



December 9th Edition

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ARRL Asks FCC to Dismiss Petition Seeking Declaratory Ruling on Encoded Message Rule

ARRL has asked the FCC to dismiss a *Petition for Declaratory Ruling* filed by New York University (NYU), that in ARRL's view proposes a new interpretation of the rule — Section 97.113(a)(4) — prohibiting “messages encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning.” In its [December 2 filing](#), ARRL said NYU's call to “clarify” the rule's meaning to prohibit “effectively encrypted or encoded messages, including messages that cannot be readily decoded over the air for true meaning,” is not only vague but could weaken the prohibition against encryption.

ARRL pointed out that the FCC rule prohibiting “messages encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning,” is essentially the same as what appears in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) *Radio Regulations* applying to all countries. ARRL made clear that it continues to support rules prohibiting encrypted messages on the amateur bands, even for limited emergency communication purposes, and the ARRL Board reiterated that opposition last July.

In its comments, ARRL said that NYU's request that the FCC adopt its suggested language would introduce ambiguity and confusion in the application of a rule that's clearly understood to prohibit encrypted messages. ARRL noted that Morse code is encoded and would fall within the prohibition as proposed by NYU. “The very fact that messages sent in CW are ‘encoded’ by any definition of the term starkly demonstrates the problem with this proposal,” ARRL said.

ARRL said that adding the word “effectively” would make the definition even more vague by including all encoded messages plus an additional set of undefined messages, the extent of which is unknown. Similarly, ARRL maintained, it is “unclear and undetermined what the petitioner may mean by “effectively encrypted.” Encryption is a binary proposition, ARRL pointed out, and the meaning either is hidden from all but the intended recipient(s) or it is not; a message cannot be considered “encrypted” if the means to enable non-recipients to understand the message are generally available.

“Adding the modifier ‘effectively’ to ‘encrypted’ converts clear meaning into vague uncertainty,” ARRL asserted. FCC rules explicitly authorize radio amateurs to use new digital techniques on the condition that the techniques be described adequately and available publicly, ARRL said, pointing to multiple filings in the FCC record from individuals who have successfully used the public descriptions to decode the digital techniques with which NYU has expressed concern.

NYU has not presented any information to demonstrate that the FCC's current rule is not being complied with by digital innovators, ARRL said, and adoption of NYU's petition would create more questions for the FCC than it would answer when the FCC may be called upon to apply the petition's vague language in specific cases. “We are unaware of any enforcement case in which the Commission is experiencing difficulty in understanding and applying the prohibition against encrypted messages,” ARRL maintained.

What the petitioner regards as violations “augurs against its proposal to interpret in some new fashion the international and domestic prohibition,” ARRL said. “For example,” ARRL continued, “the petitioner asserts, without any basis in fact, that dynamic compression techniques effectively encrypt or encode communications.”

Such techniques are widely recognized ways to increase the efficiency of digital transmissions,” ARRL noted that comments in the record clearly state that signals using dynamic compression are being decoded by third-party listeners.

“The Commission has addressed amateur use of digital signals in multiple proceedings [and] there has been no showing that the current regulatory scheme is deficient in prohibiting encrypted messages,” ARRL concluded. “To the contrary, adoption of the petitioner’s proposals would add confusion — rather than clarity — and diverge from the international consensus on prohibiting encrypted messages while fostering vibrant experimentation with digital techniques.”

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FCC Amending Amateur Radio RF Exposure Safety Rules

The FCC is amending its Part 97 Amateur Service rules relating to RF exposure safety. In a [lengthy document](#) in ET Docket 19-226 released on December 4 that addresses a broad range of RF safety issues, the FCC said current amateur radio RF exposure safety limits will remain unchanged, but that the amateur-specific exemption from having to conduct an RF exposure evaluation will be replaced by the FCC’s general exemption criteria. Radio amateurs have always had to comply with RF exposure limits, but certain stations have been exempt from having to conduct evaluations based only upon power and frequency. The Commission indicated that by and large, if an RF source was “categorically excluded” from routine evaluation under the old rules, it will most likely still be exempt under the new rules, which are expected to take effect in the next couple of months.

“For applicants and licensees in the Amateur Radio Service, we substitute our general exemption criteria for the specific exemption from routine evaluation based on power alone in Section 97.13(c)(1) and specify the use of occupational/controlled limits for amateurs where appropriate,” the FCC said.

“The sky is not falling here,” ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, commented. “The major aspects of the rules will not impose major new burdens on the Amateur Radio Service. As in all regulatory matters, though, the devil may be in the details, so the ARRL technical staff, legal staff, and the experts on the ARRL RF Safety Committee are carefully evaluating this FCC document.”

Under the revised Section 97.13(c)(1), “In lieu of evaluation with the general population/uncontrolled exposure limits, amateur licensees may evaluate their operation with respect to members of his or her immediate household using the occupational/controlled exposure limits in Section 1.1310, provided appropriate training and information has been accessed by the amateur licensee and members of his/her household,” the amended rule says.

“RF exposure of other nearby persons who are not members of the amateur licensee’s household must be evaluated with respect to the general population/uncontrolled exposure limits. Appropriate methodologies and guidance for evaluating Amateur Radio Service operation is described in the Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) [Bulletin 65, Supplement B](#),” the revised rule concludes.

The FCC said it was not persuaded by ARRL’s argument in its comments that the routine evaluation exemption for amateur radio stations operating below a certain power threshold should be maintained. “Amateur radio licensees operate a variety of installations of different size, power, and frequency, which can be located in close proximity to people, giving rise to various RF exposure concerns,” the FCC noted.

In a meeting with FCC OET Chief Julius Knapp and senior staff in early November, ARRL asked the FCC to make available on the internet a calculator to facilitate making the correct calculations the rules require. ARRL said that would be preferable to unofficial third-party calculators, the results from which might not be accorded the same degree of deference in local disputes. Several software programs were suggested as models. The FCC did not single out amateur radio in drafting its latest RF exposure rules. The rules affect multiple services, and exemptions for many other services were also deleted as part of a broader policy driven by a proliferation of RF devices, some resulting in situations where gain antennas are sited much closer to people than was expected in 1996 when the rules were last revised.

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Dayton Hamvention Admission, Fees to Increase in 2020

Dayton Hamvention[®] is increasing the cost of admission and its booth fees. Hamvention General Chair Jack Gerbs, WB8SCT, announced this week that general admission would rise by \$4 per ticket to \$26 in advance or \$31 at the gate for all 3 days. The cost of flea market spots will go up by \$5 per space, and inside exhibitors will pay \$30 more.

“Hamvention has always strived to produce a very high-quality event for amateur radio enthusiasts from around the globe,” Gerbs said. “We have always felt it is imperative that we give back to amateur radio at many levels. We have been very generous in our support over the years.” Gerbs cited “the economic pressures to present a show like Hamvention” as the reason for the price increases.

“The Hamvention Executive Team is asking for your support and understanding as we move forward together,” he said.

#####

FT4 and JS8 added to the RFzero

(Submitted by Gregory Drezdson, WD9FTZ)

A new version of the **RFzero** library <http://www.rfzero.net/> has been released that among other things include FT4 and JS8 encoding. Thus, the RFzero is now able to transmit PC-less FT4 free text or hex messages and JS8 heartbeat message from kHz to GHz.

The RFzero is a multi-purpose GPS controlled RF unit. It can be used as a beacon (IBP, SPB, CW, FT4, FT8, JS8, JT9, PI4, WSPR, ...), signal generator, VFO, QO-100 dual LO, low cost GPSDO, e.g. for 10 MHz, and more.

In addition, the RFzero an Arduino compatible platform makes it possible for users to write or modify the software. More than 20 programs including Arduino sketches, are integrated into the Arduino IDE for easy upload to the RFzero.

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The Handbook Give Away

Hey Gang,

Christmas is coming up very soon and as tradition dictates, we will be having a very something special Christmas drawing to celebrate! So, be on the lookout for that big **RED** arrow on the Ohio Section website.

Is there a catch? Nope! 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!!



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 soon 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



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Alliance Amateur Radio Club to Hold General Classes

The AARC plans to initiate classes starting on **08 January 2020**. It will be held in the cafeteria conference room starting at **6PM**.

The classes will be over a 12-week time span and will be two hours a session.

It is suggested the students bring a SD card or thumb drive with at least one gigabyte of free space to receive all the information needed to get the license. It can be used for home study and also holds the Technician class information as well as the General class.

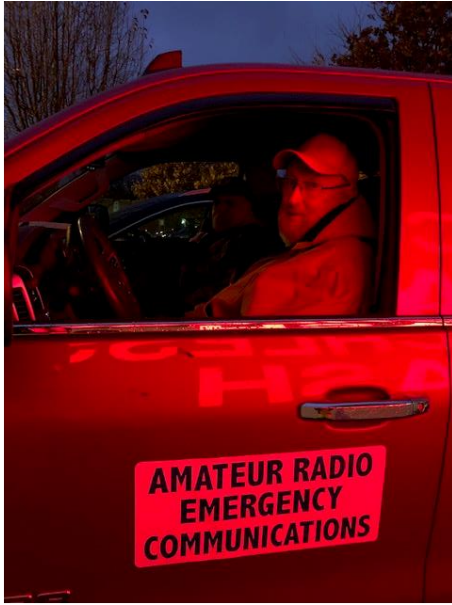
Contact Frank, WA8WHP for more information. He can be reached at wa8whp@gmail.com

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Ironton Lions Club Christmas Parade, December 2, 2019

Members of the Southern Ohio Amateur Radio Association (SOARA)



and the Lawrence County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) started to arrive at the Ironton Lions Club Christmas Parade staging area at 5:00 with the parade starting at 6:00.



They were confronted with 37° temperature and intermittent winter mix of rain and sleet. In preparation for the parade Eddie Jenkins, N8URU Lawrence County ARES, Emergency Coordinator shared with the group, “prepare, prepare, prepare and layer, layer, layer.” This was excellent advice from a veteran of cold weather field exercises and emergencies.

Amateurs followed Eddie’s advice inasmuch as the parade goes on no matter what the weather might be.

The main scope for the communicators was to assist the Lions Club Parade coordinators with the positioning of the different groups as well as emergency communications throughout the parade route.

James Rowe, N8TVO Assistant EC / parade communication liaison and Keith Brooks N8DKB, Assistant EC were net control operators for the event. The Ironton 440 repeater was used with a backup simplex frequency.

James, N8TVO said, “ I want to thank every member who participated in the parade under adverse weather conditions. It is a great opportunity to showcase our skills to the public and to test our radio equipment as well as our turnout gear.

The parade was exciting for everyone and lots of candy for the kids. Tim Nicely AC8VQ, SOARA President commented it was a fun event which provided an opportunity to get together during the Christmas season.



Additionally, the point to point and shadowing communications were excellent training opportunities.

The following are the amateurs who participated: James Rowe, N8TVO; Keith Brooks, N8DKB; Mike Love, WB8YKS; Tim Nicely, AC8VQ; Joe Thompson, KD8FPX; Dave Bruce, KD8NYN and Don Kemper, KN4KSS.

Michael Love, WB8YKS - SOARA / ARES PIO

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Amateur Radio Extra License Class 2020

The Franklin County Ohio Amateur Radio Emergency Service group will offer classes to achieve an Extra Class license. Classes will be held at the Whitehall Branch public library at 4445 E. Broad Street, Whitehall, OH. You do not need to be a member of the FCOHARES to participate. .

This is a no cost course of study. **Classes begin January 2 through February 27, Thursdays from 6 to 8:30 PM.** Your only cost may be for a study guide and testing fee, depending on which organization you choose to test with, and which study guide you select.

Each student should acquire a study guide to begin familiarization with the material prior to starting the class. Although this is an advanced level technology course no advanced level math is involved. Some demonstrations will be presented during classes.

Pre-registration is recommended. To register, send an email to John Buck at kd8rtp@arrl.net. Please include name, email address, phone/text number.

Technician and General level classes will also be offered as requested. Dates and times to be determined. Contact John Buck at kd8rtp@arrl.net

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Radio Club donates to Cops Helping Kids program

Members of Alliance Amateur Radio Club met recently with the Alliance Fraternal Order of Police #73 to donate proceeds from the November fundraiser.

The funds were a donation for the FOP's "Cops Helping Kids" program. The program helps kids and families in the Greater Alliance area. The kids in the program get a bus ride to Walmart, where off-duty officers help them pick out some items for Christmas.

Afterward, they enjoy a pizza party at the Christopher Columbus Society. Every November, the Alliance Amateur Radio Club raffles items donated by local Ham Radio operators, as well as businesses. All money raised goes to a local charity.



John Myers, left, and Tony Schillig, right, gave Alliance Police Sgt. Matthew Shatzer a donation for its Cops Helping Kids program.

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This year, the club raised \$685, which was presented to Alliance FOP Treasurer Matthew Shatzer by John Myers and Tony Schillig, who are cochairs for the Amateur Radio Club's fundraiser.

The Amateur Radio Club has been active in the Alliance area since 1986.

Though the club was formed in 1986, there have been various Amateur Radio Clubs in the Alliance area dating back to 1950.

The club meets the second Wednesday of each month at the Alliance Community Hospital. Their next meeting will be 7:30 p.m. Dec. 11.

More information can be found at www.w8lky.org

Upcoming Hamfests for 2020

01/19/2020 | Sunday Creek Annual Hamfest

Location: Nelsonville, OH

Sponsor: Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation

01/26/2020 | Tusco Amateur Radio Club's 30th Annual Hamfest, Electronics and Computer Show

Location: Strasburg, OH

Sponsor: Tusco Amateur Radio Club

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

02/16/2020 | Mansfield Mid-Winter Hamfest

Location: Mansfield, OH

Sponsor: Intercity Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://WWW.IARC.CLUB>

03/01/2020 | WinterHamFest

Location: Elyria, OH

Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://noars.net>

03/14-15/2020 | Toledo Hamfest, ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention

Location: Perrysburg, OH

Sponsor: Toledo Mobile Radio Association

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

03/21/2020 | Mid-Ohio Valley ARC Hamfest

Location: Gallipolis, OH

Sponsor: Mid-Ohio Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/midohiovalleyarc/>



DX This Week
(from Bill, AJ8B)

DX This Week – Noise
Bill AJ8B (aj8b@arrl.net, @AJ8B, or www.aj8b.com)
CWOPs Member #1567



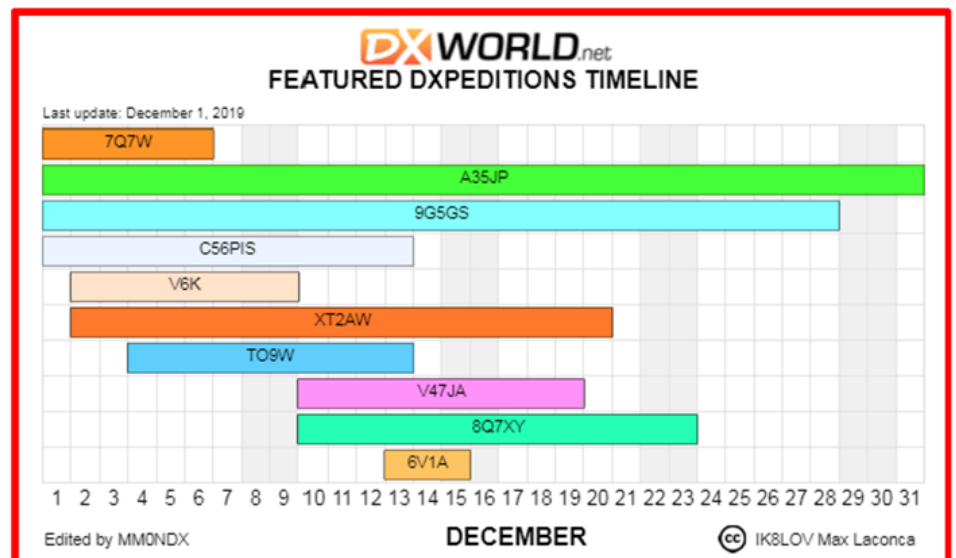
Coming off of the CQWW CW contest, there were a lot of station active in the past week. DX Spots that originated in the Midwest included Alaska, Albania, Andorra, Asiatic Russia, Asiatic Turkey, Azores, Bahamas, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Canary Islands, Cayman Islands, China, Croatia, Curacao, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Estonia, European Russia, French Guiana, Greece, Greenland, Guam, Haiti, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Hungary, Indonesia, Japan, Kaliningrad, Latvia, Lithuania, Madeira Islands, Martinique, Moldova, Netherlands, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Reunion Island, Saba & St. Eustatius, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovenia, Suriname, Taiwan, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos Islands, Uruguay, and Wales. Quite an active week! I hope you took part.

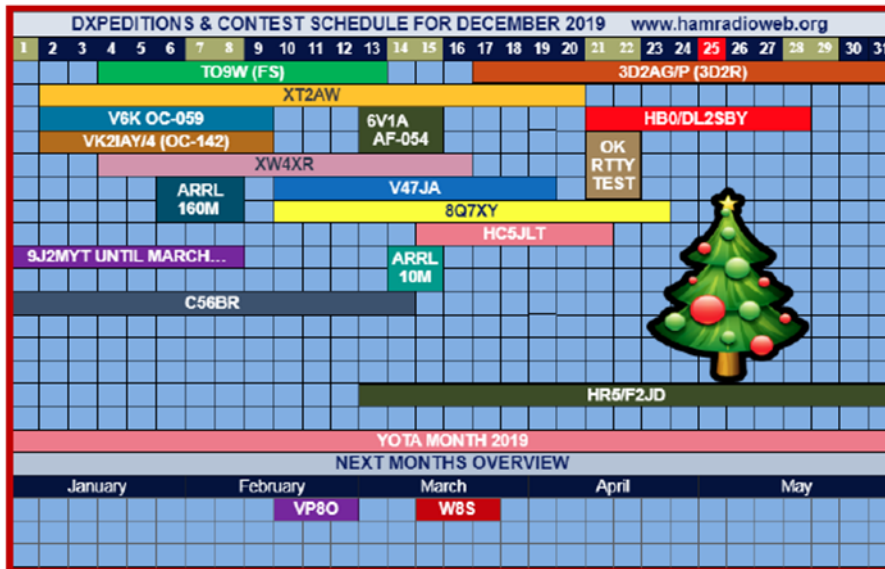


This week, the mailman delivered JA3BOA- Japan and V31JW - Belize. (Pictured) What did you get? Send me an image and some details!

Below is the most recent DXpedition and contest calendar. I print this off and have it handy on my desk. Typically, I identify those stations that I need and take a few minutes to plot how to work them! Information from dx-world.net is helpful and information from the DailyDX or WeeklyDX is critical. Good Hunting!

This week, I must turn to one of my Elmers, Jay, K4ZLE. Jay has forgotten more about working DX than I know, and I never hesitate to review information that Jay has presented to me. Jay is the moderator of the DX Forum at the Hamvention and the emcee at the DXDinner®.





At the end of the fall of 2018, I put up an inverted “L” for 160 meters. On 12/29, we had a day or so of heavy wind in the Waynesville area. The trees that I picked for both ends of the Inverted “L” held up just fine. However, a large tree at about the midway point came down taking the antenna with it. My OM used to say, “If your antenna did not come down last winter, it wasn’t large enough!” That was little consolation to my predicament. I did make a couple of CW QSOs before the storm, but, that was it. I recently put it up again with the hope of collection many countries

before springtime. So far, in my limited 160M experience, the problem that I am dealing with is noise. That led me to review Jay’s article on Noise. This has been reprinted with my thanks to Jay and his permission.

“DXegesis - Noise is nothing to SNeer At!” by Jay Slough, K4ZLE

According to a not-so-recent edition of the ARRL Handbook: QRM? = Is my transmission being interfered with? QRN? = Are you troubled by static?

I don't know about you but the two toughest bands for me to spend sustained "Butt in Chair" time are 160 meters and 80 meters, respectively. If you have tuned around on those bands, you know the source of my discomfort is 'noise.' The noise on those frequencies is predominately static - QRN, N for nature produced, as opposed to QRM, M for manmade. However, both abound in abundance and distract from our operating pleasure.

You can be like I have been for decades and avoid those two bands or you can accept the challenge and expand your total enjoyment of the hobby. Dealing with noise is not uniquely germane to our only MF band and our lowest HF band. We experience both types of noise on all ham frequencies.

One type of manmade interference I find more prevalent to these two bands is BC (broadcast) band interference. The fact that I used to live about 2 miles from a clear channel station which produced 50 KW of AM bedlam may be why it is ever present on my mind.

Even the 10th harmonic of 700 kHz overloads your receiver if you live that close to their antenna. If you are similarly plagued, you may need to shunt that station's signal to ground with special filtering.

QRM, QRN -- Whichever type of noise we encounter, there are mitigating techniques we can employ. Some work for both, some for only one source or the other. I personally find very little relief from noise blanker / noise reduction circuits or notch filters. While they are vastly superior today to what they were 50 plus years ago, even modern DSP techniques work best on repeatable, predictable types of noise. Do not misunderstand, if you have these options on your receiver/transceiver, try them.

I encourage you to spend time playing with the knobs and pushing the buttons. It may even pay to read the manual (Heaven forbid! Do real hams read the manual?) I was surprised what additional noise mitigating features were available on my K3 until someone showed me on a recent operation. (Obviously reading the manual is one of my many short comings!)

Just how disruptive is ambient QRN on a band like 160 m.? Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, ran some numbers specific to his station and concluded that just an S3 noise level degraded his ability to hear a signal at the noise floor by 30 db . That represents a power differential of 1000. In that situation, if a station could be detected at the receiver's noise floor, but you have an S3 ambient noise level, the DX station would have to increase his power 1000 times for you to hear him. Most of us can't work 'em if we don't hear 'em, although some folks must think they can because they continue to call even though they do not hear the DX station! You do not control the power output of the DX station, so if an adjustment is to be made you must make it on your end.

The key to doing that is understanding a very simple concept, the Signal + Noise to Noise ratio. Stated mathematically, or for me visually, it is $S+N/N$. Most of the time we simplify the name to just signal to noise ratio (SNR), but the sum of both must be dealt with in the numerator. If we can increase the signal strength relative to the noise our ability to hear is improved. Stated in the negative, if we can decrease the noise relative to the signal, we achieve the same result. Sometimes we need to decrease both, but the goal is to make the differential change favor the signal.

If the noise is directional, like man made noise from a specific direction or thunderstorms in an unwanted direction, AND that is not the direction to which you want to work, the solution is simple if you have a 'steerable' antenna. Just aim in the desired direction. However, sometimes you do not aim directly toward the desired direction. Let me give an example. Say you are located on the east coast of the US and you are trying to work a station in W. Africa. Your normal short path heading might be 090 degrees, but you have thunderstorms or a persistent Mediterranean rim station out at a heading of 030 degrees. By turning your beam a little further south of 090, or a little north of 090 depending upon your antenna pattern, you may be able to put the offending noise in a side null and hear the desired station better. Direct path may not always be the best path. I have used this technique while on DXpeditions to knock down the signal strength of stations from one area so I could workstations in my target area.

On the lower bands it is common practice to use a different antenna for receiving than for transmitting. Beverages, loops, Ewes, pennants and the like are used for this purpose. They favor one or two specific directions in a narrow beam width in order to attenuate unwanted noise from other directions. Even if the major source of offending noise is also in the desired direction, by minimizing extraneous noise from unwanted directions you may be able to increase the overall signal to noise ratio and get that bugger in the log! Remember, you want to decrease noise relative to desired signal. While the net signal may be lower in strength on one of these antennas than on your normal transmit antenna, if the readability is higher, you may now hear what was not readable before. If the desired signal is still too weak, once you take the noise down, you can re-amplify the resulting signal without amplifying the offending noise and achieve a resulting improvement in SNR.

You can sometimes achieve an improvement in SNR by cranking back on the RF gain or inserting some additional attenuation. Again, it behooves one to play with the knobs and learn how to use those controls on the radio.

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If the noise is manmade, like electric blankets, arc welders, dimmer switches, etc., you may need to track it down and eliminate it at its source. For instance, at my current QTH, a neighbor installed an electric fence to corral his horses, but he used a portion of chain link fence as a ground instead of installing a ground rod. After I identified the source, he had no problems with me installing the requisite ground rod. I will not deal with how to track down this type interference/noise in this treatise, except to say the ARRL has an excellent reference dealing with the subject. As an aside, the primary source of this type noise will many times be found on your own property!

In conclusion, noise is a problem. Noise is a pesky problem and it is not something to sneer at, but there are ways to minimize the negatives associated with noise and make our overall experience on the air more enjoyable. The key is improving the SNR. I have not covered all associated techniques, but my intent is to get you to realize the fundamental involved (improving the SNR) and do some digging on your own.

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The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs 2000, pg 30.38

*See: http://www.k9la.us/An_Introduction_to_Operating_on_160m.pdf Carl has some other fantastic articles on 160 m operation on his website that merit reading. I further recommend looking at this website for 160 m specific information: w8ji.com
Be leery of the legal ramifications of doing something on someone else's property! The ARRL RFI Book 3rd Edition*

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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:

XT – Burkina Faso - On Tuesday December 3rd DF2WO, Harald, plans to be back in Ouagadougou for three weeks. This will be a vacation as he spends some pre-Christmas celebration time with schoolchildren. In his spare time, he will be QRV as XT2AW with a focus on 160, 80 and 60 meters on FT8 with some SSB and CW. Plans are to have two verticals and a hexbeam running 100 watts. He will also be on satellite with 80 cm dish antenna running 2 watts, there he will be “only sporadically QRV and pay attention to weak stations” and requests “Please split up”.

3D2/R - Rotuma 3A2AG, Antoine, confirms the sailing date is set for December 14. He plans to be on the air December 17. He notes this will be cyclone season there, raising the chance of being stuck on Rotuma at the planned return date in mid-January. He also notes the need to take drums of diesel fuel, a heavy-duty generator and other gear so flying in is not an option this time. Antoine says the southern hemisphere 6M e-skip season has begun. He will have 6 meters on the air from Rotuma.

E4 – Palestine - The E44RU team will be active January 5-14. The operator list is R7AL, RA1ZZ, RW9JZ and R5EC. They will be on 160-10 CW, SSB and FT8. QSL via R7AL or OQRS or LoTW. They will be near Jericho. The stations will be two Elecraft K3 radios, a K2, and an IC-7300, plus amplifiers, to ground planes, VDA and beverages. Back home, acting as pilot, will be UA3AKO. <http://dxpedition.wix.com/e44ru>

ON – Belgium - OR75NUTS, December 13-15, will commemorate the “Battle of the Bulge” of World War II, when US General McAuliffe, his forces surrounded, said the very American “Nuts” when asked to surrender. This will be by the UBA Section Bruxelles-Est, ON5UB. QSL via the ON5UB address.

ARLD048 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by F6AJA, ON4JM, 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.

CYPRUS, 5B. Alex, 5B4ALX is QRV as C4XMAS during December. Activity is mainly on 20 meters. QSL via IZ4AMS.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, A6. Members of the Emirates Amateur Radio Society are QRV with special event station A60BHR until December 17 to celebrate the 48th Bahrain National Day. QSL via A62A.

THE GAMBIA, C5. Carlo, ON4BR is QRV as C56BR until December 14. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8. QSL direct to home call.

NEW CALEDONIA, FK. Rudi, DB1RUL is QRV as FK/DB1RUL from Grand Terre, Poingam, Ile de Ouvea, and finally Ile de Pine until the end of December. Activity is on the HF bands using mostly FT8. QSL to home call.

SAINT MARTIN, FS. A group of operators are QRV as TO9W from Orient Bay, IOTA NA-105, until December 13. Activity is on the HF bands with a focus on 160, 80 and 40 meters using CW and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

HONDURAS, HR. Gerard, F2JD will be QRV as HR5/F2JD from Copan-Ruinas from December 12 to April 4, 2020. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via F6AJA.

ARGENTINA, LU. Special event station L50JT is QRV until December 14 to commemorate the 50 years of the underwater tunnel under the Parana River that connects Entre Rios and Santa Fe provinces. Activity is on 80, 40 and 20 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via LoTW.

FINLAND, OH. Members of the Santas Radio Club are QRV as special event station OH9SCL from Rovaniemi during December. QSL direct to OH9AB.

BELGIUM, ON. Members of the Radio Club des Ardennes will be QRV with special event station OP75USA from December 7 to January 7, 2020 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge of World War II, as well as to commemorate the siege of Bastogne. QSL via operators' instructions.

BRAZIL, PY. Members of the Guara DX Group are QRV with special event station ZW132GBA until December 15 to celebrate the 132nd anniversary of the city of Guarabira. QSL via bureau.

SLOVENIA, S5. Members of the Radio Club Slovenj Gradec are QRV with special event call sign S589PMC until January 5, 2020. QSL via bureau.

SOMALIA, T5. Ali, EP3CQ is QRV as 6O1OO until December 19. QSL direct to home call.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. John, W5JON will be QRV as V47JA from St. Kitts, IOTA NA-104, from December 10 to 19. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL direct to home call.

MICRONESIA, V6. Haru, JA1XGI is QRV as V6K from Kosrae, IOTA OC-059, until December 9. This includes being an entry in the ARRL 160 Meter contest. QSL to home call.

INDIA, VU. Members of the Repeater Society of Calicut and the Malabar Amateur Radio Society will be QRV with special event call sign AT1RS from Kappad Beach from December 8 to February 22, 2020 in celebration of the 250th session of Rajya Sabha, the Upper House of the Indian Parliament, and the 70th Constitution Day. QSL via operators' instructions.

VIET NAM, XV. Keith, G4FUF is QRV as XV9F from Tra Vinh Province in the Mekong Delta. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands, with most of his activity being on 6 and 2 meters, and 70 centimeters, including EME. QSL direct to home call.

LAOS, XW. Bruce, 3W3B is QRV as XW4XR until December 16. Activity is on 60 to 6 meters using CW, FT8 and FT4. QSL via E21EIC.

MYANMAR, XZ. Martti, OH2BH is QRV as XZ2D until April 17, 2020. Activity is generally on 15 and 10 meters. QSL to home call.

ROMANIA, YO. Special event station YR2019REV is QRV during December to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Romanian revolution. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL via operators' instructions.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL 160-Meter Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, UFT CW Meeting, Wake-Up. QRP CW Sprint, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, International Naval Contest, PRO CW Contest, FT Roundup, EPC Ukraine DX Contest and the QRP ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew CW Sprint will certainly keep contesters busy this upcoming weekend.

The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint is scheduled for December 9. The CWops Mini-CWT Test, Phone Fray, QRP 40-Meter CW Fox Hunt and NAQCC CW Sprint are scheduled for December 11.

The Canadian National Parks on the Air, CNPOTA, operating event runs for the entire year of 2019, with special stations active from Canada's parks and historic sites.

During December look for a number of stations active with the YOTA suffix for Youngsters On The Air. QSL via LoTW or direct to M0SDV.

Please see December QST, page 63, and the ARRL and WA7BNM Contest Web Sites for details.

Special Events

- **12/09/2019 | Tuscaloosa, Alabama 200th Birthday Celebration**

Dec 9-Dec 15, 0000Z-0000Z, N4T, Tuscaloosa, AL. Tuscaloosa area operators. 21.335 14.235 7.235 3.935. QSL. Kirk Junkin, Tuscaloosa 200 Birthday Event, PO Box 21174, Tuscaloosa, AL 35402-1174. Multi-Operators will be on-air from different areas of the city during the week of December 9 - 15th, 2019, celebrating the Bicentennial Birthday of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, with N4T.

All HF bands/modes, including FT4/FT8, as well as 6M and 2M contacts will be available. Check website and DX-spotting sites for exact frequencies and times. Plans to operate from downtown Tuscaloosa on Friday, December 13th (the actual birthday) and Saturday, December 14th, weather and conditions permitting. <https://www.bamaradio.biz>

- **12/12/2019 | WX3MAS Special Event**

Dec 12-Dec 15, 1400Z-2200Z, WX3MAS, Nazareth, PA. Christmas City Amateur Radio Club. CW and PSK31 on 20 and 40 meters; 14.265 7.270 3.850. QSL. Christmas City Amateur Radio Club, 14 Gracedale Ave, Greystone Building, Nazareth, PA 18064. 50 Anniversary! Christmas City ARC and the Delaware-Lehigh ARC. . Send QSL and SASE (A6 size or larger for 4"x 6" card) to WX3MAS, 14 Gracedale Ave, Greystone Building, Nazareth, PA 18064. Operation details at www.dlarc.org

- **12/14/2019 | Bethlehem on the Air**

Dec 14-Dec 15, 1500Z-0000Z, W9WWI, New Washington, IN. Clark County Amateur Radio Club of Southern Indiana . 14.250 7.200; All Bands, All Modes. Certificate. Clark County Amateur Radio Club, W9WWI, Richard Humphrey Secretary , 4208 Perry Crossing Road, Sellersburg, IN 47172. In celebration of the holiday season. Look for us on FT8, n9dprh@gmail.com or www.clarkcountyarc.org

- **12/14/2019 | Christmas in Bethlehem**

Dec 14-Dec 24, 1400Z-2359Z, KC5OUR, Belen, NM. Valencia County Amateur Radio Association. 14.283 7.183 3.883 21.183. QSL. VCARA, PO Box 268, Peralta, NM 87042. Celebrating Christmas in Bethlehem New Mexico. kc5our@arrl.net

- **12/14/2019 | Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Special Event**

Dec 14, 1700Z-2359Z, NI6IW, San Diego, CA. USS Midway (CV-41) Museum Ship. 14.320 7.250 PSK31 14.070 DSTAR REF001C. QSL. USS Midway Museum Ship COMEDTRA, 910 N Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101.

- **12/17/2019 | 52 Years of Amateur Radio**

Dec 17-Dec 31, 0001Z-2359Z, K4Q, St Simons Island, GA. N4XU. 7.037. QSL. Bob Wilson, N4XU, 209 Broadway Street, Saint Simons Island, GA 31522. Will try to operate 3 kHz down from IOTA Meeting Frequencies on cw, and any available spot in the USA General-class portion on ssb. Multi-band/mode contacts are welcome. <https://www.qrz.com/db/K4Q>

- **12/26/2019 | Commemorating the US Revolutionary War – Historic “Battle of Trenton”**

Dec 26-Dec 30, 0000Z-2359Z, W2T, West Trenton, NJ. Delaware Valley Radio Association. 14.225 7.175. Certificate & QSL. Delaware Valley Radio Association, PO Box 7024, Trenton, NJ 08628-0024. www.w2zq.com

- **12/29/2019 | 21st Annual Ham Radio University Educational Conference**

Dec 29-Jan 5, 0000Z-0300Z, W2HRU, Lindenhurst, NY. Ham Radio University. 14.273 7.273 7.074 3.923. Certificate & QSL. Phil Lewis, N2MUN, 22 Belle Terre West, Lindenhurst, NY 11757. Operating at various times on SSB and FT8. Electronic QSL via eQSL and LoTW. Paper QSL via W2 QSL Bureau or direct w/SASE to Phil Lewis, N2MUN, 22 Belle Terre West, Lindenhurst, NY 11757. On-Line printable QSL Certificate available at: https://www.elemcoshopfloor.com/w2hru_cert. hamradiouniversity.org

- **12/31/2019 | Commemorating the US Revolutionary War – Historic “Battle of Princeton”**
Dec 31-Jan 6, 0000Z-2359Z, W2P, Trenton, NJ. Delaware Valley Radio Association. 14.225 7.175. Certificate & QSL. Delaware Valley Radio Association, PO BOX 7024, West Trenton, NJ 08628-0024. <https://www.w2zq.com>

- **01/01/2020 | NCDXA 5th Annual Worked All RST Special Event**
Jan 1-Feb 28, 0000Z-2359Z, KL7RST, Anchorage, AK. North Country DX Association (K7ICE). 14.250 14.075 7.190 7.050. QSL. J. Reisenauer, 2573 Old Georgetown Rd. W., Kershaw, SC 29067. www.qrz.com/db/kl7rst

- **01/02/2020 | 14th Annual Straight Key CW Event**
Jan 2-Jan 31, 0000Z-2359Z, K3Y, various cities. SKCC - Straight Key Century Club. 21.050 14.050 7.055 3.550. Certificate & QSL. SKCC c/o Jeremy Downard, KD8VSQ, 511 W. Pottawatamie St., Tecumseh, MI 49286. K3Y/0 thru 9 plus KH6, KL7, KP4 and DX member stations in six WAC areas operating straight key, bug and cootie keys. QSL card confirms one QSO per area, up to 19 for all-area sweep. See URL for schedule, map, stats, etc. www.skccgroup.com/k3y

Attention ALL Ohio...

We're working already on important events for ARES in Ohio!

Mark January 11 (Saturday) 10AM - 4PM for the ARES VHF Simplex Contest!

This is more important in 2020 as a follow-up to our SET, which was designed to map our simplex footprints. Now, we can exercise that information and get even more by participating! It's a fun event with a purpose.

The purpose of our annual simplex activity is to improve our station and antenna capabilities, and to test our coverage areas on simplex frequencies. These may be very important in times of emergency, when repeaters have failed, and simplex is the only method of emergency communication. We are NOT giving any consideration for backup power- this exercise is aimed at testing antennas and determining coverage areas.



We've just gotta' thank **Jason McCormick N8EI** for setting up a website with the complete rules, scoring and who's operating. <https://ohsimplex.org/#rules>

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Mark April 4, 2020, as our ARES OHIO SPRING CONFERENCE!

We have the Marion Tech lecture hall reserved (THANKS MARION ARES!!!) and we'll begin planning some important topics! More information will be forth coming.

Also, an operating note: Remember that if you have your regular nets in ARES Connect, you need to go back and enter the net participants for that session to get hours! I've seen several monthly and weekly nets that are scheduled (great!) but then have no participants associated... it only takes a few minutes after a net to go back and enter the check-ins! Make sure your people get credit!

Check out the ARES Connect "EVENT REPORT BY USER" to track your volunteers' time. You can select your county, select a date range (start from Jan 1 end Dec 30) and you'll get a nice report of each of your volunteers. I used these in a table for a merge document- to be given to each volunteer with how many hours they've invested this year. It's great wallpaper and a good way to say "Thanks!" If you check "show user" in that report, it details which events each volunteer participated in. What excellent information! The other reports can give you interesting information about your county's performance as well! Fiddle around and get some ideas of your own! This area was severely lacking when Connect was first introduced, but these few reports can be important management tools for each of us!

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.



V.E. Test Sessions

For the latest testing site information please >> [Click Here](#) << The ARRL site tracks all of the VE testing sites that register with them, including W5YI and Laurel. ARRL gives you a number of different ways of sorting to find that site that is closest to you as well.



One Question Questionnaire



Hey Gang, Hey Gang,

"Survey Says" about **19%** of you will wait until the very last minute to get your Christmas shopping done. Hey, I'm really surprised at that figure. I would have thought that would have been way more than that for sure!!

I've got another NEW – one question – for you to think about. Since the holiday's are coming up which will give a lot of you some extra time to work the bands, here's the next question that all of us just have to know....

“How often do you use EchoLink or IRLP??”

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.

ARES Connect

ADMINS – please make sure to go into all of the events that you have setup no later than 7 days after they have ended and approve the hours your volunteers have typed in that they did. I'm noticing a number of events that aren't getting hours credited because the Admin isn't going back and approving hours.

ARES Connect

Enter ARES Connect

ARES Connect Helpful Instructions

With all of the additions to ARES Connect that we now have, there is absolutely no longer any excuses for all of you to not use the system!!

I'm setting a goal for all of you out there. **Let's get everyone in the Ohio Section on ARES Connect before the end of this year!!! Simply go to: <https://arrl.volunteerhub.com/lp/oh/> and get yourself registered and using the system.**

Here's the top 10 hours earners so far in December:

	Name	Events	Hours
1	James Yoder (w8erw)	9	36.15
2	Dan Stahl (KC8PBU)	14	31.81
3	Scott Yonally (N8SY)	11	27.00
4	Bret Stemen (KD8SCL)	9	24.50
5	Marcel Casavant (AD8CM)	8	8.00
6	Jeffrey Potteiger (WB8REI)	8	7.81
7	James Hershberger (KE8ERN)	5	7.15
8	John Hilliard (w8of)	5	6.50
9	Edward Kopcak (KB8BKE)	3	6.50
10	Mary Maley (KD8PAT)	3	6.50

Why is this so important? Hey, I am just going to say this... The end of the year is coming up fast, and now with the ability to catch yourself up on past events, there's gonna' be a very special "End of the Year" award for the person with the most hours in 2019! . Will that be you? You now can make that happen!

Admins... If you are wondering how to get an overview of all of your events you can simply go into reports and using the new Event by Participation by Event (version 2) you can not only see who registered for your event, but you also can see if he/she has inputted their hours for it as well. Take advantage of this new report to help you get the time entered into your events.

I'm also seeing a number of recurring events created but no activity reported for them. Please, if this event is no longer needed, let me know and I can delete it from the masters. I know that many of you setup recurring events to learn how, but if they aren't going to be used, let's get them cleared out.

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Also... If you are setting up events, please don't set a limit for how many folks can sign-up unless absolutely necessary. This causes issues when doing reports. It's also counter-productive since the reason for you to list the event is to get as many volunteers as you can to attend. When you set limits, it discourages folks from signing up.

We Have a Winner!

A month ago, I issued a challenge to our ARES members to push us over the 9,000 mark on training certificates in the training database before the end of this year. The challenge has been met and we are now at 9,013 total. Our winner is Gregory Zarichny W8ZAR from Columbus. Gregory has a total of 123 certificates on file now and this last flurry that he submitted pushed us well over the target. Thank you, Gregory, for your hard work and support for ARES.

Things have slowed considerably as we approach the end of the year. My assumption is that we now have nearly covered those who are actively pursuing FEMA training. However, ARES Connect continues to grow and new registrations are appearing regularly, an indication of continued interest especially from new Amateurs. I encourage everyone to get onboard with NIMS and complete the four initial courses, ICS-100, 200, 700 and 800.

Thank you for your support,

Jim W8ERW

Special NIMS Training Available

ICS300 INTERMEDIATE ICS FOR EXPANDING EVENTS MGT904

Hosted by: Mahoning County Emergency Management Agency

January 13 – 15, 2020

Application Deadline: December 30, 2019

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

Course Time: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm – All three (3) days One-hour Lunch each day

Training Location: Boardman Fire Department, Station 71 7440 Market Street Boardman, OH 44512

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

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 the instructors on day one of the course.

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Enrollment: Students must enroll via the Department of Public Safety Training Campus website: <https://trainingcampus.dps.ohio.gov/cm/cm710/pstc/pstc.html> Course registration will generally 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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ICS400 ADVANCED FOR COMMAND & GENERAL STAFF MGT905

Hosted by: Mahoning County Emergency Management Agency

March 30 – 31, 2020

Application Deadline: March 16, 2020

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

Course Time: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm – Both days One-hour Lunch each day

Training Location: Boardman Fire Department, Station 71 7440 Market Street Boardman, OH 44512

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 the instructors on day one of the course.

Enrollment: Students must enroll via the Department of Public Safety Training Campus website: <https://trainingcampus.dps.ohio.gov/cm/cm710/pstc/pstc.html> Course registration will generally 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

####

G-386 MASS FATALITIES

Hosted by: Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security **February 20 - 21, 2020**

This is an “Elective” course in the Advanced Professional Series (APS) program

Application Deadline: February 10, 2020

Time of Course: Registration: 7:30 am – 8:00 am Course Time: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Location: Franklin County EM&HS - 5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd. - Columbus, OH 43230

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Supported By: The Ohio Emergency Management Agency

Recommended Prerequisite: N/A

Enrollment: Students must enroll via the Department of Public Safety Training Campus website:

<https://trainingcampus.dps.ohio.gov/cm/cm710/pstc/pstc.html> Course registration will generally close 10 working days prior to the course start date. You can check enrollment/approval status via the Department of Public Safety Training Campus website.

Course Costs: This course is free to participants. Lodging, meals and all other expenses are the students' responsibility.

County Point of Contact: Pam Tickle, Franklin County EM&HS (614) 794 – 0213,
pktickle@franklincountyohio.gov

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Below is information on upcoming ICS-300/ICS-400 classes for those interested.

Please be advised that we have listed the following ICS courses on the Ohio EMA Public Safety Training Campus (PSTC) website for students to register for the courses;

<https://trainingcampus.dps.ohio.gov/cm/cm710/pstc/>

Course ID	Name	Session	Location	Enroll
ICS300LorainCoJan2020	ICS-300 Intermediate ICS	January 7 - 9, 2020	Oberlin Fire Department 430 South Main Street Oberlin, OH 44074	Enroll
ICS300PrebleCoJan2020	ICS-300 Intermediate ICS	January 11, 12 & 18, 2020	Eaton City Fire Department, Station 2 391 West Lexington Road Eaton, Ohio 45320	Enroll
ICS400AshtabulaCoJan2020	ICS-400 Advanced ICS	January 13 - 14, 2020	Ashtabula County Engineers Office 186 East Satin Street Jefferson, Ohio 44047	Enroll
ICS300MahoningCoJan2020	ICS-300 Intermediate ICS	January 13 - 15, 2020	Boardman Fire Department, Station 71 7440 Market Street Boardman, OH 44512	Enroll
ICS400OttawaCoJan2020	ICS-400 Advanced ICS	January 16 - 17, 2020	Magruder Hospital 615 Fulton Street Port Clinton, OH 43452	Enroll

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Campbell County Kentucky Office of Emergency Management Upcoming Training



James E. Sparks, Deputy Director of Operations
Campbell County Fiscal Court
Office of Emergency Management, Unit 2152

O: 859-547-3152 · C: 859-743-4136 · F: 859-635-3132

<http://www.campbellcountyky.gov>

Campbell County Kentucky Office of Emergency Management **FREE**
Training Opportunities

Working with the Media: A Short Course for Emergency Responders
(AWR-209) – January 22, 2020 – RDPC / Register:
<https://qrgo.page.link/o2Gs>

Isolation and Quarantine for Communities (MGT-433) – February 19, 2020 – RDPC / ****Tentative/Requested****

Hazardous Weather Preparedness for Campuses (AWR-332) – March 4, 2020 – (NDPTC) /
****Tentative/Requested****

Readiness: Training Identification and Preparedness Planning (MGT-418) – March 11-12, 2020 - TEEEX /
Register: <https://train.ncbrt.lsu.edu/Student/Register?ClassID=26374>

Registration Password: NCBRT418 If you have trained with NCBRT before, enter your FEMA SID, Last Name, and First Name. If your training record is found, your registration form will be pre-filled for you. Otherwise, click Register as New Person to fill out a blank registration form.

Evacuation and Re-Entry Planning Course – March 25-26, 2020 / ****Requested through KYEM Training Division****

Pediatric Disaster Response and Emergency Preparedness (MGT-439) – April 8-9, 2020 / TEEEX / Register:
<https://qrgo.page.link/GFf4>

Debris Management Planning Course – April 15-17, 2020 / ****Requested through KYEM Training Division****

Intermediate ICS-300 for Expanding Incidents w/Forms (MGT-904) – April 22-24, 2020 / TEEEX / Register: <https://qrgo.page.link/HzT2>

Disaster Preparedness for Hospitals and Healthcare Organizations within the Community Infrastructure (MGT341) – May 13-14, 2020 / ****Requested****

Swap & Shop Has Come to the Ohio Section Website



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://arri-ohio.org/sm/s-s.html>

There's already been some great activity going on up there. 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!! No, 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.

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It is there for any individual to post equipment Wanted / For Sale or Give-Away. No licensed vehicles/trailers or business advertising will be posted.

Postings are text only (no pictures or graphics) will be posted for a maximum of 1 month from date posting and require a contact phone number or email within the posting.

Send your Wanted / For Sale or Give-Away post to: swap@arrlohio.org

Final.. Final..



Hey Gang...

Wow, was this ever a crazy week! I had a blast at the annual potluck dinner at the Northeastern Ohio Skywarn gathering in Norwalk this past Tuesday. It's always great to get to see everyone involved with Skywarn in the Northeastern Ohio section. But, the really big show this past week was the EMAO Winter Conference. It's 2 days of seminars and impromptus with all of the EMA Directors from around the state. The week ended with a really great Christmas Party with the folks at the Mt Vernon ARC – Mexican food – my favorite!!

Some of you may know, but I'm sure most of you don't, we had 2 local high schools that went all the way to the state finals in football this past weekend as well, Mansfield Senior Tygers and the Lucas Cubs. Unfortunately, neither team won the championship title, but it sure had a lot of folks from around my area beaming with pride this week. Both teams can be proud of their accomplishments for sure. And, let's not forget my "Buckeyes..." They really had me going in the first half. It was like I was there and really shouting and cheering them on. Now, on to the Nationals!!!!

Ok.. Let's slide down the band a bit... The Hamfest Calendar is filling up fast for 2020. You know this past year we had 36 hamfests? Being hearty Ohioans as we are, we have 2 Hamfests that are on the schedule for January! <http://arrl-ohio.org/hamfests.html> and 1 in February so far. Speaking of Hamfests, we have 2 big conventions coming up this next year as well! Save March 14-15 on your calendar for the Toledo Hamfest and Great Lakes Division Convention and later on into the summer August 8th we have the DX Engineering Hamfest and Ohio Section State Convention. We will be announcing the winners of the Ohio Section Newsletter Contest and the Allan Severson, AB8P Memorial Award recipient at our State Convention at the DX Engineering Hamfest.

Switching bands for a moment... Some of you are still are sitting on the fence as to getting yourselves registered in ARES Connect, so, I am only addressing those who are still sitting (that fence post has to be getting awful painful by now), we've had quite a few advancements with ARES Connect recently. These advancements are to help you the user and Admin get the events entered and hours registered better.

Our goal is to get everyone in the Ohio Section registered and using this new system by the end of the year! There are only a few weeks left this year, and we still have a lot of folks to get registered yet. We want no one left behind! Let's get it going.... Get registered and start using the system.

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Oh, there's another feature that I want to tell you about. If you've registered for an event and you forget to log your hours for that event after 24 hours, the system can, and if setup correctly, send you an email thanking you for your participation. But here's what I want you to really pay particular attention to... there will also be a link in that email that if you click on it will take you directly to the area to get your hours logged!! Wow... this is a real bonus, as that even if you forget to log your hours the system will remind you and even make it convenient for you to log them.

Sliding down the band a bit more... Have you gotten on the air lately? With winter here now and the nights coming much faster, the bands are really widening out at a much earlier time than in the summer. So, for you folks that have to get up and go to work early in the morning, there's really no excuse for not getting on the air in the early evening now.

I am still hearing from some of you that you just haven't taken the time yet to do anything with that newly acquired license. Why not? Do you need help? Hey, my best advice for you is to seek out a club and go and listen. You'll be amazed at how much knowledge is floating around that is just looking for a place to land. You got it... ON YOU! Have fun with it! Get on the Air!!!

Don't know where the clubs are? Hey, here's a link to our 117 ARRL Affiliated Clubs in Ohio...
<http://arrl-ohio.org/sm/affiliated-clubs.html>

Is your club doing any special activities that you'd like the Section to know about? As you can see by the posts in the Club Corner, many clubs are already taking advantage of getting the word out to over 8,000 readers every week.

Whelp... That's going to do it for this time around. Stay safe, enjoy the sunshine while we have it, and most of all... have FUN!!

73,

Scott, N8SY Go Bucks!!!

Welcome New Subscriber

Robert, N3EQ; Lance, KE8BYC



Updated Information... Want to Share your Club Newsletter With Others?



It seems that I got the request wrong when I was asked about sharing newsletters. It seems that Frank Tompkins, W8EZT wanted to have me actually post the newsletters that I receive and not just the club link where they can be found. Well, after some hard thought, I decided to give it a try and we'll all just see if posting them is more useful for all of you. I am now starting to put all the newsletters that either come to me in Adobe Acrobat or I can convert over to Adobe Acrobat up on the website. I will have them separated by month so that you'll be able to see the various months without having to dig too far into the archives.

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I'm starting with December and a few that have come out in late November. 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 probably because I'm not receiving it, or I just cannot convert it over to Adobe Acrobat. Have your newsletter editor contact me and let's see if we can change that.

Now, I realize that some of you editors are very bashful and feel your hard work isn't up to sharing, but that's not true. We all learn and steal (I mean, share) from each other's work. So, let's give this new webpage a real workout and send me your newsletter!!! Send it to: n8sy@n8sy.com

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



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://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



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 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!