

PostScript
 Ohio Section “December 30th, 2024”

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Happy New Year 2025!

NEW YEAR? BAH!



CQ CQ CQ de WB8LCD

I want to wish you all a Happy New Year – not just for the day, but for the whole year of 2025!

I'd like to start the new year with some quotes from some of my favorite people –

1. *“Education is the cornerstone of progress, and it empowers individuals to shape their own destinies.”*
2. *“The pursuit of knowledge should be driven by curiosity and a desire to improve the human condition.”*
3. *“Fools call wise men fools. A wise man never calls any man a fool.”*
4. *“Everything comes to him who hustles while he waits.”*
5. *“If we all did the things we are really capable of doing, we would literally astound ourselves.”*
6. *“There is only one way to avoid criticism: do nothing, say nothing, and be nothing.”*
7. *“Every strike brings me closer to the next home run.”*
8. *“Ask and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock and the door will be opened for you.”*
9. *“It is not enough that we do our best; sometimes we must do what is required.”*
10. *“In theory there is no difference between theory and practice. In practice there is.”*

Can you guess who said each of these? Answers on the last page of this newsletter! A look at history, and what others have said, can lead and inspire us to greater accomplishment ourselves, in any endeavor of our lives, including Amateur Radio.

SWODXA Announces the DX Mentor Recognition Program

The Southwest Ohio DX Association (SWODXA) in conjunction with ICOM® America, Inc. is announcing a program to recognize and reward amateur radio operators who have played a key role in helping other amateur radio operators achieve DXCC. The purpose of this program is not to bring recognition to those that achieve DXCC but rather to recognize those amateurs that assist others in achieving their first 100 confirmed entities. There is an application form and a judging committee staffed by SWODXA representatives and a representative from both the NCDXF and INDEXA. Those amateurs receiving the mentoring must be under 30 years of age during the calendar year for the award. The intent of targeting this audience is to attract and retain those amateurs that are most likely to remain engaged in the hobby after achieving DXCC. SWODXA is uniquely positioned to bestow this award at the annual SWODXA DX Dinner®. The DX Dinner, held annually in conjunction with the Dayton Hamvention®, is arguably the

largest gathering of active DXers in the world. We present the DXpedition of the Year Award®, the DXpeditioner of the Year Award, when applicable, and host the DX Forum there. CQ Magazine announces their CQ DX Hall of Fame inductees at the DX dinner as well. As a technology leader in our hobby, there is no better partner to promote and celebrate this award than ICOM. Ray, N9JA, has been a constant promoter of ham radio, even coining the phrase “For the Love of Ham Radio”. ICOM has selflessly supported amateur radio over the years and is taking this opportunity to promote the mentors of DX. Thanks to ICOM for their support! More information and the entry form can be found at www.swodxa.org/DX Mentor-Program or by emailing thedxmentor@gmail.com.

Ohio ARES VHF Simplex Contest

Jan 18, 1900-2300 UTC (2 to 6 PM EST) runs concurrently with the first 4 hours of ARRL Jan VHF Contest.

- Ohio VHF Simplex Information, Rules & Planned Operations Signup- <https://ohsimplex.org>
- ARRL January VHF- www.arrl.org/January-vhf

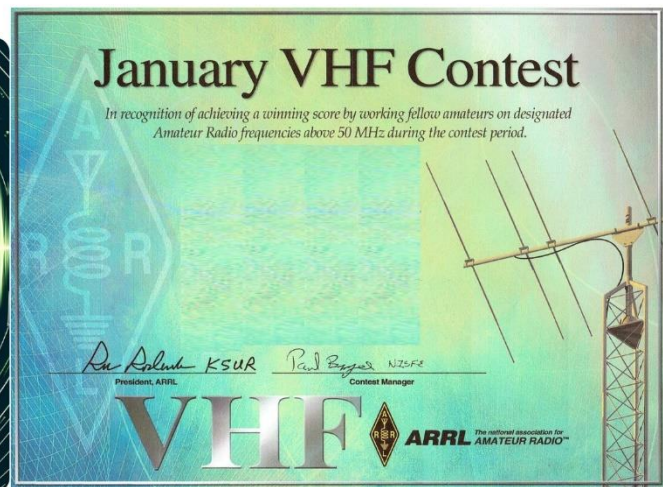


Ohio VHF Simplex Contest

Jan 18, 2025 1900-2300 UTC



Ohio Section Zoom presentation Jan 6th on Contesting, ARRL VHF Contest, OH VHF Simplex Contest & VHF Simplex Operations.



Pre-Contest Zoom Prep Session*

Monday, January 6, 2025 at 7:30 PM (EST)

- The Ohio Section will sponsor an online pre-contest Zoom session for all interested hams-
 - Introduction to Amateur Radio Contesting
 - VHF/UHF Contesting
 - Ohio VHF Simplex Contest & ARRL January VHF
 - Beginner's Simplex VHF/UHF Guidance
 - Antenna & Equipment Suggestions
 - Q&A
- Zoom-
 - <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/81118969999?pwd=noyTnVzB3GeynkMQYADtENTCy29jxt.1>
 - Meeting ID: 811 1896 9999
 - Passcode: 110422
- Slideshow- tiny.cc/ovhfsc
 - * All are welcome; you do not need to be an ARRL member or Ohio Section resident

CLUBS

Over the next week, almost every club in the OHIO Section will be welcoming their new officers to begin their tenure as club leaders! I want to say “Thank You” to all of those who have served in your club’s leadership and management over the past years, and I want to also Thank those who are stepping into those positions. In the history of Amateur Radio, I believe we are now in an era where the local club is the most important unit in our path to the future, and in fact, to our survival! It’s important to remember that we are not in competition with each other, we need to work together, understanding that sometimes our differences complement each other and make us all stronger together.

Don’t forget to update your club information with ARRL. Renew your affiliation information. Make sure you have applied to affiliate your hamfest with ARRL. With the Ohio Section, please update me with your hamfest information and most importantly your Exam Sessions and Classes for the Ohio Section Journal and PostScript newsletters. This past year there has been a big increase in the events and activities that local clubs have been sponsoring. While I would caution you in booking your events during other Major Ham Radio activities, it’s inevitable that

as we grow and sponsor more events and activities, there is going to be some overlap. What a fantastic problem for us to have: So many activities that we can choose which events we want to participate in!

Ham Radio is the greatest hobby in the world! I often explain it as a lot of hobbies within a hobby. There's a lot of things we can be interested in and participate in. As a long-time Ham (50+ years) I can tell you that those interests might even change through the years. It's all Good. I hope 2025 is your best year ever as a Ham!

Share the Magic of Radio.

73,

Tom Sly - WB8LCD
Ohio Section Manager
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330-554-4650



National News

(from ARRL and other sources)

In 2024, NASA made leap after giant leap to explore, discover, and inspire—all while bringing real, tangible, and substantial benefits to the American people and to all of humanity.

For the Benefit of Humanity



A SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket carrying NASA's Europa Clipper spacecraft lifts off from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida at 12:06 p.m. EDT on Monday, Oct. 14, 2024. **NASA/Kim Shiflett**



HUMANS IN SPACE

Exploring the Moon

NASA made strides toward the Artemis Generation of scientific discovery at the Moon while validating operations and systems to prepare for human missions to Mars.

[ARTEMIS NEWS](#)



EARTH AND CLIMATE

Observing Earth

As part of NASA's efforts to monitor climate change, the agency launched multiple satellites to study our changing planet, including the PACE (Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem) satellite mission to help us better understand how the ocean and atmosphere exchange carbon dioxide.

[**EARTH SCIENCE NEWS**](#)



THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

Research in Space

25 people lived and worked aboard the International Space Station this year, helping to complete science for the benefit of humanity, open access to space to more people, and support exploration of the Moon in preparation for Mars.

[**SPACE STATION NEWS**](#)

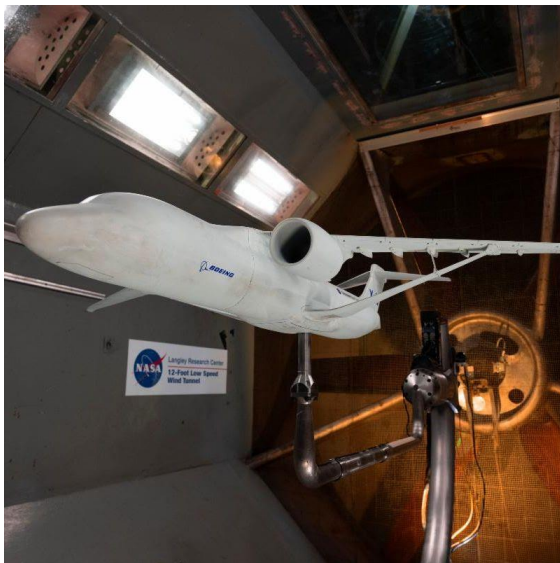


TECHNOLOGY

Improving Life on Earth

NASA leveraged partnerships to advance technologies and test new capabilities to help the agency develop a sustainable presence on the lunar surface and beyond while benefiting life on our home planet and in low Earth orbit.

[TECHNOLOGY NEWS](#)



AERONAUTICS

Future Flight

NASA researchers worked to advance innovations that will transform U.S. aviation, furthering the Sustainable Flight National Partnership and other efforts to help the country reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

[AERONAUTICS NEWS](#)

ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology Now Accepting Applications for 2025 Cohorts



The ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology (TI) continues to grow. Fresh off a [highly successful YouTube telethon](#) that raised more than \$41,000 for the program, some of next year's dates have been announced. Applications are now open.

The program is growing, and educators will have the opportunity to attend sessions around the country. "We love having the teachers here at ARRL Headquarters, but we wanted to bring this program nationwide," said ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA. Dates and details of the regional sessions are still being determined, but the hope is to touch many areas of the United States.

The application process is straightforward. Interested educators can find the web form at www.arrl.org/ti. ARRL covers all the costs of the TI, including travel, but there is a \$100 application fee if the teacher is accepted.

The success generated from the program is demonstrable. "The teachers leave TI with energy and knowledge. They've taken that and built tremendous programs in their schools," said Goodgame. The program isn't necessarily designed to get young people licensed, but rather to get them thinking about radio in their other areas of study. Teachers work amateur radio and radio technology into science, technology, engineering, and mathematics lessons. Amateur radio is presented as a pathway to get hands-on with the concepts, and to use them in the real world.



There are 16 cohorts planned for the 2025 ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology. “The growth we’re seeing in TI is a result of the teachers’ experiences with the program, and the donors who enable it,” said Goodgame. The TI is funded entirely by donations to the [ARRL Education & Technology Fund](#).

ARRL Student Membership

ARRL Student Membership was established to increase youth participation and long-term involvement in amateur radio. Student members can access ARRL membership benefits including the digital versions of ARRL magazines, and the extensive courses and training materials available through the ARRL Learning Center.

Please note: ARRL requires age verification for all student members. Parental/Guardian consent is required for applicants under 18 years of age. Student memberships are not eligible for add-on printed membership magazine subscriptions. Student membership benefits are subject to other restrictions and exclusions.

Student Membership options:

- **Option 1: Full Student Membership.** Dues rate \$30 per year. This low-cost membership option is available to US Amateur Radio licensees under the age of 26 years. Applicant must be a resident of the US, its possessions, or Puerto Rico. A full member may vote in ARRL elections for Division Director, Vice Director, and Section Manager. Other restrictions and exclusions may apply.
- **Option 2: Free Student Membership.** This no-cost, Associate membership option is available to full-time students aged 21 years or younger. Applicant must be a resident of the US, its possessions, or Puerto Rico. Free Student Membership excludes access to the ARRL E-mail Forwarding Service, and Associate members may not vote in ARRL elections. Other restrictions and exclusions may apply.

Become an ARRL student member today!

To JOIN with a Student Membership - <https://form.jotform.com/241074273604047> **or**
To RENEW a Student Membership - <https://home.arrl.org/action/My-Account/Pay-Balances>

The following is an update on DXCC® application processing:

In October, we reported that the ARRL DXCC® System had been returned to service. Since then, over 3,000 DXCC applications have been logged into the DXCC System for processing. It is important to understand that the queue of submitted applications is very large, and has

included nearly 6 months of applications for processing. ARRL Awards staff and additional staff and volunteers have been working extended hours and weekends to process applications.

DXCC is ARRL's most popular award. Even while previously submitted applications are being processed, new applications are being submitted and received every day. We continue to appreciate everyone's patience as we process the large queue of submitted applications.

Application Processing Queue

DXCC applications enter the DXCC System from one of three sources: from DXCC applications created by users in Logbook of The World® (LoTW®); from traditional paper applications, and from the Online DXCC Application.

The DXCC System has logged applications received via Logbook of The World® from May through October 23, and paper applications received through mid-December. On December 13, the Online DXCC Application was returned to service.

We are currently processing paper applications received in November and December, and applications from LoTW submitted in November.

We have resumed mailing orders for paper DXCC Certificates and endorsement stickers. Over 350 certificates were mailed on December 26.

The easiest way to determine if your DXCC application has been processed is to review your LoTW account. From the Award Account Menu, select Account Status. The "Awarded" column will reflect those QSOs that have been awarded to you after your application(s) has been fully processed.

We appreciate your continued patience as we work to return to normal processing times. Our team is committed to ensuring that all applications are handled as quickly and efficiently as possible. Thank you once again for your understanding and support during this time.

This story will be updated with new developments.

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2025 Youth on the Air Camp Application Period Open

Applications are now being accepted for campers interested in attending the 2025 Youth on the Air Camp. Licensed amateur radio operators, ages 15 through 25, who want to attend are encouraged to apply online at YouthOnTheAir.org. The camp is scheduled to take place June 15 - 20, 2025, in Thornton (Denver), Colorado and the [Denver Radio Club](#), an ARRL Affiliated Club, is the local host.

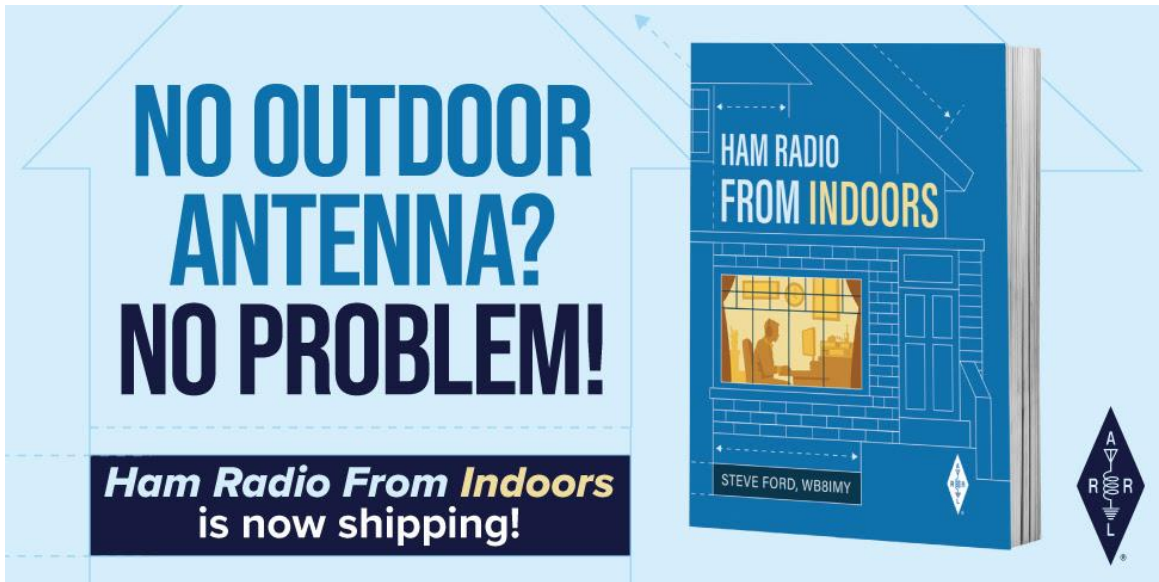


The current application period is for the fifth camp for young amateur radio operators in North, Central, and South America. For the best chance at being selected, applications should be submitted by 2359Z on January 15, 2025. Campers will be selected by the working group and notified by February 1.

To encourage attendance from across the Americas, allocations for campers are being held open for various areas of North, Central, and South America. If countries do not use their allocation or should someone within an allocation decline acceptance, those positions will be filled from the remaining pool of applicants. As this will be an ongoing process, everyone will not receive notification of acceptance at the same time. Preference will be given to first-time attendees.

Applications will continue to be accepted through May 1 and up to 50 campers will be accepted. The application process is free, but a \$100 USD deposit is required upon acceptance. Should a potential camper be unable to pay the \$100 deposit, they may apply for a scholarship or waiver. Campers are also responsible for their own arrival and departure transportation to the camp location. Travel assistance may also be available, especially for those traveling from outside of the USA and Canada. Travel during camp events is provided.

For details about the camp, visit the camp web page at YouthOnTheAir.org or email Camp Director Neil Rapp, WB9VPG, at director@youthontheair.org.



Don't let outdoor antenna limitations keep you from enjoying amateur radio. It is possible to operate on the HF bands with equipment and antenna systems that are entirely inside your house, apartment, or condominium. All it takes is some creative thinking!

ARRL Kids Day is Only a Couple of Weeks Away on January 4, 2025



Bellevue (Nebraska) ARC and The Science Club at Yates Illuminates kids show their On The Air certificates from January 2024 Kids Day.

Kids Day runs from 1800 UTC - 2359 UTC. Operate as much or as little as you like.

The event is designed to give on-the-air experience to young people, to foster interest in getting a license of their own, and give older hams a chance to share their stations and love for amateur radio with their children. You can share the excitement with your own kids, grandkids, a Scout troop, a church, or the general public!

All participants are encouraged to post their story and thumbnail photos to the [Kids Day Soapbox page](#). Tell the world about your operations, the fun you had, and the contacts you made! Remember, ARRL must have a completed [release form](#) in order to include youth photos (younger than 18 years of age) in ARRL publications.

There will be a second ARRL Kids Day on June 21, 2025.

More information, including frequencies, suggested exchanges, and how to download a certificate, can be found at [Kids Day](#).

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.

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 2025 are as follows: January 18, April 12, July 19, and October 18. 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/>>

Alliance Amateur Radio Club

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club holds quarterly VE testing, at the Christ United Methodist Church in Alliance.

Upcoming Exam Dates are: Saturday, March 15th, 2025, Saturday, June 21st, 2025, Saturday, August 16th, 2025 and Saturday, October 25th, 2025.

The address is 470 E. Broadway St, Alliance, OH (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/prDyEPp6siJun2ibA>).

Registration begins at 8 AM, and testing at 9am.

More information can be found at www.w8lky.org/licensing/ve-exams/.

All Things Amateur Radio Association (ATARA) hosts testing sessions every second Tuesday of the month in Lancaster. Our testing sessions use Examtools, a digital testing platform, and administers the exams on tablets. Simply sign up for a free account at <https://hamstudy.org/register> and then search for our session and register through the Hamstudy website. Reach out with any questions to Jarrod – KE8MBL at hamexams@atara-w8atr.fun.

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

The Findlay Radio Club

The Findlay Radio Club sponsors an Exam Session the second Saturday of every month except September when we have our Hamfest. The Exam Session takes place at the Findlay Radio Club, 1333 West Sandusky St., Findlay Ohio 45839. The session begins at 9 AM. Pre-registration is recommended, but not required. You can pre-register at hamstudy.org. We can also give Exams remotely on-line on your schedule if you can't make to a session.

The club has meetings on the first and third Thursdays at the clubhouse at 7:30 PM. The meetings are also available on Zoom. Contact N8ET if you would like to log in. All are welcome.

We also meet at the club on Sunday afternoon from 2 until 5 (or later!) to talk about anything Ham Radio. The sessions are geared toward new Hams. Everyone brings their questions and equipment they would like to show off or learn how to use. This Sunday we are going to install and learn to use Fligi, Flmsg, and Flamp. In past sessions we have built antennas, fired up new rigs, and generally had a good time!

The next meeting (Feb 15) will cover the same topic. Bring your laptop!

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 2024 are Jan 14, March 10, May12, July 14, Sept 15, and Nov 17, 2024. All sessions are at 2:00PM each month



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 Jackie Welch, N8JMW by email n8jmw2@gmail.com or calling at 440-228-2716. More information is available from 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. 10:00AM til Noon. 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 NCVEC 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 “NCVEC 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)

The

Lancaster and Fairfield County Amateur Radio Club (LFCARC) hosts exam sessions on the first Saturday each month at 10:00 am in Lancaster Ohio at the Fairfield County EMA, 240 Baldwin Dr., Lancaster Ohio.

To register for an exam, [Click Here](#).

Questions: Contact me at ve_testing@k8qik.org.

Lisbon Area Amateur Radio Association

LISBON AREA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION (LAARA) 2024 SCHEDULE.

VE TESTING IS AT THE COLUMBIANA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

AT 215 SOUTH MARKET STREET, LISBON, OH 44432.

SIGN IN AT 1 PM AND TESTING AT 1:30 PM.

VE TESTING DATES FOR 2024

JAN 13; FEB 10; MAR 9; APR 13; MAY 11;
JUN 8; AUG 10; SEP 14; OCT 12; NOV 9; DEC 14.

WE CAN ALSO GIVE THE TEST AT OUR REGULAR MEETINGS THAT ARE NORMALLY ON THE 3RD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH. LAARA MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE COLUMBIANA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY AT THE SAME ADDRESS AS ABOVE. SEE THE K8GQB.COM WEB SITE FOR UPDATES.

MEETING TIME IS 6:30 PM.

WE HAVE ACTIVITY MEETINGS ON THE ODD MONTHS AND BUSINESS MEETINGS ON THE EVEN MONTHS.

Madison County

The Madison County Amateur Radio Club Laurel testing group offers 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. There is no Fee for testing. Pre-Registration is not required but preferred. Walk-ins are welcome. You are required to have an email address and a copy of your FRN or current ham radio license. For more information or to get pre-registered send email to Exams@mcarco.org.

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)

Six VE testing sessions in 2025. Registration is appreciated but walk-ins are welcome. Contact Elaine, KC8FOS for more information or to register. ewilkinson1951@gmail.com or 216-337-4235.

January 4, March 1, May 3, July 5, Sept 6, November 1.

Sessions are held at the Fairview Park Library, 21255 Lorain Rd., Fairview Park 44126.

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.

Silvercreek ARA (SARA)

Holds six exam sessions per year for all license classes. Pre-registration requested but not required.

Exam sessions for 2024:

Saturday, December 7th - Sharon Center UM Church (Wadsworth/Medina Co.)

Exam sessions for 2025:

Saturday, February 1st - Smithville Brethren Church (Smithville/Wayne Co.)

Saturday, April 5th - Sharon Center UM Church (Wadsworth/Medina Co.)

Saturday, June 7th - Sharon Center UM Church (Wadsworth/Medina Co.)

Saturday, August 2nd - Smithville Brethren Church (Smithville/Wayne Co.)

Saturday, October 4th - Sharon Center UM Church (Wadsworth/Medina Co.)

Saturday, December 6th - Sharon Center UM Church (Wadsworth/Medina Co.)

All sessions begin at 10:00am. For directions and test information visit <https://w8wky.org/license-exams/>. Pre-Registration to expedite paperwork is requested, but not required at <https://w8wky.org/sara-ve-registration-form/>. Sign up and if you aren't ready or can't make it, just notify the VE team lead.

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/>

ARLD048 DX news

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

MAURITIUS, 3B8. Thomas, DJ2TG is QRV as 3B8/DJ2TG until December 30. Activity is holiday style on 30 to 10 meters using SSB, FT8, and FT4. QSL to home call.

FIJI, 3D2. Gerhard, OE3GEM is QRV as 3D2GE from Nadi, IOTA OC-016, and Nacula, IOTA OC-156, until January 7, 2025. Activity is holiday style on 30 to 10 meters using only CW. QSL to home call.

GUYANA, 8R. Aldir, PY1SAD will be QRV as 8R1TM from Georgetown from January 1, 2025 to February 8. Activity will be on all bands using CW, SSB, and various digital modes. This also includes some Satellite activity. QSL direct to home call.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, 9Y. Earl, WA3DX will be QRV as 9Y4/WA3DX from Trinidad, IOTA SA-011, from December 29 to January 14, 2025. Activity will be 40 to 10 meters using FT8 and FT4. QSL to home call.

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, HC8. Gus, HC2FG will be QRV as HD8FG from Santa Cruz, IOTA SA-004, from December 29 to January 3, 2025. Activity will be on 6 meters using FT8. QSL via LoTW.

DOMINICA, J7. Operators FM5WD, IK3ZAZ and IV3JVJ are QRV as J75K until January 4, 2025. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4. QSL via LoTW.

OGASAWARA, JD1. Harry, JG7PSJ is QRV as JD1BMH from Chichijima, IOTA AS-031, until January 3, 2025. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and RTTY. QSL direct to home call.

MARIANA ISLANDS, KH0. Ken, JO1VRK plans to be QRV as KH0/AJ6VJ from Saipan, IOTA OC-086, from December 30 to January 3, 2025. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8, and FT4. QSL via LoTW.

DENMARK, OZ. Special event call sign OZ400POST is QRV until January 5, 2025 to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Royal Danish Post Office, established on December 24, 1624, under King Christian IV. QSL via OZ1ACB.

EAST KIRIBATI, T32. Members of the Rebel DX Group are QRV as T32TTT from Kiritimati, IOTA OC-024, until January 1, 2025. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via LoTW.

CAMEROON, TJ. Thierry, TK1CX is QRV as TJ/TK1CX until the end of February 2025. Activity is in his spare time on 20 to 10 meters using mostly FT8 and low power. QSL via EA5ZD.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA, UA. Special event station R2025NY will be QRV from December 29 to January 8, 2025 during the Russian New Year 2025 radio marathon. QSL via RQ7L.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. Brian, GW4DVB will be QRV as V4/G4DVB from Calypso Bay, St, Kitts, IOTA NA-104, from December 31 to January 6, 2025. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and various digital modes. QSL to home call.

INDIA, VU. Kaustav, VU2UUU is QRV with special call sign AT2025 until January 15, 2025 while studying winter propagation, and monitoring solar cycle conditions. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL via operator's instructions.

Please see December QST, page 59, January 2025 QST, page 77, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites for details.

Upcoming *Hamfests*



Ohio Hamfests

2025

<p>01/19/2025 - Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation Hamfest Location: Shade, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation Learn More</p>	<p>03/16/2025 - Toledo Mobile Radio Association Hamfest and Computer Fair Location: Perrysburg, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Toledo Mobile Radio Association Website: http://www.w8hhf.org Learn More</p>
<p>04/05/2025 - Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club 69th Hamfest Location: Cuyahoga Falls , OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Website: https://www.cfarc-hamfest.org Learn More</p>	<p>05/15/2025 - Four Days In May Location: Fairborn, OH Type: ARRL Convention Sponsor: QRP Amateur Radio Club International Website: http://qrparci.org/fdim Learn More</p>
<p>07/12/2025 - Mansfield Mid Summer Trunkfest 2025 Location: Ontario, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Intercity Amateur Radio Club Website: http://w8we.org Learn More</p>	<p>07/20/2025 - Van Wert Hamfest Location: Van Wert, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Van Wert Amateur Radio Club Website: http://w8fy.org Learn More</p>
<p>09/28/2025 - Cleveland Hamfest Location: Berea, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Hamfest Association of Cleveland Website: https://www.hac.org Learn More</p>	

If you have information for your 2025 hamfest get it into the ARRL! As soon as I see them approved and added to the ARRL site, I'll get them listed here.

DX This Week – #315

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

Happy Holidays! As the year closes, I wanted to thank several people. First, Tom, WB8LCD. Every week he allows me to rant about DX and to complain to him about everything else. He does a great job, and I am sure that there are not enough folks saying “Thanks”. So, let me be amongst the first!



Secondly, all of you! I have started to get emails almost weekly with comments, suggestions, and content, and I appreciate it! If you weren't reading this weekly column, Tom would not need me!

I mentioned last week that the end of the year brings an end to the CQ Marathon for 2024. As you turn your scores in, please drop me a note so I can recognize your accomplishments.

There are many who have not investigated this year long contest, so I thought I would dedicate this week to the CQ Marathon program. As always, drop me a note if you have any questions.

DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH

This article from Bob, W9KNI, first appeared in the NCJ from Nov/Dec 2012. I have updated it for 2022.

Bob wrote an excellent book entitled “A Year of DX”. This best seller was published in 2010, and I have found copies of it at Hamfests and on eBay.

I read it every other year, or any time

my enthusiasm starts to wane. Hope you enjoy this and hope you participate in the 2025 Marathon!



The CQ DX Marathon – A Different Kind of Competition

W9KNI – Bob Locker

Imagine a DX competition that does not require a North Atlantic rim location to win the world. A contest that is 365 days long instead of 2 days. A contest that does not require a superstation to compete seriously. A competition where the QSO rate is less than one per day instead of 200+ per hour. That contest is the CQ DX Marathon (www.dxmarathon.com).

Many, if not most, serious DX contesters started competitive operating by chasing DX. Over a few years, as their skills improved, they worked most or all the available DXCC entities. At the same time, they strived to collect the QSL cards and confirmations for DXCC and climb to the Honor Roll.

Eventually, with most entities in the log and on the wall, the new worlds left to conquer became fewer and fewer. For many, DX contests renewed the thrill and adrenalin rush that DXing once offered. Thousands of amateurs dedicate much of their discretionary time toward preparing for and then enjoying the thrill -and exhaustion ---that comes from a few 48-hour all-out contest weekends.

But 48-hour contests fail to offer some of the satisfactions of DXing. The competition-minded operator needs to have a reason to turn on the rig midweek. The joy of tuning an open band outside of a contest can be addictive for some. Night watches just before bed, dawn patrols on a frosty morning with that first cup of coffee, the anticipation of a major DXpedition, and stalking the elusive rare ones that would never appear in a 48-hour contest are some of the joys one might miss.

These are some of the rewards that entering the CQ DX Marathon offers; it's a chance to return to your ham radio roots.

A Yearlong Event

So, what is the CQ DX Marathon? It is a yearlong contest that starts January 1 at 0000 UTC and ends December 31 at 2359 UTC. During that period the goal is to work as many entities and CQ zones as possible. Participants may use any band and any mode. Band countries and band zones do not count extra; you can work for credit an entity or zone only once, regardless of band or mode. The final score is the total of entities and CQ zones worked; there are no multipliers. A really good score would be about 330 the sum of 290 countries and 40 CQ zones worked. Note that the CQ Country list governs, as it does in the CQ Worldwide contests, not the DXCC list. This means that all DXCC entities count as well as such CQ countries as Sicily, European Turkey, the Shetland Islands and the African Italy islands.

The Marathon has several flavors. The Unlimited class allows full legal power and no restriction on antennas. The Formula class allows either an output power level of 100 W and simple antennas, or a maximum output of 10W but allowing the use of Yagis on a single tower of 20 meters maximum height. Also, there are single-band and single-mode categories, and the use of spotting nets and other Internet-based resources is allowed.

History

The DX Marathon actually began following World War II. It proved to be very popular but had to be suspended due to manpower limitations in favor of the CQ WW DX contests. In those days there was no volunteer management of contests, which were administered by CQ Magazine staff.

In 2006 the DX Marathon was revived, and since that time, the DX Marathon world winner has been twice in Ohio, once in Slovakia, twice in Oregon and once in Italy. The number of entries has been growing by about 20 percent a year. The rising enthusiasm level of the DX Marathon is worldwide.

Many DX Clubs have embraced the DX Marathon as the perfect opportunity for intramural competitions or as the basis for challenges to other DX Clubs. In some countries, particularly Brazil, the internal competition is fierce.

World winners of the contest in both divisions receive handsome plaques, and more recently plaques have been awarded for band winners on 80 through 10

meters, as well as for unlimited continental and for mode winners.

Personal Challenge

Many DXers use the DX Marathon as a personal challenge, paying little or no attention to other contestants and instead simply trying to better their score from a prior year. If you get the idea that progress and success in the DX Marathon is pretty much like chasing DXCC all over again, you are right. No QSLs are required, and the contest is finished at year's end and starts all over again.

So, what do you do to enter? First, of course, to read the rules, available online, www.dxmarathon.com. Then, download the spreadsheet entry form. You can use this to enter contacts directly as you make them, or you can use the output from DX Marathon-compatible logging programs. It's a good idea to visit the Web site from time to time throughout the year to take advantage of the useful news and information posted there.

Managing the Madhouse

At 0000 January 1, the fun begins, and you can start working as many countries and zones as you can. New Year's Day tends to be a madhouse - a fun madhouse -especially if conditions are decent. Working well more than 50 countries and 30 CQ zones the first day is quite possible. Everyone on the bands is full of good cheer and bonhomie.

In the early days of the New Year, triage can be important. Spotting nets will call out many of the countries you need and for which you have propagation; the question is, which DX do you go for first? A few rules of thumb may help. Generally, the first criterion is whether a DX station is a DXpedition that may only be on for a limited time. Here, I am reminded of the adage, "Life is uncertain. Eat dessert first!" The same goes for DXpeditions. Work them first.

After you have logged the current DXpeditions, the next layer would be rare DX stations. Let's say the band is open deep into Asia and the Indian Ocean. You hear AP2NK and 388CF. Which do you after first? Well, if you have spent much time operating over the past year or so, you know that 388CF is virtually a beacon on the bands, whereas AP2NK is only an occasional visitor. Go for the AP! In any case, especially in January and February, concentrate on working the rare ones. If you are in the US, you will easily be able to pick up a lot of commonplace countries during the ARRL International DX Contest phone and CW weekends.

As the weeks and months go by, such conflicts become rarer and rarer. Once you have worked about 100 countries, it is time to start a serious "need list," and you should be well acquainted with its contents. Also, your spotting software's DX alarm list should be carefully crafted. Some operators rely exclusively on their logging programs for this, but that's a good way to end up as an also-ran. Just like the English language, with its many spelling, pronunciation and usage rules, the list of exceptions is long enough to cause complete despair for anyone trying to learn English. So, it is with DX alarm lists. Special prefixes, not to mention multiple prefixes, are more and more the norm, and a simple need list for alarms may let a lot of the DX you need slip past unheralded.

You should study the DX bulletins carefully, to be aware of and watching for DXpeditions from needed countries. Make a special note to enter unusual DXpedition call signs to your alarm list. You also should spend as much time as you have available tuning the bands. Not all rare DX gets spotted, and once it is and if it is truly rare - you are going to have to fight the pileup to put it into the log. It is a lot more fun to be the station that finds the rare DX calling "CO," and then posting the spot after you've made your contact- assuming the DX station is agreeable to an instant pileup.

As the year progresses, your totals climb ever more slowly, as fewer and fewer new ones are left to work. You have already picked all the low-hanging fruit. The CO WW contests in October and November typically are an opportunity to add a few new ones and offer a flurry of excitement. But don't relax your efforts just yet. You need to stay active right up to the end. In several years past, the contact that put the eventual winner over the top was worked the last week of the year.

The winning strategy for the DX Marathon is simple: Work as many countries and zones as quickly as you can, and make sure you get everything right. Don't worry about the competition. Worrying is a time waster unless it spurs you to even greater efforts.

Skill Set

The skills required for success in the DX Marathon are not entirely the same as you would need for success in a 48 hour contest. For one thing, unless you are doing a single-mode entry, you need to be reasonably proficient in all modes, and that certainly includes competence in dealing with pileups. You need to gather all

the DX intelligence you can about rare DX stations, using the Internet, DX bulletins, and information gleaned from listening.

The 48-hour contests rarely involve split-frequency pileups, while many of the stations that count in the DX Marathon are worked because of split operation. Or CW, not all DX stations use high speed. Some DX even may be found using hand keys or bugs. More and more countries are represented on digital modes. In particular the digital modes offers up stations that simply are not available in typical contests. Many DX stations do not want brief, high-speed contacts, preferring a slower pace, and, indeed, often a bit of a rag chew. A lot of rare DX stations try to hide on the bands, only becoming active when openings are limited and then operating in parts of the bands away from mainstream DX activity. Simply waiting for the DX alarm to go off will not yield anything like a winning score in the Marathon. You need to do a lot of tuning and hunting on your own.

Higher is Better

A major contest station with stacked arrays for most bands would be ideal for the DX Marathon as well, if the station includes competitive antennas for 30, 17 and 12 meters. As in DXCC, contacts made on those bands count toward your DX Marathon total. For us lesser mortals with simpler antenna farms, a DX Marathon station would generally have higher antennas than the typical contest station. Although higher antennas will not deliver the same rates as antennas optimized for DX runs, they will deliver openings that lower antennas will not. This allows the operator to log additional countries from brief openings. To take advantage of high antennas, however, the operator needs to have a working knowledge of openings, especially regarding secondary paths that no one else is exploiting. High antennas tend to open and close a band, and this is always a potential benefit for the DX Marathon contestant.

This brings us to another difference. In a 48-hour contest, the operator very much wants to be the first contact in the log, once he or she hears a desired station. The dedicated DX Marathon operator too would always love to be the first in the log but is at least satisfied to be the last in the log for a new "counter." In the DX Marathon, being first in the log of a new one is not so important; being in the log is.

Preparedness

DX Marathon operators will almost surely benefit from having a second receiver in the transceiver. A good spectrum scope offers another benefit. An extremely valuable accessory in the Unlimited class is an "instant-on" linear amplifier. Point-and-shoot rotator control is another big plus in the Marathon station.

Why are these tools so useful? A number of countries in the Marathon will first come to your attention thanks to DX alarms from the spotting net. Once the alarm sounds, you essentially have 3 minutes to log a contact before the cavalry arrives that being all the DXers with amplifiers requiring a 3-minute warm-up. An Indy race car team can change four tires, fuel a car, adjust the chassis trim and have it on its way in 9 seconds. An NFL quarterback can march his team down the field for a winning score in well under a minute's playing time. In some big city neighborhoods trained "professionals" can have the engine and transmission out of your new Corvette in 90 seconds flat. And that's while you are parked on the street.

The proficient DX Marathon operator should be able to have the appropriate antenna closing in on the correct bearing, change bands, tune up the linear (please, on a vacant frequency, not on top of the DX) and be ready to call in less than 30 seconds from entering the shack. If you can't, you need to figure out why not and do something about it. Don't be satisfied until you can.

At the end of a year's campaign, you'll be amazed at how many DX stations you logged within 3 minutes of the first alarm, and I personally guarantee you will be grinning in satisfaction as the pileup gets exponentially larger by the minute when you are already in the log. With practice you will get even better at the 3-minute DX alarm drill, more quickly getting on frequency and nailing the contact.

At the end of an operating session, consider what station you will most likely get an alarm for next perhaps, for example, a T30 from the Central Pacific at 2 AM on a summer night. Position your station for that possibility, leaving the antenna pointing at T30 and the amplifier tuned up on the band where you anticipate the DX will show up. Even a few seconds saved after the alarm calls can make a huge difference.

To be sure, conventional 48-hour DX contests offer a great opportunity to work a lot of new ones in a hurry. Nothing in the DX Marathon rules stops you from all-out efforts in such contests, and, of course, contacts gleaned from these efforts count toward your DX Marathon score as well.

As they do in other contests, many DX Marathon entrants will have errors in their entries that reduce their scores. Several errors are common in the DX

Marathon. Many contestants lose one or more CQ zones as a result. Two problem areas stand out: Zones 17, 18 and 19, especially since Siberian call sign blocks have changed, and zones 3, 4 and 5, the US/Canadian zones. In both cases, it is not enough to trust a logging program to get it right - or even for the call sign to be proof of location. US call signs are no guarantee of a station's location either, although Canadian call signs are. You should always take time to confirm the location of a US station you are claiming for a particular zone. For example, CQ zone 2 is a problem for many entrants. All V02s (Labrador) are in zone 2, and a few VE2s are in zone 2, but most VE2s are in zone 5. Some VY0s are in Zone 2 as well, while others are not.

Before you submit your log, always check zones carefully. The contest adjudicator will do it for you, of course, but once you submit your log, you can't change an erroneous entry -even though you might have good contacts in your log to replace the erroneous ones.

Another problem in submitting an accurate log comes from making the presumption that the call sign of a station spotted on the net is correct. Far too often that simply is not the case. You should never count on the spot for identification; always verify the call sign yourself. A special problem is EZ, Turkmenistan. Many operators mistakenly copy the E7 prefix (Bosnia) as "EZ." At this writing, there are no legitimate stations in Turkmenistan, yet each year many stations claim a contact.

Trust, but Verify

You should always check contacts claimed for the Marathon. Was the E51 you worked in the South Cook Islands or in the North Cooks? There are always a few perfectly legitimate call signs that do not correspond with typical practice. XWPA is a good example. It was a legitimate and properly licensed station in Laos that was active last year, but many logging programs will reject that call sign.

So, verify everything possible. Make sure you have correctly entered the call sign. Make sure the DX station got your call sign correct and that the DX station is where you think it is. Many DXpeditions offer online logging, giving you the chance to confirm that you are in the log and giving the DX Marathon judges a chance to check the validity of a claimed contact in such cases. Few things are more disheartening than to find a DX Marathon contact was disallowed, costing a country and perhaps a zone as well, when you had a dozen other contacts in the log that would have been valid. The DX Marathon home page (www.dxmarathon.com).

com) offers guidance in dealing with these issues, and contestants should regularly check the page for recent information.

Commitment

An all-out effort in the DX Marathon requires a major commitment on the operator's part and, indeed, the family's as well. It helps a lot if you're retired or work at home, but some winners have succeeded while burdened with more conventional schedules. If you have a job that requires long hours away from the shack, you might consider a single band effort, on a band where the propagation profile matches your time at home as much as possible.

For many operators, a year in the DX Marathon proves to be one of the most rewarding experiences in our wonderful hobby. As in any other contest, winning is very demanding, yet very rewarding, and, if you love operating, you can't lose!

Anyone who competes is guaranteed to win, even without posting the top score. At the very least you will enjoy hours and hours of excitement and thrills of DXing at its best. Being on the rig on a regular basis will certainly sharpen and maintain your operating skills for 48-hour contests as well and keep your station operating at peak efficiency.

January 1 is just ahead. Visit to the CQ DX Marathon home page, study the rules, download the entry sheet and have a ball!

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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!

Contest	Start Date	End Date
EUCW 160M Contest	1/4/2025	1/5/2025
YB DX Contest - SSB	1/11/2025	
North American QSO Party, CW	1/11/2025	1/12/2025
YB DX Contest	1/11/2025	1/11/2025
North American QSO Party, SSB	1/18/2025	1/19/2025
ARRL VHF Contest`	1/18/2025	1/20/2025
CQ 160M CW	1/24/2025	1/26/2025

OHIO'S



Although the tree may still be standing and the decorations still in place, the big day is now in the rearview mirror for another year. In the coming days the task of putting things into storage will get underway and all the joys of Christmas will be just another memory. N8ZNR and I hope each of you had an enjoyable and relaxing time with family and friends. I also hope Santa remembered you have an amateur radio license and was good to you by leaving something radio related under the tree.

Someone's passing is always a sad event. But it seems harder to deal with during the holiday season. Thus the word of the passing of Chillicothe's Richard Hopper, K8CLJ, is tough. I first met Richard on the 75 meter morning "Old Geezer Net" the better part of 20 years ago. Because of all the things he could do, one would not realize his lack of sight. Services have been held.

For several years the **Highland ARA** has coordinated with the Highland County Historical Society to welcome in the New Year by broadcasting the ringing of the historic large Hillsboro manufactured C. S. Bell that graces the front of Hillsboro's Highland House Museum. According to new HARA President John Willis, KE8JEM, the bell ringing will be transmitted on HARA's 147.21 repeater at the stroke of Midnight. Following the ringing those listening are invited to toss their call signs onto the air to wish others listening New Year's greetings. Past years have had conversations begin and last into the wee hours of the New Year. Those unable to access the repeater are invited to send highlandara@gmail.com a message letting it be known they were able to hear the activity.

It appears the honors of the first clubs to hold meetings in the New Year goes to the **Clinton County ARA** and the **Lancaster Fairfield County ARA**. Incoming CCARA President Lee Kolodziej, KC2VFX, states the Club will meet on Thursday evening, January 2 at the Boyd Regional Cancer Center in Wilmington while the Lancaster club meets at 7pm at the county EMA Office in Lancaster. The **OH-KY-IN ARS** will meet on January 7 at the Arlington Heights Village Hall at 7:30. The meeting may also be attended via Zoom. The **Southwest Ohio DX Association**'s newsletter tells us they have a new meeting location and will meet there for the first time on January 9. They are moving a bit further down I-75 to Middletown and will meet at Bourbon's Craft Kitchen and Bar. It is located at 2231 Verity Parkway. Thomas Witherspoon, K4SWL, is to present a program discussing "POTA and SOTA". Because of recent legal issues, the Frisch's Restaurant where the **Lancaster Fairfield County ARA** held their monthly breakfast gatherings was forced to close. Therefore the monthly breakfasts have relocated to the Scrambler's Restaurant, 1377 Ety Road in Lancaster. The next one will be on January 18 at 9am. The Club plans for some future quarterly gatherings to take place at the Scrambler's Pickerington location to accommodate Columbus area members.

With Christmas now behind us and the New Year quickly upon us, we find ourselves entering a time of few major ham radio events. However I believe this period gives us an opportunity to explore one of the many different things that can be done with a ham radio license. Perhaps study for a license upgrade? Ever think of mastering the Morse Code? What's all the chatter about FT8? So among those other New Year's resolutions why not include a ham radio related one?

A dear ham friend once said "you don't have to be a member of a club to play radio." Yes he is correct, but I think he is missing a very important point that being in an association with others

who share your mutual interest is priceless! Many clubs throughout the nation are experiencing declining memberships and low attendance at meetings and events. Some are even on the verge of ceasing to exist. Many complain about seeing few young people entering the hobby and inserting new blood into an otherwise aging membership. All kinds of articles and videos have appeared calling attention to what could be an alarming fact if we let it happen. Are you one of those who attended a meeting only to find it boring, too drawn out and with no program or information sharing to make it worthwhile? In this day and age when there are so many things trying to get attention, we need to think “outside of the box” and make changes within our club structure and meeting agendas. Just because it’s always been done a certain way does not mean it has to continue that way forever. Additionally, if you are a member of a local club when was the last time you personally invited someone who just received a license, moved into your community or just not having been heard from for a period of time to attend an event with you or even offered to pick them up?

I understand the **River Cities ARA** in Ashland, KY held their annual Christmas dinner on the 10th at the Great Wall China Buffet. I’m certain all who attended had an enjoyable time and with a full stomach.

Beginning January 13, the **Athens County ARA** will start a Technician License Class at the Athens Southeastern Ohio Red Cross Building. It will continue for nine consecutive Monday evenings at 7PM concluding with a test session on March 17.

Bill Gahringer, N8SBT says the **Fayette ARA** will hold its next club breakfast gathering at the Our Place Restaurant in Washington CH on Saturday, January 18 at 10 AM. This might become the monthly meeting place.

The first 2025 hamfest in Ohio’s South 40 Region will be the **Sunday Creek ARF**’s January 19 event at the community building on old US 33 in Shade, Ohio. jeramy_duncan30@yahoo.com for more information.

However if you are looking for some sunshine, milder temperatures and don’t mind a lengthy road trip, what might be the second largest hamfest in the nation is in Orlando. February 7 begins the world famous HamCation at the Central Florida Fairgrounds. I’ve attended and find it well worth the experience.

The ARRL’s contest season gets underway with the annual ARRL VHF Contest on January 18 beginning at 2 PM. During the first four hours of the event, the Ohio ARES VHF Simplex Contest will run concurrently with the ARRL event. Any contact will count for both events. I haven’t participated in the ARRL event for many years, but always enjoyed it when I did. I even placed once! Contacts may be made by voice or digital modes on six, two and the 70cm bands. Check the www.ohsimplex.org for the rules and operating suggestions. Fixed, portable and EOC stations may participate. Unfortunately “Rovers” may not.

The **Lancaster Fairfield County ARA** plans to begin a Technician License class with the first session January 27. It will continue through the 31st with a test given February 1. The location and time to begin will be listed on the www.k8qjk.org website once arrangements are firmed.

Mark Feldner from Caldwell received an early Christmas gift with Santa delivering him a gift that will keep on giving joy. It was a notice from the FCC telling Mark he could now refer to himself as KF8CZR. It appears Santa left two licenses under the Townsend Family tree in Pleasant City. One for James bore the KF8DAA call sign and one for Noah was marked KF8DAB. Santa also made a stop in Lawrence County and left a ticket marked KF8CZY for Anthony Riggio in Proctorville.

The SWODXA newsletter tells us that on December 15 well known **Scioto Valley ARC** member Dwight Kelly, K4YJ, was awarded a well deserved ARRL DXCC Challenge plaque. The award is given to those who have established proof of making over 1000 contacts with DXCC countries. Dwight received the 2000 contact endorsement and now stands at 2001. His next step is 2500. Congrats!

The **Southwest Ohio DX Assn.** informs us of a new program that ICOM© America has introduced to recognize a ham mentor who has devoted time and effort helping newly licensed amateurs make and then assist confirming their first 100 country contacts to earn DXCC. Information, rules and a nomination form can be found by emailing thedxmentor@gmail.com or at www.swodxa.org/DX-Mentor-Program. The award winner will be announced at the SWODA DX Banquet during this years Hamvention.



Amateur Radio Station WX8WIL at the Wilmington National Weather Service was activated by the **Clinton County ARA** during the recent NWS Skywarn Recognition Day operating event. They were able to set up in the facility's maintenance building. According to CCARA President Mark Atwell, WX8A, around 75 contacts were made. All those who participated in the event report enjoying the activity and fellowship.

Until next time-may your New Year be a good one.

John Levo, W8KIW

jlevo@cinci.rr.com or highlandara@gmail.com or 937-393-4951 (landline-leave a message)

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](#)

https://arrl-ohio.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/print_your_license.pdf

Ohio Section Cabinet

Section Manager – Tom Sly, WB8LCD	Section Traffic Manager – Dan Rinaman AC8NP
Asst Section Manager – John Levo, W8KIW	Asst Section Manager – Alan Andres, KD8ZBS
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 Kline - 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... <https://arrl-ohio.org/section-swap-shop/>

<https://arrl-ohio.org/section-swap-shop/>

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@arrlohio.org

swap@arrl-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:

<https://arrl-ohio.org/ohio-section-newsletter/>



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....

<https://arrl-ohio.org/ohio-club-newsletters/>

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@arrl-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@arrl-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:

<https://arrl-ohio.org/ohio-section-newsletter/>

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!

QUOTE Authors from the beginning of the newsletter:

1&2 – Hiram P. Maxim

3,4,5 – Thomas Edison

6 – Aristotle

7 – Babe Ruth

8 – Jesus

9 - Winston Churchill

10 – Yogi Berra