



# September 24th Edition

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## ***National News and Other Items***

*(from arrl bulletins)*

### ***Ohio Operators Active for Storms, Exercises: Lessons Learned***

The Youngstown area was hit by weekend storms beginning Friday, August 11. ARES District EC Dennis Conklin, AI8P, was notified by Mahoning EC David Brett, KD8NZF, that the county needed help in performing damage assessment for a large area. While Conklin made his way to Youngstown, Ohio SEC Stan Broadway, N8BHL, put out a call for volunteers from District 5 and District 10, which covered the majority of northeast



Ohio counties. More than a dozen ARES operators responded along with a contingent of CERT volunteers from a neighboring county. The volunteers held a short briefing, then began the long task of going door to door to inquire about damages. The surveys continued Thursday, with a morning crew made up of CERT and VOAD volunteers, and an afternoon crew of all ARES volunteers. The assessment was expected to continue.

That call came when other northeast Ohio counties were already involved in two major exercises - one at the Cleveland Burke Lakefront Airport where six ARES volunteers assumed the task of tracking patient transport in a multi-casualty drill. The other involved nearby Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula counties as the state conducted an exercise involving the Perry Nuclear Power Plant. More than two dozen amateurs there and five at the Ohio state EOC's station, W8SGT, followed the day long exercise. Primarily an EOC exercise, each of the counties dispatched ARES members to different locations as part of the drill.

The Ohio EMA confirmed later that the Ohio ARES volunteers helped assess 416 homes, four of which were totally destroyed, one had major damage and the other 411 homes sustained minor damage. Minor damage is considered anything with two feet of water or less in the basement, or first floor if it is a home without a basement. There were 74 city streets surveyed for damage.

ARRL Ohio Section Manager Scott Yonally, N8SY, said "It just shows how ARES groups can work together and help our local government agencies with manpower, even when it's not primarily a communications event."



On August 20, Mahoning County EMA Director Dennis O'Hara wrote to the county ARES group volunteers: "I would like to thank you for assisting and coordinating with the ARES volunteers to conduct [the] damage assessment . . . We were able to make positive contact with over 400 homes and businesses on 70 plus streets in the affected areas." O'Hara wrote "I am proud of the coordination between the EMA and ARES. I look forward to working with ARES and continuing to foster the relationship between the organizations. . ."

## Lessons Learned

Two important aspects came to light from this busy day. First, particularly in the middle of a work day, resources were scarce locally. More often we need to approach events on a regional basis. This applies to large events, or activity in counties with smaller ARES population. District EC's must keep up on their area plans! The second is that activations may come nearly instantly- there was no time to plan in advance. This means we must stay ready to go literally on a moment's notice! -- Stan Broadway, N8BHL, Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator

[There is a FEMA Independent Study course, *IS-1160 Damage Assessment Operations Training*, available >> [Click Here](#) << for more information -- ed.]

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## *Significant Changes in Store for FT8 and MSK144 with WSJT-X Version 2.0*



[WSJT-X](#) co-developer Joe Taylor, K1JT, has announced that major changes are coming to the FT8 and MSK144 digital protocols when *WSJT-X* version 2.0 arrives in a few months. Taylor said version 2.0 should be ready for prime time by January.

“Much of the necessary programming is finished,” Taylor said in a post to the Packrats reflector. “Many of the new features have been tested on the air, and we find them to work well.”

Taylor was quick to point out that the new capabilities are not yet publicly available, not even in beta form. He said that he, Steve Franke, K9AN, and Bill Somerville, G4WJS, have been developing “enhanced versions of the MSK144 and FT8 protocols that extend the message payload to 77 bits.”

“Don’t rush to download something,” he cautioned. “There is more testing and code optimization to do.” He said current plans call for a beta-testing period “probably starting in mid- to-late September,” with a full release “possible a couple of months later.”

Taylor ticked off a few possibilities *WSJT-X* version 2.0 will bring to the table:

- ARRL Field Day operation with standard Field Day exchanges.
- ARRL RTTY Roundup operation with standard contest exchanges.
- North American VHF contest operation with full support of grid exchanges and Rover (/R) call signs.
- European VHF contest operation with the exchange of six-digit grids, QSO serial numbers, and portable (/P) call signs.
- Better and more user-friendly support for compound and nonstandard call signs.
- A special “telemetry” message format for exchanging arbitrary information up to 71 bits.
- Support for the existing “FT8 DXpedition Mode,” with a more powerful DXpedition Mode possible too.

“All of these features work seamlessly and automatically,” Taylor said. “No ‘contest mode’ checkboxes are needed. In most situations, decoding sensitivity will be slightly better than at present for FT8; for MSK144 it will sometimes be about 0.5 dB worse. Occupied bandwidths will be the same as they are now, and false-decode rates will be significantly lower.”

Taylor said *WSJT-X* version 2.0 will be available in time for users to digest the new documentation and to practice it before actually getting on the air with it, but he offered one important caveat. “The new protocols cannot be backward compatible with the existing ones,” he said in his post. “We will probably provide some temporary ‘bilingual’ capability for FT8, but not for MSK144. It will be essential for users to upgrade to version 2.0 in order to use the new features and communicate with others who have made the upgrade.”

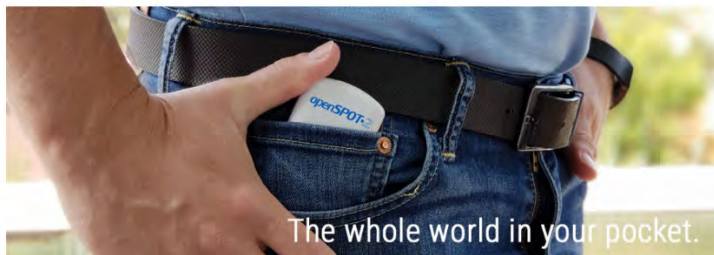
Taylor promised “plenty of advance notice” about the transition period and a must-upgrade-by date.

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## HotSpot Looping

### openSPOT•2



The whole world in your pocket.

Lately I've been hearing some really disturbing “noise” on the DMR channels. It sounds like someone is attempting to transmit in an echo chamber. What's this odd “noise” caused by? Well, it's simple. It comes from when an openSPOT/DVMM or Chinaspot user has more than one of these devices turned on and operating at the same frequency as his other devices, and they are in close enough proximity to each other

to cause these units to go into what essentially is “feedback.” You all know what that sounds like when a PA system is turned up enough. Well, this isn't any different.

Several weeks ago, we discussed the issue of operators having these devices on frequencies that are not intended for them and it is actually interfering with other operations because of it. Now we need to be aware that when you have more than one of these devices on and set to the same frequency as another one, it will again cause interference, and that is not good operating practice for any Amateur Radio operator.

Amateur Radio is all about experimenting, but we also are about good operating practices as well. Please, if you have more than one of these little gadgets, make sure that you only have one on at a time, or keep them separated far enough apart that they don't produce this “feedback” condition. Unfortunately, where I'm hearing this interference the most often is on the Ohio TalkGroup 3139. Now, if you didn't realize it, let me state it for the record, when you key up on this TalkGroup you are actually keying up over 90 repeaters around the state. Now I don't know about how you feel about this, but I can tell you that a lot of repeater owners have been complaining about how this needs to be brought to light before they take action to keep their repeaters clean from this type of interference. I have to say this, I do agree with the repeater owners on this one. It is annoying and is definitely not good operating practice. Since this is so easily remedied, why don't we all take the high road on this and make sure that we only use one of these devices at a time.

Want more information about this issue? Here's a link that explains this problem:

<https://www.k9npx.com/2018/06/hotspot-looping.html>

Oh, by the way, there are still a lot of you that have these units operating on frequencies that you shouldn't be on. Please be aware that you can be seen. Here's a website that will allow you to see where all of these units are and what frequency they are operating on: <https://aprs.fi>

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## One Question Questionnaire



Hey Gang

Wow... I'm not really too surprised that only about 43% of you have gotten registered in the new ARES Connect system yet. It's new and I'm sure it will take some time for everyone to get tuned into all of its features. OK... Here's the next question for you to answer...

**“Are you looking to purchase a new radio before the end of the year??”**

You'll find the “One Question” questionnaire on the Ohio Section Website! <http://arrloho.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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## 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](mailto:n8sy@n8sy.com)



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## Hospital Exercise A Big Success



The Mound Amateur Radio Association was invited to participate with the Sycamore Hospital of the Kettering Health Network along with the Franklin Emergency Department with a practice emergency exercise. The exercise went according to plan with the following amateurs from the MARA club assisting. KM8N, WA8VMR, AC8AV, KE8JDU and N8DAT

MARA was founded in 1962 by employees at the Mound Atomic Energy facility in Miamisburg, OH. It now has a shack at the Mound Historical Park in Miamisburg.”

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## YOU HAVE BEEN AWESOME

Jim Rowe, N8TVO became a member of Southern Ohio Amateur Radio Association (SOARA) about 1992. Jim has kept his Technician license ever since, in the beginning he stated he wants to help people and this license is all he needs to accomplish his goal. I heard Jim say this after he got his license.

N8TVO has done that in many ways, he is so very helpful when the club needs something. Any time the club is requested to help in emergencies, projects, drills, and more he is there. He not only helps our club but helps ham radio clubs in neighboring counties. Jim has held offices in the local Memorial Day Parade since 1989 and is so very helpful. When SOARA is called on for emergencies, drills, Memorial Day Parade, projects, and more

Jim will buy ice, soft drinks, water, coffee, and more. He sets a table with coffee, drinks, cookies, and more at all of our meetings and events.

He has been doing these things for so long I guess we take it for granted he will do it. We have not let him know how appreciated he is. I want to let Jim know he is really appreciated and say this:

Jim, you have been awesome for years, completely outdoing yourself, and outshining everyone else. Your work and help haven't gone unnoticed. Thank you so very much.

Ken, WN8F

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### ***Boy Scouts have "End of Summer Blast"*** *(from Tom Schluter, KB8UXS)*



On Saturday, September 22, 2018, Tom Schluter (KB8UXS), Cliff Burse (KE8FSZ) and Caleb Palagyi, an Electrical Engineering student at Cleveland State University who passed his Technician Class exam this past Wednesday taught the Radio Merit Badge and demonstrated amateur radio equipment. Over 30 Scouts who attended the Seven Ranges Scout Reservation "End of Summer Blast" participated in this session on Saturday morning.



The Scouts came from Troops in from Canton, Uniontown, Louisville, North Canton and Nashville, Ohio. A number of the scout's present demonstrated an interest in Amateur Radio -- even CW!

Demonstrations on using Amateur Radio were conducted and the "Do it Yourself" nature of Amateur Radio was demonstrated in the use of homemade antennas and a QRP HF radio kit.

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The Community Service aspect of Amateur Radio was also shared with the participants as information was presented about how Amateur Radio operators provide communication resources during disasters and for large scale community events. The joy of making that first contact was also shared.

Thanks to Mr. Travis Harper, the Ranger of Seven Ranges for inviting us to present the Radio Merit Badge and providing logistical support. Thanks also to the Scouts who expressed an interest in Radio!

Tom Schluter, KB8UXS signs merit badge cards for scouts who participated in the Radio Merit Badge event.

Cliff Burse, KE8FSZ, talks about his Amateur Radio equipment with an interested scout.  
Photos by Caleb Palagyi.

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### *Help Wanted*

Eagle Joint Fire District Emergency Drill - **September 27<sup>th</sup>**. Time ~ 9:00am to noon. Live drill. Our part is to track victims departing Triage and arriving at area hospitals. Sign up is through ARES Connect. Click [here](#) to go to ARES Connect. You can also contact [mahoning.ares@gmail.com](mailto:mahoning.ares@gmail.com)

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### *Help Wanted*

Summit County ARES is looking for volunteers to assist with the Akron Marathon **September 29<sup>th</sup>**. This is one of our largest events spanning 26 miles through the city and surrounding neighborhoods in the Akron area.

A minimum of at least 15 volunteers would helpful to man watering stations, medical stations along the route, SAG, Med transport and milepost locations... Anyone interested can sign up at [www.summitares.org](http://www.summitares.org)

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### *Help Wanted*

The Huntsburg Pumpkin Festival is Saturday, **October 6<sup>th</sup>** and **Sunday October 7<sup>th</sup>**.

I am seeking volunteers to come help staff the Geauga Amateur Radio Association table, assist with traffic control for both parades and at the infamous cross walk.

Volunteers who come on Saturday or Sunday will receive a delicious pancake, waffle, and sausage breakfast in the morning. Those who volunteer for both days will receive a yummy turkey dinner with all the trimmings Saturday evening.

Sign up couldn't be easier. Just send me an email and tell me your availability [w8dec2@gmail.com](mailto:w8dec2@gmail.com)

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## ***First Aid, CPR and AED Classes Forming***

There will be a First Aid, CPR, and AED class on **Saturday, October 27th from 9:00 am till about 3:00 pm.** If you want a card or certificate the cost will be \$25.00. The class will be instructed by Lawrence County EMS personnel and is certified by the American Heart Association. We have checked around and this is the best price we can find for a complete class. **Please register on ARES Connect under Lawrence County Events.**

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## ***Programming Classes to be given at Silvercreek Amateur Radio Association***

SARA is holding a programming clinic for any licensed amateur on **Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.** The clinic will be held 10 am to 12 noon at the Wadsworth Public Library, 132 Broad St. in Wadsworth Ohio. Experienced hams will lead a presentation and discussion on the following topics:

- Basic FM radio operations
- Basic antenna information including fixed, mobile, and H/T considerations
- Basic repeater operations covering how repeaters work, offsets/splits, CTCSS/PL, Digital Coded Squelch (DCS), Allstar, and Echolink
- Basic concepts in radio programming
- How to program radios from the keypad
- How to program radios using the Chirp software

Following the presentation, experienced hams will be on hand to program radios with a stock list of area repeaters or to help people program their radios with their own equipment. SARA's website has more information at <https://w8wky.org/clinic>.

If you know anyone who would like a flyer to pass out, we have a downloadable one at <https://w8wky.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Programming-Clinic-Flyer.pdf>

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## ***Fun Things To Do, Classes & Hamfests Too***

*(from various newsletters and sources)*

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

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## ***Technician Classes forming***

A free Technician License class is being offered by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA). The entry level Technician License requires no previous technical knowledge and is open to all ages.

The class will be held at the DARA clubhouse located at 6619 Bellefontaine Road. in Huber Heights. Classes will meet from **7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday evenings starting Oct. 3 and running through Nov. 28.** A companion text will be available for the discounted price of \$25 at the class. The text is also available from the publisher by visiting <https://www.arrl.org/shop/ARRL-Ham-Radio-License-Manual-4th-Edition-Softcover>.





A free license exam is scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday Dec. 5 at the DARA clubhouse. The exam is open to anyone regardless of participation in the class.

For more information about the class, please contact Chris Jebens KZ8XU by email at [kz8xu@yahoo.com](mailto:kz8xu@yahoo.com) or by phone (9 a.m. to 9 p.m.) at 937-474-2971 and leave a message if no answer.

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### *Technician Class Slated*

A six-week class to prepare for the Technician license will be held starting November 1st, on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm.

The location is the Bowling Green FabLab in Woodland Mall. The only course material required is the ARRL License Manual- 4th edition. This can be obtained from ARRL at [arrl.org](http://arrl.org).

The course will end with a review and VE exam session on December 20th. For further information, contact Bob, N1RB, at: [boughton@bgsu.edu](mailto:boughton@bgsu.edu)

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### *Technician Classes forming*

Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club will be holding a Technician Level Licensing Class **September 30 through November 4th** at the Akron-Summit County Public Library, 60 S High St, Akron, OH 44326. The last class will be a VEC session. More details at: <http://www.cfarc.org/education/TechClass2018.pdf>

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### *Technician Classes forming*

The TMRA Education Committee has released the schedule for the Fall Technicians Class. The class schedule will follow our traditional style. Two classes held two weeks apart and a V.E. Testing Session after the final class. The Class is FREE, you will have to provide your own book, or one can be purchased from the TMRA (\$25.00). The testing session will cost \$15.00 which is the standard fee set by the ARRL.

Class one will be held on **Saturday October 27<sup>th</sup>** from 08:00 TILL 17:00. Class two will be held on **Saturday November 10<sup>th</sup>** from 08:00 TILL 17:00 (This includes the V.E.Session) Both classes will be held at Lucas County EMS Training Center - 2127 Jefferson Avenue, Toledo.

To Enroll in the Class, or for more Information please contact Steve Stalker, KC8TVW at 419-467-3734 or [kc8tvw@arrl.net](mailto:kc8tvw@arrl.net)

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## ***NEW HAMS SEMINAR “I GOT MY LICENSE, NOW WHAT?”***

Congratulations, you have studied and passed your element and received your first Amateur Radio License. NOW WHAT?

What Radio should I buy? Should I buy new or used Equipment? What Aspects of Ham Radio should I get involved in? What Activities should I get involved in? What Club should I join, or should I join one at all? And many other Questions.

Welcome to The HUGE world of Ham Radio, this hobby has so many aspects that the new Ham can explore. This 4-hour Seminar is designed to help you gain clarity and hopefully answer some of the questions new Hams have. We hold this Seminar two times a year, within a few weeks of the completion of our Spring and Fall Tech Class. Everyone is welcome to attend. This is a **FREE** Seminar. There will be Equipment and experienced Hams on-site. Come on out and meet the Club Members and get a look at some of the radios and bring your questions. We will get them answered and help get you on the road to the world of Amateur Radio.

The Fall New Ham Seminar - **Saturday November 17<sup>th</sup>** from 0800 till 1200. It may go past 12:00 if there's a lot of questions or if there's a good discussion going on a certain topic. We will meet at the Maumee Fire Station 2 - 450 west Dussel Drive, Maumee. Look for the Big Blue Water Tower, parking in the rear

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## ***Incident Command System (ICS) Training Schedule***

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

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

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

I would like to remind any of you that are going to take any of the in-class training sessions that you dress appropriately. Please don't go into these classes with attire that doesn't represent you, and Amateur Radio in the best of light. I'm not setting a dress code, but if you wouldn't take your wife out to a nice restaurant in these clothes, you may want to reconsider what you are wearing. Remember, you will be in class with fire / police chiefs, mayors, township trustees and a whole host of other government and civil officials that will remember how you represented Amateur Radio while you were in these classes together.

We do recognize that IS-300/400 requires multiple days of actual classroom training that is not easily obtained. So, if you just can't find the time to fit these class room courses in, we do have an alternative method for getting you to Level 3. Completing the following **“FREE”** and **“ONLINE”** courses will act as substitute for your 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.**

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## V.E. Test Sessions

(from arrl)

**09/26/2018 | [Dayton OH 45424-3304](#)**

**Sponsor:** Dayton ARA

Location: DARA Clubhouse

Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

**09/26/2018 | [Middletown OH 45042](#)**

**Sponsor:** Dial Radio Club

Location: Miami University-Middletown

Time: 6:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

**09/29/2018 | [Lisbon OH 44432-1233](#)**

**Sponsor:** Lisbon Area Amt Radio Assoc

Location: Columbiana County EMA

Time: 1:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

**09/30/2018 | [Westerville OH 43082-9033](#)**

**Sponsor:** Central Ohio Radio Club CORC

Location: Genoa Township Hall

Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

**10/06/2018 | [Bryan OH 43506-8410](#)**

**Sponsor:** Williams County ARC

Location: Williams County 911/EMA

Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

**10/06/2018 | [Cambridge OH 43725-2401](#)**

**Sponsor:** Cambridge ARA

Location: St John's Episcopal church

Time: 2:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

**10/06/2018 | [Chillicothe OH 45601-9999](#)**

**Sponsor:** SVARC Hamfest

**Location:** Lion Club House

Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

**10/06/2018 | [Kirtland OH 44094-8500](#)**

**Sponsor:** Lake County ARA

Location: Kirtland Library

Time: 12:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

**10/06/2018 | [Ravenna OH 44266-2191](#)**

**Sponsor:** Portage County ARS Inc.

Location: PCARS Club Site

Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

**10/11/2018 | [Cuyahoga Falls OH 44221-3205](#)**

**Sponsor:** Cuyahoga Falls ARC

Location: Cuyahoga Falls Library

Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

**10/11/2018 | [Milford OH 45150-1427](#)**

**Sponsor:** Milford ARC

Location: Faith Church

Time: 6:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

**10/12/2018 | [Maumee OH 43537-1628](#)**

**Sponsor:** Toledo Mobile Radio Assoc

Location: Maumee Fire Station #2

Time: 8:15 AM (No Walk-ins / Call ahead)

[Learn More](#)

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## *Special Events*

- **10/19/2018 | Commemorating 79th. Anniversary of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Oct 19-Oct 21, 1402Z-1402Z, W8E, Loveland, OH. United States Coast Guard Auxiliary District 8ER. 21.336 7.234. QSL. David Stroup, 6138 Misty Creek Dr., Loveland, OH 45140. [cgaux8@yahoo.com](mailto:cgaux8@yahoo.com)**

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## ARRL Contest Corner



Want to know about ARRL contests? >> [Click Here](#) << for the latest information from ARRL about contests. A generic ARRL contest calendar is also provided there that gives the weekends for all our events, to assist with long-term planning of your contest operations. The Contest Corral files include non-ARRL events.

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## School Club Roundup

**When - October 15-19, 2018**

**Objective:** To exchange QSO information with club stations that are part of an elementary, middle, high school or college. Non-school clubs and individuals are encouraged to participate.

Sponsored by the ARRL, its Hudson Division Education Task Force and the Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club (LIMARC) to foster contacts with and among school radio clubs.



Award certificates will be issued for the following US and DX categories: **Schools:** Elementary, Middle/Intermediate/Junior High School, High School and College/University, **Non-school Clubs and Individuals**

**Web Submission of Scores and Logs:** Click [here](#) for the SCR score entry website. Scores and logs for any School Club Roundup may be entered from the time the contest begins through the log submission deadline published below. A logs-received page is also maintained, and provisional scores will be published immediately following the log submission deadline. Thanks to WA7BNM for creating this new score reporting and publishing web site.

**Multipliers:** Note that a station can *only* count for a single multiplier as described in Rule 5 below. i.e. a contact may count for a "School" or a "Club" but not both. A "school club" counts as a "school" only. Contacts submitted claiming both multipliers will be scored according to the log submitted by the station contacted.

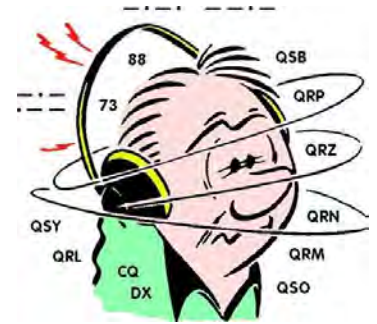
**Post Photos and Stories:** One of the best parts of School Club Roundup is showing off your team members and station. Other participants will enjoy hearing about how you did and reading the story of your contest. You can upload photos and text via the [ARRL Soapbox](#) web page. Stay updated on SCR. Send an email to: [SCR-L-subscribe@vahogroups.com](mailto:SCR-L-subscribe@vahogroups.com).

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## DX This Week

Received a note from my DX Mentor, "Uncle Frank." Uncle Frank took my challenge to see how many DX Entities could be worked on a "bad" day. (Low Sunspot activity, A & K numbers off – more on that later) On Sunday, while watching his beloved Patriots, Uncle Frank worked 20 entities including ZD7 – Saint Helena Island, SV5 – Dodecanese, and VK – Australia.



Take the challenge – How many entities can you work in a four-hour period? Any band, any mode – Just drop me a line and let me know – [aj8b@arrl.net](mailto:aj8b@arrl.net)

**DX Topic of the Week: QSL Cards.** Before the official launch of Logbook of the World, a physical QSL card was the only confirmation that you could submit that would show that you had worked one of the DXCC entities. Your QSL cards (100+) would have to be shipped to the DXCC desk at ARRL HQ in Newington, CT and the DXCC desk would review your cards to determine whether they were official. This could take 8 to 10 weeks or more and you were always concerned about getting them back! In addition to using LoTW to speed up processing, the DXCC program instituted DX Field Card Checkers. A list of certified checkers can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/dxcc-card-checker-master-list> . These dedicated volunteers review your cards to verify accuracy. When they are finished, you get the cards back while you wait.

I LOVE exchanging QSL cards with the stations I work. In fact, I post all cards I receive on Twitter as well as on my website. Logging software can be used to track your QSL cards, print QSL labels, print mailing labels, print your return labels, and even print your QSL card with the QSO on it!

Years ago, there was a QSL printer in Texas known as the "Little Print Shop." One of the things that they would do was to send you QSL card samples that would arrive BEFORE your official FCC license arrived. For many of us, it was the first notification that we had passed the test.



If you use surface mail to receive a QSL card from a DX entity, I might suggest using the services of William Plum. ([plumdx@msn.com](mailto:plumdx@msn.com)) He sells DX Stamps, air mail envelopes, and other DX supplies to increase the odds that you will receive a card.

"QSO Today" is a podcast by 4Z1UG, Eric Guth. Daily DX Editor/publisher W3UR, Bernie McClenny, was recently interviewed, covering how he got into ham radio and how he and his dad caught "the DX bug." <https://www.qsotoday.com/> W3UR has been the QST face of DX for a long time and this podcast is very interesting.

Finally, Bernie, W3UR, supplies us with a few items of planned activity:

- VK9X – Christmas Island will be activated on September 29<sup>th</sup> to October 6<sup>th</sup>.
- FR – Reunion Island will be activated October 9<sup>th</sup> to October 27<sup>th</sup>.
- FH – Mayotte will be activated by the same folks that activated Reunion starting on October 29<sup>th</sup> and continuing until November 6<sup>th</sup>.

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More details can be found at [www.dailydx.com](http://www.dailydx.com) Let me know what you are hearing, working and what QSLs you have received! I am also looking for questions, issues, or topics of the week to be featured – [aj8b@arri.net](mailto:aj8b@arri.net)

More info can be found at [www.swodxa.org](http://www.swodxa.org) or [www.aj8b.com](http://www.aj8b.com)  
Good Hunting!

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## **Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin #1381**

*(from Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW / OPDX / BARF80)*

Thanks to the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn PacketCluster Network, AB5K & the AR TelNet Clusters Network, NJ1Q & W1AW, NG3K & ADXO, W3UR & The Daily DX, K5GS, WB6RSE, W7GJ, K8GI, K8YSE, W8GEX & 60m DX News, W9ILY, DL1SBF, DL7UXG & The DX News Letter, DxCoffee.com, DXNews.com, DX-World.Net, ES1CW, F5NQL, F6AJA & Les Nouvelles DX, I1JQJ/IK1ADH & 425 DX News, I2MQP & DX Italia News, JH4RHF, OZ6OM & 50 MHz DX News, Sixitalia Weekly, VA3RJ & ICPO and VE2EBK for the following DX information.

**DXCC COUNTRY/ENTITY REPORT:** According to the AR-Cluster Network for the week of Sunday, 16th/September, through Sunday, 23rd/September there were 214 countries active. Countries available: 3A, 3B8, 3B9, 3D2, 3V, 3W, 4J, 4L, 4O, 4S, 4X, 5A, 5B, 5H, 5V, 5W, 5X, 5Z, 6W, 6Y, 7Q, 7X, 8P, 8Q, 8R, 9A, 9G, 9H, 9J, 9K, 9L, 9M2, 9M6, 9V, 9X, 9Y, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A9, AP, BV, BY, C3, CE, CE9, CM, CN, CP, CT, CT3, CU, CX, DL, DU, E4, E5/s, E7, EA, EA6, EA8, EA9, EI, EK, EL, EP, ER, ES, EU, EX, F, FG, FH, FK, FM, FO, FP, FR, FY, G, GD, GI, GJ, GM, GU, GW, HA, HB, HB0, HC, HH, HI, HK, HK0/a, HL, HP, HR, HS, HV, HZ, I, IS, J3, J6, J7, JA, JD/o, JT, JW, JX, JY, K, KG4, KH0, KH2, KH6, KH9, KL, KP2, KP4, LA, LU, LX, LY, LZ, OA, OD, OE, OH, OH0, OJ0, OK, OM, ON, OX, OY, OZ, P2, P4, PA, PJ2, PJ4, PY, PY0F, PZ, S0, S5, S7, S9, SM, SP, ST, SU, SV, SV5, SV9, T2, T32, T5, T7, T8, TA, TF, TG, TI, TJ, TK, TR, TY, UA, UA2, UA9, UK, UN, UR, V2, V3, V5, V7, V8, VE, VK, VK9N, VP2E, VP2M, VP8, VP9, VR, VU, XE, YA, YB, YI, YL, YN, YO, YS, YU, YV, Z2, Z3, Z6, Z8, ZA, ZB, ZD7, ZD9, ZF, ZL, ZP, ZS

\* PLEASE NOTE: The report "could" contain "Pirate/SLIM" operations or more likely a "BUSTED CALLSIGN". As always, you never know - "Work First Worry Later".

**3DA0, KINGDOM OF ESWATINI (Swaziland)** [Gene, K5GS, relayed the following; dated September 17th].  
3DA0AO Kingdom of eSwatini (Swaziland) [Cancelled].  
[edited] "Due to circumstances beyond his control Pista, HA5AO, will return to Hungary sooner than planned.

He will leave his equipment in the country and return at a future date. Unfortunately, he is not able to get on the air or participate in his planned humanitarian projects.  
Donors to his project will receive a refund."

**3W9, VIETNAM (Reminder).** By the time you read this, Jacek, SP5APW, will be done as 3W9JK/P from Cham Island (AS-162), and should be active as 3W9JK from Ho An City in the Quang Nam Province between September 22-27th. Activity will be on 20-6 meters using SSB. QSL via his home callsign, direct, by the Bureau or ClubLog's OQRS.

**5A, LIBYA.** YL Elham, 5A0YL, is now active from Tripoli, and was heard on 20 meters (14280 kHz between 1530-1730z). She is a new operator and is being mentored by Abubaker, 5A1AL. No other details are available, but we were told to watch QRZ.com.

**5R, MADAGASCAR** (Looking For Ops!). Alex, K2BB, announced this past week that he and his friend Paul, UU0JR, will be active as 5R8R (TBD) from Nosy Be Island (IOTA AF-057), Madagascar, between November 19-29th.

Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. They will participate in the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 24-25th) as a Multi-Single or possibly as Multi-2 entry (if they have enough ops...).

Alex states, "We will have 2 stations... Radios, so far: Kenwood TS-590, Icom IC-7300, Elecraft KX3 just in case, Odyssey 2 SDR for fun, one radio will have an Elecraft KPA-500 amplifier, second station will be 100W.... Antennas, so far: 2 verticals covering 160-80-40-30m, a Spiderbeam for 20...10m and possibly a Beverage if we have enough space for it. We are renting a private villa which can accommodate 4 people - huge garden, swimming pool, kitchen, cook, beach access, you name it... Sounds like fun? Then join us! But make up your mind quickly. If interested, email me directly at <[alex.k2bb@gmail.com](mailto:alex.k2bb@gmail.com)>."

**6O, SOMALIA.** Ali, EP3CQ, who works for United Nations in African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM), in Mogadishu, has received his 6O100 license to operate from Somalia. As soon as he has installed his station, Ali thinks he can be active on SSB, on 15 and 20 meters everyday between 1800-2000 East Africa Time (EAT) and on the weekend (Friday and Saturday) between 1400-1800. Look for more details to be forthcoming.

**7Q, MALAWI.** Don, K6ZO, will once again be active as 7Q6M from Embangweni Mission Hospital, in Northern Malawi, between October 23-29th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters. He will also be in the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 27-28th). QSL via K6ZO.

**8P, BARBADOS.** Tom, W2SC, will once again be active as 8P5A during the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 27-28th) as Single-Op/All-Band/High- Power entry. Look for him to do casual operating and testing before and after the contest on 160-10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via LoTW or direct to NN1N.

**9K, KUWAIT.** Abdallah, 9K2GS, will once again be active as 9K2K during the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 27-28th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/High- Power entry. QSL via EC5AC or LoTW.

**9X, RWANDA** (Just A Reminder!). Members of the Italian DX Team, who will be active as 9X0T between September 27th and October 10th, will also use a second callsign, 9X0Y, on FT8 only in the DXpedition mode. Again, suggested frequencies are: CW - 1826, 3530, 7025, 10115, 14030, 18068, 21030, 24890 and 28030 kHz  
SSB - 3775, 7090, 14260, 18128, 21260, 24950 and 28460 kHz

RTTY - 14084 kHz (only)

FT8 - 7056, 10131, 14090, 18095, 21091, 24911 and 28091 kHz The team has prepared a brief, step-by-step manual for configuring the "Hound Mode" of the WSJT-X program which can be found on their Web page.

QSL via I2YSB direct only. For more details and updates as well as a log search and an OQRS are available on: <http://www.i2ysb.com/idt>

**C2, NAURU** (6m EME Operation). Lance, W7GJ (ex WA3GPL, WA1JXN, WA1JXN/C6A, ZF2OC/ZF8, E51SIX, 3D2LR, 5W0GJ, E6M, TX5K, KH8/W7GJ, V6M, T8GJ, VK9CGJ and VK9XGJ), sent out the following on September 19th [edited]:

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**FP, ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON (NA-032).** Operators Ronan/F5TJP and Georg/DK7LX were active as FP/F5TJP and FP/DK7LX, respectively from St. Pierre Island this past week. By the time you read this, they should be active from Miquelon Island as well as on Langlade Island, using the same callsigns until September 26th (Ronan until September 30th). They do mention that their activity will be very limited because this is going to be mainly a holiday rather than a radio trip. QSL via their respective home callsigns. For DK7LX, you can use Clublog's OQRS, by the Bureau, direct, as well as LoTW. Everything is on paper log, so it will be sometime after the trip to upload the log.

**FR & FH, REUNION AND MAYOTTE ISLANDS (Update).** Willi, DJ7RJ, will be active as FR/DJ7RJ from Reunion Island (AF-016) between October 9-27th, and then as FH/DJ7RJ from Mayotte between October 29th and November 6th.

Activity will be on 160-10 meters with a focus on the lower bands using CW and SSB. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the Bureau. NO LoTW or ClubLog. ADDED NOTE (Per The Daily DX): Stefan, DL9HAL, will also be with Willi on Reunion Island (but not Mayotte) working SSB and FT8.

**HD8, GALAPAGOS ISLANDS.** The 7163 Group is pleased to announce that they will once again activate their "Protect the Galapagos Islands Wildlife DXpedition" to Santa Cruz Island (SA-004) in 2019. They will be active as HD8M from Santa Cruz Island between February 27th and March 6th. Activity is planned for operations on 80-10 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes (Primarily FT8). Suggested frequencies are:

CW - 3523, 7023, 10108, 14023, 18079, 21023, 24894 and 28023 kHz

SSB - 3785, 7163, 14210, 18130, 21285, 24955 and 28485 kHz

FT8 - 3567, 7056, 10131, 14090, 18095, 21091, 24911 and 28091 kHz

**JD1, OGASAWARA.** Kazu, JD1BNA (ex-JK1FXI), will once again be active from Hahajima (Mother) Island (AS-031) between October 24-28th. Activity will be mainly on 160/80/40 meters using mostly CW. QSL via JL1UTS, direct only.

**OJ0, MARKET REEF.** Pasi, OH3WS, is once again be active as OJ0W from Market Reef between September 22-29th. Activity will be limited to his spare time on 20-6 meters using mostly CW and some SSB. Pasi will try 60m on both CW and SSB, listen on 5354 kHz. QSL via OH3WS, by the Bureau or direct.

**P4, ARUBA.** Frank, PH2M, will be active as P4/PH2M from Aruba (SA-036) between November 17-29th. Activity will be holiday style on 80-10 meters, including the WARC bands, using SSB and FT8. QSL via his home callsign, by the Bureau, direct, or LoTW.

**PJ2, CURACAO (Special Event).** Members of the Curaçao Amateur Radio Group (C.A.R.G.) will activate the special event station, PJ2C, to celebrate the Harvest Full Moon on September 24th. Activity will be on 20 meters. QSL via EC5AHA: Toni Canto, C/ La Serrella 21 - 5, CP:46012 - Valencia, Spain. For more info, see: <https://carghamradio.wixsite.com/mysite/events>

**PJ4, BONAIRE.** Operators David/NA2AA, Noah/K2NG, Ron/KK9K and Scott/NE9U will be active as PJ4G from Radio Mountain Bonaire station (see pj4g.com or @pj4radio on Facebook) during the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 27-28th).

QSL-INFO from DB0SDX by Lothar, DL1SBF <[www.qsllinfo.eu](http://www.qsllinfo.eu)> [September 23rd]

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## *You've Got Cards – Waiting*

Hey Gang, here's a new department for you to keep an eye on. Yes, it's about QSL Cards without owners. Why without owners? The card sorters have the cards waiting, but they don't have a way to get these cards to their owners.

Now, if your call sign is listed here, or you know how to contact any of the folks listed, please let them know that they have QSL cards waiting for them, and that they will need to contact the appropriate card sorter to find out how to get their cards sent to them. Don't send anything to them until you've had a chance to contact them first and find out just what you need to do.

Here's several folks from the letter “**J**” that have cards waiting...

### **W8JGU and W8JI**

Don't know who to contact for your cards? Here's a link...

[http://arrl-greatlakes.org/8th\\_bureau.htm](http://arrl-greatlakes.org/8th_bureau.htm) Remember, it goes by your first letter of your suffix call sign.

The card sorters would also like me to remind everyone that this is the “Incoming” QSL Card Bureau. ALL “Outgoing” cards (cards that you send) go to the main card sorting area at ARRL Headquarters. Here's a link for the details on how to do that... <http://www.arrl.org/outgoing-qsl-service>

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## *Upcoming Hamfests*

### **10/06/2018 | Scioto Valley ARC Hamfest**

Location: Chillicothe, OH

Sponsor: Scioto Valley Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.qsl.net/w8bap/SVARC.html>

### **10/11-14/2018 | Microwave Update 2018 Convention**

Location: Fairborn, OH

Sponsor: Midwest VHF/UHF Society

Website: <http://www.microwaveupdate.org>

### **10/13/2018 | Parkersburg/Wood County Hamfest**

Location: Mineral Wells, WV

Sponsor: Wood County Emergency Communications

Website: <http://www.wc8ec.org>

### **10/13/2018 | Northwest Ohio ARC Hamfest**

Location: Lima, OH

Sponsor: Northwest Ohio ARC

Website: <http://nwoarc.com>

### **10/28/2018 | Massillon Hamfest**

Location: Massillon, OH

Sponsor: Massillon Amateur Radio Club

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

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

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## *Weather Underground and Ham Weather Stations*

Have you visited the webpage to see all the Weather Underground stations yet? I've just added another reporting station to the listing.



This is really great we are growing every week.! Here's a link to it... <http://arrl-ohio.org/wus.html>

We're starting to get a really good collection of stations all over. I know that there is a lot more than what we have listed. How's about sharing your weather information with all of us! All that you need to do is send me your Weather Underground ID and your call sign and I'll take it from there. Sent it to: [n8sy@n8sy.com](mailto:n8sy@n8sy.com) I think this will be a lot of fun for sure!

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## *Final.. Final..*



Hey Gang...

Like most weeks it's once again been a busy one for me! I've had fun visiting with all of you at club meetings and various other functions, the latest was the OH-KY-IN and Cleveland Hamfests this past weekend. I did a lot of driving, but it's always worth it to join all of you in having FUN!

Stan and I are still very active in getting out there and doing ARES Connect classes to not only show you how to get registered, but for those E.C.'s and D.E.C.'s that need to know how to setup events and such, we are getting everyone trained on how all of this system functions. It's a labor of love for both of us! Do you have a group of folks that could benefit from Stan or I coming and doing a class with them? Don't hesitate to ask us. We'd be happy to fit you in to the schedule for sure.

Now, while I'm talking about this subject... It's time for **YOU** to get registered in the new ARES Connect system, if you haven't already. I did an audit the other day and found some errors that I would like to let you know about. First and most importantly, we want you to be honest when answering all the questions about your training. Please, don't just hurry through the questions, read them carefully, if you don't understand something, please ask me, I'm here to answer your questions. We know that you mean well by answering that you have the needed courses in, but we are checking to make sure that you are in our statewide database when we are completing your registration. If you're not there, you won't get credit for the courses and you'll most likely get an email from your E.C. or me wanting to know where they are. You see, he needs them too. Now, this is actually a double-edged sword. Some of you have taken these courses and just haven't gotten copies of your certificates into the statewide database and your EC, shame on you!

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As you can now see, it's going to be extremely important for you to be in our database if you want any of your volunteer time to count! So, how can you find out if you are there? Easy, here's a link to our database...

<http://arri-ohio.org/SEC/special/ICS%20Complete%20by%20County%20and%20Name.pdf>

On this same subject, some of you noticed that you can acquire your Level 3 by substituting your ICS 300/400 with the following NIMS courses. Completing the following "FREE" and "ONLINE" courses will act as a 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.

Ok, now on to the upcoming S.E.T. Don't forget that the traditional date for the Simulated Emergency Test is the first full weekend in October. This year it is October 6th and 7th. Are you going to participate?

For those who want to send me Radiograms please send them through the Ohio Single Side-Band Net. They are on 3 times a day at 3.9725 (75-meters) and more often if there's enough traffic to warrant it. The folks on OSSBN will make sure that your Radiogram gets to me. Oh, here's one for ya'.. This might be a great time for you to take a look at form ICS-213. It's like a Radiogram, but not. That's the governments radiogram and we do need to practice using it. You can find this and many of the more popular ICS forms here:

<http://arri-ohio.org/SEC/forms-reference-materials.html>

Once again I want to remind those of you who have your OpenSpots/DVMM and similar devices that are operating on frequencies that are not designated for such devices, I hope that you got the hint these past several weeks that operating in the 435 – 438 range is not advisable. Yes, there are still some who don't seem to understand that even a signal as weak as a hundred milliwatts can interfere with other devices that ARE designated for use in that frequency range. It's not only good operating practice, but good sense to make sure that you have your equipment operating where it won't interfere with others.

That's going to do it for this time around. Stay safe, and most of all... have FUN!!

Scott, N8SY

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## ***YL / XYL's - Who Has Been Licensed The Longest?***

Hey YL's / XYL's I did hear from one YL a few weeks ago... It's Pam Deeds, KA8JQP. She's been licensed since May 27, 1980. Anyone else want to step forward?



Now don't be shy about this ladies, I'm going to ask only one more time. I promise that I won't ask you your age, just how long have you been licensed. Send me the information [n8sy@n8sy.com](mailto:n8sy@n8sy.com)

*I do want to give John Levo, W8KIW, from the Monday Morning Memo a great big thanks for coming up with this wonderful idea! Thanks, so much John.*

Odds and Ends



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



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

Don't have the latest FREE Adobe Acrobat Reader? Here's a link to Adobe's latest FREE version. → [Adobe Reader](#)



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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](mailto:n8sy@n8sy.com) and I'll get them added to the Ohio Section Emailing list.



We now have many thousands of readers receiving these newsletters weekly.

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



You can always "[Opt-Out](#)" at any time if you feel this is not what you were expecting. It's fun and very informative. All of your favorite past newsletters are now archived too. You can go back at any time and read them. Just go to: <http://arrl-ohio.org/news/>

Got questions, concerns or would just like to sit and chat awhile? Heck, I'll even buy the coffee!! Give me a call at (419) 512-4445 or email me at: [n8sy@n8sy.com](mailto:n8sy@n8sy.com)



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

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*PostScript is produced as a weekly supplement to the Ohio Section Journal (OSJ). 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 from around the world!*