PostScript
Ohio Section

January 8th
Edition
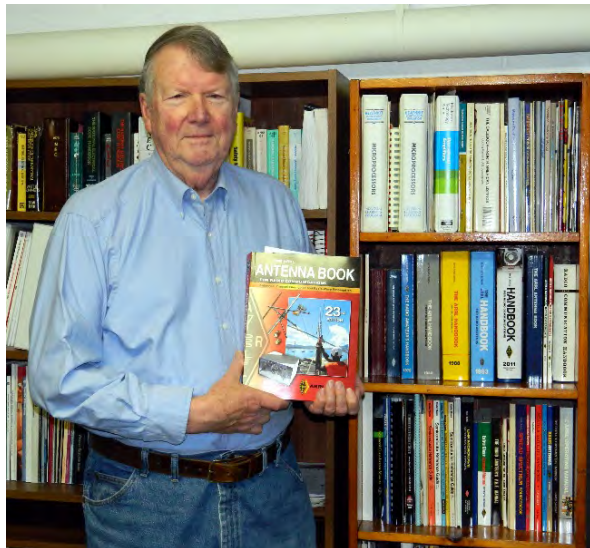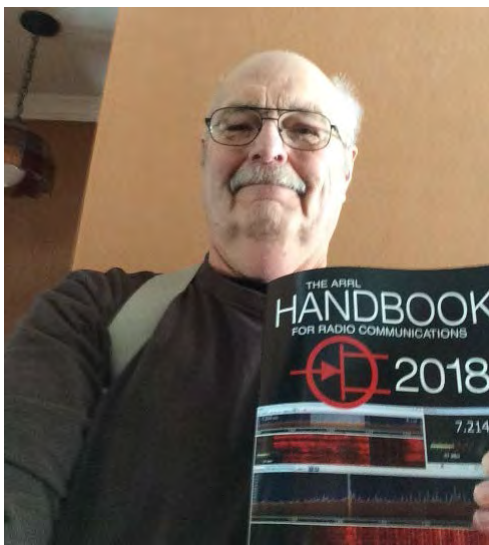
Something's Phishy: How to detect phishing attempts 101

Dear you,

It appears you need to update your information. Click here to tell us all your secrets.

No really, it's totally safe. We're not going to steal your identity, we swear.

If only phishing attempts were that obvious.

Instead, these days it's hard to tell a phish apart from a foul, if you catch my drift. Modern-day phishing campaigns use stealthy techniques to target folks online and trick them into believing their messages are legit. Yet for all its sophistication, phishing relies on one of the basest of human foibles: trust. Detecting a phish, in its various forms, then requires you to hone a healthy level of skepticism when receiving any kind of digital communication, be it email, text, or even social media message.

The evolution of phishing

While the Nigerian prince attack vector remains in use today, most savvy Internet users can now spot this scam a mile away (hence the multitude of memes that have popped up over the years). The campaign has lost its edge and fooled way fewer users. Plus, email technology has progressed so that spam filters readily pick up on this phish and block it. And this is why cybercriminals have had to advance their tactics.

Types of phishing

The most basic and commonly seen type of attack, of course, is the phishing email. Phishing emails are sent to a group of users who are unique enough to be used as bait but broad enough to ensnare a large number of people. The point is to cast as large a net as possible. In contrast, other forms of attack are much more targeted.

Here are just a few of the phishing schemes that are being used today.

- Spear Phishing
- Whaling
- Smishing
- Pharming
- Content-injection phishing
- Man-in-the-middle phishing

There truly are a lot of phish in the sea.

So, if your head isn't completely swimming in fish puns, it's time to talk about how to train your eye and your gut to sniff out the various forms of phishing attacks.

Something's phishy if:

- The email, text, or voicemail is requesting that you update/fill in personal information. This is especially dubious if it's coming from a bank or the IRS. Treat any communication asking for your credentials with extra caution.

- The URL shown on the email and the URL that displays when you hover over the link are different from one another.

- The "From" address is an imitation of a legitimate address, especially from a business.

- The formatting and design are different from what you usually receive from an organization. Maybe the logo looks pixelated or the buttons are different colors. Or possibly there are weird paragraph breaks or extra spaces between words. If the email appears sloppy, start making the squinty "this looks suspect" face.

- The content is badly written. Sure, there are plenty of wannabe writers working for legitimate organizations, but this email might seem particularly amateur. Are there obvious grammar errors? Is there awkward sentence structure, like perhaps it was written by a computer program or someone whose second language is English?

Take a closer look

Speaking of content, a phishing email almost always sounds desperate. Whether they're claiming that your account with be closed, an urgent request is needed, or your account has been compromised, think twice before double-clicking that link or downloading that attachment.

The email contains attachments from unknown sources that you were not expecting. Don't open them, plain and simple. They might contain malware that could infect your system.

The website is not secure. If you do go ahead and click on the link of an email to fill out personal information, be sure you see the "https" abbreviation as well as the lock symbol at the beginning of the URL. If not, that means any data you submit is vulnerable to cybercriminals.

If you suspect or can verify that you've been phished, it's best to report the attempt directly to the person or organization being spoofed. You can also contact the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to lodge a complaint. Once completed, delete the email, then empty your trash. (Same goes for texts.)

Now the next time someone attempts to scam you with fraudulent emails, you won't have to wonder if the message is for real. You'll scope out a phish hook, line, and sinker.

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Somethin's Missin'

Hey Gang,

Are you one of those folks that have seemed to have lost your back issues of the weekly newsletter? I've had a number of you write and call me that they can't find their favorite issues anymore. Well, there's a good reason for that, they got moved to make room for the New Year coming on. No, they weren't destroyed, they were just Archived! No, that doesn't mean that they were put on Noah's Ark, it just simply means that they were moved to another folder on the website to make room for all of the great 2018 news yet to come.

I have gone back through the blogger and updated each one of the file locations so you should be good just to click on the link, but.. If it for some reason doesn't take you to the issue that you want, you can go to the main file area and find it there for sure. Here's the link… http://arrl-ohio.org/news/

I know that this has caused some of you to get excited, and I do apologize for that. But now that this transition has taken place, it's all over and everything is where it should be. There won't be a need to do any more moving, this was a one-time move and that will take care of this for good!

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One Question Questionnaire

Hey Gang…

There's another NEW – one question – questionnaire on the Ohio Section Website! http://arrlohio.org   I noticed that that about 66% of you have made it clear that you aren't going on a diet with me this year. Oh well, guess I'll just be toughing it out with Marie Osmond by myself. Hi.. Hi.. Anyway, it's all in fun and I hope that you are enjoying answering these "ONE QUESTION" questionnaires.

Now, since the holidays are over, let's get a little serious now, and just see how many of you out there will answer this next one honestly... **"Have you ever grabbed the wrong end of the soldering iron?"**

The survey will only take 2 seconds for you to answer it, and you can see how your answer stacks up with others instantly. If you haven't done it yet, please do. I really want to hear from you. Hey... If you've got a question that you'd like to see on our questionnaire, please send it to me!

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What is the difference between a fuse and a circuit breaker?

Both the fuse and the circuit breaker are intended to open a circuit for excessive current. The traditional fuse is a circuit element that is a one-time use element. That is, excessive current will cause it to open and to restore the circuit the fuse must be replaced with a like element.

They are often cylindrical and come in holders for somewhat easy replacement but sometimes are soldered in place.
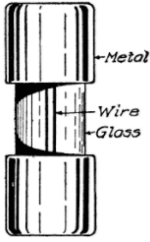
They usually use a fusing element that is metal with a low temperature melting point that literally melts under overcurrent conditions. The cylinder is often made of glass to allow inspection of the fuse element to see if it's blown.

There are some self-resetting fuses that will heal after a certain amount of time. These are called PTC fuses and have a high resistance state when hot. If the heat was caused by overcurrent then removing the overload will restore the fuse to operation mode.

A circuit breaker is a multiple use device. It is usually permanently installed in equipment. It generally has two mechanisms for breaking the current: a magnetic portion which opens with a large current and a thermal part that also opens under overcurrent...

The thermal part has a lag so these typically go slower than a fuse but with very high currents the magnetic part will open quickly. The circuit breaker usually has a button or handle to reset it after it has cooled down.

Circuit breakers are usually more costly and larger than fuses. Fuses are more likely to be abused because if blown and the user wants to return the equipment to operation AND if there's not a spare fuse, then he will substitute a fuse of higher value, or short out the fuse holder in frustration and defeat the safety of the fuse.

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OHIO DMR NET REPORT

January 03 DMR Net

District 1 – 4	District 5 – 9	District 9 – 3	QNI: 96
District 2 – 6	District 6 – 13	District 10 – 8	
District 3 – 7	**District 7 – 19**		Time: minutes
District 4 – 8	District 8 – 9	Outside of Ohio – 10 CA; TX; KY; MI; FL; AU	NCS: K8MDA

It seems that **District - 7** won the Gold Star for the night with 19 check-ins. Congrats District 7! There were several net announcements given after all the check-ins were established.

The reason for conducting this net every week is to make sure that all of our connections to the now ever-growing list of repeaters throughout the state are working as we want them to be.
Sometimes things don't always work as we expect them to, and testing this system, and ourselves each week gives us the ability to better understand what can happen during any emergency situation, and a better understand of how to work around any discrepancies that may occur before the emergency happens. Come join in on the fun every Wednesday evening at 8:30pm local on the DMR - 3139 talk group!

Hey – gotta' tell ya' all that Andy, K4AWC has a new code plug out. And, as he states in his release message:

"There have been several new DMR repeater ID's issued since my last code plug. I only add repeaters I can verify that are on the air or repeaters that are real close to coming on air (per the trustee of said machine). I also try to balance update releases, as to not overwhelm folks.

One thing to keep in mind about this code plug, I have pretty frequent communication with DMR repeater trustees from around the state. I include their preferred time slot talk group usage "asks". Please try to respect what time slot you are using a talk group on. Brandmeister offers a lot of flexibility. With that comes a responsibility on your part at honoring the repeater owners wishes. If any of the included repeaters in my code plug does not conform to local usage guidelines, please let me know. I will happily make the change in a future update."

Want a copy of his code plug? Just click the link: http://arrl-ohio.org/digital/k4awc.html

You can also find a ton of information about DMR and the most popular DMR Nets on the website: http://arrl-ohio.org/digital/digital.html

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Fun Things To Do, Classes & Hamfests Too
(from various newsletters and sources)

Ohio ARES VHF Simplex Contest
January 13 – 10AM through 4PM EDT

Bands - All bands from 50 MHz up - See website for additional information
http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/simplex-day.html

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**Seneca Amateur Radio Club Classes**
Amateur Radio Technician License Class 2018, a free training course with the only cost being materials and test fee. The Seneca Radio Club (W8ID) is presenting the course which will be held at the Public Safety Building at the Seneca County Fairgrounds.

The start date is January 10, 2018 from 6:30pm to 9:30pm and will meet one night each week for 12 weeks. An application for the course can be found on the W8ID website at www.W8ID.org

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The Mount Vernon ARC will be conducting a Technician Class starting with a registration night on January 18th, with classes starting on January 25th from 7:00pm – 9:30pm and continue each Thursday evening through March 1st. Exams will be held on Saturday, March 3rd at 10:00am

For more information about the classes, contact Don Russell, W8PEN – w8pen@arrl.net or
Frank Counts, KC8EVS – fcounts@gmail.com

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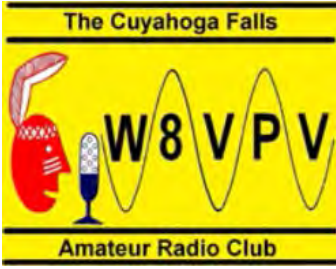
Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club. We are offering a five-week General Class Licensing class starting in mid-February. The sixth week will be a VE session.

The class meets between 1:15 PM and 4:45 PM at the Akron-Summit County Public Library Main Branch at 60 South High Street, Akron OH 44326.

For more information about the class, contact Jim Grover, N8PZL - grizgrover@gmail.com

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The Union County Amateur Radio Club is putting on an Amateur Radio Technician License Class starting February 7th.

This 6-week long class will be Wednesday evenings from 7pm to 9pm. The class will begin February 7th at the Union County Services Building, 940 London Ave. Marysville, Ohio 43040

The class, testing session, and study guide are free. The class will be using the W8PEN Tech Study Guide, which is available as a PDF from the link below.

http://www.ohiohams.net/sites/ohiohams.net/files/W8PEN%20Tech%20Study%20Guide%20Ver%202.0.pdf
 Please email techclass@ohiohams.net to register for the class or request additional information about the class.

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The Westerville Public Library is offering a Technician Class Licensing class on 4 consecutive Saturdays from 3-5PM starting on Feb. 10, 2018. The exam for it is being offered on Mar. 10 from 3-5PM. The class is free but I don't know about the charge for taking the test. The class is being taught by Dr. Lawrence Feth, K8HTC, faculty advisor for the OSU Amateur Radio Club.

For more information about the class, visit: http://www.westervillelibrary.org/events

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Just Ahead in Radiosport

- January 20-22   January VHF
- January 12-16   School Club Roundup
- January 17-18   International DX – CW

See the ARRL Contest Calendar for more information. For in-depth reporting on Amateur Radio contesting.

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01/14/2018 | SCARF's 22nd Annual Hamfest
Location: Nelsonville, OH
Sponsor: Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation
Website: http://www.qrz.com/db/kc8aav

01/28/2018 | Tusco ARC Hamfest, Electronics & Computer Show
Location: Strasburg, OH
Sponsor: Tusco Amateur Radio Club
Website: http://tuscoarc.org

02/18/2018 | InterCity ARC Hamfest
Location: Mansfield, OH
Sponsor: InterCity Amateur Radio Club
Website: http://www.w8we.org

Did you know that you can find all the Ohio Hamfests in one location? You can, go to:
http://arrl-ohio.org/hamfests.html

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News from our Public Information Coordinator, John Ross, KD8IDJ

AT&T has announced that all 50 US states are participating in its public safety network called FirstNet. The project will take place over the next handful of years, ultimately culminating in a robust broadband network provided specifically for first responders. The carrier recently held an opt-in/out period during which states had to decide whether they wanted in…and, it turns out, they all do.

The FirstNet network is the by-product of a government contract tasking the carrier with building a solution for first responders, that itself building upon a recommendation for such a network in our post-9/11 world. Under the contract, AT&T is getting 20 megahertz wireless airwaves and extensive funding to spend half a decade building the network.

This first responder-centric network is the result of years of work. It was way back in 2011 that the FCC finally decided that LTE would be the suitable standard for this network, and now years later one of the nation's biggest LTE providers has made i a reality.

The FirstNet network is available to first responders starting today, and it'll be improved over coming years. AT&T says it will build the foundation next year, adding Band 14 for more capacity and coverage, as well as identifying and hardening "certain critical sites" in states, including places where natural disasters are likely. FirstNet could also get a 5G upgrade in the future.

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From the New Net Manager of the Burning River Traffic Net (BRTN)
(Keith Cook, KD8GXL)

Happy New Year!

As the new net manager of the BRTN, I wanted to thank everyone for their support of the net. For over 40 years the BRTN has been in operation, teaching traffic handling skills and passing formal written traffic.

Indeed, the BRTN has become a tradition in local ham radio! This did not happen without a great deal of hard work and commitment on the part of everyone who participates in the net. I want to thank each of you for your service and dedication to the Burning River Traffic Net.
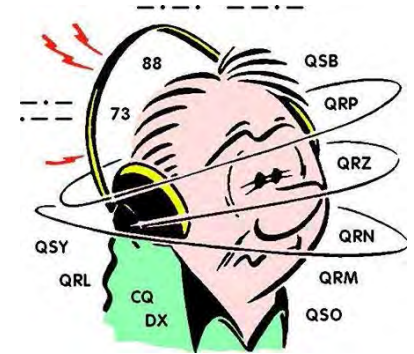
A special thanks is due to David, W8DJG for his role as net manager for the past 6 years. Dave has done a great job managing our net and has connected the BRTN to many other networks through digital, HF and local nets. Thankfully Dave is not going anywhere and will still be around to help us and to share his knowledge.

Also, a special thanks to Don, WB8SIQ for his many years of dedication to the BRTN. Don has been a faithful HF liaison moving traffic to and from our net for many years as well as offering training and traffic handling expertise.

If learning traffic handling is not enough reason to check-in how about this, as you are aware the radio bands are very valuable. Each day individuals make requests for band space to launch their projects and they pay big money to get that space. Space that is not used for good purpose is taken and sold!

There is no more tangible place to record band usage than by participating in the BRTN, a local NTS net, for each check-in is reported via the ARRL to the FCC. This fact alone should be motivation for you to check-in.

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ARRL-Ohio.org Website

Let's switch subjects for just a second. Do you have any idea just how popular our Ohio Section website really is? Here's the stats for 2017. I think you'll find this very impressive for sure.

Year 2017	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
	67,829	110,809	1,040,108	6,292,201	59.99 GB

This is double the amount from 2016, and quadruple from 2014! I think what's the most impressive of all, even more than the over 6 million hits, are the over 1 million pages viewed! I feel that the Handbook Give Away has contributed greatly to these increased numbers. It's getting folks not only to the website, but looking around and reading the material on the website, and that's what we wanted! Thanks for your support. Yes, the Handbook Give Away Drawing will continue!

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How can you be in more than one place at once?
(from the Highland Amateur Radio Association)

PRECISE NAVIGATION!

The passenger steamer SS Warrimoo was quietly knifing its way through the waters of the mid-Pacific on its way from Vancouver to Australia. The navigator had just finished working out a star fix and brought the Master, Captain John Phillips, the result.

The ships position was LAT 0 S 31' N and LON 179 S 30' W. The date was 31 December 1899 "Know what this means?" First Mate Payton broke in, "We are only a few miles from the intersection of the Equator and the International Date Line."

Captain Phillips was prankish enough to take full advantage of the opportunity for achieving the navigational freak of a lifetime. He called his navigators to the bridge to check and double check the ships position. He changed course slightly so as to bear directly on his mark.

Then he adjusted the engine speed. The calm weather and clear night worked in his favor. At midnight, the Master ensured that the Warrimoo lay still on the equator at exactly the point where it crossed the International Date Line!

The consequences of this bizarre position were many. The forward part (bow) of the ship was in the Southern Hemisphere at the middle of summer. The rear (stern) was in the Northern Hemisphere and in the middle of winter. The date in the aft part of the ship was 31 December 1899. Forward it was 1 January 1900.
This ship was therefore not only in two different days, two different months, two different years, and two different seasons, but in two different *centuries,* all at the same time!

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Final.. Final..

Hey Gang...

Wow, it's been a busy January already. I don't know about you but I've had to blow the driveway out over 5 times this season. That's 5 times more than last year, and we haven't finished up the first week yet! It's cold, snowy and just plain winter for sure! And just think, we've got less than 90 days before SPRING. Now there's positive thinkin' for ya'. Hi.. Hi..

I have updated the website several times in this past week or so, with grateful "thanks" going out to Greg, WD9FTZ and Andy, K4AWC for providing new material. They're really on the ball when it comes to giving us all updates on the DMR scene.

I will tell ya' that I've been on the phone a lot talking with other Section Managers around the county and getting things ready for the National Section Manager Conference in May. That's right, just before Dayton Hamvention. It's been really exciting to think that we're getting that close to Hamvention.

The biggest question on everyone's mind right now is…... "will they have the new building done in time for the show?" Yes, I really feel that they will! They don't want to miss out on any opportunities to improve and make things even better.

Now on the ARES side of things, Stan and I have been very busy with planning and preparing to make adjustments if necessary to our Ohio ARES program. All of the SM's, SEC's, DEC's and EC's around the country were sent a message just before Christmas that stated changes will be coming to the National ARES program. Now, just what those changes are is what Stan and I are working very diligently to find out. So far, neither of us has had much luck getting anything actually concrete on what those changes might be.

We've heard some rumors, and some unsubstantiated possibilities, but that's about all. I will definitely keep you all updated as soon as I have something solid to give you. Stay tuned for further updates on this.

Now I want to talk to you about our Emergency Coordinator (E.C.) Program. We are extremely fortunate to have a so many dedicated E.C.'s in Ohio. They do their jobs, mostly behind the scenes and without a lot of fan-fare, but with a lot of self-satisfaction for a job well done. Our ARES program is one of the strongest in the country, and I can say that with all the confidence in the world, because as you read in the paragraph above, I do talk to a lot of my counterparts all over the country. I hear from them on how their programs are going, and I have to say a little prayer each time just to thank my lucky stars we have such a great corps of folks that take their jobs seriously, and with great pride and dedication.

Now, from time to time we do have openings that need to be filled, and since this is January we do have some needs. In particular, we have openings right now for the following counties:

Allen	Fulton	Henry	Mercer
Putnam	Logan	Clermont	Warren
Carroll	Portage	Fayette	Athens
Meigs	Perry	Belmont	Harrison
Monroe	Tuscarawas	Washington	

Please, if you might be interested in becoming an E.C. Stan and I want to talk to you. If you are a person that likes to work behind the scenes, you just might be a great fit to be our next E.C. for your county.

Want to know what it takes to be an E.C. in Ohio? Here's a link for ya'…
http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/ARESmanual2015.pdf   Yes, this is a lot of information to absorb. You do have to be an ARRL member, and here in Ohio you are also required to be a Tier I member before you will be considered for the appointment. Now, Whatcha' think?? Is this something that you'd like to do? Let me know.

Keeping with the ARES theme, I do want to let you all know that we have surpassed the 625 Tier I membership goal that I set just about a month ago. I awarded another ARRL ARES Mesh Vest to Robert Jansen, W4MLZ in Pickerington. Just this past Tuesday Robert submitted his 4 NIMS certificates and became the winner of the vest.

Now, we aren't stopping there! I will award another vest for the **650th** person. Is it possible? Absolutely! And, faster than what you would imagine. We have already exceeded 625, and that that was just the other day! So, take a good hard look at the listing. Is your name on it? If it isn't, you need to take the "Challenge" and get it on there. Here's a link to the information you need to get started. http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/training.html

73, for now, I will catch you on down the log for sure.

Scott, N8SY...
-sk-

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Chit – Chat, and All That!

Do you know someone that's not getting these Newsletters? Please, forward a copy of this Newsletter over to them and have them "Opt-In" to start receiving them. Heck, just have them send me an email   n8sy@n8sy.com   and I'll get them added to the Ohio Section Emailing list. We now have over 6,000 folks receiving these newsletters weekly. Quite impressive, I'd say!

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

All of your favorite past newsletters are now archived so that you can go back at any time and read them. Just go to: http://arrl-ohio.org/news/

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

The pictures on the front page are just a few of the recent winners from the Handbook Give Away Drawing. As you can see, we've all had fun with this, and because it is so popular we will continue the drawing in 2018! Keep your eyes peeled for the big **RED** arrow on the front page of the website. When it appears, the drawing is on…

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PostScript is produced as a weekly supplement to the Ohio Section Journal (OSJ). I sincerely hope that you have enjoyed this edition of PostScript, and will encourage your friends to join with you in receiving the latest news and information about the Ohio Section, and from around the world!