

PostScript
 **Ohio
Section**

November 13th Edition

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L to R: Jeff Schneller N2HPO, Richard Carey KB8OTZ, Deborah Kerr KC2GPV 2017 NYC Marathon communications Director, Richard Wyncoop KD8PHG (Sarge Staff), and Mark Griggs KB8YMN (DEC7)



Field Day Results

Hey Gang,

The listing below are the results from the 2017 Field Day Operations. I've listed the top 10 stations from each category from Ohio and their ranking within the country. Yes, we do have several clubs/groups that have ranked **Number 1** in the country this year!!!

Ranking	Call-Sign	Points	Club		Ranking	Call-Sign	Points
3 or More Person Club/Non-Club - Portable					1 or 2 Person Club/Non-Club - Portable		
1A							
2nd	W3USA	7434	Not Case ARC		1B - 1 Operator		
1A Commercial					1st	K1LT	5734
5th	W8BXG	864	Bearcat DX Club		3rd	K8BTU	3986
2A					4th	K8RYU	3860
7th	W8DXA	9944	Northern Ohio DX Association		1B 1 Operator - Battery		
2A - Battery					9th	NR8Z	3285
4th	N8Q	2355	Cincinnati QRP		10th	KS8M	3160
3A - Battery					1B 2 Operator - Battery		
5th	N8A	3745	Ohio Valley Experimenters Club		1st	N8PW	5730
3A - Commercial					2B 2 Operator - Commercial		
6th	W8CCA	3700	Coshocton County ARA		2nd	K8NEO	898
4A					4C		
3rd	K8BF	13186	PCARS		1st	K8LL	598
4A - Commercial					Home Stations - Commercial Power		
1st	K8EEN	4530	Mt Vernon ARC		1D		
5A					9th	W8TM	557
9th	NW8S	8154	Lorain County Wireless Ops		3D		
5A - Commercial					4th	W8VM	1990
2nd	K8UU	3440	Drake RC		5th	W8BAP	1918
6A					Home Stations - Emergency Power		
2nd	N8BC	11720	Lake County ARA		1E		
7A					1st	KW8N	11565
6th	W8HHF	5566	TMRA		3E		
8A					10th	W8CCI	2684
6th	W8QLY	7652	MVARA		4F		
					1st	K8ES + W8JK	9188
					2nd	W8FY	6164

Which Way Do I Go – Analog, D-Star, Fusion or DMR?

I know that this year you have been hearing a lot from me about DMR or Digital Mobile Radio. Some of you have expressed some concerns that I am wanting to use DMR for everything! Well, I'm here to tell ya', that it ain't so!



DMR, D-Star and Fusion all have their place in the digital world for sure, and so does IRLP and Echolink. Which one is better? Take your pick. It's like asking someone what is the best car. Some will pick Chevy, some Ford. It all depends on what you like, and what you can afford.

Yes, I'm sure that's not the answer that a few of you expected! But, the simple truth of the matter is this, if your area has a lot of D-Star repeaters in it, then D-Star will most likely be the preferred mode. The same holds true for Fusion, DMR, analog FM, Echolink and IRLP as well. It all depends on what repeaters populate your area, if any, and what you can afford.

Why do I talk about DMR so much? I feel that it's the most cost effective for the user right now. Let's face it, hams are cheap. We want the best of everything for the cheapest price we can get. The average price for a single band DMR hand-held is just around \$80. That's pretty inexpensive. D-Star and Fusion have very few



manufactures, thus very few choices in models and price. DMR, with its open architecture, has many different manufactures that are all fighting for your attention, thus a lower price. But fear not, if you already own a D-Star or Fusion radio you still can connect to DMR via a "Connect Bridge" or C-Bridge for short. So, you see a whole new expanded world of digital is now at our disposal, not to mention the OpenSpots and MMDVM boards and so forth.

Now I don't want to leave out our HF Digital guys here either. Which sound card and HF rig is best? The one that you own is my answer. You see, again, it all depends on what you want to do with it, and how much money you have to throw at it.

During any emergency situation here in Ohio, we will use whatever means we have at our disposal to get the communications through. It may be Digital HF. It may be DMR or D-Star or Fusion or CW or Side-Band or even analog FM. We will utilize any mode or band that will do what we need to do, at the time we need to do it, regardless.



I've heard some of you state that using DMR, D-Star or Fusion is just not Amateur Radio because it's hooked to the internet. Aren't these digital repeaters just like any other repeater? Yes, they are! When the internet is available to them, they become an even more valuable tool for our toolbox, but when that option isn't there, it's still a repeater none-the-less. Now, I will say that IRLP and Echolink rely exclusively on an internet connection in order to use them. So, if the connection fails, you are out of luck. Not so with the repeaters. They are still there, and repeating away. Yes, they are now a standalone repeater at this point, but they still can be utilized just the same as any analog repeater will be.



Now if you noticed, I have not said anywhere that the internet fails. It doesn't, in fact, the internet has never gone down! No, I'm not crazy, it hasn't. What does happen is your connection to the internet fails, but the internet itself keeps on truckin', whether you're connected to it or not!

Now, what's making my mouth water for DMR more than the other digital machines is that fact that we now have over 70 repeaters interconnected within the state. Far more than D-Star or Fusion combined! IRLP and Echolink have a pretty good selection, but again, you have to be connected to the internet to make those two options work. So, having this many repeaters at our disposal makes the possibilities of what we can accomplish even better. And, when you add in the fact that through a C-Bridge you can increase your numbers by including D-Star and Fusion repeaters, it really blows the mind! But, even with all of this said, it's still "JUST ANOTHER TOOL" for the toolbox.

I wish I could tell ya' that we have the perfect mode that will never fail, and will always be at our fingertips to use when everything else is failing, but we don't. What we do have, that no one else does, is the wide range of frequencies and modes to use when nothing else seems to be working. That's what makes us (Amateur Radio) so valuable. We are the experimenters and builders. We have modes that can put a signal through when all you hear is noise. If you don't believe that, check-in on [OHDEN](#) sometime. It's really hard to understand just how your soundcard heard something intelligible out of all that racket, but it does. And, those guys are doing it every week!

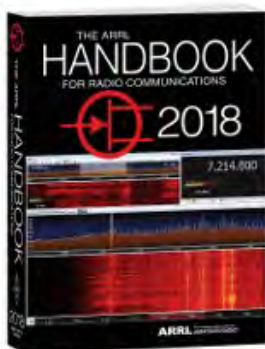
I do want to ease everyone's mind on this subject. We will not abandon the analog repeaters, HF or any of the other modes that we have available to us for DMR only. That would be disastrous. What we will do is to utilize the mode of operation that best fits the situation at hand, rest assured. Analog repeaters are still the most populated repeaters in our state. They will be used along with any other mode that will help us get the communications through.

Now that you know how the Ohio Section will go about operating in emergencies, go out and have FUN!!



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Handbook Give Away



Hey Gang,

Thanksgiving coming up very soon, and I want to do something special to celebrate! So, be on the lookout for the big RED arrow on the Ohio Section website, which indicates the drawing has begun.

I'm not going to let the cat out of the bag just yet on what we are doing "special", but let me tell you this, it will be FUN and it will be rewarding for sure!!

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One Question Questionnaire

Hey Gang...

There's another NEW – one question – questionnaire on the Ohio Section Website! <http://arrlohoio.org> I was very surprised to see that only about 60% of you stated on the last poll that you have a Carbon Monoxide (CO) detector in your shack.

These results should tell ALL of us that we need to definitely do better, remember, you may be saving a life, and it may just be YOURS.



Now... Let's have a little fun with this next question and see just how many of you are like me and have some creature features built into your shack. **“Does your Ham Shack have a 32 inch or larger TV in it?”**

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!

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Fire Extinguisher Recall

If you didn't hear or read this before, you really need to take a look at your fire extinguishers, I've had quite a few folks tell me that they have found some of these defective extinguishers in their house just after I ran this story last week!!



Kidde announces 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.

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Fun Things To Do

(from various newsletters and sources)



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 4444 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.



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What Happened on this Date – November 13th

1980 – US spacecraft Voyager 1 sends back 1st close-up pictures of Saturn

1982 – The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is dedicated in Washington, D.C.

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!

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Announcing: The ARRL International Grid Chase!

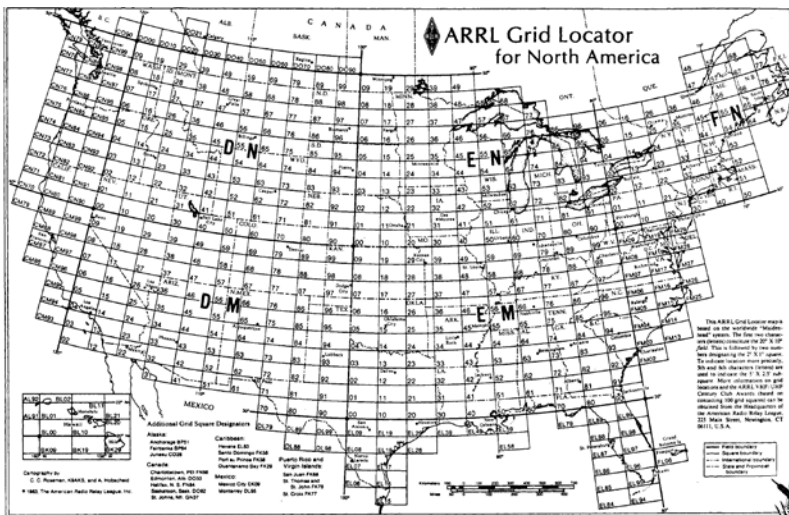
(from arrl bulletins)



A new and exciting operating event will kick off on January 1, 2018, at 0000 UTC (New Year's Eve in US time zones), when the [ARRL International Grid Chase](#) gets under way. The year-long event hopes to build on the success of the highly successful 2016 National Parks on the Air (NPOTA). The objective is to work stations on *any* band (*except* 60 meters) in as many different Maidenhead grid squares as possible, and then upload your log data to ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW). [Registration](#) is free, and it costs nothing to use LoTW. Many hams are familiar with grid squares from the VHF/UHF and satellite realms, and everyone lives in one. ARRL's VUCC is based on grid squares, and some contests on HF, as well as on VHF

and UHF, also use them as a scoring factor.

John Morris, G4ANB, came up with the locator system, which the VHF Working Group adopted in 1980 at a meeting in Maidenhead, England — thus the term “Maidenhead grid square.” The system divvies up the entire globe into 324 fields, each containing 100 grid squares 1° latitude by 2° longitude in size. With 32,400 potential grid squares, it's not likely that anyone will run out of challenges, even though some grid squares are surrounded entirely by water, are in areas that are uninhabited, or are difficult to access.



If you don't know your grid square, David Levine, K2DSL, has an [online calculator](#). Just enter a postal address, ZIP code or a call sign, and his site will tell you the grid square for that location. For example, enter "W1AW" and the site will return "FN31pr." For the purposes of the ARRL International Grid Chase, though, just the two initial letters and the two numbers that follow (e.g., FN31) are all you need to know.

Once you get active in the chase and start uploading your log data, each new grid square contact confirmed through LoTW will count toward your [monthly total](#). Getting started is simple: Turn on the radio and call CQ or "CQ

Grid Chase," or listen for others doing the same. Make the contact, exchange grid squares, log it, and move on to another. At the end of each month, your totals on the Grid Chase Leader Board will reset to zero, although the system retains all monthly data to determine top finishers in various categories at the end of the year.

Any contact you make in 2018 can count for your Chase score; it doesn't have to involve an exchange of grid squares. As long as the other operators participate in LoTW, you'll get credit automatically when they upload their logs. This means that contest contacts will also count, as will contacts with special event stations, or other on-air activity that uses LoTW to confirm contacts.

Some radio amateurs live in sparsely populated grid squares, and if you're one of those, you could find yourself handling a pileup! Expeditions to hard-to-reach or rare grid squares will undoubtedly evolve. You also can travel to one of those grid squares yourself. Some vehicle or hand-held GPS units can be set to display when you are in a particular grid square. Apps are available for smartphones or tablets, such as *Ham Square* for iOS devices or *HamGPS* for Android devices.

There are no restrictions on modes or bands, as long as they are legal. Satellite contacts are valid for the Chase. The event is open to *all* radio amateurs.

Awards

As all contacts are uploaded to LoTW, participants may use their contacts toward other [ARRL awards](#), in addition to the overall monthly and annual Grid Chase recognitions. These other ARRL awards include the grid-based VHF-UHF Century Club (VUCC) and Fred Fish Memorial Award, as well as Worked All States (WAS), WAS Triple Play, DX Century Club (DXCC), and Worked All Continents (WAC).



Complete details of the ARRL International Grid Chase will appear in the December 2017 issue of *QST*. The digital edition is available on Friday, November 10.

For more information, [contact](#) the ARRL Contest Branch.

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Final.. Final..

Hey Gang,

Wow, can you believe the weather we had last week? According to the Ohio EMA report we had over 10 confirmed touchdowns spread out all over Ohio from the storms on November 5th. They ranged from a low of EF0 to a high of EF2 with a lot of damage to trees and roofs and outbuildings.

I had another busy week last week with working on some changes to the Ohio Section website. Check it out, the known Ohio Talk Groups and DMR Nets that were updated, as well as the "Line A" webpage. Thanks to Greg, WD9FTZ for sending me the updates on the Talk Groups and Nets, as well as finding a really fascinating map that you can zoom right down to the "frog's hair" on finding the exact location of "Line A". I also updated the code plug from Greg, W8DOH for the TYT MD-2017 dual-band radios.



I got to attend the Alliance Club meeting this past week where they raised over \$500 for toys for the needy kids in their area for Christmas, the Aladdin Shrine ARC where we discussed the 2018 Columbus Hamfest & Ohio Section Conference, by the way, the date for the hamfest will be August 4th, so mark your calendars now!! Janie and I attended the CORC Potluck Dinner on Sunday as well. As I always do, I had a blast with everyone. Thanks for the great hospitality!

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-

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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 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!