



February 26th Edition



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Tree Stump Weather Station

Some time ago I mentioned that I had a weather station that does it all. I've been asked by a number of you just what do I have, and where can you get one that won't break the bank. Ok, here's what I have, and as a disclaimer, I'm not endorsing any make or model of weather station over any other. It's just a quick article to let you know what I have and how it performs for me.

I have the Acurite Pro 5-in-1 Weather Station with HD Display. I purchased the optional smartHUB, which allows me to stream the data from the weather head directly to the internet. I also have the optional Lighting Detector as well. This is kind of neat, as it tells you how many lightning strikes there have been and just how far away they were. No more counting down after you see the flash of light. Anyway, the main unit costs under \$160, which is far less than most equivalent units out there.



Now, I have the weather head mounted about 12 feet up off of the ground on top of an old tree stump. Yup, when the Ash Borer attacked my white ash tree I had to have it cut it down before it could fall down and hurt someone. But, I knew that I would want to use the stump to help hold a pole for one of my dipoles. So, I had them leave 12 foot of the tree there. Ash is great wood for this type of thing (if you didn't know, they make baseball bats out of it because it's so hard). The indoor color display unit is about 60 feet or so away from the weather head and it's well within the range needed for the transmitter to hit the receiver full scale. They claim in their advertising it can be as far away as 300 feet, but I don't think that's really accurate.

Now, I want you to know that this was a Christmas gift several years ago. I used to have the full Heathkit weather station, and my wife and I really missed it when it finally bit the dust some years back. I will tell you that my first impression of this new unit was that if it wasn't one of those units that cost \$350 or more, it most likely wouldn't be a trustworthy enough unit to keep me preoccupied. Boy, was I ever wrong! This thing really does the job, and at half the price.

The outdoor weather head uses 4 AAA batteries, and they highly recommend that you use Lithium Batteries in order for the unit not to lose signal when it gets extremely cold or hot outside. I agree, it's worked flawlessly for more than a year now without me even touching it. Adding the ability to have it go out on the internet has really been a lot of fun too. They provide you with a utility that you can connect to it via your computer, tablet, or phone. You can monitor your station from anywhere and since it's connected via the internet you can even set it up so that it reports to Weather Underground as well! Pretty neat for a really economical price I'd say.

The 5 in 1 station gives you indoor/outdoor temperature and humidity, a rain gauge that self-empties, wind speed and direction and the time and date come from the atomic clock. It updates the color readout about every 5 seconds or so, and it sends data out to the internet about every 5 minutes. You can get a lot of data about the day for sure.

Since I have the additional internet connection, I can also download the data stored on-line directly into my computer and keep a log of it for many years if I want. All-in-all, it's a pretty neat unit for a fair price!

Oh, want to know what the weather is at the "stump"? Here the link..

<https://www.wunderground.com/personal-weather-station/dashboard?ID=KOHMANSF29>

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ARES Transitioning to New Online Reporting System and More

(arrl bulletins & Stan, N8BHL)

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) will phase out the traditional ARES report forms later this year in favor of an online system called *ARES Connect*, a volunteer management, communications, and reporting system. The new system will allow information to be logged by ARES members and managed through the Field Organization. The advent of *ARES Connect* was among other highlights in “[The Amateur Radio Emergency Service \(ARES\) 2017 Annual Report](#),” released this week.



“*ARES Connect* is a volunteer management system that covers event signup, reporting, and roster management,” ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, K1IU, said. “It does not change how ARES operates when serving a partner entity; it is simply a system that will make managing volunteers and events easier.” Beta testing of *ARES Connect* will begin in March. ARES made changes to its report forms last year to make it easier to process information at ARRL Headquarters and to standardize the format for all forms. ARES Monthly Reports have been posted to the ARRL website, providing regular information on Amateur Radio public service communication activity, the report noted.

According to the 2017 report, ARES membership stands at 31,332, up by nearly 13% from 2016. The number of emergency operations events reported was up by 665 from the previous year, with 1,913 reported in 2017. The top three states in terms of ARES membership in 2017 were California (2,265), Texas (1,930), and Ohio (1,858).

Reported ARES events amounted to 51,673 in 2017 — a 4% increase — accounting for 718,930 volunteer hours at a calculated value of more than \$17.3 million.

“There was a noticeable increase in reported activity during August through November,” the *ARES 2017 Annual Report* said. “During this period there was Amateur Radio response activity for hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria; wildfires in the western states, and the total solar eclipse that occurred on August 21.”

According to the report, 26 states gained ARES members, while 13 lost members.

Hi all! The ARRL has published its year-end report for 2017. We’ve told you repeatedly that Ohio is a leading program...and that’s all because of YOU! Here are the official stats.

Nationally, there were 31,322 members (a 12% increase from last year). The caveat is that more sections reported last year than ever before, so you’d expect that number to be up.

- There were 34,125 Ares nets
- Drills training and tests: 42,838
- Public service: 5,730
- Emergencies: 1,913
- Skywarn: 1,198

Total monetary value (at \$24.14 per volunteer hour) = \$17,354,958. Yes, that's right, over 17 million dollars of time was given last year! So that is the ARES contribution to our nation in 2017- something we can all be proud of!

Ok, that's how we did as a national organization. Here's how our Ohio Section stacks up within those numbers.

The Ohio Section reported 1,858 members, with 9,457 events, and a contribution of \$2,051,972. You invested 85,003 hours in service to your communities!! This, with our reporting record of 100%, which puts Ohio in the top five ARRL sections, and that's out of 71 Sections in the country!



We are actually third by state, California 2,265 and Texas 1,930 are just ahead of us in membership. Ohio is **FIRST** in number of ARES events! And we are second in the amount you have contributed to your communities: **\$2,051,972**. We are only second behind our neighbors to the north, Michigan (90,244) in hours contributed. Ok, now you know what we need to do this year! Yes, that's right, beat Michigan!



Dividing this up by FEMA region (we are in Region 5). We are in the strongest position with the most members and by far, the most events and volunteer hours. Our contribution as Region 5 is \$5,459,213. Region 5 is OH, MN, WI, IN, IL, MI

These are great numbers to show your EMA Directors! The takeaway is that even with major events such as the hurricanes of last year, our Ohio Section ARES is the most consistently active organization - showing that we **DO** have the training and track record to be a valid partner!

I cannot thank each of you enough for your time and energy!! These results show that it's working, and very worthwhile!

Now you can see why we have taken such an aggressive approach for every D.E.C. and E.C. as well as those Official Emergency Stations in being prompt and on time with their monthly reports! Every member of the Ohio Section ARES has a lot to be proud of for sure!

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JOTA 2018 Patches to be Available this Summer

(from arrl bulletins and Scott Hixon, KC8ITN ASM Educational Outreach – Scouting)

The patch design for the US Jamboree on the Air 2018 ([JOTA](#)) has been selected by the National Radio Scouting Committee. BSA Supply expects to have patches available this summer.



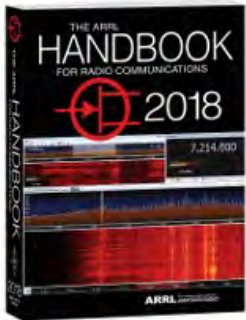
National JOTA Coordinator Jim Wilson, K5ND, said it's never too early to begin planning for JOTA, and quite a bit of information to help in planning is available, including [JOTA Countdown](#), [JOTA Station Planning](#), and [JOTA Event Tips](#). A [podcast](#) on JOTA-JOTI (Jamboree on the Internet) operations from *Scouting Stuff You Should Know* may also be useful. "It provides a Canadian perspective, but it's sound advice for any location," Wilson said.

The National Radio Scouting Committee has developed a draft [Troop Meeting Plan for Radio](#). Looking ahead, next year is the World Scout Jamboree at The Summit Bechtel Scout Reserve in West Virginia. To recognize the first North American World Jamboree — hosted by Canada, Mexico, and the US — the call sign NA1WJ has been secured for the event.

More information is in the [World Scout Jamboree Amateur Radio Operational Vision](#) document.

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The Handbook Give Away



Hey Gang,

Have you registered for the “Handbook Giveaway” drawing for this month yet? If you haven’t, go to: <http://arrrl-ohio.org/handbook.html> and get registered.

What’s the catch? I want to get everyone checking in to the Ohio Section website as often as possible, and in order to register each month, you have to visit the website often! There’s nothing else to it. I pay all expenses, and from time to time, I Give Away more than just a Handbook. And, you’ll never know just what months will be those special times that I will have more than just a Handbook to Give Away!!

Many of you ask me just how do I know when the drawing is on? Well, that’s easy all you need to do is check in on the Ohio Section Website on a regular basis and watch for the big **RED** Arrow that will appear on the left side of the page. This is the sign that the drawing is on and you need to get registered. So, keep a sharp eye out on the website and check in often!
<http://arrrl-ohio.org>



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One Question Questionnaire

Hey Gang...

There’s another NEW – one question – questionnaire on the Ohio Section Website!
<http://arrrl-ohio.org> I noticed that that around 16% of you have your animals tell you when it’s time to shut off that radio! That’s fascinating. The cat that I had could have cared less if I was on the radio or not!



It’s all in fun and we are learning some things that we didn’t know from these questions. I hope that you are enjoying answering these “ONE QUESTION” questionnaires. Now, here’s the next question... **“Do you always keep a spare battery ready for your handheld transceiver?”**

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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Ohio DMR Weekly Net Report

February 21st DMR Net

District 1 – 7	District 5 – 11	District 9 – 9	QNI: 107
District 2 – 2	District 6 – 18	District 10 – 9	Time: 55 minutes
District 3 – 8	District 7 – 13		
District 4 – 13	District 8 – 8	Outside of Ohio – 9	NCS: AB8SI



The reason for conducting this net every week and having you actually check “IN” is to make sure that all of our connections to the now ever-growing and changing list of repeaters throughout the state are working as we want them to. 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. Come join in on the fun every Wednesday evening at 8:30pm local on the DMR - 3139 talk group!

You can find a ton of information about DMR and the most popular DMR Nets and Code Plugs 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)

Class Instructors - Don’t forget to register your classes with the ARRL. It’s easy to do. Make sure that you send me that information too! Just think of all of the extra publicity that you’ll get for your classes!



>> *Classes starting near you* <<

The OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society is offering two upcoming licensing classes and a licensing exam session in the Cincinnati Tri-State Area.

A ten-week Amateur Extra license class will start on **February 26th** and run through April 30th. The class will meet on Mondays from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1553 Kinney Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45231.

A five-week **Tech and General license class** will start on **April 2nd** and run through April 30th. This class will also meet on Mondays from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, but at the Greater Cincinnati American Red Cross, 2111 Dana Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45207.

An exam session is being held on the following Saturday, May 5th at 9:00 AM at St Bernard's Centennial Hall, 110 Washington Ave., St Bernard, OH 45217.

For questions or to register, please contact Mike Neihaus - KD8ZLB at kd8zlb@gmail.com.

AMATEUR RADIO TECHNICIAN CLASSES

German Township Complex Just West of Germantown, Ohio 12102 State Route 725 West

3-Day Class, March 10th, 11th, & 17th Pre-Registration Required - Contact: Phil Thomas W8RMJ 937-902-6738 or w8rmj@arrl.net

Something different for you to consider.

After listing so many classes here's some great news for all of us to share! (from Robert, AK3Q - President OH-KY-IN ARS)

Julia KE8IUU is on the Air!

Congratulations to Julia (KE8IUU) on passing her technician license! Julia passed her Tech License Exam on February 8th with the Milford Amateur Radio Club. She is 13 years old, a 7th grader at Walnut Hills High School in Cincinnati and an active member of the OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society. The ham bug bit her back in 2016 when she went to her first hamfest at the Dayton



Hamvention with her father, Cesi – KD8OOB. She also enjoys operating OH-KY-IN's GOTA station during their Field Day Operations and helping her dad with the 13 Colonies Special Event.



10-yr Old Nikilesh Kashyap Passes His Technician's License!!!

Congratulations to 10-yr old Nikilesh Kashyap (and proud papa Raajesh!) on passing his Technician's License at Milford's testing site. On 1/16/18 Nikilesh was given the call sign KE8IPE and has already made contacts and checked into the Newcomers and Elmers Net this past Sunday night.

The Stark County ARES in conjunction with the Stark County EMA Office will be sponsoring FEMA ICS Training over the next few months. Training will be for the ICS-200, ICS-700 and ICS-800 certification.

Currently we have scheduled training for the ICS-200 Certification on Wednesday, April 18th at the County EMA Office on Route 62 lower level.



There is no cost for the training and it will run from 5:30 PM until about 9:00 PM. Future courses will also be offered based on interest.

Please contact me if you are interested!

Terry Russ, N8ATZ. Emergency Coordinator - Stark Co ARES

Home 330-837-3091 or cell 330-802-0958

Contests – Just for the FUN of it!!

February 28

- [SKCC Sprint](#)
- [QRP Fox Hunt](#)
- [Phone Fray](#)
- [CWops Mini-CWT Test](#)
- [UKEICC 80m Contest](#)

March 1

- [CWops Mini-CWT Test](#)

March 2

- [NCCC RTTY Sprint](#)
- [QRP Fox Hunt](#)
- [NCCC Sprint](#)

March 3

- [Novice Rig Roundup](#)
- [ARRL International DX Contest, SSB](#)
- [Wake-Up! QRP Sprint](#)
- [Open Ukraine RTTY Championship](#)

March 4

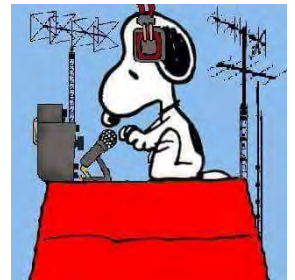
- [Open Ukraine RTTY Championship](#)
- [UBA Spring Contest, CW](#)
- [SARL Hamnet 40m Simulated Emergency Contest](#)
- [NSARA Contest](#)

March 5

- [RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data](#)

March 6

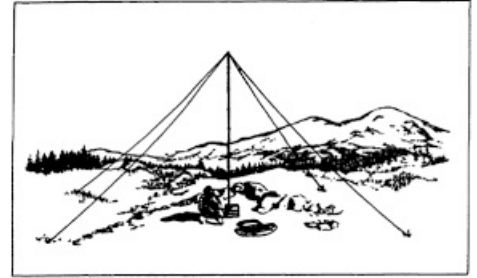
- [ARS Spartan Sprint](#)
- [AGCW YL-CW Party](#)



See the [ARRL Contest Calendar](#) for more information. For in-depth reporting on Amateur Radio contesting

>> *Ohio NVIS Day* <<

Hey everyone, Stan, N8BHL has let me know that the date for NVIS Day is scheduled for **Saturday, April 28th**. Are you ready? Start your planning now!



Like last year, we are planning on having the operation run from 10 – 4 EDT. Take a lunch break, enjoy each other’s company. Transmit power should stay at 100 watts for accurate signal comparison. You may operate anywhere, home, club, portable.

Want to know more about what NVIS is? Go to: <http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/nvis.html> and learn all about Near Vertical Incident Scattering and how you can easily put up a NVIS antenna and participate in this great exercise.

03/04/2018 | Winter Ham Fest

Location: Elyria, OH
Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society
Website: <http://noars.net>



03/17/2018 | Mid-Ohio Valley ARC Hamfest

Location: Gallipolis, OH
Sponsor: Mid-Ohio Valley Amateur Radio Club
Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/midohiovalleyarc/home/movarc-hamfest>

03/18/2018 | Toledo Mobile Radio Association Hamfest & Computer Fair

Location: Perrysburg, OH
Sponsor: Toledo Mobile Radio Association
Website: <http://www.tmrahamradio.org>

Find all the Ohio Hamfests in one location? Go to: <http://arrl-ohio.org/hamfests.html>

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Ohio Section ARES Conference

Hey Gang, the 2018 Ohio ARES conference will be held **Saturday, April 7** at the Marion Technical College / OSU Marion campus! Doors will open at 8am and the meeting will start promptly at 9am.

We have a great venue with the use of 150 plus seating lecture facility with excellent audio / visuals, and a wide selection of lunch places nearby! This year’s keynote speaker is already set, and it’s perhaps the most important talk



you'll hear all year: Great Lakes Division Director Dale Williams, WA8EFK, has been the chair of a committee working on BIG changes to ARES nationally.

The committee report was accepted at the January Board meeting. Some portions are already being launched. While the report itself needs to go through staff and such, Dale will be telling us the important changes that will be happening to the ARES program.

There will be some great opportunities for all of us! So, this is a benchmark year- one you'll be at the leading edge of for sure! We will also have a number of other great speakers that will be there as well! I know that you will find this meeting extremely valuable! You just can't miss it! And, it's FREE!!!

We're asking all of you coming to register so that we can properly prepare for how many will be coming. The link to register is: <http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/form.html>

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Shack Safety

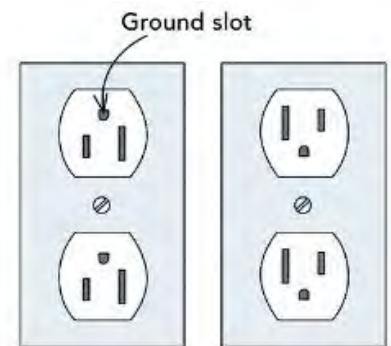
Upside-Down or Right-Side Up - Which is Right?

Here's something to get you thinking on this cold winter day. Are the outlets in your house orientated with the grounding slot pointing up or down from the hot and neutral slots. Is there a requirement in the electrical code that states which way they should be? Does it even matter?

The simple answer to this question is.... According to the National Electric Code, there is no difference, you can install them either way.

But... There's actually more to this story that I want you to think about. Having the grounding slot on the top, or pointing upward, could have saved a friend of mine from getting a burn on his finger and a mild shock.

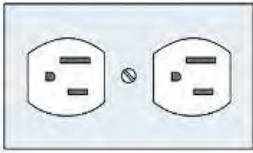
How is this possible? The outlet was placed in such a way as that it was behind a work bench with the grounding slot pointing down, as in the picture to the left. My friend was working away one day on some sheet metal and a piece of it flew back and hit the wall and then dropped down onto a plug that was plugged into this outlet.



Now, here's what I want you to think about. When he went to retrieve this piece of sheet metal it slipped across the prongs of a plug that was plugged into this outlet. This piece of metal shorted out across the neutral and hot prongs of the plug just as he grabbed the sheet metal. So, for a short few milliseconds he got the full force of 120 volts through his fingers. It was lucky that the circuit breaker broke as fast as it did, otherwise he could have been killed for sure. He did report that he had felt a good sizable jolt of electricity which made him jump and hit his head on the bottom of the work bench. He also stated that he felt burning sensation on his finger as well.

After he regained his senses, he soon discovered that he had a large bump on the back of his head, and his finger was burnt.

If the outlet had been mounted with the grounding slot upward and the metal had fallen on it, it would have landed on the grounding prong of the plug and not have gotten across the neutral and hot, and my friend would have been able to retrieve his piece of metal safely.



Oh, so you know, when an outlet is mounted sideways, it's always mounted with the neutral (or large slot) up. This is done for this same reason.

Clothes washers, refrigerators, and window air conditioners typically have cords with immediate-turn (right angle) plugs. For appliances with this type of plug, orient the receptacle so that the plug inserts without having to loop over itself. Otherwise, the downward pull of the cord tends to tug the plug from the receptacle.



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Final.. Final..



Hey Gang...

Can you believe this weather? I want to let everyone that lives from about Dayton – north to know that the bottom end of the state is in real trouble right now with flooding. Yup, all along the Ohio River to be exact. Governor Kasich has issued a proclamation declaring a state of emergency in 17 counties. Most of the counties are bordering the Ohio River. It's bad. One of our ARES groups is on standby, and the State EOC has been partially activated, opening up a Joint Information Center (JIC). We are monitoring the situation and will keep all of you advised if more help is needed.

Now, I do want to appeal to the DMR repeater owners all over the state. This situation has brought up some

discussion as to how all of the EMA's could communicate between each other, as well as over the borders into Kentucky and West Virginia via Amateur Radio. It's a very large area, and there's really no wide-area analog repeaters available. So, DMR is one of the modes that was thought of. At this time, we are planning on using 3139 (our Ohio Talk Group) for any communications that need to be sent out from the affected areas. That gives us the widest coverage, and is most common to even the out of state repeaters. For communications within an affected county, or just for inter-communications, it's up to the local E.C. to determine which talk groups or analog repeaters that they will use. So E.C.'s, get those IC-205's updated right now! Since this is just February still, we do have a very long season of possible severe weather ahead of us, and we need to be prepared for the worst situations that have yet to come.



With all of this said I do want to make sure that everyone understands that DMR is not the only mode that we will use. As I have stated many times before, we will use whatever mode we need to use to get the job done. DMR was thought of for this particular situation because of its availability along the Ohio River in not only Ohio, but Kentucky and West Virginia as well. There's many DMR repeaters throughout this affected area. But, this doesn't mean that this will be the same situation during other events in other areas.



Now, this might be a good time to once again talk to all of you who haven't gotten your NIMS courses in yet. I do get it, that some of you feel that it's way more than what you want to do in ARES. But, you need to understand that when it hits the fan, as it is doing right now in southern Ohio, we will need every trained hand that we can get! A trained hand is 10 times more useful than one that has to be lead through the process during an emergency. Folks, the handwriting is on the wall, we need to be trained before volunteering to get ourselves into any emergency situation. We can no longer sit back and say that we are communicators when we have no clue as to how to communicate within an Incident Command System! Almost every event that we are getting involved with now days has Incident Command built into it. Even the simplest of bicycle races now days has an Emergency Operations Plan with Incident Command as its working platform for operations. Yes, EOP's are built into every large gathering of people. It has to, keeping the public safe is priority one!

Ok I to want to announce to you that we now have 665 persons registered in our NIMS database and growing every day! I have set the bar up to the **675th person** to register will get an ARRL ARES Mesh Vest! Have you gotten your courses in yet? How about it, I know that there's still a lot of you out there that have not taken the NIMS classes yet. C'mon, what have you got to lose? You're gonna' be stuck inside the house anyway with old man winter blasting away, why not put this time to good use and start your classes now. Here's a link to get you started on your way: <http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/training.html>

Now, changing gears... This past week was another busy one for me traveling around, visiting with all of you at meetings, hamfests and I even graded some tests at a V.E. Test session this past weekend. It was great to get to see and talk with so many of you at the Mansfield Hamfest last weekend as well!

This is starting to sound like a broken record, but we have had more changes to the DMR pages on the Ohio Section Website. I've once again updated the DMR Net listing with new nets that were found!

I do want to let you know that I've also placed a link to the ARES District Map on the DMR page as well. Thanks to Ernie, W8EH, we have a new code plug for the Anytone D868UV HT on the website too.

If you've noticed, I have changed a couple of links on the main page. I added a very interesting link that I really think everyone should check out, it's the "Maker Pro" link. For those of you into Maker Fairs, or just would like to have a small kit building project for your Special Interest Groups or club projects, this is one page that you'll want to check out first!

That's going to do it this time around... I'll catch you on down the log for sure, and stay warm my friends, remember the Dayton Hamvention is just 80 days away!!!!

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 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/>

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 from various newsletters, Facebook posts and/or were sent directly to me in recent weeks. Take a good look at them, you just might be in one of the pictures! "SMILE... you're on Candid Camera!"



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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!