



August 24th Edition

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National News

(from arrl and other sources)

New Contest for Portable Stations to Debut in October

A new amateur radio contest for portable operators — the Fox Mike Hotel Portable Operations Challenge ([POC](#)) — will debut October 3 – 4. The event is aimed at leveling the competitive playing field between fixed stations and portable stations. [Scoring](#) for the POC, based upon a kilometers-per-watt metric, will be handicapped in favor of the portables. The contest is the brainchild of Frank Howell, K4FMH. Sponsors include *National Contest Journal* ([NCJ](#)) — an ARRL publication — but the POC will not be an official *NCJ* or ARRL contest.



“*NCJ*’s role is to encourage hams who don’t contest to give it a try,” *NCJ* Editor Dr. Scott Wright, K0MD, said. “It will encourage activity by operators who are limited by real estate and do not have a full-blown contest station. Events like this stimulate more interest in contesting, and this will have an international scope to give chances to snare some new DXCC entities.”

Other sponsors include the UK DX Foundation ([CDXC](#)), the Hellenic Amateur Radio Association of Australia ([HARAOA](#)), and the South African Radio League ([SARL](#)).

“I think the [POC] steering committee, consisting of both veteran DX contest participants and some of the best portable operators in the world, has come up with something worth giving a go,” Howell said. “With this scoring metric, it’s more about radiosport than radio gear.”

According to the [contest rules](#), scoring will be calculated using the distance between stations (Maidenhead grid squares) in kilometers divided by power output in watts. Fixed (QTH) stations will compete against portable (P) stations on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Allowable modes include phone, CW, and digital. For the 2020 event, the number of transmitters concurrently in use will be restricted to two.

Portable stations may not make use of permanently installed amateur radio equipment or facilities but may use ac mains power. The exchange is call sign, station class (P or Q), consecutive serial number, and four-character grid square. Contact [Howell](#) for more information.

#####

Section Manager Elections Posted



Challenger Rene Fonseca, NP3O, has been elected as ARRL Puerto Rico Section Manager, defeating two other candidates including incumbent Oscar Resto, KP4RF. Fonseca, of Fajardo, received 85 votes, Juan Sepulveda Mercado, KP3CR, garnered 48 votes, and incumbent Section Manager Oscar Resto, KP4RF, got 31 votes. Resto has been Puerto Rico’s Section Manager since 2016. An ARRL Life Member, Fonseca is returning as SM, having served two previous terms from 2012 to 2016. His new term begins on October 1, 2020.

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The Puerto Rico Section Manager election was the only contested election in the summer round of SM elections. Ballots were counted on August 18 at ARRL Headquarters.

In Minnesota, Bill Mitchell, AE0EE, of Minneapolis, will become the new Section Manager this fall. Mitchell was the only nominee when the nomination deadline arrived in early June. Incumbent Skip Jackson, KS0J, chose not to run for a new term after a 16-year run that began in 2004.

In North Dakota, Richard Budd, W0TF, will begin a full 2-year term of office after being appointed in June to succeed Nancy Yoshida, K0YL. She stepped down to become vice president of the YL International Single Sideband System.

The following incumbent SMs ran unopposed and were considered elected. Chuck Motes, K1DFS (Connecticut); Dan Marler, K7REX (Idaho); Scott Yonally, N8SY (Ohio); Kevin O'Dell, N0IRW (Oklahoma); Barry Porter, KB1PA (Southern Florida)

#####

US Department of Defense to Share 3450 – 3550 MHz with 5G Commercial Operations

The FCC will auction sharing rights to the upper 50 MHz of the 3300 – 3500 MHz secondary amateur radio allocation to commercial 5G interests in the wake of the Department of Defense (DoD) agreement to share spectrum at 3450 – 3550 MHz. The entire band currently supports a variety of military operations, and amateur radio has a long history of peaceful coexistence with the Department of Defense as a secondary user of this spectrum.



Late last year, the FCC proposed to delete the amateur secondary 3300 – 3500 MHz secondary allocation as well as the amateur-satellite allocation at 3400 – 3410 MHz. The FCC could auction the 100 MHz of spectrum in early 2022. This latest move makes a contiguous band of spectrum from 3450 – 3980 MHz available for commercial 5G networks.

“For a number of years, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and FCC have focused on the 3450 – 3550 MHz band as the spectrum most conducive to sharing with commercial users,” said ARRL Washington Counsel David Siddall, K3ZJ. “Monday’s statements announced that a framework for sharing has been worked out.”

In December 2019, the FCC adopted a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* ([NPRM](#)) in WT Docket 19-348 proposing to delete the 3300 – 3500 MHz secondary amateur band. ARRL strongly opposed the move in its comments on the *NPRM*, which put forward the FCC’s plans to remove “existing non-federal secondary radiolocation and amateur allocations” in the 3300 – 3500 MHz band and to consider options for relocating incumbent non-federal operations.

Siddall said the spectrum below 3450 MHz presents a more difficult government/commercial sharing scenario, and that future sharing there remains uncertain. “We continue to argue that the amateur secondary allocation should not be deleted in this band,” he said.

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“We recognize that our access is secondary and ask only to be given a chance to use our considerable technical skills to work around whatever future uses may be implemented in this spectrum.” The spectrum repurposing is in response to the MOBILE NOW [Making Opportunities for Broadband Investment and Limiting Excessive and Needless Obstacles to Wireless] Act, enacted in 2018 to make new spectrum available for mobile and fixed wireless broadband use.

“Together with the spectrum being made available for 5G in the C-band as well as the 3.5 GHz band, we are now on track to have a 530-megahertz swath of mid-band spectrum available for 5G from 3.45 to 3.98 GHz,” FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said in a statement. “The FCC looks forward to moving quickly to adopt service rules for the 3.45 GHz band and then hold an auction to bring this prime mid-band spectrum to market.”

#####

AREDN Mesh Networking Gaining Traction in Northwest Ohio



The Northwest Ohio Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network (AREDN) Mesh Steering Committee recently completed its most complex drill to date on June 13, 2020. The drill, held at the Wood County Fairgrounds in Bowling Green, Ohio, focused on setting up individually owned AREDN Mesh gear, troubleshooting and operating the ancillary gear (phones, cameras, laptops, self-contained power boxes) on an individual basis. The secondary focus was working within the Incident Command System (ICS) model.

A Zoom virtual meeting was held a few days prior to the drill to review a detailed drill plan that included objectives, a schedule, and a map indicating station locations on the Fairgrounds. During the meeting, it was suggested that the participants bring everything they thought they would need in an actual emergency.

The Committee leadership along with Lucas County ARES EC Tim Gray KD8IZU, started setting up the Incident Command Post at 8:30 AM to have it ready prior to the 10 AM briefing, allowing participants to see and learn about the radios and other equipment in the Lucas County Communications truck and trailer.

Incident Commander Michael Lacumsky, W8MAL, held a Command Staff briefing at 9:30 AM in the conference room of the trailer, discussing the plan for the day with Operations Section Chief Chrissy Hart, KC8UFV, and Safety Officer Mark Schreuder, K8MWS. The incident briefing followed with Lacumsky touching on the key points of the Incident Action Plan, and the Command Staff members presenting on their respective areas of responsibility.

To promote a realistic simulation of an emergency deployment, the Operations Section initiated a simplex net that introduced use of the Long Tone Zero (LiTZ) wilderness protocol, which is not used often in the area. There was a 30-minute period from the start of setup before operators could call for assistance, forcing them to try to troubleshoot issues on their own prior to getting help from Tech Support roving the area on a bicycle. The bicycle mobile station featured two low powered Mesh units, maintaining data and video connectivity with the drill network.

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Throughout the day, the drill was visited by Eric Willman, WD8LEI, Wood County ARES EC; Mark Washlyshyn, KD8BOI, Wood County Sheriff; and numerous hams and law enforcement officers from Wood County as well as from Lucas and Monroe counties in Michigan, all of whom were enthusiastic about the Mesh Networking capabilities.

In all, 11 stations were set up by 11 participants, with one node on the bicycle mobile. Devices included telephones, PTZ (pan, tilt, zoom) and static cameras, as well as the video feed from the bicycle. The furthest station from the Command Post was a mile, with most being located within a quarter to half a mile radius. The urban setting of the fairgrounds and barns set the stage for challenging issues as the 2.4 GHz Mesh network relies on line of sight between stations for connectivity. Event participant Rich King, KE8IJV, who was set up on the opposite side of a distant grandstand directly between his station and the Incident Command Post faced and met that challenge. Most all of the stations were 10 feet or less off of the ground with a few less than 4 feet off the ground. "The more we work with [the equipment] the more our functioning and self-confidence improves," King said.

Lessons Learned

At the end of the day, the Command Staff hosted a debriefing where each participant was allowed to voice any concerns or feedback. The operational goals were met: Set up personally owned equipment on own accord with limited technical assistance; operate phones and other ancillary equipment; troubleshoot connectivity issues; and gain real life experience in ICS terminology and functioning. Most of the calls for Tech Support were due to loose connections.

"This was by far our largest Mesh exercise with numerous field stations operational, each with a (mesh) radio, phone and at least one video camera - with almost all stations operating on battery power. The overwhelming majority of the members shared the same sentiment that things went well, they learned a lot, and we have come a long way over the past year," said Committee Co-chairman and Lucas County ARES AEC Mark Schreuder, K8MWS, during the debriefing.

The Northwest Ohio AREDN Mesh Steering Committee came into existence in June 2019 and operates under the umbrella of Lucas County ARES. It is made up of hams throughout Ohio ARES District 1, but is open to anyone who has an interest in AREDN Mesh Networking. - Thanks, *Michael Lacumsky W8MAL; Mark Schreuder, K8MWS*

#####

The Handbook Give Away

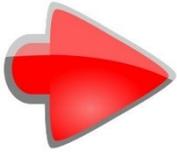
Hey Gang,

Have you registered for the "Handbook Giveaway" drawing for this month yet? If you haven't, go to: <http://arrl-ohio.org/handbook.html> and get yourself registered now!



What's the catch? I want to get everyone checking in to the Ohio Section website as often as possible, and in order to register each month, you have to visit the website often! There's nothing else to it. I pay all expenses and I usually "Give Away" more than just a Handbook too!!

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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!

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 Mobile Radio Association (TMRA) will have a fox hunt **September 16 at 6:30p**, with a rain date of September 19 at 1p.

The "hunt" kicks off from Swan Creek Metropark, Airport Highway entrance. This will be an in-park hunt that may or may not require participants to cover some ground.

Those who would like to learn this sport can be teamed up with an experienced hunter. For more information contact W8MAL@QSL.NET

####

Parking Deck V.E. Sessions

(by Jim Grover, N8PZL)

The Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club's VE Team has been running into problems trying to find a spot for our VE sessions. For the last few months, we have been using a local parking deck. These are Laurel session which makes heavy use of the Session Manager software tool. Here is the session workflow.

1. We have all candidates per-register via our [Registration](#) web page.
2. About four days before the session, I email the candidates explaining that they need bring the usual items plus a chair and small table. In addition, they are required to wear a mask and gloves. Items can be provided if they don't have them.
3. As they arrive, we assign them a parking space with an empty space between vehicles for their table and chair.

The Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club

Welcome

The first step in the registration process is to select a test date. Please only register for one test session. If you want to register for a second test session wait until you know the results of first session. You can take multiple exams per session. That is you can take the Technician exam, and if successful take the General exam, etc.

The EPD location is the Elise Parking Garage at 2035 Old Torneo Loop, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221 (across from Cuyahoga Falls Library). ASCPL is the main branch of the Akron-Summit County Public Library at 60 S High St, Akron, OH 44308. And Emidio Expo is Emidio & Sons Expo Center, at 48 E Bath Rd. Akron, OH 44313 and the site of the CPARC 2020 Hamfest. All sites have free parking.

The VEC or Volunteer Examiner Coordinators used by the Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club are either the ARRL or the Laurel VEC. The ARRL test sessions have an associated fee of \$15. The Laurel test sessions are free. The exam fee is set by the VEC and not the club.

Select One	Date	Location	Start Time	VEC
<input type="radio"/>	09 Jan 2020, Thur	CFL	6:30pm	Laurel
<input type="radio"/>	13 Feb 2020, Thur	CFL	6:30pm	ARRL
<input type="radio"/>	29 Mar 2020, Sun	Cancelled	2:00pm	Laurel
<input type="radio"/>	11 Apr 2020, Sat	Cancelled	9:00am	Laurel
<input type="radio"/>	14 May 2020, Thur	Cancelled	6:30pm	ARRL
<input type="radio"/>	09 Jul 2020, Thur	BPG	6:30pm	Laurel
<input type="radio"/>	13 Aug 2020, Thur	BPG	6:30pm	Laurel
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	10 Sep 2020, Thur	BPG	6:30pm	Laurel
<input type="radio"/>	01 Nov 2020, Sun	ASCPL	2:00pm	Laurel

Select One

Figure 1: Registration Splash Page

4. We also have 3 VEs check their ID at the entrance. A reference copy of their exam is printed on the back of their registration form. If they are testing for technician, a copy of the public FRN data is printed on the back of their registration form. This is to show that I have checked their FRN for accuracy.
5. Since they have already indicated what exams they want to take, an exam and answer sheet is pre-printed and present in their folder.
6. We have one set of VEs grade all the exams using the three different sets of ARRL blue templates.
7. After they have successfully completed all exams that they have registered for we have a second set of certifying VEs sign their paperwork. All the data is already on the 605 form and CSCE except for the required signatures.
 1. If they are taking only one exam only a single form 605 and CSCE with certifying VE data minus signature has been pre-printed.
 2. If taking multiple exams, multiple form 605 and CSCE are pre-printed in anticipation that they may not pass a lower level exam. As an example, if taking General and Amateur Extra, both a General and an Amateur Extra set of form 605 and CSCE are pre-printed.
8. The proper CSCE and form 605 are signed by the candidate with the form 605 being retained. I am always one of the certifying VEs and I destroy all paperwork that does not apply.
9. Since it is a Laurel session, money does not exchange hands and the paperwork is initially scanned and submitted to the regional coordinator. After the regional coordinator has checked the scanned paperwork and submitted the encoded data file to the FCC, I mail the paper work to the regional coordinator for archiving so that it may be reviewed by the FCC if they so desire.

I also provide the candidates with “parting gifts.” This is an ARRL summary of the RF safety rules, an invitation to our club, and a ARRL membership form with a free Operators Manual, if they are not yet a ARRL member. These items are emailed to them.

The VEs wear masks, gloves, and keep social distance. Every effort is made to keep the possible transfer the virus at a minimum. We have completed two session and have more scheduled for the future. To this date the Laurel VEC has not permitted remote sessions.

####

Ohio QSO Party Recap

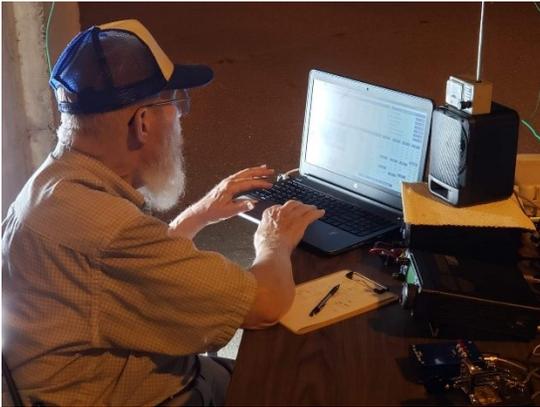
(from Jeff Voltz, KE8BKP)

What a fun day W8ZX had running the Ohio QSO Party at the Tuscarawas County Fair Grounds and used the sheriff’s EOC at the Tuscarawas County Fairgrounds, Our County ECOM Truck, and spread out a little as need due to virus. The Fairgrounds once again was a perfect location due to it openness.

We had 20 total people spread out over 17 hours and had several newer Amateur Radio Operators get on the air which was great to see.



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There were 3 CW operators running most of the day. We peaked out at a record 7 stations today. We literally had paracord strung out across the entire fairgrounds as we spaced the antennas so everyone could stay distracted appropriately. The biggest issue we had during the day was trying to keep the wireless network running with the increased stations. We ended up actually hard wiring the PC's together to get them to work.



We haven't tallied up the scores yet, but I am confident it is a new record for the event with the club.



Thanks to everyone who was able to attend. I want to really thank KE8HLC for his work keeping the network running. He was running all day and we really appreciated his efforts try to keep old equipment running.

Thanks to the Fair Folks for letting us use their top-notch facility. We cannot say enough good things about them. Also, thanks for Sheriff Orvis-Michelle Campbell for his support.

The event was an overwhelming success, we had fun sharpening our radio skills and were able to prove if there is ever a need for us to contact other parts of Ohio or around the world, our group has the ability to make those necessary contacts.

Upcoming Hamfests for 2020

09/13/2020 - Findlay Hamfest

Canceled

09/27/2020 | Cleveland Hamfest and Computer Show

Canceled

10/10/2020 - Northwest Ohio Amateur Radio Club (NWOARC) Fall Hamfest

Canceled



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DX This Week
(from Bill, AJ8B)

DX This Week – Zones 21,22,23
Bill AJ8B (aj8b@arrl.net, [@AJ8B](https://www.facebook.com/AJ8B), or www.aj8b.com)
CWOPs Member #1567



I hope you participated in the OH QSO Party or at least have been on the air. You may want to think about that low band antenna or other projects before fall arrives. Believe it or not, it is only 122 days until Christmas!



I have only been to 9 hamfests in my life: Dayton in 1980, Ft. Wayne in 1983, Georgetown and Milford in 2019, and the Greater Cincinnati Amateur Radio Association (GCARA) Hamfest from 1975 through 1979. The GCARA event was very special as it was the only Hamfest that my dad, K8DWE (SK) and I attended together. I can still remember going to Strickers Grove early in the morning, getting coffee (milk for me) and donuts and

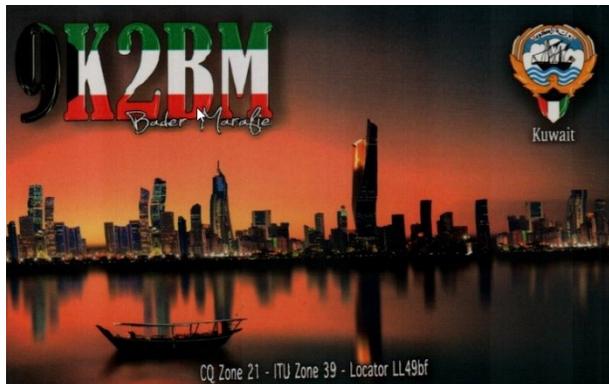
meeting up with some of the hams that dad used to work on 6M AM in the late 50s and early 60s as well as HIS Elmer, Blackie. (Can't recall the callsign) Blackie smoked a big cigar and I can still smell the smoke and remember swatting at the bees as they circled around the donuts! The last year I attended the GCARA Hamfest I had my first and only Flea Market spot. I still have the flea market sticker. Boy do I miss the GCARA Hamfest!

Imagine my pleasant surprise when I learned that the Milford Amateur Radio Club had restarted the Greater Cincinnati Area Hamfest. Due to COVID 19, the Milford Hamfest was initially moved from June to August 29th. It was subsequently cancelled. There were already plans underway to restart the Greater Cincinnati Hamfest and now it is official. Going forward, the Milford Hamfest will be the last weekend in August and will be known as the Greater Cincinnati Area Hamfest. It will still be held at the Clermont County Fairgrounds. Mark your calendar now! For more information, you can check out <https://cincinnatihamfest.org/> or <http://www.w8mrc.com/>

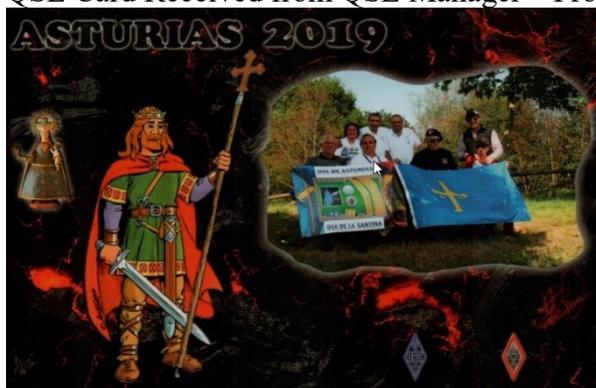
There are signs that Cycle 25 beginning to be more active. A few more sunspots appeared this past week. There were more entities spotted in the Midwest this past week including Alaska, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antarctica, Argentina, Asiatic Russia, Australia, Austria, Azores, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canary Islands, Ceuta & Melilla, Chile, Corsica, Cuba, Curacao, Czech Republic, Dodecanese, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, England, European Russia, European Turkey, Fed. Rep. of Germany, France, French Guiana, Ghana, Gibraltar, Greece, Guatemala, Hawaii, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jersey, Kaliningrad, Kenya, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madeira Islands, Malta, Martinique, Mauritania, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Norway, Oman, Panama, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Republic of Korea, Republic of Kosovo, Saudi Arabia, Scotland, Slovenia, Spain, St. Lucia, Switzerland, Trinidad & Tobago, Ukraine, Venezuela, Viet Nam, and Wales. Let me know what you worked!

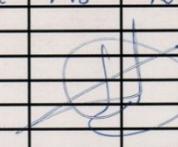
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I received a few QSL cards this week including 9K2HQ, Essa and 9K2BM, Bader in Kuwait, Z35T – Oz in Macedonia and a unique card from Spain. What makes this card so unique is that it was a card from the QSL manager. Quite a while ago, I received an email from a QSL manager in Spain. He indicated that I had worked several of the hams that he handled QSL cards for and if I sent him an SASE, he would respond with the cards. When I received the envelope, I was really surprised. It was a card FROM the QSL manager with the list of stations and station details on the back. (The front and back of the card are below the other QSL cards shown.)



OSL Card Received from QSL Manager – Front and Back



SANTINA DE COVADONGA DIA DE ASTURIAS					
QRZ		A18B			
FECHA	HORA	BANDA	MODO	RS (T)	INDICATIVO
8/9/19	23:24	30M-	FT8	-14	EH4SDC
8/9/19	23:59	30M-	FT8	-12	XR3SDC
8/9/19	23:00	30M-	FT8	-12	XR4SDC
					
http://www.es1aum.es/covadtime.htm		QSL MANAGER E17AUM		sdcasturias@gmail.com	

I checked with my ARRL DXCC card checker, K8DV, and Dave assured me that he had never seen anything like this. He also pointed out that he would probably not accept these QSOs as confirmed as they don't state the QTH of each of the stations. Instead of getting 3 QSL cards from 3 different stations sent to me by the manager, I received 1 card from the manager listing the 3 QSOs and the calls of each. Let me know if you have experienced this.

So far this year, we have covered CQ zones 1 through 20. This week we will review Zones 21, 22, and 23. Below is a list of the entities in each zone and the estimated number of hams in each country, for the data I could find.

Zone 21. Southwestern Zone of Asia: A4 (Oman) - 94, A6 (United Arab Emirates), A7 (Qatar), A9 (Bahrain), AP (Pakistan) – 214 , EK (Armenia), EP (Iran), HZ (Saudi Arabia), YA (Afghanistan), YI (Iraq), 4J (Azerbaijan), 4L (Georgia), 7O (excluding Socotra I. and Abd al Kuri Is.) and 9K (Kuwait) - 126.

Zone 22. Southern Zone of Asia: A5 (Bhutan), S2 (Bangladesh), VU (India) – 15,679, VU (Lakshadweep Is.), 4S (Sri Lanka) - 200, 8Q (Maldives.), and 9N (Nepal).

Zone 23. Central Zone of Asia: JT (Mongolia), UA0Y, BY3G L (NeiMenggu), BY9G L (GanSu), BY9M R (NingXia), BY9S Z (QingHai) and BY0

For me, this has been a very challenging group. With a vertical, wire antennas, and limited power, I have had to rely on working DXpeditions for the most part.

Zone 21 is the “easiest” of the group with A4 (Oman), A6 (United Arab Emirates), A7 (Qatar), A9 (Bahrain), HZ (Saudi Arabia), and 9K (Kuwait) workable from this Zone.

Zone 22 is another issue. Although I have heard these stations on, I have not been able to consistently work them.

Zone 23 has proven to be equally challenging. I have worked JT (Mongolia) and UA0Y – the southernmost part of Aisatic Russia and that is it!

This is a tough group and I will probably have to do a station upgrade to work them all...or wait a few years until sunspots return!



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:

OZ200EM - In memory of Hans Christian Orsted, who 200 years ago discovered that electric currents create magnetic fields, special event station OZ200EM will be QRV from Virum (EU-029) through the end of this year.

SV – Greece - SX300ML commemorates the battle of Thermopylae 2,500 years ago, in 480 BC. “Thermopylae” translates into “hot gates” in English. There are sulfur hot springs in that area. This one should be on the air this month with ops SV2ATD, SV2GWY and SV7HRJ, Alexandros, Demetreos, and Dimitris. There are videos online about the history of the battle, parts one and two, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mul7PCLxgk> and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZ_zadnVXV0 and video highlights, entitled “300,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JzwNQFLXo4U>.

Ten years ago the ops had a special callsign on the air for the Thermopylae commemoration, SX500M. One tidbit: When Persian King Xerxes demanded the 300 Spartans and King Leonidas (“son of a lion”) lay down their weapons they said, “Come and get them.” (“molon lave,” in Greek, explaining the M in SX500M and ML in SX300ML, and also the 300 number.)

Plus or minus pandemic limitations, at the end of the month they hope to operate from Sialmas Cape on Agios Efratios Island, EU-049, where there is apparently a monument representing a Spartan shield with a helmet and spear at the center and the “molon lave” inscription.

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VK – Australia - VK3OT says new Australian callsign types available are like some US callsigns, more like KL7 calls than ones in “the lower 48.” As in ZL, a VK5 can now be in VK2, still using his VK5 callsign, no longer required to add /P to it.

The changes also make it easier for foundation licensees (the entry level) to use digital modes, and makes the call a “callsign for life.” “Three letter” callsigns will be available and the suffix of the call will be disassociated from the license class apparently. Foundation, standard and advanced classes can now apply for any available “3-letter callsign.” Four letter suffix foundation callsigns may be kept or traded in for a 3-letter suffix. Two letter suffixes are still reserved for advanced class. <https://www.acma.gov.au/changes-amateur-radio-callsign-policy>

Also, 2X1 callsigns have been approved for contests, with VJ, VK and VL prefixes, available to advanced class licensees and clubs, limited to one per club and for contest use only. 2X1 callsigns will be valid for one year, likely renewable but we are waiting for confirmation on that. A requirement is at least 750 contest QSOs must be made per year with the special call.

<https://www.amc.edu.au/industry/amateur-radio/callsigns/new-callsign-template-and-faqs>

VK – Australia - The Oceania DX Contest is in its 75th year, with start and end times changed this year, now 0600-0600Z. The phone weekend is 0600Z October 3 to 0600Z October 4. One week later, the CW weekend is 0600Z October 10 to 0600Z October 11. The exchange is RS(T) and incremental serial number, starting over at 1 for each band for multiops, the M2s and MMs, apparently not for multi-singles or single ops. Full rules: www.oceaniadxcontest.com

“QSO Today” held “Ham Radio QSO Today Expo” this just-past weekend, which they called “a virtual LARGE scale hamfest.” <https://qsotoday.vfairs.com/>. The opening presentation was by K0MD, a Mayo Clinic research cardiologist and NCJ editor. His 38-minute presentation, which WB4YDL, Jamie, says is exceptional, is available on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/QcsMpduoqgA>.

LOTW Update

Since 2003, Logbook of The World has provided amateur radio operators with a quick, simple way to claim and verify contacts. This verification formerly required exchange of paper QSL cards and submission of a paper application to ARRL – a slow, environmentally unfriendly, and somewhat expensive process. Using LoTW today, some digital contacts get confirmed within minutes of when they conclude.

Because ARRL wants there to be no barriers to stations uploading their QSOs, LoTW is available to any amateur radio operator at no cost to the user. However, there are costs incurred by ARRL for Logbook operations run by ARRL staff members including costs for programmers, equipment, web access, and user help and support.

The future of LoTW!

ARRL Headquarters staff works with a permanent committee to oversee, maintain, and improve LoTW. Some notable achievements and goals that have resulted from this work include:

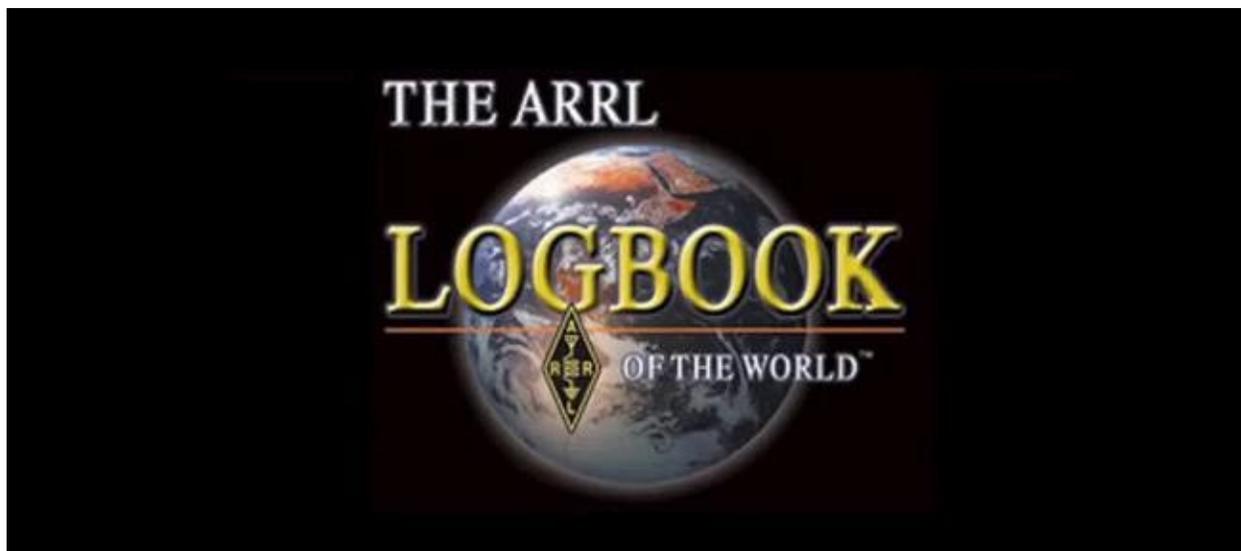
- Continuous reviewing and updating of Logbook processes to facilitate ease of use
- Adding new ARRL awards as well as awards from other organizations
- Enhancing DX registration through supporting email methods
- Adding support for multiple locations within a single upload, which supports the rover and mobile communities
- Future growth including a redesign of Logbook's web presence

Today, LoTW is more important than ever!

- The worldwide COVID-19 pandemic has significantly slowed international mail.
- In some countries, the mail has been embargoed.
- Many national ham radio societies have discontinued their QSL bureaus and it's unlikely that they will reappear.

Your donation to Logbook of The World will support maintenance of the current database and expansion of the system in the future.

Visit the [ARRL Donation Page](#) to support Logbook of The World today!



DX News

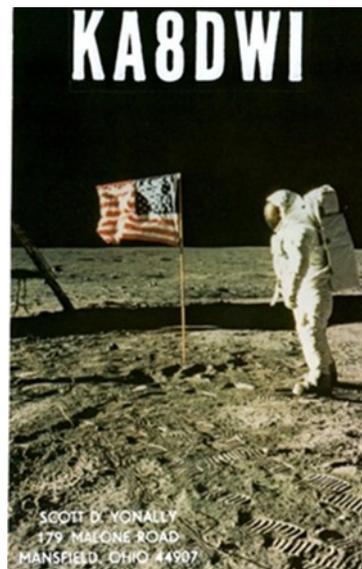
ARLD034 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by LU5AG, 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.

KENYA, 5Z. Andy, G3AB is now QRV as 5Z4VJ from Nairobi. QSL via M0URX.

MOROCCO, CN. Members of the Association Royale des Radio-Amateurs du Maroc are QRV with the special prefix 5E7 until August 31 to mark the 67th anniversary of Morocco's Revolution Day.

CUBA, CO. Special call sign T45FM will be QRV from the Punta Maya Lighthouse, ILLW CU0005, during the International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using mainly SSB and FT8. QSL direct to RW6HS.



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PORTUGAL, CT. Operators from the Oeste DX Gang are QRV as CQ0ODX/p from the Cape Carvoeiro Lighthouse, ILLW PT-0002, until August 23. This includes an entry in the International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend. Activity is on the HF bands, plus 6 and 2 meters, using CW, SSB, FT8 and FT4. QSL via LoTW.

AZORES, CU. Antonio, CU8AS will be QRV as CR2W from Ponta da Albarnaz Lighthouse, ILLW PT0001, during the International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend. QSL via HB9CRV. In addition, Joao, CU8AI will be QRV from Lajes Lighthouse, ILLW PT0038. QSL direct to home call.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, DA. Club station DL0MFK will be QRV from Karnin Lighthouse, ILLW DE-0013, on Usedom Island, IOTA EU-129, during the International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend. QSL via bureau.

NORTH COOK ISLANDS, E5. Warwick, E51WL is QRV from Penrhyn Atoll, IOTA OC-082. Activity of late has been on 20 meters using FT8 and FT4. He may soon be active on 2 meters EME. QSL direct to home call.

FRANCE, F. Chris, F5OHH and Dyd, F4ELJ will be QRV as TM2LW from Kerprigent Lighthouse, ILLW FR-0031, during the International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend. QSL direct to F4ELJ.

SCOTLAND, GM. Members of the Na Fir Chlis ARC will be QRV as GB9UL from the Ushenish Lighthouse on the Isle of South Uist, IOTA EU-010, during the International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend. Activity will be mostly on 40 and 20 meters. QSL via operators' instructions.

ITALY, I. A group of operators from ARI Genova will be QRV as I11L from La Lanterna during the International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend. QSL via LoTW.

ARGENTINA, LU. Members of Radio Club QRM Belgrano will be QRV as LU4AAO, LU4AAO/A and LU4AAO/D from August 23 to 29 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first regularly scheduled AM radio transmissions on August 27, 1920. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8, as well as the V/UHF bands and FM Satellites. QSL direct to LU4AAO.

DENMARK, OZ. Special call sign OZ200EM is QRV until the end of 2020 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the discovery of electromagnetism by Hans Christian Orsted. QSL via OZ1ACB.

HONG KONG, VR. Special call sign VR2HK9O is QRV until May 31, 2021 to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Hong Kong Amateur Radio Transmitting Society. QSL via VR2HK.

CAMBODIA, XU. Tad, JA1DFK is QRV as either XU7AKU or XU7AKV from Phnom Penh during the next couple of years. Activity is on the HF bands using mainly CW and SSB with some digital activity. QSL direct to JA1DXA.

INDONESIA, YB. Special event station 8A62BALI will be QRV from August 21 to 23 to celebrate the founding of the Bali Province 62 years ago. Activity will be on 80, 40 and 2 meters. QSL via bureau.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend, The QRP 20-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint Ladder, Hawaii QSO Party, Ohio QSO Party, RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint, CVA DX SSB Contest and 50 MHz Fall Sprint are all on tap for this upcoming weekend.

The Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest and RTTYOPS Weeksprint are scheduled for August 25.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, SKCC CW Sprint and Phone Fray are scheduled for August 26.

Please see August 2020 QST, page 69 and ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM Contest websites for details.

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.



August 25

- [Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest](#)
- [RTTYOPS Weeksprint](#)
-

August 27

- [CWops Mini-CWT Test](#)
- [RTTYOPS Weeksprint](#)

August 29

- [Feld Hell Sprint](#)
- [ALARA Contest](#)
- [World Wide Digi DX Contest](#)
- [YO DX HF Contest](#)
- [W/VE Islands QSO Party](#)
- [Kentucky State Parks on the Air](#)
- [Kansas QSO Party](#)
- [RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint](#)

August 31

- [QCX Challenge](#)

August 26

- [SKCC Sprint](#)
- [Phone Fray](#)
- [CWops Mini-CWT Test](#)

August 28

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

August 30

- [Kansas QSO Party](#)
- [SARL HF CW Contest](#)

September 1

- [Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest](#)
- [QCX Challenge](#)
- [RTTYOPS Weeksprint](#)

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The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) announces the 13th Annual “Ohio State Parks On the Air” (OSPOTA) contest, from the hours of 10 am to 6 pm ET (1400 UTC to 2200 UTC).

- 13th OSPOTA - **September 12, 2020**
- 14th OSPOTA - September 11, 2021
- 15th OSPOTA - September 10, 2022
- 16th OSPOTA - September 9, 2023
- 17th OSPOTA - September 7, 2024
- 18th OSPOTA - September 6, 2025
- 19th OSPOTA - September 12, 2026
- 20th OSPOTA - September 11, 2027



Always the first Saturday after the Labor Day holiday.

For hams throughout the State of Ohio, this is your opportunity to visit and enjoy the amenities offered by the 75 beautiful State Parks here in Ohio. Don’t just make a day of it - spend the weekend at the park of your choice. No matter whether you are camping or staying at one of the outstanding lodges or resorts, you will find that the parks are one of Ohio’s greatest assets. Find out more about the Ohio State Parks at:

<http://parks.ohiodnr.gov/>

In past years, hundreds of Amateur Radio Operators (hams) from around the country participated in the event. With the success of OSPOTA, we hope to have amateur radio operators at every Ohio State Park.

This contest places a premium on working stations located in the Ohio State Parks. That means that it is critical to have as many parks activated as possible. The challenge for Ohio stations will be to work HF in the 50 to 300 mile range. This is the perfect opportunity to learn more about the design and deployment of Near Vertical Incident Skywave (NVIS) antennas. You can find numerous designs on the Internet and in various Amateur Radio antenna manuals. Along with your operating skills, it will be a chance to showcase your antenna building skills as well.

Individuals and multiple operators can operate Ohio State Park stations. Non-park stations in Ohio as well as stations outside of Ohio can also compete. Contacts can be made on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters using SSB. All contacts have the same point values. Make sure that you read the Rules, FAQ’s and get your forms for the contest that are posted on the OSPOTA website: www.ospota.org before the contest.

So, get to an Ohio State Park and get On The Air in September. Have some fun with this contest!

73 for now, OSPOTA Contest Committee

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Special Events

- **08/27/2020 | Burning Man**

Aug 27-Sep 7, 1200Z-1200Z, W7B, Gerlach, NV. Mansonian. 28.375 21.325 14.250. QSL. George Badger, 4602 Fairway Dr, Soquel, CA 95073. SASE for QSL please. w7b@w3ab.org

- **08/28/2020 | 15th Anniversary of Hurricanes Katrina & Rita**

Aug 28-Aug 30, 2300Z-2359Z, K5R, Mandeville, LA. KD5PCK. 40, 20, and 17 meters, general portions. Certificate. Scott Hernandez, 957 Nancy St., Mandeville, LA 70448. In August & September of 2005, Hurricanes Katrina & Rita made landfall in Louisiana. Katrina striking near Buras, LA and Rita landing near the Louisiana/Texas border. When all else failed, hams from across the nation assisted with establishing communications into and out of the entire gulf coast area. Commemoration of the 15th anniversary of these two devastating storms will take place on air the weekend of August 28 through 30, 2020. Look for activities in the General portions of 40, 20 and 17 meters. More information regarding operations and certificates on the K5R QRZ page. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/katrina5rita>

- **08/28/2020 | RESCHEDULED -100th Vermontville TWP Fire and EMS Association Annual Dance**

Aug 29-Sep 7, 0900Z-0900Z, W8S, Vermontville, MI. Rodney L. Harmon. 446.000 MHZ PL 74.4 Hz. 145.560 MHZ 147.080 MHZ PL 103.5 Hz IRLP NODE #4868. Certificate. Rodney L. Harmon, WK8H, 172 East Second St, Vermontville, MI 49096-9455. Rescheduled from June 27, 2020, to August 29, 2020, due to health concerns of the COVID-19 pandemic. wk8h_michigan@att.net

- **08/29/2020 | Buhl Day 105th Anniversary of Buhl Farm Park**

Aug 29-Sep 7, 0000Z-2359Z, W3B, Sharon, PA. Mercer County Amateur Radio Club. 145.350 14.240 7.185 DSTAR Reflector 63C. QSL. Mercer County Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 996, Sharon, PA 16146. The Mercer County Amateur Radio Club is celebrating BUHL DAY, the 105th Anniversary of Buhl Farm Park, which covers 300 acres and was given to the Shenango Valley community by Frank Buhl a local industrialist, for the use and recreation purposes of the community in Mercer County, PA. As conditions permit you will find operators at various time on 7.185, 14.240, 145.350, DSTAR Reflector 63C from August 29 to September 7, 2020 and the club will be providing communications for a half marathon. Check the www.w3lif.org webpage for scheduled times of W3B operation or the QRZ website for W3B for more information. www.w3lif.org

- **08/30/2020 | Auburn, Cord, Duesenberg Festival**

Aug 30-Sep 9, 0000Z-0000Z, K9A, Auburn, IN. Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association. 14.074 7.225 7.074; SSB, FT8, and CW. Certificate & QSL. K9A c/o Northeastern Indiana ARA, P.O. Box 145, Auburn, IN 46706. See website or QRZ for information on receiving a QSL or Certificate. www.w9ou.org

- **09/02/2020 | 75th Anniversary of the Victory Over Japan Ending World War II**

Aug 30-Sep 13, 1800Z-2359Z, W2V, Ansonia, CT. VOA Radio Club. 21.345 14.345 7.245 3.845. QSL. Dave Arruzza, 32 Benz Street, Ansonia, CT 06401. NOTE DATE CHANGES. w2v.se@yahoo.com or www.qrz.com/db/w2v

- **09/04/2020 | Florence Nightingale Bicentenary 2020**

Sep 4-Oct 1, 1800Z-2000Z, GB200FN, Romsey, UNITED KINGDOM. RSGB. 14.200 3.665. QSL. John Wakefield, Oakhurst, Lower Common Road, Romsey SO51 6BT, UNITED KINGDOM. www.qrz.com/db/gb200fn

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- **09/05/2020 | Fly/In Cruise/In Festival - EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED**

Sep 5, 1200Z-1900Z, W9EBN, Marion, IN. Grant County Amateur Radio Club. 14.180; DMR Talk Group 31189; DSTAR Ref 24B; 146.790- (PL 141.3). Certificate. Fly/In Cruise/In c/o L. B. Nickerson, 517 North Hendricks Ave., Marion, IN 46952. Celebrating 30 years of Marion, IN Fly/In Cruise/In Festival. This annual event features antique, classic, homebuilt, ultralight, rotorcraft and warbird aircraft as well as vintage cars, trucks, motorcycles, fire trucks, autocycles, military vehicles and tractors. Send QSL card and a 9X12 SASE envelope for certificate. **EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED** www.grantarc.org

- **09/05/2020 | Return to Paradise**

Sep 5-Sep 7, 1800Z-1800Z, K7RDG, Sierra Vista, AZ. Cochise Amateur Radio Association. 14.285 14.070 7.255 3.890. Certificate. Cochise ARA, P.O. Box 1855, Sierra Vista, AZ 85636-1855. Operating from the ghost town of Paradise, AZ www.k7rdg.org

- **09/05/2020 | Shelby Hamfest At Home Edition**

Sep 5-Sep 8, 0030Z-0100Z, W4NYR, Shelby, NC. Shelby Amateur Radio Club. 14.260 7.260 146.880 - No tone 14.060. QSL. Shelby ARC Special Event, PO Box 2206, Shelby, NC 28151-2206. Since our club had to cancel our 64th Annual Hamfest due to COVID 19 restrictions, we wanted to have a Shelby Hamfest COVID 19 Stay at Home Edition! We want to contact and connect with other's having to stay at home during this year! Please send SASE with QSO information. www.shelbyarc.org

- **09/07/2020 | Disaster Communication Action Team Field Day Operations**

Sep 7, 1300Z-2300Z, KD1CAT, Birmingham, AL. Disaster Communication Action Team. 7.195 7.210 14.230 14.240. Certificate. Tim Cameron, PO Box 59345, Birmingham, AL 35209. Disaster Communication Action Team will have the monthly field day communication event on Labor Day 2020. Please join us. www.disastercat.org

“ARES Connect”

Connecting Amateur Radio Volunteers with a Purpose

Hey everyone... please make sure to go in and register your time to all of the events that you have signed up for. Don't forget to get this done no later than **5 days** after the event has ended. I'm asking you to do this for our ability to run reports accurately.

"ARES Connect"

Enter

ARES Connect Helpful Instructions

I want to remind all of you that you do not have to be an ARES or ARRL member to use this system. All licensed amateur radio operators throughout the country are welcome and strongly encouraged to use it.

ARES Connect Shortcuts... Part 2...

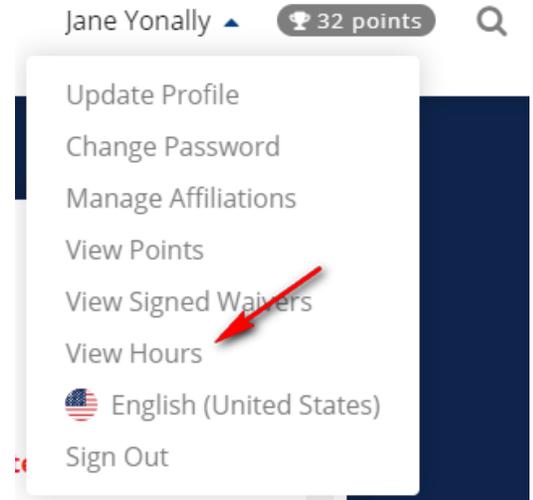
I've heard from many of you that going in and getting your time logged is a real pain when you have to go to each and every event to do it. Well, there's a much quicker way of doing it, but it does require you to already have registered for those events ahead of time. Now, if you read last week's newsletter you already know how quick and easy it is to register for repeating events like Nets and Meetings so, I'm sure that you've already signed up for a number of events already and now need to get your time recorded....

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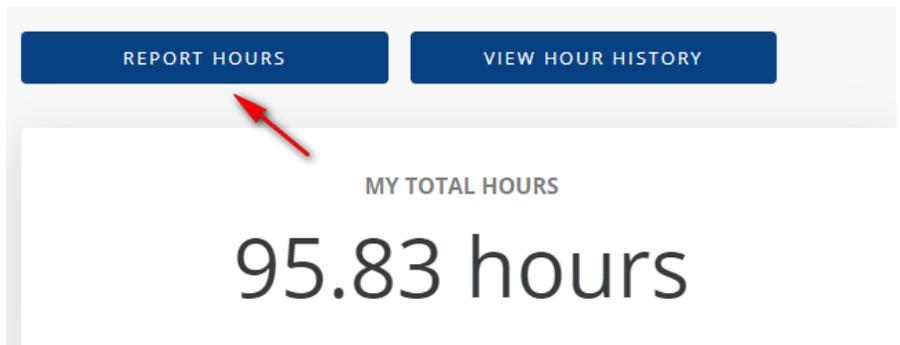
Ok, here is the real quick and simple way of recording your hours. Folks, it doesn't get any easier than this!!!

Like last week the first thing you need to do is sign in as you normally would except this time DON'T hit the "Admin" link.

Once you've logged in click on your name. This will bring up a drop-down box. Click on the "View Hours."



This is going to open up a new box. If you are registered for an event that needs hours reported, you simply click on the "Report Hours" tab. If you don't have any events that need hours recorded, the "Report Hours" will not appear.



This will open up another box where you will be presented one at a time and in chronological order, all the events that you need to register hours for.

Type in the amount of time that you spent with that event and hit "Submit."

Name of Event
Select an event from the drop down to enter hours.

Richland County ARES Net (Wednesday, July 22)

Hours Worked

.5

CANCEL SUBMIT

Go through all the events that are presented. When you get to the end of the events presented, you're done!! **That's it.** If you do this just 2 times a week, you'll have it made, and it won't take even 2 minutes of your time!



Hours submitted successfully, pending administrator approval.

View and report hours.

Report your hours for a recent activity or view your volunteer history for a specific date range.

[VIEW HOUR HISTORY](#)

When you get to the end of the events that need attention, it will tell you that the hours were successfully submitted.... Now you're free to do whatever you need to do.

NOTE: When entering your hours through this path, you may see an event that you did not participate in, so you won't have any hours to report. The system does require you to enter something other than a "0" zero for hours. Simply type in .01 hours. Now, I want you to know that it is perfectly acceptable to do this and we do understand that you may not be able to make every event.

Ok, now you've been shown several shortcuts that save huge amounts of time, spend less than 4 minutes per week doing it. What's your excuse for not using the system??? The information that's gathered is extremely important and has been used to prove what we do for our local and state government. Please, if you haven't gotten registered into the system yet, do so now.

Want to see your name appear in the list below? There's only one way of doing that, you have to sign-up for events and then enter your time in afterward. Are you a regular on a NET or other event? You can sign you up for the entire life of the event if you want. What's the advantage of that? No more registering, that part is done automatically for you. You still need to enter your time, but that's all!!!

Here's are the top 10 hours earners so far for the month of August:

	Name	Events	Hours
1	Dwight Bonifield (W8TJT)	130	185.50
2	Leo Dubois, Jr. (KE8OOS)	99	114.00
3	Daniel Schlick (KB8LKH)	20	94.50
4	James Yoder (W8ERW)	11	90.50
5	Dan Stahl (KC8PBU)	66	83.75
6	Christopher Domenick (KC8CAD)	21	74.70
7	Bret Stemen (KD8SCL)	29	69.50
8	Alan Rothweiler (N8CJ)	20	56.50
9	Greg Dersarkisian (KD8SSJ)	15	55.00
10	Brian DeWitt (N8VTA)	12	49.25

Let's get everyone in the **Ohio** Section on "ARES Connect!!!" Simply go to: <https://arrl.volunteerhub.com/lp/oh/> and get yourself registered and using the system.

Prepare for SET: Radio Messaging Grows Up

(C. Matthew Curtin KD8TTE)

On October 2-3, 2020, members of the Ohio Section of ARRL will join with colleagues throughout the country in the annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET). As we saw in July's QST, Ohio ranked highly in the 2019 SET performance, second in the League for ARES activity and fourth for nets. This was good news, showing both that we are making good progress in our capabilities. The scores also showed the relevance of work that we already started after last year's SET to improve the Ohio Section's ability to perform in an emergency by ensuring that our ARES organizations have the ability to message in and out of the county, and that our traffic nets have the ability to support ARES properly.

Wait, what? NTS supporting ARES? This isn't just my idea. This is the mission of NTS, as articulated by the ARRL:

The National Traffic System is dedicated to communications during disasters on behalf of ARES, as well as the daily handling of third-party traffic. (1)

In the aftermath of a disaster, the service that's needed is messaging. Both successes and failures of amateur radio to provide emergency communications capability are usually reported not in terms of tactical, dispatch-style communication, but in record traffic, the movement of a written message, where the entire message goes from one person to another through a system of amateur radio stations relaying the message.

Shelters, emergency operation centers, incident command posts, and others can often establish relatively easy tactical communication with each other within a county or immediate area thanks to go-kits and the amateurs who build and operate them. Now thanks to the Narrow Band Emergency Management Software (NBEMS), many are able to get record traffic from one point to another.

Where we see failure to perform service that we should is time and again in medium and long-haul record traffic. When you have more traffic than makes sense to keep on a net with many stations, or where there's a need for messages to be relayed by stations in the middle, etc., the messages just aren't being moved reliably. Our County Information Report Project 20 (CIRP20) has gone a long way in showing us the difficulties of that mode of communication, one that's often needed in a disaster scenario like we've seen in the aftermath of major hurricanes making landfall around the Gulf of Mexico, the US East Coast, and of course large storms that spawn many tornadoes or drive straight-line winds for hundreds of miles from one state to another, and another, and another.

So, how are we doing? CIRP20 Objective 8 is out: Catch up on any missing objectives. We are now less than six weeks away from the start of the annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET). Several districts have made big progress in organizing their means of message routing. Props to District 9: this week's work should be easy, with so little left to catch up on.

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Special recognition also goes out to District 1 for organizing and getting things moving, just breaking into “yellow.” Honorable mention also to District 6 for breaking into “yellow” on objective 5, and to District 5 for ongoing organization efforts in the midst of some personnel movement. Finally, we’ve also seen some appointments of traffic relay stations and some more activity in District 7.

On the NTS side we’re seeing a good bit of consistency in their reporting activity but we’re not at all-green yet.

After seven objectives for ARES and six objectives for NTS in the Ohio Section, here’s where we stand for objectives complete.

<i>ARES District</i>										<i>NTS</i>		
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Local</i>	<i>Dist.</i>	<i>Sec.</i>
40%	50%	25%	60%	50%	80%	60%	33%	100%	60%	60%	100%	100%
20%	0%	0%	20%	0%	20%	10%	0%	100%	20%	80%	100%	75%
40%	0%	0%	20%	0%	20%	40%	0%	100%	20%	20%	100%	50%
40%	0%	0%	20%	0%	20%	10%	0%	100%	20%	40%	100%	75%
60%	0%	0%	20%	17%	60%	10%	0%	100%	20%	80%	100%	75%
60%	0%	0%	0%	33%	40%	50%	100%	100%	0%	80%	0%	50%
40%	0%	0%	40%	0%	0%	30%	0%	86%	20%	N/A	N/A	N/A

ARRL Ohio Section Performance: ARES Organizations and NTS Nets Responding, Per Objective, Grouped by District (ARES) or by Coverage Area (NTS).
 Green: 80%+; Yellow: 60-79%; Red: <60%.
 Current Data at <https://www.blackswancomex.org/2020/CIRP>.

Without giving away too much detail, I can tell you that now is the time to be sure that you’re able to message, and to do so reliably. We started with the standard radiogram format, and I’ve mentioned that we’re going to be moving past that once we’ve addressed the critical features of accountability and proper handling. If your district is not yet operating on Buckeye Net’s Thursday 7 P.M. NBEMS session, this is the time to make sure you get there. I will be releasing traffic to all Ohio ARES District Emergency Coordinators with instructions for them to relay to each of their ECs. It will come through on FLMSG but it will not open the ARRL or RRI radiogram form on the receiving end.

The message format for Objective 9 will be compatible, such that we can for this week, move the message over a standard NTS net that handles radiogram-only format. The week after, however, will not be in a format that has a published means for voice relay. Objective 10 will require digital transmission or encapsulation into radiogram format for relay. This is the realistic scenario that we face in the aftermath of a disaster. Are we ready?

Back in the July issue of Ohio Section Journal (2), we published checklists for how to get involved in the project and to become effective. Now is a good time to revisit that article. Where are you, and what have you accomplished to be prepared? Sometimes progress feels like it’s slow in coming, and a look back a month or two can go a long way to helping you see what progress you’ve actually made.

So, what's going to happen in this year's SET? Reports from prediction centers and emergency management agencies will start to make their way into the ARES and NTS groups in the final days of September.

Information will continue to come in "as it happens" according to the exercise timeline. ECs and their assistants will need to be prepared to handle those situations. Agencies will call for ARES activation in the final days of September, with instructions to provide critical radio communications functions: not what the hams want to do but what the agencies need in that scenario. NTS nets should be ready to be activated to provide support for those counties with operators active. News reports will come in via "TV" and "radio," and amateurs will need to work with government and military stations on 60 meters. Objectives will be specific, measurable, action-oriented, realistic, and time-bounded.

A few critical questions now arise as we look at the objectives before us in the run-up to the SET:

1. DEC's, with which section nets have you established liaison for getting messages in and out of your district?
 - a. Who are your operators?
 - b. On what schedule are they operating?
 - c. How does the district get messages to and from them?
2. EC's, with which nets have you established liaison for getting messages in and out of your county?
 - a. Who are your operators?
 - b. On what schedule are they operating?
 - c. How does the county get messages to and from them?
3. Net managers, with which ARES organizations have you established liaison?
 - a. How do EC's request activation of your net?
 - b. Which CW capable stations do you have in your net?
 - c. Which DTN/NSD capable stations do you have in your net?
 - d. Which NBEMS capable stations do you have in your net?
 - e. Which Winlink capable stations do you have in your net?
 - f. On what schedule are your special capability stations operating?
4. Operators, what capability have you established with your station?
 - a. Voice?
 - b. CW?
 - c. DTN/NTSD?
 - d. NBEMS?
 - e. Winlink?

We are now just over five weeks away from the SET build-up. Are you ready to get the job done "when all else fails?"

Our SET is realistic in Ohio because this isn't something that we in amateur radio are making up without visibility into the world of disaster response and emergency management. The exercise is being built with agencies, using tasks that they expect us to be able to perform, so they can understand what our capability is, and agencies are watching performance.

There is still time to catch up, and there is still time to join the training, but time is running short. Every traffic net, every ARES organization, and every operator concerned with providing emergency communications needs to engage now.

This is where the learning happens. The SET this year is certain to be a lot of fun, educational, and demonstrative of the value we provide to our neighbors, our communities, and our nation. Healthy pride comes from a sense of accomplishment, enforced by respect is given for performance, and is within reach through hard work, capped with superior performance. If you've got questions, concerns, or think that you need help, now is the time to reach out.

That's where I'm headed. Are you in? I look forward to training and operating with you.

<https://www.blackswancomex.org/2020/>

(1) ARRL. *NTS Manual*, 2015. (See Chapter Four: Operation During Disasters.)

http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%20Service/NTS_Manual2015.pdf

(2) C. M. Curtin. Joining the County Information Report Project 20, Ohio Section Journal. July 2020. pp. 37-

40. <http://www.arrl-ohio.org/news/2020/OSJ-Jul-20.pdf>

Incident Command System (ICS) Training Schedule

It's been quite a while since we've had any training sessions scheduled, but it seems like things are starting to open back up just a little and we do have a couple of courses for you to consider.

ICS-300 INTERMEDIATE ICS FOR EXPANDING EVENTS

Hosted by: Franklin County EM&HS

February 23, 24, 25, 2021

Course Description: This 21-hour classroom course provides training for personnel who require advanced application of the Incident Command System (ICS) and Individuals who may assume a supervisory role in incidents. This course expands upon information covered in the ICS 100 and ICS 200 courses.

Application Deadline: Ten working days prior to the course
Seating availability is limited so register early

Course Registration time: 7:30 am – 8:00 am (on day one)

Course Time: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm – All three (3) days
One-hour Lunch each day

Training Location: Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security
5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
Columbus, OH 43230

Recommended Participants: FEMA designed this course for individuals who may assume a supervisory role in expanding incidents or Type 3 incidents.

Note: During a Type 3 incident, some or all of the Command and General Staff positions may be activated, as well as Division/Group Supervisor and/or Unit Leader level positions. These incidents may extend into multiple operational periods.

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Required Prerequisites: Individuals must complete the IS-100.c Introduction to the Incident Command System, IS-200.c Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response, IS-700.b An Introduction to the National Incident Management System and IS-800.c National Response Framework courses prior to attending the ICS-300 Intermediate course **and provide copies of their certificates of completion to**

Pam Tickle, pktickle@franklincountyohio.gov , after you register for the class/before the first day of the class.

Enrollment: Students must enroll via the Department of Public Safety Training Campus website: <https://trainingcampus.dps.ohio.gov/CourseMill/pstc/pstc.html>. Course registration will close 10 working days prior to the course start date and applicants can check enrollment/approval status via the Department of Public Safety Training Campus website.

Course Costs: There is no charge for participants to attend this course. However, Lodging, Meals, Per Diem and all other travel expenses are the responsibility of the student or the parent organization.

State Point of Contact: Lisa Jones, DSC 2, Ohio EMA, SAA Training Point of Contact, (614) 799-3824 ljones@dps.ohio.gov

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ICS-400 ADVANCED ICS FOR COMMAND & GENERAL STAFF

Hosted by: Franklin County EM&HS

March 30 & 31, 2021

Course Description: This 15-hour classroom course provides training for personnel who require advanced application of the Incident Command System (ICS). This course expands upon information covered in ICS-100, 200, 700, 800 and ICS-300 courses, which are the prerequisites for the ICS-400 course. The target audience for this course is senior personnel who expect to perform in a management capacity in an Area Command or Multi-Agency Coordination Entity.

Application Deadline: Ten working days prior to the course
Seating availability is limited so register early

Course Registration time: 7:30 am – 8:00 am (on day one)

Course Time: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm – Both days
One-hour Lunch each day

Training Location: Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security
5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
Columbus, OH 43230

Recommended Participants: FEMA designed the course for Senior Personnel who expect to perform in a management capacity in an Area Command or Multi-Agency Coordination Entity.

Required Prerequisites: Individuals must complete the IS-100.c Introduction to the Incident Command System, IS-200.c Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response, IS-700.b An Introduction to the National Incident Management System and the IS-800.c National Response Framework, an Introduction courses. In addition, ICS-300 Intermediate courses prior to attending the ICS-400 Advanced course **and provide copies of their certificates of completion to Pam Tickle, pktickle@franklincountyohio.gov, after you register for the class/before the first day of the class.**

Enrollment: Students must enroll via the Department of Public Safety Training Campus website: <https://trainingcampus.dps.ohio.gov/CourseMill/pstc/pstc.html>. Course registration will close 10 working days prior to the course start date and applicants can check enrollment/approval status via the Department of Public Safety Training Campus website.

Course Costs: There is no charge for participants to attend this course. However, Lodging, Meals, Per Diem and all other travel expenses are the responsibility of the student or the parent organization.

State Point of Contact: Lisa Jones, DSC 2, Ohio EMA, SAA Training Point of Contact, (614) 799-3824 ljones@dps.ohio.gov

Here in the Ohio Section we 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 classroom 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!

One Question Questionnaire



Hey Gang,

“Survey Says”..... about 14.29% have 1 HT; 22.32% have 2; 16.07% have 3; 41.96% of you have 4 or more and 5.36% have no HT’s that you can find quickly.

Ok, now that we know you have HT’s at the ready... Here’s the next question. This one comes from Dan, AC8NP on to next question...

“How many of your HT’s have charged batteries and are ready to operate??”

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

Many V.E.'s have decided to start testing once again, but with restrictions that need to be adhered to for sure. Here's the link to find that V.E. Test session and what is expected of YOU before going. <http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>



Final.. Final..



Hi Gang,

Wow, what a week this has been. The temperature was finally down below the boiling point and it was even somewhat comfortable for a few days.

Antenna Woes... I have borrowed an antenna analyzer from my mentor here in Mansfield and started working on getting my 4 BTV all tuned up and ready to go for those great QSO's coming up.

Right off the bat I ran into a snag that I hadn't anticipated for, a possible bad trap. It seems that the antenna just won't tune-up to any of the normal amateur frequencies. I've played with the length of the adjustable tubing points until I'm blue in the face.

Making it longer / shorter - with little to no change. I've changed

out the coax that's connected to the analyzer thinking it could be a bad piece of coax or just the wrong length and still no luck. I've also made sure that the analyzer will zero out with a dummy load on it and it does. I've checked it against my 80-meter dipole, and it is working just fine. In fact, it showed that the wire on the dipole had stretched some from when I originally installed it about a year ago. So, after trimming off some of the extra length it's working absolutely great now.

Doing some more research, and with help from the guys from the DARA Thursday Night Group and I even sought out the advice from the Great Lakes Director, Dale Williams too. They have once again come through and given me some great ideas to try. I really appreciated it and tried their ideas out.

One of them was to simply take all the connections apart and clean everything. So, with some good old-fashioned isopropyl alcohol in hand, along with some fine steel wool, I took everything apart and did a thorough cleaning of every joint. I put everything back together but unfortunately, this didn't help much. It did move the frequency at where the antenna wants to resonate a little bit, but not enough to get it within the amateur band.

The DARA guys also suggested that I should just take the antenna down to the first length of tubing and see where it is resonating at, since this first tube is the 10-meter part of the antenna. I did that and Voilà. It was resonating around 29.200MHz. Right where I wanted it to be.

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I then added the 10-meter trap on, and everything went wacky again. Talking with our Great Lakes Director for a bit, he suggested that I take the trap apart and see if there's any damage or bad solder joints. So, with the DX Engineering manual I had bought with the antenna, I started in taking the trap apart and examining the solder joints, counting the number of turns on the wire and examining the wire itself for burn marks and such. I didn't find anything wrong, but I did notice something in the book that I really hadn't noticed before. It said I could make some frequency adjustments simply by moving the tube that houses the trap up or down from its factory setting. I figured I had nothing to lose so I took the 10-meter trap and move it down about an inch or so just to see what would happen and magically was radiating around 28.1 MHz So, I moved it about another inch, and it all came in to around 28.900 MHz Wow...!! If this is all that it takes, I'm in like flint. So, I got to work re-assembling the antenna one piece at a time and checking it on the analyzer. By the time I got to the top I had move each trap downward about 2 inches. Now the antenna is working like a champ!

Funny how they state in the beginning of the manual not to mess with the clamps on the traps or make any changes to the lengths, but that's what it took for me to get the antenna to radiate in the amateur band.

I do want to thank Tim, K3LR and the folks at DX Engineering for designing a tilt-over base for this antenna. That alone saved me huge amounts of time by not having to disassemble and reassemble the mounting to test the antenna. You simply loosen 2 nuts and pick it up out of the resting slot and lay the entire assembly over onto a chair or sawhorse. I gotta' tell ya', I must have done this 60 times or more before I finally figured out and corrected the antenna. Talk about a time saver, wow... this is one accessory that I absolutely recommend you get if you purchase any of the BTV series antennas.

Now here's a lesson learned for you newer folks. If you have a problem, ask around and see if anyone else has had that same problem. Most generally you are not the only one that has had problems like you're experiencing. Don't be afraid to ask! You'd be surprised how many folks will freely share their help and expertise with you.

Changing Subjects... Let's not forget to take a quick look at ARES Connect

I hope that you have been reading the ARES Connect column these past couple of weeks. I've had instructions on how to quickly record your time for those events, and the best part is that it will only take 2 minutes twice a week!!!! This shortcut will save you tons of time and frustration.

Have you looked at the breakdown per county on the website yet? We have a "per county" dashboard of the hours recorded in ARES Connect for each county. We also list those District only events as well as the hours recorded for Section wide functions. These are the hours of actual volunteers and not anonymous hours. Want to see how many hours your county has gotten so far? Go to... <http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/reports.html> This page is updated regularly, so you can see what's happening in real time in your county. Don't see hours recorded in your county? That's because you haven't done **your part** and gotten your time recorded.

Have you seen the latest Section Emergency Coordinators report? If not, you can view it by going to: <http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/reports.html>

Moving to a new subject... Club Affiliation and Special Service Club renewals

I want to ask all of you folks that are responsible for your clubs if you have sent in your annual club affiliation report yet? Yes, this is an annual thing that you need to be doing. It's very easy to do and you do it on-line. Once finished, your club's affiliation date is updated and that's it.

Getting this annual report turned in takes all of 5 minutes to do, but it does so much for your club. With the update out of town folks know when your meetings are, they also know who to contact if they have questions about your club. This is really important to do.

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Now, I also want to address those same folks if your club is/was a Special Services Club. We've had many clubs in our Section with that very distinguished distinction. It's something to be very proud of, but it too requires you to renew.

For the SSC's it's every two years. I know that this confuses things since you're not always looking at the records to see when your renewal dates are, but... It's equally important for you to renew your SSC. To renew the SSC, you are required to do a little more work than just updating who's the new president and such. You need to keep a record of your clubs outstanding activities and make sure that those activities are listed on your new/renewal form for SSC.

I always advise everyone whether completing the forms for the first time or this is your 10th time, keep a copy of the completed form information.

Whelp, my final go around before gong QRT... I'm still busy and having a blast doing Zoom meetings for all the clubs out there that are meeting "virtually." I'm really hoping that we can get back to those great "in-person" meetings soon.

Stay safe my friends! I want to see all of you soon at a meeting or hamfest! We will get through this and when we do, we'll have so much to talk about. Most of all... have FUN and get on the airwaves!!

73,

[Scott, N8SY](#)

Swap & Shop Has Added Club Raffles To Its Listings On The Webpage



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.

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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@arrlohio.org

Ohio Section Cabinet

Section Manager – Scott Yonally, N8SY	Assistant Section Manager – John Perone, W8RXX
Section Emergency Coordinator – Stan Broadway, N8BHL	Section Traffic Manager – David Maynard, WA3EZN
Technical Coordinator – Jeff Kopcak, K8JTK	Affiliated Clubs Coordinator – Tom Sly, WB8LCD
State Government Liaison – Bob Winston, W2THU	Public Information Coordinator – John Ross, KD8IDJ
Section Youth Coordinator – Anthony Lascre, K8ZT	

Welcome New Subscriber(s)

David, KE8OZI; Amy, N8AMY



Back Issues of the PostScript and Ohio Section Journal

Hey, did you know that PostScript and Ohio Section Journal (OSJ) are archived on the website? You can go back and look at any edition simply by clicking:
<http://arrl-ohio.org/news/index.html>



Want to Share your Club Newsletter With Others?



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

Here's the link to the page.... http://arrl-ohio.org/club_news/index.html

Please, if you don't see your club newsletter posted, it's because I'm not receiving it. Just have your newsletter editor contact me and I'll get your club's newsletter listed on the site!!

We all learn and steal (I mean, share) from each other's work. So, get me your newsletter!!! Send it to: n8sy@n8sy.com

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Chit – Chat, and All That!

Do you know someone that's not getting these Newsletters? Please, forward a copy of this Newsletter over to them and have them "[Opt-In](#)" to start receiving them. Heck just have them send me an email n8sy@n8sy.com and I'll get them added to the Ohio Section Emailing list.



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



You can always "Opt-Out" at any time if you feel this is not what you were expecting. It's fun and very informative. All of your favorite past newsletters are now archived too. You can go back at any time and read them. Just go to: <http://arri-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 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!!"

STOP.... You've come to the end!!



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See Ya' next week.

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!