



June 3rd Edition

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National News

(from arrl and other sources)

Special Event Station Chain to Mark 75th Anniversary of D-Day



June 6 will mark the 75th anniversary of Operation Overlord during World War II and the D-Day landings in Normandy. To commemorate those who took part, a small team from the Torbay Amateur Radio Society ([TARS](#)) in England is organizing a chain of five special event stations along the UK's southern coastline. Each will be based in the geographical area of a beach-landing force point of departure and will use a relevant call sign.

TARS will activate a site above Brixham Harbour in Devon — a departure point for many US soldiers who later landed on Utah Beach and will use the call sign GB75UF.

Other clubs activating similar relevant locations will use these call signs: GB75OF — Omaha Beach, South Dorset Radio Society; GB75GF — Gold Beach, Southampton ARC and Soton University Wireless Society; GB75JF — Juno Beach, Itchen Valley ARC and Waterside New Forest ARC, and GB75SF — Sword Beach, Fort Purbrook ARC.

In addition, TARS hopes to have two club stations from the Normandy area of France activating sites on the beaches. Logging is being coordinated centrally, and stations who contact two or more of the stations within the chain will be able to download a suitable certificate to commemorate their achievement. Details on logging, certificates, and operating frequencies will be available on the [TARS website](#). [Contact](#) the organizing team via email.

SSB frequencies will include 3.644, 7.144, 14.144, 18.144, 21.244, 24.944, and 28.244 MHz (data only on 10.144 MHz). Stations operating on CW or data will attempt to use similar frequencies ending in 44.

#####

Ohio ARES Active in Wake of Tornadoes that Badly Damaged Hara Arena

Hara Arena, in Trotwood, Ohio, which served as the home for Dayton Hamvention® for more than six decades, was among the structures damaged when tornadoes swept through the Dayton area on Memorial Day.

According to a report from WHIO TV, Hara Arena suffered extensive damage. Drone video showed that the roof and side of the structure had been blown off in several places. Hamvention relocated to the Greene County Fairgrounds and Exhibition Center in 2017, after Hara Arena shut down the previous year.



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The Hara Arena damage apparently resulted from what CBS News called “a large and dangerous tornado” that struck Trotwood. Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator Stan Broadway, N8BHL, said ARES counties and districts activated last evening after nearly 40 tornado warnings were issued across the state.

“Our state EOC Auxcomm station has been on the air since early last evening,” Broadway told ARRL. “We are still active, and it look like ARES will be active for several days during the recovery. The situation is rapidly changing.” As of Tuesday morning, state and local emergency management agencies are handling damage issues. “Because of lack of power, the entire Montgomery County (Dayton area) water system faces depressurization,” Broadway said. “Dayton Children’s Hospital is on complete generator power.”

Ohio ARES remains active on HF (SSB and digital modes), as well as on DMR and VHF repeaters.

“This appears to be a long-term activation while different areas begin the recovery process,” Broadway said. “Counties and districts involved are urged to maintain liaison with the state through one of these nets.”

The severe weather caused widespread damage in and around Dayton and elsewhere in the Miami Valley. The National Weather Service (NWS) has said it will take several days to survey the damage. The tornadoes struck after dark, and damage assessment is still under way. Multiple injuries and one fatality have been reported.

It appears that at least two tornadoes were responsible for most of the devastation, which has been termed “catastrophic.” Some residents were trapped under debris. Residents of the City of Dayton are being advised to conserve water and to boil it before consuming. Electrical power is out in several areas, and water pumping stations are relying on emergency generators. The NWS office in Wilmington, Ohio, estimated that at one point, storms and tornadoes left some 5 million people without electrical power.

Snowplows were being repurposed to remove debris from Interstate Route 75, and the American Red Cross has set up shelters to accommodate displaced residents.

#####

Ohio ARES Also Active in Mahoning County Flooding

This past Tuesday evening torrential rains came through the Mahoning County area causing major flooding in Canfield, Poland and Boardman.

Houses and businesses took another huge hit from flooding. Just last August this same area had a major flooding incident. ARES was once again called up to help with Damage Assessment and communications.

#####

State Officials Urge Safety after Tornadoes

COLUMBUS, OH -- National Weather Service storm survey teams confirmed eight tornadoes struck Ohio late Monday night/early Tuesday morning – five in the Miami Valley area, which left catastrophic damage and massive power outages. Damage assessment continues across the state.

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Confirmed Tornadoes by the NWS

- EF4 – Trotwood, Montgomery County
- EF3 – Beavercreek, Greene County
- EF3 – Celina, Mercer County
- EF2 – Vandalia, Montgomery County
- EF0 – near Phillipsburg, Miami/Montgomery Counties
- EF0 – Circleville, Pickaway County
- EF1 – Tarlton, Pickaway County
- EF2 – Laurelville, Hocking County

More than 34,000 customers remain without power in the Dayton/Miami Valley area. The following lists safety tips from [Dayton Power & Light](#):

Never Touch a Power Line

If you see a fallen or sagging power line or a line that is in contact with tree branches or other foliage, assume it is live and dangerous. Report fallen wires to your local power company. DP&L: 877-468-8243. If there is a life-threatening emergency, call 911 immediately.

Allow Utility Crews to Focus on Restoration

When utility crews arrive in a neighborhood, it is not uncommon for people to want to talk about the status of restoration. These crews are dealing with extremely hazardous conditions and need to focus their attention on their technical and dangerous jobs. For your and their safety, please stay away from utility crews and their vehicles. Also, if you have pets in your yard, put them inside if crews need access to your property.

Be Careful Using Candles and Generators

Candles

Avoid using candles, if possible. Flashlights or battery-operated lanterns are a safer alternative. If you do use candles, be sure to place them on a stable surface away from combustible materials, and be careful around children and pets. Never leave burning candles unattended.

Portable Generators

- Follow all manufacturer’s instructions and think safety first.
- NEVER use a generator inside homes, garages, crawlspaces, sheds or similar areas, even when using fans or opening doors and windows for ventilation. Deadly levels of carbon monoxide can quickly build up in these areas and can linger for hours, even after the generator has shut off.
- Store generator fuel in approved containers away from your home.
- Never refuel a hot generator. Turn it off and let it cool before adding more fuel.

Food Safety

Practice safe food handling during power outages to prevent food-borne illnesses. Spoiled food may not look contaminated – when in doubt, throw it out.

#####

The Handbook Give Away

Hey Gang,

We had another fantastic response this month, but I'm sure you're more interested in knowing just who won the Handbook this month...

And the winner is.... **Phillip Wisecup, WB8TCB**



We've had another a great response after with the Give Away so... I decided to also give away something really special this time around. Since Field Day is coming up, why not give out ARRL Field Day Shirts!

So, I'm sending out an **Official ARRL Field Day Shirt** to: **Joseph Koskovics, N8JKO and Dean Grinch, WA8OMQ!**



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://arrl-ohio.org>

You just never know.. You just might be the next winner!

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 you club is up to. Are you going to have a special guest at your meeting or are you having a special anniversary? Just sent it to: n8sy@n8sy.com



#####

The Toledo Air Show is **July 13 & 14** and we did such a great job at the last Air Show the powers that be have requested additional help from us this time around. We are still in the planning phase and do not have final numbers for needed operators, but I wouldn't be surprised to see a number around 50 or more each day.



**The Toledo Mobile Radio Association
A Ham Radio Organization**

The Lucas County EC is the contact person for the air show, boxcar@toast.net.

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Volunteers Needed



For Saturday, **June 15th** the Muddy Mini Half Marathon will be held. We need operators help with this event. Start time is 7:30 AM and the cut off for finishing is at 11:30 AM.

The race starts in downtown Maumee and ends in Mud Hens Stadium. If you'd like to volunteer or need more information, please get in touch with me at k8rks@arrl.net or 419-471-0573. Thanks!

#####

NORTHFIELD CENTER TO BECOME 'RADIO-ACTIVE'

(From Paul Buescher)

Northfield Center Township will become 'Radio-Active' during the weekend of **June 22nd and 23rd**. Amateur "Ham" Radio operators from the area will be participating in the American Radio Relay Leagues' (ARRL) annual Field Day event on the Townships' park grounds around the Townhall.

Field Day is ham radio's open house and is the most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. Every June, more than 40,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933 and remains the most popular event in ham radio.

At least three stations are planned to operate simultaneously with the goal of contacting as many other stations throughout the nation and world as possible.

The public is welcomed and encouraged to attend. Learn how vital worldwide communications can continue during emergency and disaster situations, all without wires, phones, cellphones or Internet!

Boy Scouts from area troops will also be a part of this event by building and maintaining temporary wooden towers to support some of the radio station antennas. They will also be working towards various radio and disaster preparedness merit badges.

Remember the Scouts' motto "Be Prepared." See it in action by the Scouts and Amateur Radio for yourselves on Saturday June 22nd and Sunday June 23rd at the Northfield Center Townhall grounds.

#####

ATCO NET Participants

We are changing the normal Tuesday 147.48 net from 8PM each Tuesday to 9PM for the duration of the summer. We will resume the 8PM time after Labor Day in September. Hope to hear and see you each Tuesday for the duration of the summer in order that you can get the lawn cut while there is enough sunlight.

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Alliance Club Holding A Technician License Class

Our class for technician starts **06 July** in the Cafeteria conference room at the Alliance Community Hospital.

Twelve weeks free, 5 PM to 7 PM each week. Requirements, a flash drive or SD card with about 1 Gigabyte free space and a commitment to do the studying required.

For more information contact Frank Sanor at wa8whp@gmail.com

#####

Ironton-Lawrence County, Ohio Memorial Day Parade



Members of the Southern Ohio Amateur Radio Association (SOARA) and the Lawrence County, Ohio Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) participated again this year providing communications for the Ironton-Lawrence County, Ohio Memorial Day Parade.

There were 12 separate divisions with over 1,000 participants making up the parade that traveled two miles in downtown Ironton where there were approximately 22,000 people waiting to see the parade. At 10 AM two F-16 fighter jets from the 112th Fighter Squadron 180th Flight Wing of the Ohio Air National Guard based in Toledo, Ohio did a very impressive low altitude flyover. This was the start for the three-

hour parade. However, preparation for the parade started eleven months before the event.

This year, James Rowe, N8TVO an ARES / SOARA member and liaison for communications was also the Parade Commander. This year's theme was "Tribute to Patriotism". James said, "I want to thank everyone who came out to help with the parade. It is the volunteers who make a difference and have make the parade possible over the last 151 years. He went on to say, that it is the longest continuing running Memorial Day Parade in the country."



Eddie Jenkins, N8URU ARES, EC said, "This annual event provides a wonderful opportunity for ARES training. We provide point to point communications with a fully staffed net control at the Lawrence County EMA / 911 center.

Therefore, immediate emergency communications can be provided in the event of any emergency. Additionally, it also provides for us to work directly with government officials and emergency agencies."



Amateur radio operators walk with each division providing communication support to the division commander. Additionally, they were briefed on looking for any suspicious activity or suspicious items that may be of concern and report to net control.

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We were blessed with outstanding weather with bright sunny skies for the parade. Additionally, and most importantly, the parade completed without one injury or any related mishap.

Everyone had fun and were provided a pizza lunch after the parade.

The following are the Amateur Radio Participants:

Keith Brooks, N8DKB; Jerry Huffman, N8YN; Fred Jones, WA4SWF; James Rowe, N8TVO; Faye Rowe, Logistics; Jerry Lockhart, W8HIC; Gary Caldwell, WX8G; A. J. Pierson, N8LRO; Mike Love, WB8YKS; James Reneau, N4REN; Alex Lindamood, KE8MBD; Eddie Jenkins, N8URU; Annabelle Jenkins, KB8TGI; Don Kemper, KN4KSS; Tim Nicely, AC8VQ; Dave Bruce, KD8NYN; Harry Rice, KC8WDR and Randy Franz, KD8VRU

The day was ended with everyone saying, see you next year and that speaks volumes!



Mike Love, WB8YKS
SOARA/ ARES
Ohio Section PIO

[Upcoming Hamfests](#)

06/08/2019 | Union County ARC TrunkFest

Location: Marysville, OH

Sponsor: Union County Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.ohiohams.net>



06/15/2019 | Milford Hamfest

Location: Owensville, OH

Sponsor: Milford Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.w8mrc.com>

06/15/2019 | W8DXCC DX Convention

Location: Owensville, OH

Sponsor: SouthWest Ohio DX Association

Website: <http://www.w8dxcc.com>

07/07/2019 | 20/9 Radio Club Hamfest

Location: Austintown, OH

Sponsor: 20/9 Radio Club, Inc.

Website: <http://20over9.org>

07/07/2019 | Ohio Link Swap Meet

Location: 1801 Gateway Circle, Grove City

Sponsor: Ohio Link Network Group

Website: www.olnradio.digital

07/20/2019 | NOARSFEST

Location: Elyria, OH

Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://noars.net/hamfests/noarsfest>

07/21/2018 | Van Wert Hamfest

Location: Van Wert, OH

Sponsor: Van Wert Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://w8fy.org>

07/28/2019 | Portage Hamfair '19

Location: Ravenna, OH

Sponsor: Portage Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://hamfair.com>

08/03/2019 | Columbus, Ohio Hamfest

Location: Grove City, OH

Sponsor: Voice of Aladdin Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.columbushamfest.com>

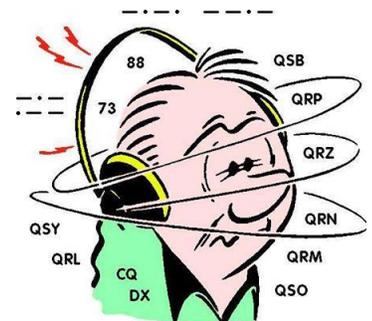
DX This Week

(from Bill, AJ8B)

Bill AJ8B (aj8b@arrl.net, @AJ8B, www.aj8b.com or www.swodxa.org)

CWOPs Member #1567

Uncle Frank and I had a QSO after the CQWW WPX CW contest this weekend. I found some solid propagation on 40 meters both nights into Europe and Western Asia and had a small run of UAs. As Uncle Frank always questions “Why is the band open on the same weekend as contests? How do they make this happen?” (More on that in a few weeks)



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Each of us had several hundred QSOs in the log after several hours of work and we were discussion getting QSL cards. I have discussed QSL cards in the past and the DXCC program as well.

Twenty plus years ago these two programs went hand in hand. You needed to have the physical card in hand to get credit for the entity. Now, with LoTW, that is no longer the case. So, is the best way to get the physical card in hand? Many hams post the QSL cards on their walls, some have binders that are reviewed by guests and others. A few months ago, I wrote about a mechanism to display the QSL cards as your background, screen saver, or on a dedicated display appliance.

That still leave the process of getting the card. This can be expensive! You could spend \$3 or more per card to get the entities QSL card. I have also discussed using the QSL buro and that is a more cost-effective way to exchange cards, but, it takes time. I have received cards from 5 or more years via the buro. So, is there another solution?

In 2000, N5UP, Dave Morris, launched eQSL.cc. From the eQSL.cc About webpage, Dave explains “eQSL.cc is the **first and only** global electronic QSL card exchange for amateur radio operators and SWLs. It is designed to be the fastest, easiest, and cheapest way to exchange QSO confirmations, eliminating the cost and time that regular QSL cards have required for the past half century. With a larger membership than the entire ARRL, eQSL.cc is THE place where everyone exchanges QSLs quickly and easily. It has also become one of the largest awards organization for amateur radio with over 166,569 eAwards issued.”

The only perceived negative about eQSL.cc is that the QSOs are not recognized by the ARRL for DXCC. eQSL.cc has its' own set of awards and recognition, so, if you are not an ARRL member, which 70% of the US amateurs are not, this can easily be your DXCC. More information below from the eQSL.cc website:

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eQSL - The Final Courtesy

by **Dave Morris, N5UP, Founder and Webmaster, eQSL.cc** February 5, 2001

The world's first and only eQSL exchange centre, www.eQSL.cc, started the year 2001 with a bang. Only a few weeks earlier, on the first of December, it had blown through the 1 million card mark, and now 2 million cards were in the central database. But instead of slowing down, the rate increased as thousands of eQSL cards were uploaded every hour.

The eQSL.cc site was launched in April of 2000 and included about 1500 hams who had been part of an earlier experiment in an electronic QSL card exchange. The "big" idea was that eQSLs should not be sent around from person to person via e-mail but should be available at any time through a web-based exchange system and a central database.

Other concepts using e-mail or by posting one stock QSL card on a web page and calling it an eQSL were not satisfactory, because security could not be guaranteed, e-mail addresses had to be looked up, and the sender had to laboriously design his QSL card using graphic design software.

So, we used our 25 years of software development and database design experience to develop a site where each user could guarantee his identity with a scanned image of his ham license, could lay out an eQSL card design using simple point-and-click forms, and could upload logbooks either one-at-a-time, or by uploading an entire ADIF format log file at once. The concept is such a breakthrough, we have patents pending on its technology.

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To retrieve one of these eQSL cards, the recipient only need enter the callsign, date, and band of the QSO he wants to retrieve, and if the other ham has entered that QSO into the system, up pops the complete eQSL card, ready for printing on a local printer. Furthermore, if the recipient registers his callsign with us, he can get a listing of all incoming eQSLs, and can just point and click to print each card received. Sending a reciprocal card back is a matter of clicking a button!

Apparently, most everyone else thinks this is the right way to do it, too. Another six weeks after hitting the 2 million card mark, it appears the number of cards will double again to 4 million.

Many of the members of the eQSL.cc site are using stock images for their eQSL card designs. But since it is possible to upload a graphic image to use on one's card, there are many custom cards online as well. Users are signing up from over 180 countries all over the world. In many places, a stack of 500 traditional QSL cards might well cost the average ham operator and entire year's salary. On eQSL.cc, 500 beautiful full-color cards can be sent for free!

In an era when "dot coms" are failing left and right, it is noteworthy that the eQSL.cc site, which is supported almost entirely through voluntary donations, has been operating in the black since Day One. Since the site runs virtually without any human intervention, the only ongoing expenses are for development of new features, and for continually increasing disk space, processor power, and bandwidth. A small amount goes to answering the questions and suggestions that come into the webmaster's office by e-mail. In most cases, replies are returned within the same day.

Not everyone agrees that eQSLing is the way to go. Some people like to get their hands on that stiff cardboard with the exotic stamps that spent months in transit from the jungles of some island that is only above water for 3 weeks out of the year. Others are bothered that some amateur organizations still have "no electronic transmission" clauses in the rule books for their awards. Others still are spooked by the privacy issues that this interconnected new world brings up.

But it's very difficult to argue - as the saying goes - with success. And 4 million cards is success by anyone's measure. At the present growth rate (with the number of eQSLs doubling every month), eQSL.cc could be home to virtually all of the world's amateur radio operators within a couple of years. Contest "big guns" will be able to "QSL 100%" within a matter of minutes, saving hundreds of hours of time and thousands of dollars in the process. DXPeditions will be able to "QSL 100%" on the spot, whether it be from that desert island with a dial-up Internet connection, or when the crew gets back to "civilization". It's just a quick log file upload, and they are done!

And eQSLs, unlike their traditional cardboard counterparts, can be verified through automated computer interfaces by amateur organizations wanting to validate award and contest submissions. The presence of a scanned license image on file for each user goes way beyond the simplistic checking that is possible using the older traditional QSL cards.

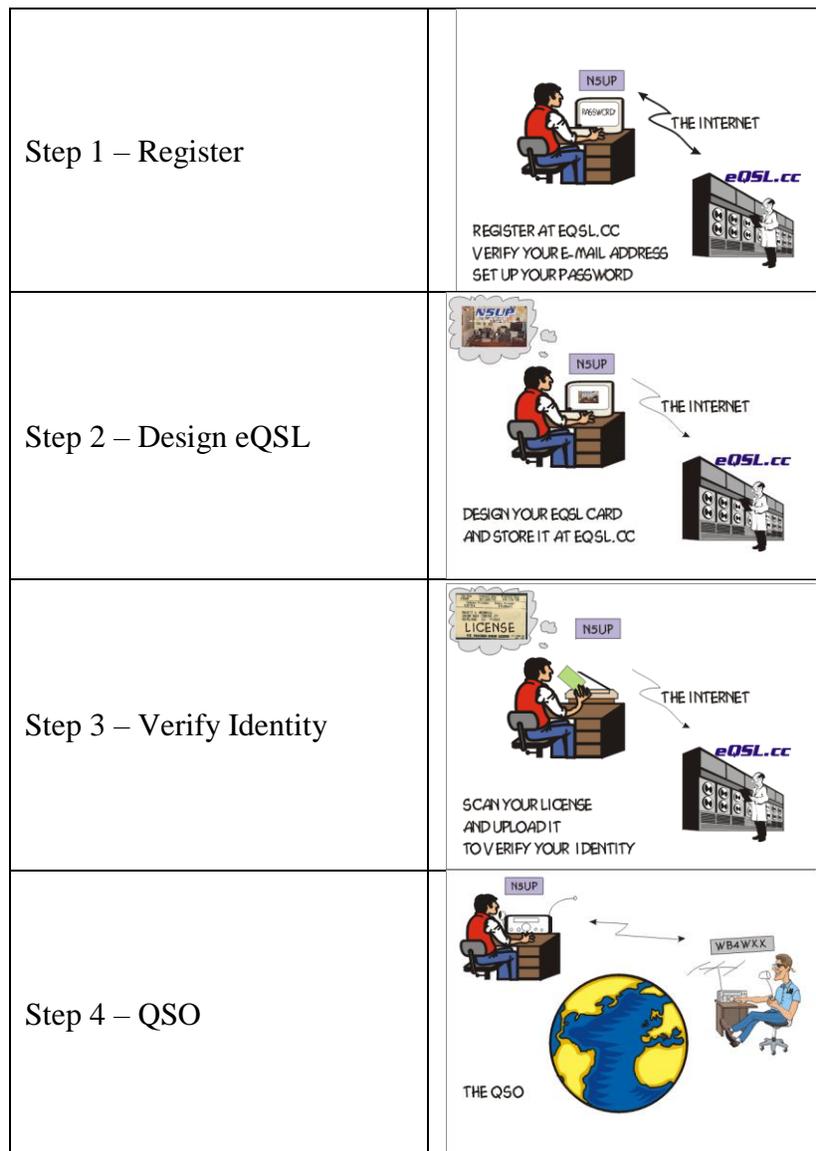
And now eQSL.cc is also a favorite site for SWLs, because users can identify themselves as either licensed amateur operator, or SWL. The eQSL cards between SWLs and hams are automatically configured to contain proper SWL phrasing, making their lives easier and saving them tons of money.

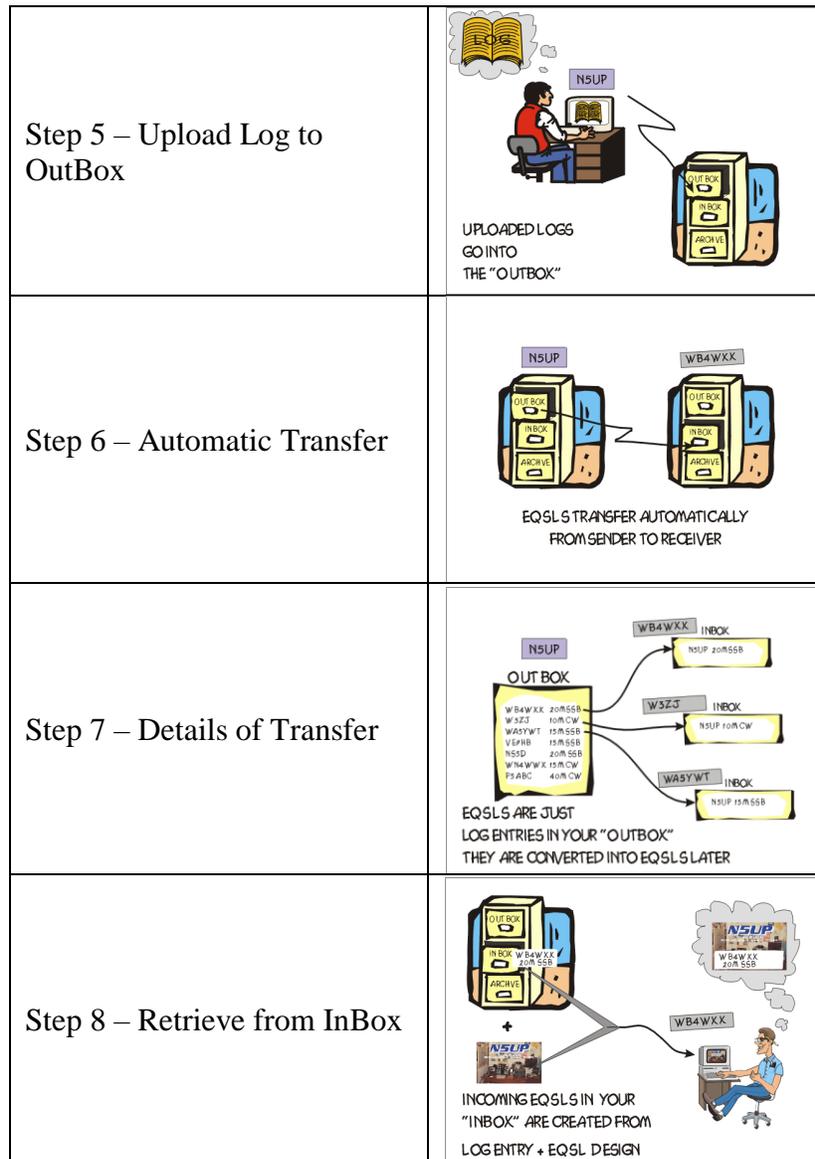
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Complex systems shouldn't be designed in a vacuum, so we have assembled a capable group of hams and SWLs into an Advisory Board. Among these advisors are users with satellite and DX experience, contesting backgrounds, and international origins, as well as technology gurus and people with long-term operating histories. This group discusses current issues and future development plans for the site on a daily basis. Just another feature of the interconnected world we have entered as the 21st Century dawns.

There were nay-sayers when SSB first began to push CW aside. There were those who thought packet radio was just a short-lived fad. Others thought we shouldn't be wasting money on amateur satellites. And some people think eQSLs are "not natural". But for tens of thousands of hams and SWLs who upload their entire logbooks nightly in an effort to live up to the "100% QSL" promise of amateur radio, the final courtesy of a QSO is an eQSL.

How does the system work?





So Why Join / use eQSL.cc?

Reason Number 1

- No more card printing costs
- No more envelope costs
- No more stamps
- No more IRCs
- You could save an average of \$11,273.68 in QSL costs (11,211 users surveyed)
- One of our members has already saved \$67,579,345.78!

Reason Number 2

- More DX members than any other Amateur Radio Site
- 241,275 to be exact

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Reason Number 3

- Need any of these?
- We have 2,684 of the most rare DX stations

Reason Number 4

- Do You Like Awards?

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Here is an update from Bernie, W3UR, of the DailyDX and the WeeklyDX, the best source for DX information. (<http://www.dailydx.com/>) Bernie has this to report:

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60 – Somalia - EP3CQ, Ali, plans to be back operating 6O1OO from mid-June to the end of July, but not July1-10. He "will be mainly active via FT8 on 6 Meters"..

VP8/o - South Orkney - For the operation from IOTA AN-008, the DXpedition planning continues with radio and antenna decisions complete. The callsign will be VP8/VP8DXU, due to recent licensing changes. Elecraft will be a major sponsor with K3 rigs and KPA-500 amplifier and P3 Panadapters. Other corporate sponsors include DX Engineering, Arlan Communications (RadioSport) and Rig Expert. Doing a pre-setup of the tents is set for the second weekend of July in Placerville, California. The tents will be set up, inspected, and repairs, if any, made on the three tents. Floor assemblies will be set up in advance as kits, for easy and reliable setup when on site. Everything will be taken back apart and packed for sea shipment. Significant financial support has come in from the NCDXF, German DX Foundation, and Far East DX-Ploitiers, a total of 29 clubs and foundations chipping in, plus 178 individual DXers. The estimated overall cost is 325,000 USD, with the operators saying they will pay half of that themselves.

E3 – Eritrea - The E31A expedition by the "FGC Radio Team's scheduled start-up was two days ago, May 25 and going to June 3. On the team are JH1AJT, DJ9ZB, WD5COV, PA5X, RA9USU, RZ9UN and E21EIC. They are part of the Eritrean Independence Ceremony and will help with Eritrea National Olympic Committee efforts. They are on 160-6 CW, SSB and FT8. The E31A callsign was pirated on six meters today. E21EIC, Champ, says E31A was not on the air at that time. The phony had an FT8 pileup on 50.313 MHz starting at 0445Z, working many North American, European and Japanese stations. Champ says "We never run F/H mode on 50.313 MHz."

V4 - St. Kitts & Nevis - V47JA, operator W5JON, will again operate from Calypso Bay, St. Kitts, his vacation home 600 feet from the Caribbean, this visit July 20 to August 11. John plans to be on 160-6 SSB and FT8, emphasizing 6M FT8, with an FT1000MP, FT857d and KPA500 amplifier. The antennas are a Mosley Mini32A beam, 33 foot vertical for 40-10, 35 foot top loaded vertical for 80 and base loaded vertical on 160. On six it's a 5- element Yagi. QSL direct or use LoTW, he says.

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ARLD017 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by CS5CRE, The Daily DX, The OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites.

Thanks to all.

CYPRUS, 5B. Special event call 5B19CWC is QRV until July 14 during the Cricket World Cup Radio Marathon 2019. QSL via operators' instructions.

SAMOA, 5W. Members of the Uruguay DX group will be QRV as 5W0H from Upolu Island, IOTA OC-097, from June 1 to 10. Activity will be holiday style on 80 to 6 meters, using mainly CW and SSB, with two stations active. QSL via EB7DX.

NEPAL, 9N. Yuki, JH1NBN is QRV as 9N7BN until June 4. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using SSB and possibly FT8. QSL direct to home call.

PAKISTAN, AP. Special event call AP19CWC is QRV until July 14 during the Cricket World Cup Radio Marathon 2019. QSL via operators' instructions.

PORTUGAL, CT. Members of the Clube Radioamadores do Entroncamento are QRV as CR6TD from the Dornes Templat Tower until June 1. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB. QSL via bureau.

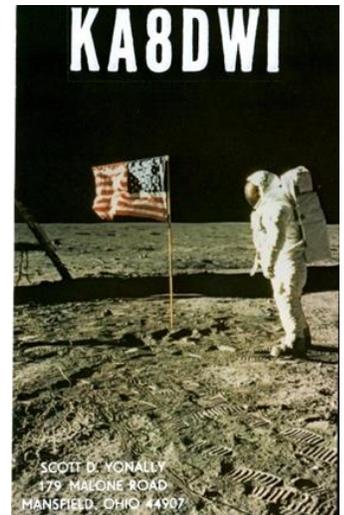
PHILIPPINES, DU. Audie, DU1ZDR and Gazelle, DU1ZDQ will be QRV as DZ1A from Kalanggaman Island, IOTA OC-129, on June 3. Activity will be on 7055 kHz and 14260 kHz using QRP power. QSL via operators' instructions.

ERITREA, E3. A large group of operators are QRV as E31A until June 3 while here in support of the Eritrea National Olympic Committee. Activity is in their spare time on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and FT8. QSL via JH1AJT.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, E5. Milan, OK1DWC is QRV as E51DWS from Rarotonga Island, IOTA OC-013. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

FRANCE, F. Special event station F/ON6JUN/p is QRV from Ranville, Normandy until June 7 to commemorate 75 years since D-Day. QSL via ON5SD.

JAPAN, JA. Special event station 8J7AIZU is QRV until November 30 to highlight the 120th anniversary of Aizu Wakamatsu City in Fukushima. QSL via JN7GLC.



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LUXEMBOURG, LX. Members of the Radioamateurs du Luxembourg group are QRV with special event call LX19CWC until July 14 during the Cricket World Cup Radio Marathon 2019. QSL via operators' instructions.

SWEDEN, SM. Rick, SM6U, Bengt, SM6UQL and Tomas, SM6XMY are QRV as 7S6WX from the Weather Islands, Vaderoarna, IOTA EU-043, until June 2. Activity is holiday style on 80 to 10 meters using SSB. QSL via bureau.

GREECE, SV. Oliver, DK7TX will be QRV as SV8/DK7TX from Antipaxos, Paxos and Kerkyra, all IOTA EU-052, from June 2 to 9. Activity will be on 40, 20, 17, and 15 meters using SSB. QSL to home call.

ASIATIC RUSSIA, UA0. Operators Vasily, R7AL, Igor, UA3EDQ, Vladimir, RK8A and Albert, UB9WLJ will be QRV as R26RRC from Paramushir Island, IOTA AS-204, from June 1 to 7. Activity will be on 40, 30, 20, and 17 meters. QSL via Club Log.

CANADA, VE. Members of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club will be QRV as VX4WARC during June to celebrates the club's centennial anniversary. QSL via bureau.

HONG KONG, VR. Special event call VR2019CWC is QRV until July 14 during the Cricket World Cup Radio Marathon 2019. QSL via operators' instructions.

VIET NAM, XV. Sven, HB9DXB is QRV as XV9DXB from Nha Trang beginning June 1. Activity is on 80, 40, 20, and 15 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via EB7DX.

ALBANIA, ZA. Ralf, DK8FA is QRV as ZA/DK8FA in Golem, near Durres, until June 3. Activity is on 20 and 17 meters using RTTY and PSK. QSL via bureau.

SOUTH AFRICA, ZS. Special event call ZS19CWC is QRV until July 14 during the Cricket World Cup Radio Marathon 2019. QSL via operators' instructions.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The 10-10 International Open Season PSK Contest, Museum Ships Weekend, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, PVRC Reunion, DigiFest, Wake-Up QRP CW Sprint, SEANET Contest, UKSMG Summer 6-Meter Contest, Kentucky QSO Party, Dutch Kingdom Contest, IARU Region 1 CW Field Day and the RSGB National CW Field Day are all on tap for this upcoming weekend.

The ARS Spartan CW Sprint is scheduled for June 4.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test and Phone Fray are scheduled for June 5.

The Canadian National Parks on the Air, CNPOTA, operating event runs for the entire year of 2019, with special stations active from Canada's parks and historic sites.

Please see May 2019 QST, page 84, June QST, page 86, and the ARRL and WA7BNM Contest Web Sites for details.

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Special Events

06/15/2019 | W8DXCC DX Convention

Jun 15-Jun 16, 0000Z-2359Z, K8S – K8W – K8H – K8O, Owensville, OH. SouthWest OH DX Association. 14.245 14.074 7.245 3.535. Certificate & QSL. AJ8B - Bill, 8275 Cierra Way, Waynesville, OH 45068. This is the inaugural year for this DX Convention. We are using these call signs: K8S, K8W, K8O, K8H. A QSL for each and/or certificate for working all four. www.w8dxcc.com

06/24/2019 | Simon Kenton Council, Delaware District, Cub Scout Day Camp

Jun 24-Jun 28, 1330Z-1700Z, K2BSA/8, Lewis Center, OH. Delaware Amateur Radio Association K8ES. 14.290 7.190. QSL. Ed Jones, 2965 Seaway Ct, Lewis Center, OH 43035. We'll be operating each day from 13:30-19:30 from Camp Lazarus in Ohio. We'll have hundreds of scouts on the air over the course of the week.

07/08/2019 | 50th Anniversary of First Moon Landing

Jul 8-Jul 24, 0000Z-2259Z, N8A, West Chester, OH. Midwest VHF/UHF Society. 10368.100. Certificate. Tom Holmes, N8ZM, 1055 Wilderness Bluff, Tipp City, OH 45371-9221. Plan to work 10 GHz EME when moon at best position for good DX. Contact for schedules and exact frequency. n8zm@mvus.org

07/14/2019 | 50 Years - First Man on the Moon

Jul 14-Jul 28, 1700Z-2000Z, N1A, Milford, OH. Milford Amateur Radio Club. SSB: 28.350 14.260 7.240 3.840; CW: 14.045, 7.045, 3.545; FT8 standard frequencies. QSL. Milford Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 100, Milford, OH 45150-0100. Email qsl@w8mrc.com for QSL requests. www.w8mrc.com

07/20/2019 | Honoring the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon Landing

Jul 20, 1400Z-2000Z, K8QYL, Wapakoneta, OH. Reservoir Amateur Radio Association. 14.250 7.250. QSL. Rich Spencer, W8GZ, 05925 Vogel Rd., Saint Marys, OH 45885. From the Neil Armstrong Air and Space Museum

07/22/2019 | Seneca County Fair

Jul 22-Jul 29, 1600Z-0200Z, W8ID, Tiffin, OH. Seneca Radio Club. 7.225 3.895. QSL. Seneca Radio Club W8ID, P.O. Box 67, Tiffin, OH 44883. W8ID will be celebrating 177 years of the Seneca County Fair! Join us for the cotton candy! Join us for all the fun! We can't wait! www.w8id.org

08/01/2019 | W8LKY Carnation Festival Special Event

Aug 1-Aug 11, 0000Z-2359Z, W8LKY, Alliance, OH. Alliance Amateur Radio Club. 14.240 14.045 7.240 7.045. Certificate & QSL. Alliance Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 3344, Alliance, OH 44601. The Alliance ARC(W8LKY) will be on the air at various times throughout our Carnation festival festivities. We'll be on the air from various locations in the Carnation city. We may pop up on the bands at any time. Check the spotting networks, and our web page for upcoming activations. www.w8lky.org

08/15/2019 | D-Day Conneaut

Aug 15-Aug 18, 1600Z-0400Z, W8D, Conneaut, OH. Conneaut Amateur Radio Club. 14.285 7.190 3.996 3.885. QSL. Garret Scott W8D, 10236 Birch Hill Ln., Knoxville, TN 37932. D-Day Conneaut recognizes the 75th anniversary of the World War II Allied D-Day Landings on the beaches of France in 1944. Event will include the country's largest reenactment of the D-Day landings with more than 1,800 WWII reenactors from around the world participating. Radio operations will include vintage WWII equipment. <https://www.facebook.com/W8BHZ>

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ARRL Contest Corner

An expanded, downloadable version of *QST*'s [Contest Corral](#) is available as a PDF. Check the sponsor's Web site for information on operating time restrictions and other instructions.



One Question Questionnaire

Hey Gang,

It seems that about 21% of you will use a “voice keyer” during Field Day this year. That’s a lot lower percentage than what I had thought for sure.

There’s another NEW – one question – questionnaire on the Ohio Section Website! <http://arrlohoio.org> Ok, with vacations time coming up and many folks tell me that they are taking cruises on the ocean, I thought it would be fun to know...



“Have you ever operated from a cruise ship??”

Anyway, these questions are all in fun and I hope that you are enjoying answering these “ONE QUESTION” questionnaires. Ok, enough on that, here’s the next question for you to answer...

You’ll find the “One Question” questionnaire on the Ohio Section Website! <http://arrlohoio.org> It’s all in fun and it’s not a scientific survey in any way, but we are learning some things that we didn’t know from these questions. I hope that you are enjoying answering these “One Question” questionnaires.

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V.E. Test Sessions

For the latest testing site information please >> [Click Here](#) << The ARRL site tracks all of the VE testing sites that register with them, including W5YI and Laurel. ARRL gives you a number of different ways of sorting to find that site that is closest to you as well.



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Incident Command System (ICS) Training Schedule

All current trainings are listed on the Ohio EMA training calendar located at:

<https://webeoctraining.dps.ohio.gov/TrainingAndExercise/courselist.aspx>

I've been asked to also include a link to the Kentucky EMA training calendar as well..

<https://kyem.ky.gov/training/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://sites.google.com/site/ccoemtraining/home>



Please pay particular attention to these courses listed above, as that there's a lot of ICS 300 & 400 classes listed that are very useful for all Amateurs to have under their belts. I will also state that G775 is also a very good course to take as well. These 3 courses are multiple day in class courses, so please be prepared to spend some time taking them.

We do recognize that IS-300/400 requires multiple days of actual classroom training that is not easily obtained. So, if you just can't find the time to fit these class room courses in, we do have an alternative method for getting you to Level 3.

Completing the following **“FREE”** and **“ONLINE”** courses will act as substitute for you FEMA Leadership Development Course requirements. You absolutely will need to complete all **7** of these courses to get your ICS 300/400 credit. Here are the courses that you need to take: **IS-120, 230, 240, 241, 242, 244 & 288.**

Now, if you are looking for wallpaper and have a little extra time, taking IS-235 in addition to the 7 listed courses above, you will get a really cool looking certificate from FEMA stating that you have completed the Professional Development Series. That's impressive in itself!

ARES Connect

We need to discuss some very important items that only YOU can make a difference with. I need you to get yourselves registered in ARES Connect, if you haven't already. What are you waiting for? No matter how much you resist, it's coming, and we need to make sure that no one is left behind.

ARES Connect

Instructions to Register

If you live in Ohio and you haven't registered yet, we need you to get registered now. **We need you to only use this URL to get registered** <https://arri.volunteerhub.com/lp/oh/>. **Using any other entrance to register will only slow down your registration process. Again, this is for those living in Ohio only. If you are an out of state person (not Ohio), you can simply change the /oh/ to your 2-letter state designation. This will put you in the correct state for signing up**

Enter ARES Connect

Now, as an incentive to get you to not only register.... and to actually start using the system... (*Notice how I have that in bold type for you to clearly see?*) I am giving away all sorts of goodies to help you get motivated. I have a footlocker of really cool items that I will be giving away at various times!

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I'm doing this so it will challenge you to be dedicated to getting your hours into the system. You'll never know just when another drawing will be, so you really do have to be prudent!!

Here's the top 10 folks for hours in May:

	Name	Events	Hours
1	Henry Ruminski (W8HJR)	35	133.65
2	Elizabeth Klinc (KE8FMJ)	48	131.25
3	John Westerkamp (W8LRJ)	49	119.58
4	Christopher Domenick (KC8CAD)	26	116.60
5	Bret Stemen (KD8SCL)	38	108.50
6	Doug Braun (KB8TGT)	6	86.00
7	David Noeth (KD8ACO)	14	82.00
8	Mathew Nickoson (KC8NZJ)	13	78.25
9	Timothy Gray (KD8IZU)	6	72.00
10	Robert Baker (N8ado)	20	70.00

It adds up quickly, but you do have to be registered and actually USE the system in order for any of your time to count. We have a set of instructions on how to get registered right above the button to enter ARES Connect. I would strongly suggest that if you haven't registered yet, that you read these instructions first.

Here's a link to get you started... http://arrl-ohio.org/ares_connect_directions.pdf Please, don't just hurry through the questions, read them carefully, if you don't understand something, please ask me, I'm here to answer your questions.

We know that you mean well by answering that you do have the needed courses in, but I will let you know that we are verifying what you say you have with what is showing for you in our statewide database when we are completing your registration. So, how can you find out if you are already listed in our statewide database? Easy, here's a link: <http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/special/ICS%20Complete%20by%20County%20and%20Name.pdf>

Here's a quick breakdown of the 10 Districts

	Registered		Registered
District 01 WD8PNZ	139	District 02 W8UY	10
District 03 W8LLY	162	District 04 N8TFD	117
District 05 KC8SYF	102	District 06 W8DLB	52
District 07 KB8YMN	210	District 08 N8SUZ	36
District 09 W8FHF	60	District 10 N8AUC	173

	Hours		Hours
District 01	465.75	District 02	0
District 03	717.37	District 04	167.25
District 05	51.25	District 06	526.50
District 07	504.35	District 08	2.00
District 09	151.82	District 10	941.35

The hours shown above do not reflect hours recorded under the "Anonymous" category. This category is designed to pick up those who either haven't registered in the system yet, or those that were unknown to the event admin at the time the event took place.

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Now, that's not the only information we have. With this new reporting system, we can get real time information that shows how many hours, who volunteered and what did they volunteer for. There's a ton of information that we can draw out of the system and here's just a sampling.

	# Signed up	# of Events	Hours Credited
Communications Emergency	57	4	331.75
Community Event	83	31	464.52
Exercise	15	7	42.00
Meeting	209	49	579.86
Net	1112	355	1679.19
Skywarn	275	39	236.00
Training	72	52	738.5
Miscellaneous	110	106	2112.25
Total	1933	643	6184.07

We now have **1061** registered and growing every day in the system. As you can see by the numbers above, we are moving very fast to a day when we will all need to be registered in this system for our hours to count.

Right now, we depend on our EC's and DEC's to remember our hours of volunteering and report those hours for us on their monthly reports. Very soon now those days of the EC and DEC monthly reports will not be necessary, and it will be coming faster than you think!

The time that is spent in getting your information and making sure it is up-to-date and on file with the EC, as well as transferring all of those records when a new EC takes over will also no longer be needed. This system takes care of all of that automatically. Forget a meeting time or location? Just look it up on the calendar and there you have it. If set, you can even see the location on a map! I have attended many meetings and gatherings just because it was listed on ARES Connect and I found it just browsing around. I wouldn't have known about it if it hadn't been on the ARES Connect Calendar!

Why is this so important? These hours are what is shown to those we go to for funding as well as for more frequencies to operate on. Yes, we have to justify why we need the money or frequencies to those in government that want "just the facts." This system allows us to show them the facts, anytime and with great accuracy.

From the Section Emergency Coordinator

Hey Everyone

Our amateur radio activities have wound down at W8SGT, dealing with the Memorial Day Tornado outbreak in Ohio.

Ohio ARES was just in the process of announcing its partnership with the Ohio EMA "Watch Desk", where we will alert just under 2,000 amateurs in the state in order to feed situational awareness to the state. Our plan was to use the Ohio DMR statewide talk group along with our normal HF 80-meter voice and digital nets (depending on storm noise).



We got to launch that system under pressure Memorial Day Monday evening, as severe storm systems swept across Ohio producing over 33 tornado warnings, and 9 confirmed touchdowns.

One person died and there were multiple injuries. Hundreds of homes and buildings were damaged, mainly in western and south-central Ohio. The largest storm (an EF-4) seriously damaged portions of Dayton including destroying Hara Arena, home for years to Hamvention.

ARES activated mid-evening as SEC Stan Broadway, N8BHL set up informational operation from home and team co-lead Richard Wynkoop, KD8PHG, immediately responded to the Auxcomm amateur station at the Ohio EOC.

The information received from the all-night effort was fed directly into the state's "WebEOC" software to help the Watch Desk determine the need to ramp up to assist county EMA Directors requests for aid. By 8 AM Tuesday morning, the EOC was opened and fully operational to respond. W8SGT was on the air continuously, receiving reports from county ARES groups.

The operation was not without problems. Monday night the storms were so intense that desense significantly restricted our communication. Later on Tuesday, we lost the ability to connect with our local DMR repeater. That was resolved Wednesday as the radio programming was changed. After storm passage HF became more usable, both on the state 3.902 MHz SSB net, and 3.585 Ohio Digital Emergency Net (OHDEN) in case forms would be transmitted. First tier communications remained solid in most of the affected areas, but amateur operators were able to provide situational awareness that enhanced their response.

By Wednesday evening, May 29, most of the ARES groups had completed their mission, although the Youngstown, OH, area requested ARES activation for damage assessment from storm related flooding. That is expected to continue for a few days.

The Ohio Auxcomm Team extends best wishes to those who were affected by the storms. We also sincerely thank all the amateur operators across the state who participated. As the state EOC opened its full session on Tuesday morning, recognition was given to the amateur radio operators who worked through the night to assist.

Stan Broadway, N8BHL
Ohio SEC
Ohio Auxcomm Team

Additional...

This has been a significant week in Ohio. Most important, I want to thank all of you who responded to Ohio's historic Memorial Day Outbreak of tornadoes. There are now 19 confirmed, with teams still working. At least two were EF-3 strength. A larger EF-4 tornado hit the Trotwood area taking out the famed Hara Arena.

Your participation in Skywarn as the system moved into Ohio was important! Situational awareness reports you supplied all night Monday into Tuesday and beyond were a critical part of Ohio's gearing up to respond.

Our Ohio amateur radio response was not without problems- the storm de-sense was amazingly strong Monday evening. At some point we (read: probably me) fumble-fingered the DMR radio and we lost connection. Thanks to Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR, who made a special trip to the state EOC Wednesday to re-program and improve our DMR situation. "The Sarge" will be stronger than ever into the systems now, and we've added a bunch of new groups (see below). We have also added surrounding states to coordinate longer-track events.

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HF picked back up after the main frontal system moved away, but by then 'normal' communications were holding the load.

Amateur radio wasn't done though, as late as Wednesday Mahoning and surrounding counties were alerted for damage assessment from flooding. "The Sarge" closed operation Wednesday evening with many accolades from the EMA managers. We pass those on to all of you, who were out doing the work! Our fledgling idea to create a statewide flow of information worked! And, worked well. Just in the nick of time. It was a tremendous opportunity for amateur radio to be directly involved with real life-and-death events across the state; and you responded professionally. Thank you!

Because Ohio is switching to ARES Connect, we have created a couple of events in Connect for logging your activities. If you had a county or district level response, please create an event back-dated as needed to record your times. **Your important next step is to catalog all the information we can about ARES response for a full After Action Report.** Please forward your work/times to your EC. EC's, forward a report to your DEC's so we can get everything recorded! I would like to have this information by Saturday- while it's still fresh. We will submit that to the state to be added to their AAR.

This has been a historic event for Ohio, and I thank you for being a big part of the response!

I might add that there will be more damage assessment coming- I highly recommend taking IS-559 online, local damage assessment. Lori Price forward that and IS-772 online as informative training that will prepare you and your volunteers for this work.

Here are the DMR groups we added to the DMR radio at W8SGT. You may want to make sure those that apply to your area are in your radios! Don't know how to add talk-groups? There are many great videos on-line that will fully and completely describe how. I highly recommend that you learn how to do this.

31391 NEOH - 31392 WXOH (or, NWOH) - 31393 SEOH - 31394 SWOH - 31395 ARES - 31399 OHYSF (Fusion link) - 313920 MNFD - 3118 IN - 31183 INWX (Indiana Weather) - 3126 MI - 3121 KY - 3142 PA - 3154 WV

This and That's

(from various sources)

Dayton Hamvention 2019 - Mentoring the Next Generation

(David, KD8ACO and the Wobbly Oscillator)

Fascinating! Absolutely Fascinating! It was another great year for Hamvention at the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia, Ohio. I'm told that last year's Hamvention was enjoyed by 28,417 attendees (the third largest attendance since Hamvention began in 1952) and that the numbers for this year's show are expected to be larger.

The volunteers that make Hamvention possible continued to make adjustments and additions to this must-see event. The total number of forums increased from 57 last year to 62 this year. These forums appeared to be very well attended, especially the eight forums which I was fortunate enough to attend. The fifth forum room was located in a larger tent than last year's and was moved from the lawn to a corner of the parking lot.

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A free mobile event app was available this year for both Apple and Android devices. This app mirrored the content in the printed program, but the app was interactive and was being updated throughout the event, including the hourly prize drawing winners. The 2-meter simplex bulletin transmission was provided again this year, but this information was also available on a new 1620 KHz AM broadcast.

There were numerous alterations to the offsite and onsite parking. Closer paved and gravel offsite parking options were added this year. Also, the offsite parking bus drop-off location was moved closer to the main gate. This allowed for the elimination of the tractor pulled people movers. Instead, more golf carts were utilized this year. They were numerous and convenient.

The weather this year was warm, but more importantly, dry! I had my doubts on Thursday evening when it poured. However, Friday was overcast with a light breeze, which dried things out quickly. The additional gravel added in the flea market area made for easy travel while trolling the multitude of offerings. Saturday was warmer with full sun, making for a nice day to visit the indoor vendors and having some eyeball QSOs, while relaxing in the shade. Sunday was well attended with the new feature of free admittance for those living in the local area, providing a way of seeing what draws close to 30,000 devotees to their corner of the world each year.

Every year, I try to focus on a new and different opportunity to do at Hamvention. This year, I toured the Voice of America Museum on Thursday evening and the WLW transmitter site on Saturday evening. Both tours were hosted by the West Chester Amateur Radio Association, WC8VOA.

I highly recommend both of these tours. The private tour of the iconic 1930's WLW 500 kW AM transmitter was truly fascinating.



Hope to see you at Hamvention 2020. Mark your calendars now for May 15, 16 & 17, 2020. I have already made my hotel reservation. Have you?

Until next time,
73 de David KD8ACO

Bob, K8RGI, and "Hammy"

Final.. Final..



Hey Gang...

This was one very hectic week for sure. If it wasn't running for cover from the 20 tornadoes in the southwestern corner of the state, it was putting on the muck-lucks wading through muddy waters in the northeast corner where flooding occurred in the Mahoning Valley doing Damage Assessments.

Wow. ARES in our state has been really busy this week for sure! Yes folks, 20 tornadoes all happening around the same time frame this past week. This is not something that any ARES group plans or rehearses for but considering all that happened in such a short time span, we have done very well indeed.

Ok, here's the official count on the tornadoes and their severity:

County	City/Township	Scale
Auglaize	West of Wapakoneta	EF1
Auglaize	Waynesfield	EF0
Darke	South of Hollansburg	EF1
Darke	New Madison	EF1
Darke/Miami	West Milton	EF3
Greene	Jamestown	EF1
Greene	Jamestown	EF2
Hardin	Between Belle Center and Kenton	EF0
Hocking	Near Laurelville	EF2
Mercer	Celina	EF3
Miami	South of Troy	EF0
Miami	Elizabeth Township	EF0
Montgomery	Trotwood	EF4
Montgomery	South of Vandalia	EF2
Montgomery/Greene	Beavercreek	EF3
Montgomery/Miami	Near Phillipsburg	EF0
Perry/Muskingum	Roseville	EF1
Pickaway	South of Circleville	EF0
Pickaway	South of Tarlton	EF1
Vinton	Near Zaleski	EF0

INCIDENT ASSESSMENT

Deaths	• One confirmed	Maintaining
Injuries	• Multiple reports of storm-related injuries	Maintaining
Shelters Open	• Five open (Total Pop: 111)	Maintaining
Critical Infrastructure	• Energy, Transportation, Water	Decreasing
Power Outages	• Statewide: 8,750 ○ Montgomery: 8,000 ○ Greene: 750	Decreasing
County EOCs Activated	• Montgomery & Auglaize	Maintaining
County Declarations	• Greene, Montgomery, Hocking	Increasing
Debris Management Needs	• Greene, Mercer	Increasing
Long-term Housing Needs	• ESF-14 is engaging appropriate partners	Increasing

The extent of the damage to both the southwest as well as in the northeast corners of our state has really put a strain on our ARES resources, but we have done an excellent job in helping our fellow citizens of Ohio get through these trying times for sure!

Too much is still going on in the Mahoning Valley to get a real good feel for what is happening there. But I do know that Damage Assessments are still happening all over the Valley, and we'll get some numbers very soon on just how bad the flooding damage was there.

Sliding down the band a bit... I want to make sure that all of you know that you need to get signed up in ARES Connect NOW. Yes, we are the first Section in the country to be given the green light to go with ARES Connect for our monthly reports. Our plan is to have the EC's and DEC's to still submit their monthly reports for now and if all looks good this month and next, we will cut off the reports and go solely with ARES Connect. Once again, the Ohio Section is leading the nation in advancing ARES.

What does this mean to you? You now need to make sure you get registered in the ARES Connect system if you haven't already. And, you now need to actually start using the system and signing up for events!!! It's really easy to do and only takes a couple of minutes of your time, but it means so much to the Ohio Section and to ARRL. Just imagine, for the first time they can really use and justify the time that we say that we help out our citizens. We have it recorded in these events.

I hear from folks all the time asking... "why do I need all this training?" Well, after this past week if you have to ask that question... Folks that have never dreamed that they would get involved are now volunteering to help out. Yes, with 20 tornadoes and at least 3 cities underwater it should be evident to you that you do need to have some training before you volunteer to help.

Here in the Ohio Section we only require our Level 2 volunteers to have the 4 basic courses, IS 100, 200, 700 & 800. For our Level 3 volunteers we do require the additional ICS 300 / 400, or the equivalent professional series courses IS 120, 230, 240, 241, 242, 244 & 288. These equivalent courses are all on-line classes just like your basic 4 NIMS courses are and being offered as an alternative way for you to get credit for taking the professional series courses in the event you just cannot get scheduled into an ICS 300/400 class.

By the way, if you decide to take these 7 on-line courses and complete them all, you will want to take just one more class **IS-235**. By completing this additional course, you will get a really great looking certificate from FEMA recognizing that you have completed the entire Professional Series courses. I do hope that this clears up the confusion that has been going around lately. As we have stated on the website and in this newsletter many times “We don’t want anyone left behind.”

Rotating the dial a little more... I ran across this really great written article about ARES and the struggles that many ARES groups go through. It does hit a lot of points that we have already seen here in the Ohio Section and I think you should read it. I hope you agree with me that this says a lot about Amateur Radio and how we can, if we work hard at it, make our ARES program strong, vibrant and useful to the community.

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The Amateur Amateur: Now We're Getting Serious

(By Gary Ross Hoffman, KBOH – and the The Amateur Amateur website)



My interest in emergency communications began even before I got my Amateur Radio license. I had used handheld CB radios when I ran security for a few Doctor Who conventions and had also played around with police scanners a lot. We had a quite robust police scanner club here in St. Louis. That was largely due to the fact that our club leader, Mike, worked for the St. Louis County Police Department in the Office of Emergency Management. We were sometimes able to hold our meetings at their Emergency Operations Center.

It was Mike who urged us to get Amateur Radio licenses. Newly licensed himself, he organized and taught Technician classes. My wife Nancy and I were among his first graduates. One thing led to another, and the next thing we knew, we were Volunteer Examiners.

The emergency communications aspect wasn't just that we were in the *proximity* of the police and emergency managers, Mike was trying to beef up the Amateur Radio volunteer effort there. His main focus was Skywarn.

He coordinated with the local National Weather Service meteorologist in charge of Skywarn training, and even taught some spotter classes himself. He managed to get the county to issue Skywarn certificates to people who attended the classes, and also RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) certificates to those attendees who were also Amateur Radio operators. He set up a cadre of operators who would report to the EOC during severe weather and take reports from Skywarn trained hams in the field. The reports were passed on to the local NWS office.

Although the Skywarn effort worked fairly well and did give local ham operators some experience with emergency nets, the RACES connection was pretty much limited to the certificates handed out to spotter class attendees. There was no other training, organization, or planning. Mike wasn't interested in interested in developing RACES beyond a vague plan stashed away in a forgotten file cabinet. I was quite disappointed when I found out.

Looking for some more serious way to learn about and participate in emergency communications, I discovered that the ARRL had just come out with its Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Courses (EC-001, EC-002, and EC-003).

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These were Internet courses coupled with regular contact with mentors. Nancy and I took the Level I course, and I went on to complete the Level II and Level III courses as well.

Not long after I had finished the three courses, I was surprised to find that there was a fledgling ARES® (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) group in St. Louis County. I attended a meeting and found that the leadership was affable and well-meaning, but not very well organized. Trying to be helpful, I offered to perform several of the tasks that needed to be done, including setting up a Web site (which I am still stuck with maintaining) and teaching what I had learned in the ARECC online classes.

Unfortunately, the group was disbanded not long after I had joined. This was due to a number of factors, most of them having to do with personality clashes. What can you do? It happens.

The ARES District Emergency Coordinator was reluctant to see St. Louis County ARES completely vanish, so he looked around for a leader to start a new group. (He offered me the job, and in a rare moment of sanity, I declined.) It took a few months, but eventually someone volunteered to be the group's new EC (Emergency Coordinator). Enter Steve, a relatively new ham, who had tried to join the previous group just as it was being dissolved. Steve admitted right away that he was inexperienced, but willing to learn.

Oh boy, did he learn! He started checking out what other ARES groups were doing. He discovered the FEMA Independent Study courses and began taking them. As part of a large company's security force, he was allowed to take emergency management courses offered by the State of Missouri. And while attending these, he met various EMA professionals and discussed the merits of Amateur Radio with them.



The thing that I most admired about Steve, though, was his persistence. Getting St. Louis County ARES going was a long, hard process. He endured resistance, incompetence, and out-and-out antagonism, but kept on working to build the group. Most people would have bailed out early on, but Steve kept on going. He served as an anchor for the rest of us. As he learned, the rest of us learned. And as the group grew and became more competent in what we were doing, the more notice we got. Eventually, potential served agencies (clients) began to approach us.

Antennas placed right next to each other on the lowest rooftop

That was a game changer. It's fine to take a lot of online courses and hold exercises in parks and such, but when an actual emergency management or relief agency knocks at your door, you begin to wonder what you *really* know.

It was time to learn some more. Several things quickly became evident.

1. Most served agencies insisted that all volunteers take certain FEMA course.
2. Most served agencies had their own credentialing system.
3. Most served agencies wanted specific operators, not just anyone from our group.
4. Most served agencies already had Amateur Radio equipment installed.
5. Not all of the served agencies took Amateur Radio, or indeed, emergency management seriously.

Wow!!

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1. Well, the FEMA courses weren't a problem, as our group was already insisting that all members take them.
2. The agency-specific credentialing is a problem that has yet to be solved. People further up the food chain are working on that.
3. It's understandable that an agency would want an individual operator so that they could get to know him/her personally, but if that operator isn't available, it becomes a problem.
4. Agencies having their own Amateur Radio equipment is fine in some respects, but it is very often situated in terrible places, and the antennas are almost always installed in the worst possible locations.
5. Some served agencies take emergency preparation and management very seriously. But others have the idea that *they are* emergency management (hospitals for example), and don't consider that they could have emergencies *themselves*. They only allow Amateur Radio volunteers in because it's mandated in grants they have obtained. Their own emergency manager is often also the head of maintenance or the grounds keeper.

So... training took on a new aspect, as we had to learn how to, very diplomatically, train the served agencies. It's still a challenge.

Another big challenge is becoming fully integrated into a served agency's emergency operations plan and being involved in its exercises. Almost all of our agencies have had such exercises, but all too frequently the Amateur Radio operator is just assigned a corner to sit in and nothing to do. That's another issue that we are struggling to resolve.

Recent developments have occurred to make life even more interesting. The ARRL, for instance, is revamping ARES itself. The idea is to bring ARES more in line with the National Incident Management System (NIMS), so that it can more smoothly work with other agencies.



ICS-300 class: Now we're getting serious

One agency that is fully on-board with using Amateur Radio volunteers is the St. Louis County Police Department Office of Emergency Management. After Mike retired some years back, St. Louis County ARES was invited to take over the county's RACES and Skywarn programs. Together, we rewrote the Amateur Radio Operations Manual, and merged the county ARES and RACES groups. The City of St. Louis also signed an agreement with us, and we became St. Louis *Metro* ARES/RACES. When the county's new Emergency Operations Center was built a few years ago, they made sure that a special Amateur Radio room was included, right next to the operations room.

Obviously, we've had to become familiar with more policies and procedures.

The County Office of Emergency Management will only permit twenty ARES operators to have access to the EOC. Understandably, those "secure access operators", as I call them, had to have background checks performed, and must have taken the same four FEMA Independent Study courses required by virtually everyone else (IS-100, IS-200, IS-700 and IS-800). But this year they threw in a new requirement. They want the secure access operators to also take the FEMA ICS-300 course. That is a bit trickier, as it is not an Independent Study course. It is a three-day-long course that you must attend in person. Moreover, it is only taught *sometimes in some places*.

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Egad !!

Fortunately, the course had recently been offered in the St. Louis area. The latest offering was at the EOC itself and was taught by the Office of Emergency Management staff. I managed to secure a slot for the class and took it.

I must confess that I felt overwhelmed. The course material wasn't particularly difficult, but it came fast and furious. As soon as it was presented, the students, who had been broken into teams, were given a scenario in which they were to use the information to come up with plans, fill out the appropriate forms, and then present what they had done to the whole class. The other students seemed to be able to handle the pace, while I sat there feeling like I was in the middle of a tornado. During a break I confessed to one of the OEM staff that I seemed to be a skateboard in the midst of a bunch of Ferraris. The staff member smiled and reminded me that I was a volunteer, while the rest of the students were professionals who did this sort of thing every day.

"We just want to expose you to what's going to happen all around you during an actual event," he said. Okay, I thought, now we're getting serious!!!!

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I hope that the above article makes you think a little more and appreciate what your Emergency Coordinator and District Emergency Coordinator goes through every day to keep his/her ARES program alive and worth being a member of!

Yes, the Ohio Section is extremely lucky to have the relationships that we do with Law Enforcement, EMA, fire and other government agencies, that's why we've partnered with EMAO, OP3 and Ohio VOAD to show our support for them and our Ohio citizens.

One final turn of the dial... We've had several updates to the website to report this week. Daniel, KB8LKH has updated his 3 code plugs for the AnyTone AT-D868UV Dual Band HT; Connect Systems CS-800D Dual Band mobile and the Connect Systems CS-800 Single Band mobile.

Thanks to Greg, WD9FTZ, he's updated the DMR Net listings. Both of these changes can be found at: <http://arrrl-ohio.org/digital/digital.html>

Now, on a non-Amateur Radio related subject. This coming Thursday will be the 75th anniversary of D-Day. The vast majority of us weren't even born when D-Day took place, but we all need to remember the significance in what those soldiers endured for us so that we could enjoy the freedoms that we do today!

Whelp... That's going to do it for this time around. Stay safe, enjoy the sunshine while we have it, and most of all... have FUN!!

73,

Scott, N8SY

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Back Issues of the PostScript and Ohio Section Journal (OSJ)

Hey, did you know that PostScript and Ohio Section Journal (OSJ) are archived on the website? You can go back and look at any edition simply by clicking:

<http://arrl-ohio.org/news/index.html>



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 the Ohio Section News!!"

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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!