

WWW.ARRL-Ohio.org

July Handbook Giveaway Winner - K8BCI – Grant Powell! Congratulations – your Handbook is on the way.....

July 1 question questionnaire – Are you planning to participate in the OHIO QSO Party? Out of 48 responses, 21 said "yes" and 27 said "no".

The August One Question Questionnaire question is: Will you be participating in the Ohio State Parks On The Air Contest?

Go to the website to enter!

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

Hey gang,

Where would we be without some good ole fashioned drama? This time it's between the MMDVM project and M17 project. Many believe it spells the beginning of the end for M17. Both projects have undoubtedly contributed to



the advancement of the radio art. It sucks when siblings fight, yet here we are. Full disclosure: I've supported both projects, not only talking about them here in the OSJ but have donated to both

The MMDVM project came at a time when modem boards (frequently called hotspots) were becoming a popular reason to use the inexpensive Raspberry Pi computing platform. Many offerings flooded the market with their own flavor of a low-powered RF modem and packaged software. These were viable options due to lack of local repeater availability, congested repeaters, users whom felt locked out of repeaters due to non-standard linking commands, or simply not needing to reprogram their radio for local repeaters while traveling. Whatever the reason, many hams wanted these devices to get on digital modes with their digital radios. One thing I noticed, from experience and user reports at the time, the software didn't work well, if at all.

The MMDVM project started in 2015 largely maintained by Jonathan Naylor – G4KLX. His software ran on low powered devices and worked consistently. MMDVM sits between the network and RF modem. It works with nearly all available boards connecting the modem to a variety of IP networks. It supports D-STAR, DMR, YSF, P25, NXDN, and POCSAG (paging). The M17 project started in 2019 with the goal of replacing all proprietary formats. They wanted a freely available and modifiable protocol on open hardware. To that goal, they chose the Codec 2 open-source speech codec. Codec 2 is the same used in FreeDV and FreeDATA on HF. M17 was started by Wojciech Kaczmarski – SP5WWP.

I hoped to see more from this project. More devices supporting M17, more radios available, more adoption, more progress, I guess. It appears to me the project developed the protocol and left it out there to be picked up by devices, radios, and software. Only a small number have adopted M17. On the now defunct AmateurLogic LogicNet, previously hosted on my multi-mode system, I only ever remember users checking in via M17 using the DroidStar smartphone app. I can't recall any users on an actual radio – maybe there were. Majority used their phone or tablet to join the net.

Device support was almost non-existent until MMDVM incorporated M17 into that platform. Usually supported by a firmware update for the modem, MMDVM did the heavy lifting making devices accessible to those whom wanted to dabble in M17. A handful of mostly DMR radios could have custom firmware loaded turning them into an M17 capable radio. This was supported by the OpenRTX project. Connect Systems Inc. released commercial M17 radios, the CS700 M17 and the PLUS edition about a year ago. If you're on Jerry's mailing list, it didn't come without its significant share of problems and recently questioning the effort for the low adoption rate.

I consider both projects to have a more in-depth and deeper understanding of the issues in their claims and counterclaims. I don't have a deep enough understanding of 'which way is better,' the correct way, nor offer evidence other than at a high-level. I will offer a summary of the issues including links to relevant posts for further exploration.

Mid-July, G4KLX decided to completely remove M17 from MMDVM. His reasons include

both administrative and technical issues.

Administrative:

- Spending ARDC awarded the project nearly half a million dollars to develop M17, questioning their spending of these awards
- Recognition the M17 Foundation is not recognizing those whom have helped the project "get where they are now" and belittling offerings such as CSI's radios
- Commercialization rumors of charging royalties for commercial use

I would like some evidence of the spending issues or clearly state it is only his opinion.

There are never enough thank-yous to go around. Ham radio is no exception – whether by nature or omission. I know people whom no longer offer their knowledge or contribute because they never received a "thank you" for previous work. I also don't know if it's not a culture thing. Having worked with countries in Europe, in particular eastern-European countries in the last couple years, they're quick to call out the bad and slow to recognize good.

In the M17 Foundation's response, they state reports have been submitted to ARDC and they don't need to be analyzed again.

The project's way of recognizing contributors to the project is in GitHub commits. I feel this is disingenuous. GitHub is a very popular software development and collaboration platform. GitHub commits are a way to show exactly whom contributed a specific change to the repository. These are listed on each repository's page which include username, date, and if drilled down – their exact (most often code) additions/removals. While good for auditing and transparency, I rarely look at commits let alone usernames. Usernames like 'bobthecow738333' don't mean much to anyone unless their callsign is listed in their profile. That's made up, by the way. At most, I'll look to see if a fix is included in the latest release. Many maintainers summarize commit logs into a useful change log.

Commits also don't show organizations whom have moved the project forward or those that have donated time, talent, or treasure. I do tend to take a look at a list on a website of donors and contributors.

M17 feels the CSI radio is "overpriced." They have not and will not require commercial royalties for M17 use. The GNU GPL license under which M17 is released, commercial applications are permitted. I'm thinking the reverse of what we did with DMR, someone adopts a ham radio standard into a commercial application for use in services such as business band and public service. I think it will be unlikely as there are commercial options like DMR, NXDN, P25, among others already available.

G4KLX's technical reasons, aside from war of words, include: needing perfect reception, synchronization patterns, Channel Access Numbers and channel sharing, inclusion of encryption, and badly implemented forward error correction (sending redundant information to correct a

limited number of receive errors).



M17's Foundation responded to many of Jonathan's statements as being incorrect, not true, invalid arguments, needs more supporting details, or "Naylor's opinion, thus we have no comment." They did acknowledge Jonathan's points of contribution including GPS position data and short text messages running in parallel to voice data. They condemn use of encryption by radio amateurs as well.

Naylor's decision resulted in M17 repeater owners having no warning before their repeater gateways stopped working. This is because <u>WPSD</u> (Pi-Star successor), in particular, uses automated methods to update systems nightly.

Unilateral decisions such as removing M17, though completely his right to do so, will lead to more forks (splitting from the main project) and fragmentation within the community. The opposite of what MMDVM initially solved. In addition, decision makers see these issues and wonder about commitments from similar projects and technologies, questioning their place and risk in EmComm plans, for example.

WPSD stated M17 has been removed, <u>it's gone</u>, and will offer zero support on related issues. Jonathan did reinstate his M17 repositories as read-only and as-is, not accepting contributions. A <u>WPSD M17 Community Fork</u> has already been set afloat, restoring M17 to WPSD before it was removed.

I'd love to see both play nice but it seems wishful thinking at this point. Maybe this is the kick the M17 project needs, riding the momentum into further evangelizing the project. Gaining commitment from software developers, devices, and vendors.

A few days later, Jonathan posted how he would <u>design a good open source DV mode</u>. Some speculate he is pursuing development in that arena. Others note <u>GitHub commits reference</u> <u>dPMR</u>, possibly Digital Private Mobile Radio.

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

Thanks for reading and 73... de Jeff – K8JTK/7

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

Technology and Reliability

These two concepts, each desirable in its own right, can become confusing when applied to planning for emergencies. Each county Emergency Coordinator (EC) is responsible for



creating plans to carry his/her ARES unit through an emergency: Alerting and activating the group, organizing a communications network that will be responsive and comprehensive for their agencies, managing the ARES volunteers, maintaining their operation, and successfully demobilizing and reporting both internally and to the Section or League. It's impossible to create a uniform approach- each county's potential

emergencies differ, each county's agencies operate somewhat differently, and each county's politics can vary widely. The EC must navigate all those different waters while keeping volunteers interested and trained and avoiding the pitfalls of personalities of 'grumpy old men'.

While each county does vary, we can put up a framework that can be modeled and adapted to each county, and that's what we tried to do with the Ohio Section Emergency Response Plan (OSERP). Because amateur radio must be ready to perform under the harshest of conditions – the loss of all other means of communication- we have to make our plans using the 'lowest common denominator' approach: HF and VHF/UHF simplex, no power and no fancy stuff. Ohio has a fairly well thought out plan in that regard, with an eye toward directing messages from our agencies (typically an EMA) to the Ohio EOC in Columbus. But that doesn't mean it is the ~only~ plan we can have.

ARES advertises that we can be a dependable communications ally in many different circumstances. With that in mind, we have the option of trying many of the modes available to us. We've been using fldigi to send IS-213 messages reliably on HF and VHF/UHF, and each county needs to practice that regularly. The use of DMR, Fusion and D-star all can create a dependable, wide-area network!

We have DMR at the Sarge with limited access. We have had good luck with the DMR "Ohio Channel", and the inexpensive radios seem to generate the potential of more repeaters and more radios in the field. Consider a statewide blizzard, or a flood event such as several states to our south are currently battling. A linked network of DMR repeaters would conceivably offer handheld coverage across the wide operations field. That would be pretty cool. So my advice is to cultivate the new stuff- perhaps find an expert in DMR, another in Fusion and Wires-x who might be AEC's in their specific field. Let's all work together and cooperate to put all available tools into use.

Another service we should be encouraging is Winlink. It's been a proven performer for years both serving sea going vessels with position and email support, and providing 'last mile' email for large disasters. Previously constrained to expensive packet modems, we can now use WinLink and a sound card! The best thing here is we can originate a normal email from, say, a PC in a vehicle through VHF or even HF onto the Internet. These emails are delivered to anyone, who can respond using their own email system. What a great way to link everyone! Hamilton County is pioneering ARES

involvement with Winlink, and I urge you all to pick up on their lead! The SARGE now has WinLink available at W8SGT.

Now this is all exciting- but the whole thing depends on one person: the ARES volunteer. If apathy, disinterest and unwillingness to invest time and energy remove our volunteers from being active the whole thing falls apart. You wouldn't join a basketball team without expecting to practice, or a band without spending practice time at home. Likewise, ARES membership involves our time, and energy. We this year have said every member needs to have the four 'magic' NIMS courses. You're all to be encouraged- the numbers look very good! I am extremely grateful for your work!

ARES was organized by the ARRL long before WWII. It has changed names several times, and moved from a message-traffic oriented organization to a service, centered on providing emergency communications. It has remained thus for a number of years. But ARES doesn't 'own' emergency communication. On a wider scale, amateur radio operators have been helping across a broad range of disciplines. There is still message traffic- which has been split down the middle with the lack of positive management from ARRL and the introduction of Radio Relay International (RRI) which has made inroads into amateur message handling. There are other well-established activities, from RACES to specialized nets (Maritime, Hurricane, Salvation Army and many more) all of which serve the 'greater good'. So we always need to remember that the bigger picture is about <u>amateur radio serving the community</u>.

One of the problems with ARES is that in many ways it's been left in a box on a shelf, not changed or updated for a number of years by the League. (That actually could be a good thing!) Even with the League's textbooks on emergency communication the written material is dated, and doesn't have much in it reflecting our new, post-9/11 world. The day is past where hams of any organization sit back with a "call me if you need me" attitude. Many simply relied on the fact they owned a ham license as proof of...something. But the world is different today.

Then came NIMS – and not only the hams but pretty much everyone even remotely connected with the responding world was able to get on the same page. I got to watch the "Incident Command System" develop, starting with the big Xenia tornado. Well-intentioned, responders there didn't have a clue. It was simply overwhelming. Then Columbus City Attorney Jim Hughes (a Major in the Ohio Guard) sent out word that

city managers from every discipline were to report to the conference room and form an operating group. It worked!

Across the country, a number of ARES organizations including Ohio, realized that in order to play in this new post 9/11 world, we had to prove we knew what we were doing. In 2016, that was driven home with our participation in the RNC and the other events of that month. In 2017, we began to enforce the need to have the four "magic" NIMS courses (they are IS- 100, 200, 700 and 800.) But there was a large number of volunteers (many well-seasoned and valuable) who weren't on board. The truth is, there is not one question on an amateur exam that proves your ability to operate a radio, especially under emergency conditions. So we NEED the training. In order to create an incentive.

"What does my attitude have to do with emergency communications?"

In a word, everything! It is even more important than your radio skills. Historically speaking, the attitude of some amateur radio volunteers has been our weakest point.

In situations where a professional and helpful attitude is maintained, partner agencies point with pride to hams' efforts and accomplishments. The opposite situation is clearly illustrated in the words of one emergency management official who said, "Working with ham radio operators is like herding cats — get them the heck out of here!" This man was clearly frustrated with the attitude of his volunteers.

Although our name says that we are "amateurs," its real reference is to the fact that we are not paid for our efforts. It need not imply that our efforts or demeanor will be anything less than professional. "Professionalism" means getting the job done efficiently with minimal fuss.

No matter which partner agency you serve — emergency management, the American Red Cross, or others — it is helpful to remember that emergency communications volunteers are like unpaid employees. If you maintain the attitude that you are an employee of the partner you are serving, with all that employee status implies, there is little chance for you to go astray. You are there to help solve their communication problems. Do whatever you can, within reason, to accomplish that goal and avoid becoming part of the problem.

Who Works for Whom?

The relationship between the volunteer communicator and partner agencies will vary somewhat from situation to situation, but the fact is that you work for them. It doesn't matter whether you are part of a separate radio group like the Amateur Radio Emergency Service ® (ARES®) or part of the partner's regular volunteer force. You still work for them.

Your job is to meet the communication needs of the partners — period. It is not to show off your fancy equipment or to impress anyone with your knowledge of radio and electronics. A "know-it-all" or "I will show you how good I am and how inadequate you are" attitude will end your and our relationship with the partners in a hurry.

It is often said that volunteers don't have to take orders. This is true — we do not. However, when you volunteer your services to an organization, you implicitly agree to accept and comply with reasonable orders and requests from your "employer." If you do not feel comfortable doing this, do not volunteer.

There may be times that you find yourself unwilling or unable to comply with a partner's demands. The reasons may be personal or related to safety or health, or it may be that you do not consider yourself qualified or capable of meeting a particular demand. On rare occasions, you may be asked to do something not permitted by FCC rules. Regardless of the reason, respectfully explain the situation, and work with the partner or your superiors in the communications group to come up with an alternative solution. If the discussion with the partners becomes difficult or uncomfortable, you can always politely pass the discussion up to your immediate emergency communications superiors so that they can handle it instead.

I sincerely appreciate all you do for your neighbors, and for the Ohio Section!

Bret KD8SCL

Elizabeth Klinc, KE8FMJ
OHIO Section Public Information Coordinator
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---ON VACATION---

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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 RadioTM

From the Section Traffic Manager Dan Rinaman, AC8NP – STM

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From the ARRL

This is great news for the future of NTS.
Radio Relay International and ARRL Sign
Memorandum of Understanding



ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® (ARRL®) and Radio Relay International® (RRI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). [PDF] The formal agreement, signed by ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, and RRI Board Chairman James Wades, WB8SIW, outlines the value the organizations find in cooperation.

SEE THE JOINT PRESS RELEASE [PDF]

James Wades, WB8SIW worte on this subject in the August 2025 NTS Letter which will be posted here https://nts2.arrl.org/ntsletter/

OSSBN Meeting during the Seneca Radio Club Trunkfest August 24th

The Ohio Single Sideband Net will hold there meeting at the Seneca Radio Club Trunkfest this year at 11:00 PM in the Sherriffs bulding at the Seneca County Fairgrounds. More information

about the hamfest and maps to the location can be found at the <u>Seneca Radio Club Website</u> W8ID.com

Virtual NTS Traffic Net

Many Technician class amateurs miss out on fun and skills learning of traffic handling because they reside in areas of the country where local traffic nets on VHF repeaters don't exist. The Virtual NTS Training Net (VNTN) seeks to address this problem with the creation of a Zoombased local traffic net that can be accessed by anyone with an internet connection.

VNTN will accept check-ins and radiogram traffic utilizing standard phonetics and pro-signs; in short, participants will enjoy the same experiences as those who check into conventional "RF" traffic nets. The net will incorporate a "hands-on" training approach in traffic procedures, radiogram creation, and relay.

"It is our hope that new amateurs who participate in VNTN will be motivated to join section and region nets on HF after upgrading to a higher license class," says Phil Temples, K9HI, who chairs EC-FSC's NTS Subcommittee.

The Net meets on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM ET. In future, it is hoped that a west coast version will be established at around 7 PM PT.

The latest VNTN URL can be found at <<u>https://nts2.arrl.org/virtual-nts-training-net/</u>>.

Send a Radiogram

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 general 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 — It's Free!

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 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.

Go to this website to send a message today:

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



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 camaraderie.

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 if it is going out of Ohio you can also take it to 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	145.230 MHz PL 110.9	KD8GXL
	PM		
COTN	7:15 PM DAILY	146.970 MHz PL 123.0	KV8Z

NWOATT	Mon, Tue, Thu, Sat at 07:30 PM	147.375 MHz PL 103.5	KE8VJP
ODMR	Monday 8:30 PM	TG 3139	WB8YYS
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

- BRTN Burning River Traffic Net (serving the Cleveland area)
- COTN Central Ohio Traffic Net (serving Columbus and Central Ohio)
- TCTTN Tri-County Traffic and Training Net (serving Northeast Ohio)
- TATN Tri-State Amateur Traffic Net (serving Southwest Ohio)
- NWOA Northwest Ohio ARES Traffic and Training Net (serving Northwest Ohio)

If you have a net in Ohio, you would like to list here please send me the information. ac8np@ac8np.com.

Thanks For All You Do! Dan AC8NP Section Traffic Manager 419.618.0330 Ham Shack Hotline 4355

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

----On Vacation---



From the Affiliated Clubs Coordinator Terry Windsor, KI8N

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Hope everyone had a great and "radio active" month of July! I attended the Noarsfest in Elyria last month, it was interesting, and I had a good time talking to several people in attendance. I did not get to take my motorcycle, as I stated last month thinking it would be fun, due to a dead battery. Funny how fast that happens just when you make plans and some inanimate part decides to quit, sort of like adventures in ham radio. We have all had something not cooperating with our contest or portable radio plans. Typically repaired right after the need passes.



However, on the way home I did get to activate two, new to me, POTA locations. These were Camp Belden State Wildlife Area and Spencer Lake State Wildlife Area. I appreciate the advice I received from one of the hams at the hamfest and from the area regarding what to watch for. I wish I was better with names or call signs so I could recognize him here but unless I write these down my brain erases things immediately. I like to refer to it as "chemo brain" due to the aftereffects of chemotherapy.

Next up I plan to attend the Cincinnati Hamfest Saturday August 9th. It is a little bit of a drive from my QTH but I have never been to this hamfest, and it seems like a good time and place to meet some new hams. If you see me, I will be wearing my ARRL OH Section badge, stop me and say hi. I'm not sure about taking the motorcycle this time, but I plan to do another POTA activation on the way home. I am happy to talk about ARRL OH Section or POTA or anything ham radio related if you stop me.

This part is going to sound like a repeat, but this is what Tom, WB8LCD has tasked me with accomplishing. I have been contacting clubs with outdated reports asking them to update their ARRL Annual Report. I am happy to report several club contacts have responded and edited / updated their report. To those hams and clubs, I want to say Thank You!

However, an ongoing issue is some older annual reports have incorrect information or email addresses that are no longer valid. At your August club meeting please ask the Secretary to check on and update the club's Annual Report, it would be greatly appreciated. If they are unable to access the ARRL listing to make the updates, then have them send me an email and I would be happy to assist. NOTE, you must be logged into the ARRL website to access and update your club's report. Lest we forget, a club's annual report is due at the first of every new year.

Here is a link to the ARRL web page with the current Affiliated Club listing: ARRL Affiliated Clubs

Another link to an instructional overview of how to use the editing system: Updating Your Club Record

I will begin emailing the next 12 Ohio club contacts with Annual Reports showing a last updated record of 2019 and 2020 to please access the ARRL website and make their changes.

The ARRL just announced 2026 will be the "Year of the Club". One of the items from this initiative is recognizing ARRL Affiliated Clubs that maintain a higher-than-required (51%) ARRL membership level for affiliation. Clubs that achieve a 70% or a 90% ARRL membership level will receive acknowledgment and special recognition. To be recognized, **your Ohio Section club** will need to have a current annual report.

Another ARRL benefit is affiliated clubs can take advantage of the ARRL Club Commission Program. This benefit gives your club a commission payment directly from the ARRL. The amount of the commission depends on whether this is a new ARRL membership application or a renewal. A new member application results in your club receiving \$20.00 and a member renewal nets your club \$5.00. This link takes you to the page with a description of the Commission Program and the Club Commission Reconciliation Form

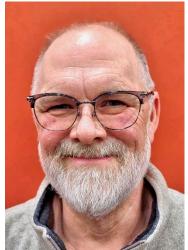
Finally, is your club looking for someone to do a presentation or talk about a subject club members would like to learn about? There is a list of hams that will do presentations on specific topics if you contact and ask them. This list is located on the Ohio Section web page, <u>Speakers Bureau</u>. Let me know if you need assistance or if there is a topic that is not currently listed.

I look forward to attending some club meetings and welcome an email with the time and location.

So, for August, stay radio active and Ham It Up!

73, de Terry, KI8N

Assistant Section Manager
Al Andress – KD8ZBS
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Hello fellow Amateur Radio enthusiasts. A brief introduction, I am Alan "AL" Andres, KD8ZBS, and serve the Ohio Section as an Assistant Manager working alongside Tom Sly, Ohio Section Manager, and the rest of the Ohio Section Cabinet to serve the amateur radio community in the great State of Ohio. A responsibility I am honored and yet humbled to be a part of.

I am from Northwest Ohio and I am an active member of Williams County Amateur Radio Association serving in a couple of different capacities along with being a Volunteer Examiner with the ARRL. I have been a licensed operator for 11 years, and definitely have been bitten by chasing DX along with the general idea of "tinkering". I also enjoy helping others find their way in their amateur radio journey by providing assistance and encouragement by any means I possibly can.

As I have been on this journey in amateur radio and life, I have learned that not everyone moves at the same pace in their journey of growth, whether it be with radio or life and that is OK. To each their own. However we can each play a part in someone else's journey forward by offering to help them as the need arises with encouraging words, advice, assistance and being someone they would want to engage with again and again.

The role of an amateur radio enthusiast should be one who will serve others with an attitude of hospitality and would leave the thought in someone's mind that says, "WOW, I am glad to be a part of amateur radio, I am glad I came to the meeting today...". There are plenty of opportunities for very poor customer service we will encounter as we go about our daily lives that make us question whether we will go back to that place, let us not be the reason someone gives up and walks away from the hobby because of some arrogant, condescending comment that was directed at them and their radio journey.

So decide today to be that smile and word of encouragement that someone is needing to remind themselves of the joy and excitement of Amateur Radio...

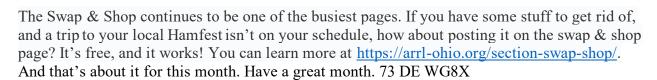
73, AL KD8ZBS

John Myers, WG8X

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Hello August! Can you believe how fast this summer is flying by? There's not much new to report right now on the section website. The top 5 pages changed a bit, but traffic seems to be flowing smoothly. Here are the stats for last month:

- 1) Arrl-ohio Home Page (<u>arrl-ohio.org/</u>) 450 Views
- 2) Hamfests (arrl-ohio.org/hamfests/) 327 Views
- 3) Section Swap & Shop (arrl-ohio.org/section-swap-shop/) 225 Views
- 4) Ohio ARES HF Digital Net (arrl-ohio.org/ohden/) 52 Views
- 5) Ohio Section ARES (https://arrl-ohio.org/ohio-ares/) 49 Views







NASA Selects Firefly for New Artemis Science, Tech Delivery to Moon



This artist's concept of Blue Ghost Mission 4 shows Firefly's Blue Ghost lunar lander and NASA payloads in the lunar South Pole Region, through NASA's CLPS (Commercial Lunar Payload Services) initiative.

Credit: Firefly Aerospace

NASA has awarded Firefly Aerospace of Cedar Park, Texas, \$176.7 million to deliver two rovers and three scientific instruments to the lunar surface as part of the agency's CLPS (Commercial Lunar Payload Services) initiative and Artemis campaign to explore more of the Moon than ever before.

This delivery is the first time NASA will use multiple rovers and a variety of stationary instruments, in a collaborative effort with the CSA (Canadian Space Agency) and the

University of Bern, to help us understand the chemical composition of the lunar South Pole region and discover the potential for using resources available in permanently shadowed regions of the Moon.

"Through CLPS, NASA is embracing a new era of lunar exploration, with commercial companies leading the way," said Joel Kearns, deputy associate administrator for exploration, Science Mission Directorate, NASA Headquarters in Washington. "These investigations will produce critical knowledge required for long-term sustainability and contribute to a deeper understanding of the lunar surface, allowing us to meet our scientific and exploration goals for the South Pole region of the Moon for the benefit of all."

Under the new CLPS task order, Firefly is tasked with delivering end-to-end payload services to the lunar surface, with a period of performance from Tuesday to March 29, 2030. The company's lunar lander is targeted to land at the Moon's South Pole region in 2029.

This is Firefly's fifth task order award and fourth lunar mission through CLPS. Firefly's first delivery successfully landed on the Moon's near side in March 2025 with 10 NASA payloads. The company's second mission, targeting a launch in 2026, includes a lunar orbit drop-off of a satellite combined with a delivery to the lunar surface on the far side. Firefly's third lunar mission will target landing in the Gruithuisen Domes on the near side of the Moon in 2028, delivering six experiments to study that enigmatic lunar volcanic terrain.

"As NASA sends both humans and robots to further explore the Moon, CLPS deliveries to the lunar South Pole region will provide a better understanding of the exploration environment, accelerating progress toward establishing a long-term human presence on the Moon, as well as eventual human missions to Mars," said Adam Schlesinger, manager of the CLPS initiative at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.

The rovers and instruments that are part of this newly awarded flight include:

MoonRanger is an autonomous microrover that will explore the lunar surface.
 MoonRanger will collect images and telemetry data while demonstrating
 autonomous capabilities for lunar polar exploration. Its onboard Neutron
 Spectrometer System instrument will study hydrogen-bearing volatiles and the
 composition of lunar regolith, or soil.
 Lead development organizations: NASA's Ames Research Center in California's

Silicon Valley, and Carnegie Mellon University and Astrobotic, both in Pittsburgh.

- Stereo Cameras for Lunar Plume Surface Studies will use enhanced stereo imaging photogrammetry, active illumination, and ejecta impact detection sensors to capture the impact of the rocket exhaust plume on lunar regolith as the lander descends on the Moon's surface. The high-resolution stereo images will help predict lunar regolith erosion and ejecta characteristics, as bigger, heavier spacecraft and hardware are delivered to the Moon near each other in the future.
 - Lead development organization: NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia.
- Laser Retroreflector Array is an array of eight retroreflectors on an aluminum support structure that enables precision laser ranging, a measurement of the distance between the orbiting or landing spacecraft to the reflector on the lander. The array is a passive optical instrument, which functions without power, and will serve as a permanent location marker on the Moon for decades to come.
 Lead development organization: NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.
- A CSA Rover is designed to access and explore remote South Pole areas of interest, including permanently shadowed regions, and to survive at least one lunar night. The CSA rover has stereo cameras, a neutron spectrometer, two imagers (visible to near-infrared), a radiation micro-dosimeter, and a NASA-contributed thermal imaging radiometer developed by the Applied Physics Laboratory. These instruments will advance our understanding of the physical and chemical properties of the lunar surface, the geological history of the Moon, and potential resources such as water ice. It will also improve our understanding of the environmental challenges that await future astronauts and their life support systems.
 - Lead development organization: CSA.
- Laser Ionization Mass Spectrometer is a mass spectrometer that will analyze the
 element and isotope composition of lunar regolith. The instrument will utilize a
 Firefly-built robotic arm and Titanium shovel that will deploy to the lunar surface
 and support regolith excavation. The system will then funnel the sample into its
 collection unit and use a pulsed laser beam to identify differences in chemistry
 compared to samples studied in the past, like those collected during the Apollo
 program. Grain-by-grain analyses will provide a better understanding of the
 chemical complexity of the landing site and the surrounding area, offering
 insights into the evolution of the Moon.
 - Lead development organization: University of Bern in Switzerland.

Through the CLPS initiative, NASA purchases lunar landing and surface operations services from American companies. The agency uses CLPS to send scientific instruments and technology demonstrations to advance capabilities for science, exploration, or commercial development of the Moon, and to support human exploration beyond to Mars. By supporting a robust cadence of lunar deliveries, NASA will continue to enable a growing lunar economy while leveraging the entrepreneurial innovation of the commercial space industry.

To learn more about CLPS and Artemis, visit:

https://www.nasa.gov/clps

Burning River Traffic Net: A Half-Century of Amateur Radio Service and Tradition

Keith Cook, KD8GXL, BRTN Manager

The Burning River Traffic Net (BRTN), a local network on the American Radio Relay League's (ARRL's) National Traffic System (NTS), celebrated its 50th anniversary on June 21, 2025. Since its inception in 1975, the BRTN has been an active player in the NTS's nationwide network for relaying formal written messages to the Cleveland area and all of north central Ohio, as well as fostering a strong sense of community among amateur radio operators.

A History of Service and Communication

The net was conceived by a group of Cleveland area ham operators needing outlets for messages destined for communities outside the local telephone exchange. At that time, it was a long-distance phone call to counties surrounding Cleveland. Hoping to provide a "frequency" for northern Ohio ham operators to meet and exchange "local traffic," Jerry Spencer, WB8OZA / K8OZ (SK); John Thomas, WB8JSC / AB8Z; Lou Myde, WN8PSO (SK), and Jeff Dettmer, WB8PIY, started the net on 146.46 simplex. Looking to associate the net with its service area, John suggested the name "Burning River" in reference to the 1969 fire on the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland. To increase the net's coverage area, it was later moved to the Lorain County Amateur Radio Club's repeater, KC8BED (147.150).

For five decades, the Burning River Traffic Net has been a reliable communication lifeline, standing ready to serve as a vital link when other forms of communication fail. The net, which now operates primarily on the local W8HF repeater (145.230), serves as a local hub for handling

messages or traffic west of the Cuyahoga River and all of north central Ohio. Members of the net relay both formal ARRL messages such as greetings, congratulations, and personal communications, as well as health, welfare and emergency information, providing a vital service to the community as a whole. During the Hurricane Katrina disaster, one net member — Lew Parson, N8IXF (SK) — passed thousands of health and welfare messages from those affected by the calamity to worried friends and family in the north central Ohio area.

Since its start, the net has played an active role in radio communications. Net members operate their own equipment with many having backup power sources. This redundancy provides a network of amateur radio stations that can stay on the air, ensuring that critical messages get through. Members of the BRTN meet every Monday, Thursday and Saturday at 9:30 PM local time or whenever amateur radio communications are needed for disasters or public service events. The net is a reliable avenue of communication in times of disaster for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) as well as other public service organizations which find themselves in need of additional communication alternatives.

The National Traffic System is a daisy chain of networks that relay messages one to the other. The BRTN is the last stop in the north central Ohio area for traffic addressed to locations west of the Cuyahoga River. Messages addressed to areas east of the river go to the BRTN's good friends at the Tri-County Traffic Training Net (TCTTN). The two nets work together to make sure messages get to their destinations. The coverage was originally set up by telephone area codes and station locations so that traffic could be passed without making a toll call. Today, with cell phones, they still make an effort to deliver messages within their designated areas unless an operator is unavailable to handle the traffic. Up from the Local net is the Section net. These messages are handled by high frequency radio operators on the Ohio Single Side Band Net. Several HF net liaisons check into the BRTN, including Don Zickefoose, WB8SIQ; Ron West, N8OD; David Kazdan, AD8Y, and Dave Gulyas, W8DJG.

A Commitment to Education and Training

In addition to its role in message handling and emergency communications, the BRTN has been a cornerstone for training and mentorship. Many amateur radio operators, especially those new to the hobby, have learned the ropes of message handling and net operation by joining the BRTN. The net is known for its welcoming and supportive atmosphere, where operators of all skill levels are encouraged to participate. The net even gets a check-in from time to time from the Case Amateur Radio Club's station, W8EDU, at Case Western Reserve University, with newly licensed hams sending their first messages. The Burning River Traffic Net has been an excellent place for new hams to learn about formal message handling and to get a feel for net operations on a directed net.

Looking Ahead

As the Burning River Traffic Net looks ahead to its next 50 years, its mission remains the same: to provide a reliable, efficient, and welcoming environment for amateur radio operators to practice message handling and support their community. With new technologies and networks continuing to emerge, the BRTN is poised to adapt and continue its legacy as a vital part of ARRL's message handling system.

The net's longevity is a testament to the dedication and passion of amateur radio operators who have devoted countless hours to ensuring the flow of communication across the country, regardless of conditions or circumstances.

As the sun sets on its golden anniversary, the BRTN stands not only as a symbol of the past but also as a beacon for the future of amateur radio

NTS® Resources

The National Traffic System® (NTS®) is a network of amateur radio operators who move information during disasters and other emergencies. General messages offering well-wishes also move through the NTS® to help test the system and to help amateur radio operators build traffic handling skills. While the NTS® is primarily set up to serve the United States and Canada, it is possible to move traffic internationally through the NTS® via various local, regional, area, and international network connections.

NTS 2.0

NTS Manual

NTS Methods and Practices Guidelines

Handling Instructions

Numbered Texts

Form Encoding Rules for Form

Sign Up to Receive The NTS Letter

The NTS® Letter is published monthly and is free of charge to ARRL members.

Subscribe: <u>www.arrl.org/opt-in-out</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 will not collect 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 www.ae8fp.net/>

<u>Alliance Amateur Radio Club</u> The Alliance Amateur Radio Club holds quarterly VE testing, at the Christ United Methodist Church in Alliance. Upcoming Exam Date for 2025 are: 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 8th; Apr 12th; Jun 14th; Aug 9th; Oct 11th; and Dec 13th, 2025.

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

Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club VE Testing

Exam sessions are held on monthly. For a complete list of upcoming sessions, locations and registration, visit https://cfarc-edu.org/registration.

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.

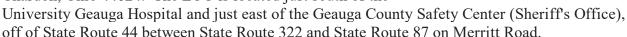
We also meet at the club on Sunday afternoon from 2 until 5 (or later!) to talk about anything Ham Radio. The sessions are geared toward new Hams. Everyone brings their questions and equipment they would like to show off or learn how to use. This Sunday we are going to install and learn to use Flgigi,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

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



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.ccom 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. 9:30-11:00 For more information contact Jim Storms – AB8YK at ab8yk@hotmail.com

The Lake County Amateur Radio Association

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

Saturday, February 3
Saturday, August 3
Saturday, April 6
Saturday, 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

The Lisbon Area Amateur Radio Association VE schedule for 2025.

Feb 8th; Mar 8th; Apr 12th; May 10th; Jun 14th; Aug 9th; Sep 13th; Oct 11th; Nov 8th; Dec 13th.

At the Columbiana County EMA at 215 South Market St, Lisbon, OH 44432. Check in at 1 PM, testing at 1:30 PM.

Make sure you have your FRN number from the FCC. Contact NN8B at nn8b.oh@gmail.com for any further information.

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

Madison County

The Madison County Amateur Radio Club Laurel testing group offers testing on the first Thursday of January, March, May, July 10, 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 proper ID, 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@mcarcho.org.

The Milford Amateur Radio Club (MARC)

BUSINESS MEETINGS ON THE EVEN MONTHS.

No charge VE exams are normally given the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM.Miami Township Civic Center 6101 Meijer Drive, Milford, OH 45150The facility is handicapped accessible. Map and further details are on our website.Pre-registration is required: https://milfordhamradio.org/license-exams

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.

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 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 at https://wc8voa.org/licensing/

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: www.arrl.org

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

Find your ARRL Section: www.arrl.org/sections

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: www.arrl.org/hamfests

Email ARRL Clubs: <u>clubs@arrl.org</u>

DX This Week – #342

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

Each week I try to focus on those entities that will be available in the next 7 days. There is so much data to sift through that I thought a focus on the next week might be helpful. Here is what you should find QRV when you tune the bands.



DAH DIT DIT DAH DAH DIT DIT DAH

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, your only source of real-time DX information, just drop me a

On Friday, August 1st, the TO3K DXpedition team travelled to Mayotte Island via Paris and Nairobi and were QRV by the evening of August 2nd. They are using three IC-7300s, one IC-706, three 500W RM amplifiers, various Skypper and dipole antennas, a two-element 6m Yagi, and band pass filters for four stations. Operations will cover 80 to 6 meters. https://italiandxpedition.altervista.org

Malaysia's Independence Day (aka National Day) is August 31. This year marks the 68th anniversary and a special event station 9M1957M will begin operations on August 1 and lasting until September 30, with a special emphasis on August 30 and 31. The station will be located in Bandar Baru Kuala Nerus, Terengganu, West Malaysia (9M2). Activity will be on SSB, CW, FT8 and other digital modes on 80 through 10 meters. QSL via 9M2RDX.

As a reminder IK7WUL, Antonio, is undertaking another humanitarian mission in Africa, focusing on renovating orphanages and supporting community development in four countries. His travel schedule includes operating as 9U0DX in Burundi from August 2-10, 9X0DX in Rwanda from August 10-18, and later in Benin (TY2AA), Togo (5V0DX), and possibly Nigeria (5N4ATM) between August 18 and September 7. He plans to be active on 10 meters SSB during his free time. QSL via IK7WUL directly and check QRZ.com; PayPal is accepted.

E51KEE will be Steve, ZL2KE, from Rarotonga, South Cook Islands, August 3-18, CW and "some SSB," on 40 through 10. QSL direct via IK2DUW. He will also upload to Club Log and LoTW.

DM6MA, Michael, will be operating holiday-style from various locations in OY, the Faroe Islands from August 12 to 20 under the call sign OY/DM6MA. He will operate SSB/FT8. QSL via direct, bureau, LoTW, or QRZ.com. There is no dedicated website, but information can be found on his QRZ.com biography page.

A radio team from Finland will be heading to the Åland Islands (OH0) from August 17 to 24, 2025, for a week-long DXpedition as OG0C. Their goal is to make between 30,000 and 50,000 QSOs. Operations will cover 160 meters up to 70 centimeters, using CW, SSB, FT8, FT4, RTTY, MSK144, and JT65. The team also plans to attempt 50 MHz EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) contacts for the first time.

A European group is QRV from the Shetland Islands (EU-012) from August 4-14, including the WAE CW Contest. Outside the contest they will be operating as

MM/home calls. During the WAE they will use the callsign GM4S. Activity will be on the HF bands and QO-100. As a reminder Shetlands is a separate country in the DX Marathon and the WAE. QSOs will be uploaded to Club Log and LoTW. QSLs for GM4S will be handled by G3TXF.

YI1DZ, Diya, is back in Juba, South Sudan, using his Z81D callsign, for about a month. He says he is very busy with other responsibilities, though. It appears he will be on the air some, though. QSL to OM3JW.

VP2V/KK4LWR and VP2V/KD8RTT, Andy and Tony, brothers, will op from Tortola, British Virgin Islands August 8-11, mainly SSB, "some CW and digital," 80-6. They say they'll be focusing on 30, 17 and 12 but especially 6 meters, the MSK144 mode, and the HamSCI Meteor Scatter QSO Party August 11, one station on 6 and one on 10. https://hamsci.org/msqp For a QSL it's LoTW or direct to KD8RTT.

Speaking of the British Virgin Islands, this weekend, The DX Mentor YouTube channel features two ham brothers who are going to the British Virgin Islands for their first DXPedition. This was a really fun episode, and I know you will enjoy these guys as they prepare to depart in just a few weeks.

If you are interested in DX Podcasts and YouTube channels, you should check out the DX Mentor Facebook page and subscribe to be kept up to date on all of the DX activities.

DAH 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!

Please send me an email if you need any details on this topic or anything else that was mentioned.

Until next week, this is Bill, AJ8B saying 73 and thanks to my XYL Karen for her love and support. I Hope to hear you in the pileups! Have a great DX week!

Contest	Start Date	End Date
North American QSO	8/16/2025	8/17/2025
Party - SSB		
Hawaii QSOP	8/23/2025	8/24/2025
Ohio QSOP	8/23/2025	8/24/2025
Kansas QSOP	8/30/2025	8/31/2025
Colorado QSOP	8/30/2025	8/31/2025
World Wide Digital	8/30/2025	8/31/2025
DX Contest		

OHIO'S



It seems we were just watching the July 4th fireworks, but the calendar tells me it needs its pages turned to August. Where did the month go? It's said the older you get the faster time flies. I guess there must be something to that.

Except for the usual hot, humid and dry weather conditions, August does have some good points for the ham radio community. First, for those who like attending hamfests, it's the month that probably sees more Southern Ohio region hamfests and swap meets than any other month in the year. The month has already kicked off with the **Aladdin Shrine Audio Unit** Columbus Hamfest at the Columbus Shrine Center at Grove City. Although I didn't make it this year, I'm sure that because of a break in the weather it was well attended. Next comes the annual Cincinnati Hamfest which will take place at the Clermont County Fairgrounds in Owensville. This show August 9 show is sponsored by the **Milford ARC** with the gates opening at 8 AM. Also on that date, but across the River in Huntington the **Tri-State ARA** will have their annual hamfest at the New Baptist Church, 610 28th Street. On August 16 the New Boston Community Building is the site for the annual **Portsmouth RC**'s annual hamfest. This event is known for all the friendly people who put it on and/or attend. And if you stay until almost the end, you are almost assured to go home with a door prize. If the weather cooperates, they hope to expand it into the outside parking area. Then on the final Saturday in August, the action jumps to Athens where the **Athens County ARA** will hold a free trunkfest in the Athens Masonic parking lot. Hamfests in the region won't end just because August is over as on September 20 the **Buffalo 10 Meter Net** in Belpre and the **Jackson County ARA** in Jackson will each have an event. As we move into October the Vinton County ARA will hold their second 'fest' in McArthur and in early November the **Grant RC** will hold their popular hamfest in Georgetown.

Please remember, a number of these clubs rely on funds from these events to pay their yearly operating expenses plus keeping repeaters on the air and other member benefits that vary from club to club. So plan to attend some of them.



Congrats to the crew at the **Clinton County ARA** on the observation of the one year anniversary of their low power FM radio station WIOH. Although slow to catch the attention of the listeners in the Wilmington area at first, it is growing traction. Along with adding local weather reports, road conditions, obits and programs of a local nature as well as now being on-line in addition to over the air

has really increased the listenership. WIOH is one of few broadcast radio stations in the United States owned and operated by an amateur radio club. So if you are in the Clinton County area, why not give 95.9 a listen or catch them on the internet.

It is great to be advised of two more folks joining the South 40 amateur radio ranks during the past couple of weeks. Robert Butler of Dresden is now KF8EQQ. In the Greenfield/Ross County area Heath Garrett has become KF8ERY. A hearty Ohio South 40 WELCOME to each.

The **Athens County ARA** was set to provide support for the annual July Gravel Challenge races through the hills of Athens County. However Mother Nature had other ideas. Because of the extreme heat temperatures the event sponsors wisely decided to cancel it. But all their planning will not go to waste because they will be providing support to the August 9 Bailey's Run Half Marathon.

The **Mad River ARC**'s Ohio QSO Party hits the airwaves on August 23 starting at noon and running until midnight. The object of the event is for Ohio amateur radio operators to celebrate their great state by activating an amateur radio operation in each of the 88 Ohio counties. Last year all 88 counties showed activity compared to 85 counties in 2023. I have always found it to be a fun activity. Because many of our South 40 region counties have a small amateur radio population you might find yourself "rare DX" with the County Hunters and others seriously in the contest who will be looking for you.

The August 23 Ohio QSO Party is a good warm up for another Ohio oriented operation activity-the Ohio State Parks on the Air. As of July 31 25 parks indicate potential OSPOTA activity. But the number will grow as we get closer to the





Septemer 6 event date. For the first time in several years it will even include a new one to work. This year sees the first activation of Ohio's newest state park, Great Council, near Yellow Springs. A look at the Planned Activity on the www.ospota.org website indicates many of the Ohio State Parks within the Southern Ohio region currently do not show any planned activity. So why

not go to the list of state parks on the www.ospota.org website to find a nearby state park and plan on going to it, make some contacts and enjoy a free benefit from Ohio. The activity is an excellent opportunity to introduce new hams or those unsure about contest operating the chance to experience being the hunted and not a hunter. Plus it is an great socialization or club activity. Plus this year the "Rover" type operation will be reintroduced and CW (but no digital) will be allowed. With all the interest in POTA and OSPOTA the day offers a great opportunity to put a lot of contacts in the log, make a lot of park chasers happy and spend some quality time in the great outdoors. Then let the world know by listing it on the www.ospota.org Planned Activations page.

Although this column does not normally list equipment for sale, the sudden appearance of three HF amplifiers becoming available does call for an interesting exception. John Hilliard, W8OF, in

Lancaster has an ALS-1300 solid state amp for sale. Down in Waynesville, Ohio Section Journal DX contributor Bill Sayler, AJ8B, has an AL-80B. Additionally my personal retubed AL-811H is on the block. It has been modified by Paul Jellison, K8IO, with four 572Bs. It also comes with universal and Icom interfaces. If interested in any of these amps, contact me for information how to contact the appropriate owner.

Until next time, let's stay safe, happy and radio active. Plus support your local club.

John, W8KIW

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

ARLD031 DX news

This week's bulletin is 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 websites. Thanks to all.

KENYA, 5Z. Ben, VE3NZ, is QRV as 5Z4NZ until August 8. QSL to home call.

CROATIA, 9A. Special event station 9A169TESLA is QRV until December 31 to celebrate the 169th anniversary of the birth of Nikola Tesla. QSL via LoTW.

EAST MALAYSIA, 9M6. A large group of operators are QRV as 9M8A from Satang Besar Island, IOTA OC-165, until August 13. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4. QSL via LoTW.

BURUNDI, 9U. Tony, IK7WUL, plans to be QRV as 9U0DX from August 2 to 10 while working in humanitarian aid projects. Activity will be in his spare time on 40 to 10 meters using SSB. QSL direct to home call.

SINGAPORE, 9V. Hugh, 9V1SA is QRV as S60SA until August 8 to celebrate 60 years of Singapore's independence. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL via ClubLog.

SOUTH COOK ISLAND, E5. Steve, ZL2KE, will be QRV as E51KEE from Rarotonga Island, IOTA OC-013, from August 3 to 18. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using mostly CW. QSL via IK2DUW.

MAYOTTE, FH. A group of operators will be QRV as TO3K from August 2 to 10. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4. QSL via LoTW.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA, HL. Special event station HL80V will be QRV during the month of August to mark the 80th anniversary of South Korea's liberation. QSL via bureau.

CURACAO, PJ2. Jeff, K8ND is QRV as PJ2ND from Signal Point until August 13. QSL to home call.

GREECE, SV. Members of the Radio Amateur Association of Western Greece are QRV with special event station SX17ASTRO until August 8 for the 17th Panhellenic Expedition of Amateur Astronomers. QSL via operators' instructions.

BENIN, TY. Station TY5FR has been active on 30 meters using CW around 0530z. QSL via DL1BUG.

CANADA, VE. Members of the Atlantic Coast DX and Contest Group will be QRV as CG9IARU during August to celebrate the International Amateur Radio Union's 100th anniversary. This includes organizing commemorative radio activities across Canada for POTA, WWFF, and Canadian Historical Sites On The Air. QSL via VE9CF.

MEXICO, XE. Special call sign 4A2MAX will be QRV during the month of August in remembrance of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and various digital modes. QSL via LoTW.

Upcoming Hamfests

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



Ohio Hamfests

2025

08/09/2025 - Cincinnati HamfestSM

Location: Owensville, OH **Type:** ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Milford Amateur Radio Club **Website:** https://CincinnatiHamfest.org

Learn More

08/16/2025 - Portsmouth Radio Club 2025

Hamfest

Location: New Boston, OH **Type:** ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: ARRL, Jett Fire Equipment, Shawnee

Computer and More

Website: http://www.portsmouthradioclub.com

Learn More

08/17/2025 - Warren Hamfest

Location: Cortland, OH **Type:** ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Warren Amateur Radio Association

Website: http://w8vtd.com/hamfest

Learn More

08/30/2025 - <u>Athens Trunkfest</u>

Location: Athens, OH **Type:** ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Athens County Amateur Radio

Association

Website: https://www.ac-ara.org/

Learn More

09/07/2025 - <u>Findlay Hamfest</u>

Location: Findlay, OH **Type:** ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Findlay Radio Club **Website:** http://w8ft.org

Learn More

09/13/2025 - Swap Meet / Hamfest

Location: Toledo , OH **Type:** ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Lucas County ARES

Website: http://WWW.LUCASARES.ORG

Learn More

09/28/2025 - Cleveland Hamfest

Location: Berea, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Hamfest Association of Cleveland

Website: https://www.hac.org

Learn More

10/04/2025 - Northwest Ohio Amateur Radio

Club (NWOARC) Hamfest

Location: Lima, OH **Type:** ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Northwest Ohio Amateur Radio Club

Website: http://www.nwoarc.com

Learn More

10/11/2025 - Williams County ARA Hamfest

Location: Montpelier, OH **Type:** ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Williams County ARA

Learn More

11/02/2025 - 2025 MARC Hamfest at MAPS

Location: N. Canton, OH **Type:** ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Massillon ARC

08/16/2026 - Warren Hamfest

Location: Cortland, OH **Type:** ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Warren Amateur Radio Association

Website: http://www.w8np.net
Website: http://w8vtd.com/hamfest
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.

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

I hope you're all having a FUN SUMMER – with lots of Ham Radio events! We've still got hamfests all over the state. There'll be plenty of warm days to get out there and do some POTA. PLEASE – Don't forget about Ohio State Parks On The Air! (OSPOTA) 06 September 2025 https://www.ospota.org/ And the very next day is the Findlay Hamfest – Make a weekend out of it! By the way, the Findlay club will be celebrating their 100th anniversary of being an ARRL Affiliated Club! Com on out and help them make it special.

This past weekend at the Columbus hamfest we announced the winners of the Ohio Section Newsletter Contest. First Place went to the "Q-Fiver" – the monthly newsletter of the

OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society. Second Place was awarded to "The Radiogram" of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) and Third Place went to "Full Quieting" of the Bellbrook Amateur Radio Club! I would encourage you to go to the Ohio Section Website where you can view these, and other Ohio Section club newsletters. You'll read some very interesting articles and see some good examples of newsletter layouts. My month of August will include a VACATION! Because I'll be out of town, I'm going to take a break on a full blown newsletter on the 22nd. If there's anything that can't wait I'll push it out on a Section email blast.

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/



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: swap@arrlohio.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?



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	Section Youth Coordinator and Asst Section Manager
KD8SCL	- Anthony Luscre, K8ZT
Technical Coordinator – Jeff Kopcak, K8JTK	Affiliated Clubs Coordinator – Amanda Farone –
	KC3GFU
State Government Liaison – Bob Winston, W2THU	Public Information Coordinator – Elizabeth Klinc -
	KE8FMJ

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, by going to https://arrl-ohio.org/ohio-section-newsletter/, and filling out the form.



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 to

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!