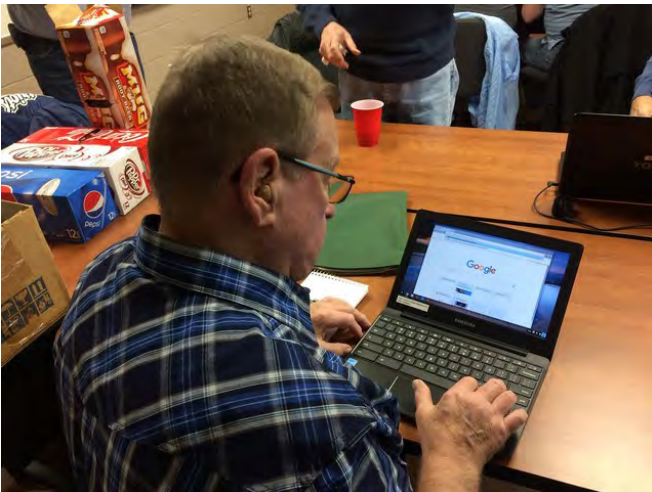


PostScript
**Ohio
Section**

November 06th Edition

- [Bad Day](#)
- [One Question Questionnaire](#)
- [Digital Modes Changing Complexion of Bands](#)
- [Upcoming Hamfests](#)
- [Handbook Give Away](#)
- [Carbon Monoxide \(CO\) Poisoning](#)
- [Fun Things To Do](#)
- [Peep from the Veep](#)
- [Final.. Final](#)



And You Think You're Having A Bad Day?

Two Texas Highway Patrol Officers were conducting speeding enforcement on Highway 77, just south of Kingsville, Texas.

One of the officers was using a hand-held radar device to check speeding vehicles approaching the town of Kingsville. The officers were suddenly surprised when the radar gun began reading 300 miles per hour and climbing. The officer attempted to reset the radar gun, but it would not reset and then it suddenly turned off.



Just then a deafening roar over the mesquite tree tops on Highway 77 revealed that the radar had in fact, locked on to a USMC F/A-18 Hornet which was engaged in a low-flying exercise near its Naval Air home base location in Kingsville.

Back at the Texas Highway Patrol Headquarters in Corpus Christi the Patrol Captain fired off a complaint to the U.S. Naval Base Commander in Kingsville for shutting down his equipment.

The reply came back in true USMC style:

"Thank you for your letter . . .

"You may be interested to know that the tactical computer in the Hornet had detected the presence of, and subsequently locked on to, your hostile radar equipment and automatically sent a jamming signal back to it, which is why it shut down."

"Furthermore, an air-to-ground missile aboard the fully armed aircraft had also automatically locked on to your equipment's location."

"Fortunately, the marine pilot flying the Hornet recognized the situation for what it was, quickly responded to the missile system alert status and was able to override the automated defense system before the missile was launched to destroy the hostile radar position on the side of Highway 77, south of Kingsville."

"The pilot suggests you cover your mouths when swearing at them, since the video systems on these jets are very high tech."

"Sergeant Johnson, the officer holding the radar gun, should get his dentist to check his left molar. It appears the filling is loose.

Also, the snap is broken on his holster."

Semper Fi

[TOP](#)

Handbook Give Away

Hey Gang..



And the winner is...

Steve Corvin, N8AHH

Since we've had another a great response (well over 2,200) with the Give Away this month, I added some extra goodies to "Give Away" as well !!

So, here are the additional winners, and what they won:

Robert Schenk, KO8RS - Ohio Section Hat

Douglas Mansor, WA8UWV - Ohio Section Hat

Joe Blazer, AB8ZK - A year's supply (12) Ohio Section Sticky Note Pads

I want to thank EVERYONE that participated!! See ya' real soon with the Thanksgiving Special Drawing!!

Keep looking for the big RED arrow on the main page and get registered for a chance to win!!

You never know, it may be YOU..

[TOP](#)

One Question Questionnaire

Hey Gang...

There's another NEW – one question – questionnaire on the Ohio Section Website! <http://arrlohio.org> I was very surprised to see that a little only a little over 39% of you stated on the last poll that you are up-to-date on your First Aid Training. This poll should tell ALL of us that we need to do better, and maybe use this winter to get updated on our training. Since accidents happen to all of us at any time, you might want to make sure that you get this very valuable training soon!



Now... There's a new question up there... **Do you have a working Carbon Monoxide (CO) detector in your ham shack?**

The survey will only take 2 seconds for you to answer it, and you can see how your answer stacks up with others instantly. If you haven't done it yet, please do. I really want to hear from you. Hey.. If you've got a question that you'd like to see on our questionnaire, please send it to me!

[TOP](#)

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING

Hi Gang,

I'm sure that a number of you are asking what the heck is the Section Manager writing about this stuff, it's not Amateur Radio related!! Well my friends, you are very mistaken. It's not only Amateur Radio related, it's something that as a HAM operator you may not ever have thought about. Where's your ham shack located? In the basement, garage or out building? Most generally ham shacks are **not** in the living room or main part of the house. As such, heating devices are usually some sort of a supplemental heater/furnace, and that's why I'm writing about this.

First, let's describe what Carbon Monoxide (CO) is. Carbon Monoxide (CO) is the poisonous gases emitted from carbon fueled heat sources (i.e.. gas or fuel oil furnaces, wood burning fire places or stoves, kerosene heaters, propane heaters). I could go on but I think you get the idea. It's colorless, odorless and it will definitely kill you if you breathe very much of it in. How does this gas kill? It actually migrates into the blood stream and replaces the oxygen in your blood with the Carbon Monoxide. Once it invades your blood stream it will be with you for a very long time, in fact, most of your life! Just ask any firefighter about that. Going into burning buildings without a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) on will definitely subject you to Carbon Monoxide poisoning, and it takes years and years to get it out of your system, if ever. Sometimes, if consumed in a large enough quantity, you may need a complete blood transfusion to just keep you alive. Yes Virginia, it is that deadly!!



Why am I writing about this? It's very personal to me. A number of years ago a very close friend (and his entire family) died in their sleep because they consumed Carbon Monoxide (CO) without knowing it. They lived in an old house on the north side of Mansfield and because it was old, it was drafty with leaks around the doors, windows and the walls didn't have any insulation in them. We had gotten a cold snap in early November, and back in the middle 1970's kerosene heaters were all the rage to supplement heat in just this kind of house. Well, with the help of my co-workers we were able to purchase a big kerosene heater to help them through this cold snap. They got the heater all set up and running and all was fine for the first several days, then on the third day the dad came to work complaining of a very bad headache. None of us thought much about it that day and the dad continued his job on the assembly line with the rest of us. The next afternoon we all found out that the heater had been malfunctioning and every member of the family had died of this very dangerous gas.

I was absolutely torn apart. I had been one of several people at work that helped take up the collection to purchase the heater. It took me a long, long time to get over that. Don't get me wrong, there's nothing wrong with using these types of supplemental heating sources, but be very careful when you do. At that time CO detectors were truly non-existent for homes, and the ones that were available were for scientific and commercial use, and cost hundreds and hundreds of dollars. That's all changed now. CO detectors are as cheap now as smoke detectors. You can get one for as little as \$10 now. That's an extremely cheap form of protection from this deadly gas.



Winter is almost here. I don't know about how it is at your house, but here in the little burg of Lexington, when it gets cold outside, you'll see the smoke coming out of many chimneys around here. That means that the temperature has dropped to below where it is comfortable. This is the point where the furnaces come on and people start thinking about lighting up the fireplaces and so forth. Now if these devices haven't been recently serviced, birds can make nests in the chimney's and like your car, the heat source most likely needs a tune-up to make sure that it's running efficiently and safely. Having the chimney stuffed up with bird nests or the heat source not burning correctly can cause Carbon Monoxide to accumulate in your house without you even knowing it. That's where the CO detector comes into play... Please, please buy one, or two of these really inexpensive CO detectors for your safety and use it! During my trips around the state.

By the way, it's not all about detection either. Do you have a properly rated fire extinguisher within your reach? If not, get one. Learn how to properly use it. It will save you from a lot of damage if you know how to use it properly. Don't assume that all you do is pull the pin and squeeze the trigger. It's about knowing how to sweep and aim at the base of the fire. Do yourself a HUGE favor, buy an extinguisher or two and teach your entire family how to properly use it! Yes, even the kids need to know how to properly use an extinguisher!



If you didn't hear, just this past week **Kidde** announced a **major recall** on their brand of Fire Extinguisher.

Please, take a minute and check this recall out. The recall covers 134 models of push-button and plastic-handle extinguishers in the U.S. and Canada made from 1973 through Aug. 15 of this year. It includes models that were previously recalled in March of 2009 and February of 2015.

The government says the extinguishers can become clogged and fail to spray when needed. Also, the nozzle can come off with enough force to pose an injury hazard. Including the death, the CPSC says there have been 391 reports of extinguishers failing to work properly or of nozzles coming off, resulting in 16 injuries that included smoke inhalation and minor burns. Also, there were about 91 reports of property damage linked to the problem.

Owners should contact Kidde to ask for a free replacement and for instructions on how to return recalled models. Kidde can be reached at (855) 271-0773 or at www.kidde.com.

[TOP](#)

New Digital Modes Changing Complexion of Bands and Perhaps of Ham Radio

(from arrl bulletins)

The wave of software-based digital modes over the past several years has altered the atmosphere of the HF bands. Some suggest the popularity of modes that make it possible to contact stations neither operator can even hear has resulted in fewer CW and SSB signals on bands like 6 meters and 160 meters. Traditional modes require far more interaction and effort on the part of the operator; the newer digital modes not so much. The recent advent of the still-beta "quick" FT8 mode, developed by Steve Franke, K9AN, and Joe Taylor, K1JT — the "F" and the "T" in the mode's moniker — has brought this to a head. Some now wonder if FT8 marks the end of an era and the start of a new, more minimalist age.

“We’ve been as surprised as anyone about the rapid uptake of FT8 for making QSOs on the HF bands,” Taylor told ARRL this week. Rather than viewing FT8 as a total game-changer, he sees a dividing line between such digital modes and more traditional modes.

“SSB and CW are general-purpose modes,” Taylor asserted. “They are good for ragchewing, DXing, contesting, emergency communications, or whatever. FT8 and the other modes in [WSJT-X](#) are special-purpose modes. They are designed for making reliable, error-free contacts using very weak signals — in particular, signals that may be too weak for the more traditional modes to be usable, or even too weak to hear.”



Taylor notes that the information exchanged in most FT8, JT65, and other digital-mode contacts “is little more than the bare minimum for what’s considered to be a valid contact.” In addition to call signs and signal reports, stations may exchange grid squares and acknowledgments.

Radio amateurs recently commented in response to a Top Band Reflector post, in which Steve Ireland, VK6VZ, averred that because of FT8, “160-meter DXing has changed, perhaps forever” in recent weeks. Ireland said he downloaded FT8 but just couldn’t bring himself to use it on the air. “My heart isn’t in it,” he wrote. “My computer will be talking to someone else’s computer, and there will be no sense of either a particular person’s way of sending CW or the tone of their voice. The human in radio has somehow been lost.”

In his [blog](#), Steve McDonald, VE7SL, compiled not only Ireland’s posts, but some responses to it, although not identified by name or call sign. One commenter suggested that the game-changing aspect of FT8 is that those who typically operate CW or SSB will gravitate to FT8. “The amount of activity on the FT8 frequency of any band is phenomenal,” the commenter observed. A few complained that no skill is involved in making contacts using computer-based digital modes.

Another suggested that FT8 is already falling victim to its own success, with too many stations crowding around the designated FT8 frequencies. Others were more philosophical, with remarks along the lines of this one: “It is allowing people who have smaller stations the opportunity to get on and use their radios and a computer to make contacts they never would have been able to make. This is great for ham radio!”

Taylor would agree. As he sees it, FT8 won’t replace modes such as CW or SSB. “Nevertheless, it’s clear that — at least in the short term — many hams enjoy making rapid-fire minimal QSOs with other hams, all over the world, using modest ham equipment,” he said. “For this purpose, FT8 shines.”



Now with all of this information, let me remind all of you that here in Ohio we have a HF Digital Net that meets every Tuesday night (OHDEN). Here’s a link to the site for all the information about the net...

<https://www.theohden.org/>

[TOP](#)

Fun Things To Do

(from various newsletters and sources)



11/11/2017 | Coast Guard Auxiliary 78th.

Anniversary

Nov 11-Nov 12, 1402Z-1402Z, W8E, Loveland, OH.

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. 7.2340.

Certificate. Dave Stroup,

6138 Misty Creek Dr.,

Loveland, OH 45140.



November Sweepstakes November 18-19

Phone: 2100 UTC Saturday through 0259 UTC Monday.

2017 CQ World Wide DX Contest

CW: November 25-26

Starts 0000 UTC Saturday; Ends 2359 UTC Sunday

Log Deadlines: CW – 2359 UTC Dec. 1, 2017



12/02/2017 | Tigers 44444 The Holidays

Dec 2, 1400Z-2000Z, K8TGR, Newton Falls, OH. Newton Falls Technology

and Multimedia Club. 146.52 14.275 14.250. QSL. NfHSTMC, 909 1/2

Milton Blvd, Newton Falls, OH 44444.

Will be running a special event station at the 2nd Annual Tigers 44444 The Holidays Craft Show and School Holiday Spectacular. Check in to receive a special QSL card. www.k8tgr.org

Seneca Amateur Radio Club Classes

Amateur Radio Technician License Class 2018, a free training course with the only cost being materials and test fee.

The Seneca Radio Club (W8ID) is presenting the course which will be held at the Public Safety Building at the Seneca County Fairgrounds.

The start date is **January 10, 2018** from 6:30pm to 9:30pm and will meet one night each week for 12 weeks. An application for the course can be found on the W8ID website at www.W8ID.org.



[TOP](#)

Upcoming Hamfests

11/18/2017 | Indiana State Convention (Fort Wayne Hamfest and Computer Expo)
Location: Fort Wayne, IN
Sponsor: Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society
Website: <http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com>



12/02/2017 | FCARC WinterFest
Location: Delta, OH
Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club Website: <http://k8bxq.org/hamfest>

This rounds out the year for hamfests here in Ohio. Make sure that you bookmark <http://arrl-ohio.org/hamfests.html> for the most up-to-date listing of hamfest coming in 2018!

[TOP](#)

Peep from the Veep

(Mark, WJ8WM & The Wobbly Oscillator)

I was looking for a file recently in my Amateur Radio folder and came across the Go Bag checklist. This got me thinking we should check the contents every so often to make sure the items are up to date. I thought maybe this is something to add to the list of tasks that we do at the time changes. In addition to changing the batteries in our smoke detectors and furnace filters let's inventory our Go Bags.

When it's time to go, it's not the time to check that the batteries are fresh, medicines are within date, protein bars are good, etc. Now is a better idea while you are relaxed and aren't hyped about deployment. No need to throw any of those items out, just move them to your regular use and restock your bag with fresh items.



Those batteries will work fine in the TV remote and the protein bar is fine to snack on in the car! You may wish to throw those extra clothes in the wash to freshen them up. Better check your spare phone charger cable fits the new phone you got last month.

And by the way, back to your smoke detector they only have a useful life of about 10 years. It may be time for a new unit instead of just replacing the battery.

[TOP](#)

Final.. Final..

Hey Gang,

Wow, time is really flying by fast now. Speaking of time, where you one of the unlucky ones that forgot to set you clocks back yesterday? It happened to me with the clock in my car. I got everything else changed back, but I just didn't remember about the clock in the car. Sure enough, I was an hour early for everything!!

I had another busy week last week with attending LEPC meetings, to doing a presentation at the LEARA Club meeting, to hosting the ARRL Table at the Grant Hamfest in Georgetown. Oh, by the way, if you hadn't noticed, hamfests are drawing to a close for 2017. We have just 2 more this year for you to attend, and one of those is out of state!



This week we all will be celebrating Veterans Day. The traditional day is November 11th, but this year the government day off will be this Friday, November 10th. Give a veteran a hug, for it's because of him/her that you have your freedom.

And, let's also not forget "The Gales of November" – November 10th when the Edmond Fitzgerald, a Great Lakes ore freighter went down in Lake Superior, killing all 29 souls onboard. It will be 42 years ago this Friday.

C.Q. C.Q.. 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. I urge all of you to make sure that everyone, regardless of whether they are a League member or not, gets signed up to receive these Newsletters. You can always "[Opt-Out](#)" at any time if you feel this is not what you were expecting.

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

73, for now, I will catch you on down the log for sure.

Scott, N8SY...

-sk-

[TOP](#)



PostScript is produced as a weekly supplement to the Ohio Section Journal (OSJ). I sincerely hope that you have enjoyed this edition of PostScript, 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!