

PostScript
 Ohio Section “December 11th, 2023”

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CQ CQ CQ de WB8LCD

Did you miss me? I took a badly needed week off. From just about everything. Got away, got some sun, and got “recharged”. If you get the chance, can make it work with your schedule, I highly recommend it!

So here I am, ready to get 2023 behind me and 2024 out in front of me. I'm excited about the possibilities! I'm already looking back on 2023 and I have a couple of observations to make. Although it's still with us, COVID is now in the rear-view mirror as a "pandemic" level threat. This year has been a year of transition coming out of that, but we are changed by it. Life is different on many levels. We've lost a bit of the "comradery" that comes from being together in person. But Zoom (and other adaptations) has given us new ways to participate. Both financial issues and social issues have made us look at a lot of things in a different light. The one thing I want you to remember is that we're all in this together – as human beings, as a country, as families, and as Amateur Radio operators. We need strong individuals, but we also need a sense of who/what we are together!

Shifting gears (I heard someone say that somewhere), in the Ohio Section I've declared 2023 as "The Year of the Club". Ham Radio faces several challenges in the coming years, and I believe that most of those challenges can be met with strong, active local clubs. Sure, there are lots of other entities, both larger and smaller, but I believe that clubs will be the nucleus that holds it all together. "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17) Local clubs are where we make the personal contacts and relationships with other Hams that will "sharpen" every one of us to be the best we can be in this hobby. I didn't become a ham just so I could be mediocre at it – I want to make the most of my Ham Radio experience.

Everyone comes in as a "novice", but when you belong to an active club, chances are you'll go from novice to *awesome* a lot faster than you might have done it on your own.

As I've stated before as my 3 goals for my time as Ohio Section Manager, I want to:

- 1 – Give *every* Ohio Section Ham the opportunity and the experience of having the most fun with their hobby as they've every had,
- 2- Make more *active* Amateur Radio operators in the Ohio Section by increasing the number of licensed Hams, and
- 3- increase the number of ARRL members in the Ohio Section. All of which can be accomplished by helping the local clubs in the Ohio Section to be successful. Hence, "2024 – The Year of the Club" in the Ohio Section. Please, join me in that mission!

Starting with the first PostScript in January, I'll be adding a "Tips" listing in the "Clubs" section of the newsletter. This keys in directly with my #1 Goal – making sure that every one of your

FCC FORM 660
AUGUST 1963
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20554
Not Transferable
AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE

OPERATOR PRIVILEGES: NOVICE
CALL SIGN: WN8AAB
EFFECTIVE DATE: 02-06-68 EXPIRATION DATE: 02-06-70

THOMAS R SLY
116 TIMBER LN
AURORA OHIO 44202

STATION LOCATION: SAME AS ABOVE
REMOTE CONTROL LOCATION: NONE

Thomas R SLY
(Licensee's Countersignature)
Ron F. Waple
SECRETARY

THIS LICENSE ISSUED SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS ON REVERSE SIDE

club members is having FUN with the hobby and as a member of your club! I've got a lot of things I've noted through the years, but I want to share your ideas too. I want to know what *your* club is doing right now that makes it successful at giving your members a FUN experience with the hobby. Please send me an email with your "tips", suggestions and stories to: tomsly29@gmail.com .

Just to get the ball rolling, here's my first Tip:

Although very important, it's not all about "Club Leadership" – membership has a responsibility to the success of the club too! You want to be a part of a successful club? The number 1 thing you can do is show up and be supportive of the club leadership. I know you can't be at everything, but you should at least try to be at most club activities. Let's say I'm a new ham. I join the club. Activities are planned and promoted. I show up at the activity and only 10% (or less) of the club members are there, and those who are there spend most of their time and conversation snipping at the leaders for not doing something more exciting. As the new guy, I might not bother coming back. GREAT! All three of my goals for the Ohio Section have been squashed in one club activity! That new guy didn't have fun, he's not going to tell his buddies about what a Great hobby Amateur Radio is and get them to join in, and he's probably not going to become an ARRL member either. A WIN/WIN/WIN just became a big loser. Now look at a different scenario – New Guy shows up at the activity, a whole bunch of people are there, having fun. They WELCOME him into the activity and help him to be a part of it! The new guy makes new friends, he learns more about the hobby, he feels like he's a part of something! And it's all because YOU showed up and had the right attitude. It's pretty simple, not rocket surgery. But it's hard to break old habits.

OK, shifting gears again! HAMVENTION 2024!

The 2024 Hamvention General Chairman Jim Storms AB8YK and the Hamvention team are pleased to announce the ARRL will be holding its National Convention at Hamvention in May 2024! Hamvention Organizers and ARRL Leadership have been busy working out joint activities. There will be more information about this joint venture soon.

We are pleased to unveil our 2024 logo and theme. The theme is "**Expanding our Community**". This is in support of the growth of Amateur Radio worldwide.



It is time to submit award nominations, Amateur of the Year, Technical Achievement, Special Achievement, and Club of the Year. See the website for details.

We want to remind everyone to purchase their tickets and make their room reservations early to avoid the rush. Please reference our website for more information. www.hamvention.org.

Submitted by Michael Kalter W8CI
Hamvention Spokesperson for 2024

I'd like to add here: Hamvention is a National Amateur Radio Treasure! And the beauty of it is that it happens in our own backyard. As an Ohio Section Ham – you need to get there. Come for the week, come for a day – just make it a priority to be there. You will not regret it!

Finally,

Jack Shirley, N8DX, QSL Card Bureau manager for the 8th call district is in need of a new card sorter for the “Letter I”. If you are interested in working with the QSL Card Bureau please contact Jack at jcshirle@gmail.com.

In the November issue of the Ohio Section Journal there was an article regarding “Giving Tuesday” in which there was a photo of youngsters soldering on a circuit board. It was pointed out that none of them was wearing eye-protection. In our hobby we do many things that could injure or even kill you! Please, always follow all safety rules and protect yourselves from injury.

Share the Magic.,

73,

Tom Sly - WB8LCD
Ohio Section Manager
wb8lcd@arrl.org
330-554-4650



Youth Net

When: The second Sunday of every month at 7:30 PM EST

Where: The K8IV repeater located in Kent, Ohio (Echolink node K8BF-L) RF: 146.895 Mhz with PL 118.8

Who: Any licensed amateur radio operator who wishes to participate. Priority will be given to youth stations and those located in Ohio.

The purpose of this net is to encourage youth activity in amateur radio and to help new hams get more comfortable on the air.

***December is a busy month. We'll take a break and restart on Sunday January 14th, 2024 ***

If you are a young ham, in the Ohio Section or elsewhere, please check in and say “Hello”! Even if you’re far away from OHIO you can check in via Echo-Link. Echo-Link is a good tool to have, and it can be accessed from your laptop, tablet or cellphone. But there is a process to get validated to the Echo-link system. It’s simple to do, but you need to get it done before the day of the net! Go to [Introducing EchoLink](#) for more information on getting started. If you’re an “Old Guy” (a gender neutral term meaning not a youthful operator) and you have some kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews or even some neighborhood kids who you would like to give a chance to talk to other kids about Ham Radio, this might be an excellent opportunity to give them that small nudge that could be the start of something positive they will carry with them through life!

National News

(from ARRL and other sources)

ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program

Clubs around the country sponsor VE sessions in order to help new hams get their licenses and to help existing hams upgrade. One of the changes in the last couple of years is the introduction of the \$35 FCC License Fee. The ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program, in effect since April 19, 2022, will cover the one-time \$35 application fee for new license candidates younger than 18-years old for tests administered under the ARRL VEC program.

The \$35 FCC application fee will be reimbursed after the ARRL VEC receives the completed reimbursement form and after the new license has been issued by the FCC. The reimbursement check will be mailed to the fee payer. Also, candidates who are the age of 18 pay a reduced exam session fee of \$5 to the ARRL VEC VE team at the time of the exam. The \$5 fee is for all candidates under the age of 18, regardless of the exam level taken. Proof of age is required at the

session. Visit www.arrl.org/youth-licensing-grant-program for the program instructions and reimbursement form.

Contact [ARRL VEC](#) for assistance or for information on how your club can set up an ARRL VEC VE team and offer testing on a regular basis in your area, and how to take advantage of the reduced exam fee for youth candidates. It's extremely gratifying when a candidate passes their test and earns a license.

Clubs that already sponsor ARRL VEC exam sessions, we thank you for your service to our program!

NTS 2.0 Update

- We have begun to produce PowerPoint presentations and training videos, which will be available on the NTS2 website. The first training video is now available at <https://nts2.arrl.org/ntsgte-an-aprs-nts-gateway/>. This video is about the APRS-NTS Gateway, and information on this topic can be found later in this newsletter. The teams are currently producing a video about the encapsulation of ICS-213 and other agency forms for use particularly on voice and CW networks.
- Because we believe recognition is so important not only for showing appreciation, but also for motivating and encouraging traffic handlers, we have been working on a recognition program for both new and experienced traffic handlers. More on that in an upcoming issue.
- Because emergency service agencies expect delivery of messages within 30 minutes, as reported last month Don Rolph, AB1PH, has conducted transcontinental tests on 20 meters using digital modes to explore how propagation issues affect point-to-point communication across the country. Don reports these were mostly successful but says more tests will be conducted on 30 meters. He welcomes more operators to participate in these tests.
- There are no updates on the new net directory, but we continue to press forward.

ICS-213 Compatibility: Using Radiograms to Pass Served Agency Forms

From the NTS2.arrl.org website:

In emergencies, practice exercises, and other scenarios, radio amateurs will likely pass messages for the various

The image shows a screenshot of a 'GENERAL MESSAGE (ICS 213)' form. The form is structured as follows:

- 1. Incident Name (Optional):** A text input field.
- 2. To (Name and Position):** A text input field.
- 3. From (Name and Position):** A text input field.
- 4. Subject:** A text input field.
- 5. Date:** A date input field.
- 6. Time:** A time input field.
- 7. Message:** A large text area for the message content.
- 8. Approved By: Name, Signature, Position/Title:** A section for approval with three sub-fields.
- 9. Reply:** A large text area for a reply.
- 10. Replied By: Name, Position/Title, Signature:** A section for the reply with three sub-fields.
- ICS 213:** A small box at the bottom left.
- Date/Time:** A small box at the bottom right.

served agencies, such as FEMA, Red Cross, and others. It is important that we are able to relay these messages in a way that is compatible with the agencies' existing methods. While NTS stations are used to using the standard radiogram format, agencies will use their own forms, such as the ICS-213 form pictured here.

As part of NTS 2.0, numerous NTS stations and EmComm operators have worked together to define methods and procedures for passing these various agency forms encapsulated within radiograms. This allows the NTS relay stations to handle radiograms as they are used to, while served agencies can continue to utilize their forms.

The [NTS 2.0 website discusses how to encode these complex forms](#) for transmission through the National Traffic System as radiograms, and their final delivery to the served agency in the native form format.

We realize that radiograms with encapsulated agency forms are much longer than traditional radiograms and take more time and effort when passed on CW or voice modes.

We expect these forms to be passed primarily via digital modes for most emergencies, but there can indeed be circumstances when they need to be sent via voice or CW. This could be due to the scale and type of emergency, or because of delivering station capabilities. To be prepared for these circumstances, we hope voice and CW participants and their nets will take pains to become familiar with the forms and develop proficiency through the practice of handling the encoded forms on those modes.

The NTS 2.0 Digital and EmComm working groups have developed encoding for:

- ICS-213 form
- Texas EMA STAR form
- HICS-213 form
- ARC-213 form

It is anticipated that encoding for more forms will be established as we move forward.

We will be updating this material as it is developed.

NCVEC Question Pool Committee Removes Two General-Class License Questions

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has removed two General-class license questions.

Pursuant to the November 13, 2023, FCC rule change to remove symbol rate restrictions on amateur radio digital emissions, the QPC of the NCVEC has deleted two questions from the

General-class question pool because they are no longer correct.

The web article on the symbol rate restrictions can be found at, <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-hails-fcc-action-to-remove-symbol-rate-restrictions>.

General-class questions G1C08 and G1C10 are withdrawn from the pool effective immediately and should be removed from examinations as soon as possible.

Updated question pool files, including the errata and new information, have been posted on the NCVEC General-class question pool web page at, <http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=369>.

The current Element 3 General question pool became effective on July 1, 2023, and it is valid through June 30, 2027. The ARRL VEC advises the community to regularly check the NCVEC website at <http://www.ncvec.org/> for updates to the question pools, which may include errata and withdrawn questions.

40 Years of Amateur Radio in Space

Melissa Gaskill, a science author from Austin, Texas, has written a comprehensive review about the 40-year history of amateur radio in space. In her article, "[Ham Radio in Space: Engaging with Students Worldwide for 40 Years](#)," Gaskill explores the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX), which is now known as Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS).

Gaskill said that while she wrote the article, she is not an expert on the subject but there are many who are including Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, International Space Station (ISS) Ham Project Coordinator since 2004.

Ransom said that amateur radio in space was a possibility even before 1983, when Astronaut Owen Garriott, W5LFL (SK), made history during the STS-9 Space Shuttle Columbia mission with the first amateur radio contact from space. NASA had been looking for ways to bring amateur radio to Skylab (a space station designed as an orbiting workshop for scientific research) and even the moon.

"Having amateur radio in space has added a heightened level of interest, not only for hams, but for the overall program as well," said Ransom. "Just being able to talk to a crew member on board a spacecraft is an amazing accomplishment."

Garriott's son, Richard Garriott, who operated amateur radio during a short-term mission on the ISS in 2008, will present a special webinar on December 7, 2023, at 1800 UTC to discuss his



father's first historic mission. The presentation will be available to watch on [ARRISS - YouTube](#). The event is hosted by ARISS International Chair Frank Bauer, KA3HDO.

ARRISS is a cooperative venture of international amateur radio societies and the space agencies that support the ISS. In the US, participating organizations include NASA's Space Communications and Navigation (SCaN) program, the ISS National Laboratory -- Space Station Explorers, [ARRL](#), and AMSAT.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



In this week's newsletter, discover how to get the best views of this month's Geminid meteors, hear former astronaut Story Musgrave share firsthand accounts of the groundbreaking mission that revitalized the Hubble Space Telescope, and learn how a cryobot mission concept to drill through the icy crusts of Europa and Enceladus to search for life is being developed.

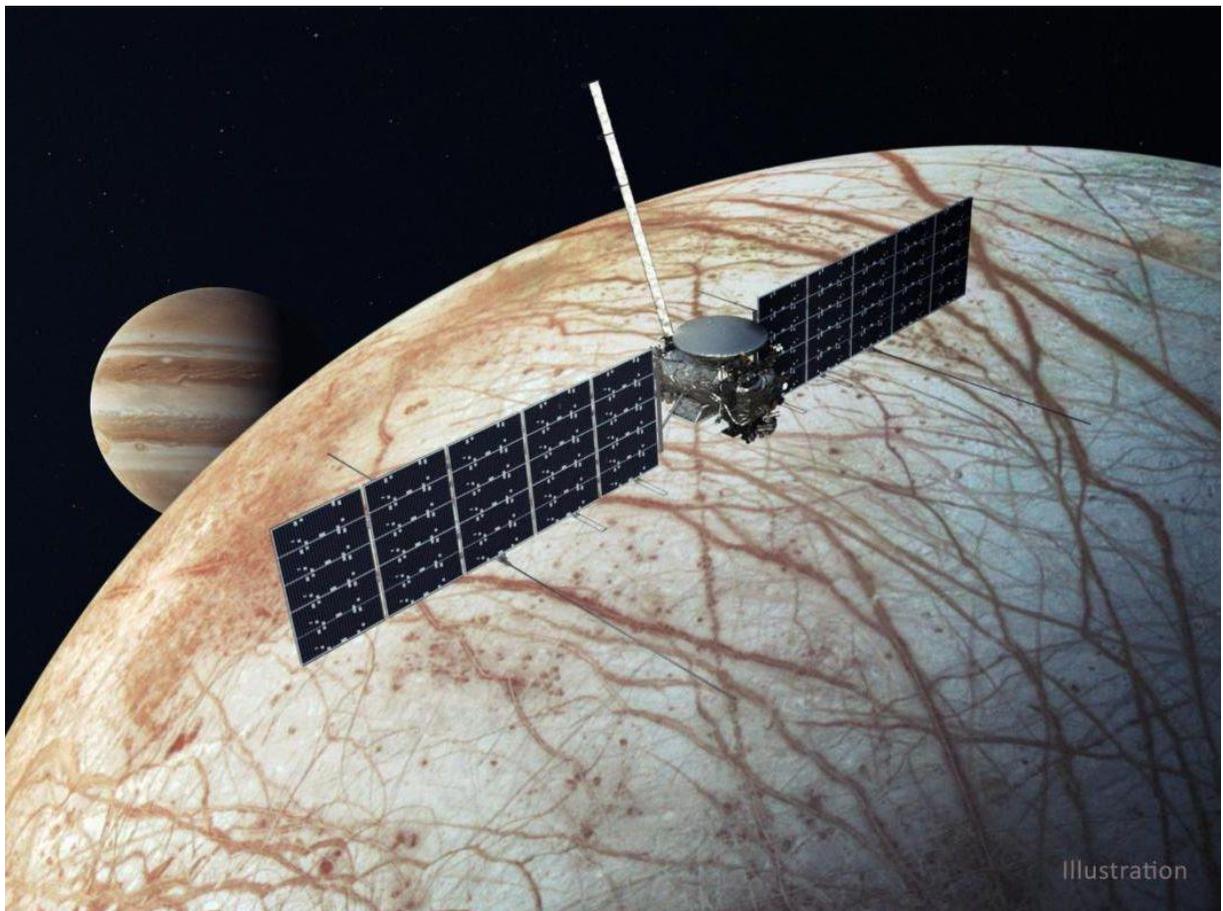


What's Up for December?

Your Personal NASA Guide to the Night Sky

The Geminid meteors peak overnight on Wednesday, Dec. 13. Northern Hemisphere observers can look for meteors as early as 9 p.m. local time, with the hourly number increasing after midnight. Asteroid Vesta reaches opposition this month, meaning it's located directly on the opposite side of Earth from the Sun. You will be able to observe it as early as 10 p.m. local time with binoculars or a small telescope.

[SKYWATCHING RESOURCES](#)



Send Your Name to Jupiter's Moon Europa

NASA's Europa Clipper will investigate Jupiter's moon Europa to determine whether there are places below Jupiter's icy moon, Europa, that could support life. The mission's detailed investigation of Europa will help scientists better understand the astrobiological potential for habitable worlds beyond our planet.

Join the mission and have your name stenciled on a microchip that will be attached to the spacecraft as it travels 1.8 billion miles to explore Europa. Sign up to send your name on NASA's Europa Clipper spacecraft by Sunday, Dec. 31.

SEND YOUR NAME

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 your club is up to. Are you going to have a special guest at your meeting or are you having a special anniversary?
Just send it to: webmaster@arrl-ohio.org

Please! Format as below:

If you want me to publish your club information, or even an article you have written, please send it in WORD format (.docx). Please use Times New Roman font size 12 for the body of the article. Any photos please include as a .jpg or .bmp – the time you save me in doing all the conversions will be greatly appreciated.



How to Plan and Apply for an ARRL Hamfest or Convention

If your amateur radio club is planning to host a convention, hamfest, tailgate, or swapfest, please consider applying for ARRL sanctioned status for your event. To learn what it means to be an ARRL sanctioned event, and to get some ideas on how to prepare for and conduct a hamfest or convention, visit www.arrl.org/arrl-sanctioned-events.

To apply for ARRL sanctioned status for your event, go to www.arrl.org/hamfest-convention-application.

The ARRL Hamfests and Conventions Calendar can be found online at www.arrl.org/hamfests. In addition, the Convention and Hamfest Calendar that runs in *QST* each month also presents information about upcoming events.

VE Sessions:

The following information is for ALL exam sessions:

It is now an FCC requirement to have an FCC FRN; active email address and active phone number before taking any exam. Please bring your FCC FRN, original license, a copy of your license (if a licensed ham), a valid photo ID and \$15.00 - Cash preferred.

Effective April 19, 2022, the FCC will charge a \$35.00 application fee for amateur radio licenses. The fee will apply to new, renewal, rule waiver, and modification applications that request a new vanity call sign. License upgrades will not have a fee applied. The fee will be per application. *VE's will not collect the fees at exam sessions.*

AE8FP Amateur Radio Test Team administers ARRL-VEC testing in the Central Ohio area. Our test dates for 2024 are as follows: Januray 20, April 27, June 22, July 20, and October 19. Time and location for these dates are 10:00am at the Westerville Fire Station #111, 400 W. Main St in Westerville, Ohio. The listed dates are co-sponsored by the Central Ohio Radio Club (CORC).

Pre-Registration is required, and open the 1st of each testing month. All information is available at www.ae8fp.net <<http://www.ae8fp.net/>>

All Things Amateur Radio Association (ATARA) We host testing sessions every second Tuesday of the month in Lancaster. To sign up please visit our website <https://atara-w8atr.fun> and contact us at hamexams@atara-w8atr.fun.

Butler County Amateur Radio Association W8WRK

Laurel VE Testing Session - hosted by DIAL amateur radio club
Amateur Radio License Examinations at 9:00AM on Sunday April 29th at Fairfield Township Administration Building 6032 Morris Rd. Hamilton, OH 45011. Pre-Registration is required, go to: www.qsl.net/w8blv click on Exams and follow the instructions. Additional info may be obtained from Thurl Golden, KD8VLU (513) 939-4891 tgolden@fuse.net or Ron Spaulding, N8QF, (513) 617-6181 or n8qf@roadrunner.com . There are no Exam Fees!

CARS

VE testing from CARS - Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society - at Elmwood Recreation Center, 6200 Wisnieski Parkway in Independence, Ohio 44131 Time: 9:15 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Always the 2nd Sunday of the odd month. Go to CARS www.2cars.org for detailed map of location. Call Metro W8MET 216-520-1320 for details

Clark County Amateur Radio Association (CLARA)

What: CLARA sponsored A.R.R.L. VE Testing - Walk-ins allowed. Pre-Register via email preferred.

When: On every second Saturday of each even numbered month starting at 10:00 AM Feb 10th; Apr 13th; Jun 8th; Aug 10th; Oct 12th; and Dec 14th, 2024. Where: Springview Government Center - Emergency Operations Center; 3130 E Main St; Springfield OH 45503 This is US-40 aka "old national road". From Route 40 enter Old Columbus Road, at the fork stay left driving straight onto Ogden Rd, then immediately turn left into the parking lot behind the EMA. Walk to the door with the "Employees Only" sign.

For more information contact Roland W. Ude, W8BUZ, (937) 605-4951 Email: buzz@baylorhill.com

Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA)

If you are interested in testing for a new or upgraded license, please come see us at the DARA Clubhouse. If you have questions about testing, please email exams.w8bi@gmail.com

Dial Radio Club, Middleton, OH

Will offer Amateur Radio License Examinations at 6:00PM on Wednesday March 1st at St. John XXIII Elementary School, 3806 Manchester Rd., Middletown, OH 45042. Pre-Registration is required, go to: www.qsl.net/w8blv click on Exams and follow the instructions. Additional info may be obtained from Dave Williamson, KD8W, (513) 424-5819 or kd8w@ARRL.net or Ron Spaulding, N8QF, (513) 617-6181 or n8qf@roadrunner.com . There are no Exam Fees!

Geauga Amateur Radio Association (GARA)

Amateur License exam sessions are offered for all license classes (Technician, General, Extra). Walk-ins are always welcome - no prior registration is required. No fee for the exam.

The GARA schedule of exams are these Sundays at 2pm. Dates for 2023 are January 15th, March 19th, May 21st, July 9th, September 10th, and November 12th.



Exams are held at the Geauga County Department of Emergency Services and Emergency Operations Center, 12518 Merritt Road, Chardon, Ohio 44024. The EOC is located just south of the University Geauga Hospital and just east of the Geauga County Safety Center (Sheriff's Office), off of State Route 44 between State Route 322 and State Route 87 on Merritt Road.

Please arrive a few minutes before 14:00 to allow adequate time to process the necessary paper work and take your test. Bring your 1) photo ID, 2) email address, 3) FCC FRN, 4) a printout of your current license if taking the General or Extra exam.

Additional info may be obtained from Jim Mekeel, KE8EMP, email KE8EMP@gmail.com or the Geauga Amateur Radio Association website <https://geaugaara.org>

Huber Heights Amateur Radio Club

Huber heights amateur radio club does ARRL VE testing the second Saturday of each even numbered month. Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec. 9:30-11:00 For more information contact Jim Storms – AB8YK at ab8yk@hotmail.com

The Lake County Amateur Radio Association

The Lake County Amateur Radio Association is holding its **2024** Amateur Radio license exams at the **Kirtland Library**, 9267 Chillicothe Road, on the following dates:

Saturday, February 3	Saturday, August 3
Saturday, April 6	Saturday, October 5
Saturday, June 1	Saturday, December 7

This bi-monthly schedule is the first Saturday of every even-numbered month (e.g., February being the second month, etc.). They are held at the Kirtland Library, 9267 Chillicothe Road. It is 1.7 miles south of I-90 on Route 306 (Chillicothe Rd). The library is on the left, just beyond the Marathon gas station. The tests will start at **12 noon**. Please arrive a few minutes earlier.

To register, you will need a NCVFC 605 Form, which will be available at the test. If you would like to complete one ahead of time, be sure it is the Sept 2017 version or later. You can find it by Googling “NCVFC quick-form 605” and clicking on the url for a pdf of the form. Please note **the FCC requires you to provide a FRN** (FCC Registration Number). Social Security

Numbers are no longer accepted. If you are new to ham radio and don't have a FRN, Google "New FRN" and follow the fcc.gov link.

If you are currently licensed, be sure to **bring a copy of your license to the exam**. The cost of the exam itself is \$15.00, and if you wish to pay by check, it should be made out to the ARRL/VEC. Identification with your picture is also necessary, such as a driver's license. If you have any questions, please contact Scott Farnham, KO8O, at (440) 256-0320, or scottfarnham@roadrunner.com

In addition to the \$15 test fee, the FCC now charges \$35 to add you to the Amateur Radio database. The FCC will e-mail successful candidates instructions for payment directly to them. Payment must be made within 10 days of the e-mail. This charge does not apply to upgrades.

The Lancaster and Fairfield County Amateur Radio Club (LFCARC)

hosts exam sessions at the FAIRFIELD County EMA, 240 Baldwin Dr in Lancaster Ohio, 43130, on the first Saturday each month at 10:00 am. Please visit our website at <http://www.k8qik.org> for exam dates on our calendar and navigate to our Learning Center/Taking the Exam link for information and requirements. Our experienced VE team looks forward to serving the Amateur Radio community in Central Ohio. Contact me at ve_testing@k8qik.org to register.

Lisbon Area Amateur Radio Association

Beginning Feb 11, 2023 Testing on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Columbiana County EMA located at 215 S Market St. Lisbon, OH 44432. Walk-ins OK. Check in at 1:00PM. For more information go to www.K8GQB.com or contact NN8B at nn8b.oh@gmail.com

Madison County

The Laurel testing group will offer testing on the first Thursday of January, March, May, July, September and November. Tests are held at 7:00PM at the Madison County EMA located at 271 Elm St. London, OH. No fee.

The Milford Amateur Radio Club (MARC)

VE testing is held the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM. Location; Miami Township Civic Center located at 6101 Meijer Drive, Milford, OH 45150. Please pre-register at www.milfordhamradio.org

Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society (NOARS)

Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society (NOARS) VE sessions are held the first Saturday of odd-numbered months (EXCEPT FOR March and July) at 10 AM in the **Fairview Park Library**,

21255 Lorain Rd., Fairview Park. Registration is preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. For more information or to register, contact Elaine, KC8FOS at ewilkinson1951@gmail.com. There will be a VE session held **Sunday, March 10** at the NOARS Winterfest held at Lorain County Community College **in the College Center**, 1005 Abbe Rd N, Elyria, OH 44035. Please email Elaine, KC8FOS at ewilkinson1951@gmail.com for more information or to register.

Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS)

The first Saturday of every even numbered month -10 am – at the PCARS club site in Ravenna. Please visit the PCARS web site and check out the information about VE testing in the latest newsletter at www.portcars.org .

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me at KB8UUZ@gmail.com

Tusco Amateur Radio Club W8ZX

VE Testing sessions are held on the second Saturday of every even numbered month at the Dover Faith Church, 420 N Wooster Ave, Dover, OH 44622. Pre-registration is not necessary. Doors open at 0830 for registration, exams begin at 0900. Cost is \$15. You are required to have an email address and a copy of your FRN or current ham radio license. For more information please go to www.w8zx.net/exam or email VETEAM@N8BAG.NET.

West Chester Amateur Radio Association (WC8VOA) Exam sessions are held one Saturday each month at 10:00 AM-Noon at the VOA Bethany Relay Museum located at *8070 Tylersville Rd, West Chester, Ohio 45069*. For more information and links to register, please see our website: <https://wc8voa.org/licensing/>

Free Amateur Radio License Upgrade Classes

Jim Grover, N8PZL

Frank Tompkins, W8EZT

Anthony Luscre, K8ZT

General Class

The Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club will again offer online classes to pass the FCC General Class Exam. The classes will be held via Zoom on six Sunday afternoons from 1:30 to 4:00 PM. The first class will start on Jan 14th. The classes are free and available to all interested hams with Tech licenses or studying to complete their Tech license by the end of the classes. Class

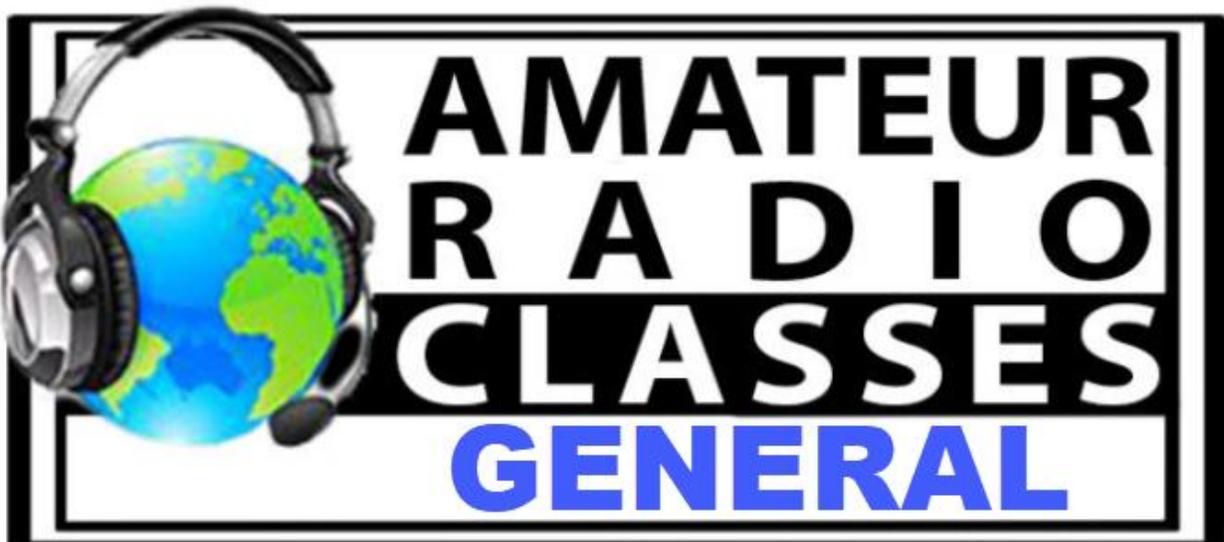
materials will be distributed via Google Classroom, and the suggested book is “[General License Course Study Guide](#)” (2023-2027 edition), available from HamRadioSchool.com.

If you have your Tech license, this is a great way to expand the bands and modes you have access to. It will also provide a lot of practical information on Amateur Radio.

We need you to spread the word if you already have your General or higher license. Please contact friends, relatives, etc., who have Tech licenses and invite them to this class.

Please feel free to print out the following page and send it to them, post it at your nearby library or any other spot around town that may have interested viewers.

We will have just completed our fall Tech Class with 20 attendees on Nov 12th. We will have another Tech Class next fall or if we have enough demand before then.



The Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club offers free live online classes to get your Amateur (Ham) Radio General Class License. Classes start on Jan. 14, 2024.

For information, visit-
tiny.cc/beahamg



What is Amateur (Ham) Radio?- tiny.cc/wiar

Your Club news should be listed here!

I know you're out there doing things! Send me a write-up (MSWord please) and some photo's (.jpg please) and we'll get your club hi-lited here for the other OH Section Clubs to see! Send to WB8LCD@ARRL.ORG

ARLD049 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by The Daily DX, 425 DX News, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

MALAWI, 7Q. Don, 7Q6M is QRV from Embangweni until May 13, 2024 and has been active on 160 meters. QSL via LoTW.

BAHRAIN, A9. Members of the Bahrain Amateur Radio Society are QRV as A91ND until December 16 to celebrate their country's national day. QSL via EC6DX.

CAPE VERDE, D4. Markus, OE3MCS will be QRV as D44MCS from December 11 to 22. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8. QSL to home call.

NIUE, E6. Sigfrido, IW9FMD is working in Alofi and is active in his spare time as E6S on the H/VHF bands. QSL via IT9YVO.

ETHIOPIA, ET. Ken, K4ZW is QRV from club station ET3AA in Addis Ababa. Activity is on the low bands using CW. He plans to be an entry in the ARRL 10 Meter contest. QSL ET3AA via N2OO.

OGASAWARA, JD1. A group of operators are QRV as JD1YCE until December 19. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via JA3AVO.

ALASKA, KL7. KL7RRC is QRV from St. Paul Island, IOTA NA-028, until December 14. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via Clublog OQRS.

ANTARCTICA. Juan, LU8DBS is QRV as L36Z, LU1ZV, and LU8DBS/Z from Base Esperanza. Activity is in his spare time on 80 to 10 meters using SSB, PSK31, and FT8. His length of stay is unknown. QSL via LU4DXU.

EAST KIRIBATI, T32. Members of the Rebel DX Group are QRV as T32TT from Christmas Island, IOTA OC-024, until December 21. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4. QSL via OQRS.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. John, W5JON will be QRV as V47JA from Calypso Bay, St. Kitts, IOTA NA-097, from December 9 to 18. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL direct to home call.

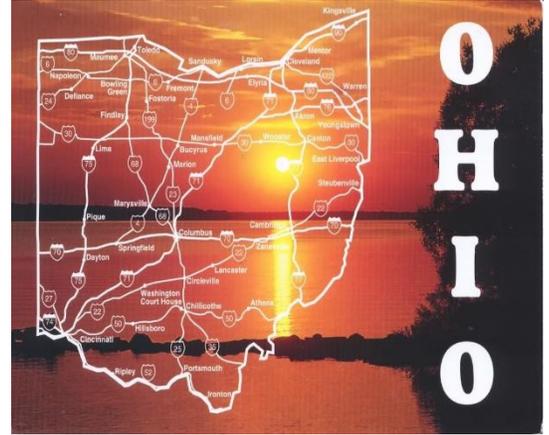
MICRONESIA, V6. A group of operators are QRV as V6EU from Chuuk Island, IOTA OC-011, until December 16. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8. QSL via DL2AWG.

BURKINA FASO, XT. Harald, DF2WO is QRV as XT2AW from Ouagadougou until December 19. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4. QSL via LoTW.

VANUATU, YJ. Mike, VK2BXE is QRV as YJ0MB from Port Vila. Activity is on 20 to 10 meters. QSL to home call.

REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO, Z6. Gab, HB9TSW is QRV as Z68BG from the Slatina Air Base until December 19. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using only CW. QSL to home call.

Upcoming *Hamfests*



Ohio Hamfests

2024

01/14/2024 - [Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation Hamfest](#)

Location: Shade, OH

Sponsor: club members

[Learn More](#)

03/10/2024 - [WINTERHAMFEST](#)

Location: Elyria, OH

Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://winterhamfest@noars.net>

[Learn More](#)

03/17/2024 - [Toledo Mobile Radio Association Hamfest and Computer Fair](#)

Location: Perrysburg, OH

Sponsor: Toledo Mobile Radio Association

Website: <http://www:w8hhf.org>

[Learn More](#)

04/13/2024 - [Mid-Ohio Valley Amateur Radio Club](#)

Location: Bidwell, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Mid-Ohio Valley Amateur Radio Club

[Learn More](#)

<p>05/16/2024 - 05/19/2024 <u>Four Days In May</u> Location: Fairborn, OH Type: ARRL Convention Sponsor: QRP Amateur Radio Club International Website: http://qrparci.org/fdim <u>Learn More</u></p>	<p>07/21/2024 - <u>Van Wert Hamfest</u> Location: Van Wert, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Van Wert Amateur Radio Club Website: http://w8fy.org <u>Learn More</u></p>
<p>8/10/2024 - <u>Cincinnati Hamfest</u> Location: Owensville, OH Sponsor: Milford ARC Website: https://CincinnatiHamfest.org <u>Learn More</u></p>	<p>08/18/2024 - <u>Warren Hamfest</u> Location: Cortland, OH Sponsor: Warren Amateur Radio Association Website: https://www.w8vtd.com/ <u>Learn More</u></p>

Plenty of Ohio Section Hamfests on tap for 2024! If you haven't got yours submitted to ARRL as of yet – go back up a couple pages to the top of the “Clubs” section for complete instructions on how to get your fest ARRL Sanctioned! As you can see, I've left a couple open slots here for your Ohio Section Hamfest!

DX This Week – TF3VS

Bill - AJ8B (thedxmentor@gmail.com or www.aj8b.com)

Hey gang...I can't believe it is the middle of December! I also had forgotten how good band conditions could be when the Cycle is right. Ten meters continues to hold well all day and I have found openings on 12, 15, and 17 meters at various times when I thought they should be closed. I always use the fishing analogy – If you aren't casting, you aren't trying!

I hope you have been working some of the DX that has been on.



If you work an ATNO, drop me a note. I was able to work T32TT on their first day, bringing me to 311.

This week I have an interview to share with you as well as some information on CWOPs. You may be getting tired of my promoting this organization twice a year but be patient! This past October, I heard more CW signals during the CQWW DX Contest than I have heard in a long time.

Keep the rig ready to go and the spotting network on. There is quite a bit of good DX out there! I heard a long QSO between 9J2BO, Brian, and a W7 ham. Brian and I have had QSOs and corresponded several times over the years. He likes to operate on the WARC bands during contests as it cuts down on the stations looking for him. He made 15 or 20 QSOs in a row and each took about 10 minutes. Quite a difference from the 5NN OH exchange. If you work Brian, let him know that I said "Hello."

I also have some excellent DX news this week. Keep me in the loop on how you are doing! Tom may shut down the column if we don't get some feedback!

I received an email from Janet, W8CAA. Several weeks ago, I had mentioned the CWops organization. She asked, "What is it? Can anyone join? What is their purpose?" From the CWOPs.org website, I found the following:

"In late 2009 a small group of CW operators – ragchewers, contesters, and DXers – began talking about founding a new club. As these operators were from all three ITU regions, they decided from the outset that this club, unlike many, would be an international club from day one.

The CW Operators Club (CWops) was launched in January 2010. During those first three years, the club grew from a handful, to a few hundred, to over 1000 members in over 70 countries. CWops, from the outset, was meant to be inclusive. Whether your preference was using CW for ragchewing, contesting or chasing DX, you would find kindred spirits among the club's members.

At first, we established monthly on-air activities (CWTs), but today CWTs are held weekly on Wednesday. There are three 60-minute sessions each Wednesday at times that favor different geographic areas. By 2011, we had also crafted a worldwide CW contest with many novel features (CW Open). The goal has been to stimulate worldwide weekly CW activity and to conduct an annual contest that could be won on a single band using modest power and wire antennas with a time commitment of only four hours! These events are open to CW operators whether members of the club or not.

We realized that there were a lot of hams who wanted to explore the joys of CW operating but felt overwhelmed. Some of them knew Morse but were only able to copy and send at low speeds. Others had not yet learned 'the code,' but were intrigued by the mode and sought ways to learn and practice it. In response to this demand, CWops created CW Academy in 2012, which uses a developed curriculum, proven method of teaching and Skype for a virtual classroom to teach Morse Code.

We truly believe that CW is far more than a nostalgic throwback to the early days of ham radio. It has relevance in many ways to our desire to do things that not everyone else can do; and to provide an efficient, effective mode for communicating with others around the globe. We

invite you to explore our website; to participate in our on-air activities; or if your goal is to learn or improve CW skills, to sign up for CW Academy and join the hundreds of hams who have already done so.”

There is a nomination process as well as a 25 WPM code requirement. Check www.cwops.org for more details! How do you get to 25 WPM? I will have those details next week.

Thanks for that question, Janet.

If you have a question that you would like to have answered, just send me an email at thedxmentor@gmail.com

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You may remember that last week, we had a DXpedition who was dealing with the government recovering from an attempted assassination of the country’s leader. I always ask people to think about the conditions and situations that DXers put themselves in. Here is another example. Most hams think that DXpeditions are a load of fun and camaraderie. I am sure that there is a lot of that, but here is the other side. This is a recent note from Jacek, activating 3W9C.

Dear guys,

I came to the island of Con Son (Vietnam) 3 days ago. Before my trip I agreed with hotel management to install my antennas on the roof. Unfortunately, when I came here, I learned that this roof is also occupied by 2 GSM antennas. I tried to put my 12m long pole as far as possible from those GSM stations, however the weather here is very windy and hotel staff worried if my long mast would not be broken and fall off the roof. All I could do was shorten the pole and bind it to the water tank construction. Unfortunately, my antenna’s wires are very close to the GSM antennas. The level of noise I am experiencing here is terrible. No chance to work SSB. In the case of FT8. I am also receiving only very strong stations, mainly from Asia.

On the first day I received an email that I was heard in the EU and about 15 stations were calling me, but my waterfall was almost empty. This is a very annoying situation. The next morning, I woke up early to listen to North America. I was surprised that I worked pretty many stations from there.

In the meantime, I also operate on 6m. This is fairly successful. However, the 6m antenna has already been broken by wind and had to be repaired. Now I have 80 callsigns in my 6m log. Openings to JA are sometimes great.

I am doing what I can to log some Europeans, but it is very difficult.

Unfortunately, I have no chance to move to another QTH. This is not a regular DXpedition. I am alone and it is almost impossible from the logistic point of view. I am sorry

that some of you will be disappointed. Especially those who counted for SSB sked. I am checking very often on different bands looking for SSB stations, but I always hear only terrible noise. This noise is stronger in the evenings so maybe its source is not only GSM but also LED lighting.

Additionally, to my own issues the magnetic storm destroyed propagation yesterday.

I am leaving the island on December 10th but my antenna must be taken down on December 9th before sunset because it is impossible to dismount it in the dark.

The weather here is not nice – strong wind and rainfall all day long. Yesterday I experienced more rain than I have ever seen. Additionally, the high winds made the rain fall almost horizontally. Today was the first day with no rain and sometimes the sun appeared.

Please cross your fingers for good propagation which can help to beat with noise.

I hope to see you on air!

73

Jacek SP5APW / 3W9C

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Interview with TF3VS—Villi

I worked Villi on 30M and then sent him an email asking him to answer a few questions. He agreed immediately and the results are below. Thanks to SWODXA for permission to reprint.

AJ8B: How did you first get interested in amateur radio?

TF3VS: I first got interested in radio technology as a child.

There was only one radio station in Iceland and once a week there was a program supporting hobbies for youngsters. The host once described in detail how to make a crystal receiver and I made one. What a joy! When I was older, I got a job in a computer company where almost everybody was a radio amateur. From then there was no escape, hi.

AJ8B: When did you get on the air?

TF3VS: In 1996 I passed the tech. exam for 2m and 70cm. Two years later I passed the morse test and got my HF privileges.

AJ8B: Do you have a favorite band or mode?

TF3VS: I guess it is CW on 20m. The 20m band is often the highest open band here in the north. I must also mention that I am keen operator on many of the digital modes. I used PSK31 from the very beginning when there were only few hundred stations QRV on PSK, also MFSK16,



Throb, MT63 and others, some of them have not been heard (seen) on the bands for years now, hi. FT8 is also great here up north when the bands are practically dead.

AJ8B: I know that you very successful with chasing countries and with contests. Any secrets to your success?

TF3VS: Patience is the key and also listening, listening ... Don't call unless you know whom you are calling. Monitor the K and SFI indices (the average aurora borealis is 270 days per year in Iceland). Investigate propagation, learn which times of day, for the time of year, has possible openings to various countries. For example, Japan is usually only open for an hour per day at this time in Iceland.

AJ8B: Do you participate in Contests?

TF3VS: Yes, I am not a big contester, but I enjoy participating for the fun. It is also a good 'source' of rare call signs ... both go get and give.

AJ8B: What are your favorites?

TF3VS: My favorites are the shorter contests, IOTA being on the top.

AJ8B: What license levels do you have in Iceland?

TF3VS: Now there are only two levels in Iceland, N and G (there used to be 5 classes). The main difference is the power privileges, N giving max 100W but G is the General CEPT/HAREC license allowing up to 1KW. I do have G license.

AJ8B: Describe what you are currently using:

TF3VS: My QTH in town is not a good one, surrounded by high buildings and hostile neighbors towards amateur radio. But I do have a summer cottage 60 km out of town, on 10,000 sq. meters property, which is my main QTH. My main rig now is Flex6400 (before that Flex5000). I do have a small tower (10m high) with a HexBeam from DX-Engineering. I also have a Hustler 6BTV for the lower bands and various non-permanent wire antennas. Besides that, I have a countless number of home brewed gear, rigs, interfaces, tuners ... you name it. I really enjoy building my gear as well.

AJ8B: What advice do you have for those of us trying to break pileups to work DX?

TF3VS: It is the classical listen, listen, listen. Try to understand the rhythm of the DX station's operator. Then call in his rhythm.

AJ8B: When it comes to pileups, how do you feel about "tail ending"?

TF3VS: I don't think that it is effective at all for success, can even be rude and increase the QRM.

AJ8B: Any QSLing hints?

TF3VS: Join LoTW, also ClubLog.

AJ8B: What coaching/advice would you give new amateurs?

TF3VS: Join a club and be involved in Ham activity in your club, even before getting the license. Elder experienced amateurs usually are more than willing to advise, teach and in general share their experience. The spectrum of amateur radio is so big that nobody is into everything. Home brewing, contesting, field operation, community service ... the list is endless. Find your slot and improve your skills there.

AJ8B: Thanks for taking the time to answer my questions. Is there anything you would like to share with us?

TF3VS: Amateur radio is about nonstop self-learning, discovering and improving. It is also a great opportunity to bridge the gap between generations. My XYL (TF3VB) got her license few years after me, our two sons few years later in their teenage years (TF3VO and TF3VH). This is a great family hobby!

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Here is an update from Bernie, W3UR, of the DailyDX and the WeeklyDX, and the How's DX Column in QST. The DailyDX the best source for real-time DX information.

<http://www.dailydx.com/> . Bernie has this to report:

Here is some early info on the 2024, TX5S, **Clipperton Island** DXpedition. Clipperton has the IOTA designator of NA-011 and is #37 on the Clublog most wanted list'

TX5S, the first Clipperton Island DXpedition since TX5P in April 2015, is set for January 18th - February 1st, 2024. Several team members are meeting this week in Northern California to prepare campsite and radio equipment for shipment to their boat, Shogun, which is docked in San Diego. They expect to set sail on January 11th. The team is mindful that many people need Clipperton Island for an All Time New One and for band fills; as such, they plan to upload logs at least once daily to Club Log and MØURX.com. As is the case with all major DXpeditions, the team seeks donations from the worldwide DX community. Early donors will receive LoTW confirmations while the team is on the island. Much more information is available at the DXpedition website and on Facebook. The TX5S team also has set up a groups.io forum to collect input from the DX community.

2025 **Bouvet Island**, 2026 **Peter I Island** DXpeditions are in the works. Ken, LA7GIA, says that planning is underway for a three-week trip to Bouvet Island, #11 on the Club Log DXCC Most Wanted List, in January 2025. According to Ken, 3YØK will have three on-site operators; Dave, WD5COV, Emil, DL8JJ, and Ken, LA7GIA, four support staff, and a corps of remote operators. George, AA7JV, will design, test, and supply the remote radio systems. Over two-thirds of the US\$440,000 budget has been secured, permits are in hand, and a contract has been signed with “a vessel owner with a proven track record in Arctic and Antarctic waters. The experienced captain has been supporting expedition teams since 1997, and before that, managed his own fishing trawler for decades.” Steve, N2AJ, is the media officer and website pilot.

Peter I Island is an uninhabited volcanic island in the Bellingshausen Sea, 450 kilometers from continental, Antarctica. It is #8 on the Club Log DXCC Most Wanted List. Ken says that the DXpedition planners have secured a vessel and are “building a team of 19 operators that will go to Peter I Island in February 2026 and stay there for 14 days.” He writes that “The vessel is a proper Antarctica vessel with two helicopters, two Expedition leaders and with all permits needed. We are working closely with the Norwegian Polar Institute to obtain the landing permit. A website will be created, and more information will be available there. Ken will serve as team leader, and Adrian, KO8SCA, Cezar, VE3LYZ, and Dave, WD5COV, will serve as co-leaders. Again, N2AJ, Steve, is media officer and website pilot.

How about a Pacific trifecta: **Fiji, Samoa, Tokelau**?

Hrane, YT1AD, and his team will be active from Fiji, Samoa, and Tokelau February 7th -March 1st, 2024, using the calls 3D2AD, 5W8A and ZK3M (or maybe ZK3A). The main target is Tokelau, with activity there from February 15th -25th. The team presently consists of 10 experienced DXpeditioners. Three or four more operator positions are available; contact YT1AD.

Have you worked Lakshadweep Islands, VU7A, yet? They should be QRV at this time.

Last week, we reported that Krish, W4VKU, was planning to operate from **Lakshadweep Islands** and **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**. Krish shipped his equipment from the Indian West Coast last week. His VU7A operation is currently QRV on 160-6M FT8 and will continue through at least December 10th. He will then operate as VU4N from December 16th to 26th, again on FT8 and SSB. Watch The Daily DX and The Weekly DX for updates.

Members of the Kansai Okinawa Ham Club will be active as JD1YCE from **Ogasawara** December 9th -19th. They will operate CW, SSB and digital modes on the HF bands and 6M. QSL via LoTW, Club Log OQRS, or direct to JA3AVO.

I have some good news from **Laos**. XW4DX operator F4BKV, Vincent, "will be operating XW4KV regularly up to mid-2024 on 15m and 10m bands with low power (100w and dipoles antennas for both bands)". Listen for him on FT8 and when propagation is good on SSB. He plans to upload QSOs "at least every week" to LoTW and Club Log or you can go via F4BKV.

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CONTEST CORNER

Below is a list of upcoming contests in the "Contest Corner". I think this is important for someone who is trying to move up the DXCC ladder since entities that are on the rarer side and easiest to work in contests. Some of my best "catches" have been on the Sunday afternoon of a contest when the rarer entities are begging for QSOs. Of course, the gamble is that if you wait until Sunday, conditions may change, or they simply won't be workable. However, it is not a bad gamble. Of course, why not work the contest and have some fun!

Check out the WA7BNM Contest Calendar page (<https://www.contestcalendar.com/>) and CQ Magazine for more contests or more details. I also have a comprehensive list that can be imported to your calendar at www.aj8b.com/files.

There is a contest coming up that I will spend some time working. It is the Croatian DX Contest. The contest will be held 1400Z, Dec 16th to 1400Z, Dec 17th. The scope and objectives are to increase competitiveness and performance levels of 9A amateur radio operators, with aim to promote its young amateurs and attract new ones, within the context of an open competition with international performers – it is a worldwide competition: everybody can work everybody. The modes and bands are 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters on both CW and SSB modes. I have gotten a few emails about ways to increase your CW speed. Working contests like this one are a great way to increase your abilities.

Last week I mentioned that I wanted to start giving some hints as to how you can chase DX in a contest. Here are a few items to consider for the first step.

➔ Know what you need. If you are going to be chasing DX in the upcoming 10-meter contest, know what you need. Your logbook program should be able to generate a report on what you need on 10 meters.

➔ Verify that what you are looking for will be on. You can use resources such as The Daily DX, dxsummit.fi, and the ng3k.com website to found out about upcoming DXpeditions. You don't want to prepare for DX that isn't going to be available.

➔ Here is a practical example. Let's make two assumptions. First, assume that the country I am trying to work is Singapore. For whatever reason, I have never worked 9V and have only heard them a couple of times. Our second assumption is that it is the middle of November, and we have the CQWW CW contest coming up.

The first step would be to check the DailyDX and the NG3K.com web pages to see if there are DXpeditions planned for that timeframe. Let's assume there are not.

My second step would be to go to my logging software and query it to see if there has been any recent activity from 9V. My software only tracks spots from the Midwest. It would not be of any benefit to me if there were spots from Japan! If there have been spots in a reasonable past time, say 2 weeks, make a note of the time and band. That will give you an idea of WHEN you might expect a station to appear.

My next step would be to go to the CQWW CW DX webpage and go through the results for the past 2 or 3 contests. Doing this, I learned that there has been an average of 5 stations who turned in logs from Singapore. And each of these averaged at least 300 QSOs. There were likely many others, but they did not turn in their log.

Next week I will explain how you can take this information AND expected sunspot numbers to put together an operating plan.

OHIO'S



Where did November go? It seems I was just putting up Halloween decorations and all of a sudden the calendar tells me the Christmas lights and decorations should be replacing them. Huh, I thought there was Thanksgiving in between?

I guess the reason for the number of ham radio events decreasing is the on-coming holidays of Christmas and New Years and rightfully turning our attentions to gatherings of families and friends to celebrate ‘the reason for the season’.

Although a number of holiday events the Southern Ohio ham community has conducted or participated in have concluded, there are a few yet to come. So let’s take a gander at the remaining South 40 Region events yet to happen through the end of the year, plus also report on some of those that are now in the book.

DECEMBER 9 is going to be a busy day for South 40 region hams. The day kicks off with the hams in the Bainbridge/Ross & Pike County areas meeting for breakfast at the Dutch Restaurant near Bainbridge. The eggs, biscuits and gravy start being served about 8 AM. Up Route 50 in Hillsboro the **Highland ARA** will gather at the Burger King for their monthly Brunch Bunch coffee. It starts at 10 AM. Then at Noon the **Scioto Valley ARA** holds their Christmas dinner at the Chillicothe Evening Lions Club Building in Chillicothe. Starting at 11 that morning, the Museum of Radio and Technology in Huntington, WV will conduct their 7th annual “Get On The Air With Santa” at the radio museum. This unique event is open to the public and exposes the public to amateur radio and the history of radio communications through various activities designed to appeal to children and their families. Thanks to various sponsors, the event and food is free to all who attend. Then that evening we move down river to Wheelersburg where the **Portsmouth RC**’s Christmas dinner and fund raising auction will occur at the River Road Gathering Place. The doors will open around 5 with food around 6.

DECEMBER 12 The **Highland ARA** presently has over 70 reservations from area hams and their guests for their annual Christmas dinner party at the Hillsboro Methodist Church on the 12th. The reputation of the traditional catered meal, gift exchange and raffle and door prizes draws hams from throughout Southern Ohio. And for just \$10 per person. Although the reservation deadline has passed, there still may be an opportunity to attend. Contact Kathy Levo, N8ZNR, at 937-760-6070 to check on availability. Special guests will be newly elected Great Lakes Division Director Scott Yonally, N8SY, and Vice Great Lakes Director Roy Hook, W8REH.

DECEMBER 14 The **Southwest Ohio DX Association** will hold their annual Christmas dinner at the Hunters Pizza in Franklin on the 14th.

DECEMBER 15 The **Queen City Emergency Net** has invited the members of the **Cincinnati FM Club** to their December 15th Christmas Party at the Red Cross Building on

Dana Avenue in Cincinnati. According to QCEN President Tom Delaney, W8WTD it starts at 6:30.

DECEMBER 16 The **Lancaster Fairfield County ARA** will have their Christmas gathering on December 16 at the Pizza Cottage on Fair Avenue. It starts at 6 PM.

DECEMBER 19 marks the date for the **Athens County ARA**'s annual Christmas dinner. This year the event will kick off at 5:30 PM, with club furnished hors d'oeuvres, at the Athens Applebees followed by ordering from the menu at 6. During the evening the winner of the annual NC8V Memorial Trophy will be announced. According to Mark Killen, KD8QIG, the **Tri-State ARA** will have their annual Christmas dinner gathering starting at 7 PM at the Radio Museum in Huntington.

DECEMBER 31 The **Highland ARA**'s annual New Year's Net is to take place on the Hillsboro 147.21 repeater (100 tone) It starts with the ringing of the giant CS Bell at the local historical museum that is used to ring in the New Year. Anyone within the footprint of the repeater is invited to throw your call sign in and wish all the best for the New Year.

In preparation for the holiday season, several South 40 radio clubs and their members assisted the organizations sponsoring community Christmas parades. In each case, our amateur volunteers have fulfilled important responsibilities leading to safe and enjoyable events heralding the upcoming holiday season. The **Southern Ohio ARA**, the **Lancaster/Fairfield County ARA**, the **Cambridge ARA**, the **Hocking Valley ARA**, the **Highland ARA** and those individual club members who assisted are all to be commended for their giving back to their respective communities through this method.

In non-Christmas related news, although it's a few weeks away, the 2024 hamfest season will begin with the **Sunday Creek ARF**'s hamfest on January 14. It will be at the Community Center in Shade, Ohio with the doors opening at 8 AM. If you want to really kick the hamfest season off in fashion, then you might think of a road trip to Orlando, FL for **HamCation** on February 9 through the 11th.

The **Fayette ARA** will conduct a Laurel VE test session on Saturday morning, January 20 at the Washington CH Public Library. Registration begins at 10 AM in the basement conference room. Please enter through the side door. All test elements will be given. As this is a Laurel test, there is no fee for testing made. However the FCC for new licenses does apply, but that is not collected at this time.

With the farm work now mostly done for the year; the blueberry operation now put by for the winter and my responsibilities to the local ham club on hold, I was finally able to find some time

to take a read of the December QST that arrived in my mailbox. One area I spent some time in was reviewing the scores and results of Field Day. It was good to see some familiar call signs and the names of clubs from the region. One particular call did jump out however. That was Marietta's Ralph Matheny, K8RYU. Ralph's 1,089 contacts earned him a third place ranking in the 'One or Two Person Club/Non-Club Portable' class. Ralph operated in the 1B category as the sole operator. But since he often operates from a local dog park, he may have had some K9 assistance. Ralph is well-known for his rover operations during the annual Ohio Parks on the Air Contest and Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania QSO Parties. A well deserved **Congrats!**

That's it for another week. Because of the lack of formal club activities and meetings between now and the end of the year, there is a strong possibility of there not being another South 40 column for a bit. Should that be the case, N8ZNR and I wish everyone one of this column's readers the best for a joyous holiday season and we hope that between the decorating, entertaining, visits with family and friends, church services and other holiday related events that you find a bit of time to get on the air. Until next time, 73 and Merry Christmas.

John Levo, W8KIW, jlevo@cinci.rr.com or highlandara@gmail.com, 937-393-4951

Print an Official or Unofficial Copy of Your Amateur Radio License

(By Anthony Luscre, K8ZT)

As of February 17, 2015, the **FCC no longer routinely issues paper license documents** to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The Commission has maintained for some time now that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System (ULS). The FCC will continue to provide paper license documents to all licensees who notify the Commission that they prefer to receive one.

Licensees also will be able to print out an official authorization — as well as an unofficial “reference copy” — from the ULS License Manager. I've created a set of instructions on how you can request an **“official” printed copy of your license***



[Click here to download the instructions](#)

One Question Questionnaire

!!!! I would really like to hear from as many of you as possible. How about going to <http://arrl-ohio.org> and giving me a click? (It's in the bottom left corner of the page) While you're there, you can click the Big Red Arrow to enter into this months Handbook Giveaway!



This week's Question: Are you buying yourself an amateur radio gift for Christmas?

- A) YES
- B) No

From last week's question – Is all your antenna work for 2023 done?

- A) 39% YES
- B) 61% NO

Wow! I'm surprised....out of 82 responses! I hope you got it done when I took off last weekend!

(This is a subliminal message: Go to the Ohio Section Website, on the bottom left of the landing page answer this week's question. AND DON'T FORGET – look for the Big Red Arrow and sign up for the November Handbook give away!)

And the Winner of the November Handbook is: Entry #94 out of 126 – W8HFZ – Tim McLeod! Congratulations Tim!

Ohio Section Cabinet

Section Manager – Tom Sly, WB8LCD	Section Traffic Manager – David Maynard, WA3EZN
Section Emergency Coordinator – Bret Stemen KD8SCL	Section Youth Coordinator – Anthony Luscre, K8ZT
Technical Coordinator – Jeff Kopcak, K8JTK	Affiliated Clubs Coordinator – Amanda Farone – KC3GFU
State Government Liaison – Bob Winston, W2THU	Public Information Coordinator – Elizabeth Klinc - KE8FMJ



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

Do you have equipment that you just don't need or want anymore? Here's a great venue to advertise it, and it's FREE!! Is your club doing a fund raiser to help raise money? After a lot of thought, it was decided that the Swap & Shop webpage could also contain these types of items as well. The same rules will apply as do for the For Sales and Give-A-Ways and will only be posted for a month at a time. Please see the Terms & Conditions on the webpage.

If your club is doing a fund raiser and wants more exposure, please forward the information to me and I'll advertise it on the Swap & Shop webpage for you.

Now, I still want to remind you that it won't be listed in this newsletter because it would take up way too much space, so your ad will only appear on the website. It is there for any individual to post equipment Wanted / For Sale or Give-Away as well as for Club Fund Raisers. You might want to list your location so that prospective buyers know where you're at. 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@arrrl-ohio.org

Back Issues of the PostScript and Ohio Section Journal

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

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



Want to Share your Club Newsletter With Others?

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

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

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



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

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 an email to: webmaster@arri-ohio.org and we'll get them added to the Ohio Section Emailing list.



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



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

Just go to: <http://arri-ohio.org/news/>

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! Occasionally you may find an error or two in this newsletter – be assured, they were put there on purpose to make sure you're reading the newsletter carefully!