



*Ohio
Section
Journal*

October 7, 2025

WWW.ARRL-Ohio.org

September Handbook Giveaway Winner - KD8JV– Glenn Winningham! Congratulations – your Handbook is on the way..... There were 99 entries this month – up from 76 last month. Get out to the Ohio Section website and get yourself in the game!

September 1 question questionnaire – Do you operate QRP? Out of 85 responses, 32 said “yes” and 53 said “no”.

Have you clicked the link to help pass the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act?

Go to the website to enter!

From the Technical Coordinator

Jeff Kopcak – K8JTK TC
K8JTK@arrl.net

Hey gang,
October is often associated with apple cider, fall weather, foliage displays, pumpkins, and Halloween costumes. Just as gruesome as some Halloween costumes is most people’s cyber



hygiene. Cyber hygiene relates to practices and precautions taken keeping data safe and secure from outside attacks. October, in addition to Halloween, is Cybersecurity Awareness Month. It is a time to inform others about online safety and provide everyone resources to be more secure online.

Browser: The web browser is the modern computing portal and gateway to many things. Regardless which browser is preferred, it must be one that is current, supported, and frequently updated. There are approximately [twelve browsers](#) for desktop and mobile platforms. The browser is constantly being updated, not only to support newer technologies but protect users by eliminating known vulnerabilities.

Personally, I will not use the Chrome browser because Google is known to sell, err [monetize](#), user data to anyone willing to pay and [weaken ad blocker support](#) in newer versions. Instead of Chrome, use another Chrome-based privacy-focused browser such as [Brave](#). For additional security, block all permissions to things like location, camera, microphone, file access, MIDI devices, and the like. If these permissions are regularly needed, install and use a second browser only when that access is needed.

Browser extensions or plugins: Limit the number of extensions installed to the bare minimum. The more extensions that are installed widens exposure to attacks, data leaks, and breaches. Remember browser toolbars back in the day? Cringe. Make sure extensions are also current and being updated as these are almost always developed by third-parties, not maintained by the browser itself. At most, a couple security related extensions and a password manager should be the limit of extensions installed.

My “must-have” browser extension, one that I use in every single browser including at work, is [uBlock Origin](#). It is an excellent ad-blocker and does it so very effectively and efficiently. Additional features include ability to block sources of vulnerabilities, such as scripts, large media items, like videos, and known bad domains.

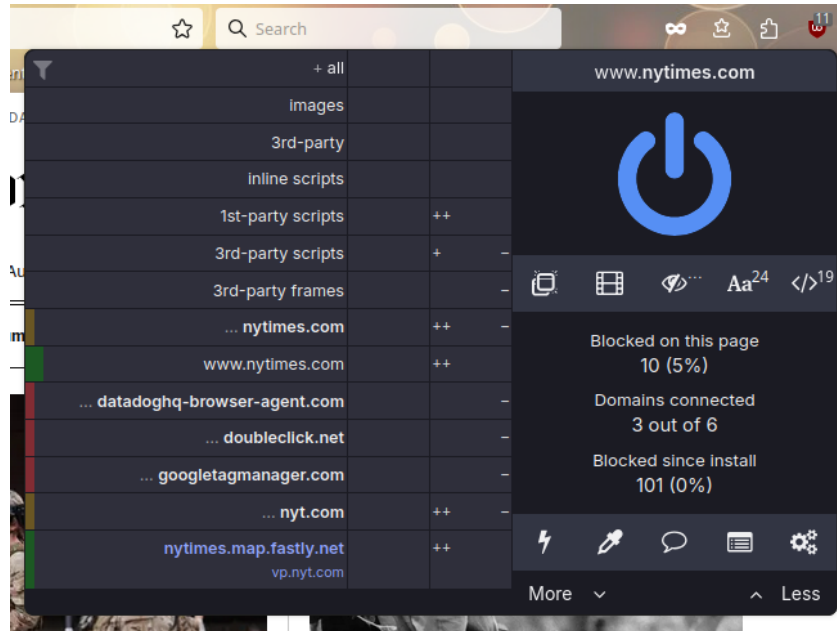
A lot of people swear by [NoScript](#). It’s even better, security-wise, than uBlock Origin.

However, like everything in security, there are tradeoffs. NoScript does what it says, block scripts - like JavaScript - because they are a major source of security problems. This is great in principle but it effectively breaks every site on the Internet. Whitelisting necessary scripts to make a trusted site work is more effort than it’s worth. Choose the better option for you. For me, it’s uBlock.

Why use a pop-up/ad blocker? Ad blockers were first used to block an insane amount of pop-up advertisements that proliferated websites in the late ‘90s/early 2000s which interfered with the browsing experience. Even the first ad blockers were quite resource intensive. Bad guys used ads as a way to deliver malware through legitimate websites. Ad blockers are also effective against pop-unders (ads appearing under the browsing window), tracking cookies, and consent banners. The [FBI recommends using one](#) as search engines are infiltrated with spoofed results. Ad blockers are used to make browsing the Internet a cleaner and safer experience.

[PrivacyBadger](#) is an additional layer of blocking third-party tracking and [browser fingerprinting](#).

Browser fingerprinting is the ability for a site to interrogate the browser and learn things about the system it's running on. For example, browser being used, is it accepting cookies, plugins installed, time zone, screen size and color depth, system fonts, language, OS and platform, touch device, and device memory. These properties can be used to build a profile of the user and track them as they visit other sites.



uBlock Origin on nytimes.com

PrivacyBadger blocks sites from accessing many of these properties.

Previously, HTTPS Everywhere was recommended. This extension has been sunset due to browsers themselves offering [HTTPS-only features](#). HTTPS adds additional protection against spoofing and impersonation.

Domain blocking (aka DNS blacklisting): These tools help keep ads off smart TVs, Roku's, keep digital footprints to a minimum, and block known infected site requests made through DNS. [Pi-hole](#) is a security appliance that provides blocking of bad sites. Similar to uBlock Origin but at the network level. Browser plugins only protect sessions in that browser. It doesn't offer protection for other applications running on the PC. It doesn't offer protection for any network devices such as phones, tablets, streaming, surveillance, and "smart" devices. That is where Pi-Hole comes in by blocking known bad domains at the network level. A German ham, [DL6ER](#), is quite active in administering and supporting the project.

If you don't want to manage an additional network device like the Pi-Hole, simply changing DNS settings in the router will afford additional protection. A service like [NextDNS](#) offers blocking: bad sites, typo-squatting (gooogle [dot] com instead of google.com), newly registered domains (often used by bad guys to launch malicious campaigns), and parked domains (often expired domains laden with ads). Parental controls are available for app and game blocking such as Instagram, Facebook, Reddit, Xbox Live, YouTube, and Roblox. A "professional" account permits unlimited queries and unlimited devices for \$19.90 on the yearly plan. Unfortunately, there have been many complaints due to lack of support response from this service. I've never had to contact support, however. It has done quite well in [comparison tests](#) of like services. If you believe DNS should be free and don't need additional levels of control, [Quad9](#) offers a "set it and forget it" implementation. Changing a routers (or modems) primary DNS to **9.9.9.9** and secondary DNS to **149.112.112.112**, IPv6 users: **2620:fe::fe & 2620:fe::9** is all that's needed to enable this service. I've not used [Cloudflare's 1.1.1.1](#) but have seen in recent security webinars they are very good at identifying malicious traffic and have an excellent reputation.

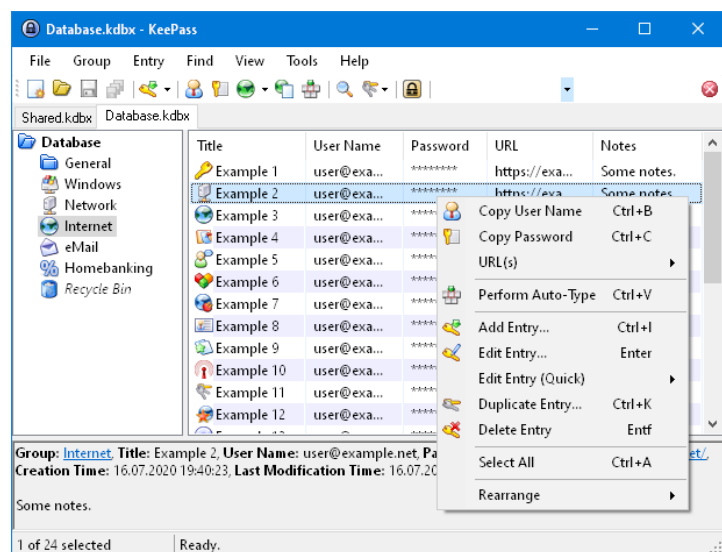
I've been asked about Internet connections that seem "slow" but do well on bandwidth and latency tests. This is likely due the Internet providers' crappie DNS servers. DNS is the Internet phonebook (if you remember what those were). When you enter arrrl-ohio.org into a web browser, a DNS look-up occurs which returns the IP address 67.225.195.119. You don't see that IP address but the device uses that IP to retrieve the ARRL Ohio website from the server at 67.225.195.119. Internet Service Provider DNS servers often take a long time to look up the name and return an IP. Changing DNS to one of the providers given above will provide quicker results.

A caveat with any of these services, devices using hardcoded DNS servers (usually Internet of Things devices) or ones using secured DNS (DNS over HTTPS/DNS over TLS) bypasses the chosen provider and filtering. This is because they opt for a less restrictive DNS provider such as Google's quad 8/8844 or the request is encrypted, thus not visible. An advanced router/firewall can be configured to perform NAT Redirection which routes the request through the chosen service and can block secure DNS queries made through the firewall. Turning on

secure DNS requests from the router/firewall itself to the provider is strongly recommended to avoid ISP interception, snooping, and monetization. I no longer recommend OpenDNS because they still do not provide encrypted services.

Passwords and password managers:

We've all seen that websites do a relatively poor job of securing user password databases. On the other hand, users do a poor job of choosing strong passwords. This is known because of sites like [Have I Been Pwned](http://HaveIBeenPwned.com) (pronounced "owned") which search E-mails associated with accounts in leaked password databases. Showing as 'pwned' on that site



KeePass (keepass.info)

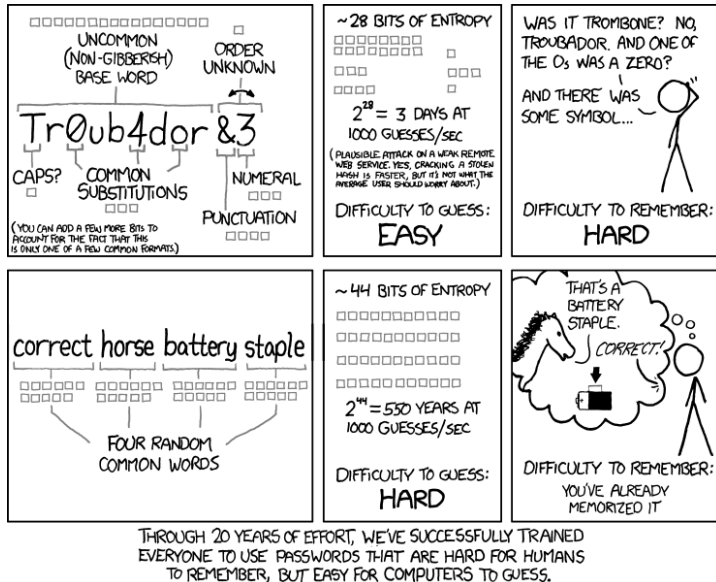
indicates the E-mail address was found in a database breach. Searching old E-mail address of mine yielded two services I did not recognize. I suspect the data changed hands through company acquisition, or, more likely, information was sold-then stolen.

In general, if you can remember passwords, you're doing it wrong. Knowing the password to log onto devices (e.g.: computer, phone) and the password for your password manager is about it anymore. A password manager will generate strong passwords for services and remember them so you don't have to. The ability to remember passwords means they are easy to guess.

[Bitwarden](http://Bitwarden.com) is a cloud-based password manager. A personal basic account can be obtained for free but useful features will be found in the \$10/yr or \$40/yr for a family. Those include integrated TOTP authenticator, file attachments, emergency access to a trusted contact, and access on all devices and platforms.

If you don't trust the cloud, [Vaultwarden](http://Vaultwarden.net) is the unofficial Bitwarden self-hosted option. Want to manage your own databases offline or use a syncing tool? [KeePass](http://Keepass.info) or [KeePassXC](http://KeepassXC.org) will do the

job. KeePassXC is nicely integrated with all kinds of platforms including the browser via plugin, YubiKey/OnlyKey, and SSH agents. It also has an excellent mobile platform. The problem I've found with KeePassXC is features "by design" trip over their own settings taking forever [to fix](#) (over 2 years at this point). I switched back to regular KeePass as both use the same database format.



xkcd: Password Strength (xkcd.com/936/)

equal.

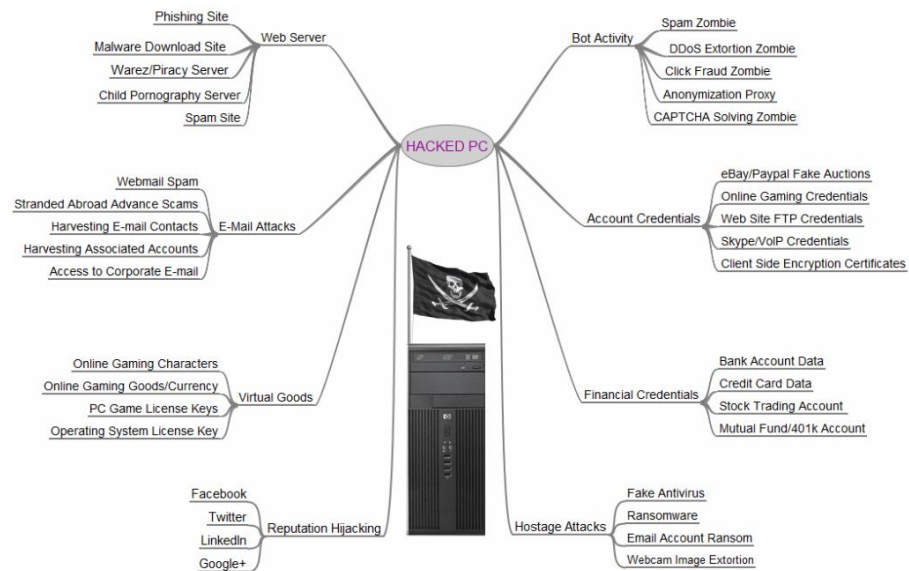
Taking the first character of each word: Fsasyaofbfutc – even to the first comma is 14 characters and already on its way to being very strong. Get creative, maybe take the second or third letter of every word. Throw in random capitalization and symbols. Then add parts of an old phone number, an old address, old work address, old dorm room number, kids ages, etc. Then it becomes: Fsasya^OfbfuTC219419-216 – all of a sudden you have a password that takes 93.83 billion trillion trillion centuries [to guess](#). Sure, you'll want to write down this password until its memorized. Destroy the written copy after it's definitely committed to memory.

Should there be a situation where you can't create a completely random password or want to use a password that can be remembered in limited situations (not your master password, that would be bad practice), use the [xkpasswd generator](#). Inspired by [an XKCD comic](#), it uses a method of random numbers and common words to create memorable passwords. The example from the comic: correcthorsebatterystaple – correct, horse, battery, staple.

All this assumes there is no monitoring or compromise of the computer or device itself, no key logging, no intercepting communications, no monitoring the clipboard, etc. The strongest password does no good if it's used on a compromised machine or used over an insecure communication channel such as HTTP, FTP, or Telnet – which all use readable plain-text passwords.

These services often require a master password, which must be remembered. Fortunately, there are some easy techniques to generate strong memorable passwords. One such technique is to find a famous speech, song, or lines from a movie. Take the first letter of each word, throw in some numbers & symbols, and voila! Strong master password. This method creates a strong memorable password that is harder to crack. Take the first line of the Gettysburg Address as an example: *Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created*

The hot new thing is “passkeys” or password-less logon. These rely on biometric authentication. Despite the level of trust many people have with their devices, smartphones and smart devices should be considered compromised devices as it’s been proven vendors and developers have poor security practices. Never provide any information to a smart device which you cannot change (fingerprint,



The Scrap Value of a Hacked PC (krebsonsecurity.com)

facial recognition, retina, hand/face geometry, etc.). Additionally, authorities can hold the phone to your face to unlock it and accept the login. Now they have access to that service. It’s been observed passkeys do not have the same legal protection against compelled use compared to the plain old password.

Multifactor authentication: Commonly referred to as 2-factor authentication (2fa) or MFA. MFA uses more than one method to validate identity. Usually consisting of something you know, a password, and something you have – a phone app or hardware token. This approach is an additional layer of authentication with the hope of thwarting the bad guys that they don’t have access to one or more of the authentication methods. Good multifactor auth changes or rotates every time it’s used or changes after a short amount of time.

A lot of services use SMS text messages and E-mails. These are not good multifactor validation. SMS messages can be intercepted via hijacked, cloned, or swapped SIM cards [from the carrier](#) which means they might as well be you. E-mail is readily accessible to organizations hosting the mail server and often transmitted in the clear – though some do use encryption in flight.

I like TOTP (time-based one-time password) solutions which is an open standard. This is often referred to as the “Google Authenticator” method because they were the first large company to adopt this standard. Many apps, such as the password managers listed above, support this solution, though there is an argument against storing multiple factors in the same place. TOTP doesn’t need any data connection and is only stored locally, unless sync’d with other devices. These passwords rotate every 30 seconds and are 6 digits long. In the case where a phone might get lost, there are “recovery” tokens generated at the time TOTP is configured. Where should the recovery tokens should be stored? They can be printed and stored in safe, or use your new password manager to secure them!

Odds and ends: I hear the “I have nothing to hide” argument, even from my own family. Here is where to send you passwords. During [his TED talk](#), journalist Glenn Greenwald, so far, has the best response:

I get out a pen. I write down my email address. I say, 'Here's my email address. What I want you to do when you get home is email me the passwords to all of your email accounts, not just the nice, respectable work one in your name, but all of them, because I want to be able to just troll through what it is you're doing online, read what I want to read and publish whatever I find interesting. After all, if you're not a bad person, if you're doing nothing wrong, you should have nothing to hide.' Not a single person has taken me up on that offer. I check that email account religiously all the time. It's a very desolate place.

I've never had anyone take me up on that offer, either.

Though a couple years old, another journalist, Brian Krebs, has a posting on the [Scrap Value of a Hacked PC](#). It takes a look at all the things bad guys could do with information learned from a compromised machine, ones sold online or at a local hamfest. Use a program such as [ShredOS](#) to wipe those drives if you must sell them – or before getting rid of them. Brian's site is entertaining (often scary) reading material taking a peek into the 'dark web' in regard to things criminals do with stolen data, credit cards, ransomware, botnets, and other illegal services.

Other useful security tools are [Security Planner](#) which walks you through creating a customized security plan based on interests and goals. [PrivacyTools](#) provides all kind of services, tools, recommendations, and knowledge guides for protection against mass surveillance.

These suggestions and ones from known reputable resources will greatly improve your cyber hygiene for Cybersecurity Awareness month.

An off-topic reminder: if you're a DMR user and have not yet [verified your DMR ID is compliant](#), you have until the end of the year to avoid interruption.

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

From the Section Emergency Coordinator

Bret Stemen – KD8SCL EC

KD8SCL@gmail.com

2025 ARES Conference

Come join us for All Ohio ARES Conference.

November 22nd 9am – 4pm

Informative presentations -- Door prizes

Bring your Go-Boxes and Comms vehicles to display.

Doors open at 08:30 - Sign in from 08:30 – 09:00

Seating is limited so please register today to reserve your seat. OSU/COTC

Registration required. As of 10/5/2025, There are 55 registered.



[>> Registration <<](#)

Newark, 1219 University Dr. Newark, Ohio 43055 (Warner Library Building)

Ohio SET

The Simulated Emergency Test (SET) was Saturday October 4th.

This year the SET was based on a major Solar Flare hitting the earth and knocking out the MARCS system as well as the Cellular System. The Sarge was open on Saturday October 4th, we asked for counties to send a sitrep message via voice, digital or WinLink. Each county was to make up their own plan for this event. This can include local repeaters, simplex, HF, voice and digital.

How did you communicate with-in your county?

How did you communicate with your surrounding counties and the state EOC?

EC's, think about writing an After Action Report.

EC's, please don't forget to submit your annual SET forms and send a copy to your DEC

Here is the link to the forms: <https://ares.arrl.org/areset/>

Thank you to the staff that manned the SARGE/W8SGT

Thanks to the counties that participated this year and for your sit-reps.

ARRL Launches Nationwide Grassroots Campaign to Pass Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act

September 18, 2025

ARRL has launched a nationwide grassroots campaign aimed at securing the passage of federal legislation that would grant Amateur Radio Operators the same rights to install antennas on their property as those enjoyed by users of TV antennas, wireless internet, and flagpoles.

The campaign, announced in an [ARRL Member Bulletin](#) on September 17, 2025, follows the reintroduction of the *Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act* in February 2025 (see [ARRL News 02/07/2025](#)). The bipartisan bills -- [H.R.1094](#) in the House and [S.459](#) in the Senate -- are designed to prevent restrictive homeowners' association (HOA) rules that currently prohibit or severely limit the installation of amateur radio antennas, even when such antennas are hidden in trees, placed in attics, mounted on vehicles, or look like flagpoles.

“This legislation is about restoring equal rights to licensed Amateur Radio operators,” said ARRL President Rick Roderick. **“These restrictions hinder not only the enjoyment of Amateur Radio, but also its vital role in emergency communication during disasters.”**

Public Support Needed for Passage

To advance the legislation, ARRL is calling on its members and all licensees of the US Amateur Radio Service to take action by sending letters to their congressional representatives. Through a dedicated online tool at <https://send-a-letter.org/hoa/>, hams can easily generate and submit pre-drafted letters with a few clicks.

Go to — <https://send-a-letter.org/hoa/>

— and help us by sending your letters to your Representative and Senators.

ARRL has emphasized that every letter matters. “Your Representative and Senators need to know that the passage of this legislation is important to you.”

Please be sure to submit your letter if you haven’t done so already!

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

Bret KD8SCL

Elizabeth Kline, KE8FMJ
OHIO Section Public Information Coordinator
ke8fmj@gmail.com

---ON VACATION---

Elizabeth Kline, 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 Section Traffic Manager
Dan Rinaman, AC8NP – STM

AC8NP@AC8NP.COM

419.618.0330

Ham Shack Hotline #4355



PSHR and SAR Reports

Public Service Honor Roll and Station Activity Reports may be sent via NTS messages, Winlink messages to my station. Also, there is a form on the ARRL-Ohio.org website. [Form](#) These forms need to be in by the 5th of each month.

Handling Instructions

Last month we talked about handling instructions. This month I would like to talk about Handling Instruction HXC specifically who do you send the response to?

Let's look at HXC a little closer.

HXC - Report date and time of delivery (TOD) to originating station. A response to this could include ARL Forty Seven - Reference your message number _____ to _____ delivered on _____ at _____ UTC. Note the UTC at the end. This means: Use UTC time and not local time

No need to write Z following the time, as the UTC in the text already has it covered.

In this example, who do we send the HXC message to?

NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF Origin	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILLED	DATE
6	R	HXCG	W8ROY	ARL5	TIFFIN OH	1729Z	OCT 3
MIKE HAYWARD KC8WH							
5017 N TWP RD 175							
REPUBLIC OH 44867							
KC8WH ATSIGN ARRL DOT NET							
ARL	FORTY	SIX		X		REGARDS	
DANIEL RINAMAN AC8NP							

Station of Origin W8ROY who is in LIVONIA, MI,

Signature Daniel Rinaman AC8NP who is in TIFFIN OH

You always want to send the originating station the HXC and or SERVICE message. So, the message goes to W8ROY in Livonia MI.

In this example W8ROY originated the message on my behalf so he is the station of origin. I am in Tiffin OH so, the place of origin is Tiffin OH.

The PLACE OF ORIGIN is the location (city and state) of the party for whom the message is created, not necessarily the location of the station of origin.

Roy W8ROY needs the message for his record keeping. So, look him up in QRZ and originate a message back to Him.

This also applies to messages that you may have problems delivering and you can use the numbered radiograms ARL FORTY ONE, ARL FORTY EIGHT, and ARL FORTY NINE. These can be looked up at <https://nts2.arrl.org/numbered-texts/>

There are many reasons why the originating station and signature person are different.

The signature of the message is the name of the person for whom the message is created (not necessarily the station of origin), and any other information that person wishes to include (such as title, address, telephone number, city, state, zip, etc., using the standard US postal zip code 2 letter abbreviation if used). The Place-of-Origin given in the Preamble is the location of this individual.

Your neighbor asks you to send a message. You're in a shelter in the next county over sending health and welfare messages. The message was put on the [Radiogram Portal](#)

This information can be found in the [NTS Method and Practices Guidelines](#)

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 Zoom-based 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 <<https://nts2.arrl.org/virtual-nts-training-net/>>.

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.arrrl.org/radiogram/>



National Traffic System
Traffic and Message
Handling
For Skill, Service, and
Fun!



The ARRL got its start by organizing 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 PM	145.230 MHz PL 110.9	KD8GXL
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
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BRTN - Burning River Traffic Net (serving the Cleveland area and all North Central Ohio)

COTN – Central Ohio Traffic Net (serving Columbus and Central Ohio)

NWOATT – Northwest Ohio ARES Traffic and Training Net (serving Northwest Ohio)

ODMR – Ohio DMR Net (serving Ohio)

TCTTN - Tri-County Traffic and Training Net (serving Northeast Ohio)

TATN - Tri-State Amateur Traffic Net (serving Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana)

Dan Rinaman AC8NP
Ohio Section Traffic Manager
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From the Ohio Section Youth Coordinator
Anthony Luscre, K8ZT - SYC
k8zt73@gmail.com

Can I Be of Assistance?

Youth Activities in Amateur Radio

I would love to help you if you are planning or involved in any Youth In Amateur Radio (YIRA) projects.

I am also happy to give a presentation for your local club about YIRA (either in person or via Zoom, depending on location).

Club Presentations



In addition to YIAR presentations, I have a wide variety of Amateur Radio topics I can give presentations for your club. For more information on topics, visit- tiny.cc/k8zt-p.

Please email k8zt@arrl.net
or call 330-650-1110
(phone calls only, as it's a
landline; no texting).

That's it for this month. I
hope to hear you on the air,
operating one of these
events, or in person at any
other activities!

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

I am willing to present any of my slideshows live online (via Zoom, Google Meet, etc.) for your local club. Please email me if interested k8zt73@gmail.com				
Topic	tiny.cc/k8zt-p link to this document	Slideshows	Videos	Doc, Site
Website	K8ZT Website			www.k8zt.co
Beginners	Amateur Radio Quick Start Guide	tiny.cc/arqsg		tiny.cc/new-ham
	Beginner's Guide to VHF-UHF - 4 parts	tiny.cc/bgvvhf	Week 1- youtu.be/mUXQc Week 2- youtu.be/23mBr3 Week 3- youtu.be/wIGSL Week 4- youtu.be/1CEzFz	
	What You Need to Make VHF/UHF Contacts	tiny.cc/vhf-needs		
	Technicians, Life Beyond Repeaters	tiny.cc/bteach	youtu.be/m8tOFBY14E	
	Life Beyond Repeaters- UK Version	tiny.cc/beyonduk	youtu.be/6L3rcEFvi70?list=PL10330	Live 03/30
	GOTA Technicians Intro to VHF Contesting	tiny.cc/vhf-contest	https://youtu.be/SeEDv0T	
	Get On The Air Experiences			tiny.cc/gotae
	Beginner's Guide to HF- 4 parts	tiny.cc/bghf	Week 1- The HF Bands, Operating & Making Week 2- Equipment & Antennas- https://youtu.be/6L3rcEFvi70?list=PL10330 Week 3- Putting It All Together https://youtu.be/6L3rcEFvi70?list=PL10330 Week 4- Operating HF- https://youtu.be/6L3rcEFvi70?list=PL10330	
	Making SSB Radio Contacts on HF	tiny.cc/hfqso	https://youtu.be/rtum0RY1	
	Making Digital Radio Contacts on HF	tiny.cc/digiqso		
	Making CW Contacts: Expand Your Modes of Operation	tiny.cc/cwqso	https://youtu.be/QHVeSH2	

From the Affiliated Clubs Coordinator

Terry Windsor, KI8N

ki8n.tw@gmail.com

Happy October to all. The ham buzz is about the effort to support the ARRL working on the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act (also called the HOA bill). We have been asked to support a simple pre-filled out letter via



the ARRL website that will be delivered to our Congressional members showing our support for both the Senate and House bills. This campaign is for moving the Senate and House bills forward and showing immense support from amateur radio enthusiasts towards the ability to install antennas required for emergency communications. The link to access this link is; [Pass the Bill; The ARRL Grassroots Campaign](#). Going to this ARRL web page gives you the link to the “[Send You Letters Now](#)” button and answers frequently asked questions. There are also links for you to review the actual Senate and House Bills; [S. 459](#) and [H.R. 1094](#). I am also asking that you share this with hams that are either not in a club, not ARRL members, or are currently



inactive in the hobby as each person can make a difference. The only item you need is your US FCC issued amateur radio call sign and a database will fill out the rest of the name and address information.

At the bottom of the page there is a link to a [brochure](#) that we can share with others. I have placed a copy of this brochure in local post offices (on their public bulletin boards) to catch the attention of the public and any hams that I do not know. Placing this brochure on your social media pages and club websites would also be a method to attract attention.

The second part of this grassroots effort is for amateur radio clubs to submit letters to their two state Senators and state Representative. At the bottom of the [Pass the Bill; The ARRL Grassroots Campaign](#) web page is a section designed for Radio Clubs. First, read the [instructions](#) for clubs as there are specific parts about editing the sample letter and who to email your filled out and completed letters to. Next is to download and edit the letter that will be delivered to your state personnel. Only one official from your club needs to sign the letter which will represent the club's intent. Please do not mail the letters to your state Senators and Representatives as they will not arrive on time due to security protocols all mailed items must go through before being delivered to the addressed offices. You can [Find Your Congressional Members](#) to address the proper individuals.

I recently emailed clubs, club presidents and club newsletter editors so this information can be discussed in club meetings. I am happy that several people emailed me stating they are sharing this with their members and posting on their web sites and social media and working with other local clubs to get the message out. However, approximately 15% of the 288 emails I sent bounced as invalid. I pulled the emails from the ARRL club listing which I interpret as Ohio club information being severely out of date.

At the September Findlay Hamfest the Findlay Radio Club was presented a letter and Plaque for being an ARRL Affiliated Club for 100 years by Scott Yonally, N8SY Great Lakes Director. It is exciting that amateur radio clubs have been in existence and continue to thrive for over a century!



Scott Reading the ARRL Letter to the club president. Club members with the plaque and letter.

Last month, using the meeting address from a listed club's information, I drove two hours to attend a club meeting which I had been invited to. When I got to the address there was one ham there who was also planning to attend but no one else was there. He assumed the meeting location had been changed and the club house was not the scheduled meeting place. We had a good conversation for about 30 minutes and then both left to return to our home locations. This again is a problem with the information in the club listings and caused undue travel and missed fellowship. I have learned my lesson; in the future I will ask the person who invites me to their meeting to follow up with the intended and not listed meeting location.

I am continuing to contact clubs regarding their ARRL Annual Report. I am once again happy to state that several clubs have followed up and updated their report. Just a note, if the person that last made the Annual Report input is not the same person trying to do it this time or is not listed as the club contact, then the online system will not let you make any edits. In this case, please send me an email with the name of the person making the club's edit and I will change the contact's name so they can then access the annual report and update the club's information.

I have been trying to contact clubs and listed personnel that have not provided an annual report update in over 10 years. Most of my communications to the email addresses and web pages show that these links are no longer valid. This is making it difficult (should I say impossible) to contact clubs that were affiliated. Even web searches for these clubs are not returning valid contact information. I will be sending USPS mail to the listed club addresses to attempt contact and ask for a return email from whomever is now in these clubs. My wish is to have every club in Ohio either remain or become an affiliated club. Any help you readers can provide about non-affiliated clubs would be greatly appreciated.

Here is a link to the ARRL web page with the current Affiliated Club listing: [ARRL Affiliated Clubs](#)

Link to an instructional overview of how to use the editing system: [Updating Your Club Record](#)

Note: To access the club record and edit the Annual Report you must be logged into the ARRL's website.

I intend to continue following up with clubs that I have already tried to contact and have not either updated their report or have not got back to me stating they are working on it or having issues with making changes. So, expect that second pestering email!

Is your club actively involved with public service events, ARES, or community service events and you have not applied to become an ARRL Special Service club then at your next meeting this would be a good topic to explore. I hear you ask what is an SSC? Here is the description. "A club that exists to go above and beyond for their communities and for Amateur Radio is what defines a Special Service Club (SSC). They are the leaders in their Amateur Radio communities who provide active training classes, publicity programs and actively pursue technical projects and operating activities.

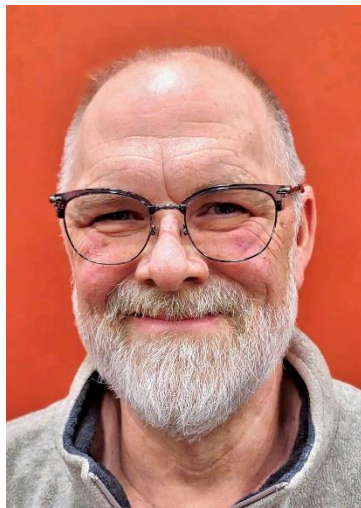
We currently have 20 SSCs within Ohio that are current and active. There are several (31) affiliated clubs that let their SSC designation expire. To apply for a renewal or new SSC use the following link to the application; <https://www.arrl.org/ssc-application>. Once you submit the completed form the ARRL will ask Tom and myself if we approve of your application. I imagine if the information on the application meets the criteria we will approve your designation.

If you know of any Ohio amateur radio clubs that are not affiliated and may be interested in learning about ARRL affiliation, please drop me an email. I will be happy to follow up on that lead to get their input and provide information.

I look forward to attending club meetings (yes, I will travel to meetings within the state) and welcome an email with the date, time, and correct location.

So, for October, stay “radio active” and **Ham It Up!**

73, de Terry, KI8N



Assistant Section Manager

Al Andress – KD8ZBS

Alinfarm12@gmail.com

The Left Foot of Acceptance

Social media is a great tool, when used with the right attitude.

Has anyone ever encountered an individual that the rise and fall of an issue rest solely upon their opinion, and watch out if anyone dares to disagree with anything that they may have said? Why do you suppose that is? Could it be that person has it all figured out, or maybe they just think that much of themselves that surely they could never be wrong about anything.

Well this is one thing I believe we can find to ring true, no one person has all the answers to all of the questions someone may have. Oh sure, there are some who may be very helpful, and even very correct with an answer, but their attitude gets in the way and what they are trying to communicate cannot get beyond their own lips and to the ears of the one who may be looking for answers.

Social media offers a great avenue to help other with our great hobby of Amateur Radio, but the attitude by which we convey the message we are trying to communicate gets lost in “the attitude”. Or maybe someone came up to a person at a club meeting and was treated with anything other than the respect that is needed to be an effective communicator.

As Amateur Radio operators, we have a lot of knowledge, skills, abilities etc., but often what is lacking is the basic ability to communicate with others in a manner that actually allows what we have to offer, to be heard by the other party. OK, I get it, we all worked hard, put in the hours, made the mistakes, the new guy can do the same.... And while I will advocate for a self-motivating approach to learning, I believe we each have a responsibility to learn how to effectively communicate what we have learned and experienced to a non-HAM or a new HAM when they are asking for our assistance.

Often we hear the “grumpy old guys” are the reason why our hobby is dying. Well I know a lot of grumpy people who are not exactly old that are not pleasant to interact with. And in many ways, this grumpy and ineffective attitude gives the “left foot of acceptance” with in our hobby, or any arena that we may be involved with.

Make a choice today how each of us can become better communicators in order to help others along in a hobby we enjoy and has so much to offer, to so many.

73,
AL KD8ZBS

John Myers, WG8X

wg8x.radio@gmail.com

330-936-5021

Well, the Ohio State Parks On The Air Contest (and the associated cross-checking of logs) is over. Now comes time to relax. HA! No, now comes time to prepare for winter. You know, raking leaves, winterizing the camper, etc. There never seems to be enough hours in the day.

Looking at the most popular pages this month on arrl-ohio.org, We have a new winner.

- 1) Hamfests (arrl-ohio.org/hamfests/) 74 Views
- 2) Arrl-ohio Home Page (arrl-ohio.org/) 54 Views
- 3) Ohio Section ARES (arrl-ohio.org/ohio-ares/) 23 Views
- 4) Section Swap & Shop (arrl-ohio.org/section-swap-shop/) 21 Views
- 5) Ohio ARES HF Digital Net (arrl-ohio.org/ohden/) 13 Views

It looks like the number of views are down a bit this month also.

There’s been a jpeg version of the flyer for the Ohio Section ARES Conference floating around. Unfortunately, the registration link was dead. So, if you want to register, please check out the flyer here on the section website. It is posted on the front page, and on the Ohio section ARES page (<https://arrl-ohio.org/ohio-ares/>)

And that’s it for this month. Have a great month. See you at the MAPS Hamfest! 73 DE WG8X



New Facebook Group

The **ARRL Ohio Section** has a new **Group Page** on **Facebook**. You are invited to join this public group. Group members will be able to post local club activities, share technical or operating information, announce Amateur Radio Licensing Classes and or VE Testing. You can also ask questions of other group members, share operating experiences, etc. You can post pictures of Ham Radio Activities and Events. We especially welcome Ohio Amateur Radio Clubs to share meeting dates, presentations, activities, etc.



You do need a Facebook account to join. If you already have one visit www.facebook.com/groups/oharrlsection to join the group. Answer the short questionnaire and your membership in the group should be confirmed in a day or so. You can then start posting to the group.

If you do not have a Facebook account you will first need to sign up for a free account. If you are hesitant to join Facebook, because you have heard horror stories about social media, you are able to limit your activities to just membership of this or other similar groups. Some people choose not to use Facebook for privacy concerns, while others may find it time-consuming, distracting, or simply

not interesting, but you can choose your own personal activity and involvement level. Facebook's privacy settings allow users to control who can see their posts, profile information, and other content, as well as who can find and contact them. Users can manage these settings through the "Settings & Privacy" menu and "Privacy Checkup". Key areas to review include who can see your posts, who can send you friend requests, and who can look you up using your email or phone number. Additionally, users can limit who can see their past posts and control ad preferences. You can control a variety of privacy and other settings for your account, including [“Stopping people from posting on your Facebook profile”](#) and [“Manage the About section of your Facebook profile.”](#)

Training and Qualification—Register by October 18!

C. Matthew Curtin, KD8TTE

When the primary and alternate methods of voice and data communications degrade in the wake of disaster, government agencies need reliable contingency and emergency options. Specification of the Auxiliary Communicator (AUXC) as a Typed Resource under the National Incident Management System (NIMS) doctrine helps to ensure that individual volunteers are not only “trained” but have demonstrated capability.

When the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services considered how to communicate with counterparts at the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other State of Ohio facilities with impacted communications, they turned to the Adjutant General’s Department, home of Ohio’s Army National Guard, Air National Guard, and State Defense Force commands. Fortunately it was only an exercise this time, but the communication system worked, providing data service for critical locations throughout Ohio and options for moving beyond the state.

For the third consecutive year, The Adjutant General’s Department of the State of Ohio is offering a training program that helps volunteers take training into operational capability and qualification for State operators, and for operators who want to help their local agencies reach the state networks. Registration is open only through October 18, 2025.

The course is presented in hybrid format, combining videoconference, on-air, and in-person activity spread over a 23-week period starting in November and concluding in March. On a task-by-task basis, volunteers are qualified by a state agency. Some complete the entire task book, and others get started in the journey. Either way, there is learning and achievement.

AUXC candidates and those who have completed the qualification have made a few remarks about what to expect.

- “Excellent course to be able to "put it all together" in Auxcomm terms. The more exposure and experience to digital comms and non ham protocols/signals etc the better. Not focused on casual operator who just wants to feel like he is a part of Emergency comms.”
- “Practical and effective. Focused/Immersive.”
- “Takes you from talking about it to doing it.”
- “Good at amateur radio? Good at EmComms? Good on public safety radio? Like, really good? Come get even better, train up to military standards. You'll need the right knowledge, skills, attitude, equipment: train to get the communications tasks accomplished. Major time and effort commitment: totally worth it.”
- “Difficult, but well worth the effort.”
- “The best thing about the course is the no fault training environment. No one was belittled for failing a task; rather, they were encouraged to tackle it again. Along this line, I felt that only those things that were truly mastered were marked as "trained", i.e., there was no pencil whipping. Consequently, I believe such training creates confidence.”
- “This was an awesome experience and I am better for the experience and proud of my achievement.”

Register now to apply for the Ohio AUXC Qualification Course! Registration open only through October 18, 2025. <https://www.blackswancomex.org/net/auxc>



National News

(from ARRL and other sources)

ARRL Simulated Emergency Test in October

Amateur radio is a national resource before and When All Else Fails®. During National Preparedness Month in September, ARRL shared resilience tools and frameworks with hams. In October, it is time to assess amateur radio's readiness via the ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET).



Each ARRL Section will have a different scenario that puts equipment, operators, and plans to the test. "This nationwide exercise is the chance to test your personal emergency-operating skills and the readiness of your communications equipment and accessories in a simulated emergency-like deployment," said ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV.

ARRL Field Organization leaders at the Section and local levels, and many other volunteers who are active in public service and emergency communications, are developing simulated emergency-like scenarios in consultation with a variety of agencies and organizations for whom radio amateurs are known to provide service during emergencies.

Find more information about the SET, visit www.arrl.org/simulated-emergency-test. For information on getting involved in the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) visit www.arrl.org/ares.

Amateur Radio Licensing Update During US Government Shutdown

A bulletin sent to ARRL Members included information about the impact of the US Government shutdown on licensing for the Amateur Radio Service.

The government shutdown began at 12:01 Eastern time on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, when Congress had not passed an appropriations bill or other plan to keep the government funded for the new fiscal year (begins October 1).

The Federal Communications Commission, which issues Amateur Radio Service licenses, issued a [Public Notice](#) on Tuesday, September 30, indicating that it would suspend most operations following a shutdown.

“Aside from a few emergency and auction filing systems, all other Commission electronic filing systems will be unavailable to the public until normal agency operations resume,” said the FCC Notice.

[ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator](#) (ARRL VEC) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said the FCC systems appeared to go off-line around 1 PM Eastern time on Wednesday, and are redirecting to the Public Notice. This means the FCC will not be processing any amateur radio license applications during the shutdown, which includes individual, club, and exam session (new and upgrade) applications.

“But ARRL Volunteer Examiners should continue giving exam sessions,” said Somma. “Keep doing what you’re doing. Keep serving new and upgrade candidates for amateur radio licenses.” Somma also urged that Volunteer Examiners continue to promptly forward session results from their exams to the ARRL VEC.

“Please do not hold your session results. Send your sessions to us, and ARRL VEC will continue to queue all applications as they are received. Once the federal government reopens, ARRL VEC will promptly resume submitting applications to the FCC for processing. So, keep sending sessions to the ARRL VEC.”

The FCC’s shutdown notice indicated that CORES registration system would remain available for certain activities, but **New Registrations are currently not being accepted**. This means that **new applicants cannot register for an FRN**. This has created a temporary barrier for individuals who wish to take an amateur radio exam but do not yet have an FRN. Existing users can still log in and access their accounts and applicants who already have an FRN can test without issue.



Given the current situation, there is **active discussion** within the testing community about **temporarily allowing testing without an FRN**, with the understanding that:

1. The applicant would take the exam and receive a CSCE (Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination).
2. Once CORES resumes issuing new registrations, the applicant would:
 - Register for an FRN.
 - Contact the coordinating VEC with their FRN.
 - Have their application submitted retroactively.

This approach would preserve momentum for new licensees and avoid delays in testing.

Please continue to check the ARRL website for updates as they become available.

The FCC's Universal Licensing System ([ULS](#)) databases are also currently unavailable to the public. ULS and related systems (like the License Manager, License Search, Application Search, etc.) are not accessible during the shutdown. Users cannot file applications with the FCC, or access license data, including address information.

To find an amateur radio exam session, please visit www.arrl.org/find-an-exam. For a list of VE Teams that offer Online Exam Sessions, go to www.arrl.org/online-exam-session.

ARLS001 Hams Needed to Track NASA Moon Mission

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is seeking volunteers to passively track the 2026 Artemis II Orion spacecraft as the crewed mission travels to the Moon and back to Earth.

The story on the 2026 Artemis II Orion project can be found online at www.nasa.gov/mission/artemis-ii.

The Artemis II test flight will send NASA astronauts Reid Wiseman, KF5LKT; Victor Glover, KI5BKC; and Christina Koch, along with Canadian Space Agency (CSA) astronaut Jeremy Hansen, KF5LKU, on an approximately 10-day mission around the Moon.

Targeted for no later than April 2026, the mission will rely on NASA's Near Space Network and Deep Space Network for primary communications and tracking support throughout its launch, orbit, and reentry. However, with a growing focus on commercialization, NASA wants to further understand industry's tracking capabilities.

This collaboration opportunity builds upon a previous request released by NASA's Space Communication and Navigation Program (SCaN) during the Artemis I mission in 2022. Ten volunteers successfully tracked the uncrewed Orion spacecraft on its journey thousands of miles beyond the Moon and back.

One of those volunteers tracking in 2022 was Scott Chapman, K4KDR, of Montpelier, Virginia. "Sometimes it's what you don't know that makes this kind activity interesting," said Chapman. "All I had was a small S-band dish and receiver, and wasn't sure what I could or couldn't hear...but when I started hearing the signals...it made everything worth it."

Chapman said he felt good about the whole process and, while it was interesting, it was also a lot of fun!

There were also other participants during the Artemis I mission, including international space agencies, academic institutions, commercial companies, nonprofits, and private citizens who were also attempting to receive Orion's signals. Chapman added that NASA is also looking for commercial partnerships to share in the process.

If you're interested in volunteering for next year's event, all of the information can be found at [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov). The response deadline is October 27, 2025, at 5:00 PM EDT.

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: www.arrl.org/opt-in-out

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 your 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



NORTH CENTRAL OHIO INFORMATION & TRAFFIC NET

The North Central Ohio Information and Traffic Net is held at 10:15 am every Wednesday and will go for an hour or so. This net has been developed to handle traffic, provide information on various amateur radio topics, review technical information and list amateur radio events for our areas.

Check in, get a signal report, stay as long as you can.

There are 11 linked repeaters available on the KA8VDW System

1. 147.2550 + PL 107.2 Republic
2. 444.4375 + PL 107.2 Republic
3. 443.6250 + PL 162.2 Polk
4. 443.0750 + PL 151.4 Mansfield
5. 146.8050 - PL 110.9 Berlin Hts
6. 442.6750 + PL 162.2 Berlin Hts
7. 053.2900 - PL 107.2 Berlin Hts
8. 443.9875 + PL 162.2 Elyria
9. 146.6550 - PL 110.9 Sandusky
10. 444.3250 + PL 131.8 Russell
11. 051.62000 - PL 107.2 Russell

Dan – KC8PBU

09-28-2025

2025 MARC Hamfest at MAPS

This is your official invite to one of Ohio's really great hamfests- the **2025 MARC Hamfest at MAPS**. This amazing hamfest, November 2nd, features 100 vendor tables full of electronic gear of all sorts- ham radios, computers, antennas, accessories- all here on display in N. Canton, Ohio. MAPS (Military Aviation Preservation Society) is a great venue in and of itself. MAPS Air Museum is an internationally known museum of aviation and serves as the center of aviation history for Northeast Ohio.

Your \$8 admission (children under 18 are free) gives you access to both the hamfest and the MAPS museum. We will be giving away hundreds of door prizes from companies like ICOM, DX Engineering, Heil, Radioddity, Retevis and many others regularly during the swap. Our main prizes are:

Two (2!) ICOM IC-7300's
Radioddity GD AT10 G DMR HT
Brand new MFJ Antenna Analyzer (Yes, we planned ahead!)
\$100 DX Engineering Gift Certificate
and too many more to list...

The ARRL will be represented and we will have VE Testing in a quiet atmosphere. Those seeking their Technician's license will be admitted free for testing. We have also partnered with

Gigaparts and QRZ.com to make highly discounted VHF/UHF handheld radios available to our brand new Technicians through their *New Ham Jumpstart Program*.

There will be coffee, other beverages, and tasty food available for purchase. The ladies at MAPS do a wonderful job each year with the food they prepare. The food quality is one of the most frequently complimented items we hear about each year from attendees. We also provide a dedicated area with tables and chairs so you can relax, get off your feet, and visit with your friends as you enjoy a break.

The last 3 years we have noticed a new trend- ham ops bringing their children/grandchildren with them to the swap. These hams enjoy the hamfest and then take their kids around to see the exhibits and airplanes, too. We fully support this educational and fun activity which, as a sidelight, encourages young people to take an interest in ham radio as well as science and technology. One of our purposes is to introduce both the community and our children to the greatest hobby ever- amateur radio. This is why we allow children to join us free of charge.

I could go on and on about the MARC Hamfest at MAPS but hopefully this has been enough to encourage you to join us. We are proud to have kept this event family friendly and affordable. Tickets are only \$8 and can be purchased online at **W8NP.net (where you can find further info)** or at the door. Our vendor setup begins at 5am. Doors open to the public at 8am. The swap runs until 1pm.

MAPS address is: 2260 International Pkwy, N. Canton, OH, 44720. We are just off I-77 behind the Akron-Canton Airport. We are an ARRL sanctioned hamfest supported by the Massillon ARC.

Best 73,
Gerald Sorensen, KG8RRY
Massillon ARC Hamfest Chairman

VE Sessions

The following information is for *ALL* exam sessions:

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

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

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

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

Alliance Amateur Radio Club

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

Upcoming 2025 Exam Dates are: Saturday, October 25th, 2025.
Watch for 2026 dates coming soon

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 Fligi, 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



University Geauga Hospital and just east of the Geauga County Safety Center (Sheriff's Office), off of State Route 44 between State Route 322 and State Route 87 on Merritt Road.

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

Additional info may be obtained from Jackie Welch, N8JMW by email n8jmw2@gmail.com or calling at 440-228-2716. More information is available from the Geauga Amateur Radio Association website <https://geaugaara.org>

Huber Heights Amateur Radio Club

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

The Lake County Amateur Radio Association

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

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

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

To register, you will need a 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 K8GQB.COM WEB SITE FOR UPDATES.
MEETING TIME IS 6:30 PM.
WE HAVE ACTIVITY MEETINGS ON THE ODD MONTHS AND
BUSINESS MEETINGS ON THE EVEN MONTHS.

Madison County

The Madison County Amateur Radio Club Laurel testing group offers testing on the first Thursday of January, March, May, July 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)

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 45150. The 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 .

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me (Jim Wilson – AC8NT) at jawilson@j3solutions.com

Tusco Amateur Radio Club W8ZX

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

Silvercreek ARA (SARA)

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

Exam sessions for 2024:

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

Exam sessions for 2025:

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

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

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

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

Saturday, October 4th - Sharon Center UM Church (Wadsworth/Medina Co.)
Saturday, December 6th - Sharon Center UM Church (Wadsworth/Medina Co.)

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

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

DX This Week – #349

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



Welcome to another episode of DX This Week! I had a great time at the Western KY DX Association DX Workshop this past week. AD8FD, Brian, K4ZLE, Jay, K8DV, Dave, and I went down together and spent the day talking about DX to an eager group of folks who want to get better. I believe that they originally hoped to get 40 attendees, but they topped out at over 60! A good time was had by all. Rumor is that after the Workshop, AD8FD is dropping his Honor Roll chase, and focusing on operating satellite from Wal-Mart parking lots, but we will know more about that later.

The DX word for this week is “tail-ending.” **“Tail-ending”** refers to a specific operating technique used to initiate contact with another station immediately after a QSO ends.

More specifically, it means waiting for two stations to finish their QSO, and then quickly calling one of them as soon as they sign off. It’s a way to jump in without interrupting the ongoing exchange. This technique is especially common when trying to contact a rare or desirable station that’s been active on a frequency.

For example, if WB8LCD and N8SY are wrapping up their QSO, you might hear: “73, from WB8LCD.”

At that moment, you would transmit: “WB8LCD, this AJ8B” just as WB8LCD stops transmitting.

This approach is considered efficient, as long as the station you are trying to QSO with doesn’t mind; some do.

I typically only use this technique during a contest or pileup. And, if you are going to use it, you should practice it.

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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.

The following DX information 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 note at thedxmentor@gmail.com

During the Scouts Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) event this year, October 18-19, Special callsign E2JOTA will be active from Thailand. JOTA is an annual event in Scouting that facilitates global communication among Scouts through amateur radio. It is held in conjunction with Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) on the third full weekend of October each year.

Ken, LA7GIA, reports the 3Y0K Bouvet container has departed from Oslo and is now en route to Bouvet Island, marking the beginning of its long journey after being packed ahead of schedule last month.

Chris. VK2YUS, will once again operate as YJ0CA from Port Vila, Vanuatu, between October 14th and 24th, 2025. He'll be active on SSB only, using the same equipment as before: simple wire antennas and verticals covering 40m to 10m bands, along with an IC-7300 and a compact amplifier. Most of his operating will take place between 2100z and 1000z. Please note that Chris exclusively uses paper logbooks and provides confirmations via high-quality physical QSL cards-he does not use electronic logging or QSL systems. Requested QSL cards for confirmed contacts will be mailed by Air Mail from Australia in November. For full QSL details, visit his website on QRZ.com

After "complicated discussions with customs" DF2WO, Harald, was able to obtain his "confiscated equipment" for his XT2AW, Burkina Faso, DXpedition. He began operations Monday just before 1900Z with reports of activity on FT8 on 60, 12, 10, 6 meters, CW on 15 meters and SSB on 10 meters. He has also been on QO-100. Harald plans to be there for the next three weeks on 160-6 meters.
<https://www.qrz.com/db/XT2AW>

As a reminder VE7BV, Dwight, is QRV from Guatemala where he is operating holiday style as TG9BBV until October 25. Activity is on CW, SSB, and FT8 on 7 through 50 MHz. QSL direct or via the bureau to VE7BV and LoTW.

JG7PSJ, Harry, is QRV as WH0RU from Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands until October 12.

Our V6D DXPedition to Micronesia is slowly coming to an end. On Monday afternoon local time, we will dismantle the beam and the large vertical antenna.

The other antennas will remain in place for a few more hours.

With a total of over 90,000 QSOs from more than 160 DXCC areas and over 20,000 unique stations, we are very satisfied with the result. On Tuesday, we will return via Guam and Tokyo. After our arrival in Germany, the log will be checked for accuracy, and a final version will be made available on Club Log for OQRS.

Our sponsors will then receive their LoTW confirmation shortly. The QSL cards should be printed in about four weeks, and then our QSL manager will begin shipping them according to priority. Generous sponsors will receive a small photo book, which should be available in early December.

Thank you from our team of nine to everyone who supported us and worked with us.

E6 - Niue

The Rebel DX Group should be QRV from Niue as E6AD. For the first weeks it seems the emphasis will be FT4 and MSHV SuperFox. The entire operation will emphasize digital and CW, with a "little SSB as well."

E51MWA, North Cook Islands Update

We be in Rarotonga by October 7. We will then begin building our antenna field by late afternoon. It will take a few days to unpack our equipment and get on the air. We are fortunate this time that all equipment shipped and carried on is delivered or with us.

We are carrying a 6m antenna and KX3 as a dedicated 6m receiver with a loud alarm alerting us to any activity. So, get on 6m and call CQ using FT8. When openings occur, we will shift one of our three operating stations to 6m.

We are very excited to get started!

Team E51MWA

The DX Mentor features a new YouTube episode this weekend – “Salty” Walt, K6OGO discussed his ham radio journey and his fantastic new book, “Portable Antenna Sketchbook.” Check it out and let me know what you think!

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.

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CONTEST CORNER

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

Since we will be discussing 2 CQWW contests in the coming month, (the end of October is CQWW SSB and the end of November is CQWW CW), I will share the history of the contest over the next month. The first half is below. This information is directly from the CQWW webpage (<https://www.cqww.com/history.htm>)

“The modern **CQ Worldwide DX Contest** began in 1948, three years after CQ magazine was first published. Presented here is a brief history of the CQ WW contest.

In order to understand the misty past of the CQ WW Contest's origin, let's first trace the history of CQ's predecessors. The story begins with **Pacific Radio News**, which started in 1917. This publication turned into **Radio magazine** in 1921. **Radio magazine** had its home in Northern California. Another magazine, **The Oscillator**, which began in the late 1920's, turned into **R/9 magazine** in 1932.

(The referenced documents are found on the CQWW website)

First there were Zones

The editor and all-around man of ideas at **R/9** was K.V.R. Lansingh, W6QX. **R/9** had its home in Southern California and was published out of W6QX's house. **R/9** had no traditional office per se, so most contributors didn't meet up with other staff members. Contributors just mailed or dropped off their articles to W6QX.

In the November 1934 issue of **R/9 magazine**, the WAZ award program was announced for the first time. It was called, [R/9 DX Zones of the World](#). The original zone map (Copyrighted 1934) was drafted by Mark. M. Bowelle, W4CXY. W4CXY was first licensed as W9GVX in 1930. The next year he also held W9ICJ and in 1932 was W9MW. He held the copyright on the US call area map appearing in the 1932 Callbook. Mr. Bowelle was a draftsman whose name can be found on many schematic drawings in **R/9**. The **R/9 DX Zones of the World** map differed in many ways from the modern CQ WAZ map. The boundaries of zones 16, 17, 18, 19, 23 and 24 changed in later editions and only a few country names were shown in Europe (13 countries), Asia (5), N. America (7) and Oceania (5). By looking at the [original map](#) and comparing it against the [modern version](#) you can see these differences. One of the key features of the CQ WW contest was now established.

Whose idea was the WAZ in the first place? We do not know. An educated guess would be the idea first was created by W6QX, a man of many ideas, who thought it up and assigned the project to a group of fellow hams. We do know that the first map was then drawn up by Mr. Bowelle. Unfortunately, the true origin of the WAZ idea remains lost to time.

In January 1936, **R/9 magazine** bought out Radio magazine and published the new **R/9-Radio magazine** from Southern California. In February of the same

year, the name was changed to **Radio magazine**. The name **Radio magazine** was retained because it had the earlier origin. In the February 1936 issue, **Radio magazine** announced its own WAZ award. The map was the same as was first published in the November 1934 **R/9 magazine**. It still had Mr. Bowelle's name on it. The map was now called **Radio magazine's DX Zones of the World**.

Radio magazine of February 1936 carried an article called, "**DX Zones of the World: A new DX Yardstick**" and a revised zone map/text were published. In this article it was clearly stated the lines of the zones were drawn with "no consideration to the number of amateurs which may be located within a particular zone, as this is a factor of no permanence." A footnote stated, "Repeated objections to the division of a country even for such a purpose as the W.A.Z. plan have been received from one of the more nationalistic inclined countries. No changes have been made on this account, however, as it is our contention that **an advancing wave front cannot recognize a political boundary even when it sees one.**" (!!) The new zone map which was copyrighted 1936 by **Radio magazine** had undergone some changes. The original 1934 version had been modified. The boundaries of zones 17, 18, 19, 23 and 24 had been re-drawn. The boundaries of the new 1936 version of the zone map are almost identical to the 1994 zone map. As you might guess, the country names had changed.

The WAZ map that appeared in January 1939 **Radio magazine** was incorrect because it had been copied directly from the [R/9 1934 map](#). For a correct version of the WAZ map, the reader was referred to the "**Radio**" **Handbook**. The Radio Handbook zone map, "**Radio DX ZONES of the WORLD**", was copyrighted 1937 by Radio, Ltd. and drafted by [Mark M. Bowelle, W4CXY](#). In this version, the modern boundaries of zone 16 were fixed, and if you looked very carefully, you would find that the name Grenada (J3) had been dropped from the zone 9. All earlier versions of the zone map included Grenada in zone 9. The **Radio Handbook** was published by **Radio magazine** and still survives today edited by Bill Orr, W6SAI.

The original article describing the reasons for the WAZ award was given in the [R/9 1934 issue](#). The same reasons were given later by W6QD in an article which goes on to say that the WAZ was conceived in response to the increasing ease in working the WAC award. DX men needed something more difficult to strive to achieve. **There was no DXCC award available in 1934**, so out of the hope of providing a more challenging goal, the WAZ was born. The WAZ

program predates DXCC. The WAZ map was drawn along boundaries of states or territories. It was also drawn without regard to activity from certain areas. It was assumed that these areas would have more activity in the future.

The WAZ map was the first part of the future CQ WW that was established. Further changes in the WAZ map included South Sakhalin Is and the Kuril Is being changed from [zone 25 to zone 19 \(1945\)](#) and the southern boundary of zone 2 was lowered (1990). Interestingly, when the original zone map was drawn up in 1934 southern Sakhalin Island or Karafuto (it's Japanese name) was Japanese territory (since 1905). The original (and modern) written WAZ boundaries say that zone 25 is the Japanese zone (Japan and Korea). Since Karafuto was Japanese territory it was placed in zone 25. When the treaty of 1945 was signed, Japan relinquished its control of all of Sakhalin Is. to Russia. By definition, all of Sakhalin Is. was now in the Eastern Siberian Zone: UAO = zone 19. So no UA0 should have ever signed Zone 25! It will be interesting to see what happens if the Kuril Islands are returned to Japan someday. They might switch from zone 19 to zone 25!

It should be remembered that the modern zone map (1994) is really **only** an historical document. **It should NOT be used to determine zone boundaries.** Only the **written** WAZ definitions (cqww.com -> resources) will tell you what the zone boundaries.”

If you are interested in details of the Zones, I would encourage you to check out the following <https://www.mapability.com/ei8ic/maps/cqzone.php>

If you are new to these contests, they are a great opportunity hone your skills and work some great DX. There are a lot of stations operating at least some of the time. “And, as has been seen in other contests, with everyone staying at home, worldwide activity was at record levels with 9,242 logs submitted in this year’s contest, a 19.4% increase over last year’s impressive total of 7,742 entries! “¹

Often, DX can be worked the week before and days after the contest. I find this especially true for those folks that travel to the Caribbean. They will arrive a week before and test out the equipment giving us ample time to work them. Also, they don’t fly out right after the contest so you may pick them up on the Monday or Tuesday after the contest weekends.

Another prime time is Sunday afternoon. You can work some excellent DX that has already been worked by most of the stations. Beware that you don't wait until then as propagation could fade and you will lose your chance.

However, what is important is Time in the Chair. This goes for contesting specifically and DXing in general. It is a 48-hour contest, how much time is enough? According to CQ magazine, in the 2020 CQWW SSB contest, "It turns out that about half of us operated around 10 hours in 2020 CQWW DX SSB contest (See Table 3 for more information on operating time. –ed). On the opposite end of the spectrum there were seven extremists who defeated all human limitations by operating the entire 48 hours. If that isn't hard enough, a couple of them accomplished this while operating with two radios in various configurations." ¹

¹ https://www.cqww.com/results/2020_cq_ww_dx_ssb_results.pdf

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

Contest	Start Date	End Date
Nevada QSOP	10/11/2025	10/12/2025
Arizona QSOP	10/11/2025	10/12/2025
Oceania DX Contest, CW	10/11/2025	10/12/2025
Arizona QSOP	10/12/2025	10/13/2025
Pennsylvania QSOP	10/12/2025	10/13/2025
Nevada QSOP	10/12/2025	10/13/2025
South Dakota QSOP	10/11/2025	10/12/2025
10-10 Intl. Fall Contest, CW	10/18/2025	10/19/2025
New York QSOP	10/18/2025	10/19/2025
Illinois QSOP	10/19/2025	10/20/2025
CQ WW DX Contest, SSB	10/25/2025	10/26/2025

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!

OHIO'S



This morning I received a phone call from long-time friend Assistant Great Lakes Director Roy Hook, W8REH. Roy and I go back to growing up in Clinton County, going to adjoining high schools and being involved with the **Clinton County ARA** at the same time. Roy reminded me of the on-going ARRL letter writing campaign, but more important was his back home welcome to N8ZNR and me after our 5,800 mile road trip to Oregon for a family gathering.

Both of us agree there are more positives to ham radio than there are negatives. Although this year marked about Kathy and my sixth cross county trip to the West Coast in the past 20 years it called attention to what I think is one of few ham radio injustices. We key our rigs, give out a call and within seconds we're chatting with someone in a place like Vancouver, WA who is thousands of miles away. The speed of that communication gives us no evidence of how vast this nation is. Maybe it's just that I'm getting older, but it never hit me that way until this trip.

Although Autumn is now officially here it does not mean that Ohio' South 40 amateur radio activities cease.

One of the things continuing is the number of new licenses being issued to area residents. Last time out we noted Brenda McClanahan passed her Tech at the Athens County ARA's trunkfest and was awaiting the assignment of her call sign. We are pleased to announce that Brenda is now KF8EVU. David Florkowski and Shiloh Lewis from Wilmington are now KF8EXA and KF8EXZ. Greenfield's Jack Watson II is now KF8EXF and Hocking County has a new addition in Jeremy Ward of Logan being KF8EWJ. Kevin Guibord of Amelia is KF8EXV and Ron Hersberger from Winchester is KF8EXZ. Should you hear them on the air, give them a call to offer your assistance and encouragement. Or contact them and see what they need to get on the air. Again congrats to all the new licensees.



I'm certain a topic for discussion at the weekly Sunday morning gathering of the **Vinton County ARA** at Smokin' Beans in McArthur will be their upcoming swap fest. Encouraged by last years unexpected attendance at their initial swap fest, they will hold their second 'fest' at the McArthur Community Building 31935 SR 93 N on October 11 from until Noon. October 11 also finds

Wood County (WV) Emergency Communications

Group holding a hamfest at the 4-H campground at Mineral Wells from 8 until noon. Admission is \$5. Tickets are already on sale for the Saturday, November 8 **Grant RC** hamfest at the ABCAP Building, 406 West Plum Street in Georgetown. Tickets are \$5 each with the main prize being a \$600 R&L Electronics gift certificate. The doors open at 8 am. Members of the **Highland ARA** also have tickets available.



The **Portage County ARS** received just shy of 100 logs from Ohio State Parks On The Air participants. Although band conditions left a lot to be desired, spirits were high and there was a lot of time for new hams to get some seat time as well as for all to share good food and conversation. The final recap should be available in the very near future indicating how many of Ohio's 76 State Parks were activated.

On September 20 we found several members of the **Highland ARA** manning a ham radio and GMRS information booth at the annual Highland County Jeep Fest. The Highland County Fairgrounds was the site for the event sponsored by the county veterans services department in Hillsboro. The funds raised are to be used to construct veterans memorials in Mowrystown and Lynchburg. Members also manned the communications badge table at the recent Girl Scout Cascadia Zombie Survival Challenge at Greenfield. HARA members stated there was quite a bit of interest at each activity. Additionally, yours truly presented an amateur radio themed program to the members of the Hillsboro Rotary Club at their recent meeting.

Speaking of HARA, COVID put an end to the traditional Fall carry-in picnic business meeting. Therefore it is being brought back with a wiener roast/meeting on Tuesday, October 14. It will be held at the former Levo Century Farm field day site near New Vienna. Neighboring amateurs, spouses and clubs are invited to attend. This will also afford an opportunity for viewing and finding new homes for the remaining ham radio estate items the Club has. More information will be available on the Club's Facebook page as the date gets closer. We just hope there is no repeat of the combine explosion and fire this year!

The **OH-KY-IN ARS** provided advance information that the location for its November meeting has been changed. Because of it being on Election Day, November 11, the usual Arlington Heights

Village Hall meeting location is being used as a polling place and unavailable. Therefore the meeting will be held at the Lockland Church of the Nazarene, 335 West Wyoming, Cincinnati.

With Autumn now upon us, I suspect club conducted fox hunts will soon pause for the season. However word from the Home Tavern in Logan, where members of the **Hocking Valley ARA** ajourned to following their most recent event, states they will conduct one this month and should the weather hold, they anticipate holding one in November. Watch their website for details as they progress.

The **Bainbridge Area Ham Group** will hold their monthly breakfast gathering on October 11 at the Dutch Restaurant, SR 41, Bainbridge beginning at 8 AM. Then the **Highland ARA** will hold their monthly Brunch Bunch gathering at the Harmony Lake Shelter House at Hillsboro's Liberty Park at 10 AM. About 1 PM the **OH-KY-IN ARS** will gather at the Price Hill Chili, 4920 Glenway in Cincinnati for their monthly gathering.



Retuning to Hillsboro from Oregon, N8ZNR and I spent our final road night touring Hannibal, MO. Although best known for Huck Finn, Tom Sawyer and Mark Twain, we discovered it was also the boyhood home of Joe Lear, the inventor of the Lear Jet. Apparently he first had a love for electronics and invented a battery eliminator allowing early radios to use household electricity instead of the B batteries required at the time. He also created car radios that led to his becoming a founder of Motorola. Additionally he holds the patent for inventing the eight track tape player. An amusing thing about him was his love to show up his teachers and being kicked out of school for doing so.

Although I haven't heard of any contacts with the ISS as it recently streaked across the South 40 evening skies, hams throughout the area enjoyed some really spectacular visual passes of it.

Are you or your local club aware that 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States? Already communities across the nation are planning ways and events to celebrate the occasion. As our part of Ohio played an important part in the opening of the frontier to the nation's expansion and its settlement, what better way to call attention to the existence of amateur radio and the service it provides than for a group of hams or club to conduct some type of a special event operation during the year that calls attention to something unique about your community?

Have you responded to the recent request from the ARRL to take part in the letter writing to your elected Representative or Senator campaign to protect our right to erect a ham radio antenna in an otherwise restricted area? If not, please take a few moments to check out the ARRL website and <https://send-a-letter.org/hoa/> or www.arrl.org/HOA to gain insight what this campaign is all about. You do not have to be an ARRL member to participate. It only takes a few minutes to read, input answers to a couple questions and hit the "submit" button. The League takes care of the rest. Although most of us are not affected by antenna restrictions and/or the NIMBY crowd, there are thousands of our fellow hams who either are or will be at some time. Let's take a few moments to make an all out effort to save amateur radio for future generations of hams to enjoy.

Here's hoping everyone had a safe and enjoyable Summer. But now it's time to put that all behind you and prepare for the Fall and Winter seasons. However before that happens you need to check your antennas and other outside ham radio projects before Mother Nature throws cold temperatures and other nasty stuff at us. It's not pleasant having to replace a bad feedline, reinstall an antenna leg or climb a tower when it's 20° outside with wind and a skiff of snow.

John, W8KIW

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

ARLD040 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 web sites. Thanks to all.

UGANDA, 5X. Pista, HA5AO is QRV as 5X2I until October 10. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

CROATIA, 9A. Special event station 9A10SOTA is QRV until September 30, 2026 to celebrate ten years of SOTA Croatia. QSL via LoTW.

NAURU, C2. Phill, C21TS is QRV until November 30. QSL via LoTW.

SOLOMON ISLANDS, H4. Bernhard, DL2GAC is QRV as H44MS from Malaita Island, IOTA OC-047, until November 25. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL to home call.

SVALBARD, JW. Operators JW7XK, JW9DL, and JW6VM will be QRV from Longyearbyen, IOTA EU-026, from October 8 to 13. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4, and on Satellite RS-44. This includes being an entry in the upcoming Scandinavian Activity SSB contest as JW5X. QSL via LA7XK, LA9DL, LA6VM, and LA5X, respectively.

MINAMI TORISHIMA, JD1. Take, JG8NQJ is QRV as JG8NQJ/JD1 until December while working at the weather station here. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using CW and some FT8. QSL direct to JA8CJY.

MARIANA ISLANDS, KH0. Harry, JG7PSJ is QRV as WH0RU from Saipan, IOTA OC-086, until October 12. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and various digital modes. QSL direct to home call.

SEYCHELLES, S7. Kasimir, DL2SBY is QRV as S79/DL2SBY until October 12. Activity is on the HF bands, and 6 meters. QSL via LoTW.

GUATEMALA, TG. Dwight, VE7BV will be QRV as TG9BBV from October 5 to 25. Activity will be on 40 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and possibly FT8. QSL via LoTW.

MICRONESIA, V6. A group of operators are QRV as V6D from Chuuk Island, IOTA OC-011, until October 6. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters with five stations using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8. QSL via DL4SVA.

BURKINA FASO, XT. Harald, DF2WO will be QRV as XT2AW from October 4 to 27. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, FT8, and other digital modes. QSL to home call.

VANUATU, YJ. Bob, ZL1RS is QRV as YJ0RS from Efate Island, IOTA OC-035, until October 10. Activity is mostly on 6 meters using FT8 and on EME. QSL via LoTW.

Upcoming Hamfests

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



Ohio Hamfests

2025

10/11/2025 - <u>Williams County ARA Hamfest</u> Location: Montpelier, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Williams County ARA Learn More	
10/12/2025 - <u>Ashland Trunkfest</u> Location: Ashland, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Ashland Area Amateur Radio Club Learn More	11/02/2025 - <u>2025 MARC Hamfest at MAPS</u> Location: N. Canton, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Massillon ARC Website: http://www.w8np.net Learn More
11/08/2025 - <u>GARC Hamfest</u> Location: Georgetown, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Grant Amateur Radio Club Learn More	12/06/2025 - <u>FCARC Winter Hamfest</u> Location: Delta, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: FCARC Website: https://k8bxq.org/hamfest Learn More
01/18/2026 - <u>SCARF Hamfest</u> Location: Shade, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: SCARF members Learn More	01/31/2026 - <u>Struthers ROAR Mid-Winter Hamfest</u> Location: Struthers, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Struthers Regional Operators of Amateur Radio Website: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61580196127715 Learn More
04/11/2026 - <u>Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club 70th Hamfest</u> Location: Cuyahoga Falls, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Website: https://www.cfarc-hamfest.org Learn More	08/15/2026 - <u>Cincinnati HamfestSM, ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention</u> Location: Owensville, OH Type: ARRL Convention Sponsor: Milford Amateur Radio Club Website: https://cincinnatihamfest.org/ Learn More
08/15/2026 - <u>Cincinnati HamfestSM, ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention</u>	08/16/2026 - <u>Warren Hamfest</u> Location: Cortland, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest

Location: Owensville, OH
Type: ARRL Convention
Sponsor: Milford Amateur Radio Club

Website: <https://cincinnatihamfest.org/>
Learn More

Sponsor: Warren Amateur Radio Association
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*

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE			
KE3GK			
John Q. Amateur 123 Maple Avenue Anytown, State 00000			
FCC Registration Number (FRN): 000000000			
Special Conditions / Endorsements			
NONE			
Grant Date	Effective Date	Print Date	Expiration Date
01/01/2008	01/01/2013	01/01/2008	01/01/2013
File Number	Operator Privileges	Station Privileges	
000000000	Advanced	GENERAL	
THIS LICENSE IS NOT TRANSFERABLE			
John Q. Amateur (Licensee's Signature)			000000000 - May 2007

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

Final... Final

Can you believe it? We’ve got more hamfests on the list for NEXT year than we do for the remainder of this year! It’s been a busy year with lots of fests – I’m sorry I can’t have been to all of them, but we really do have a lot of good fests in the OHIO Section. If you haven’t been to one yet, you’ve still got time and some pretty good venues to choose from. For awhile it seemed like most fests were filled with mostly boat anchors. Technology so old it was just a step away from the museum. Lately I’ve seen a lot of older equipment that was still very serviceable –

especially on the HF bands. Not new and full of gizmos, but usable and bargain priced! I can also say that for not a whole lot more, the price of new stuff is coming down and you can get some really excellent gear for not a lot of money! Get what makes you happy.

Don't forget your antenna – we've probably got just a couple more weekends to get that antenna work done. Don't get caught without when the cold weather gets here.

I know you've heard A LOT lately about the legislative action to get relief for hams in HOA restricted areas. This could be our last best chance. Make sure you, and every ham you know (ARRL member or not – doesn't matter for this action) gets their petition turned in. The following just in from Scott – GLD Division Manager:

“To secure passage of HB 1094 and S 459 this session, we now need the powerful voice of our clubs to be heard loud and clear in Washington as well. We are asking every club within the Great Lakes Division to write and send letters to your U.S. Congressperson and both of your U.S. Senators in support of these indispensable bills. To make this process as quick and straightforward as possible, we have developed a sample letter specifically for clubs on the ARRL Great Lakes Division website. You can find this easily adaptable template here:

https://arrl-greatlakes.org/hoa_club.html

Simply download the letter, personalize it with your club's name, call sign, and details, and ensure it is signed by a club officer or designated representative. Once completed, please scan each of the three letters (one for your Representative, one for each Senator) into separate PDF documents. Then, email all three PDF files to our dedicated Legislative Action Coordinator, Director John Robert Stratton, N5AUS, at: n5aus@n5aus.com. Director Stratton will review them and ensure their timely and unified delivery to Capitol Hill.

This is an all-out call to action! Are we going to let other Divisions surpass our efforts in advocating for this critical legislation? NO! The Great Lakes Division has a proud history of leadership and dedication, and now is the time to demonstrate it once again. Let's show Washington the unified strength and commitment of Amateur Radio clubs in our division. Your club's participation is not just a gesture; it's a vital part of our nationwide grassroots campaign to pass the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act.

Thank you for stepping up and being an integral part of this crucial legislative push.

73,

Scott...”

Individual or Club, it’s all been laid out for you to make it as simple as possible. Let’s get it done!

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

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.



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!