



*“April 22nd, 2024”*

→ [National News](#)

→ [DX This Week](#)

→ [Upcoming Hamfests](#)

→ [VE Testing](#)

→ [Club Corner](#)

→ [Contest Corner](#)

→ [One Question Questionnaire](#)

→ [South 40](#)

### **CQ CQ CQ de WB8LCD**

Win some, lose some. For the last 4 months I have had zero interest in the Ohio Section Youth Net. As of now, I am suspending the net, unless, and until, I find some interest in it. I am certainly open to any and all comments or suggestions for youth-oriented activities in the Ohio Section. I want all youthful operators in the Ohio Section to know that I support their interest in the hobby and will do anything I can to accommodate their participation.

Have you ever thought about how cool it must be to be the “DX”? I had an opportunity about 6-7 years ago to operate as WB8LCD/PJ2 from the PJ2T Contest Station in Curacao. I was on air for about 3-4 hours, on a Thursday afternoon, no contests running, with no prior notice that I would be there, except to a couple of friends. Although it was slow for the first few minutes, I was spotted quickly and it was “wall to wall” for the duration. A FANTASTIC experience I’ll never forget! (Thank you Geoff!) This issue of PostScript contains an invitation for YOU to have a similar DX experience, with a team of operators for a longer time! Check out Bill, AJ8B’s DX column towards the end of this newsletter. The opportunity awaits you!

I want to remind you of the David Kalter Memorial Youth DX Adventure Program (YDXA). This program gives young operators the opportunity to operate from an outstanding station that could anywhere in the world! (This year they will be operating from the K3LR contesting Super Station) No young operator who is a participant in this program will ever forget the experience to operate from this “World Class” station with some of the most experienced and best contest operators in the world! Look for the YDXA booth at Hamvention. They would appreciate your donation of any amount and you will help turn a young operator into a lifelong Amateur Radio Operator.

Ham Radio Operators have an ill-gotten reputation of being “Cheap”. We really don’t deserve that moniker. In fact, as you walk around HamVention you will notice a lot of \$\$ changing hands! Sure, we like to bring home the latest shiny toy, or perhaps some well-worn used gear with a patina we just can’t resist! But not just that, every organization that supports our hobby and us as individuals in the hobby will be there. They all are there, looking for our support, and I encourage you to provide that support, where and however you can. We’re all in this together.

Two of the busiest months in Ham Radio are upon us! May – HamVention. June – Field Day. April is closing fast – get out there and get the yard work and antenna work done!

Share the Magic of Radio.

73,

Tom Sly - WB8LCD  
Ohio Section Manager  
[wb8lcd@arrl.org](mailto:wb8lcd@arrl.org)  
330-554-4650



---

## *National News*

*(from ARRL and other sources)*

# 2024 ARRL National Convention at Dayton Hamvention -- Program and App Available

The 2024 ARRL National Convention, hosted by Dayton Hamvention®, is just a month away, and the convention program guide is now available at [www.arrl.org/expo](http://www.arrl.org/expo). The ARRL Events app is also ready to use, encouraging everyone planning to attend to preview all of the Hamvention exhibits, forums, and related activities.

Download the free [ARRL Events](#) app, or access the content from an internet [browser](#). The app is offered in partnership with Hamvention, and it contains Hamvention's full program and live updates, so

attendees can browse and schedule forums, find affiliated events, and preview the extensive list of exhibitors. During the event, attendees can use many of the app's other features to follow the hourly prize drawings organized by the Dayton Hamvention Prize Committee and browse building and site maps.



The MyProfile icon in the app allows users to add their name, call sign, email address, and any additional information they would like to share with other Hamvention attendees. Additionally, the MyBadge icon displays a QR code of your event badge that can be scanned by another attendee or exhibitor using the Scan Badge icon to instantly share contact information with other hams at the event. The app is available for Apple and Android smart devices. You can also access the web browser version, which is optimized for nearly any browser or mobile device.

Use the app to preview many of the informative presentations planned by Hamvention and ARRL that cover a variety of topics and interests to help grow your skills as a radio amateur - no matter where you are in your journey.

Young hams and young newcomers to amateur radio are reminded to register for the 2024 ARRL Youth Rally, which will be held on Saturday during the convention. While Hamvention offers free tickets for youths aged 12 through high school, advance registration for the Youth Rally (\$20) includes a tee shirt to wear on Saturday, a badge, a lanyard, and a reusable tote bag. [Register](#) for the Youth Rally now (11 to 21 years of age).



Hamvention and the 2024 ARRL National Convention is May 17 - 19 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center, in Xenia, Ohio. In the lead-up to the convention, the venue has finished making improvements to the flea market area. The walking paths have been topped with gravel and rolled to make the paths smooth and safe.

Complete information about this year's event can be found on the [Hamvention](#) website, [Facebook](#) page, and at [www.arrl.org/expo](http://www.arrl.org/expo).

---

## Armed Forces Day Crossband Test May 11, 2024

The US Department of Defense will host this year's Armed Forces Day (AFD) Crossband Test on May 11, 2024. For more than 50 years, military and amateur stations have taken part in this event, which is an interoperability exercise between hobbyist and government radio stations. The event is open to all licensed amateur radio operators and will not impact any public or private communications. The AFD Crossband Test is a unique opportunity to test two-way communications between military communicators and radio stations in the Amateur Radio Service (ARS), as authorized in 47 CFR 97.111.

These tests provide opportunities and challenges for radio operators to demonstrate individual technical skills in a tightly controlled exercise scenario. Military stations will transmit on selected military frequencies and announce the specific ARS frequencies monitored. All scheduled times will be in Zulu (Z), and all scheduled frequencies will be upper sideband (USB) unless otherwise noted.



Information on frequencies, times, and other technical information can be found at [DoD MARS - Armed Forces Day](#). Information for QSL cards and contact information is available at [Armed Forces Day QSL request form](#).

AFD is classified as an observance -- not a federal holiday. It will be celebrated on Saturday, May 18, 2024, and it will be a time of honor. The establishment of AFD was first announced on

August 31, 1949, by then US Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson. It was meant to replace the separate Army, Navy, and Air Force Days. All branches were combined to create the US Department of Defense. The first Armed Forces Day was held on May 20, 1950. The day is celebrated with special events, tributes, observances, and parades.

---

## 2024 ARRL Field Day Poster Released

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

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

---

## Club Grant Program to Return

The [ARRL Foundation Club Grant Program](#) is returning for 2024. After receiving additional funding from Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC), the next round of grants will be available later this year. More than \$500,000 in grants have been awarded to clubs across the country. This program centers around club projects that are transformational in nature (i.e., projects that have the greatest impact on the local community). Previously successful grants concentrated on the recruitment and training of new hams, STEM programs, emergency preparedness, and amateur radio technology development. ARRL Director of Development Kevin Beal, K8EAL, said, "ARRL is proud to partner with ARDC to administer the Club Grant Program. These grants offer an opportunity to have a significant impact on amateur radio's future."

More information will be announced on all ARRL news outlets in the coming weeks. Now is the time for your club to consider if you have a project that could qualify for a grant. Start thinking just how your club can impact amateur radio, today and in the future. Grants will be available for

up to \$25,000 and will include reporting and media requirements. Stay tuned for additional information, and get ready for the next round of the Club Grant Program.

---

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

---

**The [Nashua Area Radio Society](#) will be holding an online Ham Bootcamp on Saturday, May 11 from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM EST.** Ham Bootcamp is a program that helps new, inactive, and prospective hams gain the skills and information they need to get on the air. The program is open to any interested amateur radio operator, or prospective operator, in the US and Canada. There is no charge to attend the online event. Information can be found at [n1fd.org/bootcamp](http://n1fd.org/bootcamp). You must register in order to receive the link to join the web conference. If you have any questions, contact [HamBootcamp](#).

---

## *Club Corner*

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

Let me know what your club is up to. Are you going to have a special guest at your meeting or are you having a special anniversary?  
Just send it to: [webmaster@arrl-ohio.org](mailto: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](http://www.arrl.org/arrl-sanctioned-events).

To apply for ARRL sanctioned status for your event, go to [www.arrl.org/hamfest-convention-application](http://www.arrl.org/hamfest-convention-application).

The ARRL Hamfests and Conventions Calendar can be found online at [www.arrl.org/hamfests](http://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.*

**AESFP Amateur Radio Test Team** administers ARRL-VEC testing in the Central Ohio area. Our test dates for 2024 are as follows: January 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) <<http://www.ae8fp.net/>>

### **Alliance Amateur Radio Club**

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

Upcoming Exam Dates are

Saturday, March 16th, 2024

Saturday, June 15th, 2024

Saturday, August 10th, 2024

Saturday, October 19th, 2024

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

More information can be found at [www.w8lky.org/licensing/ve-exams/](http://www.w8lky.org/licensing/ve-exams/).

**All Things Amateur Radio Association (ATARA)** We host testing sessions every second Tuesday of the month in Lancaster. To sign up please visit our website <https://atara-w8atr.fun> and contact us at [hamexams@atara-w8atr.fun](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:exams.w8bi@gmail.com)

### **The Findlay Radio Club**

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

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

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

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

### **Geauga Amateur Radio Association (GARA)**

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

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

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

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



Additional info may be obtained from Jackie Welch, N8JMW by email [n8jmw2@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:scottfarnham@roadrunner.com)

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

### **The Lancaster and Fairfield County Amateur Radio Club (LFCARC)**

The Lancaster and Fairfield County Amateur Radio Club (LFCARC) hosts exam sessions on the first

Saturday each month at 10:00 am in Lancaster Ohio at the Fairfield County EMA, 240 Baldwin Dr., Lancaster Ohio.

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

Questions: Contact me at [ve\\_testing@k8qik.org](mailto:ve_testing@k8qik.org).

### **Lisbon Area Amateur Radio Association**

LISBON AREA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION (LAARA) 2024 SCHEDULE.

VE TESTING IS AT THE COLUMBIANA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

AT 215 SOUTH MARKET STREET, LISBON, OH 44432.

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

VE TESTING DATES FOR 2024

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

WE CAN ALSO GIVE THE TEST AT OUR REGULAR MEETINGS THAT ARE NORMALLY ON THE 3RD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH. LAARA MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE COLUMBIANA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY AT THE SAME ADDRESS AS ABOVE. SEE THE [K8GQB.COM](http://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](http://www.milfordhamradio.org)

### **Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society (NOARS)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS)**

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

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me at [KB8UUZ@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.w8zx.net/exam) or email [VETEAM@N8BAG.NET](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> - Wayne County Justice Center (Wooster)

Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> - Sharon Center UMC (Wadsworth/Medina)

Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> - Sharon Center UMC (Wadsworth/Medina)

Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> - Wayne County Justice Center (Wooster)

Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> - Sharon Center UMC (Wadsworth/Medina)

Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> - Sharon Center UMC (Wadsworth/Medina)

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

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

---

## **AUXCOMM Class Registration Is Now Open**

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

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

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

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

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

---

## Alliance ARC Rig Raffle is Underway



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

## **Your Club news should be listed here!**

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

---

## **ARLD016 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.

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

EASTER ISLAND, CE0. A group of operators are QRV as 3G0YA until May 6. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via DJ4MX.

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

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

OGASAWARA, JD1. Harry, JG7PSJ will be QRV as JD1BMH from Chichijima, IOTA AS-031, from April 22 to May 4. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and RTTY. QSL direct to home call.

SVALBARD, JW. Kaare, LA8EKA is QRV as JW8EKA from Longyearbyen, IOTA EU-026, until April 21. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using SSB, RTTY, PSK31, and FT8. QSL direct to home call.

MARIANA ISLANDS, KH0. Look for operators JA6REX, JH6HZH and JA6VQA to be QRV as KH0/JA6REX, KH0/W6HZH, and WH0B, respectively, from Saipan, IOTA OC-086, from April 25 to 30. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using FT8, FT4, with some CW and SSB. QSL via LoTW.

WAKE ISLAND, KH9. Tom, NL7RR is QRV as KH9/NL7RR until May 15. Activity is generally on 20 meters using SSB around 0700z. QSL direct to home call.

BELGIUM, ON. Special event station OT2024EPIC is QRV until May 19 to promote the seventh edition of the Antwerp Port Epic cycling race. QSL via operators' instructions.

ANTARCTICA. Igor, RQ8K is QRV as RI1ANE from the Base Progress, IOTA AN-016, until May 2025. Activity is in his spare time. QSL via RN3RQ.

CHAD, TT. A group of operators are QRV as TT8RR, TT8XX, and TT8TT until April 30. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8 with four stations. This includes being active on Satellite

LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS, VU7. Lal, VU7LAL is QRV from Agatti and Kavarathi until May 31. Activity is on 40, 20, and 10 meters. QSL direct.

LAOS, XW. Vincent, XW4KV is QRV from Vang Vieng until June 1. Activity is on 15 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL direct to F4BKV.

MACAO, XX9. Wai, XX9CM is usually active on 17 meters using SSB around 1430 to 1900z. QSL direct.

SOUTH SUDAN, Z8. Diya, YI1DZ is QRV as Z81D from Juba until May 31. Activity is on 40 to 6 meters, and possibly 160 and 80 meters, using SSB and FT8. QSL via OM3JW.

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

---

## Upcoming *Hamfests*



# Ohio Hamfests

## 2024

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

**Location:** Dover, OH

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Tusco Amateur Radio Club W8ZX

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

**Learn More**

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

**Location:** Athens, OH

**Sponsor:** Athens County Amateur Radio Association

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

**Learn More**

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

**Location:** Toledo, OH

**Sponsor:** Lucas County ARES

**05/11/2024 - 05/16/2024**

**[RV Radio Network](#)**

**Location:** Millersburg, OH

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

<p><b>Website:</b> <a href="http://lucasares.org">http://lucasares.org</a>  <b>Learn More</b></p>	<p><b>Sponsor:</b> Rv Radio Network  <b>Learn More</b></p>
<p><b>05/16/2024 - 05/19/2024</b>  <b><u>Four Days In May</u></b>  <b>Location:</b> Fairborn, OH  <b>Type:</b> ARRL Convention  <b>Sponsor:</b> QRP Amateur Radio Club International  <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://qrparci.org/fdim">http://qrparci.org/fdim</a>  <b>Learn More</b></p>	<p><b>05/17/2024 - 05/19/2024</b>  <b><u>Dayton Hamvention, ARRL National Convention</u></b>  <b>Location:</b> Xenia, OH  <b>Type:</b> ARRL Convention  <b>Sponsor:</b> Dayton Amateur Radio Association  <b>Website:</b> <a href="https://hamvention.org">https://hamvention.org</a>  <b>Learn More</b></p>
<p><b>06/01/2024 - <u>FCARC Summer Hamfest</u></b>  <b>Location:</b> Wauseon, OH  <b>Type:</b> ARRL Hamfest  <b>Sponsor:</b> Fulton County Amateur Radio Club  <b>Website:</b> <a href="https://k8bxq.org/hamfest">https://k8bxq.org/hamfest</a>  <b>Learn More</b></p>	<p><b>07/06/2024 - <u>Mansfield Mid Summer Trunkfest</u></b>  <b>Location:</b> Mansfield, OH  <b>Type:</b> ARRL Hamfest  <b>Sponsor:</b> Intercity Amateur Radio Club  <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://W8WE.ORG">http://W8WE.ORG</a>  <b>Learn More</b></p>
<p><b>07/20/2024 - <u>Ashtabula County Hamfest 2024</u></b>  <b>Location:</b> Pierpont, OH  <b>Type:</b> ARRL Hamfest  <b>Sponsor:</b> Amigos Radio Club Ashtabula  <b>Website:</b> <a href="https://sites.google.com/view/arca-home/">https://sites.google.com/view/arca-home/</a>  <b>Learn More</b></p>	<p><b>07/21/2024 - <u>Van Wert Hamfest</u></b>  <b>Location:</b> Van Wert, OH  <b>Type:</b> ARRL Hamfest  <b>Sponsor:</b> Van Wert Amateur Radio Club  <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://w8fy.org">http://w8fy.org</a>  <b>Learn More</b></p>
<p><b>08/03/2024 - <u>2024 Columbus Hamfest</u></b>  <b>Location:</b> Grove City, OH  <b>Type:</b> ARRL Hamfest  <b>Sponsor:</b> Aladdin Shrine Audio Unit  <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.columbushamfest.com">http://www.columbushamfest.com</a>  <b>Learn More</b></p>	<p><b>08/10/2024 - <u>Cincinnati Hamfest</u></b>  <b>Location:</b> Owensville, OH  <b>Type:</b> ARRL Hamfest  <b>Sponsor:</b> Milford ARC  <b>Website:</b> <a href="https://CincinnatiHamfest.org">https://CincinnatiHamfest.org</a>  <b>Learn More</b></p>
<p><b>08/18/2024 - <u>Warren Hamfest</u></b>  <b>Location:</b> Cortland, OH  <b>Type:</b> ARRL Hamfest  <b>Sponsor:</b> Warren Amateur Radio Association  <b>Website:</b> <a href="https://www.w8vtd.com/">https://www.w8vtd.com/</a>  <b>Learn More</b></p>	<p><b>09/08/2024 - <u>Findlay Hamfest</u></b>  <b>Location:</b> Findlay, OH  <b>Type:</b> ARRL Hamfest  <b>Sponsor:</b> Findlay Radio Club  <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://w8ft.org">http://w8ft.org</a>  <b>Learn More</b></p>

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

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

## DX This Week – 2023 DX in Review Part 2

Bill - AJ8B ([thedxmentor@gmail.com](mailto:thedxmentor@gmail.com) / [www.aj8b.com](http://www.aj8b.com) )



Before we get started, I would like to make you aware of an opportunity for you to be the DX. From Van, N4VGE/YJ0VV, I received the following:

With a budget of only \$5,000 you can become a part of a Luxury DXpedition to Vanuatu which is only 84 on Club Log's SSB most wanted list. Vanuatu is an island nation between Fiji and Australia and accessible by commercial airlines. Plans for the DXpedition are being confirmed by Van Herridge, N4VGE/YJ0VV, who has made reservations at a luxury villa just outside of Vanuatu's capital only 100m from the beach.

The DXpedition is from October 16 - 30, 2024 and there is enough room in a luxury villa for three additional hams and their XYLs or OM. Those not operating the radios will find a safe and hospitable, pacific paradise. There will be several contests during the DXpedition including the CQ World-Wide SSB Contest. Timing will allow us to take advantage of the excellent Southern Hemisphere springtime propagation on top of the best sunspot activity in years. Van will be taking his Flex 6700 with an Acom 1200s amplifier. We need one more radio and amplifier to operate M2 during the contests. Antennas will include a 6-20m hex beam, 10-160 inverted V fed by ladder line, an end fed 160m long wire, multi-band vertical, vertical arrays, a bazooka long wire, and additional antennas.

In addition to operating as a DX station we will have the opportunity to operate at several POTA and IOTA locations. We have secured a QSL Manager to handle the over 40,000 expected contacts. If interested contact Van, N4VGE / YJ0VV, as soon as possible, only three more hams are needed.

We leave in six months. Will you be with us?

Van Herridge N4VGE / YJ0VV

If you are interested, just drop me an email at [thedxmentor@gmail.com](mailto:thedxmentor@gmail.com)

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

## DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH

### **Band by Band DX Activity in 2023 (Frequencies in MHz):**

**160 Meters:** DX activity has been low to moderate especially on CW except when DXpeditions are present or during contests when activity fills the band. The cancellation of many planned DXpeditions really hurt 160 DX. However, the recent 4W8X operation gave many of the top band leaders a new one. FT8 activity has increased between 1.836 and 1.840. Try to avoid using frequencies on 160 meters that are divisible by 5 (e.g., 1.820, 1.825, 1.830 etc.) since broadcast birdies in the USA are often present.

**75/80 Meters:** DX activity has been low to moderate on these bands except during contests and DXpeditions. CW is usually on the low end of the band and SSB DX near 3.795. FT8 activity has really increased around 3.573.

**60 Meters:** Many new entities have received permission to operate on this band albeit they may be limited to 15 watts and a dipole antenna. Over the years well over 250 DXCC entities have been active on 60 meters. FT8 activity is now concentrated around channel 3 at 5.357. The FCC has released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) for non-channelized operation near channel 3 for USA stations. The ARRL Awards programs does not recognize 60-meter contacts. **USA operations on 60 Meters is limited to 100 watts output power and a dipole antenna. Use of gain antennas requires reducing transmitter power.**

**40 Meters:** 40 meters is still the workhorse band during local nighttime September through May. CW and SSB DX activity is especially high during contests. Otherwise, most activity has shifted to the FT8 mode around 7.074. **USA stations cannot operate SSB below 7.125 so it is best to stay above 7.128 for safety.**

**30 Meters:** 30 meters is still very popular for DXing especially for low power stations. This band usually opens a few hours before sunset until well after sunrise but during winter it can remain open all day except within a few hours of local noon. There is lots of FT8 activity between 10.136 and 10.140. **The USA power limit is still 200 watts transmitter output power.**

**20 Meters:** It is still the go to DX band especially during local daylight hours except during midday in the summer. Lately much of the DX activity on CW has decreased except for expeditions but SSB activity remains fairly high. FT8 near 14.073 and 14.080 and the nearby F/H (Fox and Hound) modes are very active. As radio propagation is expected to improve as we approach solar maximum some of this activity may move to the higher HF bands.

**17 Meters:** The 17-meter band often opens shortly after 20 meters. All modes seem to be doing well on this band. There is lots of FT8 activity around 18.100.

**15 meters:** With increasing sunspots 15-meter DX is open longer hours. FT8 activity near 21.074 is high as are the nearby F/H modes.

**10 and 12 Meters:** Both bands are now doing well. FT8 activity is high near 28.074 and 24.915. Vigilant DXers are also taking advantage of the improved radio propagation especially during local mornings and evenings. There is DX activity mostly during June and July when F2 propagation maximum useable frequencies are lower, but this is usually sporadic E propagation.

**6 Meters and above:** In recent years most of the DX activity has gone digital. MSK144 is popular all year around 50.260 while FT8 activity is most common at 50.313 and 50.323 during band openings. There is no doubt that the increased sensitivity of FT8 over CW (typically about 10 dB) opens the band earlier than expected. The [ON4KST chat page](#) shows recent activity.

F2 propagation has returned with increased sunspots in SC 25. TEP (Trans-Equatorial Propagation) and other related F2 propagation associated with the equatorial ionization anomaly are also increasing. K6MIO's report on TEP explains its mechanisms (ref. 3).

EME (Earth Moon Earth) DX using digital modes such as Q65 is becoming very popular on 6 Meters especially during local moon rise and set and during expeditions. About 75 stations contacted 3B9GJ on a recent W7GJ 6 Meter EME expedition. The top 6-meter DXer has confirmed 283 entities but so far officially only about five North American stations have achieved the very difficult 200 level.

**2023 Month by Month DX Activity Sample:** Here are just some of the rare to medium-rare DX stations that were active during the designated months.

**January:** January was very productive for DX with over 210 entities active as the solar flux increased. Notably rare to semi-rare stations included FT8WW (until March 50 K), TN8K (165K), 3C3CA (Most of the year-190K), ZC4GR, 9N7AA (>65K), ET3AA (11.5K) and J5JUA to name a few.

**February:** This month was also very active with 3Y0J (Bouvet 18K), 5V22FF, 9U5R and 9U4WX (28K), HD8M, 3B7M, XZ2B, YJ0A, J52EC and HV0A. As usual, there was lots of activity during DX contests.

**March:** Conditions were still great with VU4T (3K), 9X5RU (167K) and CY0S (84K).

**April:** VU7W, T30UN, ZD9BV and V63WJR.

**May:** DX0NE (Spratly Islands), HK0/PY8WW, 5UA99WS (7K), 9X2AW and CE0Y/EA5KA.

**June:** T31TT (83K), VU7W, FH4VVK, VP6D (62K) and FP/KV1J.

**July:** FJ/K3TRM, 3D2BJ (Rotuma), 9Q1ZZ and 9Q1AA, K7K (NA070) and 1A0C (80K).

**August:** C21TS, OJ0JR, 9Q2WX, E51D (57K) and T88RR.

**September:** ZL7IO, T2T (102K), VK9LAA (24K), ZD9W (70K) and 5X3K.

**October:** W8S (Swain's I. 92K), T2C, E6AM, XT2AW, E51JAN (N. Cook), A52AA, 3G0Y and PY0FR (FN).

**November:** At the start of this month 4W8X (163K), 7O8AD/AE (57K), 7O73T (43K), A25R (146K), TJ9MD and TX7L (FO/M 55K) medium-rare expeditions were all active at the same time with minimum QRM between them. They were followed by FW2CW, H40RH (7K), H44WA (60.5K), PR0T (Trinidad 18.7K), 9L5M (20K), VK9CY (25K), VK9QO (CC-7.4K), ZL7A and VK9XY (35K),

**December:** This is YOTA (Youth-On-The-Air) month with many special YOTA call signs everywhere from dozens of countries. Also active were VU7A (52K), TO9W (FS-28K), T32TT (>190K), VP2VMM, V6EU, XT2AW, VU4N (25K), KL7RRC (NA-028-5.7K), C21TS (36K), OF9X (20K) and A31DJ.

**Unauthorized Operations:** As usual many unlicensed or pirate stations were active during the year. Many expeditions were pirated and spotted before, during and even after the operation. This explains why many expeditions don't release their call signs before commencing operation. Check your QSO using online logs if available.

Some call signs reported on the DX Spotting Network were possibly incorrectly copied or listed. These bogus spots affect many DXers. When spotting a station on the DX Spotting Network accuracy is extremely important. **If you are not sure of a call sign, don't spot it** until you are sure it is correct since it can cause bells to ring worldwide and increase anxiety. The [CQ Marathon website](#) maintains a list of incorrectly spotted or invalid call signs. Mark, WC3W is now maintaining this website and states that the DX Marathon Program will remain viable with or without CQ Magazine.

**DXpeditions:** Expeditions are increasing now that Covid is mostly contained and are the lifeblood to working rare or semi-rare DX entities. They usually face many obstacles since they often go to remote locations making travel difficult. Permission to operate from these locations can sometime be difficult to obtain and travel can be very costly.

This past year was no exception with many delays, interruptions, and cancellations. High winds sometimes damaged antennas. Temperatures above 35C (95F), high humidity as well

as critters were sometimes a big problem. Medical issues also occurred. Power outages and local RFI often made it difficult to copy weak signals in some locations.

Despite these difficulties several expeditions TN8K, 9X5RU, 4W8X, A25R, T32TT and maybe others exceeded 100 K QSOs. Many single-operator expeditions (e.g. FT8WW, 3C3CA, 9N7AA, 7O etc.) exceeded 50K. EME expeditions also took place from semi-rare location this past year.

Support for DXpeditions has never been more important as costs are skyrocketing. While you are operating from your comfortable shack, they are not always as lucky. Please support their efforts so they can continue to activate rare entities. NCDXF (Northern California DX Foundation), INDEXA (International DX Association), GDXF (German DX Foundation) and CDXC (Chiltern DX Club) are just a few that are significant supporters of many DXpeditions. These foundations do a great job at funding and vetting upcoming requests.

**Operating techniques:** Needless to say the RST report 599 on CW and 59 on SSB are now almost universal! The [DX Code of Conduct](#) is a great operating guide. **Deliberate QRM is always disliked.** The old adage still applies, viz. always **Listen, Listen and Listen** before you start to transmit!

Don't call stations unless you are copying them and don't tune up your transmitter on the common DX frequencies. Keep tuning time to a minimum and frequently change frequency. **DXpeditions and rare to semi- rare stations almost always operate split frequency.** Unfortunately, many stations still call right top of the DX station or tune up on same which causes panic.

Finally, don't spot rare DX on the DX Spotting Network unless you are sure it's legit, know the proper call sign and surely **don't spot rare DX call signs for test purposes.** It causes lots of bells to ring worldwide and unnecessary anguish. Also don't post rare call signs to thank someone for a QSO or for receiving a QSL etc. Those watching the DX Spotting Network do not appreciate this type of boasting.

**Digital Operations:** Nowadays WSJT-X digital modes such as FT8 are often the dominant DX mode. WSJT-X is managed by K1JT and his development team. It can often decode signals that are barely audible. FT8 sensitivity is up to 10 dB better than CW. The developers of WSJT-X recently released software version 2.7 and more updates are expected soon.

FT8 can be a band opener especially during times of poor propagation. It also allows smaller stations to participate in DXing. The use of a Panadapter is highly recommended and assists in observing where the activity is concentrated and where to call. The Q65 mode is highly recommended for EME, ionospheric scatter, and other weak signal work on VHF, UHF and the microwave bands.

Expeditions use the F/H (Fox and Hound) or MSHV (Multi Stream software by LZ2HV) modes. Both require special operating procedures. These stations operate above or below the normal FT8 channels. Always call at least 1 KHz above the DX station. Make sure to call in the proper time sequence. Never call if you are not copying the station since if the station should reply it slows down the operation.

Using the F/H or MSHV modes has a learning curve. Operating or calling CQ on these F/H frequencies is not recommended since it causes QRM. According to Club Log (outside of contests) 50-80% of all DX activity now takes place using FT8. It's estimated that about 300 DX entities have been active on FT8. It's fun to see many well-known DXers now operating FT8. RTTY hasn't gone away but activity on this mode is now primarily during RTTY Contests. Finally, the FCC has now removed symbol rate and replaced it with bandwidth limits.

## DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH

### Here is what is happening in the World of DX:

This section of DX News comes from Bernie, W3UR, editor of the DailyDX, the WeeklyDX, and the How's DX column in QST. If you would like a free 2-week trial of the DailyDX, just drop me a note at [thedxmentor@gmail.com](mailto:thedxmentor@gmail.com)

Further update: **FT4GL, Glorioso** - In less than one month, the team in charge of supporting FH4VVK, Marek, has succeeded in its objectives of obtaining international sponsorships, acquiring and testing equipment, and organizing logistics. Last week, F5RQQ, Jean-Marc, and F4FTV, Fabrice, met with their main sponsor, PROSIC, via F5HPE, Frederic, who is supporting this operation with great dedication. Their trip consisted in bringing in the rest of the equipment, some of which was already at PROSIC, in order to crate 90 percent of all the stations. The equipment is being sent by air to Mayotte, where Marek will take delivery. Jean-Marc and Fabrice will go to Mayotte next month to help Marek finalize certain technical points and give the last organizational instructions before his flight to Glorieuse. "Thanks to all those who have put their trust in us and helped us so far."

You can hear more about the FT4GL trip from a team member by checking out the latest edition of the DX Mentor podcast or YouTube channel.

Six operators with the Italian DXpedition Team will be active as **TT8RR** from **Chad** (CW, SSB, and RTTY), **TT8XX** (FT8, Fox/Hound mode initially, then normal mode), and **TT8TT** (satellite QO-100). They should be QRV now through the 30<sup>th</sup> running four stations on 80-6M, plus a satellite station. Operation will be FT8 initially, with other modes thereafter. Due to scorching

heat (“109 degrees in the shade,” they say), they will have a backup generator. They also hope to have a real-time log. QSL direct to I2YSB.

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

A DXpedition to the **Austral Islands, TX7W**, should be QRV. K5WE, Jeff, and W5CCP, Craig will be active as TX7W from the Anatonu settlement on the north shore of Raivavae, Austral Islands until April 30. They will operate 160-10M CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8/FT4. The grid square is BG66ed, IOTA is OC-114, CQ Zone is 32, and the ITU Zone is 63. Depending upon a reliable internet connection, logs will be uploaded to Club Log daily and Club Log Live Stream will be active. Logs will be uploaded to LoTW upon returning home. Detailed information is on Jeff’s website.

**E6SP, Niue** should also be QRV by this time. E6SP, or “Echo 6 South Pacific,” is the holiday-style call of ZL3GAV, Gavin, April 16-28. He will have a Yaesu FTDX10 and a Chameleon MPAS2 vertical running up to 100W on all modes. He plans to emphasize FT8/FT4 on 15 and 10M. He also says that his antenna on 40M and below will be “compromised.” On SSB, he will start on simplex, and if it gets busy, he will listen up 5-10 KHz. He may also operate SSTV. Gavin is hoping to work DXCC on 10M digital, confirming via LoTW. If he has a stable internet connection, he will use Club Log Live Stream and will upload QSOs to Club Log, as well as QRZ.com and LoTW. There will be no paper QSL cards.

We have a few DX shorts for you on Easter Island, Bhutan, and Somalia.

**3GØYA** on **Easter Island** should be QRV through May 6, with DL6FBL, Ben; DK9IP, Win; and DM6EE, Lutz on 160-6M CW, SSB, and FT8 (MSHV).

Hopefully, SP9FIH, Janusz, will be QRV at this time from **Bhutan**, the “Land of the Thunder Dragon,” until May 4 to operate as **A52CI** and **A52P**. His website indicates that he was testing 6M antennas last week.

The **6O3T Somalia** DXpedition operating team is IV3JPP, Fabri; IV3DSH, Paolo; IZ8GCE, Frank; IV3ZXQ, Maurizio; IV3AZV, Mauro; and a yet to be announced “young operator.” This operation is scheduled for later this year; the dates are being withheld due to safety concerns.

## 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!

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

### Some Interesting Metrics....

The average scores in the four classes of Unlimited, Limited, Formula 100, and Formula 5 all were higher in 2023 compared to 2022. For Unlimited, the average moved from 187 to 210, for Limited from 168 to 181, for Formula 100 from 159 to 160 and for Formula 5 from 107 to 144. The overall average moved from 178 in 2022 to 185 in 2023.

A wonderful aspect of our hobby is our amazing demographic profile. Participants include doctors, lawyers, fireman, policeman, and just about every profession that exists. We believe that the vast majority of those who are hams do not have “mega stations,” but instead run 100 watts and utilize wire or vertical antennas. We have been targeting this huge group of hams in many of our zoom presentations conducted during the course of the year.

 As a result of FT8 and Cycle 25, many operators running 100 watts or less with wire or vertical antennas have had the opportunity to enjoy the wonderful world of DX. As verification of this assumption, one of the most powerful metrics in the program is the growth in Formula 100 participation. The year-to-year increase in this class between 2022 and 2023 nearly quadrupled (4x). In 2022 there were 157 submittals in the Formula 100 class that grew to 598 in 2023. The Unlimited class still represents 47% of the participation with Limited at 17%. QRP came in at 2% of the total submissions.

Many of our participants have chosen to participate in the single mode category. In 2023, only 3.6% of the entrants chose single mode CW while those selecting single mode phone

were 7.6% of the total participants. Digital lead the way in single mode with 19.7%. As a percentage of the total, 31% chose the single mode entry.

A single band choice for participants may be one of the best opportunities to win an award plaque. Amazingly, the number who enter in single band are not as large as one might expect. Only 3.6% of all participants selected the single band option! In 2023, the 10-meter band was selected by only 24 entries and that band represented the largest number of entries in the single band category. The second largest band choice was the 40-meter band with only 11 participants! If you want to change it up in 2024, give consideration to entering the single band category.

Many of our participants that have entered the single band category year after year like the Bob Locher, W9KNI on 40 meters, or Marvin Hlavac, VE3VEE on 20 meters but many others who historically have participated in all bands have made the switch just to add a little DX variety into their lives.

We are trying very hard to spread the mix of participants in many of the other continents outside of North America. For years, our program has split between roughly 33% North America participation and 67% international. In 2023, North America had the largest participation at 33.5%. Growth in the North American area over that of 2022 was 47.5%. South America was close behind with 28.1% of the total participation and grew from 2022 at 49.5%. The third largest continent in terms of participation was Oceania at 20.7%.

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

<b>Contest</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
SP DX RTTY	4/27/2024	4/28/2024
10-10 Intl. Spring Contest, Digital	4/27/2024	4/28/2024
Florida QSOP	4/27/2024	4/28/2024
10-10 Intl. Spring Contest, CW	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Arizona QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Connecticut QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Delaware QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024

Idaho QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Indiana QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Maine QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Massachusetts QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Montana QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Nevada QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
New Hampshire QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Oregon QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Rhode Island QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Utah QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Vermont QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Washington QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
Wyoming QSOP	5/4/2024	5/5/2024
SWODXA DXDINNER	5/17/2024	
SWODXA DXForum	5/18/2024	
Arkansas QSOP	5/18/2024	5/19/2024
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	5/25/2024	5/26/2024

# OHIO'S



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

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

Another event happening on the 20<sup>th</sup> is the **Dial RC**'s VE session which was rescheduled from earlier in the month. This rescheduled session takes place at the Fairfield Township Building in Hamilton.

While on the subject of test sessions the **Cambridge ARA** will hold their monthly test session at the Guernsey County Administration Building on Saturday, April 27. Then on May 2 the **Madison County ARC** will conduct a test in London. On May 4 Wilmington's **Clinton County ARC** will host a session.

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



**ATHENS HAMFEST**  
2024  
Sunday, April 28, 2024  
8 AM to Noon, rain or shine

Entry still only \$5—Non-ham spouses free  
Ham and Computer Equipment  
Door Prizes—Vendors—Food  
Free Paved Covered Outdoor Flea Market:  
Flea Market Setup 7 AM  
Indoor Space by Reservation:  
\$10 per table or \$8 one week in advance  
GENERAL INFORMATION AND  
INDOOR SPACE REGISTRATION:  
Carl Denbow N8VZ, (740) 591-8471  
n8vz@qth.com  
US 33 or 50, Exit E, State St.  
Hamfest 3rd Light East,  
Athens Community Center  
701 E. State St.  
Talk-in via 145.15  
VE testing at 10 am for all license classes  
Session coordinator: Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ

Supported by a grant from the  
Athens County Convention and  
Visitor's Bureau

Doorstep sponsors  
R&L Electronics  
HAMILTON, Ohio  
Athens  
DX  
ME

Those of you who know me realize I like to attend hamfests. Since attending my first one in about 1964 in Springfield, any East of the Mississippi is fair game. And since N8ZNR and my daughter (WA8KIW) now lives in Oregon, Pac-Fest might even be considered. However my short list of favorite and most enjoyable ones is conducted by the **Athens County ARA**. This year they will hold their hamfest on Sunday, April 28 at the recreation center in Athens. It will begin at 9 am. This hamfest is one that will get your Hamvention attendance juices flowing. While there, drop by the HARA flea market tables and say “HI” to the team of N8YHU, N8ZDL and W8KIW.

With Hamvention and Field Day just around the corner, that means the 2024 edition of the Ohio State Parks on the Air operating activity will be here before we know it. John Myers, WG8X, tells us the annual posting list for planned activations already show 16 parks listed to be active. Several parks in the South 40 Region were not activated last year. Let's try to get a few more on the air this September 7. [www.ospota.org](http://www.ospota.org).

Twenty-five amateurs plus some spouses and other non-hams assisted the **Athens County ARA** provide communications for the recent Athens Marathon.

**Highland ARA** President Ken Lightner, KE8JEL, reports the change of location for the Club's April meeting resulted in almost standing room only. It was the largest attendance in many months

and included four visitors. Ken also states the attendance of 23 at the recent Brunch Bunch included a visitation of five members of the **Clinton County ARA** plus five new hams and/or newcomers to Highland County. HARA Vice President John Willis, KE8JEM, announced the date set for HARA members to meet to assist with the placement of flags on the graves of the 1,200 Veterans buried in the Hillsboro Cemetery will be May 14. They will meet at the Cemetery's Chapel at 5:30 to begin the process.

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

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

According to **Athens County ARA** President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, the sponsors of the Southern Ohio Forest Rally are looking for radio amateurs to assist with this year's three day event. On Thursday, June 6, a single event will take place at Chillicothe's Yochtangee Park. The following day events move to the Shawnee State Forest where several stages will happen. Then on the 8<sup>th</sup> things get lively at the Zaleski State Forest where all the action is. Besides the need for radio operators, there are other non-radio opportunities to assist. Check the [www.southernohioforestrally.com](http://www.southernohioforestrally.com) website for more information and how to apply to become a volunteer.



Again we end our column with more good news as more people in our South 40 region going for a new ham license. Just within the past few weeks over ten brand new hams have been licensed in the region. Thanks to Ted, W8KVK, we are able to introduce you to the newest Technicians. Debbie Sebastian from Amelia is now KF8AUU. Up in Loveland Kim Salsbery has earned the KF8AUW call sign while Mount Orab's Matthew Patterson is KF8AUY. Ted informs us the Tom Wilson is now KF8AVL and Matthew Armstorng is KF8AVN. Tom is from Thornville and Matthew hails from West Union.

So until next time, 73.

John Levo, W8KIW

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

## Print an Official or Unofficial Copy of Your Amateur Radio License

(By Anthony Luscre, K8ZT)

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

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



[Click here to download the instructions](#)

### Ohio Section Cabinet

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



Hey Gang,

Have you taken a look at the **Swap & Shop** page on the Ohio Section webpage yet?? Here's a link that will take you there... <http://arrl-ohio.org/sm/s-s.html>

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

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

Now, I still want to remind you that it won't be listed in this newsletter because it would take up way too much space, so your ad will only appear on the website. It is there for any individual to post equipment Wanted / For Sale or Give-Away as well as for Club Fund Raisers. You might want to list your location so that prospective buyers know where you're at. No licensed vehicles/trailers or business advertising will be posted. Postings are text only (no pictures or graphics) will be posted for a maximum of 1 month from date posting and require a contact phone number or email within the posting. Send your Wanted / For Sale or Give-Away post to: [swap@arrloho.org](mailto: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://arrrl-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://arrrl-ohio.org/club\\_news/index.html](http://arrrl-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@arrrl-ohio.org](mailto:webmaster@arrrl-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@arrrl-ohio.org](mailto:webmaster@arrrl-ohio.org) and we'll get them added to the Ohio Section Emailing list.



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



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

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

---

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