to hams.

- Send text as MS Word files or ASCII text only, **NO PDF** files.
  - Use standard formats for photos: jpg, png, gif only.
  - Send text, photos as SEPARATE files. Don't embed pictures in the text. Let your editor do the layout—it's much easier that way.
  - Write a brief description with picture: event, date, names/calls of those in picture
- 

## **Hamfests** *All are subject to change. Stay current by checking the sponsoring club's web page*

**02/25/2024 Wireless Association of South Hills ARC Hamfest Location:** Home Economics Building, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park, PA 15129.

**Website:** <http://n3sh.org> **Sponsor:** WASH ARC **Talk-In:** 146.955 MHz & 443.650 MHz 131.8 Hz. **Public Contact:** Ronald Telek , [w3le@comcast.net](mailto:w3le@comcast.net), 3065 Aljean Drive, Bethel Park, PA 15102. **Phone:** 412-831-4886, **Email:** [w3le@comcast.net](mailto:w3le@comcast.net)

**03/10/2024 Winter Hamfest. Location:** Lorain County Community College, 1005 N. Abbe Rd., Elyria, OH 44035. **Website:** <http://winterhamfest@noars.net>

**Sponsor:** Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society. **Talk-In:** 146.70 (110.9). **Public Contact:** Carl , W8KRF, 3821 West 152nd Street Cleveland, OH 44111, Phone: 216-256-9624, **Email:** [w8krf@w8krf.net](mailto:w8krf@w8krf.net)

### **04/13/2024 Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club 68th Hamfest.**

**Location:** Emidio & Sons Expo Center, 48 E. Bath Road, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221. **Website:** <http://www.w8vpv.org/hamfest> **Sponsor:** Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club, Inc. **Talk-In:** 147.270+ and 444.850+ both PL 110.9 **Public Contact:** Bruce Ferry , AK8B, 2907 Lee Rd. Silver Lake, OH 44224. **Phone:** 330-790-1680, **Email:** [hamfest2024@w8vpv.org](mailto:hamfest2024@w8vpv.org)

# **HAM HUMOR: RADIO MAGAZINE CALLS NEW CONTEST A DRAMATIC FAILURE**

By [WBØRUR](#), on the scene

**NEW CAMBRIDGE, Maryland** – The staff at a national magazine devoted to amateur radio is calling its most recent radio contest a “dramatic failure.”



Darius Von Sparringburg, Chief Editor of “73s and 88s” magazine, says logs submitted for the recently completed “North American QSO Championships” contain an unusually high number of errors. So many in fact, that the contest may be declared invalid.

“At this early stage of NAQC log checking, we’re finding 99.3% of all logs contain errors. Most logs are so riddled with mistakes they are not even worthy of inclusion in the contest results. Our log checking software is overwhelmed. We’ve had to hire additional interns to manually inspect the entries.”

Von Sparringburg attributes the multitude of disqualifying operator errors to an overly complicated contest exchange, which is he adds “sounded good when we were talking about it in the planning meeting.”

“The exchange included a contest serial number, followed by a signal report. The operator then sends a driver’s license number, operator’s mother’s maiden name, the serial number of the radio being used on the air and a ZIP+4 postal code. DX stations were also required to include the AT&T international calling code for their respective country. Apparently, this turned into an unwieldy exchange for many.”

A typical DX exchange (example is station located in Liechtenstein):

009 599 965427047 SMITHFIELD 094362 72703 3297 011 423

Alarmingly difficult to communicate on SSB, almost impossible on CW and time consuming to the extreme on PSK31, editors at the magazine say operators sounded off in the “Soap Box” section:

- “Who the hell came up with this exchange? FOOLS!”
- “My mother’s maiden name is Rickenhausingfield. I had 50 characters in my contest exchange!”

- “It took 8 minutes to send my information to the other station.”
- “I was killing it with a QSO rate of 5 QSOs per hour.”
- “It took me 15 minutes just to program my CW keyer.”
- “I went to town and did some grocery shopping while my macros sent the exchange.”

Von Sparringburg says the magazine may consider running the contest again next month

“But we’d use a new contest exchange – something simple like year of license, ITU Zone, CQ Zone, Maidenhead grid square locator data, and maybe the type of antenna being used,” he says.

**Editor’s Note:** “73s and 88s” magazine is published bi-monthly. It features interviews and articles about ham radio. Each issue includes a “centerfold” pull out section, featuring a ham radio operator “suggestively” displaying a piece of HF gear from his shack.

##Ham Hijinks

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## Swap and Shop

- Icom IC-2KL 500 watt solid state HF linear amp with Icom IC-AT500 auto tuner \$1,400
- Heathkit Frequency Counter IM2400 \$70
- MFJ-269 Antenna Analyzer \$180
- Yaesu VX-1R Mini Dual Band HT with accessories and spare batteries \$75
- Lambda lab grade regulated pwr supply Mode 1 LK345 FMOV 0-60v 6 amp Max \$40
- Heathkit HW-2036 two meter VHF base/mobile with power supply\$80
- Heathkit Single Bander 80 meter SSB Transceiver Tech Special \$30
- Numerous low pass filters \$10 each
- Regency MR-10 VHF Monitor Radio \$30



Contact Frank – WB8YHD – [younghotdog@arrl.net](mailto:younghotdog@arrl.net)

### Got Stuff? Recycle!

1. List it in the Voice Coil --or--
2. Donate items to the monthly 50/50 raffle as prizes.

# Education Committee

Last year the club created an Education Committee. We are pleased to announce several of our MVARA members have volunteered to serve on the Committee. Members of the Education Committee are:

Andy	WA8ZLK
Danielle	KE8YMU
Dave	KD8NZF
Ed	KE8NSW
Frank	WB8YHD
John	WM8B
Mark	K8MSH
Rich	KB8GAE
Scott	KE4UHC

The committee is initially working on the March Tech class and a General class to be announced later this year.



## MVARA Team Does SSB NAQP January Edition

The MVARA Contesting Group had another fine outing for the January 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 running of the SSB North American QSO Party (NAQP). The SSB NAQP is a 12 hour contest and in January it runs from 1 pm Saturday until 1 am Sunday local time. It's a simple contest with the exchange being just a name and your state and involves mostly stations based in North America, but stations from all over the world can contact North American stations as well. Compared to other contests it's relatively short and easy.

Karl, ND8DX was again kind enough to host the MVARA Contest Group at his contest grade station. As Murphy is wont to do, Karl noticed a pretty big problem with his contest computer system the day before and contacted Frank, WB8YHD with a strange request. He needed a really old computer. You see many contesters, Karl included, use DOS based software. Yes you read that correctly, DOS, one of the first widely used PC Operating system from the 1980s! Why? The DOS based software is fast, stable and easy to use quickly with keyboard shortcuts. Quick and easy is a key element in contesting.



(continued pg. 7

*(NAQP--CONTINUED)*

All of Karl's contest station is built to use this software from voice keyers to antenna arrays and it all works seamlessly when the computer is working well. Karl's old computer wasn't working well. It had a bad motherboard. Hence the call for an old, really old computer.

As it turns out Franks basement of stuff (it's amazing) warehoused such an old computer. In fact, the computer Frank found was almost identical to the DOA DOS dinosaur Karl had. Even down to the motherboard! It was delivered Friday evening, Karl made some quick exchanges of sub boards and ND8DX was contest ready. The moral of the story is old stuff still works.

Saturday shortly after noon saw the arrival of Dave and Danielle, KE8YJX and KE8YHU, Frank, WB8YHD and Bob and Julie, KD8OPT and KD8VMS. Under Karl's watchful eye final preparations were made and warmups started about 12:45 pm and the contest kicked off officially at 1 pm.

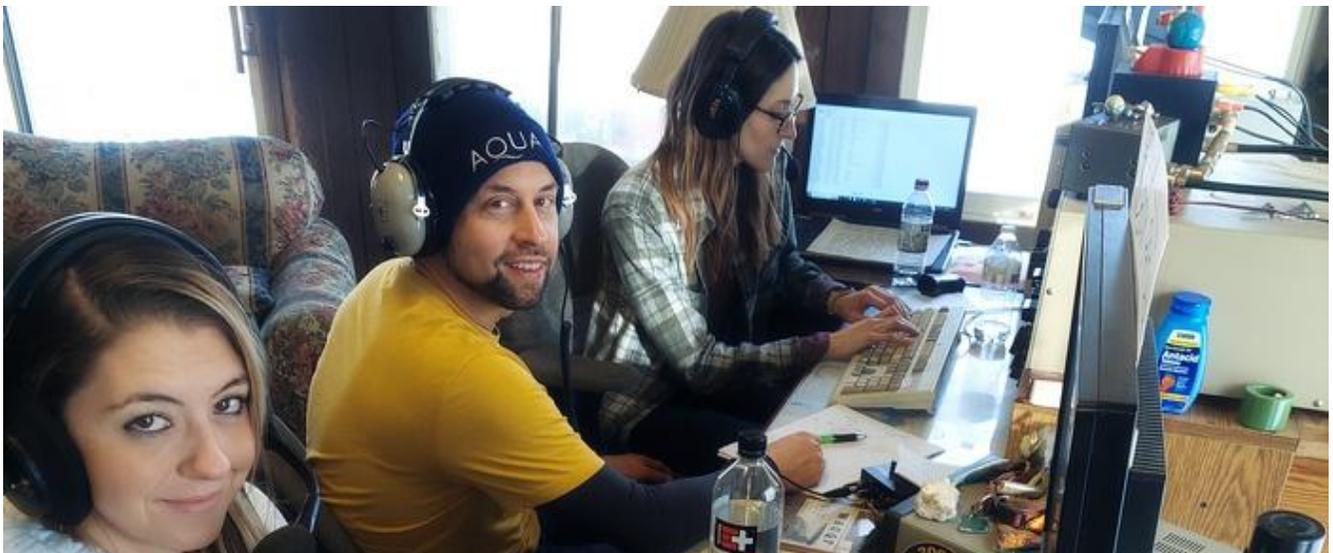
Karl and Dave were on duty first and went after multipliers right out of the box on the higher bands. Even 10 meters was open for a while. The "money band" 40 meters was run continuously throughout the entire 12 hours. The pace was fun and fast. Julie, Bob and Danielle took over the mics about 3 hours in moving to 20 meters. The ladies are gifted at racking up the contacts. One right after the other. It was amazing to watch. Well after sunset Frank and Dave sat in and were working the gray line on 40 and 20. DX and Canada were fun and more contacts rolled in.

About 10 pm the contest doldrums set in. That's where the propagation closes down and the contacts get harder to make. Frank, Karl and Dave moved to the lower bands, 40, 80 and 160 to make more mults. It was tough duty. Slow, labor intensive and sometimes a little boring, but that's contesting sometimes. However, as usual, there was a flurry of activity in the last hour as many stations changed bands to make their final contacts.

When the smoke cleared the MVARA Contest Group had compiled 388,500 points. Unofficial tallies put the crew in 10<sup>th</sup> place nationally! Not bad for a new contesting group.

We want to once again thank Karl, ND8DX, for hosting the newbies at his station and passing on his contest wisdom. We are lucky to have Karl as an MVARA member and even luckier that he is so willing to pass on his knowledge and skills.

Keep an ear out for the next MVARA Contesting Group effort and join in on the fun next time.



## **YSU Amateur Radio Club Repeater on the Air!**

The K8YSU 440 mhz repeater is on the air and you can use it. The repeater hit the air January 25<sup>th</sup> with its new equipment. The basics are it's operating on 443.100 with a positive split of 5 mhz (448.100) and a PL tone of 110.9.

The K8YSU repeater has been "in process" for over 5 years. Wes, W8IZC and Frank, WB8YHD worked on moving the Hubbard 440 repeater to YSU. When it first went on the air two Baofeng HTs were used as the repeater into 150 feet of RG-8X feeding a mag mount mobile antenna sitting on a metal air conditioner housing. With feedline loss maybe 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a watt was making it to that antenna. They knew they had a winner though, because even with that lash-up the repeater covered the entire campus (even inside all buildings) and all of the Youngstown downtown business district.

The new repeater is an Icom unit currently putting out 2 watts. The current 4 bay antenna on the building roof is fed with minimal loss by 50 feet of 1 and ½ inch commercial hardline coax and has about a 7 db gain. Effective radiated power (ERP) is about 8 to 10 watts. For only 2 watts the coverage is pretty amazing with full quieting into the Boardman area.

This is where you can help. The YSU Amateur Radio Club only has a small handful of licensed operators with radios. Many of them live on Campus and don't leave very often. Coverage analysis will be difficult for them to accomplish. Many of our MVARA members have dual band VHF/UHF radios that most have never used on UHF (440). You can change that and help the YSU Club analyze their new repeater's coverage.

Get on the air and use the new K8YSU repeater. Talk to the students. Talk to other local hams and use 440. We all know the more we use our bands and frequencies the better the justification is for us to have them. So get on the air with the K8YSU repeater and make some new friends on the YSU Campus and have more fun with Amateur Radio.



## Contest and Special Event Operating Information

### Dave Fairbanks N8NB

Data below as well as more information courtesy of the following website:

<http://www.contestcalendar.com>.

#### February 2024

+ CWops Test	0300Z-0400Z, Feb 1
+ CWops Test	0700Z-0800Z, Feb 1
+ NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1800Z-1900Z, Feb 1 (CW) and 1900Z-2000Z, Feb 1 (SSB) and 2000Z-2100Z, Feb 1 (FM) and 2100Z-2200Z, Feb 1 (Dig)
+ SKCC Sprint Europe	2000Z-2200Z, Feb 1
+ NCCC FT4 Sprint	0100Z-0130Z, Feb 2
+ Weekly RTTY Test	0145Z-0215Z, Feb 2
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 2
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 2
+ K1USN Slow Speed Test	2000Z-2100Z, Feb 2
+ Vermont QSO Party	0000Z, Feb 3 to 2400Z, Feb 4
+ 10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	0001Z, Feb 3 to 2359Z, Feb 4
+ F9AA Cup, CW	1200Z, Feb 3 to 1200Z, Feb 4
+ Mexico RTTY International Contest	1200Z, Feb 3 to 2359Z, Feb 4
+ European Union DX Contest	1200Z, Feb 3 to 1200Z, Feb 4
+ FYBO Winter QRP Sprint	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 3
+ Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 3
+ British Columbia QSO Party	1600Z, Feb 3 to 0359Z, Feb 4 and 1600Z-2359Z, Feb 4
+ AGCW Straight Key Party	1600Z-1900Z, Feb 3
+ North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0359Z, Feb 4
+ K1USN Slow Speed Test	0000Z-0100Z, Feb 5
+ ICWC Medium Speed Test	1300Z-1400Z, Feb 5
+ OK1WC Memorial	1630Z-1729Z, Feb 5
+ ICWC Medium Speed Test	1900Z-2000Z, Feb 5
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 5
+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Feb 6
+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Feb 6
+ ICWC Medium Speed Test	0300Z-0400Z, Feb 6
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 7
+ Phone Weekly Test	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 7
+ A1Club AWT	1200Z-1300Z, Feb 7
+ CWops Test	1300Z-1400Z, Feb 7
+ Mini-Test 40	1700Z-1759Z, Feb 7
+ VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	1700Z-2100Z, Feb 7
+ Mini-Test 80	1800Z-1859Z, Feb 7
+ CWops Test	1900Z-2000Z, Feb 7
+ UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Feb 7
+ AWA Linc Cundall Memorial CW Contest	2300Z, Feb 7 to 2300Z, Feb 8 and 2300Z, Feb 10 to 2300Z, Feb 11
+ Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	0000Z-0100Z, Feb 8 and 0200Z-0300Z, Feb 9
+ CWops Test	0300Z-0400Z, Feb 8
+ CWops Test	0700Z-0800Z, Feb 8

+ NCCC FT4 Sprint	0100Z-0130Z, Feb 9
+ Weekly RTTY Test	0145Z-0215Z, Feb 9
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 9
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 9
+ K1USN Slow Speed Test	2000Z-2100Z, Feb 9
+ FISTS Saturday Sprint	0000Z-2359Z, Feb 10
+ CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	0000Z, Feb 10 to 2359Z, Feb 11
+ SARL Field Day Contest	1000Z, Feb 10 to 1000Z, Feb 11
+ Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint, CW	1100Z-1300Z, Feb 10
+ Dutch PACC Contest	1200Z, Feb 10 to 1200Z, Feb 11
+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Feb 10 to 2400Z, Feb 11
+ KCJ Topband Contest	1200Z, Feb 10 to 1200Z, Feb 11
+ OMISS QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 10 to 1500Z, Feb 11
+ RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest	1900Z-2300Z, Feb 10
+ CQC Winter QSO Party	0100Z-0259Z, Feb 11
+ Balkan HF Contest	1300Z-1700Z, Feb 11
+ K1USN Slow Speed Test	0000Z-0100Z, Feb 12
+ 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Feb 12
+ ICWC Medium Speed Test	1300Z-1400Z, Feb 12
+ ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Feb 12 to 2359Z, Feb 16
+ OK1WC Memorial	1630Z-1729Z, Feb 12
+ ICWC Medium Speed Test	1900Z-2000Z, Feb 12
+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Feb 13
+ ICWC Medium Speed Test	0300Z-0400Z, Feb 13
+ PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint	0000Z-2359Z, Feb 14
+ NAQCC CW Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Feb 14
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 14
+ Phone Weekly Test	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 14
+ A1Club AWT	1200Z-1300Z, Feb 14
+ CWops Test	1300Z-1400Z, Feb 14
+ Mini-Test 40	1700Z-1759Z, Feb 14
+ VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	1700Z-2100Z, Feb 14
+ Mini-Test 80	1800Z-1859Z, Feb 14
+ CWops Test	1900Z-2000Z, Feb 14
+ DARC FT4 Contest	1900Z-2000Z, Feb 14
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 14
+ CWops Test	0300Z-0400Z, Feb 15
+ CWops Test	0700Z-0800Z, Feb 15
+ NTC QSO Party	1900Z-2000Z, Feb 15
+ NCCC FT4 Sprint	0100Z-0130Z, Feb 16
+ Weekly RTTY Test	0145Z-0215Z, Feb 16
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 16
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 16
+ K1USN Slow Speed Test	2000Z-2100Z, Feb 16
+ YLRL YL-OM Contest	0000Z, Feb 17 to 2359Z, Feb 18
+ ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 17 to 2400Z, Feb 18
+ Russian PSK WW Contest	1200Z, Feb 17 to 1159Z, Feb 18
+ Feld Hell Sprint	1900Z-2059Z, Feb 17
+ FISTS Sunday Sprint	0000Z-2359Z, Feb 18
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	2300Z, Feb 18 to 0100Z, Feb 19
+ K1USN Slow Speed Test	0000Z-0100Z, Feb 19
+ ICWC Medium Speed Test	1300Z-1400Z, Feb 19

+ OK1WC Memorial	1630Z-1729Z, Feb 19
+ ICWC Medium Speed Test	1900Z-2000Z, Feb 19
+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Feb 20
+ ICWC Medium Speed Test	0300Z-0400Z, Feb 20
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 21
+ Phone Weekly Test	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 21
+ A1Club AWT	1200Z-1300Z, Feb 21
+ CWops Test	1300Z-1400Z, Feb 21
+ VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	1700Z-2100Z, Feb 21
+ Mini-Test 40	1700Z-1759Z, Feb 21
+ Mini-Test 80	1800Z-1859Z, Feb 21
+ AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening	1900Z-2030Z, Feb 21
+ CWops Test	1900Z-2000Z, Feb 21
+ Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	0000Z-0100Z, Feb 22 and 0200Z-0300Z, Feb 23
+ CWops Test	0300Z-0400Z, Feb 22
+ CWops Test	0700Z-0800Z, Feb 22
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 22
+ NCCC FT4 Sprint	0100Z-0130Z, Feb 23
+ Weekly RTTY Test	0145Z-0215Z, Feb 23
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 23
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 23
+ K1USN Slow Speed Test	2000Z-2100Z, Feb 23
+ CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	2200Z, Feb 23 to 2200Z, Feb 25
+ REF Contest, SSB	0600Z, Feb 24 to 1800Z, Feb 25
+ UBA DX Contest, CW	1300Z, Feb 24 to 1300Z, Feb 25
+ South Carolina QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 24 to 0159Z, Feb 25
+ North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 24 to 0559Z, Feb 25
+ NA Collegiate Championship, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 24 to 0559Z, Feb 25
+ High Speed Club CW Contest	1400Z-1700Z, Feb 25
+ North Carolina QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 25 to 0100Z, Feb 26
+ K1USN Slow Speed Test	0000Z-0100Z, Feb 26
+ ICWC Medium Speed Test	1300Z-1400Z, Feb 26
+ QCX Challenge	1300Z-1400Z, Feb 26
+ OK1WC Memorial	1630Z-1729Z, Feb 26
+ QCX Challenge	1900Z-2000Z, Feb 26
+ ICWC Medium Speed Test	1900Z-2000Z, Feb 26
+ RSGB FT4 Contest	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 26
+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Feb 27
+ ICWC Medium Speed Test	0300Z-0400Z, Feb 27
+ QCX Challenge	0300Z-0400Z, Feb 27
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Feb 28
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 28
+ Phone Weekly Test	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 28
+ A1Club AWT	1200Z-1300Z, Feb 28
+ CWops Test	1300Z-1400Z, Feb 28
+ Mini-Test 40	1700Z-1759Z, Feb 28
+ Mini-Test 80	1800Z-1859Z, Feb 28
+ CWops Test	1900Z-2000Z, Feb 28
+ UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Feb 28
+ CWops Test	0300Z-0400Z, Feb 29
+ CWops Test	0700Z-0800Z, Feb 29

# DX Operating Information

## Dave Fairbanks N8NB

Credit for the below information and further information on these operations and others can be found at the following website: <http://www.ng3k.com>

February						
2024 Feb02	2024 Feb07	Norfolk I	VK9N <b>NEW</b>		<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20240122	By GM4DLG as VK9N/GM4DLG; 80 40 20m; SSB; 100w; 100w
2024 Feb03	2024 Apr16	Senegal	6W7	Club Log OQRS	<a href="#">425DXN</a> 20240119	By ON4AVT as 6W7/ON4AVT fm Warang; 80-10m; FT8
2024 Feb04	2024 Feb09	Philippines	DU3	LoTW	<a href="#">425DXN</a> 20240119	By WA7WJR as DU3/WA7WJR fm Pampanga; 20-10m; CW SSB + digital; spare time operation; QSL via WA7WJR (B/d)
2024 Feb04	2024 Feb11	Vanuatu	YJ	LoTW	JH3QFL 20231212	By JH3QFL as YJ0AA and JH3VAA as YJ0MN; HF; mainly FT8; QSL via JH3QFL w/SASE (as in QRZ.com)
2024 Feb06	2024 Feb20	Antigua & Barbuda	<a href="#">V26CV</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20231222	By KG9N; HF; CW; QSL via KG9N
2024 Feb07	2024 Feb29	Senegal	6W7	Club Log OQRS	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20230115	By ON4AVT as 6W7/ON4AVT fm Warang; 80-10; SSB + digital; QSL via ON4AVT; operation to continue until Apr 13
2024 Feb10	2024 Feb18	Georgia	<a href="#">4L</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20231201	By K6VHF as 4L/K6VHF fm Rustavi; 80-6m; CW SSB FT8 RTTY; 1kw; QSL via K6VHF direct
2024 Feb10	2024 Feb24	Juan Fernandez	<a href="#">CB0ZA</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20230605	By NP4G HI3R XQ3SK AB5EB AD5A W8HC N2IC fm IOTA SA-005; 160-6m; SSB CW RTTY FT8 + EME; QSL via N2OO direct w/ 2USD + SASE; dates subject to change; see Web for full QSL details
2024 Feb10	2024 Feb28	Solomon Is	H44MS	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20231111	By DL2GAC fm QI01hp; 160-6m; SSB FT8; 800w; QRV for CQ 160m SSB; QRV holiday style until Apr 29
2024 Feb14	2024 Feb24	Guyana	<a href="#">8R7X</a>	LoTW	DK6SP 20230611	By M0SDV DK6SP DJ4MX HA8RT; 160-6m; CW SSB FT8 RTTY; QSL via M0OXO OQRS
<b><a href="#">ARRL International DX Contest, CW</a> (Feb 17-18, 2024) Check here for pericontest activity too.</b>						
2024 Feb17	2024 Feb27	St Kitts & Nevis	<a href="#">V47JA</a> <b>NEW</b>	LoTW	W5JON 20240124	By W5JON fm Calypso Bay; 160-6m; SSB FT8; yagi, verticals; QSL also OK via W5JON direct
2024 Feb17	2024 Mar03	Madagascar	5R	S53BV Direct	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20240104	By S53BV as TBD fm Nosy Be I; 80 40m; CW SSB; 300w
2024 Feb19	2024 Mar09	Wallis & Futuna	FW8	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20231227	By LZ1GC as FW8GC and LZ5QZ and TX8GC fm Wallis I (IOTA OC-054); 160-10m; CW SSB RTTY FT8 FT4
2024 Feb20	2024 Feb27	Mauritius	3B8	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20230725	By OK6DJ as 3B8/OK6DJ; 40-10m; CW; QSL via Club Log OQRS
2024 Feb22	2024 Mar07	Temotu	<a href="#">H40WA</a>	LoTW	N6PSE 20230126	By N7QT N6PSE VE7NY OE1JUN DJ9RR HA0NAR W7XU N6XG fm IOTA OC-065 (RH29vg); 160-10; CW SSB FT8 (f/h); QSL via M0URX; QRV for CQWW SSB
2024 Feb25	2024 Mar04	St Kitts & Nevis	V4	K1ZN	K1ZN 20230925	By K1ZN as V44/K1ZN fm St Kitts; HF

2024 Feb27	2024 Mar03	Lord Howe I	VK9L NEW		<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20240122	By GM4DLG as VK9L/GM4DLG; 80 40 20m; SSB; 100w; 100w
2024 Feb27	2024 Mar04	US Virgin Is	NP2R	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20240110	By K4BEN W3MLJ KC1KUG fm St Thomas I; 160-10m; CW SSB, perhaps FT8; 100w; Spiderbeam, dipoles, sloper; QSL via KC3UII

## Spring Tech Class

The Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association (MVARA) is pleased to announce its spring 2024 entry level technician license class for amateur radio.

We are encouraging all club members to help get the word out to all who may be interested via person to person, over the air, and social media like Facebook, Instagram, Discord and X.

The first meeting will be in person, held at Boardman Library, 7680 Glenwood Ave, Boardman, OH 44512, on March 5, 2024 at 6:00 pm. Other meetings will be held online, to be scheduled.

This year's session offers additional benefits and support. We're partnering with Hamradioprep.com to provide online training which will track your progress and give you immediate feedback. In addition, you'll have access to a group of experienced ham radio mentors to support your efforts who will meet with you during the time leading up to your exam to answer your questions and act as coaches to help you prepare.

More information is on our website at [www.mvara.org](http://www.mvara.org)



# Amateur License Refresher

Dave, KD8NZF



The Extra exam was last rewritten in 2020 and a new exam will be issued in July of 2024. If you have wanted to take the Extra exam you may want to consider doing it before the new exam is issued as it usually takes a little time after a new exam is released before the study materials catch up with it.

## Extra Pool

E9A01

What is an isotropic antenna?

- A. A grounded antenna used to measure Earth conductivity
- B. A horizontally polarized antenna used to compare Yagi antennas
- C. A theoretical, omnidirectional antenna used as a reference for antenna gain
- D. A spacecraft antenna used to direct signals toward Earth

E9A02

What is the effective radiated power relative to a dipole of a repeater station with 150 watts transmitter power output, 2 dB feed line loss, 2.2 dB duplexer loss, and 7 dBd antenna gain?

- A. 1977 watts
- B. 78.7 watts
- C. 420 watts
- D. 286 watts

## General Pool

G2C01

Which of the following describes full break-in CW operation (QSK)?

- A. Breaking stations send the Morse code prosign "BK"
- B. Automatic keyers, instead of hand keys, are used to send Morse code
- C. An operator must activate a manual send/receive switch before and after every transmission
- D. Transmitting stations can receive between code characters and elements

G2C02

What should you do if a CW station sends "QRS?"

- A. Send slower
- B. Change frequency
- C. Increase your power
- D. Repeat everything twice

Answers:

## ***The Last Word***

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“Those people who think they know everything are a great annoyance to those of us who do.” — Isaac Asimov

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The *VOICE COIL* is the monthly publication of the Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc. (MVARA) and is intended to present news, issues and opinions of interest to MVARA members and the Amateur Radio Community. We encourage contributions of articles, letters to the editor, etc. and welcome newsletter exchanges with other clubs from around the country and around the world. Permission is granted to reprint material contained herein as long as proper credit is given to this newsletter and the author. Ideas for and contributions to the *VOICE COIL* should be submitted to: [MVARAVoiceCoil@gmail.com](mailto:MVARAVoiceCoil@gmail.com)

Submissions must be received **no later than the 24th** of the month prior to the month of issue, unless otherwise specified. **Submissions should be in MS Word format or ASCII text—no PDF, please!** Material received after the deadline will be used in the next month’s *VOICE COIL* if it is still current and /or newsworthy.

### **Swap and Shop Policies**

Swap and Shop listings are open to all licensed Mahoning Valley Hams--you don’t need to be an MVARA member. You can include a picture for your listing. Please submit your list to [mvara.w8qly@gmail.com](mailto:mvara.w8qly@gmail.com) **AND** [mvaravoicemail@gmail.com](mailto:mvaravoicemail@gmail.com) for placement in both *Voice Coil* and website. MVARA assumes no responsibility for transactions made or inaccuracies in ads. You are responsible for checking your ad and notifying us of any corrections. Ads will run for two consecutive issues unless we are notified otherwise.

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