

## Ohio Section- January 2025

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Members automatically earn ARRL Sweepstakes entries when they join or renew (earn 1 entry), set up auto-renewal (earn 2 entries), or donate to Diamond Club (earn 1 entry for every \$50 donated) any time from January 3 through December 31, 2025. Limit of 6 entries per person.

\* No Purchase Necessary. For Official Rules visit www.arrl.org/DreamStation/rules. ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® is the sole sponsor of the ARRL Sweepstakes. Icom® is a registered trademark of Icom Inc.

# **Ohio 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



# **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=noyTnVzB3GeynkMQYADtENT Cy29jxt.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

From the Technical Coordinator Jeff Kopcak – K8JTK TC K8JTK@arrl.net

Hey gang,

When was the last time your operating underwent a major change or ventured to try something new? We all get in our comfort zones and decide,



for various reasons, not to go for something different. Going from operating amplifiers and high-end base stations to barefoot and a wire for a POTA activation. Operating digital radios using hotspots to building an HF station or operating at 10 GHz. Even within your local club being a technical resource and change to a leadership position like President/Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer. Maybe help out in a different area assisting the Newsletter editor with publication or contributing content.

Just this past year, I found myself facing new challenges and changes, both personally and professionally. I promise this won't be riddled with crappy business catch phrases and "tech bro" talk. Primary, I work with firewalls and remote access technologies. Last year, I was on two M&A (merger and acquisitions) projects as lead for Information Security. M&As happen when a company decides to purchase (in part or in whole) another company. The goal of the project is to evaluate the current situation of the company being acquired from a technology

perspective. Changes happen to technology and processes which follow the new owner's standards.

I'm responsible for relaying and enforcing company policy and practices, like when a vendor wants wide open remote access, from the Internet, to the new owner's network. Hello, <u>Target</u>? Also making sure the right people are involved when the business asks for something related to Information Technology security. This is addition to integrating and configuring technologies I'm responsible. One M&A project was <u>the reason</u> I was able to make a return stop at ARRL HQ last year.

To be cliché, this is where you find yourself. One might be good at technical aspects but find they like administrative tasks or discover one of the billion other things you can do with ham radio. Well-rounded individuals have skills and experiences across various areas, typically making them more desirable in their profession and community.

Need ideas or a place to discover those billions of other things in ham radio, the ARRL has <u>four</u> <u>online publications</u> (or in some cases print):

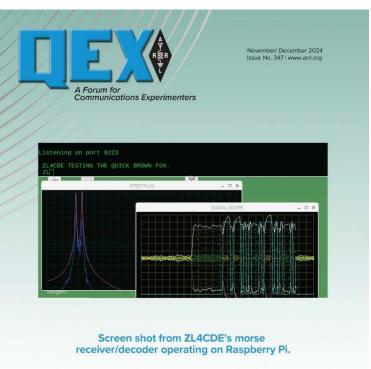
- <u>QST</u> monthly publication including news, reviews, technical tips, and projects
- <u>On The Air</u> for beginners and experts alike covering a wide range of operating interests and topics
- <u>QEX</u> bimonthly technical publication featuring experimentation, technical articles, and columns for hams and radio professionals
- <u>NCJ</u> bimonthly contesting journal with hints, stats, scores, and QSO parties

Current ARRL members have access to the latest issues online through the links above or can <u>search past articles</u>. Non-members can find these resources on the ARRL Periodical DVD available for the last couple years via the store (under <u>Station Resources</u>), try the local library, or ask a member to borrow theirs.

Earlier this year was the start of my next major change in ham radio: recovering from <u>storm</u> <u>damage</u>. Or possible tornado - you know, whichever is more attention grabbing. In that article and in addition to the storm damage, I mentioned the shack itself would soon need replacing. Well, soon is now.

This was something that happened over time and due to age. It wasn't something that happened out of nowhere. If you don't know or haven't seen my QSL card, my shack was an old pull-behind travel trailer (also known as an RV trailer or camper). I checked with Mom and it's older than we thought. The last time it was out and used as a recreational vehicle was about 1998-99. Since then, it was used for storage until I had the bright idea to get on HF about 10 years ago and Dad (SK) thought it would be good to use as a shack.

Even then it was showing its age. A little tar on the roof and some patch work put a stop to major issues. For the time being. With the rain storms





just before New Years, it gave up the ghost. It was showing signs of water damage (again) over the summer. By the end of the year, it became too much. No equipment was damaged but New Years Eve was spent shuttling ham gear into the house for safe keeping.

I have been looking out for cabin or shed builders in the area. Maybe I stick with the somewhat mobile theme and get a toy hauler – except the toys would be ham gear. I've also seen hams with their shacks in a tool or hobby shed. My preference is to keep the shack isolated from the house if (when?) another lightning bolt takes out the antenna (the first time the antenna was destroyed) it doesn't cause other issues in the house.

To make matters worse (which just means I have to come up with more solutions), both trees which held up ends of my 100' wire antenna sustained damage in the August storm and one was removed due to proximity of houses. With no other trees to support a horizontally polarized antenna of that length, I could go vertical or install a solution the neighbors won't be happy with, or maybe both. A tower would be nice to get my VHF/UHF antennas up higher and some SHF equipment on there too. A possibility would be to setup antennas inside the house as a temporary

workaround. You know what they say about workarounds, they become permanent solutions. Alot of things to think about and a lot of work to be done.

I've always said my operating interests were computer based and, in recent years, added networking. It looks like mine will shift from mostly digital operation on the HF bands to HT operations using IP devices, such as hotspots, mesh, and maybe more SDRs.

How old is that travel trailer? 45, coming up on 46 years old.

The story of an Alabama broadcaster that received global news coverage, and <u>covered here</u> last March, has taken an unfortunate turn. Owner and general manager of WJLX in Jasper, Alabama, Brett Elmore has died at 41 according to <u>AR Newsline</u>. Elmore made headlines after reporting the AM radio station's tower was stolen mysteriously overnight last February. The case remains unsolved. No cause of death or what will happen to the AM broadcast station was given.

Thanks for reading and 73... de Jeff – K8JTK

From the Section Emergency Coordinator Bret Stemen – KD8SCL EC KD8SCL@gmail.com

## 2024

In the Ohio Section, we experienced a remarkable year. While I do not have all the figures yet as I am awaiting the December reports, the 2024 Solar Eclipse, a record-breaking number of tornado



outbreaks, and severe thunderstorms that traversed the Ohio Section occupied the attention of most counties. Additionally, various exercises, events, and hamfests contributed to the section's activities. I eagerly anticipate observing the performance of the section in 2024. 2025 appears to be a promising year.

To maintain our progress, we must sustain our activities, engaging both new and current hams. As experienced hams, we should assume the role of mentors, fostering a receptive attitude to their contributions in enhancing ARES and club activities.

## Upcoming Events:

VHF/UHF Simplex contest <u>Ohio Simplex</u> Winter Field Day NVIS DAY Hamvention Field Day OHIO SET Hamfests, throughout the year. Check the <u>Ohio Section</u> website for more information. Local exercises and events

These are merely a few examples, and this is an opportune moment to engage local ham radio enthusiasts.

## New Hams:

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the newly licensed amateur radio operators who successfully passed their examinations in 2024.

Have you checked into a local net? Have you engaged with your local ham club and/or ARES group?

Initial airtime is relatively straightforward. To begin, you require an HT and the appropriate programming for your local repeaters (may necessitate an upgraded rubber duck antenna, depending on your location). Joining a local club and/or ARES group can be highly beneficial. Most VE teams provide information about local clubs and ARES groups, and some clubs even offer up to a year of complimentary memberships. This is an excellent opportunity to connect with other hams, foster new friendships, and obtain advice and information from experienced hams. Depending on your financial constraints, you can seek guidance on upgraded HTs, mobile radios, antennas, and other equipment that may be relevant when constructing or renovating your ham shack. Most clubs host "How To" or informative programs at the conclusion of their meetings, which serve as valuable resources for learning new skills and providing refresher information for others.

An illustrative example occurred recently when a county hosted an event. Several new amateur radio operators (hams) participated, utilizing only an HT. During the event, they successfully communicated with the net control station and other participants via a simplex frequency.

If you are uncertain about how to check in to a local club or ARES net simply tune in to the net and listen for a bit and follow the instructions provided. Do not hesitate to check in to the net or engage in conversations with other hams on local repeaters. Remember, there is no such thing as a foolish or insignificant question.

Current club and ARES members, please ensure that you engage with the new hams, provide them with encouragement and mentorship in any way possible, and encourage them to participate in club and ARES activities.

In amateur radio, whether through ARES or a club, the 80/20 rule applies, indicating that 20% of the members contribute 80% of the work. This situation can lead to burnout, as evidenced by the typical meeting dynamics: a small group of experienced members gather, discuss their past accomplishments, and then depart. To address this issue and engage the more seasoned members, an unexpected solution emerges: increased activity.

Contrary to expectations, the more active a group becomes, the more interested its members tend to be. ARES is primarily focused on providing resources during emergencies. To ensure readiness and effectiveness, training is crucial. This training should be serious and meaningful, covering scenarios such as search and rescue operations, natural disasters, and the inner workings of Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs). Additionally, members should gain proficiency in using MARCS radios and understand the county's communication infrastructure.

In our region, we do not experience frequent natural disasters such as wildfires, hurricanes, or earthquakes. While this may seem advantageous, it is crucial to recognize that safety agencies also face challenges due to the infrequency of such events. Despite this, they recognize the importance of preparedness and actively engage in training and practice scenarios as if the next emergency could occur. Similarly, as ARES members, we must adopt a proactive approach to ensure our readiness. While it may not be feasible for you to possess all the necessary expertise, it is essential to identify individuals within your department who possess the knowledge and skills required to provide training. By fostering a collaborative environment and engaging in face-to-face interactions, you can build trust and enhance your understanding of each other's capabilities.

Over time, you will observe an increase in attendance and a positive return of individuals who have participated in training sessions. This collaborative approach will not only enhance your preparedness but also create a more engaging and rewarding experience within the ARES world.

While writing this article, I considered the unpredictability of life and the potential for sudden illnesses, hospitalizations, or even death. These events have been on my mind since witnessing recent occurrences.

Regardless of our roles, whether as a SM, SEC, EC or even an officer of a local club or committee (such as Repeater or Field Day), mentoring younger members is crucial. This can ensure that tasks are completed effectively and efficiently, even if you are unable to fulfill them yourself. Mentoring can also alleviate your workload, reducing stress and enabling you to manage your duties more effectively.

Thanks for your service and contributions to the Ohio Section,

Bret KD8SCL

## *Elizabeth Klinc, KE8FMJ OHIO Section Public Information Coordinator* <u>ke8fmj@gmail.com</u>

Elizabeth Klinc, KE8FMJ AUXC

OHIO Section Public Information Coordinator District Emergency Coordinator, D3 Ohio ARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator, Greene County



ARRL - The National Association For Amateur Radio™

From the Ohio Section Youth Coordinator Anthony Luscre, K8ZT - SYC k8zt73@gmail.com

# ARRL OH Section Zoom Session- OH Simplex VHF & ARRL January VHF Contest Prep- Jan 6th



Join fellow Ohio Section members for a live Zoom session on Monday, Jan 6th, at 7:30 PM. We will cover everything you need to know to participate in these two on-air VHF/UHF activities on Jan 18th.



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



# **Ohio 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.

- OH VHF Simplex Information, Rules & Planned Operations Signuphttps://ohsimplex.org
- ARRL January VHF- www.arrl.org/January-vhf

The preparation session is designed for both seasoned contesters and first-time contesters. This activity is excellent for newly licensed Technicians as you will have full operating privileges for all modes and bands used.

The focuses of the Zoom session:

- 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**

You can view a draft copy of the slideshow at *tiny.cc/ovhfsc*.

Info to join the Zoom session:

- https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/81118969999?pwd=noyTnVzB3GeynkMQYADtENT Cy29jxt.1
- Meeting ID: 811 1896 9999
- Passcode: 110422

The Zoom session is available to any interested hams, not just ARRL or OH Section members, so let your local club and ham friends know about this. If you recently provided a Technician License prep or VE testing, contact your students and let them know about this GOTA opportunity.

That's it for this month; I hope to work you on the air soon, maybe on VHF-UHF!

73, Anthony, K8ZT (*k8zt@arrl.net*)

## From the Section Traffic Manager Dan Rinaman, AC8NP – STM

AC8NP@AC8NP.COM

Greetings! Hope everyone enjoyed the Holidays!

This month I thought I would like to talk about The Station Activity Report.

This information comes from the <u>ARRL NTS Methods and</u> <u>Practices Guidelines</u>.

## \* SAR, Station Activity Report:



Section ARRL leadership is always interested in activity reports from stations participating in the NTS, even if only one message is handled during the reporting month. The monthly Station Activity Report is filed with the Section Traffic Manager or Section Manager.

## 7.2 STATION ACTIVITY REPORT (SAR), TRAFFIC

Monthly activity reports of individual stations' message traffic handling are to be sent to the Section Manager, or Section Traffic Manager as delegated, within the first days of the next month (the SM and STM both report activities to ARRL early in the following month). Traffic handling conducted on the non-amateur Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) frequencies are not to be counted in amateur radio activity reports to the ARRL.

## 7.2.1 CATEGORIES OF ACTIVITY - ORIG, RCVD, SENT, DLVD

See ARRL Public Service Communications Manual, [Section 2, NTS Chapter 10.2], and the ARRL PSHR Reference section in this chapter. Messages handled by amateur stations are counted according to the following four categories of activity:

## \* ORIGINATED:

(An off-the-air function) Any ARRL standard format message traffic prepared by you (the first party) for someone other than yourself (a third party) and filed at your amateur radio station for initial transmission over the air. Count one point. In other words, this is a radiogram which you created for another person using your station's message number and call sign. Note: A message that you create for yourself does not qualify as an Origination but will be covered later under the SENT category.

#### \* RECEIVED:

(An on-the-air function) Any ARRL standard format radiogram received over amateur radio by your station. This will include message traffic received, whether for yourself, for relay to another amateur station (the second party), or received for delivery to the message addressee (a third party). Count one point.

Note: Messages received by other means, such as telephone, postal, E-mail, MARS, inperson, etc., are not counted as Received, however they may cause you to Originate a message for later transmission.

#### \* SENT:

(An on-the-air function) Any message traffic to be sent by your station to another amateur station (a second party), whether such a message is initially transmitted from your station as your Originated message for a third party, a message for yourself, or one that was received from another amateur station. Count one point. Note: Messages sent by means of telephone, postal, E-mail, etc. do not count as Sent, however they may qualify for counting as Delivered.

#### \* DELIVERED:

(An off-the-air function) Any message traffic that is delivered by you to the message addressee (a third party), provided that the message was received at your station by amateur radio and that the addressee is someone other than yourself. This delivery is done by telephone, postal, E-mail, in person, etc. Count one point.

Note: A message sent by amateur radio to the final addressee at another amateur station is counted as a sent message, not as a delivered message.

## 7.2.3 SAR REPORTING TECHNIQUE

At the end of each month, send a message to the SM or STM including your call sign, the month being reported, the message traffic handled in each category and the total points. This informs the section management and the ARRL about section and station activities in traffic handling.

The monthly SAR traffic report may be combined with the PSHR report from the same station. See the examples in the section on PSHR reporting. The categories may be condensed into one mixed group as follows, providing that you carefully observe the correct order of figures, and use a zero if no credit in a category:

[ORIG] / [RCVD] / [SENT] / [DLVD]

## 7.2.3.1 EXAMPLE SAR MESSAGE edited for local use

Traffic report SAR only.

NR 6 W8XYZ 7 SPARKS OH SEP 1 Section Traffic Manager (STM) AC8NP Tiffin OH 44883 (Locally usually only the STM's call sign is required.) = AUGUST TRAFFIC 3/5/6/2 TOTAL 16 X 73 = W8XYZ

Where the mixed group reads Originated 3, Received 5, Sent 6, Delivered 2. Zeros in any category should be preserved to maintain clear the meaning of the 4 entries in the mixed group, as in 0/5/6/0. The use of 73 is optional.

Currently the Station Activity Reports have only total traffic handled. As we move forward, I would like to have the reports include the four categories.

Thanks for all you do!

## Here is some news from the NTS2.0 Committee.

#### What's a Radiogram?

You've probably heard of amateur radio ("ham") operators, and you might know a friend, family member, or neighbor who loves to build radio equipment and talk to thousands of other ham operators around the world!

But you might **not** know that amateur radio operators are primed and ready to step in and provide valuable communications to the public, when all else fails. Even if Internet service, power lines, and phone lines are all down, amateur radio still can get the message through. To be ready for this, many amateurs have joined a network called the National Traffic System (NTS), which is like a telegraph office over radio. NTS volunteers spend their free time relaying

messages, called **Radiograms**, entirely by amateur radio, completely free of charge. This is great practice to be sure they can serve the public during a true emergency!

#### Send a Radiogram Now!

Now, there's a way that YOU can try Amateur Radio messaging! Think of a friend or family member you'd like to contact by Radiogram. You can send any short message, as long as it's not business-related, urgent or



critical, or too private or personal. Your message will be picked up by an Amateur Radio volunteer operator and relayed across the country to near its destination; finally, the recipient will get a local phone call from a nearby ham, or the message might even be delivered in person. Along the way, ham operators will be relaying your message by voice, digital, or even Morse code, and getting valuable practice in emergency public service.

https://nts2.arrl.org/radiogram/

So on to Handling Traffic.



National Traffic System

Traffic and Message Handling

For Skill, Service, and Fun!

The ARRL got its start to organize message delivery to get messages delivered efficiently, accurately to its destination by different radio stations. This tradition continues today using CW, voice, and digital.

- Why practice traffic handling?
- It teaches operator good skills.
- It gives you valuable skills in times of emergency passing health and welfare messages.
- You learn how to operate under adverse conditions without power.
- You create friendships and comradery.

Any license class can handle traffic even with a basic HT. Ask a mentor, club, or go to nts2.arrl.org for more information. There are nets you can join to learn and practice this skill. Consider Traffic Handling as part of your Ham Radio experience!

## **Ohio Section Nets**

If you have traffic you need to move, take it to a VHF net or HF via the OSSBN. Here is WHERE TO FIND AN HF OR VHF TRAFFIC NET IN OHIO.

## **OHIO SINGLE SIDEBAND NET**

Morning Session	10:30 AM	3972.5 kHz	Every Day
Afternoon Session	4:15 PM	3972.5 kHz	Every Day

Evening Session	6:45 PM	3972.5 kHz	Every Day

## OHIO HF CW TRAFFIC NETS

HF CW NETS	NET TIMES	FREQUENCY	NET MANAGERS
Buckeye Early	6:45 PM	3.580 MHz	N2LC
Buckeye Late	10:00 PM	3.590 MHz	WB9LBI
Ohio Slow Net	6:00 PM	3.53535 MHz	N2LC

All CW net frequencies plus or minus QRM

## OHIO LOCAL VHF TRAFFIC NETS

VHF NETS	NET TIMES	FREQUENCY	NET MANAGERS
BRTN	Monday, Thursday Saturday 9:30 PM	145.230 MHz PL 110.9	KD8GXL
COTN	7:15 PM DAILY	146.970 MHz PL 123.0	KV8Z
TCTTN	9 PM Sun, Tues, Fri	147.015 MHz PL 110.9	WB8YYS
TATN	8:00 PM DAILY	146.670 MHz PL 123.0	WG8Z

If you have a net in Ohio, you would like listed here please send me the information. <u>ac8np@ac8np.com</u>.

Thanks For All You Do!



Amanda Farone, KC3GFU ARRL Ohio Section | Affiliated Club Coordinator <u>Afrone926@gmail.com</u> 330-509-4095

New year, new opportunities, new goals! Do you have any ham radio goals this year? My current goal is to learn CW by Field Day. My husband and I started attending an inperson class to keep up accountability, and we have been practicing every night for 30 minutes after dinner. Having someone "in-house" to learn with is a blessing, but it isn't necessary to hit your goals! There are plenty of resources

available for different types of learning. What are your goals for this year? What have you always wanted to learn but continued to set aside? Now is the time!

Winter Field Day is approaching fast. This is a great opportunity to gear up for club operating events throughout the year. There have been several changes to the rules and objectives, so please be sure to review the newest packet before planning. Winter Field Day is always a great time and can be planned according to what your club deems as "fun". It does not require you to be out in the frigid cold, unless you deem that as "fun" of course! The main goals of Winter Field Day are to make as many contacts as possible, test equipment, and promote emergency readiness. This event fosters camaraderie and provides valuable lessons in operating under adverse conditions. I hope to hear you on the air!

ARRL Service Awards are now open for nominations, and the ARRL is looking for your input! Awards are separated into four different categories: Education Awards, Media/Public Relations Awards, Technical Awards, and Distinguished Service Awards. You can visit http://www.arrl.org/arrl-award-

nominations?utm\_source=Informz&utm\_medium=Email&utm\_campaign=ARRL&\_zs=P9oLn& \_zl=E1XC3 for more information. John Myers, WG8X wg8x.radio@gmail.com 330-936-5021

Hi everyone, welcome to 2025. I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday. Santa was good to me even though I didn't get any Ham Radio gifts. Instead, I got a new keyboard and trackball, which is even better. You'd be surprised how quickly I can wear out a keyboard.



So, over this past month, we've

averaged roughly 69 page views per day on arrl-ohio.org, which is pretty cool. The most popular pages (besides the home page) for this month are 1) Swap & Shop, 2) Hamfests, 3) Ohio Section Newsletter, and 4) Ohio Section ARES.

There will be a new One Question Question by the time you read this. I'm sure that Tom will have something to say about the December question somewhere else in the OSJ.

So, into a new year we go. I have tons of resolutions. My Ham Radio resolution for this year is to learn to get proficient on a straight key, or bug. I currently use an iambic paddle, but own a bug, which I'd like to be able to use for the next Straight Key Night.

How about you? What are your Ham Radio resolutions for the year? I've been jotting down notes for the last few days about Ham Radio goals I've had over the last 44 years. These are a few that came to mind: Get on the air, work some DX, participate in a contest, Get involved in a local club, build an antenna, be an Elmer. I like to think that I've achieved most of these.

I believe that one way to keep Ham Radio moving forward, and stave off stagnation is to stretch our legs and keep trying new stuff. Everything we learn helps us to increase our enjoyment of the hobby, and life in general.

So, I'm looking forward to heading to southern Ohio this month for some hiking, some POTA activations, and to help staff the league booth at the SCARF Hamfest in Athens County (<u>https://arrl-ohio.org/hamfests/</u>). If you can find me, let's talk about our resolutions for 2025.

## 73 DE WG8X

# National News (from ARRL and other sources)

## Winter Field Day 2025



Winter Field Day (WFD), hosted by the Winter Field Day Association, is scheduled to run from 1900 UTC on Saturday, January 25, through 1859 UTC on Sunday, January 26.

WFD is held on the last full weekend in January and is a communications exercise that can be worked from the comfort of your home or from a remote location. You can participate by yourself, with your friends and family, or with a local club.

WFD is designed to help increase your level of preparedness for disasters and for you to improve and practice your operating skills in winter environments, as the potential for freezing temperatures, snow, ice, and other hazards present unique operating conditions.

WFD is open to participants worldwide. Amateur radio operators may use frequencies on the HF, VHF, or UHF bands and are free to use any mode that can faithfully transmit the required exchange intact. Similar to ARRL's Field Day, bonus points are earned in several ways, including from using non-commercial power sources, operating from remote locations, making satellite contacts, and more. Make sure you register your location at the <u>WFD registration page</u>. To date, there are 345 locations registered around the world.

Also, remember to mark your calendar for 2025 ARRL Field Day on June 28 - 29. For additional information, visit <u>Field Day (arrl.org)</u>.

## **HAMVENTION!**

Hamvention 2025 Theme: Radio Independence The Hamvention team is pleased to introduce our 2025 Theme, which is Radio Independence. Radio Independence means a great deal to us. In the age of Parks on the Air (POTA), Summits on the Air (SOTA), YouTube, and International Communications, radio is moving beyond its past limitations. In the course of history radio has been heavily regulated and, in some instances, banned altogether. We are fortunate to enjoy these freedoms, and for us at Hamvention we are proud of our Radio Independence. What does Radio Independence mean to you? See you at Hamvention 2025. 73, Hamvention Executive Committee November 1, 2024



## **CWops Announces 2024 Advancing the Art of CW Award**



Each year, <u>CWops</u>, an international organization that promotes and advances Morse code (CW) in amateur radio communications, accepts nominations for individuals, groups, and organizations for the CWops Award for Advancing the Art of CW. The award recognizes contributions made toward advancing the art or practice of radio communications by Morse code.

The Radio Officer's Association (ROA) is the recipient of the 2024 CWops Award for Advancing the Art of CW. ROA honors and preserves the history and accomplishments of radio professionals from across the Merchant Navy, Coast Station Service, and Civil Aeronautical industry. Its membership includes nearly 400 former professional radio officers, half of whom hold amateur radio licenses. CWops recognized ROA's efforts to preserve CW history through its journal, and for activities that span CW mentoring, on air nets, and CW-related museum displays and related activities.

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The award was recently accepted by ROA's Bill Cross, G0ELZ, at the organization's annual meeting in Liverpool, England. It was presented by CWops President Stew Rolfe, GW0ETF.

## Amateur radio operators ages 25 and younger will be on the air as special event stations around the world throughout December in celebration of Youth on the Air (YOTA) Month in amateur radio.

YOTA Month stations will be on all bands and modes at various times. QSL and award information is at <u>events.ham-yota.com</u>. Last year, young hams worldwide surpassed their goal of 100,000 QSOs in the month of December with a final tally of 103,788. More information about YOTA Month specifically in the Americas can be found at <u>YouthOnTheAir.org</u>, including a link to all YOTA station spots on <u>DXSummit.com</u>. Overlapping with YOTA Month is round 3 of the YOTA Contest, which is on December 30, 2024, from 1000 to 2159 UTC.

## Registration is now open for the 2025 Dayton ConTest University (CTU) to be held all day on Thursday May 15, 2025, at the <u>Hope</u> <u>Hotel</u> on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base the day before

**Hamvention® opens in Xenia, Ohio**. 2025 will be the 16th year for CTU Dayton. Eight different countries have hosted CTUs, including the USA, Australia, Russia, Germany, Italy, England, Brazil, and Finland. Over 10,000 students have attended these CTUs with more than 100 CTU professors sharing their contesting experiences. The 2025 CTU Dayton course outline will be posted once all have been confirmed. Each presentation is carefully prepared with up-to-date information. CTU professors are experienced contesters who will share their knowledge, and participants can ask questions and learn new ways to enjoy contesting. Videos and PDF presentations from past CTUs can be viewed at <u>contestuniversity.com</u>. There are scholarships (registration fee paid) available for CTU through a grant from the Northern California DX Foundation for students aged 25 or younger. Student registration information is on the CTU website, <u>contestuniversity.com</u>.

# Club Corner

This is YOUR corner of the newsletter. Send us what your club is doing, and we'll make sure that it gets in. Got a special event or club project that you want everyone to know about? Send it to us!. Need help with a project? Send it to us.

Let us know what you club is up to. Are you going to have a special guest at your meeting or are you having a special anniversary?



Send it to: webmaster@arrl-ohio.org

## **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 <u>will not collect</u> the fees at exam sessions*.

<u>AE8FP Amateur Radio Test Team</u> administers ARRL-VEC testing in the Central Ohio area. Our test dates for 2024 are as follows: Januray 20, April 27, 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 <u>www.ae8fp.net</u> <<u>http://www.ae8fp.net</u>/>

#### 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 (<u>https://maps.app.goo.gl/prDyEPp6siJun2ibA</u>).

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

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

<u>All Things Amateur Radio Association (ATARA)</u> 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 <u>https://hamstudy.org/register</u> 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.

## <u>CARS</u>

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 <u>www.2cars.org</u> 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 <u>exams.w8bi@gmail.com</u>

## 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 <u>hamstudy.org</u>. 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 Flgigi, 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 <u>n8jmw2@gmail.ccom</u> or calling at 440-228-2716. More information is available from the Geauga Amateur Radio Association website <u>https://geaugaara.org</u>

## 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 <u>ab8yk@hotmail.com</u>

#### 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, April 6 Saturday, June 1 Saturday, August 3 Saturday, October 5 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)TheLancaster and Fairfield County Amateur Radio Club (LFCARC) hosts exam sessions on the firstSaturday each month at 10:00 am in Lancaster Ohio at the Fairfield County EMA, 240 BaldwinDr., 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 <u>K8GQB.COM</u> 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 <u>Exams@mcarcoh.org</u>.

#### 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. <u>ewilkinson1951@gmail.com</u> 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 <u>www.portcars.org</u>.

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 <u>VETEAM@N8BAG.NET</u>.

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> - Smithville Brethren Church (Smithville/Wayne Co.) Saturday, October 4th - Sharon Center UM Church (Wadsworth/Medina Co.) Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> - Sharon Center UM Church (Wadsworth/Medina Co.)

All sessions begin at 10:00am. For directions and test information visit <u>https://w8wky.org/license-exams/</u>. Pre-Registration to expedite paperwork is requested, but not required at <u>https://w8wky.org/sara-ve-registration-form/</u>. 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 at https://wc8voa.org/licensing/

# **ARRL Division News**

**Great Lakes Division** 





Scott's Stuff

Happy New Year and all that stuff!! I hope your Holiday events went well and were filled with the spirit of the Season! Now on to new things for a new year...

Gather 'round the fireplace my fellow radio enthusiasts! It's that time once again to grab a favorite beverage, sit back in that comfy chair and indulge in the juicy tidbits of information found only in the Great Lakes Division newsletter "Radio Waves..."

Go to: www.arrl-greatlakes.org/glnews/2025/01-radio waves.pdf





Catch you on the air, in a meeting or at a hamfest!!! Be Radio Acitve!!!!!

73,

Scott, N8SY Great Lakes Division Director <u>n8sy@arrl.org</u>

## Athens County HAM News/updates

If you have not already heard, there has been an explosion of interest in GMRS in SE Ohio recently.

An overture from the Meigs Co. HAM club has resulted in several GMRS repeaters being positioned in the region.

This includes a new listing for GMRS Channel 20 in Athens on 462.6750 Mhz along with a PL tone. That unit is undergoing testing now.

It's located at 1000 ft atop an ACARA member's antenna mast, approximately 5 miles ESE of Athens. It is listed as KINCADE RD GMRS in

some listings. A six mile circle of line-of sight includes all of Athens, and out to Lotterage, Ohio. Final location TBD.

Several members of ACARA have just purchased TIDRADIO H-3 HT's at the recommendation of a local Ham to program and provide access to the lower power GMRS repeater in The Plains on Channel 19. And there is another GMRS repeater being installed north of Middleport on Channel 21. but I don't know the status yet. I hear that it's on the air and they are determining it's footprint now.

There's also word that a Vienna, WV GMRS groups is extremely active and holds regular nets, but the details, day and time is not known.

Also, a Buffalo 10 club in Belpre has a GMRS unit just to the north of Belpre, Ohio . Their Sunday Net at 8:30 pm is open to all.

And there's a repeater in McArthur, Ohio and a private one in Rockbridge.

Just how all these repeaters will be utilized is not clear yet, but the interest is exploding down here, and we anticipate the SCARF Hamfest in mid-January may benefit from it.

Last, the Foxhunt season in SE Ohio has come to a close with sub-freezing temperatures just prior to Christmas. We'll let you know when they resume.

-Kirk G KC8JRV WSFX972 GMRS License

## 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

## Important Links

ARRL Home: <u>www.arrl.org</u>

Find an ARRL Affiliated Club: www.arrl.org/clubs

Find your ARRL Section: <u>www.arrl.org/sections</u>

Find a License Class in your area: www.arrl.org/class

Find a License Exam in your area: www.arrl.org/exam

Find a Hamfest or Convention: <u>www.arrl.org/hamfests</u> Email ARRL Clubs: <u>clubs@arrl.org</u>

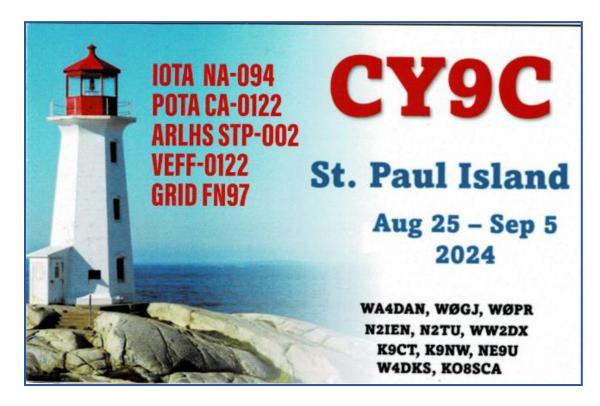
DX This Week – #310 Bill - AJ8B (<u>thedxmentor@gmail.com</u> / <u>www.aj8b.com</u>)

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family! As you start to make up your Christmas list, be sure to share those items with me – it will give others' ideas!



From Howard, N8HO, I received the following: "I received this card a few days ago. I worked them on most bands, but Saint Paul Island was an ATNO for me on 80 and 160 meters."

Thanks Howard. What did you receive?



## DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH DAH DIT DIT DAH

## Here is what is happening in the World of DX:

This section of DX News comes from Bernie, W3UR, editor of the DailyDX, the WeeklyDX, and the How's DX column in QST. If you would like a free 2-week trial of the DailyDX, the only source of real-time DX information, just drop me a note at <u>thedxmentor@gmail.com</u>

If you have been waiting for the **Central African Republic** DXpedition, I have some bad news. The **TL8ES** DXpedition by IV3SFG, Elvira Simoncini, originally scheduled for November 20th through December 9, has been delayed. Per QSL Manager IK2DUW, Antonello, Elvira's visa arrived after her originally scheduled flight had departed. IKØXBX, Francesco, who is DXpedition pilot (not the airline pilot!), says she expects to arrive in the Central African Republic on Monday November 25.

Krish, W4VKU, is now QRV as **VU4A** from the **Andaman Islands**. VU4A is QRV now until December 11. Op Krish, W4KVU, arrived in Chennai, India Sunday morning and spent the day sorting the gear for shipping. All was ready for shipment to Port Blair by air cargo on Tuesday morning. On Wednesday morning the 27th he left Port Blair and will collect the gear when he arrives. Masts were sent a couple weeks ago. A 5-element Yagi for 6M and Yaesu rotator were packed. W7GJ shipped him a 6M preamp. They hope for "better 6M reach" this time and will try EME and WSJT-X. Krish hopes to be on the air that first day. A 60M vertical will be put up and other antennas too, at least a 40/30 vertical for evening gray line Wednesday, and possibly a 20 through 10 vertical antenna. Antenna installation continues the 28th, including a 160/80 2- element phrased array and receiving antennas. Livestream is hoped for, with a cellular wifi access point.

The VU4A FT8 will be MSHV, with an "answering filter, based on the farthest DX first." He advises stations to send their grid, which is how distance is calculated. Krish asks DXers to be patient, with SSB starting a day or two later, once everything is set up. There is a generator on site, with "power stability an open issue."

You can learn more about Krish, his DXPedtions, and his accomplishments by tuning into The DXMentor, Youtube channel Episode 31 and podcast Episode 31.

KU1CW, Alex, is living and working in **Saigon** and operating as **3W9A**. This is his second DXpedition there. His stated focus is on the low bands and 10M openings. QSL via KU1CW.

Where in the world is SP9FIH? SP9FIH, Janusz, has wrapped up his **5R8WE** Dxpedition from Madagascar. He is now on his way to the Marshall Islands where he should be QRV as V73WE until December 13. Janusz will use an ICOM IC-7300 with a three- element Yagi for 12 and 10M and a vertical for 40, 30, and 20M.

K7AR, Al, reported earlier this week that "Things are going relatively smooth at **Wallis and Futuna Islands** as **FW7AA**. We have almost 4,000 QSOs in the log. We have two Elecraft K3 transceivers and two Elecraft KPA500 amplifiers, with DX Commander Signature 9 and Classic antennas. We are working on getting 160 inverted L and beverage up. Both W7YAQ, Bob and I agree that band conditions have not been that good, especially to Europe; not nearly as good as our VK9LAA and A31DL trips. This morning at our local sunrise we could copy Europe for the first time on 30M FT8 and had a good run." As a reminder, Al and Bob will be active as FW7AA through November 29. On their return, they will stop in Nadi, Fiji, and will be active as 3D2NB November 30-December 2. QSL both callsigns via LoTW or Club Log OQRS, or via W7YAQ.

NE8Z, Rick, operating his **HC1MD/2** station from **Ecuador**, will be mostly active on 6M over the next month. "I am watching daily in all directions for six-meter openings," he says. He will mostly be on FT8 but if the F2 is good, he will try SSB on 50.110 MHz and CW on 50.097 MHz. He is running 500W into a five-

element LFA. You can learn more about Rick, Ecuador, and his accomplishments by tuning into The DXMentor, Youtube Episode 43 and podcast Episode 44.

Last night the **9L5A** team began their journey to **Sierra Leone** spending the night at Charles-de-Gaulle Airport in Paris. Earlier today they departed for Brussels, Belgium with a later flight to the capital of Sierra Leone with a "stopover in Monrovia", Liberia. The team expects to arrive at Freetown International Airport at 0115Z Thursday. Once they arrive and get their gear, they will then travel about 3 hours to their operating QTH. <u>https://915a.wordpress.com</u>

The **S21DX** group will activate AS-140, Dal Char Island, **Bangladesh**, December 13-19, concentrating on training local young operators, instructing them on HF antennas, propagation and pileups. They expect to be on 160-10M with two stations, at least 20 hours per day. One station will be on FT8 F/H and the second doing RTTY, it seems. QSL to EB7DX or use LoTW and Club Log. <u>https://s21dx.org/</u>

If you are someone who likes podcasts and/or YouTube episodes, The DX Mentor has a new podcast featuring Carl, K9LA. Carl discusses all things pertaining to propagation. Check it out.

## DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH DAH DIT DIT DAH

# 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!

The ARRL 160M CW contest is the weekend of December 6<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup>. The objective is for Amateurs worldwide to exchange information with W/VE amateurs on 160-meter CW.

DX-to-DX QSOs do not count for contest credit. Stations located in overseas and non-contiguous U.S. Territories may be worked by DX stations. This includes Alaska KL7, the Caribbean US possessions KP1-KP5, and all the Pacific Ocean territories KH0-KH9, including Hawaii KH6. These stations can work BOTH domestic stations (US and VE) as well as DX stations around the world.

The context begins 2200 UTC Friday, ends 1559 UTC Sunday. This is a forty-two hour period with no time limitation. The exchange is signal report and ARRL section.

I have participated in this contest for several years and really look forward to it. The first year for me was 2017. That year I learned why 160 meters is called the "gentleman's band". Although rates are important, many hams worked patiently to make sure that exchanges were solid, and information was complete. I had several hams stop by the next day to say Hello and let me know that my signal was better than the day before. A great group of hams!

Contest	Start	End
Contest	Date	Date
ARRL 160M contest	12/6/2024	12/8/2024
ARRL 10M Contest	12/14/2024	12/15/2024

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



It seems 2024 just began and we now find ourselves looking at its events in the past tense. However it appears for most clubs and individual hams in the Ohio South 40 Region it was a good year. Let's take a look at some of the major happenings in the region.

Let's get negatives out of the way first. That is attendance and support of our clubs dwindling. If you listen and read, it's just not amateur radio clubs but also civic, fraternal, church and youth organizations noting the trend. My home **Highland ARA** used to have just shy of 150 members. Today its membership will end 2024 with just 101. Already renewals indicate it will fall below 100 for the first time in ages. During the same time the local Jaycees and Lions Clubs (who also had memberships in excess of 100) have ceased to exist along with a major local women's club. I understand the local Rotary is just hanging on. What the solution to this is something I have only thoughts about. Perhaps each club should reexamine itself, see what is working with other radio club and consider making changes to meetings, activities and member recruiting?

The region had a number passings during the year. However I want to note a couple in particular. About 25 years ago Paul Gehringer, WB8ZZR, was the guiding force establishing a SkyWarn amateur

radio station at the then Wilmington National Service Office. That new office combined the

in Cincinnati, Columbus and Dayton. Over the years hours of time and effort to the SkyWarn Program. He halted by a serious health issue. Folks attending



new Weather controversial NWS offices Paul devoted was only hamfests and

meetings throughout the South 40 Region miss the friendly hand lick and tail wag of Pete, K9DOG. One could tell Pete loved his ham friends and they seemed to love him in return.

Contrary to some beliefs ham radio is not dead in our little part of the world. It is alive and well as is shown in several ways. 2024 provided us with another round of successful hamfests and even the return of the popular **Grant RC**'s Georgetown Hamfest that COVID and other circumstances caused the cancellation of for three years. The year kicked off at Shade with the annual **Sunday Creek ARF**'s event. A brand new hamfest was held by the **Vinton County ARA** this year. Its reception was overwhelming and plans for a 2025 version are underway. Others throughout the year were held by the **Athens County ARA**, **Portsmouth RC**, **Scioto Valley ARC**, the **Mid-Ohio Valley ARC**, the **Buffalo Ten Meter Group**, the **Aladdin Shrine RC** and the **Milford ARC**. Across the River, the **Tri-State ARC**, **Parkersburg ARK** and **River Cities ARC** hosted fests. Periodic swaps at Huntington's **Radio and Technology Museum** were well attended. Plus who can overlook **Hamvention** when the **Dayton ARA** draws over 30,000 hams to Xenia for the world's largest gathering of amateur radio enthusiasts.

Hardly a week passes that Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, does not inform us of someone in this part of the South 40 Region's coverage area of Ohio, Kentucky and West Virgina receiving their first ham radio license, a re-issuance after a lapse or an upgrade. There appear to be more opportunities to take license tests as individual club VE teams offer more in person tests at hamfests, meetings and other events. Yes we are getting more and more joining the amateur radio ranks, but we have to figure out ways to retain their interests after just a few months, involve them with clubs and expose them to the many other things they can do with a ham license than just try to find someone to talk to on a local repeater.

Besides the two above mentioned clubs conducting POTA activations as club operating or special events, the **Bellbrook ARC** observed the anniversary of the first flight and the **Portsmouth RC** and the **Highland ARA** represented Ohio as the two authorized State activators during the June national Lewis and Clark Trail on the Air. Of course the **Dayton ARA** operated a special event during Hamvention.

Three clubs reported raffles as fund raisers during the year. The **Milford ARA** awarded a series of radios and the **Southern Ohio ARA** held a raffle with a pistol as the prize. The **Clinton County ARA** raised funds through a raffle of a local meat package and the **Highland ARA** awarded cold, hard cash.



What I feel is the neatest community involvement project a ham club could do was successfully completed by the **Clinton County ARA**. Although Clinton County has two over the air FM and one AM broadcast radio stations, through the years ownership is now held by out of the area interests. Therefore local sporting and other activities are not covered. The CCARA decided to do something about it instead of just omplaining. They discovered an



opportunity existed that would allow them to obtain a license to build a low-power FM station to serve the County. Thus they put their money and talents together and WIOH-95.9 is now on the air. It is one of only a handful of broadcast radio stations operated by an amateur radio club. What a community service project.

The severe weather that hit North Carolina, Florida and other parts of the South, combined with the forest and grass fires that hit the Western States and Plains and Canada caught the attention of many individuals and first responders when the radio and cell services they thought would always be available were lost for periods of time. Begrudingly many finally admitted the only thing that seemed to work was Grandpa's amateur radio. Although our area was not affected that much it has caused several communities to think "what if?" and they are reaching out to local ham clubs to explore how GMRS groups and amateur clubs can work together (along with the local EMA and local government) in the event of a major emergency. The **Lancaster Fairfield County ARA** already has a club owned GMRS repeater on 462.70. The **Athens County ARA** has been experimenting on 462.675 and held discussions with a group from Meigs County who has a machine in the Pomeroy area. The **Fayette ARA** tells us the Fayette County Commissioners are assisting with putting a GMRS repeater at the Washington CH Police Department. Once the antenna is installed it will operate on 462.725. Working with, instead of opposing, the GMRS folks might be an inroad to getting more people interested in and knowledgable about ham radio?

A look through the results of the various ARRL, CQ and other contests and operating activities will show there is radio life in the South 40 Region. Even a brief glance through the columns will reveal familiar call signs and club and non-club groups who call this region home. And sometime you even see someone you know receiving an achievement award. Of course the ARRL's summer and winter editions of Field Day are the most well known, but Sweepstakes, DX and VHF contests as well as those like the Ohio State Parks on the Air bring out the Ohio Valley signals. A hike to the top of our of one of Southern Ohio's tall hills may be an excuse to pack a radio along to activate SOTA contacts or a venture into a park, wildlife area, lake or historic site may qualify for a POTA

### activation. The **Southern Ohio ARA** made such a club activity this past year as did the **Clinton County ARA**.

Late in 2023 the ARRL awarded the **Cambridge ARA**'s Lynn Alfman, N8IMW, with its Phil McGan Silver Antenna Award recognizing her promotion of amateur radio to the public.

The Highland ARA had the honor of saying "Good Bye" to 2024 and "Hello 2025" when

incoming President John Willis, KE8JEM, had the honor of tugging the wheel of the large Hillsboro manufactured C. S. Bell to ring in Highland County's New Year. For several years HARA has coordinated with the Highland County Historical Society to welcome the New Year with a broadcast of the ringing of the historic bell that graces the front of Hillsboro's Highland House Museum. The bell ringing was transmitted on HARA's 147.21 repeater at the stroke of Midnight. Out-going President Ken Lightner, KE8JEL, followed the bell with the annual New Year's Net with about 20 stations signing their call signs and one SWL checking in via a text. A video of the bell ringing appears on the HARA and the Highland County (OH) Historical Society's Facebook pages.



By the time you read this the **Clinton County ARA** and the **Lancaster Fairfield County ARA** have already held their first meetings in the new year. The **OH-KY-IN ARS** will meet on January 7 at the Arlington Heights Village Hall at 7:30. On the 9<sup>th</sup> the **Southwest Ohio DX Association** will meet at Bourbon's Craft Kitchen and Bar at 2231 Verity Parkway in Middletown. Thomas Witherspoon, K4SWL, is to present a program discussing "POTA and SOTA". The new year also brings a change of location for the monthly **Lancaster Fairfield County ARA** breakfast gathering. Those are now held at 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. The Our Place Restaurant in Washington CH is the possible future site for the monthly breakfast of the **Fayette ARA**. Hams in that area are invited to assemble on January 18 at 10 AM.

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. The **Lancaster Fairfield County ARA** begins a Technician License class with the first session January 27. It will continue through the 31<sup>st</sup> with a test given February 1. The location and time to begin will be listed on the <u>www.k8qik.org</u> website once arrangements are firmed.

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 trip and 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 <u>www.ohsimplex.org</u> for the rules and operating suggestions. Fixed, portable and EOC stations may participate. Unfortunately "Rovers" may not.

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 <u>www.swodxa.org/DX-Mentor-Program</u>. The award winner will be announced at the SWODA DX Banquet during this years Hamvention.

HARA's ringing in the New Year has 2025 off and running. Even Mother Nature is cooperating with predictions of great propagation conditions through the year. Although surveys show few New Year's resolutions survive beyond a few weeks (or even days) why not make it your goal to introduce a newly licensed or inactive ham to new adventures they can experience on the air and the fellow amateurs they can meet? A simple invitation to them to visit your shack, attend a meeting, a breakfast or other activity will show them your interest in them and perhaps open the door to a remaining lifetime of pleasure.

Let's all work towards making 2025 another outstanding one.

Here's hoping to run across you on the bands or at a hamfest.

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)

### ARLD001 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.

GUINEA, 3X. Jean-Philippe, F1TMY is QRV as 3X1A from Conakry until mid-2026. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters, and on Satellite QO-100. QSL via ClubLog.

LESOTHO, 7P. Mark, KW4XJ and Arina, KO4PZT are QRV as 7P8AB and 7P8NB, respectively, until mid-2025. QSL via KW4XJ.

MALDIVES, 8Q. Fabian, DF3XY and Xenia, DO4FX will be QRV as 8Q7XF and 8Q7FX, respectively, from January 5 to 13. Activity will be on 40, 30, and 20 meters using FT8. QSL direct to home calls.

GUYANA, 8R. Aldir, PY1SAD is QRV as 8R1TM from Georgetown until February 8. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and various digital modes, as well as Satellites. QSL direct to home call.

SINGAPORE, 9V. To commemorate the 60th anniversary of Singapore's independence, all members of the Singapore Amateur Radio Transmitting Society may substitute the prefix S60 for their usual 9V1 prefix until August 9, 2025.

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

THE GAMBIA, C5. Billy, F4GJE will be QRV as C5RK from Kotu City on January 4 and 5. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using SSB, FT8, and FT4. QSL via EA7FTR.

SCOTLAND, GM. Terry, GM3WUX will be QRV as GB200LB from January 4 to 31 to celebrate the bicentenary of the invention of the Braille code. Activity is on the HF bands using mainly CW. QSL via M0OXO.

TEMOTU PROVINCE, H40. Darren, VK4MAP is QRV as H40DA from Pigeon Island, IOTA OC-065, until January 16. Activity is on 80, 40, 20, 15, 12, and 10 meters using SSB. QSL via operator's instructions.

HONDURAS, HR. Alex, K6VHF will be QRV as K6VHF/HR9 from Roatan Island, IOTA NA-057, from January 5 to 12. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters, as well as Satellites IO-117 and RS-44. QSL to home call. In addition, look for Dave, VE3VSM to be QRV as VE3VSM/HR9, also from Roatan Island from January 6 to 25. Activity will be on 30 and 20 meters using CW and FT8. QSL to home call.

COSTA RICA, TI. Mario, IK1FEM is QRV as TI7/IK1FEM from Potrero until January 11. Activity is on the HF bands using FT8 and QRP power. QSL via operator's instructions.

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.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5. Operators N5VOF, WD5JR and KJ5CMP are QRV as VP5/home calls from Providenciales, IOTA NA-002, until January 16. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and possibly some FT8. They plan to activate 4 of the 6 POTA parks. QSL to home calls.

INDIA, VU. Members of the West Bengal Radio Club are QRV with special event call sign AU2WBRC until January 20 for the Ganaga Sagar Mela Festival. QSL via VU2SB.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF. Bruce, K0BJ will be QRV as ZF2BJ from January 5 to 17. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands using CW and possibly FT8. QSL via LoTW.

SOUTH AFRICA, ZS. Special call signs ZS100SARL, ZS6SRL, and ZS9HQ are QRV until December 31, 2025 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the South African Radio League. QSL via operators' instructions.

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

### **Upcoming Hamfests**

We **DO** have hamfests scheduled for 2025!!



# **Ohio Hamfests**

## 

01/19/2025 - <u>Sunday Creek Amateur Radio</u> <u>Federation Hamfest</u> Location: Shade, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation Learn More	03/09/2025 - <u>Northern Ohio Amateur Radio</u> <u>Society Winter Hamfest</u> Location: Elyria, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society Website: <u>https://www.noars.net/hamfests/winter</u> -hamfest/ Learn More
03/16/2025 - Toledo Mobile Radio Association Hamfest and Computer Fair Location: Perrysburg, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Toledo Mobile Radio Association Website: <u>http://www.w8hhf.org</u> Learn More	04/05/2025 - <u>Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio</u> <u>Club 69th Hamfest</u> Location: Cuyahoga Falls , OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Website: <u>https://www.cfarc-hamfest.org</u> Learn More
04/12/2025 - <u>Rio Grande Ohio Hamfest</u> Location: Bidwell, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Mid-Ohio Valley Amateur Radio Club Website: <u>https://www.facebook.com/KC8ZAB</u> Learn More 07/20/2025 - <u>Van Wert Hamfest</u> Location: Van Wert, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Van Wert Amateur Radio Club Website: <u>http://w8fy.org</u> Learn More	05/15/2025 - Four Days In May Location: Fairborn, OH Type: ARRL Convention Sponsor: QRP Amateur Radio Club International Website: http://qrparci.org/fdim 08/09/2025 - Cincinnati Hamfest Market Source Construction: Owensville, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Milford Amateur Radio Club Website: https://CincinnatiHamfest.org Learn More

09/28/2025 - <u>Cleveland Hamfest</u> Location: Berea, OH	GET YOUR FEST AFFILIATED WITH ARRL
Type: ARRL Hamfest	TO GET IT LISTED HERE!
Sponsor: Hamfest Association of Cleveland	
Website: <u>https://www.hac.org</u>	
Learn More	

#### 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.

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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\*

https://arrl-ohio.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/print\_your\_license.pdf

Final... Final

The Handbook Giveaway is back on! Our November winner is W8SRD – **Stan** from Stryker, Oh! Congratulations Bob – your handbook will be on the way shortly. Don't forget to get signed in for the January drawing – you'll find it at <u>www.arrl-ohio.org</u>.

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Years celebration with family and friends! I sure did, but now its back to the grind......

First off, I need to say "Thank You" to everyone who contributes to this newsletter. The columns at the beginning, and elsewhere in the newsletter, are always packed with good information – please take the time to read every one of them. It will have been time well spent!

WOW! Is all I can say about the activities I see going on in the Ohio Section! Lots of really good activities to be involved in. If you're not active with a local club, you should be! If there is no local club, maybe you should start one.

I know, every club has their stress points between their members. ARRL is just a BIG CLUB, but it's evident there too. Fortunately (and possibly Un-Fortunately) we're all right, and we're all wrong. Perfection is something we should all strive for, but understand, we will probably never achieve it. The best we can do is try to get along, make it better for everyone and when we say "73" – really mean it!

2025 is going to be a FANTASTIC year! 73 to all of you.

Share the Magic of Radio!

73, Tom WB8LCD

### "Swap & Shop" on the website

Hey Gang,

Have you taken a look at the **Swap & Shop** page on the Ohio Section webpage yet?? Here's a link that will take you there... http://arrl-ohio.org/section-swap-shop/



**46** | P a g e

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. You might want to list your location so that prospective buyers know where you're at.

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. 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: <a href="mailto:swap@arrlohio.org">swap@arrlohio.org</a>

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



Ohio Section Cabinet		
Section Manager – Tom Sly, WB8LCD	Section Emergency Coordinator – Bret Stemen,	
	KD8SCL	
Technical Coordinator – Jeff Kopcak, K8JTK	Section Traffic Manager – Dan Rinaman AC8NP	
State Government Liaison – Bob Winston, W2THU	Affiliated Clubs Coordinator –	
	Amanda Farone, KC3GFU	
Section Youth Coordinator – Anthony Luscre, K8ZT	Public Information Coordinator – Elizabeth Klinc –	
	KE8FMJ	

### 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 "<u>Opt-In</u>" to start receiving them. Heck just have them send an email to: <u>webmaster@arrl-ohio.org</u> to be added.



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/



The pictures on the front page and throughout this newsletter are from

various newsletters, Facebook posts and/or were sent directly to me in recent weeks. Take a good look at them, you just might be in one of the pictures! "SMILE... you're in the Ohio Section News!!"

The Ohio Section Journal (OSJ) is produced as a comprehensive look at all the programs within the Ohio Section. I sincerely hope that you have enjoyed this edition of the OSJ and will encourage your friends to join with you in receiving the latest news and information about the Ohio Section, and from around the world!

TOP^