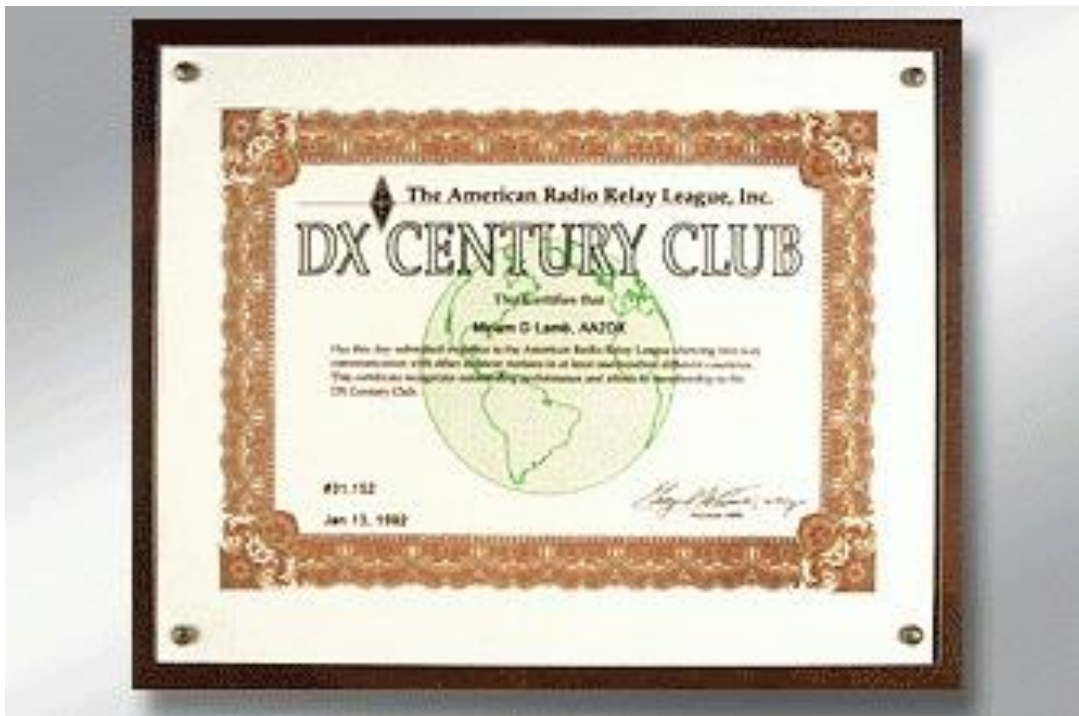




# “August 2nd Edition”

- [National News](#)
- [DX This Week](#)
- [Upcoming Hamfests](#)
- [VE Testing](#)

- [Club Corner](#)
- [Contest Corner](#)
- [One Question Questionnaire](#)
- [South 40](#)



Cycle 25 is off to a Good Start - Don't miss out!

---

## CQ CQ CQ de WB8LCD

Several things to talk about here..... First off, Saturday, August 7, 2021, at 11:00 AM, the OHIO Section newsletter contest winners will be announced, and “certificates suitable for framing” will be presented to the winners at the 2021 Columbus Hamfest. I hope you’ll all come out to support your club, the Ohio Section, and the Columbus Fest.

Next up – on Tuesday, August 10<sup>th</sup> – there will be an OH Section Zoom Conference for anyone interested in OHIO State Parks On The Air (OSPOTA). That contest is coming up soon on Saturday September 11<sup>th</sup>, so this will be an introduction and an overview on the contest, with a special section on both logging the contest and NVIS antennas for working the contest.

Time: Aug 10, 2021 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88055320136?pwd=bk81MXE3ellVTnAzZ3ptS0N3K2FOdz09>

Meeting ID: 880 5532 0136

Passcode: 375951

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,88055320136#,,,,\*375951# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,88055320136#,,,,\*375951# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 880 5532 0136

Passcode: 375951

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88055320136?pwd=bk81MXE3ellVTnAzZ3ptS0N3K2FOdz09>

The OHIO Section is sponsoring more learning and exploring sessions. Technical Specialist Jason – N8EI will be presenting one of those sessions on August 31st. His topic is “Beyond the Baofeng: Thoughts on Equipment Choices for New Hams.” You received your license. Picked up a \$20 Baofeng. Tried to reach some repeaters with it. Now what? Look for the zoom details right after the OSPOTA presentation.

Next up, The ARRL has been placing an emphasis on it’s support and services for each individual member and it’s support of the Sections and the affiliated clubs in each section. You can expect, and look for, changes in the way ARRL interacts with you. One of the first things they have done is to put an update on the website ( [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) ) to make it easier to find the information you need. At the very bottom of the page, on the left side is a new button “Contact ARRL” which will bring up a list on lots of topics that are now only one or two clicks away to get you to the information you need, and / or the person who can give you that information. It should make interacting with ARRL much easier. If you use it, let me know how it works out for you so I can provide feedback.

While you're interacting with the ARRL website, the most important thing to get updated NOW is your club information! If you're a club president (or other authorized officer) please review and update the information on your club information profile. You should be updating your information on an annual basis, but, this hasn't always happened like it's supposed to. Let's get back in the habit. Also, if you are a Special Service Club (and if not, you should be) you need to renew your SSC status every TWO years. Please make sure you're current.

Finally, when I took the Section Manager position on January 1 of this year, it left the Affiliated Club Coordinator position vacant. I would like to fill that position and I'm looking for qualified candidates. If you would like to nominate someone – including yourself – for the position, please send me an email to ([wb8lcd@arrl.org](mailto:wb8lcd@arrl.org)).

After driving around the state over field day weekend (740 miles worth!) I've discovered that OHIO really is a BIG State! By membership, we ARE the largest SECTION in the ARRL, and we are the 5<sup>th</sup> largest state ranked by number of Amateur Radio licenses issued. I hope you'll all pitch in to help us keep our status as not only big in numbers, but the best in quality of the programs and experiences we offer our Amateur Radio community.  
73,

Tom Sly – WB8LCD  
ARRL OHIO Section Manager  
330-554-4650

## ***National News***

*(from arrl and other sources)*

# FCC to Re-Establish Technological Advisory Council, Solicits Membership Nominations

The FCC is seeking nominations for a chairperson and members of the Technological Advisory Council (TAC). In a July 21 [Public Notice](#), the Commission [announced](#) that it intends to re-establish the TAC for 2 years by August 20, 2021. It's anticipated that the renewed panel could hold its first meeting in October.

The TAC provides technical advice to the FCC and makes recommendations on the issues and questions presented to it. The panel typically has several radio amateurs among its members. Greg Lapin, N9GL, has represented ARRL on the TAC.

Among other issues, FCC Acting Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel will ask the TAC to start looking beyond 5G and conceptualize 6G. In addition, she'll ask the TAC to study advanced spectrum-sharing techniques, implementation of artificial intelligence, and machine learning to improve the utilization and administration of spectrum and other emerging technologies.

All organizational or individual members appointed to the Council or its working groups are subject to an ethics review by the Commission's Office of General Counsel. Council



members receive no compensation for their service. Nominations for membership must be submitted to the FCC by August 20.

Procedures for submitting nominations are spelled out in the *Public Notice*, which includes details on membership qualifications and obligations.

The FCC said it's particularly interested in receiving nominations and expressions of interest from individuals and organizations in these sectors:

- Communications service providers and organizations representing communications service providers.
- Manufacturers of communications equipment and organizations representing manufacturers of communications equipment.
- Providers of internet applications or cloud-based services.
- Scientists and engineers from academia or independent consultants who are recognized experts in their field.
- Qualified representatives of other stakeholders and interested parties with relevant expertise.

"Members will be selected to balance the expertise and viewpoints that are necessary to effectively address the issues to be considered by the Council," the FCC said.

## More Slow-Scan TV Transmissions from RSOISS Scheduled

Friday and Saturday, August 6 - 7, Russian cosmonauts on board the International Space Station (ISS) will transmit slow-scan television (SSTV) images from the station on 145.800 MHz FM. They will use SSTV mode PD-120.

The transmissions are part of the Moscow Aviation Institute SSTV experiment (MAI-75) and will be sent via RSOISS, the ham station in the Russian Zvezda (Service) module using a Kenwood TM-D710 transceiver.

The announced schedule is August 6, 1050 - 1910 UTC; August 7, 0950 - 1555 UTC. Dates and times are subject to change. For stations in the ISS footprint, the RSOISS signal should be easy to copy on a handheld transceiver and a quarter-wave whip. Use 25 kHz channel spacing, if available.

Free ISS software is available to download. [Pass predictions](#) are available from AMSAT. Representative images from prior ISS SSTV events are available in the [ARISS SSTV Gallery](#).

## From On-Line Electronics, Inc.:

### Tesla Promises to Open Up Access to its Charging Network for Rival EVs

By: [Bill Toulas](#) | July 21st, 2021

Elon Musk, the CEO of Tesla, has made a public statement that sent turbulence to the entire EV market. According to the boss of the leading American electric car manufacturer, Tesla has imminent plans to allow other car brands to use its charging network, admittedly the most extensive in existence. That would include competing car models that consumers had reservations to select against Teslas, precisely because of the limited charging point availability.

In Elon Musk's words:

*“We created our own connector, as there was no standard back then and Tesla was the only maker of long-range electric cars. It’s one fairly slim connector for both low and high-power charging. That said, we’re making our Supercharger network open to other EVs later this year. Over time, all countries.”*

He hasn’t gone into details, and the statement is certainly anything but binding, but Tesla may have a lot to gain from a move like this. First of all, charging commissions from a large number of EVs replenishing their battery juice on Tesla’s stations should make up for a significant, stable source of profit. Secondly, evading anti-competition audit trouble in the near future. If there’s a simple, compatible, and safe way to offer supercharging to others, denying them access could result in scrutiny from the anti-competition authorities.

Those who may not be as happy with Musk’s announcement are current Tesla owners, who see the exclusivity in supercharger points as a key reason to pick a car from the brand. Having to compete at the stations for an available point isn’t something they’re used to right now, so some are already voicing concerns on social media.

---

## **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)



## **Canton ARC Special Event Station**

Canton ARC will be operating special event station W8AL August 6-8 in conjunction with the Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival. Operations each day will be from 1900-2359 Z (3 PM - 8 PM local time). SSB operations will be primarily on 3.980, 7.280 and 14.280 MHz, plus/minus QRM. Digital and code operations will be secondary (as operators schedules permit). Look for spotted frequencies in either case if you can't locate W8AL. A certificate and QSL card will be returned upon receipt of your QSL card and \$2 to cover mailing costs of an unfolded certificate. Our mailing address is W8AL, POB 8673, Canton, OH 44711-8673.

---

## **Efficient Traffic Relay With Books**

C. Matthew Curtin, KD8TTE

Books of messages and the processes of booking, unbooking, and rebooking messages are poorly understood. This article explains what books are, why they exist, and when to use them, and how to use them.

### **What Is A Book of Messages?**

A message, sometimes called “single” messages (plural, “singles”) on amateur message relay nets, follow a particular structure. The amateur radiogram is the default message structure, made up of critical parts described

in ARRL's *Methods, Practices, and Guidelines* (MPG) Chapter 1, "The ARRL Message Format." Other structured message formats including the ICS-213 likewise can be booked, and procedures for booking are the same, irrespective of transmission format.

A book is not just a plurality of messages, but two or more messages with one or more parts in common and prepared for transmission to avoid repeated transmission of the common parts.

Consider an example message that we often hear on Central Ohio Traffic Net (COTN), an acknowledgement of a session report. This will use the ARRL "numbered radiogram" ARL FIFTY THREE, which means "Received your \_\_\_\_\_. It's appreciated; many thanks." (<https://www.cotn.us/references/arl-numbered>) We format the message so it fills in the blank with REPORT and then data to follow showing the session's date, number of stations in the net, number of messages relayed, number of minutes in the net, and the callsign(s) of any net liaison operator(s).

```
3765 R KD8TTE ARL 9 BEXLEY OH DEC 16
K3AUX
BT
ARL FIFTY THREE REPORT 15
9 0 9 KD8UUB
BT
KD8TTE
AR
```

These often come in groups, sometimes going to the same station, sometimes going to different stations. Here's another that might be transmitted on the same net session.

```
3767 R KD8TTE ARL 10 BEXLEY OH DEC 18
W8ARD
BT
ARL FIFTY THREE REPORT 16
12 17 29 KD8UUB
BT
KD8TTE
AR
```

Notice how much the message have in common:

```
R KD8TTE BEXLEY OH

BT
ARL FIFTY THREE REPORT

BT
KD8TTE
AR
```

A book of these two messages is where the two messages are arranged such that the common parts are transmitted first, one time, to both stations, and then each station gets its parts individually transmitted.

The process of transmitting books is described in MPG Section 2.3.4 (voice) and MPG Section 3.3.8 (CW).

### Why Use Books?

MPG discussions of sending books in both voice and CW procedure, as a “time saving option” (§§ 2.3.4, 3.3.8). There are minor differences in the text of MPG regarding booking but these are editorial differences, not procedural differences.

Considerable time can be saved in sending two or more messages with fixed parts, such as fixed addressees, fixed texts, etc., by “booking” the messages as they are voiced.

Return to the example above. Transmission of those messages with full procedure at “writing speed” takes approximately 60 seconds. The common parts take about 30 seconds of that time. Transmitting two singles thus takes 120 seconds, where transmitting those same messages as a book of two takes 90 seconds. Especially where books are large (consider a special event's worth of acknowledgements in a book of 15), that time can have a significant impact on the total net operation time.

In other cases, where liaisons are moving messages between nets, fixed schedules place inherent limits on how long nets can run. In busy times, such as emergencies, that kind of difference can have a material impact on how many messages can move on a given cycle of operation. Messages that don't make it through the exchange may thus be delayed by hours or days.

### Why Book During Relay

Start with this example of a single.

```
NR 1 R HXG KD8TTE 13 BEXLEY OH JUL 24
R U THAYER W1AW
NEWINGTON CT 06111
BT
IT WAS THE BEST OF
TIMES X IT WAS THE
WORST OF TIMES
BT
C DICKENS
AR
```

If we're holding this message for relay, we would list this as a message on COTN as “through, one,” which is to say, it is going up to a higher-level net for relay. The message would go to COTN's “Section Net Liaison.” That station would take the message and then go to an Ohio Section net, and list the message as “through, one,” (voice) or QTC THRU 1 (CW or digital). The Section Net's Eighth Region Net (8RN) liaison would then take the message and then go to 8RN. There it would also be listed as “through,” so the 8RN rep to Eastern Area Net (EAN) would take the message, where it would go for further handling.

Imagine now another message making its way through the system at the same time.

```
NR 322 R HXG KD8KBX 17 BAY VIEW MI JUL 24
R U THAYER W1AW
NEWINGTON CT 06111
BT
```

ALL WOMEN BECOME THEIR MOTHERS  
THAT IS THEIR TRAGEDY X  
NO MAN DOES AND THAT  
IS HIS  
BT  
O WILDE  
AR

Injected into the traffic system in Michigan, the message will follow the routing from Michigan to Connecticut. In this case, Michigan is part of the Eighth Region, where the message will be listed as “through” and the 8RN liaison station to EAN would be directed to take that message.

At the end of that 8RN session, 8RN's liaison to EAN now has two messages that are headed to the same addressee in the Connecticut Section, which is part of the First Region, which is part of the Eastern Area. The scheme of routing and message movement is described in the MPG NTS Routing Tables.

The station holding the messages may now go to EAN and list the traffic for First Region Net (1RN), “First Region, two” (voice) or QTC 1RN 2 (CW). EAN's 1RN rep would then be directed to take the messages, in turn listing them on 1RN as two for Connecticut, and so on until delivery.

The addressee being in common means that the 8RN rep to EAN, 1RN rep to EAN, and CT rep to 1RN will need to transmit exactly the same thing (the addressee) twice, and their recipient will need to receive exactly the same thing twice. If there were a third message headed for the same station at the same time, retransmission would be three times, and so on.

Any operator transmitting these two messages may save time by “booking,” i.e., creating a book of the messages with the common addressee.

In the present example, the common parts voiced once at full procedure take about 25 seconds. If the 8RN rep is the first to book the traffic, then that 25 seconds is saved on EAN, 1RN, CT, and any local net used for message movement. Assuming one local net, that's a savings of two minutes. As shown earlier, larger books and books with more parts in common improve efficiency further.

#### Do Only Originating Operators Book?

No. MPG is clear that booking is done by the sending operator. “Booking is usually done in the head of the sending operator” (§ 2.3.4.1), further suggesting that the book came to the sending operator as singles. The sending operator, having organized the traffic before the start of the net, is prepared to list the traffic as a book, and during transmission can see the messages and make the necessary adjustments mentally to transmit the singles as a book.

This is precisely the case that we illustrate in our example of messages from Ohio and Michigan to Connecticut.

It is incorrect to assert that any operator violates NTS or good amateur procedure to book traffic, and improper to “correct” an operator who does so.

#### When Should We Use Books?

Booking is optional. Continuing, MPG states that booking “is done at the option of the operators and is not mandatory. The economy of booking is based mainly upon the size of parts that would otherwise have to be repeated.” (§ 2.3.4.1)



We see several considerations. Remember the purpose of booking: the procedure is to save time. MPG's discussion of this in the chapter on CW procedure is more helpful. (§ 3.3.8.1)

Booking two messages with only a fixed signature is hardly worth the effort. Booking 12 messages with a fixed 25 word text is another matter. The text would be sent only once.

The decision to book is made based on the amount of time and effort to be saved and the wishes of the stations involved.

Having dealt with the purpose of booking and the level of economy involved in building any particular book, we're left with the consideration of the wishes of the stations involved, i.e., both sending and receiving operators. Again, the CW chapter is clearer: "Booking should not be used if the receiving operator objects." (*Ibid.*)

A receiving operator objecting to the book need not justify the request to have the traffic sent as singles. Reasons for such a request are local to the receiving station, ranging from operator experience, local site procedure, or the operator's ability to perform the work of rebooking, unbooking, or accounting for the messages.

Just as it is improper to correct a station that books messages, it is incorrect to require that receiving operators take books.

As COTN is a training net, we encourage operators to learn to handle books effectively, which means being able to send and to receive books seamlessly. If COTN is outside of your area, hopefully your net does the same. Books can come in almost any variation and take practice to handle well. That's why we train (to learn how) and why we operate regularly (to get and stay good at using the procedure we've learned).

## Learning and Using Books

MPG is the reference for booking. (<http://www.arrl.org/table-of-contents-nts-methods-and-practices-guidelines>)

Relevant parts of the MPG are

- 2.1.4 (Voice Procedures)
- 2.3.4 (Voice Booking)
- 3.3.8 (CW Booking)
- 3.4 (CW Procedures)
- 4.9.6 (Net Control, Assigning Books)
- 4.10.10 (Net Control, Dispatching Books)
- 4.11.4 (Net Control, Dispatching Books to Multiple Stations)
- 4.12.6 (Net Control, Dispatching Books to Multiple Stations, Off-Net)
- 8.2.5 (Originating Messages at Public Events)
- 8.3 (Organizations Originating Book Messages)

COTN is a training net. Operators are always welcome to list books, to book traffic with common parts, to accept books, and to negotiate with other stations on whether to transmit messages as singles or in books. Hopefully this is policy throughout all nets of at least the Ohio Section.

Becoming an effective traffic handler and the kind of station operator that others want to work with is a matter of following a simple formula. Be kind, be curious, and be disciplined in your operations.

## Athens County Foxhunt Winner

Congratulations to the winner of the Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup> Athens County Foxhunt!

**KB8NZB PHIL STANLEY came in first place**

With a record time of just over a half an hour from the 10 a.m. start.

Phil promises to give our regular club members a run for their money at the August 14<sup>th</sup> Fox Hunt.

Though he is not shy about giving tips and suggestion to others, as he puts it, “Any Time you can get some practice in, it helps to hone your skills. I enjoyed this!”



---

## Is the ARRL finally recognizing how important ARES is to our hobby?

Stan Broadway N8BHL

Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator

I was interested to read the announcement that the Board of Directors for ARRL has decided to put together a ‘standing committee’ for the interest of ARES and emergency communication. It’s about time. It could be past time.

It’s a realistic conclusion when watching any business or organization (including government): follow the money to find out what they’re really all about. For years the primary interest of the ARRL has been the golden twins: DX-ing and contesting. Financial and management priorities have been aimed in those directions for years. Unfortunately, the emergency aspect of amateur radio has taken a third seat. One result has been the virtual loss of major traffic activity to Radio Relay International (RRI). Oh, there’s certainly room for NTS as well as RRI, but the schism was not received well at the League. Shortly after, there was the reorganization of ARES (or statements to that effect) followed by the inept and clumsy development and deployment of ARES Connect. Had it not been for Ohio’s own Section Manager Scott Yonally, the whole connect operation would have been stillborn.

What, exactly, is the League’s commitment to emergency radio? The League has steadfastly refused the concept of sending teams of trained operators to help hams struggling in a stricken area. Even the ill-fated group of far less than fifty that was sent in the wake of Maria was something forced onto the League by its partners including the Red Cross. The much publicized ‘new version’ of the EC-001 course series was a weak re-write of the original course, now woefully outdated. One student I mentored in the first waves of the course submitted answers to one chapter – from his taking the course over ten years before! Same questions, same order. It was embarrassing. The League will send a box of radios into an area upon request... but they are unprogrammed and to make them work diverts talent and people from the emergency tasks at hand. In most cases, the emergency arm of the League “Monitors” situations according to their own statements. Kind of like watching the neighbors fight- keep score but don’t get involved.

In my tenure as SEC, there has been no measurable support from the League. More information and exchange of ideas has taken place in the past year with national zoom meetings staged by the “Ratpac” group, featuring guest presentations on topics from NVIS antennas (my subject) to traffic, to emergency deployment. It’s been interesting to hear the concept of other sections, and in some cases it’s been really disappointing to hear how hams themselves show disdain for amateur radio in favor of grabbing federal microphones. I like the theory of Auxcomm. I recommend the course over any other training for amateur operators- it’s excellent! And it’s just common sense to use all community resources needed for a disaster. But there’s a consistent anti-ham bias – to the point of ignoring highly technical systems for the more mundane unlicensed services when ALL of the systems need to be considered. For example, in ~every~ fire or EMS course I’ve ever taken, 90% of the people were wearing some type of fire department T-shirt (either theirs or some other department.) It’s a natural thing to do. Try to sneak into an Auxcomm course wearing a “Yaesu” belt buckle and get tossed on your behind. Why? The standing response doesn’t hold water.

But wait! There may be a glimmer of hope with this new interest in ARES/emergency radio from the League. I know that many are very unhappy with the way it’s going now. With a standing committee comes prestige and, yes, financial commitment that wasn’t there before. And while late, it may still be coming in time to ‘save’ the concept of amateur radio as a valid emergency service. So much ballyhoo has been given things like Auxcomm and processes where the ‘training and skillset’ of amateur radio is applied to government resources. The idea born and proven over decades that trained and creative amateur operators can rig together communications after devastation has almost become ‘cancelled’ in our culture. The League needs to jump into this with both feet and not hold back. They could start by redefining their own mission for emergency radio. Hopefully, that’s one of the first steps the committee (with people yet to be named) will take.

Training would be step two. My suggestion would be to adopt NIMS and Auxcomm as the default training system for ARES. It’s already recognized by our served agencies, it is for the most part solid training, and it doesn’t require yet another re-write and distribution of ARRL resources.

What the League should NOT do is try to manage ARES on a national level. “All disasters start local and end local” and like that, all served agencies are local. Properly trained EC’s (the heart of our operation!) who maintain a positive relationship with their served agencies will be able to dictate what services we can provide them.

In Ohio, we’ve worked hard to assure that amateur radio is still the go-to radio resource. It’s strong at the state level, and in most counties EM Directors are well aware of the capabilities we offer. And, they are aware that if an event grows larger, we have the entire state from which to draw... then neighboring states if needed. We are a ready resource- and we can all work to keep it that way. Don’t drink the “FEMA radios are more fun” Kool aid. Get practiced instead with building, repairing, and applying portable, temporary and emergency radio gear. That is still our bottom line.

---

## VE Sessions

### Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA)

Our next test session will be Wednesday July 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM. **Preregistration is no longer required.** 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)

## Lake County Amateur Radio Association (LCARA)

Saturday August 7 (Note that the testing session **on 8/7** will be at the **Lake County Historical Society, located at: 415 Riverside Drive, Painesville Twp.**, located on the northeast corner of Riverside and Route 84, just west of Riverside High School), Saturday October 2, Saturday December 4  
All exams start at noon and are held at the Kirtland Library, 9267 Chillicothe Rd. Kirtland, OH

## Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS)

Starting on August 7th, PCARS will resume VE testing 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 – <https://portcars.org/files/newsletter/2021/PCARS-June-21.pdf> – see pages 8, 9 and 10 for details. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me at KB8UUZ@gmail.com  
On behalf of the VE team at PCARS, we all look forward to getting the VE testing going again and look forward to seeing you there – August 7th -10 am – at the PCARS club site in Ravenna.

---

## 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 othe OH Section Clubs to see! Send to [WB8LCD@ARRL.ORG](mailto:WB8LCD@ARRL.ORG)

---

## DX This Week – Why CW?

Bill AJ8B (aj8b@arrl.net, @AJ8B, or www.aj8b.com)  
CWOPs Member #1567

The Midwest DX Cluster spots included Austria, Belgium, Belize, Bermuda, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Corsica, Crete, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Fed. Rep. of Germany, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Isle of Man, Italy, Mali, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Northern Ireland, Norway, Poland, Scotland, Serbia, Sicily, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Svalbard, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Arab Emirates. Things are picking up! This brings the total number of entities spotted in the Midwest in 2021 to 187!

This week I have three items to touch on. First, I have details of the upcoming QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo. Eric has all of the kinks worked out and I know it is going to be a fun and educational experience.

Secondly, I am featuring an article from K6RB, Rob, who is one of the founding members of the CWOPs organization. Rob is a terrific guy and a great operator. This is reprinted with the permission of Rob and the CWOPs organization.

Finally, my friend, OZ2I, Henning, is announcing his first DXPedition in quite a long time. Please watch for him on the air. Great guy, great operator, and loves to QSL!

## QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo

The next QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo is a month away, Live from August 14-15, 2021 and then on-demand for 30 days. It's a great experience for those that want to improve their amateur radio knowledge and



get exposed to new ideas, cutting edge ham radio technology, and practical techniques. And no need to travel - anyone can participate from their home or office! Information can be found at <https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com> .

At the Expo, you can listen and engage with almost 100 internationally recognized ham radio luminaries on approximately 18 different topic areas - there is something for everyone.

Topics include: Antennas and Transmission Lines, Build-A-Thons, Contesting/DX, Controllers, Digital Voice Mode, Emergency Communications, Filters and Tuned Circuits, Future of Amateur Radio, Ham History, HF Digital Modes, New License - Now What?, Power Amplifiers, Propagation, Radio Astronomy, Software and Services, Space and Satellites, Test and Measurement, and Youth in Amateur Radio.

Here are a few examples of speakers you'll want to listen to: (a complete list of speakers can be found at <https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com/spkrlist.html> )

**“Antennas and Transmission Lines” Track:**

- Small Transmitting Loop Design Project: Learn about STLcalc, an open-source program providing a flexible design aide for STL and Magnetic Loop antennas that can respond to user's changing needs and design goals. (August Hansen, KB0YH)
- Compromise Beverage Antennas Hear Better Than You Think! Don't give up easily on trying a Beverage receiving antenna. Discover how to overcome non-ideal terrain and space limitations. (Geoffrey Mendenhall, W8GNM)
- Fun with HF QRP Pedestrian Mobile: A look at two antennas for HF pedestrian mobile and the results possible. (Peter Parker, VK3YE)
- N4KC's Top 5 Get-On-The-Air-Quick Antennas: Recommendations for the top five simplest, most effective antennas to consider for your station. (Don Keith, N4KC)

**“New License - Now What” track:**

- HF Noise Mitigation: Learn about the various sources of noise, and how to mitigate noise using a variety of techniques. (Mike Ritz, W7VO)
- How to Hammer your Next Ham Exam: Discover the steps to take to master the material and excel in your next ham exam. (Michael Burnette, AF7KB)
- Six Winning Ways to Get Contacts on HF: Get tips on six winning ways to make HF contacts. (Peter Parker, AK3YE)
- Technician Licensees, Life Beyond Local Repeaters: Explore the world of activities, modes and bands available beyond local repeaters. (Anthony Luscre, K8ZT)

Watch as many presentations as you want! A big limitation of in-person events is that you can't watch many of the presentations (you can only be in one room at a time). At the Expo, return anytime within 30 days to view any of the presentations that you missed as well as explore exhibitor offerings. At our last Expo, our 7,500 attendees downloaded 100,000 presentations during the 30 day on-demand period.

ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio® in the United States, is a QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo Partner. Flex Radio is the Expo's Platinum Sponsor. Gold Sponsors are Elecraft and RFinder.

Early Bird Tickets are just \$10 and then \$12.50 “at the door”. Access to only the Exhibitor area is free. And save thousands of dollars since you won't spend on travel, food, and lodging. For more information, go to <https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com>.

*DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH      DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH*

## Why We CW? Rob Brownstein, K6RB

After more than 63 years of hamming – mostly CW – and seeing recent articles that predict a ham radio future that is largely digital and EMCOMM oriented, I feel compelled to weigh in. These days I frequently work people who were born years after I started pounding brass. Their frames of reference are certainly going to be different than mine. Their experiences on the bands, using different modes, are also going to be different. So, risking being called “an old fuddy duddy,” I want to make my case for why we do what we do, and why I don’t think we will end up in history’s dustbin anytime soon.



Each of us began our radio sojourn at different times and under different circumstances. Yet, here we are, in 2021, carrying on with Morse-encoded and decoded CW signals, just like I did starting in June 1958. Surely many things have changed since 1958. I haven’t read a paper newspaper in probably ten years. I haven’t watched a network TV show in probably 30 years. And, I stopped reading paper books a few years ago and now read most everything on an iPhone or iPad. If you would have told me, in 1978, that I would be doing all these changes, I would have questioned what you are smoking or drinking. Yet here I am.

But, despite all these changes, I still get on the air, with a radio capable of sending and receiving CW signals, connected to an antenna, and engage in two-way exchanges with other people doing the same thing. Before I get to why I do so, let’s look at a capsule history of how we got where we are.

### Some history

I’m not going to bore you with names and dates. Suffice it to say that near the end of the 19th century, we found that we could send encoded signals, wirelessly, to other places on the planet. Those first signals, by the way, were not the familiar tones we now hear. They were the familiar clicks that wired-telegraph telegraphers were used to hearing. A device called a “coherer” would, in the presence of an electromagnetic wave, change from high to low resistance, temporarily, and allow a current to close an electromagnet producing a “click.” It was very similar to the good old telegraph system except instead of wires; it used “radio” waves to make those clicks. And, instead of just one receiving operator hearing those clicks, many operators could hear those clicks at the same time.



Marconi’s wireless receiver, built in 1895.

Source: *The Guglielmo Marconi Foundation: Historical Museum*

Wireless telegraphy was not focused on terrestrial applications. Wired-telegraphy already had that covered. Instead, it was focused on ship-to-shore, and ship-to-ship communications applications. Before radio, when a ship left port, and was no longer visible, it was incommunicado until it was sighted nearing another port. If it sank, no one knew unless survivors later were rescued and gave a recount of what happened. With wireless telegraphy, a ship could stay in communication even when it was no longer visible.

In the early 20th century, a UK inventor invented the first vacuum tube (a rectifier) called a “valve.” It was a diode that allowed current to flow in one direction only. Soon after a third electrode was added, and the device could now “enlarge” a current’s amplitude while preserving its time-varying characteristics. Like a photographic enlarger, this amplifier simply made the input signal larger but its “image” stayed the same.

Once we had diodes and amplifiers, it was possible now to dispense with broadband spark transmitters and coherers and replace them with electronic oscillator/transmitters and receivers. That’s when the familiar tones came into existence.

Like the wired-telegraph operators before them, wireless telegraph operators used hand keys to encode the CW signal. A manual key, as such, has an inherent limit to how quickly it can be keyed which in turn establishes a limit to how fast a message can be encoded and sent. The invention of the semi-automatic “bug” key helped to reduce fatigue and increase speed. Later, the invention of a fully automatic keyer further reduced fatigue and increased speed.



If you were to listen to a recording of a conversational QSO done in 1960 using tube-type gear and a keyer and compare it to the sound of a contemporary QSO using solid-state gear and keyer, you would hear very little difference. Thus, for at least 60 years, from a sound impression perspective, not much has changed.

What has changed, though, is the environment in which these CW signals are now sent compared to those sent in 1960. Our current environment is much noisier, electrically speaking, than that of 1960. And alternative means of communications abound compared with back then. In 1960, if I wanted to speak to my friend on the other side of town, my choices were to get on my bike and ride over to his house, or pick up my telephone, dial his number, and talk to him. If speed was of no consequence, I could drop him a letter or postcard. Today, I can email him, TXT him, do an audio/video call using Skype or WhatsApp. And here’s the best part, whether he is two miles away or 12,000 miles away, I can still do all of those same things.

So, why in the world would I want to acquire ham radio gear, put up an antenna, and attempt to communicate using Morse-encoded/decoded CW signals?

### **Some perspective**

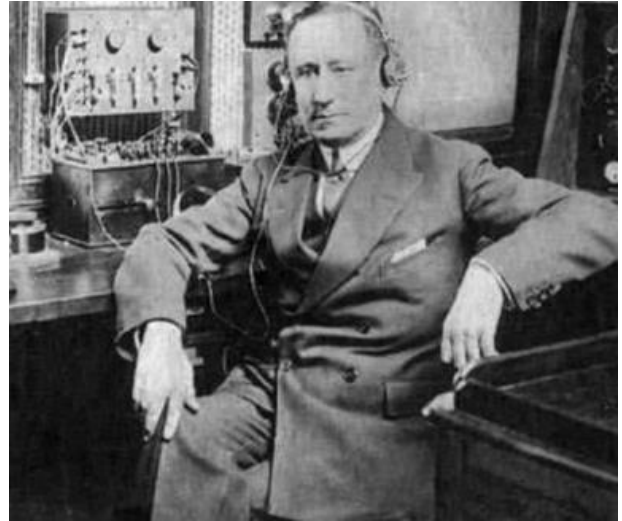
Going back say 200 hundred years, during a person’s lifetime, not much had changed. You communicated locally by visiting someone, and you communicated over distance by writing a letter and mailing it. Most communication in those days, other than newspapers and town-hall meetings, were one-to-one, point-to-point communications.

With the advent of the telephone, that changed. If you could afford one, you could now talk, one-to-one with someone (if they had a phone) over a respectable distance. If they had no phone, though, you were stuck with traveling or writing a letter.

In the early 20th century, though, radio provided a means for one-to-many communications over large distances. At first there was a bit of chaos as radio was unregulated and hobbyists (hams) and commercial entities were contending for spectrum. The Federal Radio Commission (FRC), later superseded by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) imposed regulation over who could transmit wireless signals, and what frequency or frequency band they would have to use.

It didn’t take long for commercial radio networks to emerge and by the 1920s, radio programming in first-world countries was well at hand. In the 1930s, prior to World War II, radio was used to great effect by Churchill, Mussolini, Roosevelt and Hitler. Never before had a leader of a country had a means of communicating with huge groups of countrymen.

Meanwhile, the hobbyists (hams) who were given harmonically related spectra to play with first relied on Morse-coded CW signals and then began adopting voice-modulated techniques. The ham radio I encountered in 1958 had a lot of both – hams operating CW and hams operating AM phone. Because AM phone took up a lot more bandwidth than CW, the FCC and other IARU entities typically gave wider swaths of bandwidth to AM users than to CW users.



By the 1950s, some ham-radio use patterns began to emerge. CW operators and AM operators mostly engaged in two-way conversational activity but periodically events took place whereby participants competed to see how many quick-exchange QSOs could be made within a set period of time. The other big activity was trying to work as many hams in as many different countries as one could. The ARRL's DXCC awards were highly coveted.

From the 1950s until the mid-1960s, CW and AM were the primary modes although beginning in the early 1960s, suppressed-carrier single-sideband (SSB) transmissions began to grow. They had the advantage of higher power efficiency than AM and better spectrum efficiency, too. Furthermore, the problem of carrier interference from close-by AM stations was no longer an issue as the carrier was suppressed, not transmitted.

With increasing interest in SSB mode, and with the ability to use the same sub-systems for both transmitting and receiving, there was a surge in development of so-called “transceivers” where instead of using separate transmitter and receiver, one could use a single device for both. At first, transceivers were relatively expensive. But, with Heathkit's SB and HW series gear, prices became much more palatable, and many more hams began trading in their separates and switching to transceivers.

Virtually all of these transceivers had both CW and SSB mode capability, but the popularity of SSB for DXing saw most mode switches sitting in the SSB position. Prior to the explosion of lower-cost transceivers, most European amateurs used CW mode because AM modulation was expensive and power inefficient. But once they had access to lower-cost US and Japanese gear, one saw a shift of European DX activity to SSB from CW, or, at least, equal measures of both.

During this same period, the VHF and UHF bands, which had hardly been used also saw a surge in activity. On 2 meters, in particular, solid-state hand-held devices became a popular means for communicating locally by making use of a centrally located “repeater” that would receive and then retransmit a 2m FM signal. Coupled with increasing use of antenna-restricting HOA/CC&Rs in new housing in the US, people who may have been inclined to buy AM/CW gear and put-up antennas often moved on to other things or bought 2 meter HTs and became the so-called “shack on-a-belt” new hams.

### **Bringing us back to now**

There's no question that ham radio is ageing. The average age of hams has increased inexorably since 1970. Those who see doom-and-gloom assume that as our generation moves on to that big ham shack in the sky, HF CW will become a footnote in a history book. And they may be right. But I'm not so sure.

First let me point out that in the late 19th century, with the shift from sailing vessels to steamengine vessels, people said sailing and sailboats would become historical artifacts. Consider this, though, today there are more boats with sails than ever before in our history. Today there are more people who know how to sail than there were 50 years ago.

In the mid-19th century virtually every item shipped across an ocean came by sailing vessel. Today, virtually no items are shipped by sailing vessel. Their use in commercial shipping is essentially zero. Yet, there



are millions of sailboats and sailors. Why? Because it's a skill that is challenging to learn and enjoyable to practice. Hold that thought.

Ham radio was never a primary means of communications. It was always a hobby. It began with CW, then added AM phone, then added SSB phone, then added computer-generated digital modes. Although SSB activity appears to be waning and digital activity is swelling, CW activity seems to be holding steady or growing. This is particularly true for radio sport. When I sit down at my paddle, or bug, or J-38, I don't chide myself for doing something that is an anachronism in today's world of global, hand-held communications capabilities. I don't weigh what it costs me to do a CW chat with some guy in Tokyo versus calling him on Skype or texting him. Of course, it's faster, easier, and more reliable for me to Skype or text him than to try working him with CW with QSB, QRM and QRN. So, why do I do it? Because acquiring the CW skills is a challenge and enjoyable to practice. Sound familiar?

### More perspective

Except for Covid-19, there are still a lot of people that like to go ballroom dancing. There are people who like to ride horses. There are folks who go backpacking. Like those activities, to many people HF CW ham radio is just plain fun. Yes, you do have to work to acquire those skills, but once acquired, you can sit back and enjoy chatting, contesting or chasing DX with your fingers.

Finally, one of the more recent ham-radio activities is Summits on the Air (SOTA), where people climb to the peak of a mountain, set up a portable antenna, and take out a small transceiver and proceed to work a bunch of people. Some of those people who climb or are worked are interested in collecting summits. Some of them just blunder into the mix and add a QSO. What a great way to combine the fun of exercise, being in the outdoors, and ham radio. But don't try that with digital because it means carrying a computer up there with you. And don't try that with SSB because, pound-for-pound, with the low power and greater bandwidth, the signal-to-noise ratio may limit how many QSOs you'll have. After nearly 10 years of advising CW Academy groups, my subjective finding is that at least 25 percent of the more than 200 students I've worked with came to CW by virtue of SOTA. My feeling is that when younger folks see the fun you can have using CW for SOTA, or radio sport, or just chatting (like texting), there will be some who will rise to the challenge of learning Morse and getting on the air. There may never be as many young hams as there were in my novice days of 1958, but I wouldn't bet that HF CW will simply shrink to nothingness over time.

### OZ2I – Henning DXPedtion

As you know traveling has been very low the last year or so. Now I finally have made a booking for a new radio-trip. This time it goes to Bermuda VP9!

I will be leaving Denmark 9th August and plans to be active from Bermuda 11th August until leaving 17th August. This includes the Worked All Europe DX Contest 14-15 August with my temporary call sign VP9EE. I am staying at Tarafal Drive, Hamilton where I rent apartment and antennas by VP9GE Ed Kelly. Bringing my Elecraft K3s and portable PC.

<https://www.google.dk/maps/search/73+Tarafal+Drive,+Hamilton+CR+04,+Bermuda/@32.3246318,-64.7145068,13z?hl=da>



So now I really look forward to finally travel again. Hopefully the Corona won't spoil it for me.

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

### CQDX CQDX CQDX CQDX CQDX CQDX CQDX CQDX CQDX

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:

**ZC - UK Base Areas on Cyprus** - ZC4CBK, operator Phil Mumford, is on from Akrotiri. He says he is the only operator under this call presently. His home calls are M7CBK/2E0VYG. He plans to operate most evenings, after dark, which is about 18Z, from now until October. He is deployed there a few months per year. The station is an IC-705 to 20M dipole and he plans to be on FT8 and FT4. He is working on getting 2M FM and 2M DSTAR going on the local Troodos Mountain repeaters RV48 and RV51. QSL via EB7DX. He is currently logging on QRZ and hopes to get LoTW going soon too.

**9X – Rwanda** - DF2WO (aka XT2AX), Harald, is heading to Kigali, Rwanda where he plans to operate as 9X2AW from September 13 to 28. He will be operating on CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. He's currently working on a 160-meter antenna and plans to "build a Hexbeam with Bamboo Sticks", for 20-10 meters says M0OXO, Charles. Harald will also have dipoles for 40 and 30 meters. QSL via M0OXO OQRS or direct to his CBA.

**ET – Ethiopia** - K4ZW, Ken, reports recent FT8 activity from the ET3AA club station. "The students get on in between classes and all of their other activities", says Ken. The operators have also been alerted "to the excellent 6 meters conditions and recommended that they concentrate on that for the next couple of weeks".

The third annual World Wide Digi DX Contest will take place on August 28 and 29. Rules for this event can be found at <https://ww-digi.com/rules> with "other valuable information" at <http://www.ww-digi.com>, says W0YK,

### **VK9HR DXpedition to Willis Island in November - cancellation by VK2JI, Ed Durrant, Publicity Officer VK9HR Willis Island DX'Pedition**

After months of negotiations with the new Coral Island Management Authority, DXpedition leader Tommy Horozakis VK2IR has had to cancel the Willis Island DXpedition that was planned for November of this year.

A combination of new rules banning the installation of any structures on the islands by the new authority along with the fact that COVID has now spread to four Australian states meant that going ahead was not going to be possible.

The Hellenic Amateur Radio Association of Australia organized DXpedition would have coincided with 100 years of the weather observation and station being on Willis Island.

HARAOA website: [www.haraoa.com](http://www.haraoa.com)

Getting through quicker on FT8  
By W3UR, Bernie McClenny

Here are hopefully some words of wisdom for those chasing DX on FT8.

Yesterday I noticed (and I have seen it over and over) many ties stations were trying to work TZ4AM on 6 meters FT8 (see QSN section below), during that brief opening. I was amazed at the number of

stations who were calling "TZ4AM de KZ3ZZZ FM19" over and over. I highly suggest not using the "Generated Std Msgs" (Tx 1). You can turn it off by double clicking on it. When the band opens up serious DXers want to get in and get out as quickly as possible. We don't know how long the opening will last.

The DX station does not care about your grid locator. If they do need the grid square they can look it up on QRZ.com or in LoTW. You want to get your call and report to the DX station as quickly as possible, so you don't miss the opening. So, when you are calling the DX station you want the FT8 software to go to message 2 (TZ4AM KZ3ZZZ -14). Then you want to get the KZ3ZZZ TZ4AM RR73. That is all you need for a "QSO" to county for most awards. By sending an extra message (your grid square) you are risking a propagation change and losing precious time to get the DX station into your log. You are also delaying your fellow DXers from getting their needed QSOs.

During contests where the grid locator is needed by all means send it.

*DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH*

# CONTEST CORNER

Below is a list of upcoming contests in the "Contest Corner". I think this is important for someone who is trying to move up the DXCC ladder since entities that are on the rarer side and easiest to work in contests. Some of my best "catches" have been on the Sunday afternoon of a contest when the rarer entities are begging for QSOs. Of course, the gamble is that if you wait until Sunday, conditions may change, or they simply won't be workable. However, it is not a bad gamble. Of course, why not work the contest and have some fun! Check out the WA7BNM Contest Calendar page (<https://www.contestcalendar.com/>) and CQ Magazine for more contests or more details.

The contests in **red** are those that I plan to spend some significant participation time on. PLEASE let me know if you are working contests and how you fared.

Thanks!

Aug. 1	SARL HF Phone Contest	<a href="http://bit.ly/HOlqQf">http://bit.ly/HOlqQf</a>
Aug.4	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	<a href="http://www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en">www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en</a>
Aug. 7	European HF Championship	<a href="http://bit.ly/H2eMg5">http://bit.ly/H2eMg5</a>
Aug. 7	FISTS Summer Sprint	<a href="http://fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints">http://fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints</a>
Aug. 7	WAB 144 MHz Low Power Phone	<a href="http://bit.ly/31_yE4kT">http://bit.ly/31_yE4kT</a>
Aug. 7-8	10-10 Int'l Summer Contest SSB	<a href="http://bit.ly/1_FrFeBc">http://bit.ly/1_FrFeBc</a>
Aug. 7-8	ARAL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest	<a href="http://bit.ly/21JZcy9">http://bit.ly/21JZcy9</a>
Aug. 7-8	Batavia FT8 Contest	<a href="https://batavia-ft8.com">https://batavia-ft8.com</a>
Aug. 7-8	North American CW 080 Party	<a href="http://ncjweb.com/NAQP-RRules.pdf">http://ncjweb.com/NAQP-RRules.pdf</a> (Featured in this month's column)
Aug. 11	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	<a href="http://www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en">www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en</a>
Aug. 14	ORP ARCI European Sprint	<a href="http://www.qrparci.org/contests">www.qrparci.org/contests</a>
Aug. 14-15	CVA DX Contest CW	<a href="http://cvadx.org/regulamento">http://cvadx.org/regulamento</a>
Aug. 14-15	Worked All Europe CW Contest	<a href="http://bit.ly/2vufgcb">http://bit.ly/2vufgcb</a>
Aug. 14-15	Maryland-DC QSO Party	<a href="http://www.w3vpr.org/node/325">www.w3vpr.org/node/325</a>

Aug. 15	FISTS Summer Sprint	<a href="http://fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints">http://fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints</a>
Aug. 15	SARL HF Digital Contest	<a href="http://bit.ly/HOIQf">http://bit.ly/HOIQf</a>
Aug. 21-22	ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up">www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up</a>
Aug. 21-22	CVA DX Contest SSB	<a href="http://cvadx.org/regulamento">http://cvadx.org/regulamento</a>
Aug. 21-22	SARTG RTTY Contest	<a href="http://www.sartg.com/index.html">www.sartg.com/index.html</a>
Aug. 21-22	North American SSB QSO Party	<a href="http://ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf">http://ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf</a>
Aug. 21-22	KCJ Contest	<a href="http://www.kcj-cw.com/e_index.htm">www.kcj-cw.com/e_index.htm</a>
Aug. 22	ARRL Rookie Roundup RTTY	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup">www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup</a>
Aug. 28-29	Hawaii QSO Party	<a href="http://hawaiiqsoparty.org">http://hawaiiqsoparty.org</a>
Aug. 28-29	Kansas 080 Party	<a href="http://www.ksqsoparty.org">www.ksqsoparty.org</a>
Aug. 28-29	YO DX HF Contest	<a href="http://www.yodx.ro/en">www.yodx.ro/en</a>
Aug. 28-29	ALARA Contest	<a href="http://www.alara.org.au/contests">www.alara.org.au/contests</a>
Aug. 28-29	World Wide Digi DX Contest	<a href="https://ww-digi.com">https://ww-digi.com</a>
Aug 28-29	WNE Island 080 Party	<a href="https://usislands.org/qso-party-rules">https://usislands.org/qso-party-rules</a>
Aug.29	SARL HF CW Contest	<a href="http://bit.ly/HOIQf">http://bit.ly/HOIQf</a>
August 28	<b>Ohio QSO Party</b>	<a href="https://www.ohqp.org/">https://www.ohqp.org/</a>
August 28	<b>W8DXCC</b>	<a href="https://www.w8dxcc.com">https://www.w8dxcc.com</a>
Sept. 25-26	CQWW RTTY DX Contest	<a href="http://www.cqwwrtty.com">www.cqwwrtty.com</a>

## ***DX News***

### **ARLD030 DX news**

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by EA4NF, 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.

**MONTENEGRO, 4O.** Alex, YU0W is QRV as 4O/YU0W/p from several SOTA peaks until August 8. Activity is on 40, 30 and 20 meters using CW. QSL to home call.

**CANARY ISLANDS, EA8.** Look for Philippe, EA4NF to be QRV as EA8/EA4NF from Fuerteventura Island, IOTA AF-004, from August 1 to 14. Activity will be on the FM and Analog satellites from grids IL27, IL28, and IL38. QSL via LoTW.

**FRENCH POLYNESIA, FO.** Yann, F1SMB will be QRV as FO/F1SMB from August 2 to 23 from the locations Moorea, IOTA OC-046, Tahaa, IOTA OC-067, Bora Bora, IOTA OC-067, Tikehau, IOTA OC-066, Rangiroa, IOTA OC-066, and Fakarava, IOTA OC-066. Activity will be in his spare time on 40 and 20 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via operator's instructions.

**SAINT MARTIN, FS.** Hal, W8HC is QRV as FS/W8HC until August 6. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using CW and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, HI. Max, HB9TUZ plans to be QRV as HI9/HB9TUZ from Las Terranas, IOTA NA-096, during the month of August. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using SSB. QSL to home call.

THAILAND, HS. Members of the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand are active as HS18IARU until September 30 to mark the 18th IARU Region 3 Conference 2021. QSL via E21EIC.

ITALY, I. Alberto, IU1KZX is QRV as IA5/IU1KZX/m from Elba Island, IOTA EU-028, until August 6. Activity is on 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters using SSB. QSL via bureau.

JAPAN, JA. Special event station 8J2SUSON is QRV until the end of 2021 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the city of Susono. QSL via bureau.

PERU, OA. Alex, DD5ZZ is QRV as OA7/DD5ZZ from Cusco until September 17. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB, FT8, FT4, and some CW. QSL via DD5ZZ.

ASIATIC RUSSIA, UA0. Operators Sergey, M0MSV, Daniil, R6LGT, Andrey, R6MG, Vladimir, RN3BL, Sergey, RX3F and Eugene, RZ3EC are QRV as RI0FF from Sakhalin Island, IOTA AS-018, from August 4 to 6. QSL via RZ3EC.

MEXICO, XE. Special event station 4A2MAX is QRV during the month of August to honor the memory of Maximilian Kolbe. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and some digital modes. QSL direct to N5MEX.

UNITED KINGDOM SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS ON CYPRUS, ZC4. Phil, M7CBK is QRV as ZC4CBK from Akrotiri and plans to be QRV on a regular basis until October. Activity is on 20 meters using mainly FT8 and FT4. QSL via EB7DX.

The K1USN Slow Speed CW Test is scheduled for August 2.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint, ARS Spartan CW Sprint and Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest are scheduled for August 3.

The Phone Fray, CWops Mini-CWT Test, and VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest are scheduled for August 4.

Please see July QST, page 73, August QST, page 71, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites for details.

## Upcoming *Hamfests*

We **DO** have some hamfests scheduled for 2021!! Yes, take a good look at the list, it's growing every day!



### **08/07/2021 - [2021 Columbus Hamfest](#)**

**Location:** Grove City, OH

**Sponsor:** Aladdin Shrine Audio Unit

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

[Learn More](#)

### **08/15/2021 - [WARA Tailgate Swap Meet](#)**

**Location:** Warren, OH

**Sponsor:** Warren Amateur Radio Association

**Website:** <http://w8vtd.com>

[Learn More](#)

### **09/12/2021 - [Findlay Hamfest](#)**

**Location:** Findlay, OH

**Sponsor:** Findlay Radio Club

**Website:** <http://www.findlayradioclub.org/hamfest>

[Learn More](#)

### **09/18/2021 - [Mound Amateur Radio Assoc. Swap Meet](#)**

**Location:** Miamisburg, OH

**Sponsor:** MARA

**Website:** <http://W8DYY.ORG>

[Learn More](#)

## **10/02/2021 - [10th Annual Vette City Hamfest, ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention](#)**

**Location:** Bowling Green , KY

**Sponsor:** Kentucky Colonels Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <https://ky4bg.com>

[Learn More](#)

### **08/07/2021 - [MOVARC HAMFEST](#)**

**Location:** Bidwell, OH

**Sponsor:** Mid-Ohio Valley Amateur Radio Club

[Learn More](#)

### **08/28/2021 - [Cincinnati Hamfest<sup>SM</sup>](#)**

**Location:** Owensville, OH

**Sponsor:** Milford ARC

**Website:** <http://CincinnatiHamfest.org>

[Learn More](#)

### **09/18/2021 - [Miami County Swap Meet](#)**

**Location:** Troy, OH

**Sponsor:** Miami County Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://w8fw.org>

[Learn More](#)

### **09/26/2021 - [Cleveland Hamfest](#)**

**Location:** Berea, OH

**Sponsor:** Hamfest Association of Cleveland

**Website:** <http://www.hac.org>

[Learn More](#)

10/09/2021 - [Northwest Ohio Amateur Radio Club \(NWOARC\) hamfest](#)

**Location:** Westminster, OH

**Sponsor:** NWOARC, Northwest Ohio Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://www.nwoarc.com>

[Learn More](#)

10/31/2021 - [Massillon \(Ohio\) Hamfest](#)

**Location:** Green, OH

**Sponsor:** Massillon Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://w8np.org>

[Learn More](#)

11/06/2021 - [GARC Hamfest](#)

**Location:** Georgetown, OH

**Sponsor:** Grant Amateur Radio Club

[Learn More](#)

12/04/2021 - [FCARC WinterFest](#)

**Location:** Delta, OH

**Sponsor:** Fulton County Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://k8bxq.org/hamfest>

[Learn More](#)

Be sure to keep your eyes on this schedule as that when things start getting better and the vaccine rolls out to more and more, hamfests will surely get back to their normal schedule. Don't see your hamfest listed?? Did anyone register it with ARRL? It's really easy to do and you get a lot of FREE publicity if you do.



Welcome to the first South 40 Column of August. It's hard to believe summer is beginning to wrap up. August promises to be a rather busy month with many clubs resuming in person meetings, hamfests being held, club activities and several clubs fielding special event stations. Now for the details towards those activities.

The **Portsmouth RC** kicks off the month with their monthly VE test session and meeting on Monday evening, August 2. It begins with a 5 pm test session followed by the monthly business meeting. It all takes place at the Portsmouth American Legion Hall across from the Courthouse in downtown Portsmouth. **Highland ARA** President Pat Hagen, N8BAP, reminds all of their August 10 meeting and August 14 Brunch Bunch gathering at Hillsboro's Liberty Park Harmony Lake shelter house. The business meeting will start at 7 pm on the 10<sup>th</sup> and the Brunch Bunch will start refilling their coffee cups around 10 am on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Columbus Hamfest returns this year to the Shrine Center at Grove City on Saturday, August 7. Things get underway at 8 am and continue until 1. Indoor and outside flea market spaces are available at \$10 each and general admission is \$5. There will be a food trailer on the grounds. Door prizes will be awarded. The **Aladdin Shrine Audio Unit-W8FEZ** is the sponsor.

Also on the 7<sup>th</sup> is a hamfest conducted by Gallia County's **Mid-Ohio Valley ARC**. It will be held at the Fellowship of Faith Church, 20344 SR 554, Bidwell. Contact Lester Cardwell, KD8ZU, at [docdiesel@hotmail.com](mailto:docdiesel@hotmail.com) for more information.

The 58<sup>th</sup> annual Huntington WV Hamfest, sponsored by the **Tri-State ARA**, will be held on Saturday, August 14 at the New Baptist Church, 610 28<sup>th</sup> Street in Huntington. Opening at 8:30 am, the event will continue until 1:30. Admission is \$6 and tables (which include admission) are \$10. The hamfest will provide ARRL QSL card checking. More information is available at the Club's website-<https://www.qsl.net/w8wv/>.

Although the usual **Athens County ARA** Hamfest had to be cancelled, the club decided to hold a smaller scale trunk fest on Sunday, August 22 at the Athens Masonic Complex, 12 West Carpenter Street in Athens. Things will start at 8 am and run until noon. There will be no admission charge. Registrations for the VE session will begin at 9:30 with testing at 10 am. There will be a raffle for a cash grand prize as well as a radio. Their flyer can be found at [www.ac-arc.org](http://www.ac-arc.org).

The **Milford ARC** and the **Southwest Ohio DX Association** have combined forces to hold the Greater Cincinnati Hamfest and W8DXCC DX Convention. It will be on Saturday, August 28 at the Clermont County Fairgrounds in Owensville. The gates for the hamfest open at 8 am and run until 4. Besides indoors and outside vendors there will be a morning VE session starting at 9 and continuing until 11:45. The DX Convention begins with a DX roundtable starting at noon in the 4-H Building with the actual program beginning at 1. The agenda features well known DXers and a presentation about propagation. Each event requires a separate \$8 ticket for admission. There will be prizes awarded at each event. See [www.cincinnatihamfest.org](http://www.cincinnatihamfest.org) for details on each event.

Your column editor intends to be at the Columbus Hamfest on August 7. He will have a supply of tickets for the ever popular **Grant RC**'s Georgetown Hamfest to be held on November 6. Tickets are \$2 each and give holders an opportunity to win a \$600 R & L gift certificate as well as other doorprizes. Just look for the royal blue HARA tee shirts that W8KIW and N8ZNR will be wearing. Your support will be appreciated by the Grant club.

The **Athens County ARA**'s W8V special event station wrapped up operation on August 1 from the Vietnam Veterans Replica Wall and Education Center while it stopped at the Ohio University's Trail Great Park. We hope to report at a later date the number of contacts made during the 'Wall That Heals' visit to Athens. The actual Washington DC wall was designed by Athens native Maya Lin.

Starting on Friday, August 13, the **Cambridge ARA** will have a booth in the Heritage Tent at the Salt Fork Arts and Crafts Show at the Cambridge City Park. The event concludes on August 15.

Kentucky's **Murry State University ARC** is sponsoring the second Kentucky State Parks on the Air contest on August 14 as a way to promote Kentucky's state and national park system. It starts at 1400 UTC and runs until 2200 UTC with stations on 80/40/20/15 and 10 meters. The **Greater Mason County ARC** will be operating a station from the Blue Licks Battlefield State Park south of Maysville.



The **Scioto Valley ARC**'s president Jesse Stanley, KD8CHP, invites anyone interested learning more about Raspberry Pi ham radio applications to attend a 7 pm project building night on Thursday, August 5 at the Club's clubhouse at the edge of the Scioto Trails State Park south of Chillicothe. They will be building and loading HAM-PI on raspberries that evening.

On Thursday morning two newer Highland County hams were chatting with W8KIW on the **Highland ARA**'s Hillsboro 147.21 repeater when W3HN from near Birmingham, AL broke in. Owen was copying the Hillsboro machine 60 over and the three talked for about 20 minutes. A look at his QRZ site will show one how his antenna site, plus Mother Nature, made this 412 mile contact possible. The contact was a first time experience for Joe Holdren, WD8ADU, and Ken Lightner, KE8JEL and I don't think either of their feet have hit the ground yet!

Well that's a wrap for the column this week. As previously mentioned, I intend to make my first hamfest in over a year this coming Saturday in Grove City. I hope to see a number of old friends and meet some new ones. If you spot me, say 'Hello' and let me know you read the column. Until next time, stay healthy and radio active.

---

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

(By Anthony Luscre, K8ZT)

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



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

[Click here to download the instructions](#)

---

## One Question Questionnaire

Hey Gang,

I've got a new question, so how about going to [www.ARRL-OHIO.org](http://www.ARRL-OHIO.org) and giving me a click? (It's in the bottom left corner of the page)

**“Do You Have All 50 States Confirmed?”**



From the last Poll: **"HOW DO YOU CONSIDER HAM RADIO?"**

5.77% said "Mildly Interesting"; 50% said "A Fantastic Hobby"; and 44.23% said " A Major Factor in My Life!". (out of 52 responses. I was in the third category)

Ohio Section Cabinet

Section Manager – Tom Sly, WB8LCD	Section Traffic Manager – David Maynard, WA3EZN
Section Emergency Coordinator – Stan Broadway, N8BHL	Section Youth Coordinator – Anthony Luscre, K8ZT
Technical Coordinator – Jeff Kopcak, K8JTK	Affiliated Clubs Coordinator – Tom Sly, WB8LCD
State Government Liaison – Bob Winston, W2THU	Public Information Coordinator – John Ross, KD8IDJ



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



## ***Want to Share your Club Newsletter With Others?***

We have a webpage where you can download and read all of the newsletters that I get from around the state and even other sections!

Here's the link to the page.... [http://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://arrrl-ohio.org/news/>

The pictures on the front page and throughout this newsletter 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 in the Ohio Section 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!*