



“January 15th, 2024”

→ [National News](#)

→ [Club Corner](#)

→ [DX This Week](#)

→ [Contest Corner](#)

→ [Upcoming Hamfests](#)

→ [One Question Questionnaire](#)

→ [VE Testing](#)

→ [South 40](#)

The Wouff-Hong and Rettysnitch Legends

Amateur Radio's traditional and most sacred symbols

Two gruesome instruments of excruciating torture are used to enforce law, order, and decency in Amateur Radio operation.

The Wouff-Hong and Rettysnitch Legends

By Rob L. Dey, KA2BEO¹ - September 1997

A wonderful article about these two legends was written by L.B. Cebik, W4RNL², and appeared in September 1996 *QST*, on pages 59 and 60³. Cebik offered that "We should not be troubled by the size of the task at hand: Curing Amateur Radio of its illegalities and indecencies. We have many more folks available to wield the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch. No, not on others, but on *ourselves* - to make sure that we set a model for how amateur operations ought to be conducted."

The Wouff-Hong



The **Wouff-Hong** is used to enforce **law and order** in Amateur Radio operating work.

"The Old Man" (T.O.M.), originator of the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch, is known to be the one and only Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, founder of the American Radio Relay League ([ARRL](#))⁴ in 1914. T.O.M. wrote his first mention of a Wouff-Hong and a Rettysnitch in 1917. In 1919, the league received an actual Wouff-Hong specimen directly from T.O.M. The first photo of the Wouff-Hong was published in July 1919 *QST*.

The Rettysnitch



The **Rettysnitch** is used to enforce **decency** in Amateur Radio operating work.

In 1921, the Washington DC Radio Club presented the Rettysnitch to the league's traffic manager. According to legend, the club received the Rettysnitch specimen from "The Old Man" himself. Cebik stated that "Even at its first public appearance, two of its teeth were missing, suggesting a long history of necessary and effective use. However, to this day, the Rettysnitch has lost no further teeth. It was ordered to be displayed by its mate." The Wouff-Hong and Rettysnitch stories were retold by Rufus P. Turner, when he wrote "Hamdom's Traditions: A Bedtime Story for Young Squirts" in May 1934 *QST*. According to Cebik, "In 1930, *The ARRL Handbook* had pictures of both instruments of enforcement. By 1936, only the Wouff-Hong appeared. By 1947 the *Handbook* had deleted both photos." An editorial on the Wouff-Hong (without the hyphen) appeared many years later in February 1961 *QST*. Presently, both of these legendary instruments are on display at the ARRL museum in Newington, CT.

Do the Wouff-Hong and Rettysnitch still hold their mystical power over us today?

L.B. Cebik, W4RNL, answered this question well, when he asked "Why were the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch so powerful to those early hams? Because those hams cared about Amateur Radio in their hearts. They desired that which they knew they could never have: A perfectly law-abiding, decent radio service that would inspire young and old alike to become hams or, lacking the inclination to electronics, to become admirers of hams. Every minute of on-the-air time was a chance to show how noble a pursuit Amateur Radio was and should always be. They feared the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch as instruments of their own consciences, as they strove to meet the standards they set for themselves. And that is where you will find the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch today - deep in your own conscience. If they seem to hold no power, then you know it's time once more to elevate your standards a notch higher, and then to strive to achieve them perfectly." He added, "May you never deserve their sting."

¹Rob L. Dey, KA2BEO, P.O. Box 1849, Point Pleasant, NJ 08742-1849, e-mail: rdey@natradioco.com.

²L.B. Cebik, W4RNL, 1434 High Mesa Dr., Knoxville, TN 37938-4443, e-mail: cebik@utk.edu.

³This article originally appeared in the *New England QRP Newsletter*, edited by Dennis Marandos, K1LGQ.

⁴The American Radio Relay League, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111-1494, e-mail: hq@arrl.org.

CQ CQ CQ de WB8LCD

I thought the article above might be a good refresher course for everyone!

I was first interested in THE MAGIC of RADIO when I was about 10 or 11 years old. Our neighbor behind us, Stan Hillman – W8FZS was a “hams Ham” and brought me into the fold, teaching me everything I needed to know to get my Novice license. Now back in those days a young guy like me would always address adults as Mr., Mrs., Sir, M’am, or some other title which they had earned. In all the time that I spent with Mr. Hillman, I would have never even thought of addressing him otherwise. It was *always* “Mr. Hillman”. When my Novice ticket finally showed up in the mail, I showed it to Mr. Hillman and after congratulating me the first thing he told me was that from now on, whenever I was with him in a group of hams, I should address him and refer to him as “Stan”. Stan said “you are now one of us”.

At the time, it was one of the most profound things anyone had ever told me! I was now a part of something that was very special. Everyone of you reading this belongs to that same “something special”: the community of Amateur Radio Operators. We are unique, and we have something very special. When I was told that I was “one of us” I felt as if I had just been inducted into a fraternity. That has been my Ham Radio experience ever since then (1968). I hope you all experience that relationship with other hams as we move forward with 2024!

Our Ohio Section Youth Net (OSYN) is starting again this Sunday – if you have any young hams in the family, or even younger folks who are interested in technology, get em on the air! With echo-link you (or a young ham with no other equipment than a cell-phone or a laptop) can get them on the air from anywhere! Ham Radio has some young Hams who are doing some amazing things – just like we did when we were young! Give them your support and bring them into the Fraternity!

Thinking about sunspot cycles, we’ve got approximately one more year until Cycle 25 peaks, and then another 2 or 3 years of still good conditions! And all you have to do is get on the air and check out all of the DXpeditions that are scheduled and being planned. These are some really exciting times, with good conditions and lots of opportunities to work some good DX, set some new contest records and most importantly – just have a really good time! Now is the time, and for some of us maybe even the last big cycle we will get to experience!

I know that there are a lot of Tech class hams out there, (Nationwide, and same for the Ohio Section, approximately 50% of ALL hams hold a Tech license!) whose only radios are a dual-band HT or Mobile VHF/UHF rig. That’s a shame because they don’t get to experience the thrill of DX like the rest of us do, *but that’s OUR fault!* Here’s an idea for some individual and/or club activities that just might wake up the Radio Magic in some of those Techs and give them some motivation to upgrade. Operating events where

the whole objective is to get Tech class hams on the HF bands having some fun! Sure, you'll need to supply the operating equipment, but the goal is to put the Tech in the operating chair making the Q's! With you as the "Control Operator" they can use your callsign and chase the other stations on the air! And, if 10 meters and 6 meters open up they can use their own callsign to have some fun and hopefully collect a few QSL cards too! This could be a nice twist on your next POTA activation. This could happen with your club's "Special Event" station. We could plan a special "Tech's on the Air" weekend! Invite some techs to your station for a couple of weekend contests – show em how it's done then turn them loose (under your supervision as Control Op of course). Have some fun, and don't forget to get some local publicity out of whatever it is that you do!

You take it from here, plan some events but let me know what you're doing so I can report on it too. And don't forget, the goal is for the Tech to have fun, using equipment and operating privileges he normally doesn't have access to. Make a special effort to include your younger hams in this too. Remember, the goal is to let them have an experience that will motivate them to grow in the hobby!

Hamfests are going to be plentiful in the Ohio Section this year. Support your local clubs that sponsor a fest, and you might even want to travel a bit and see some of the fests you've never been to! Even though you'll see some of the usual stuff, every local fest has their own local following and you might just find something that you won't find anywhere else!

Share the Magic,

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 January 14th, 2024 ***

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)

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Program is seeking formal and informal educational institutions and organizations, individually or working together, to host an amateur radio contact with a crew member onboard the International Space Station (ISS). ARISS anticipates that the contacts will be held between July 1 and December 31, 2024. Crew scheduling and ISS orbits will determine the exact contact dates. To maximize these radio contact opportunities, ARISS is looking for organizations that will draw large numbers of participants and integrate the contact into a well-developed education plan. The deadline to submit a proposal is February 29, 2024. Proposal information and more details, such as expectations, proposal guidelines, and the proposal form, can be found at www.ariss.org. An ARISS Proposal Informational Webinar will be held on January 17, 2024, at 7 PM ET. The Zoom link to sign up is https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqcqrD0pGNLBvhR_2p5O9uTeRzO0u4Sw.

***I'm running this again because I've heard many of you suggest that it's too expensive to get new hams licensed. This is a VERY BIG DEAL!

ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program

Clubs around the country sponsor VE sessions in order to help new hams get their licenses and to help existing hams upgrade. One of the changes in the last couple of years is the introduction of the \$35 FCC License Fee. The ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program, in effect since April 19, 2022, will cover the one-time \$35 application fee for new license candidates younger than 18-years old for tests administered under the ARRL VEC program.

The \$35 FCC application fee will be reimbursed after the ARRL VEC receives the completed reimbursement form and after the new license has been issued by the FCC. The reimbursement check will

be mailed to the fee payer. Also, candidates who are under the age of 18 pay a reduced exam session fee of \$5 to the ARRL VEC VE team at the time of the exam. The \$5 fee is for all candidates under the age of 18, regardless of the exam level taken. Proof of age is required at the session. Visit www.arrl.org/youth-licensing-grant-program for the program instructions and reimbursement form.

Contact [ARRL VEC](#) for assistance or for information on how your club can set up an ARRL VEC VE team and offer testing on a regular basis in your area, and how to take advantage of the reduced exam fee for youth candidates. It's extremely gratifying when a candidate passes their test and earns a license.

Clubs that already sponsor ARRL VEC exam sessions, we thank you for your service to our program!

Winter Field Day 2024

[Winter Field Day \(WFD\)](#), sponsored by the Winter Field Day Association, is scheduled to run from 1900 UTC on Saturday, January 27, through 1859 UTC on Sunday, January 28.

WFD is held on the last full weekend in January and is a communications exercise that can be worked from the comfort of your home or in a remote location. You can participate by yourself, with your friends and family, or with a local club.

WFD is open to participants worldwide. Amateur radio operators may use frequencies on the HF, VHF, or UHF bands and are free to use any mode that can faithfully transmit the required exchange intact. Similar to ARRL's Field Day, bonus points are earned in several ways, including from using non-commercial power sources, operating from remote locations, making satellite contacts, and more.



WFD is designed to help increase your level of preparedness for disasters and for you to improve and practice your operating skills in winter environments, as the potential for freezing temperatures, snow, ice, and other hazards present unique operating conditions.

Also, remember to mark your calendar for 2024 ARRL Field Day on June 22 - 23. For additional information, visit [Field Day \(arrl.org\)](http://Field Day (arrl.org)).

HamSCI 2024 Workshop

Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation ([HamSCI](#)) will hold its sixth annual workshop on March 22 - 23, 2024, at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. The event is meant to bring together the amateur radio community and professional scientists.

HamSCI

The 2024 workshop's theme will be "Alignments" - specifically those between the Sun, Moon, and Earth; collegiate amateur radio recreation and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) curricula; data collection and analysis, and professional and citizen science. Workshop participants will prepare for the solar eclipse taking place on April 8, 2024, which will be seen in totality from Cleveland.

HamSCI's main interest is using amateur radio for the characterization and study of ionospheric phenomena like traveling ionospheric disturbances, sporadic E, solar flares, geomagnetic storms, the 2024 total solar eclipse, and other space weather events. To facilitate this science, continued development of the [HamSCI Personal Space Weather Station](#) and discussion about integrating amateur radio into the collegiate curriculum will also take place during the workshop.

Registration is now open, and the deadline is March 1, 2024. HamSCI is also accepting presentations relating to amateur radio and science -- particularly space and atmospheric science, space weather, and radio astronomy -- that analyze the ionosphere, propose ideas for the Personal Space Weather Station, and discuss the 2024 eclipse.

Presentations should be the form of talks, posters, lightning talks, and demonstrations. The Science Program Committee will be accepting abstracts and presentations.

If you would like to present, please submit your abstract by February 10, 2024. Presenters will be notified about their acceptance by March 1, 2024. Questions about abstracts should be emailed to Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, at hamsci@hamsci.org.

For registration and additional information about the event, visit [HamSCI Workshop 2024 | HamSCI](#).

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.



Radio Waves

News you can use for license instruction and radio science education

Greetings Teachers and Instructors,

As part of our mission of the Education and Learning Department, we not only want to foster new learning but celebrate it. Showcasing how educators and license class instructors are getting their students and school communities involved in ham radio, especially after attending a TI session hosted by ARRL, is a great place to start. We believe that such journeys should be shared. A revival of our Radio Waves newsletter is the perfect opportunity. It will be hosted throughout different ARRL products and will be filled with both learning resources for teachers/instructors and submissions from those who are currently bringing amateur radio into the classrooms just like you. Feel free to explore our [previous publications here](#).

Additionally, to our license class instructors, you have a wealth of knowledge and experience about what works best for presenting course material. We want to hear your success stories and those times when students make connections. We would love to have articles and pictures of activities you use to help your students make those connections.

I am reaching out to you because we would like to hear about you and your students' current experiences with ham radio. We are looking for teachers and mentors to write brief op-ed pieces (roughly 300-700 words) for our next Radio Waves newsletter. Whether you have just bought your first antenna equipment with a grant, built a new connection with a local ham club or made a first contact in partnership with ARISS, documenting your efforts to bring radio to new generations is worth celebrating.

If you wish to share your story, please respond separately and send your writing submission to radiowaves@arrl.org. We encourage sending in photos related to your piece. Please send back a signed copy of the "[Photo/Video Model Release](#)" form for anyone present in a photo. We will review all submissions and work closely with the ARRL Editorial Department to deliver a fresh issue of Radio Waves coming soon!

Both Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, and I will be available should you have any questions regarding new submissions or access to the newsletter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Eliza Croarkin, KC1TAP
ARRL Learning Coordinator

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/>>

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

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 Jan 14, March 10, May 12, July 14, Sept 15, and Nov 17, 2024. All are at 2:00PM each month

Exams are held at the Geauga County Department of Emergency and Emergency Operations Center, 12518 Merritt Road, Chardon, 44024. The EOC is located just south of the University Geauga 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.



2024 are sessions

Services
Ohio
Hospital

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) hosts exam sessions at the FAIRFIELD County EMA, 240 Baldwin Dr in Lancaster Ohio, 43130, on the first Saturday each month at 10:00 am. Please visit our website at <http://www.k8qjk.org> for exam dates on our calendar and navigate to our Learning Center/Taking the Exam link for information and requirements. Our experienced VE team looks forward to serving the Amateur Radio community in Central Ohio. Contact me at ve_testing@k8qjk.org to register.

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)

Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society (NOARS) VE sessions are held the first Saturday of odd-numbered months (EXCEPT FOR March and July) at 10 AM in the **Fairview Park Library, 21255 Lorain Rd., Fairview Park**. Registration is preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. For more information or to register, contact Elaine, KC8FOS at ewilkinson1951@gmail.com. There will be a VE session held **Sunday, March 10** at the NOARS Winterfest held at Lorain County Community College **in the College Center, 1005 Abbe Rd N, Elyria, OH 44035**. Please email Elaine, KC8FOS at ewilkinson1951@gmail.com for more information or to register.

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/>

Free Amateur Radio License Upgrade Classes

Jim Grover, N8PZL

Frank Tompkins, W8EZT

Anthony Luscre, K8ZT

General Class

The Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club will again offer online classes to pass the FCC General Class Exam. The classes will be held via Zoom on six Sunday afternoons from 1:30 to 4:00 PM. The first class will start on Jan 14th. The classes are free and available to all interested hams with Tech licenses or studying to complete their Tech license by the end of the classes. Class materials will be distributed via Google Classroom, and the suggested book is “[*General License Course Study Guide*](#)” (2023-2027 edition), available from HamRadioSchool.com.

If you have your Tech license, this is a great way to expand the bands and modes you have access to. It will also provide a lot of practical information on Amateur Radio.

We need you to spread the word if you already have your General or higher license. Please contact friends, relatives, etc., who have Tech licenses and invite them to this class.

Please feel free to print out the following page and send it to them, post it at your nearby library or any other spot around town that may have interested viewers.

We will have just completed our fall Tech Class with 20 attendees on Nov 12th. We will have another Tech Class next fall or if we have enough demand before then.



The

Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club offers free live online classes to get your Amateur (Ham) Radio General Class License. Classes start on Jan. 14, 2024.

For information, visit-
tiny.cc/beahamg



What is Amateur (Ham) Radio?- tiny.cc/wiar

The Geauga Amateur Radio Association Offering Classes 2024

Classes are as follows:

Tech: starts- Friday, Jan 5, 2024

Ends- Friday Feb 9, 2024

Gen: starts- Friday Feb 16, 2024

Ends- Friday April 12, 2024

Extra: Starts- Friday April 19, 2024

Ends- Friday July 5, 2024

***All Classes are Fridays from 6:00PM- 8:00PM

Location for sessions and classes are:
Geauga County EOC
12518 Merritt Rd
Chardon, Ohio 44024

Information can be obtained by emailing or calling:
Jackie Welch, N8JMW n8jmw2@gmail.com 440-228-2716

Ham License Classes

The Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society will be offering ham radio licensing classes beginning Thursday, February 29th, 2024 at 6:30 PM. There will be six sessions held each Thursday and a special VE testing session on the seventh week - April 11th, 2024.



There will be three separate classes -Technician, General, and Amateur Extra.

Classes will be held at the Seven Hills Community Room, 7325 Summit View Drive, Seven Hills, OH 44131.

Cost of the classes is \$20.00. The General class is free to all CARS members.

Anyone interested in registering for a class should contact Toby Kolman, WT8O, at wt8o@att.net or 440-525-6109.

Massillon ARC Amateur Radio Classes For Technician, General and MORSE CODE

Begin Wednesday, Feb 8 and run weekly for 8 weeks. 7-9 p.m. At Massillon, OH ARC. Location: R.G. Klein Museum, corner of Erie St & Federal Ave, NE.

Exams at conclusion (except Code)

For information and registration call or email at these addresses:

330-705-8449 or w8au@arrl.net

ARES CONFERENCE

Hosted by District 10

Come Join us for the D10 ARES Conference

- Go-Box Displays
- Informative Presentations
- DMR Programming Workshop
- Lunch Provided



FEB 17

8am-4pm



Presentation topics include: MARCS, Red Cross, National Weather Service, Tabletop Exercises, Winlink

**Tri-Point Medical Center | 7590 Auburn Rd Painesville, OH
44077**

www.n8esg.org/conf
erence For
information and to
register

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

ARLD002 DX news

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

LIBYA, 5A. Abubaker, 5A1AL has been active on 80, 60, and 40 meters at various times using FT8. QSL via Club Log.

MOROCCO, CN. Michel, F5LRL will be QRV as CN2DX near Kenitra from January 20 to February 10. Activity will be on 40 to 6 meters using CW and SSB, with FT8 on 6 meters, from 0500 to 1000z, and then 1800 to 2200z. QSL via EA5GL.

PHILIPPINES, DU. Mike, W6QT is QRV as DU3/W6QT from Olongapo City until the end of January. QSL to home call.

ETHIOPIA, ET. Bob, W9XY plans to be QRV from the ET3AA club station at Addis Ababa University's Institute of Technology until January 20. Activity will be on the higher bands. QSL via N2OO.

CLIPPERTON ISLAND, FO. Look for TX5S to be QRV for 16 days beginning January 17. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8, 6 meter EME, and active on various Satellites. QSL via operators' instructions.

WALLIS AND FUTUNA ISLANDS, FW. Jean-Gabriel, F4CIX is QRV as FW1JG from Wallis Island, IOTA OC-054, until the end of January. Activity is on 40 to 6 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

DOMINICA, J7. Laurent, FM5BH and David, F8AAN will be QRV as J79BH and J79AN, respectively, from January 17 to 24. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using mainly CW with some SSB and FT8. QSL direct to home calls.

MINAMI TORISHIMA, JD1. Take, JG8NQJ will be QRV as JD1/JG8NQJ from the weather station on Marcus Island, IOTA OC-073, from January 15 until mid April. Activity will be in his spare time on the HF bands using CW and some FT8. QSL direct to JA8CJY.

GREENLAND, OX. Special event stations OX24QUEEN and OX24KING will be QRV from January 12 to 14, and January 14 to 16 respectively, to mark the abdication on January 14 of Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, and the ascension of King Frederik X to the throne. QSL via OZ1ACB.

FAROE ISLANDS, OY. Special event stations OY24QUEEN and OY24KING will be QRV from January 12 to 14, and January 14 to 16 respectively, to mark the abdication on January 14 of Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, and the ascension of King Frederik X to the throne. QSL via OZ1ACB.

DENMARK, OZ. Special event stations OZ24QUEEN and OZ24KING will be QRV from January 12 to 14, and January 14 to 16 respectively, to mark the abdication on January 14 of Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, and the ascension of King Frederik X to the throne. QSL via OZ1ACB.

SABA, SINT EUSTATIUS, PJ5. Janusz, SP9FIH is QRV as PJ5/SP9FIH until March 3. Activity is on 40 to 6 meters, and possibly 60 meters, using SSB, RTTY, FT8, and FT4. QSL via LoTW.

PALAU, T8. Operators JH6WDG, JA6KYU, and JA6EGL are QRV as T88AQ, T88HS, and T88SM, respectively, from Koror Island, IOTA OC-009, until January 18. Activity is on various bands and modes. QSL T88AQ via JH6WDG, and T88HS and T88SM direct to home calls.

GABON, TR. Roland, F8EN is QRV as TR8CR until February 28. Activity is on 30 to 10 meters using CW. QSL via F6AJA.

MALI, TZ. Jeff, K1MMB is QRV as TZ4AM from Bamako. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW and SSB, with a beacon on 6 meters as TZ6HY/B. QSL via KX4R.

MONTSERRAT, VP2M. Thaire, W2APF is QRV as VP2MDX until April 11. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, FM, and FT8. QSL direct to home call.

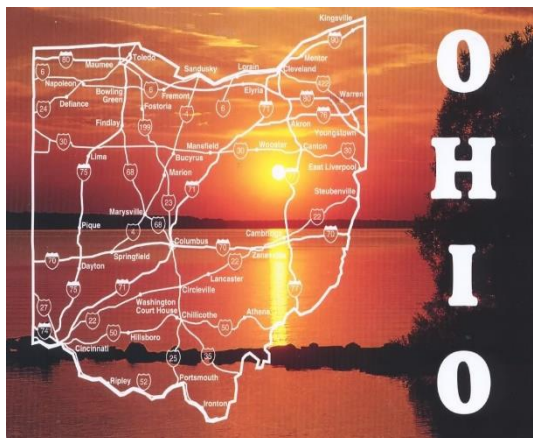
INDIA, VU. Operators VU3EFG, VU3FJT, and VU2OGQ are QRV as AT5D from Kanyakumari until January 31 for a Beaches On The Air activation. QSL via VU3EFG.

ST. HELENA, ZD7. Elvira, IV3FSG will be QRV as ZD7Z from Jamestown from January 16 to February 4. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters, including 60 meters, using CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8, and FT4. QSL via IK2DUW.

CHATHAM ISLANDS, ZL7. Station ZL7DX has been active on 6 meters using FT8 around 2100z. QSL via M0OXO.

Please see January 2024 QST, page 76, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites for details.

Upcoming *Hamfests*



Ohio Hamfests

2024

01/14/2024 - [Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation Hamfest](#)

Location: Shade, OH
Sponsor: club members
[Learn More](#)

03/10/2024 - [WINTERHAMFEST](#)

Location: Elyria, OH
Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society
Website: <http://winterhamfest@noars.net>
[Learn More](#)

03/17/2024 - [Toledo Mobile Radio Association Hamfest and Computer Fair](#)

Location: Perrysburg, OH
Sponsor: Toledo Mobile Radio Association
Website: <http://www.w8hhf.org>
[Learn More](#)

04/13/2024 - [Mid-Ohio Valley Amateur Radio Club](#)

Location: Bidwell, OH
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Mid-Ohio Valley Amateur Radio Club
[Learn More](#)

04/13/2024 - [Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club 68th Hamfest](#)

Location: Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Website: <http://www.w8vpv.org/hamfest>
[Learn More](#)

Your HamFest should be listed here!

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

Location: Athens, OH
Sponsor: Athens County Amateur Radio Association

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

Location: Toledo, OH
Sponsor: Lucas County ARES

Website: https://www.ac-ara.org/ Learn More	Website: http://lucasares.org Learn More
05/16/2024 - 05/19/2024 - Four Days In May Location: Fairborn, OH 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: Green County Fairgrounds Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Club Website: https://hamvention.org
07/21/2024 - Van Wert Hamfest Location: Van Wert, OH Sponsor: Van Wert Amateur Radio Club Website: http://w8fy.org Learn More	08/10/2024 - Cincinnati Hamfest Location: Owensville, OH Sponsor: Milford ARC Website: https://CincinnatiHamfest.org Learn More
08/18/2024 - Warren Hamfest Location: Cortland, OH Sponsor: Warren Amateur Radio Association Website: https://www.w8vtd.com/ Learn More	10/27/2024 - 2024 MARC Hamfest at MAPS Location: N. Canton, OH Sponsor: Massillon Amateur Radio Club Website: https://www.w8np.net Learn More

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! As you can see, I've left a couple open slots here for your Ohio Section Hamfest!

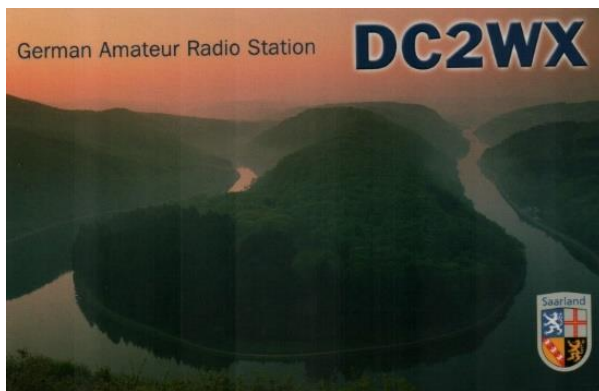
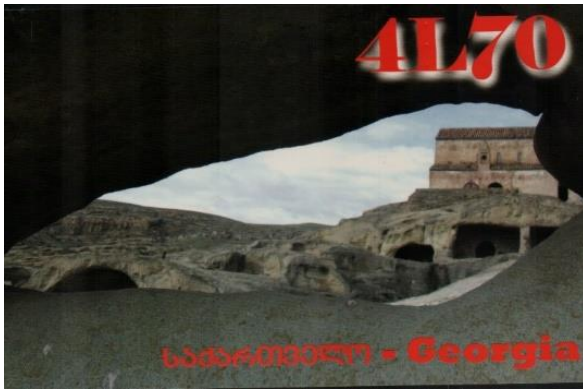
DX This Week – Zones 6,7, and 8

Bill - AJ8B (thedxmentor@gmail.com / www.aj8b.com)

What a great time to be chasing DX and we have some time left before the peak! As you will read in the next section, I suffered post-Marathon blues. However, as I was a bit down, I received some great QSL cards including 4L7O – Tom in Georgia, 5V7RU – The Russian DXpedition to Togo, DC2WX – Wolfgang in Germany, JA8DKJ – Take in Hokkaido, Japan, OJ0/LB5SH – Stian on Market Reef and T2C – the German DXpedition to Tuvalu. Last year, only K8DV and W8GEX sent QSL card images to me. I



know that more of you received great cards. Send them along to me.



Welcome to the new year for the CQ Marathon! If you are familiar with the Marathon, then you will know what a thrill it is to participate in. If you are not, you should really investigate it.

This is not my brag tape, but I finished the year with MY best Marathon score ever; 241 which translated into 39 Zones and 202 countries. My score will most likely end up as slightly above average for most participants. However, for me it was my best by far. I found myself studying propagation, contests, and spots in December to end on a high note.

Once January 1st hit, so did the depression. It occurred to me that of the 202 entities I worked, several were DXPeditions that would most likely not be on the air in 2024. Ugh... However, things instantly improved for me. On January 1st, I worked two entities that I had not worked in 2023. The fire was lit, and I am off and running. If you are participating in the Marathon, please drop me a note from time to time to let me know how you are doing!

I previously mentioned that I wanted to take some time to cover the 40 CQ Zones that CQ magazine defined in the 1930s. These have been the cornerstone for the most popular and sought after awards in amateur radio next to DXCC. Each week, we will look at one or more of them.

CQ ZONES 6,7, and 8

This week we will continue our exploration of the CQ Zones. Zones 6,7, and 8 are the southern zones of North America, Central American Zone, and the West Indies Zone.

One entity that is somewhat rare in this group is KG4, Guantanamo Bay. There are a few regular hams that activate KG4, but make sure you work them when you have the chance as they are not common. A few other entities in this group that are tough to work are XF4 – Revilla Gigedo Island, FO - Clipperton Island, HK4 – San Andreas Island, and YV0, Aves Island.

Zone 6 is considered the Southern Zone of North America and consists of XE (Mexico) and XF4 (Revilla Gigedo).

Zone 7 is the Central American Zone and consists of FO (Clipperton Island), HK0 (San Andres Is.), HP (Panama), HR (Honduras), TG (Guatemala), TI (Costa Rica), TI9 (Cocos Is.), V3 (Belize), YN (Nicaragua) and YS (El Salvador).

Finally, **Zone 8**, the West Indies Zone, consists of C6 (Bahamas), CO (Cuba), FG (Guadeloupe), FJ (St. Barts), FM (Martinique), FS (Saint Martin), HH (Haiti), HI (Dominican Republic), J3 (Grenada), J6 (St. Lucia), J7 (Dominica), J8 (St. Vincent), KG4 (Guantanamo Base), KP1 (Navassa Is.), KP2 Virgin Islands, KP4 (Puerto Rico), KP5 (Navassa Is.), PJ5 (Eustatius), PJ6 (Saba), PJ7 (Sint Maarten). V2 (Antigua and Barbuda), V4 (St. Kitts and Nevis), VP2E (Anguilla), VP2M (Montserrat), VP2V (British Virgin Is.), VP5 (Turks and Caicos Is.), YV0 (Aves Is.), ZF (Cayman Is.), 6Y (Jamaica), and 8P (Barbados).

Good Hunting in these Zones

DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH

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/>. Bernie has this to report:

Here is some Essential information for TX5S, **Clipperton Island**. The highly anticipated TX5S operation, by the Perseverance DX Group, is imminent. A subset of the team loaded a truck with equipment, antennas, and supplies on Sunday in Northern California. They then drove ten hours to San Diego, where the entire team was expected to congregate today ahead of their scheduled departure on Thursday, January 11th at 1800 UTC aboard the Shogun, a 128-foot (39.01-meter) motor yacht. They expect their voyage to take six days each way. N6WM/MM will be on the air when the Shogun is at sea. Various ocean grids will be workable during that time, and they will be noted on their QSL card, QSL via

MØURX.com; cards likely will be available on OQRS after the team returns to San Diego around February 6th.

The team expects to be on the air beginning next week, with two sites 500 meters apart – one for CW and digital operation, the other for SSB and digital operation. The HF sites will have Elecraft radios (K3, K3S, and K4S) with amplifiers from multiple manufacturers. Much of their equipment was donated by DX Engineering. Antennas will include VDAs, hex beams, and verticals; the CW site will have 160, 80, and 60M receiving antennas. There will also be six-meter and satellite stations with ICOM radios and amplifiers.

There will be three operating shifts with five operators each at up to eight operating positions. Spare radios will be available to “off-shift” operators. Stu, K6TU, and Wolfgang, DH3WO, have made available propagation tools. Two Starlink terminals on the island and a Wi-Fi network will link the camps and enable Club Log Livestream. The team expects to upload their logs once daily to Club Log and MØURX.com. After the operation ends, OQRS will be available on MØURX.com. Much more information is available at the TX5S website.

Bouvet Island, 3Y/B, planning continues at a brisk pace. As reported in past issues of The Weekly DX, planning is underway for 3YØK, a DXpedition to Bouvet Island which ranks #11 on the Club Log DXCC Most Wanted list, in early 2025. According to Ken, LA7GIA, about 20 percent of the estimated \$150,000 cost of the trip has been raised to date. Funding received to date includes €1500 from the Clipperton DX Club and donations from several European DX clubs.

The Daily DX is a sponsor, and DX Engineering is providing Cushcraft Yagi antennas. Gear and “logistics materials” are being purchased, and the seagoing vessel is being inspected and refitted; Ken says that it will be “like a new boat with all the upgrades and modifications.” Remote operations from operators in the U.S. and Europe are being worked up.

Take, JG8NQJ, expects to be back to the weather station on **Minami Torishima**, which has the IOTA designator of OC-073, around January 15th. He usually remains there for about three months at a time and is QRV as JG8NQJ/JD1 in his limited spare time. He operates CW and some FT8; note that he wants you to call with your signal report, not your grid square. QSL via JA8CJY (direct), JG8NQJ (bureau) and LoTW.

Jean-Gabriel, FW1JG, and his family, including 13-year-old son Marin, FW4AT, expect to depart Wallis sometime between May 1st and June 30th. They will be vacationing, without radios, in the Pacific January 22nd to February 15th. Upon their return, they will welcome the TX8GC and FW8GC DXpedition February 19th to March 9th, on which we reported last week.

Borut, S53BV, is planning a "DX-vacation" from Nosy Be Island, **Madagascar**, which has the prefix of 5R, from February 17th to March 3rd. While enjoying the "beautiful nature" with his XYL, activity in his spare time will be on CW and SSB on 80 and 40 meters. Plans are to have a full sized vertical "at the beach" along with 300 watts. QSOs will be uploaded daily to Club Log. QSL direct to S53BV.

I have been waiting for **Bhutan, A5**, as it would be an ATNO for me. Polish DXPeditioners Janusz, SP9FIH, and Leszek, SP6CIK, have announced (<https://a5.dxpeditons.org>) their plans for a DXpedition to Bhutan. The dates are April 19th to May 4th and the calls are A52P and A52CI respectively. They note the extreme difficulty "to find[a] good QTH in Bhutan" as there are mountains "with deep valleys surrounded by steep mountain ranges". Another issue is the "high level of electromagnetic interference in the valleys". The two plan to operate from the Dochula Eco Retreat, which is located "10,100 feet above sea level". They believe this will have a good short path opening to North America, Europe, and Japan. The long path to North America does not look as good as the path goes through [a] mountain range 3500m about 2 km from [their] hotel.

DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH

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!

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.

Thanks!

Contest	Start Date	End Date
North American QSO Party, SSB	1/20/2024	1/21/2024
ARRL VHF Contest`	1/20/2023	1/22/2023
CQ 160M CW	1/26/2024	1/28/2024
10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	2/3/2024	2/4/2024
British Columbia QSOP	2/3/2024	2/4/2024
Minnesota QSOP	2/3/2024	
Vermont QSOP	2/3/2024	2/4/2024
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	2/10/2024	2/11/2024
Mississippi QSOP	2/10/2024	2/11/2024
ARRL Inter. DX	2/17/2024	2/18/2024

Contest, CW		
CQ 160M Contest, SSB	2/23/2024	2/25/2024
North Carolina QSOP	2/25/2024	2/26/2024

Until next week, this is Bill, AJ8B saying 73 and I Hope to see you in the pileups!

OHIO'S



Hello All. Here's hoping your new year is off to a good start and that you haven't given up on too many of your resolutions yet. As you know it's January and historically ham radio activities are few and far between as many clubs reorganize. Additionally this year many individuals are still concerned with the uptick in illnesses that are seemingly spreading. So for the remainder of the month, here are the known things still to happen.

An opportunity to fulfil that New Year's resolution to get a first license or upgrade will happen on January 20 in Washington Court House when the **Fayette ARA** conducts a test session at the Washington CH Public Library. All test elements will be given at this Laurel VE test session beginning at 10 AM. Please enter the library's basement conference room through the lower level side door. As this is a Laurel session no fee is charged; however the FCC \$35 fee for a new license does apply for any new license issued, but it is not collected at this time. Any questions should be directed to Jim Scott, N8ORJ, at 740-463-9234.

The EMA Building at the Pike County Airport near Waverly is the location for January 18 meeting of the **Scioto Valley ARA**. It will begin at 7 PM.

In observance of the 110th anniversary of the **Cambridge ARA**, the Club will conduct special event station operation on January 20. The Club's W8VP will operate on 20 meters around 14.240 between 1600z and 2200z. More information is available at www.w8vp.org or ab8pjilshaw@yahoo.com.

The annual Ohio VHF Simplex Contest gets underway on the 20th at 10 AM and runs until 4 PM. The final two hours of the event over-lap the start of the national ARRL January VHF Contest. There are several rule changes this year so check the www.ohsimplex.org website for the updated rules, suggested frequencies, anticipated operations and some good tips for your own successful and fun operation.

It's beginning to feel and look more like winter out there and a couple South 40 Region clubs plan participation in the annual Winter Field Day operating activity on January 27 and 28. The **DeForest ARA** is going to operate a WFDA station from Glen Dale Park near Peebles during the event. They are even challenging members to overnight during the even. In the Cincinnati area the Harvest Home Barn at 3961 North Bend



Road in the Cincinnati suburb of Cheviot will be the site of the **OH-KY-IN ARA** operation.

Traditionally the Ohio hamfest season kicks off with the first one sponsored by the **Sunday Creek ARF**. This year's event is this Sunday in Shade. Although as this is prepared, the weather forecast doesn't sound to promising. I hope that does not have too much of a bearing on it and it has a good turnout of vendors and buyers. I intend to have a report on it in my next column.

Speaking of hamfests, the **Scioto Valley ARA** President Jesse Stanley, KD8CHP, tells me the Club is awaiting word from the Pike County Fair Board on the date those facilities would be available for their annual event.

OPINION: I often hear comments from people stating there is no longer an interest in ham radio as attendance at meetings, activities and club membership are declining. But what are you doing to promote the hobby and let the public know ham radio is alive and well and not your great grandfather's radio? To prove the point, the **Highland ARA** recently furnished the two Hillsboro newspapers with a small article about their recent Christmas party and elections. The article appeared in both paper's on-line and print editions. The article resulted in five contacts from people with questions. Three wanted to know more about amateur radio, how it could be used during an emergency and how to earn a license. One other person is ready to take his license test, but doesn't know the procedure or where he can go to take a test. The final person lives in a neighboring county and stated her husband died in November. His death was unexpected and therefore he had not made arrangements to dispose of not one but two complete HF stations plus antennas. Therefore her contact with HARA was for suggestions about how to handle this unfortunate situation. Point is, even if it's just a note about an upcoming meeting or event in the local newspaper, a post on a Facebook page or some other information source, get the information out there. You might be surprised to see the results. And if your club has a Facebook or web presence, make sure it is somewhat up to date. I've seen some with the last postings in 2022!

Although the number of radio related events normally see declines during the first part of a new year, it doesn't mean you can't still enjoy the excitement of getting on the air. Let's make 2024 a radio active one.

Until next time, 73. John Levo, W8KIW jlevo@cinci.rr.com or highlandara@gmail.com or 937-393-4951



Announcing!

The Ohio ARES VHF Contest January 20, 2024



Purpose

ARES is tasked with being able to provide communications "When all else fails." Local communication is critical and typically takes place on the VHF or UHF amateur band. In order to

improve our ability to perform on these bands, Ohio Section ARES is sponsoring the ARES VHF Contest (Yeah, we know, but calling it the Ohio VHF / UHF Contest got a little long-winded). Participants in the contest are encouraged to make as many contacts as possible within the timeframe of the contest, with as many different geographical locations as the bands permit. The contest is open to all amateur operators, ARES members are strongly encouraged to participate. How else are you going to win the ‘bragging rights’ session of your next ARES meeting?

When did you say it was?

The contest is January 20, 2024. The start time is (for those of us who sleep in) 9 AM through 4 PM Eastern. Why January 20th? After receiving several emails last year if we could have the contest the same time as the ARRL’s VHF Contest, I decided to try it this year. Yeah, a civilized timeframe that doesn’t rob sleep, and allows time with the family. Why, you can even watch a few cartoons in the morning!

Please register at <https://ohsimplex.org/submit-operation/>

Where you gonna be?

You may operate this contest from anywhere. There are certain benefits for venturing out from your warm, comfortable home station. EOC stations can gain extra points. Portable stations can gain even MORE extra points – that is, if your frozen fingers will still be able to operate a keyboard. Portable

stations MUST use portable antennas, nothing permanently attached...kind of like Field Day on ice. We are not going with any mobile operation this time. The image of a bunch of vehicles running around with portable towers, 150 pounds of antenna hardware and an occasional grounding anchor is best left to the ARRL contesters.

Da Bands – a la’ Mode

Because local emergency communication takes place primarily on the 2 meter, 6 meter and 70 centimeter FM bands only, the contest is limited to those 3 bands. Within each band, we will have these modes: FM Simplex, “Everything else” Simplex; DIGITAL simplex contacts will make up a third mode on each band. Contacts with a station count once per mode- if you can talk the other guy into abandoning “his frequency” and meeting you on SSB or CW, more power to ya! NO REPEATER CONTACTS WILL

COUNT. If you get bored, you certainly are welcome to chat amongst yourselves on repeaters, or simplex, or cell phones, or smoke signals.

Da Contacts

The goal is to contact as many different stations in as many different counties as possible. You can make as many overall contacts as you like, they will then be multiplied by the number of counties you've reached. Extra points will be available for contacting an EC, AEC, DEC, ADEC, SEC, ASEC, SM or ASM Pretty simple- any more complex and we'll confuse the scorekeepers.

Da Score

Each FM Simplex contact counts as 5 points. Each non- FM simplex contact counts as 2 points.

Each digital simplex contact counts as 10 points. (Detect a pattern here?) Contact with EC, AEC, DEC, ADEC, SEC, ASEC, SM or ASM adds 25 points. Contact with an EOC or with a portable station adds 25 points.

Operation from an EOC add 200 points to your total contact score.

Operation from a portable location add 100 points to your total contact score.

Total contact score (all bands/modes added together) will be multiplied by the total number of counties you contacted.

To name a few. For more information on the scoring, please visit our website below.

Da Logs

Please use any of the appropriate computer logging programs, paper dupe sheets, a well worn slide rule or rusty abacus. Just keep all that to yourself, we can't find anyone with the time to go through all the detail contacts.

For more information and log submission, please visit <https://ohsimplex.org>

If you need an antenna, here is a J-Pole that you can make: <https://w8wky.org/simple-j-pole-antenna/>

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](#)

One Question Questionnaire

!!!! I would really like to hear from as many of you as possible. How about going to <http://arrrl-ohio.org> and giving me a click? (It’s in the bottom left corner of the page) While you’re there, you can click the Big Red Arrow to enter into this months Handbook Giveaway!

This week’s Question: Are you a:

- A) Browns Fan?
- B) Lions Fan?
- C) Steelers Fan?
- D) I could care less!



From last week's question –Would you have an interest in learning morse code this year so you could get on the air with CW?

A) 72.55% YES

B) 27.45% NO

Looks to me like everyone is either a CW op or wants to be one! Let's get the classes started and the slow nets going to get people up to speed!

(This is a subliminal message: Go to the Ohio Section Website, on the bottom left of the landing page answer this week's question. **AND DON'T FORGET** – look for the Big Red Arrow and sign up for the November Handbook give away! It's been reworked in the last week, so it should work for you...)

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://arri-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-A-Way 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-A-Way post to: swap@arrloho.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@arrl-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://arrl-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!