



***November 7,  
2025***

**[WWW.ARRL-Ohio.org](http://WWW.ARRL-Ohio.org)**

**October Handbook Giveaway Winner - NN8B– Don Kemp!**

**Congratulations – your Handbook is on the way..... There were 62 entries this month – down from 99 last month. Get out to the Ohio Section website and get yourself in the game!**

**October 1 question questionnaire – Have you clicked the link to help pass the Amateur Radio Preparedness Act? Out of 72 responses, 58 said “yes” and 14 said “no”. That’s NOT Good enough! If you have not yet signed the petition – DO IT NOW! (Please??)**

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**This month’s “One Question Questionnaire” aka 1QQ - What got you interested in Amateur Radio? Go to the website [www.arrl-ohio.org](http://www.arrl-ohio.org) to submit your answer!**



## ***From the Technical Coordinator***

**Jeff Kopcak – K8JTK TC**  
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Hey gang,  
Wha' happen? That is the question many were asking the morning of Monday, October 20th, 2025. We woke up to headlines informing us 'half the Internet is down.' There were empty browsers, smart devices that lost their smarts, unavailable game servers, and if lucky enough, unable to work.

Meet, what many refer to as, AWS. AWS stands for [Amazon Web Services](https://aws.amazon.com/). Yes, the same Amazon where people order toilet paper. AWS is a "cloud" service where subscribers host websites, applications, services and rely on services offered by AWS. Services such as logon or identity, where a company would utilize an identity service to manage employee accounts, passwords, and grant or deny privileges to systems for one's job. "EC2" is a well-known virtual service offering scalable (spin up more resources when needed, spin down when not needed) computing resources for applications or workloads. "S3" is cloud storage for any amount of data.

The long running joke is that "the cloud" is just someone else's computer. That, routing, control planes, caching, and failure modes. Control Planes are backend services and APIs, transparent to users of AWS, used to manage and orchestrate resources and policies.

When a company decides to host their services "on-prem" (on their premises), they require knowledgeable people to manage all those services – virtual computing, networking, routing, control plane, storage, disaster/recovery. For a long time, companies didn't want to support the technology and people. They wanted to "let someone else do it" and that someone else ends up being a cloud provider like AWS, Google (GCP), or Microsoft (Azure). Account and Product Managers sell the cloud as a "reduction in spend" compared to current. While initially true, the price tag often gets jacked up over time and, in the long run, costing more.

The outage started early on the 20th and centered around (referred to in the Tech industry as) "US-EAST-1" physically located in Northern Virginia. It is Amazon's oldest, largest, and busiest data center established in 2006 and historically where most of AWS's control plane services live globally. AWS noticed increased latency in the Northern Virginia area.

Latency is the time it takes for a service to respond. Measured in milliseconds (ms), lower is better. Pinging your home router over a wired connection should be 1-2ms, over a wireless connection, 3-10ms depending on signal quality. Some AWS services require "low latency" which is the time to send the request across a connection and receive a response, 10-100ms typically. Beyond 'low latency' or to not receive a response at all is when things start going sideways.



Services that were down read like a phone's home screen: messaging and communication (Snapchat, Signal, Reddit, Slack) gaming (Roblox, Fortnite, PlayStation), financial (online



*An AWS data center in northern Virginia (aboutamazon.com)*

banking, ATMs, Coinbase, Robinhood, Venmo), commerce (company's storefront websites, Zoom), smart devices (Alexa, Ring, Peloton), streaming (Prime Video), and government portals. Based on popularity, I'm sure there were more than a few Amateur Radio services residing in AWS and affected too. At one point, Winlink hosted their messaging servers (CMS) in AWS. When AWS sneezes, everyone else catches a cold. Outage started around 3am and showed signs of recovery around 6am. Recovery doesn't mean "hey, everything is good again." It's only good in terms of AWS services. It takes considerably longer for everyone's applications to stop thrashing the network, caches to expire, and things to warm up again – repopulating caches, rebalancing connections, and traffic.

What went wrong? AWS status updates point to DNS. It's always DNS. Last month's article, [I gave a DNS example](#) using the ARRL Ohio's website. Cloud providers use DNS with short cache times (minutes or seconds) to load balance traffic. Specifically, the DynamoDB – a server less [NoSQL database](#) service from AWS was the reason. This service delivers single-digit millisecond performance with seamless scalability. Sounds non-important.

DynamoDB, however, is behind an insane number of transactions dealing with logins, rate limiting, game-state stores, messages, financial transactions, and everything else on the Internet requiring a database. When name resolution (aka DNS) is wiped out for that database API (application programming interface – connection between computers, services, or computer programs), a large number of programs keep trying and trying and trying to find its database. It's like Where's Waldo or Bueller, Bueller, Bueller? References lost on the younger generation that haven't experienced the classics.

Analysts agree this was not a cyber-attack. It's not that AWS collapsed globally, but enough core services to AWS and applications themselves live in US-EAST-1. As a result, the outage experience was felt globally. Amazon did what it was supposed to for failover, it is the individual application/service owners which didn't plan for a zone outage to include DNS or control plane.

AWS users found they couldn't move their applications to other [AWS data centers](#) in Oregon, Ohio, or internationally due to lack of regional planning. Everything was tied to an endpoint in Northern Virginia. When apps aren't designed to talk to other regional endpoints, there is no app.

I've been in rooms where it has been stated 'if AWS is down, there are bigger problems.' More urgency and emphasis is being placed on implementing and testing disaster recovery plans, distributing across cloud providers, database consistency and sync across data centers/regions/continents, building active-active (opposed to active/passive or active/none) multi-region systems, or more recently – moving services back to internal networks on-prem. This cast additional light on the ridiculousness of subscriptions - devices that cannot function when unable to reach their database to know if there is active subscription. This is [when smart beds fail and dumb beds win](#) (note video in the link doesn't apply to the article). Eight Sleep smart bed CEO apologized for the issues his users experienced. His beds had no offline mode causing them to be stuck in one position, the heat control stopped working or began to malfunction.

One user found their bed [nine degrees warmer](#) and unable to reduce the temperature. Another reported temperatures of [110 degrees and won't turn down](#). If true, don't know what happened to safety failsafes but that might have been done due to cost and belief that "AWS will never go

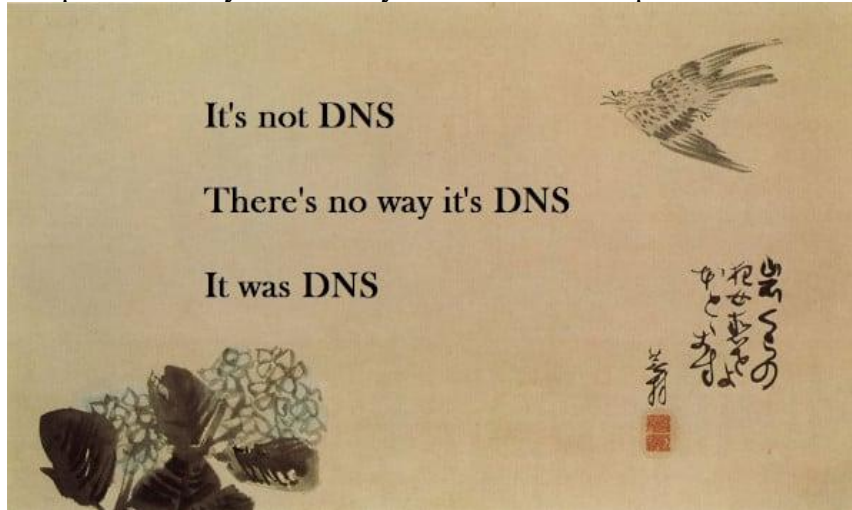


*Old Man Yells At Cloud (programmerhumor.io)*

down.” Right. Eight Sleep beds failed because they relied on services hosted in AWS that were unavailable. Maybe we shouldn't be tying beds to the Internet, downloading things to our

toasters, and creating user profiles for refrigerators. My dumb bed remained comfortable through the entirety of the outage.

My self-hosted services all remained up at my QTH. Though, I'm only serving +/- 20 services to a few locations on consumer Internet links. Not hosting the level of services AWS does. I don't use AWS for my external services nor do I host everything with a single provider. Website is at one provider. My Interlink system is at another provider. DNS is in multiple places.



*A haiku about DNS (cyberciti.biz)*

In a one-two punch, nine days later, the other half of the Internet went down. AWS is the most popular among cloud providers. Number two, Microsoft Azure, had problems on October 29th around noon eastern. Recovery was expected by 7:30pm that evening. This affected nearly all Microsoft services including: 365, Xbox, Minecraft, Azure and related cloud services, Copilot, and Teams - among

others. Other services affected were Alaska and Hawaiian airlines, Starbucks, Kroger, Costco, and Capital One all had issues with their apps and services. The "Azure Front Door" content delivery network "inadvertently" had a configuration change that caused the issue.

Configurations were rolled back in order to find a stable configuration state.

Despite what marketing and sales want you to believe, all systems are fallible. There can be better planning for resiliency. I believe in unplugging things to see how systems failover and recover. Then make them better. When I was an Application Developer, I found many situations where my code and the application didn't fail gracefully by creating failure scenarios in testing. For regular users, [Downdetector](#) is the go-to for checking service statuses and reporting problems.

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***  
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## 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 10/29/2025, There are 70 registered.

**>> Registration <<**

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

More information will be sent out soon.

Guest Speakers to include,

Scott Yonally, N8SY

Tom Sly, WB8LCD

Sean Grady, W1GDY Licking Co. EMA Director

Matthew Smith, KE8GTP

Mat Nickoson, KC8NZJ

Dan Rinaman, AC8NP

Bret Stemen, KD8SCL

Topics for be determined.

### **Ohio SET**

The 2025 Simulated Emergency Test (SET) was a great success for the SARGE, thank you to all the counties that sent us messages via voice, Fldigi and Winlink. We received so many messages. I do not have all the numbers at this writing, I can tell you that they were impressive.

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

EC's, please don't to 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/aresset/>

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!**

Thanks, Sierra for this article! This is something that we may not think about while deploying for an emergency, Field Day or POTA.

Safety Stand-Down: Look Up and Live

In this month's column, ARRL Public Relations and Outreach Manager Sierra Harrop, W5DX, pulls from her experience working in television news to offer some electrical safety advice for hams operating in the field.

Disclaimer: The following electrical safety information is provided for general awareness and educational purposes only. It is not intended to be a comprehensive guide or a substitute for professional training or advice. Always consult with qualified professionals,

and refer to official safety standards for specific electrical safety concerns.

Electricity is a killer. About 150 people die each year at work from contact with electricity, according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International. Nearly half of those are from contact with power lines. That data only includes workplace deaths, so recreational activities and public service volunteering are not accounted for.

In a recent article, ARRL New Mexico Section Manager Bill Mader, K8TE, shared safety concerns and processes that can be implemented at ARRL Field Day sites (<https://arrl.org/news/field-day-safety-tips-from-an-experienced-compliance-officer>). I'd like to share a simple phrase that may enhance your situational awareness: Look up and live.

### Watch Out for Wires in the Field

"Look up and live" was drilled into me and every other television news employee who worked with electronic news-gathering vehicles that had a pneumatic mast or satellite dish. It was the title of an industry-standard safety video published by the National Press Photographers Association (<https://youtube.com/watch?v=gfloNa2C6mw>).

In television news, where I spent the first 2 decades of my professional career, there was always a deadline and often a tremendous sense of urgency at the scene of breaking news to get a live shot up first. Before the days of bonded cellular internet streaming, we used radio — microwave and satellite — to take viewers to the scene. No matter the pressure from news managers, safety was paramount. When we approached a scene, we made sure to park the live truck at least 10 feet away from overhead wires to comply with regulations.

My personal minimum was two truck lengths from any lines, ideally a whole mast length; if I had a 58-foot mast, I'd try to park at least 58 feet away from the nearest power line.

Identifying overhead lines was ritualistic: When I arrived, I got out of the vehicle, walked 20 feet away, looked up, and circled the entire perimeter of the truck to search for overhead lines and obstructions. This additional 45-second process could feel like an eternity when news was unfolding for me to capture and report — but I couldn't go live if I was dead.

In pursuit of our amateur radio hobby, we should apply even more care. There is no pressure to get on for a ham radio activation. Take your time, walk around, and be diligent. Look up and live.

Portable masts, vertical antennas, wire antennas slung up into a tree — anything you put up can become energized if it contacts an overhead wire. Do not take chances. Even what appears to be a phone or fiber-optic line could be carrying lethal voltages. Do not become the path to ground.

### Additional Electrical Safety Tips

Should a vehicle you're in become energized by a fallen line or a mast erected into power lines, do not exit the vehicle.

That doesn't mean you can just set up your mast and antenna 10 feet away and be safe; you want to be at least far enough that, while raising or lowering your mast and antenna, or if your rig falls over, no part of your equipment comes within 10 feet of any lines. And remember that this is a *minimum* safe distance, and that the minimum safe distance increases as the voltage in the lines increases — farther away is always better!

Leave it unless it is on fire; if you touch the exterior of your vehicle with your feet on the ground, the electricity will use your body as a path to ground.

The ground outside of your vehicle can be just as dangerous. When an electrified object, such as a downed power line or an energized vehicle or antenna, contacts the ground, the electrical current spreads out in concentric circles of decreasing voltage from the point of contact, known as a voltage gradient. Being in contact with different voltages is what will kill you — if you walk normally across a voltage gradient, or fall and catch yourself with your hands, one part of your body will contact a higher voltage than the other, and the electrical current will use your body as a path to equalize the voltage. Instead, call for help via phone or ham radio. Warn bystanders not to approach your vehicle. If a fire requires you to exit, carefully jump clear of the vehicle with your feet together to avoid contacting the vehicle and ground simultaneously. Be mindful of your movements; “bunny hop” with your feet together or shuffle across the ground in small increments, keeping your feet in constant contact, to avoid providing a path between the different potentials.

Please be careful when erecting portable gear near overhead wires. Remember: Look up and live.

### **Look Up and Live!**

No ham radio activation is worth your life. Be aware of potential electrical hazards when operating in the field:

„ **Walk around and look up.** Circle the perimeter of the area and search for any overhead lines or obstructions. There is no pressure to get on the air — take your time.

„ **Maintain a safe distance from any overhead power lines.**

OSHA regulations state that 10 feet is the minimum safe distance from any equipment, load line, or load to any power line carrying 50 kV or less, and this minimum safe distance increases with higher voltage; see OSHA 29 CFR §1926.1408, Table A, for a list of minimum clearance distances by voltage (<https://osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.1408>).

Note that this is a *minimum* safe distance — you want to be at least far enough that, should your mast topple over, none of your equipment comes within the minimum clearance distance of any lines. You’re also not likely to know offhand the voltages of nearby power lines when operating in the field, so farther away is always better.

„ **Remember: any line could be energized.**

Even what looks like a phone or fiber-optic line could be carrying lethal voltages. Don’t take any chances.

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

Bret KD8SCL

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## **Public relations vs. marketing**

Written by [Michael Feder](#)

Many people are unaware of the differences between marketing and public relations (PR). The confusion stems from the professions sharing some characteristics, in-house departments often lumping them together and people frequently using the terms interchangeably. Let’s look at the similarities and differences of these two and how each can be used in business.



## **What are differences between public relations vs. marketing?**

Public relations vs. marketing represent separate disciplines with different objectives, bringing distinct benefits to an organization. Marketing is driven by actively promoting and selling products and services. PR focuses on crafting and maintaining a positive image of an organization and brands within the media and public eye.

Learning about marketing and PR can help you decide which career may best suit your personality, skills, strengths and goals. It can also help you decide which to implement for your organization.

## **What is marketing?**

Marketing is an umbrella term for developing, promoting and selling an organization's products and services to its target clients and customers. Through research, advertisements, launches and campaigns, marketing intends to add value to what a client is trying to sell by telling a story to buyers.

For example, when a company develops a new product, its marketing department is often responsible for designing the launch strategy and determining how to stand out from the competition. Tactics may include placing the product with relevant influencers on social media or running giveaway campaigns. Marketing professionals must also liaise with other departments, such as sales and PR.

Marketing tends to be a broader sector than PR, providing a wide variety of [careers](#). Industry evolves to keep pace with how people communicate and source entertainment, creating new opportunities. For instance, using social media as a marketing tool was still young back in 2010. But innovation remains necessary as users turn to fresh platforms, trends shift and new online tools emerge.

## **Core pillars of marketing**

To better understand the differences between public relations vs. marketing, consider marketing's core pillars. Marketing is built upon four pillars known as the 4Ps. These fundamentals have remained relevant even as communication, strategies and tactics have evolved along with society.

The pillars of marketing are:

- **Product:** What is the good or service being sold? Examples are sports drinks, apps, audiobooks, wellness coaching and streaming services. Market professionals try to establish the value the product provides to its target customers.
- **Price:** How much does the product cost? Marketing must determine how the price point affects the perception of the product and who can afford it. Other factors to consider include if the item is bought as a one-time purchase, bundle deal or subscription.
- **Place:** Where is the product being distributed, sold or featured? The placement affects brand perception and its audience.
- **Promotion:** What's the strategy to entice people to buy? Consider the messaging and tactics and how these will be measured. For example, including a tailored discount code on a podcast ad provides measurable data on its impact.

## Daily responsibilities

Marketing professionals have strikingly different daily responsibilities from PR professionals. Marketing tasks aim to reach unique development, promotion and sales goals.

A marketing professional's [daily responsibilities](#) might include:

- **Designing and managing advertising campaigns.** Tasks include creating a marketing plan and ensuring that the steps within it are carried out accurately and meet deadlines.
- **Securing advertising placements in the traditional and digital spheres.** The two biggest challenges when booking slots are ensuring that placements are relevant to the target audience and stay within the budget.
- **Conducting market research to support and drive the overall direction of marketing campaigns.** Market research can help identify target audiences, how they respond to different types of messaging and price points and where they're most likely to see or hear advertising. Examples of market research are interviews, polls, surveys, infographics and social media tracking.
- **Compiling collateral for websites, digital marketing, PDFs, sales pitches, launches, brochures, etc.** Examples of marketing collateral are videos, images, graphics, social profiles, testimonials, case studies, logos formatted for specific platforms, and slogans.
- **Managing the social media profiles of a brand or client.** Tasks may include creating a style guide and templates for the accounts, creating on-brand content, engaging with the audience and analyzing social media metrics.
- **Optimizing platforms and messaging.** Websites, blogs and other social media platforms are only useful if they are being seen. Marketing professionals drive traffic by increasing a website's organic traffic through search engine optimization. This involves updating tags, ensuring links are working and relevant, ensuring that content marketing and formatting align to the latest style guides, and verifying that logos are up to date.
- **Creating and distributing newsletters.** Newsletters remain an effective way to connect with a target audience. For example, in the publishing industry it's crucial to let readers know when books are being released by their favorite authors. Customers may miss announcements posted on websites and mentioned on social media, but a newsletter gets the message to them directly.

## Steps of a marketing plan

Marketing professionals create a marketing plan to provide a focus for objectives. It acts as an outline or road map, helping coordinate the tasks and roles of required parties.

Successful marketing plans [consist of six steps](#):

1. **Establish a business objective.** Marketing professionals need to set goals that meet an organization's or client's needs. First, a clear picture of an organization needs to be made,

including understanding its history and current state. The research helps avoid old mistakes, uncover new opportunities and ensure goals are relevant to the objectives.

2. **Get to know the competition.** Researching other industry players helps identify challenges and areas that need strengthening while revealing holes in the market that an organization can capitalize upon.
3. **Identify the unique value proposition.** Establish the problem that the product or service is solving for buyers and why it stands out from competitors.
4. **Develop target buyer personas.** Outline the target customers' characteristics, behaviors and demographics using data from research, such as databases, surveys and interviews.
5. **Design a strategy.** Establish the channels, tactics and tools to promote and advertise the product or service to the target buyers.
6. **Optimize.** Fine-tune and sharpen the marketing plan by adjusting it as new data becomes available.

### What is PR?

[Public relations](#) focuses on crafting and maintaining an organization's positive reputation in the public eye. PR professionals build positive relationships and [communicate](#) with relevant audiences, such as the media, investors, partners, employees, customers/clients, influencers and the general public.

PR departments often work with marketing. For example, during a product launch, a PR department may be responsible for booking speaking events, sending press releases to relevant journalists and influencers, providing talking points to the sales team and communicating with investors.

However, their primary role is often protecting an organization's reputation, especially during a crisis. It is typically up to the PR department to take control of the narrative, curtail rumors, reassure stakeholders, provide transparency and rebuild trust.

### Key elements of PR

Consider key elements of PR as another way to view differences between public relations vs. marketing. PR consists of four crucial elements. However, these are strikingly different from marketing's four pillars, as they serve separate objectives.

The four elements of PR are:

- **Relationship building:** Strong bonds with the audience must be built. For example, a PR professional working in media relations must forge connections with members of the relevant press.
- **Networking:** PR professionals continuously network to create new opportunities and build relationships.
- **Honesty:** PR professionals operate on a code of ethics that fosters trust by providing accurate information.

- **Public speaking:** PR professionals influence and inform their audience by giving talks and making themselves available to answer questions in person.

#### Daily responsibilities

PR professionals share common daily tasks regardless of their industry. These focus on crafting an organization's image and maintaining and building advantageous relationships.

A PR professional's [daily responsibilities](#) may include:

- **Crafting and overseeing an organization's or client's messaging.** PR professionals must develop a story about the company or person they represent. The content's tone, style, and how and where it is told affects public perception.
- **Developing and pitching press releases.** PR professionals frequently write press releases for relevant press members and stakeholders. Due to newspaper and media offices shrinking and journalists being asked to do more work, it is more likely that press releases will be printed with little to no alteration.
- **Arranging and booking public speaking opportunities.** PR professionals schedule speaking engagements for themselves or clients at press conferences and launches, and secure invitations to conferences or events. Directly talking to a target audience fosters a stronger bond and helps frame and control the narrative.
- **Building the reputation of an organization, brand or individual in the media and other channels.** PR professionals are image builders. They create positive stories through the press and other trusted or admired sources, such as podcasters and bloggers. Communication is paramount to frame the narrative and stay ahead of potentially damaging news.
- **Managing media relations on behalf of an organization or client.** Building and maintaining relationships with the media takes time and requires tact and diplomacy. PR professionals skillfully act as the main media contact, saving clients time and protecting them from public missteps.
- **Liaising with marketing, sales and other relevant teams.** PR professionals must work together with the other valued members of an organization's or client's team so that all parties have consistent messaging and their actions do not contradict or undermine each other.

#### Steps of a PR plan

A PR plan outlines an organization's strategy to achieve specific goals with a target audience within a set time frame. Underneath these individually tailored plans is a standard process.

Successful PR plans [consist of six steps](#):

1. **Outline the PR goals.** What are the desired results? These should be as specific as possible and plotted on a timeline.
2. **Do research.** Understand the industry, both internally and in public perception. Examine the competition. What are their PR teams doing? What's working? Where are they weak?
3. **Learn about target audiences.** Become as granular as possible about the desired audience, such as age range, relationship status, income, political leanings and location.
4. **Set the timeline.** Create a schedule for when specific campaign steps must be achieved and the overall goal reached.
5. **Choose PR tactics.** Outline the channels best suited to reach the target audience. If working alongside a marketing team, ensure the selected tactics work harmoniously with marketing's strategy.
6. **Measure results.** How will success be determined? Metrics may include surveys, impressions, news stories, mentions and engagements.

### **Choosing public relations vs marketing**

Marketing and PR are part of an organization's toolbox. Like pliers and a wrench, they provide value in different ways. Understanding public relations vs. marketing differences allows an organization to know which one to use to achieve a goal or address a challenge.

To illustrate marketing's and PR's strengths, we've contrasted them in the following five aspects:

- Activities
- Target audiences
- Communication
- Business return on investment
- Resources

#### **Activities**

Marketing and PR activities differ in focus and objective.

- Marketing activities aim to drive product or service sales through promotions, advertising and direct marketing. The objective is to make an organization or client money.
- PR activities focus on maintaining or cultivating an organization's or client's positive reputation by generating favorable media coverage and communicating with stakeholders. The objective is to make an organization or client look good.

#### **Target audience**

Marketing and PR generally have different target audiences.

- Marketing aims to reach current and potential customers. These are the people marketing professionals want to persuade to open their wallets to buy a product or service.
- PR maintains and cultivates positive relationships with those interested or vital to an organization or brand. Examples are journalists, fans, investors, employees, legislators and partners.

#### Communication

Marketing and PR communicate to target audiences differently. The methods are not necessarily perceived as equally credible in the public eye, which can affect the level of trust in messages received.

- Marketing pays to communicate to an audience through recognizable advertising and promotion methods. The customer base typically knows these messages are trying to sell them a product or service and might be more wary of the assertions.
- PR often uses free communication channels, such as articles, conference speakers, or reputable online names that run respected blogs, podcasts or other platforms. PR also [uses popular social media channels](#). Audiences may subconsciously regard these channels as more legitimate and be more likely to trust what is said.

#### Business ROI

Marketing and PR give an organization or client a different return on investment (ROI). Both cost an organization or client money, but the metrics used to determine their value are not the same.

- Marketing is generally a straightforward business investment. Assessing a marketing ROI of advertising and paid branding and promotional activities can be measured by metrics such as the number of new customers or meeting or exceeding sales goals. Online traffic and engagement are also measurable and can be compared to the marketing plan's objectives.
- PR's ROI is typically more difficult to measure, especially as it is difficult to place value on what didn't happen. However, [this isn't always the case](#). A PR consultant's role often involves damage control by reframing potentially harmful news into a positive. Also, it's a challenge to quantify or demonstrate changes in perceptions or beliefs.

Still, some metrics are available to assess PR, such as the amount of positive press generated, industry awards, invitations to speak at events and organizations, the amount of online chatter and features on vlogs, blogs and reels, the quality of candidates applying for jobs, and partners and investors who want to work with the organization.

#### Resources

Marketing and PR use different resources and do not have the same impact on a budget.

- Marketing resources cost money to accomplish goals. Marketing professionals pay to design and place ads and make financial deals with influencers to promote the product or service.
- PR resources are generally free. A PR staff capitalizes on relationships with the press and taps people in their network, such as celebrities, social media influencers and public figures, to get their message out or spotlight a brand, service or product.

### **Similarities between public relations and marketing**

Marketing and PR [share several similarities](#), contributing to why some people might confuse the two professions. The similarities are also why it isn't uncommon to meet professionals with experience in both industries. Many have started in one career before discovering they were happier and better suited in the other.

Similarities in marketing and PR include:

- **Goals:** Marketing and PR influence perceptions and awareness with the aim of gaining more customers.
- **Communication:** Marketing and PR use storytelling to build trust with target audiences and raise a brand's attractiveness, products or services.
- **Company interests:** Marketing and PR put an organization's or client's interests first, keeping them foremost in mind when drawing up plans and taking action.
- **Audience:** Marketing's and PR's messaging is directed to their main audience, the public.

### **Pursuing a career in marketing or PR**

Marketing and PR are exciting options for creative people passionate about communication and storytelling. These professions may appeal to those who excel at adapting, finding solutions and making backup plans. Neither industry stands still, which many curious people find attractive as there are always new things to learn and fresh opportunities.

Nor does either industry require you to be an extrovert, although many are found in these professions. Introverts also find their place, often able to build strong connections and use their listening skills to deliver what clients want.

If this sounds like you, your next challenge is assessing which career path will motivate you and be the best use of your skills and efforts.

#### **Marketing**

Marketing uses storytelling to sell a product or service, but the messages often involve graphics in addition to words. Strong visual communicators often enjoy the advertising side of marketing. Those motivated by hitting or exceeding hard targets may also prefer marketing. The sales and engagement figures and other data clearly show how close marketing professionals are to reaching their goal.

Researchers enjoy marketing because it allows them to use data to find opportunities, and the metrics provide solid feedback on performance and where adjustments need to be made.

## Public relations

PR uses storytelling to build and maintain a positive reputation for an organization or client. The messages and communication are heavily word based, appealing to those who enjoy writing. Professionals in this field use networking to build lasting relationships. Consequently, PR sometimes favors those who take satisfaction from playing the long game, where a reputation is sculpted over time.

Results don't always lend themselves to easily quantifiable results. Sometimes, the joy in PR comes from turning a potentially disastrous story into a positive situation.

PR may involve public speaking and answering direct questions from the press or key stakeholders. Some people who struggle with small talk excel in this role as they control the narrative, framing it to suit their client's interests.



Elizabeth Klinc, KE8FMJ AuxC  
OHIO Section Public Information Coordinator  
District Emergency Coordinator, D3 Ohio ARES  
Assistant Emergency Coordinator, Greene County

ARRL - The National Association For Amateur Radio™

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

[AC8NP@AC8NP.COM](mailto:AC8NP@AC8NP.COM)

419.618.0330

Ham Shack Hotline #4355



**PSHR, SAR and Net Activity Reports**

Public Service Honor Roll, Station Activity Reports and Net 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 5<sup>th</sup> of each month.

**Send a Radiogram for the Holidays!**

This holiday season, why not surprise friends and family with a radiogram — a special message sent via amateur radio? It's a unique way to connect and share good wishes.

**How to Send a Holiday Radiogram:**

1. **Create Your Message:** Use the standard radiogram format. For simplicity, consider using pre-written ARRL numbered radiograms.
2. **Transmit Your Message:**
  - Send it through an amateur radio network, such as a voice or traffic net.
  - Or use digital services like <https://winlink.org/>.
3. **Need Help?**
  - If you're new to drafting radiograms or can't access a traffic net, try the <https://nts2.arrl.org/radiogram/>.
  - The portal guides you through creating your radiogram and forwards it to a message handler who will input it into the National Traffic System (NTS).

Sending a radiogram is easy, fun, and a great way to participate in the amateur radio community!

**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.arrl.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](https://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<br>9:30 PM | 145.230 MHz PL<br>110.9 | KD8GXL       |
| COTN     | 7:15 PM DAILY                        | 146.970 MHz PL<br>123.0 | KV8Z         |
| NWOATT   | Mon, Tue, Thu, Sat at 07:30<br>PM    | 147.375 MHz PL<br>103.5 | KE8VJP       |
| ODMR     | Monday 8:30 PM                       | TG 3139                 | WB8YYS       |
| TCTTN    | 9 PM Sun, Tues, Fri                  | 147.015 MHz PL<br>110.9 | WB8YYS       |
| TATN     | 8:00 PM DAILY                        | 146.670 MHz PL<br>123.0 | WG8Z         |

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)

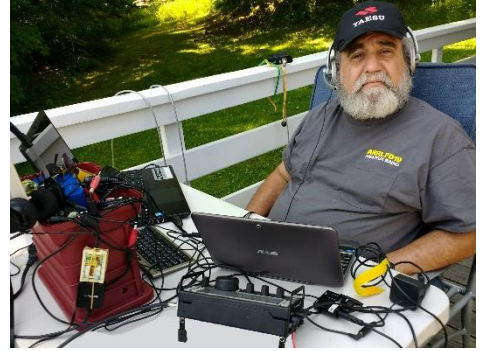
Dan Rinaman AC8NP  
Ohio Section Traffic Manager  
419-618-0330 HOIP 101918  
[ac8np@ac8np.com](mailto:ac8np@ac8np.com)

*From the Ohio Section Youth Coordinator  
Anthony Luscre, K8ZT - SYC [k8zt@arrl.net](mailto:k8zt@arrl.net)*

## Can I Be of Assistance?

### Public Demonstrations of Amateur Radio

I have been involved in numerous public demonstrations of Amateur Radio, many of which have focused on youth. Events have included STEM Summer Camp, ARRL Field Days, Community Festival, County Fair, and school demos for 5th through 12th grade, as well as many Scouting events, such as Jamboree On The Air, Camporees, and Camp Anniversaries. Last weekend, I participated in a demonstration at a local Scouting recruitment event.



Over the years of doing these demos, I have observed attendee reactions and refined my techniques. I would like to share some of these with you to use for personal or club AR demos in your communities.

### Handouts

Many years ago, I abandoned the idea of paper handouts. There are several problems with paper handouts: the high cost of printing, the uncertainty of exactly how many I would need, the large amounts of paper being heavy, paper getting wet in the rain, blowing away in the wind, and never seeming to reach its destination, especially with youth. Additionally, regardless of how well it is proofread or due to changes in information, editing and reprinting are often necessary.

Instead, I use a dual-pronged approach. The first prong is a “poster” for displaying at the event with shortened URLs and QR codes to allow attendees to take home the information with their phones. The second prong is the “Information Documents” that the QR codes point to.

For the “poster”, I create one 11x17” laminated copy of the material and utilize shortened URLs and QR codes that lead to the information. This method has several advantages. I can use larger, easier-to-read fonts and simplified content on the posters.

The “Information Documents” can include a wide range of material and may contain hyperlinks to additional information, videos, audio, software programs, and more. Additionally, the shortened URLs and QR codes I use enable me to track the number of attendees who actually access the information. I can even track it over long periods of time. I use [tiny.cc](http://tiny.cc) as my URL shortener, but there are many similar programs/sites available.

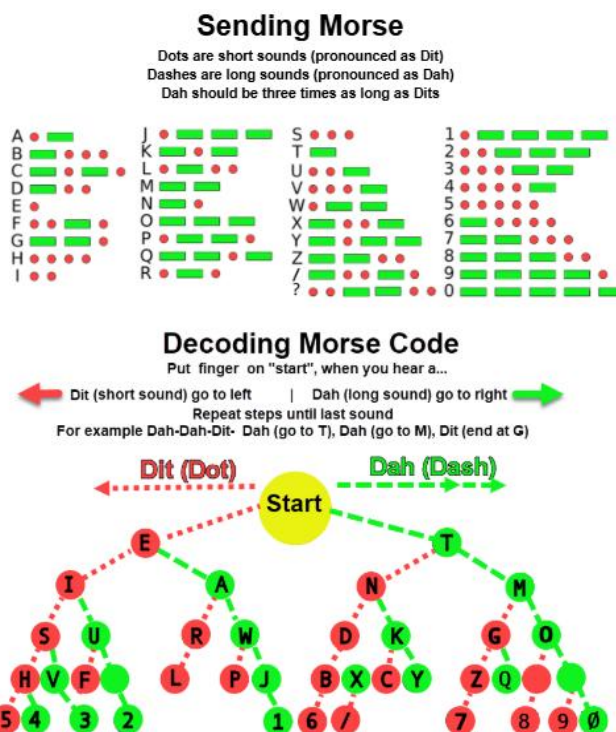
Here are some examples of my “Posters” and you can access the resources they point to from the links on them.

| Title                                              | Resource Links                                             |                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| What Is Amateur Radio? Scouting Edition            | <a href="#">Video Loop-</a> YouTube                        | <a href="#">Slideshow</a>                                      |
| Scouting Ham Radio Info Sheet- Main Handout        | <a href="http://tiny.cc/radioscout">tiny.cc/radioscout</a> |                                                                |
| Youth Radio Resources                              | <a href="http://tiny.cc/hry">tiny.cc/hry</a>               |                                                                |
| Morse Code- Send & Decode Tree + Phonetic Alphabet | <a href="#">Poster (11 x 17)</a>                           | Handout-<br><a href="http://tiny.cc/mcinfo">tiny.cc/mcinfo</a> |
| Clothespin Key                                     | <a href="#">Poster (11 x 17)</a>                           | Handout-<br><a href="http://tiny.cc/cp-key">tiny.cc/cp-key</a> |
| Online Tunable SDR Receivers                       | <a href="#">Poster (11 x 17)</a>                           | Handout-<br><a href="http://tiny.cc/freerx">tiny.cc/freerx</a> |
| JOTA                                               | <a href="#">Poster (11 x 17)</a>                           |                                                                |
| Radio Merit Badge                                  | <a href="#">Poster (11 x 17)</a>                           |                                                                |
| Amateur Radio Resources for Youth                  | <a href="#">Poster 8 x 11.5”</a>                           |                                                                |
| Tech Class Announcement                            | <a href="#">Poster</a>                                     |                                                                |
| Morse Code- Decoders & Trainers                    | <a href="http://tiny.cc/cwapps">tiny.cc/cwapps</a>         |                                                                |

## Morse Code Demo

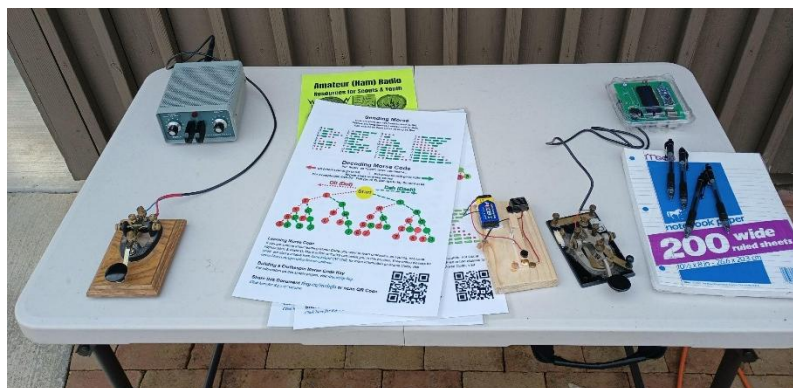
Although no longer required for Amateur Radio licensing, Morse Code holds a strong draw for youngsters. Of course, most know nothing about it, except maybe SOS. I use a quick chart to help them decode Morse Code messages (certainly not the best way to actually learn Morse code for on-air CW, but it works well for this project). We set up a few keys and code oscillators to first teach them the basics, then they use my charts to send and decode Morse code to each other. Don’t forget to bring plenty of scrap paper and pencils for writing out their decoded characters. I

also have a neat project that I picked up at the Hamvention this year by the Huber Heights Amateur Radio Club ([www.hharc.org/cw-trainer](http://www.hharc.org/cw-trainer)). Their quote, “Our Club’s CW Trainer is geared for kids (and Newbies of all ages)”. The item had a built-in key made of bent aluminum, but I replaced it with wiring to connect a standard CW key. As you send with a key, the Arduino-based product will decode the properly sent code into characters displayed on the LCD. I also have plans for a [Clothespin Key](#) that they can build and use later, or we can even build them as a project at the demo.



## HF Radio Demo

If it is possible to set up a transceiver and antenna, an HF demo can be very effective. I have been using my “[POTA PERformer](#)” antenna. When considering the modes you will operate, I suggest considering both CW and FT8/FT4, in addition to SSB.



We all assume that voice communication will be easier for our audiences to comprehend. The problem is that with cell phones everywhere, even a voice contact across the world does not have the same impact it had 25 years ago. You can get around this by using FT8/FT4, and the visual and point-and-click to connect aspects appeal to youth who are accustomed to video games.

You can overcome the limitations of audience understanding of CW by using a high-quality CW decoder that can be displayed to your audience. (I know that CW decoders are not perfect, but that is not the issue we are addressing here.) Choosing strong stations with a good signal (preferably machine-sent CW) can work wonders. I found a free Windows software program, [CWTY](#), that does a good job. If you have your radio and computer configured to use FT8, it will utilize the same sound card interface. There are [other programs available](#), and some radios (Elecraft K3, K3S, KX3 and KX2 and Kenwood TS-590SG) do a good job with decoding in the radio. The problem with these is that they show only a limited number of characters at a time and are harder to see. This can be handled with free software for the TS-590SG ([Radio Control Program ARCP-590G](#)) that can display it on a computer screen, or you can use Elecraft's Terminal software to display it. If you are using CW, take a few minutes to explain how abbreviations, prosigns and Q codes are used, similar to texting. A chart (<http://tiny.cc/abpsqc>) can be helpful here, as can a list of phonetics, which can aid in understanding SSB (see the reverse side of <http://tiny.cc/mcinfo>).



## Dealing with Crowds

If you are lucky, you will have more visitors to your demo than you can work with individually at a time. To deal with those waiting, and or to draw in passerbys, I like to have a video loop about AR playing in the background and static displays for visitors to view.

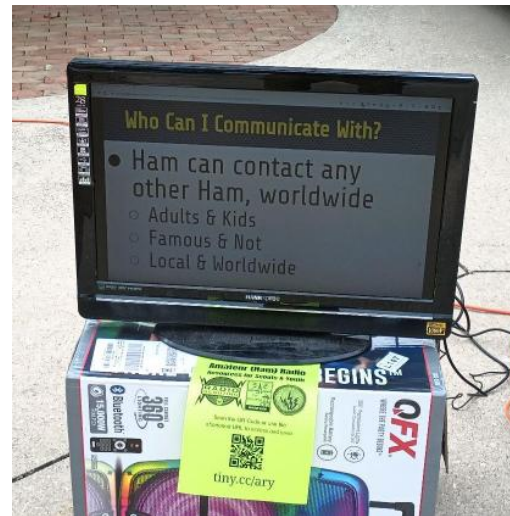
## Focusing/Adjusting Your Content and Delivery

One of the most important things for a successful demo is focusing/adjusting your content and delivery to your target audience. If you are working with Scouts, focusing on Merit Badges (Radio, Signaling, Electronics, Electricity and Digital Technology) and outdoor operations. For groups interested in public safety, a focus on Emergency Communications (EmComm), VHF/UHF, and other related topics. For School classes, a focus is on integrating with school subject areas, such as calculating wavelength and frequency for ratios and inverse relationships in Math, Q-codes and the Phonetic alphabet to clarify communications in English, Prefixes and DX for Geography, etc. (see the presentation for many more curriculum-focused lessons: <http://tiny.cc/yiar>).

Remember that dealing with the public is very different from interacting with fellow hams. Avoid using excess jargon and, when necessary, take the time to explain things in language your audience can understand.

## Getting More Information

I have given several presentations that may help plan your demo. See my presentation “You & Your Local Ham Club's Role in Youth & Community in Amateur Radio”- [slideshow](#) and videos [recording 1](#) and [recording 2](#). For a complete list of my presentations, visit [tiny.cc/k8zt-p](http://tiny.cc/k8zt-p). I would also be happy to collaborate with your group to help plan community demonstrations or youth outreach initiatives. Please email [k8zt@arrl.net](mailto:k8zt@arrl.net) or call 330-650-1110 (phone calls only, as it's a landline; no texting).



# Youth In Amateur Radio



**Anthony Luscre, K8ZT**

*ARRL Ohio Section  
Youth Coordinator (SYC)*

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](mailto:k8zt@arrl.net))

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***From the Affiliated Clubs Coordinator***

***Terry Windsor, KI8N***

[ki8n.tw@gmail.com](mailto:ki8n.tw@gmail.com)

Welcome to November, I hope everyone and your clubs have your antenna work done for the year! I have one last big repair to do and have a rented 60-foot lift currently sitting behind the house. Time to change a non-working 4:1 balun on the tri-band antenna which is about 60 feet in the air. I thought this would be an easier solution than tilting the tower over. Should know before this newsletter is distributed!





Continuing onward, the ARRL has designated 2026 as the Year of the Club. There is a newsletter and club website contest. The rules/requirements for the newsletter contest are located here: <https://www.arrl.org/club-newsletter-contest>. Submission deadline is January 30, 2026. One of the requirements is that the club must be an ARRL affiliated club, so time to check your club's status and ensure your annual report is current. (See below how to check and update your annual report.)

The Club Website Contest can be found here: <https://www.arrl.org/club-website-contest>. Winners will be featured in QST. Time for club webmasters to arrange and polish the website as submission deadline for this contest is also January 30, 2026. Lets see if a club in Ohio has one of the best web pages!

One other piece of Year of the Club is possibly having your club featured in QST throughout the year. As one way of honoring various clubs, QST will feature club photos in every 2026 issue. If your club wants a shot at being highlighted in the pages of QST, here's what to do:

- Get your club members together, looking their best — if you have a club T-shirt or ARRL shirt, this is a perfect occasion for wearing them.
- Consider posing with your club's sign/banner.
- Take *high-resolution images*. If you're taking photos with a phone camera, please make sure it's set for "highest quality."
- Take photos in horizontal and vertical orientations, and please do not crop or otherwise edit the photos.
- Type up the names and call signs of any hams pictured, the name (and call sign, if applicable) of the person who took the photos, and the full name and call sign of the club.
- Send the information, along with one vertical and one horizontal photo, to [qst@arrl.org](mailto:qst@arrl.org).
- Read QST each month in 2026 to see if your club has been featured!



This is probably my last time reminding you and your clubs to support the HOA legislation to eliminate prohibitions on amateur radio antennas. 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 Your 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. Also show this to GMRS license holders as they too can support this effort and submit letters to their congressional officials. The only item needed is your US FCC issued amateur or GMRS call sign and a database will fill out the rest of the name and address information.



The second part of this continuing 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. Then scan and send the signed letters to ARRL Director John Stratton at [n5aus@n5aus.com](mailto:n5aus@n5aus.com). 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 use this link to [Find Your Congressional Members](#) for addressing the proper individuals.

I am continuing to contact clubs regarding their ARRL Annual Report. I am happy to state that several clubs have followed up and updated their report, Thank YOU! 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 contract, 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.

You are probably wondering why this matter is important. One of the reasons is that, unlicensed newly licensed, and relocating hams can search the [ARRL listings](#) to find a club in their area and contact them about attending, becoming a member, taking a license test, asking for information or assistance, or researching activities they want to participate in. Without current contact and club information these people are left without knowledge of clubs and members in their locales. And, like I did a month ago, go to the wrong location for the club meeting. Currently there are 125 active ARRL affiliated clubs in Ohio, please do not let your club become inactive! Follow up at your meetings and ask if the annual report has been submitted and whether the information is now current.

Last month I stated I was trying to contact clubs and listed personnel that have not provided an annual report update in quite a few years. I have made some progress with this effort but some of my communications result in email and address links that are no longer valid. This is making it impossible to contact clubs that were affiliated and still listed as active. Even web searches for these clubs are not returning valid contact information. Starting in January next year those clubs I cannot communicate with will have their status changed from Active to Inactive as there is no reason to continue to list unresponsive or non-active clubs. My wish is to have every club in Ohio remain active or become an affiliated club. Any help you readers can provide regarding non-responsive or 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 another 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 21 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.

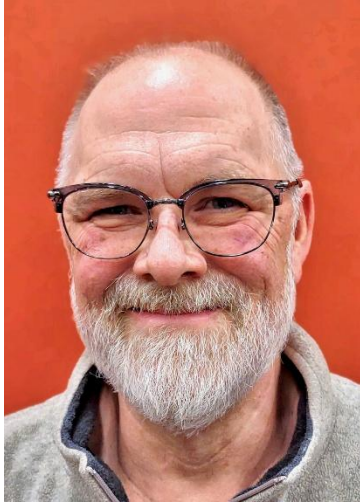
If you know of any Ohio amateur radio clubs that are not affiliated and may be interested in learning about ARRL affiliation, please drop me an email. I will be happy to follow up on that lead to get their input and provide information.

One last item, is your club looking for a speaker? There is a listing of people and their topics on the Ohio Section webpage. [Ohio Section Speakers Bureau](#). Check the listings out and see if there is a topic that your club would be interested in and follow up with the contact to inquire about setting up a date. Or, if you want to participate in becoming a resource on a topic you are passionate about contact Tom Sly at the email in the listing to add your information to the Speakers Bureau.

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 November, stay "radio active" and **Ham It Up!**

73, de Terry, KI8N



## **Assistant Section Manager**

Al Andres – KD8ZBS

[Alinfarm12@gmail.com](mailto:Alinfarm12@gmail.com)

### **Being Hospitable**

Have you ever walked into a place and thought to yourself, WOW... these folks are not too friendly? And has anyone thought about what it takes for any club to grow? Yah Yah.... I know... People, and many books have been written. But what is it that draws others with a desire to join any organization? Sure, knowledge from others in the organization if I want to learn something, cool toys to play with, opportunities to be a part of

something bigger than ourselves? While these few things are great, and in large part needed, how about the hospitality of those who currently belong to any organization?

Al defines being hospitable as.... “To be hospitable is to be warm, generous, and friendly towards guests, welcoming them into your space and making them feel valued and a part of something bigger than what they currently have. This can be done through offering food or a place to stay, but more importantly, by creating a welcoming atmosphere through kind and selfless actions, open conversation, and genuine interest in others.”

It is found that most people want a sense of belonging, to be a part of something beyond themselves. But that cannot happen if we as current “club members” do not create a welcoming atmosphere for others to partner with.

I would like to hear from all of you, drop me an email at [alinfarm12@gmail.com](mailto:alinfarm12@gmail.com) about how you, or your local radio club have made, and are making, new people feel welcomed and a part of what you are doing at your local ham radio get togethers, or within your circle of ham radio influence, with the expressed goal of making them a part of something that they would like to give their time and talent towards...

Many Hams are great at a lot of things, but many of us could use a little assistance with creative ways that we can be hospitable towards others; and my goal is to bring ideas together and make them shareable with everyone so that together, we can make being a part of ham radio an exciting and enjoyable experience for generations to come.

Keep an eye out for my future writings with creative possibilities to increase our hospitality towards others, inspired by YOU, the Ham Radio community, that could motivate your own personal growth, as well as that of your local organization.

‘73

Alan Andres, KD8ZBS

***John Myers, WG8X***

[wg8x.radio@gmail.com](mailto:wg8x.radio@gmail.com)

330-936-5021

Unfortunately, John is travelling this week due to the passing of his oldest brother. Please keep John and his family in your prayers. We wish him safe travels.

73 DE WB8LCD



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## **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](https://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](#).”



# *National News*

## *(from ARRL and other sources)*

### **Upcoming Contests – Things to Do**

#### **Bruce Kelley Memorial QSO Party**

The Bruce Kelley Memorial QSO Party takes place on November 8 – 10, and again on November 15 – 17. The event, sponsored by the Antique Wireless Association, is for hams who have acquired or built their own transmitters using designs, techniques, and tubes from 1929 or earlier. Hand keys or Vibroplex-type bugs should be used. The two weekends will be reminiscent of what ham radio sounded like in 1929, with a cacophony of whooping, chirping, buzzing, clicking, drifting, swishing, swaying, warbling, and other interesting signals. For rules and more information, visit <https://www.antiquewireless.org/homepage/bk-qso-party-details/>.

#### **CQ Western Electric Contest**

The CQ Western Electric (CQWE) Contest begins at 1900 UTC on Saturday November 8, and concludes at 0500 UTC on Monday, November 10. The event is open to all licensed amateur operators, with the objective being to contact as many amateurs as possible who currently (or previously) work for any part of the pre-divestiture Bell System, or any company that was created from the separated parts of the Bell System. Rules and more information are available at <https://w8zpf.com/cqwe-contest-information/>.

#### **ARRL November Sweepstakes – SSB**

[ARRL November Sweepstakes](#) – SSB begins at 2100 UTC on November 15 and concludes at 0259 UTC on November 17. If you're new to HF operating and contesting, the contest can be challenging, as the exchange is a bit more complicated than that of other events. In this contest, multipliers are the 85 ARRL and RAC Sections; each may be contacted once as a multiplier in the contest, regardless of band. The three Canadian territories (Yukon, Northwest and Nunavut) are combined into a singular Territories (TER) multiplier. November Sweepstakes is a great way complete your Worked All States (WAS) award, because stations from all 50 states and across Canada participate every year. See the full rules and additional information at [www.arrl.org/sweepstakes](http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes).

## 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](http://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](http://www.arrl.org/online-exam-session).

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## ARRL Call for Technical Manuscripts

**Call for Manuscripts: Share your technical insights on your Field Day setups.** *QST* invites submissions of technical manuscripts from licensed amateur radio operators for upcoming issues focused on **ARRL Field Day operations**. We're looking for educational, how-to pieces that help fellow hams improve their setups, strategies, and technical know-how.

### What We're Looking For:

- Technical solutions for Field Day operations—power, antennas, logging, digital modes, etc.
- Integration of new technologies (e.g., SDR, mesh networking, solar power) in field scenarios.

- Examples of how the popularity of Parks on the Air (POTA) portable activations has changed your approach to setting up Field Day stations.
- Examples of how portable antennas and LiFePO batteries have replaced base station antennas and generators.
- Manuscripts should have a strong “how-to” component. Tell us what you did, but more importantly, tell us how you did it.

### **Submission Guidelines:**

- **Audience:** Licensed amateur radio operators.
- **Length:** 1,000 –1,800 words, plus high-resolution images with caption and photo credit information (name and call sign of photographer).
- **Tone:** Educational and collaborative—share what works!
- **Format:** Plain text or Word document.
- **Deadline:** January 31, 2026
- **Submit to:** [qst@arrl.org](mailto:qst@arrl.org)

**Why Contribute?** Your article could be published in *QST*, ARRL’s membership journal, which reaches thousands of fellow amateurs across the country and beyond. It’s a great way to give back to the community and inspire others with your experience.

That's all for this time. Remember to send contesting-related stories, book reviews, tips, techniques, press releases, errata, schematics, club information, pictures, stories, blog links, and predictions to [contest-update@arrl.org](mailto:contest-update@arrl.org).

73, Paul, N1SFE

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## 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](http://www.arrl.org/opt-in-out)

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## 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](mailto:webmaster@arrl-ohio.org)



## **VE Sessions**

### **The following information is for ALL exam sessions:**

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

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

**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) <<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.

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/](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://hamstudy.org). We can also give Exams remotely on-line on your schedule if you can't make to a session.

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

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

### **Geauga Amateur Radio Association (GARA)**

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

The GARA schedule of exams are these Sundays at 2pm. Dates for 2024 are Jan 14, March 10, May 12, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.portcars.org) .

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me (Jim Wilson – AC8NT) at [jawilson@j3solutions.com](mailto: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](http://www.w8zx.net/exam) or email [VETEAM@N8BAG.NET](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> - Smithville Brethren Church (Smithville/Wayne Co.)

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

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

All sessions begin at 10:00am. For directions and test information visit <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/>

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## **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](mailto:WB8LCD@ARRL.ORG)

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## **Important Links**

ARRL Home: [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

Find an ARRL Affiliated Club: [www.arrl.org/clubs](http://www.arrl.org/clubs)

Find your ARRL Section: [www.arrl.org/sections](http://www.arrl.org/sections)

Find a License Class in your area: [www.arrl.org/class](http://www.arrl.org/class)

Find a License Exam in your area: [www.arrl.org/exam](http://www.arrl.org/exam)

Find a Hamfest or Convention: [www.arrl.org/hamfests](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests)

Email ARRL Clubs: [clubs@arrl.org](mailto:clubs@arrl.org)

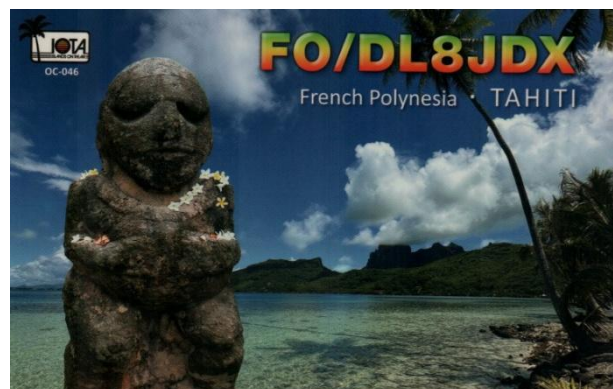
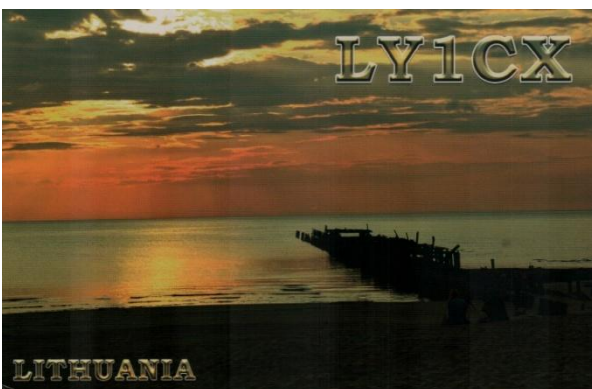
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## DX This Week – #351

Bill - AJ8B ([thedxmentor@gmail.com](mailto:thedxmentor@gmail.com) / [www.aj8b.com](http://www.aj8b.com) )

Welcome to another episode of DX This Week! I have been working some really great DX recently. I hope you are having success as well – don't forget to let me know how you are doing!

I received a couple of great QSL cards. They are featured below. JA0GSA from Niigata, Japan; HC8M from the Galapagos Islands, LY1CX, a beautiful sunset in Lithuania, and FO/DL8JDX, a German DXPedition to French Polynesia. What did you get?



The word for the week is Beverage Antenna. A **Beverage antenna** is a **long, low wire** (often hundreds of meters long) that lies close to the ground and is used to receive radio signals. It's known for its **excellent directional properties** and **low noise**, making it ideal for **weak-signal reception** on lower frequencies.

The antenna consists of A **single wire**, often 1–2 meters above ground, sometimes on the ground, a **resistor** used as a terminator at the far end, and A **feedline** (coaxial cable) at the near end to connect to the receiver.

It receives best **from the direction of the terminated end**. The termination absorbs signals from the opposite direction, giving the antenna its directionality.

The advantages of a beverage are very **low noise** compared to vertical or dipole antennas, **Excellent directivity**, useful for rejecting unwanted signals, and it is simple and inexpensive to build.

The disadvantages are that it requires a lot of space, Works best for **reception**, not transmission, and it typically Needs a **good ground system** or ground rods.

This antenna was named after **Harold H. Beverage**, who invented it around **1921** while working for AT&T on transatlantic radio reception.

DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH

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](mailto:thedxmentor@gmail.com)

**We have a 6O3T - Somalia Update -**

“Good morning, everyone, we’d like to thank you all for the affection and patience you’ve shown towards our 6O operation. Despite the high noise level, we’re moving forward with great personal satisfaction, sometimes at the expense of the usual CW/SSB modes, but often it’s a necessary choice. We’re enjoying good openings on the 6 meters band toward Europe, around 11:00 GMT, with a few shorter ones toward Asia as well. In the afternoon, around 15:00 GMT, the SIX band will open again.

We’ve been transmitting for the second night in a row on 80 and have logged several nice QSOs. In the coming days, we’ll likely make some tests on 160m, though without too many expectations.

Finally, we’ve been receiving many emails about call corrections and typing errors, our apologies, but this is not the right time. All such requests will be handled once we’re back home.”

### **The PJ6Y Adventure is QRT**

After an amazing weekend participating in CQWW SSB 2025, the PJ6Y adventure is coming to a close. Our Young Operators team achieved an incredible milestone — over 55,000 QSOs!

“On behalf of the PJ6Y 2025 team, I would like to thank all of you who took the time to work us,” said Gregg, W6IZT. A special thanks goes out to our sponsors and supporters — this expedition would not have been possible without your generous help and encouragement.

### **5R, MADAGASCAR**

The Italian DXPedition Team led by Silvano, I2YSB announce a new activity from Madagascar until November 12 as 5R8TT utilizing CW, SSB, and RTTY and as 5R8XX on FT8. A team will be operating with 4 stations from 160 to 6 meters. QSL via I2YSB. <https://www.i2ysb.com/idt/>

### **9L, SIERRA LEONE**

The ex-3C2MD managed to plan another DXPedition as 9L8MD until November 10. The team will be active as 9L8MD from 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY. QSL via IK2VUC.

## **9U, BURUNDI**

Members of the Russian DX Team with Vasily R7AL as team leader will be active as 9U1RU until November 20. Plan is to be active with 7 stations from 160 to 6 meters using high power. QSL via Club Log. <https://www3rudxt.org/9u1ru>

## **Z6, KOSOVO**

Look for S58MU and S50X as Z66IPA until November 3. They will be operating from 160 to 10 meters. QSL for all calls via S58MU.

## **VU4, ANDAMAN ISL**

The World DXPedition team will be QRV until November 7 from 3 POTA locations. The team QRV with 5 stations 24/7. ‘Needless to say, the support of corporate and private sponsors are essential to make this DXPedition a success. The Team priority will be to make as many QSOs as possible and offer the highest exposure as possible for sponsors. Corporate or Club sponsors (donating \$1,000 or more in cash or equipment) will be recognized on our QSL cards and website. All Private Sponsors and Patrons will be listed on our website.’

The DX Mentor features a new YouTube episode this coming weekend – The Yasme foundation and the great contributions of Ward Silver, N0AX. Check it out and let me know what you think!

If you want to follow all the latest DX Podcasts and YouTube releases, you should check out the DX Mentor Facebook page and subscribe to be kept up to date on all of the DX activities.

DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH

# 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!

Here is a contest that you may want to check out if you are a 160M operator. It is the REF 160M contest. It is the 3rd full weekend in November, Saturday 1700 UTC till Sunday 0100 UTC, the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup>.

The frequency is 1810 – 1850 KHz, CW only. The exchange is RST + serial number. I will be participating, but I am not sure how I will do.

*If you would like a copy of the special SWODXA Newsletter for October that has over 100 pages of articles about 160M, just drop me a line and I will send it to you.*

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

| Contest              | Start Date | End Date   |
|----------------------|------------|------------|
| CQ WW DX Contest, CW | 11/29/2025 | 11/30/2025 |
| ARRL 160M contest    | 12/5/2025  | 12/7/2025  |
| ARRL 10M Contest     | 12/13/2025 | 12/14/2025 |

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!

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



My parents used to have a saying-“Time flies when you are having fun!” Well I must be having more fun than I ever expected because it seems I just turned the calendar to January 2025 and already it’s November with Summer and Halloween now behind us. With that said it’s also a time that a number of ham radio activities are over until Winter Field Day or Spring. But with 2026 and it being the celebration of America’s 250<sup>th</sup> birthday, it brings an opportunity to the usual dull drums of Winter for clubs to begin planning some type of a special event operation showcasing something regarding our individual areas of the State that has contributed to our nation’s history. More on this later.

As indicated, most ham radio activities for the year are over. Here in the South 40, the annual

TALK IN FREQUENCY  
146.730 PL 162.2hz

**Grant Amateur  
Radio Club Hamfest!**

November 8, 2025  
Open at 8 AM  
ABCAP Building  
406 W. Plum St.  
Georgetown, Ohio 45121

Everyone is Welcome

The more tickets you buy = Better chance of winning!!!  
Main Door prize is a \$600 gift Certificate from R&L Electronics  
A Special thanks to R & L Electronics For 27 Years of Support!

Admission: \$5.00 No Limit on Tickets!  
Table Donations Requested! Setup 6 am  
No Advance tables!

Table set up 6AM First come! November 8, 2025  
Ken Klosterman at 513-515-6726 by Email KD5FKU@gmail.  
Patty Spaulding - Door Prize Chair Person. pattyaspaulding57@gmail.com

27TH ANNUAL HAMFEST!

DOOR PRIZES

OVER \$1000 IN PRIZES!

MAIN PRIZE DRAWING 12:30 PM

**Grant RC**'s Hamfest in Georgetown usually marks the end of the amateur year leaving only holiday gatherings and elections. This year marks the 27<sup>th</sup> year the GRA has held the event which besides having a good number of vendors, is normally well attended and serves also as a major social gathering. It will be held at the ABCAP Building, 406 West Plum Street in Georgetown on Saturday, November 8. The doors open to the public at 8 AM. However vendors may begin setup at 6. Admission is \$5. Although a \$600 R & L gift certificate is the main prize, there are plenty of good door prizes awarded

throughout the event. The **Highland ARA** will provide a test session for new licenses or

upgrades. HARA also has tickets available by contacting yours truly at the info at the end of this article. More information can be obtained at 513-515-6726 or [kd8fku@gmail.com](mailto:kd8fku@gmail.com).

Although no numbers have been released, rumors are indicating the ARRL's letter writing campaign to elected Representatives and Senators to protect our right to erect a ham radio antenna in an otherwise restricted area has had a great response. Although the government shutdown of the FCC and other departments has created a number of issues, perhaps it is also a blessing as it gives additional times to those who have not responded to do so. If you are one of those please take a few moments to check out the ARRL website and <https://send-a-letter.org/hoa/> or [www.arrl.org/HOA](http://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 in the South 40 and other parts of Ohio 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.

Because of Election Day requiring the use of **OH-KY-IN ARS**'s usual Arlington Heights Village Hall meeting location its November meeting location has been changed. Therefore the November 11 meeting will be held at the Lockland Church of the Nazarene, 335 West Wyoming, Cincinnati. Another change of meeting location affects members of the **Milford ARA**. Because of construction at the usual meeting location, they will meet at the East Gate Golden Corral at 6:30 on November 20.

The most busy time of the year will be almost over for the **Athens County ARA** once the November 8 Bobcat Trail Marathon and Half-Marathon is completed. Although most coverage spots are covered, Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, states there are yet a handful of spots needing volunteer operators to cover.

The last few weeks found members of the **Highland ARA** on the public relations trail. They were first spotted manning a ham radio and GMRS information booth at the annual Highland County Jeep Fest sponsored by the county veterans services department in Hillsboro. The following week found members telling about ham radio at the communications badge table at the recent Girl Scout Cascadia Zombie Survival Challenge at Greenfield. They talked to approximately 50 scouts and their leaders and had one troop leader inquiring about presenting a program at her troop at a future meeting. 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 speaking opportunities, the **Clinton County ARC** also presented a couple of talks in the past couple of weeks. The Wilmington Rotary Club was treated to a presentation by Paul Jellison, K8IO, regarding the Radio Club's FM station WIOH/LP, it's first year on the air and plans for the future. Wade Shrack, KD8MRK, and Alan Eldridge, N4MDT, who volunteer at the station, presented a program to those attending the **Highland ARA**'s October meeting and wiener roast. And four members from the **Portsmouth RC** recently assisted the South Webster Scout Troop build a crystal radio, chat on a radio and work towards their ham radio merit badge.

As we all know because of a lapse in funding the Federal Communications Commission is mostly shut down. This includes the Wireless Division in Gettysburg which is responsible for granting new licenses, renewing expiring licenses and making other modifications to amateur service. Therefore we are unable to give the good news of new hams in the South 40 Region. I am aware of a growing back log of new hams whose issuance of licenses will even be delayed by this back log once the funding crises is resolved. I am also aware of some VE sessions that are cancelled because of the known back log. Just hang in there as we've been through this before.

In early October the **Mason County (WV) AuxCom** held a successful joint training session with the **Meigs County AuxCom** and the **Great Bend ARG** during the ARRL's Simulated Emergency Test.

By the time you read this, the CW portion of the ARRL's November Sweepstakes will be past. However the Phone portion is yet to come. It will take place November 15-16 on a HF band near you. Though I am not really into contesting, it is one I try not to miss because it is one I can try to out do myself from previous years. Although I normally come close to a clean sweep, there are usually one or two that the antenna farm does not seem to hear. Quebec is usually missed followed by South Carolina. For those who are seeking Worked All States, you stand working them all during the weekend. Plus the County Hunters are out looking for new ones. If you are new to contesting, this might be the one for you to cut your teeth on.

In many cases the clubs in the South 40 Region have their 2026 elections either underway or completed. At Athens Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, has been re-elected President of the **Athens County ARA**. He will be assisted by Vice-President Paul Schulz, WD8SCV; Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV and Linda Clark, KF8DQV, as Secretary. At the west end of the South 40, the **Milford ARA** has re-elected Ron Brooks President. Tim Bastress, KB8DDG, will serve as Vice President; Raleigh Sizemore, AB8KG, will handle the money and Bill Hindenlang, NY2FL is the Secretary. At the recent **Highland ARA** meeting, President John Willis, KE8JEM, appointed a nominating committee of Jeff Collins, KD8VUY; Ken Lightner, KE8JEL and Gary Rockwell, W3GWR, to round up a slate of officers for 2026. With club elections to take place at the November meeting, the October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the **Tri-State ARA** finalized nominations

for the 2026 officer positions. The **Lancaster Fairfield County ARA** has re-elected the 2025 officers and directors to serve throughout 2026. The **OH-KY-IN ARS** held nominations at their November with elections to happen at the December meeting.

Holding a foxhunt in November could be iffy according to **Hocking Valley ARA** officials. However reports indicate the Club's October 25 one in Hocking County went very well with the "fox" found by Phil Staley, W8NZB, in less than an hour. The photo indicates the award ceremony may have been held at the Rocky Boot outlet in Nelsonville. With hunting season upon us, be careful if you are hiking or working in a wooded area.



It is with sadness we learn of the October 21 passing of James Rowe, N8TVO, of Ironton. Jim was known throughout the Tri-State area for his on-going involvement with the annual Lawrence County-Ironton Memorial Day Parade which is said to be the oldest Memorial Day Parade in the nation. Jim was a long time member of the **Southern Ohio ARA** and proudly served as its longest serving President. Services have been held in Ironton. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Jim's family and many ham radio friends.

2026 marks the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the United States. Already communities across the nation are planning ways and events to celebrate the occasion. Our part of Ohio played an important part in the opening of the frontier to the nation's expansion and its settlement with the Ohio, Scioto and Muskingum Rivers; the National Road, Zane's Trace and US 50; early railroads and canals and the early settlements at Marietta and Manchester. Plus Ohio's first capital at Chillicothe and the second at Zanesville. And look at all the famous people who came from Ohio's South 40. 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 or historic about your community?

As this column is prepared, it's hard to believe that Santa will visit us less than two months from now. A number of South 40 area clubs are already deep into planning their year-end and holiday events. The **Lancaster Fairfield County ARA** will be assisting with the annual Lancaster Christmas Parade on the morning of November 22. November 29 will find the **Cambridge ARA** assisting with the annual Cambridge Christmas Parade. On December 4 the **Clinton County ARA** will hold their annual carry-in Christmas Dinner and elections at 6:30 PM at the Cancer Center in Wilmington. A long standing tradition of the **Cambridge ARA** is their annual Awards Banquet. This year it will be held at the Cambridge Denny's on December 6 beginning at 2 PM. The menu is already set for the **Highland ARA**'s Holiday Dinner Party at the Methodist Church in Hillsboro on December 9. Then on December 16 the **Athens County ARA** will hold their Christmas gathering at a location yet to be determined. On December 18 the **All Things ARA** will hold their Christmas Party at the Alley Park in Lancaster from 5:30 until 8.

The **Portage County ARS** annual Ohio State Parks on the Air results have been posted on the OSPOTA.org website. Four of several South 40 based groups and/or clubs participating scored in the top ten. The **Drake Contest Club** Station K8UU traveled from the Dayton area to made a nice second place showing from Caesar Creek. A group of friends gathered at Paint Creek and came away with N8CUB in the fifth overall position. W8O captured seventh place from Lake Cowan. The **Cambridge ARA** W8VP placed as number ten from Blue Rock. Over 250 hams from more than 50 different clubs participated in known activations with a decent number of South 40 parks activated. Although statewide 69 parks show activity but for unknown reasons only 56 submitted logs. Also puzzling was there was no official activity from Ohio's newest park, Great Council. I thought someone would be chomping at the bit to be the first to activate it. But at least three activated parks did not submit entries and several others did not have any known activity. What say we plan to correct that during next year's September 12, 2026 contest.

**THIS JUST IN...** The ARRL has announced it is inviting non-hams holding GMRS licenses to participate in the prior mentioned campaign to send letters to our elected senators and representatives regarding HOA antenna restrictions. Since Helene hit North Carolina and Tennessee a bit over a year ago, there has been an interest up-tick in people applying for a GMRS license and thus many new GMRS repeaters have taken to the air. Just in the South 40 Region, machines in Athens, Chillicothe, Hillsboro, Lancaster, Pomeroy and Washington CH are now in operation and at least two are in the planning stages. At least one is owned by one of our ham radio clubs. We have even added some new hams to our ranks because of their GMRS exposure to amateur radio. With this cross over it seems appropriate GMRS should be invited to participate. For a GMRS user to add their letter to the masses, the procedure is the same as we hams use. Should you know someone with a GMRS license, please ask them to check out this call for assistance.

Before calling this edition a wrap for, I would be amiss if I did not pause and take time to thank our many Veterans and others who worked in government service for their contributions. So on Tuesday, November 11 set aside a few moments in your busy schedule to give a shout out to a Veteran and thank them.

*John,* W8KIW

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

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## **ARLD044 DX news**

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

**MADAGASCAR, 5R.** A group of operators are QRV as 5R8TT and 5R8XX from Nosy Be Island, IOTA AF-057, until November 12. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8 with four stations active. QSL direct to I2YSB.

**SIERRA LEONA, 9L.** Members of the Mediteraneo DX Club are QRV as 9L8MD until November 10, with a side trip to Banana Island, IOTA AF-037, and active as 9L9L from November 2 to 5. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8. QSL via operators' instructions.

**BURUNDI, 9U.** A large group of operators are QRV as 9U1RU until November 7. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and various digital modes. QSL via operators' instructions.

**THE GAMBIA, C5.** Lui, YT3PL, and Luc, F5RAV, are QRV as C5R and C5LT, respectively, until November 7. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4. QSL C5R direct to YU5R, and C5LT direct to F5RAV.

**SPAIN, EA.** Members from the Radio Club del Tarragones will be QRV as AO25TWHS from November 1 to 30 for the 25th anniversary of the Archaeological Ensemble of Tarraco, which is now modern-day Tarragona, and that has been put on the UNESCO World Heritage list. QSL via LoTW.

**GALAPAGOS, HC8.** Edgar, K2IN, is QRV as HD8R from San Cristobel Island, IOTA SA-004, until November 4. QSL via M0OXO.

**OGASAWARA, JD1.** Harry, JG7PSJ, will be QRV as JD1BMH from Chichijima, IOTA AS-031, from November 1 to 9. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and RTTY. QSL direct to home call.

**GUAM, JH2.** Yokoi, JI3CEY, will be QRV as KH2/JI3CEY from November 1 to November 3. Activity will be on the HF bands and 6 meters. QSL to home call.

**CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, TL.** Darek, TJ1GD, is QRV as TL8GD for the foreseeable future. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

**GABON, TR.** Roland, F8EN, is QRV as TR8CR for two months. Activity is on the HF bands using only CW. QSL via F6AJA.

**BRUNEI, V8.** Special event station V84SRU is QRV until November 26 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the International Amateur Radio Union. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via bureau.

**FALKLAND ISLANDS, VP8.** Hackl, DL7HW, will be QRV as VP8THW from Stanley from November 1 to 7. Activity will be on 20 to 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

**LATVIA, YL.** Members of the Latvian Radio Amateur League are QRV as YL100LR until November 2 to mark the centenary since Latvijas Radio began broadcasting. QSL via LoTW.

**REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO, Z6.** Milan, S58MU, and Silvo, S50X, are QRV as Z68MU and Z68WW, respectively, until November 3. They will be active as Z66IPA in the IPARC contest. QSL via S58MU.

**UK SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS ON CYPRUS, ZC.** Dave, G4WXJ, will be QRV as ZC4RH from Dhekelia from November 3 to 7. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 6 meters using FT8 and FT4. QSL via LoTW.

**CHATHAM ISLAND, ZL7.** Stan, LZ1GC, plans to be QRV as ZL7/LZ1GC from November 3 to 20. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters, including 60 meters. QSL to home call.

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## *Upcoming Hamfests*

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



# *Ohio Hamfests*

## *2025 & 2026*

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>11/08/2025 - <a href="#">GARC Hamfest</a></b><br><b>Location:</b> Georgetown, OH<br><b>Type:</b> ARRL Hamfest<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Grant Amateur Radio Club<br><b><a href="#">Learn More</a></b>                                                                                                                                                   | <b>12/06/2025 - <a href="#">FCARC Winter Hamfest</a></b><br><b>Location:</b> Delta, OH<br><b>Type:</b> ARRL Hamfest<br><b>Sponsor:</b> FCARC<br><b>Website:</b> <a href="https://k8bxq.org/hamfest">https://k8bxq.org/hamfest</a><br><b><a href="#">Learn More</a></b>                                                                                                                    |
| <b>01/18/2026 - <a href="#">SCARF Hamfest</a></b><br><b>Location:</b> Shade, OH<br><b>Type:</b> ARRL Hamfest<br><b>Sponsor:</b> SCARF members<br><b><a href="#">Learn More</a></b>                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>01/31/2026 - <a href="#">Struthers ROAR Mid-Winter Hamfest</a></b><br><b>Location:</b> Struthers, OH<br><b>Type:</b> ARRL Hamfest<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Struthers Regional Operators of Amateur Radio<br><b>Website:</b> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61580196127715">https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61580196127715</a><br><b><a href="#">Learn More</a></b> |
| <b>03/15/2026 - <a href="#">Toledo Mobile Radio Association Hamfest and Computer Fair</a></b><br><b>Location:</b> Perrysburg, OH<br><b>Type:</b> ARRL Hamfest<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Toledo Mobile Radio Association<br><b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.w8hhf.org">http://www.w8hhf.org</a><br><b><a href="#">Learn More</a></b>                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>04/11/2026 - <a href="#">Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club 70th Hamfest</a></b><br><b>Location:</b> Cuyahoga Falls, OH<br><b>Type:</b> ARRL Hamfest<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club, Inc.<br><b>Website:</b> <a href="https://www.cfarc-hamfest.org">https://www.cfarc-hamfest.org</a><br><b><a href="#">Learn More</a></b> | <b>08/15/2026 - <a href="#">Cincinnati Hamfest<sup>SM</sup>, ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention</a></b><br><b>Location:</b> Owensville, OH<br><b>Type:</b> ARRL Convention<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Milford Amateur Radio Club<br><b>Website:</b> <a href="https://cincinnatihamfest.org/">https://cincinnatihamfest.org/</a><br><b><a href="#">Learn More</a></b>                            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>08/16/2026 - <a href="#">Warren Hamfest</a></b><br><b>Location:</b> Cortland, OH<br><b>Type:</b> ARRL Hamfest<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Warren Amateur Radio Association<br><b>Website:</b> <a href="http://w8vtd.com/hamfest">http://w8vtd.com/hamfest</a><br><b><a href="#">Learn More</a></b>                                                                                              |

## ***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

**K8ZT**

John Q. Amateur  
123 Maple Avenue  
Anytown, State 00000

FCC Registration Number (R/S): 000000000

Special Conditions / Endorsements  
NONE

| Grant Date | Effective Date | Print Date | Expiration Date |
|------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|
| 01/01/2000 | 01/01/2017     | 01/01/2000 | 01/01/2017      |

| File Number | Operator Privileges | Station Privileges |
|-------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 000000000   | Advanced            | VE000000           |

THIS LICENSE IS NOT TRANSFERABLE

*John Q. Amateur*  
(Licensee's Signature)

DEC 000 - Mar 2007

[https://arrrl-ohio.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/print\\_your\\_license.pdf](https://arrrl-ohio.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/print_your_license.pdf)

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## ***Final... Final***

Congratulations! If you’ve read this newsletter all the way down to here, you will no doubt have picked up some very useful information. Well, for 2025 we’re starting to run out of year..... If there are still things you want to get done – you better get busy!

Did you ever decide to take your family on vacation, pack some bags, hop in the car and just start driving with “not a clue” about where you are going or what you were going to be doing? For the most part, that probably wasn’t a very fun vacation. You’d waste a lot of time and money, probably not get the type of accommodations you would hope for, and it would be a long ride home with a car full of disappointed family members. Your life could be like that too if you don’t do any planning. Same for your Amateur Radio Club. You’ve got about 45 days left to make a plan for 2026 – unless you are just going to aimlessly wander through it. I’m not going to try to help you plan your life, but I am going to give you some things to think about for your Amateur Radio Club. 2026 is the ARRL’s “YEAR OF THE CLUB.” I hope you’re not going to leave the success of *your* club totally up to chance. Planning is key to a fantastic club experience!

## **The Club Meeting**

For most clubs, the monthly meeting is one of the most important and visible activities of the club. Potential new members will judge you by what your meeting is like, and existing members will decide whether to hang around or look for something different based on the club's monthly meeting. Start now. Determine a dozen meeting topics that would be interesting to your club members and seek out presenters who could present at your meeting – either in person or via zoom. Get your line-up for the first quarter locked in as soon as possible to give you time to promote your club meetings to both the members and the community-at-large whom you are trying to build interest for the hobby with. Then keep moving ahead with presenters on interesting topics so you're always at least 2-4 months ahead. And NEVER let your club down because "I couldn't find anyone". It takes time and effort, but that beats another meeting with no guest speaker. Most important – Keep it on an Amateur Radio topic!

## **Club Events**

Plan your events ahead of time. There are some easy ones – Field Day, Ohio QSO Party, any Special Event Stations your club normally runs. VE Sessions, Tech classes. Get these planned and on the calendar so everyone knows what's coming up. Start building your volunteer list for each event – now! No-one wants to get the job of putting on a club event 4 days before the event date... Big clubs, with more members to be involved can take on more events, smaller clubs might want to pare down the event schedule to just a few so as not to burn out your volunteers.

## **Community Involvement**

When possible, planning events and activities with, and around, community events can help to keep your club visible to the community. Look for those other activities that you can pair up with and use the opportunity to acquaint others with our hobby and what we do.

I guess my whole point here is that great clubs don't just happen by accident. They happen intentionally. They happen with forethought and involvement. As a member of your club, you have an obligation to participate. No one person should have to do it all, and there's always something you are capable of helping with. Everyone working together really makes for a fantastic club experience!

As we move into the Holiday Season I want to thank everyone who has been an active Ham in the Ohio Section over this past year. We have a lot of really OUTSTANDING Amateur Radio Clubs and club members in the Ohio Section. You truly do some amazing things! I'm thankful for all of you and wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving and a Blessed Christmas! 2026 is going to be one of the best times ever to be a Ham Radio Operator!

Share the Magic of Radio!

73,  
Tom WB8LCD

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## ***“Swap & Shop” on the website***

Hey Gang,

Have you taken a look at the **Swap & Shop** page on the Ohio Section webpage yet?? Here’s a link that will take you there...

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



Do you have equipment that you just don’t need or want anymore? Here’s a great venue to advertise it, and it’s FREE!!

Is your club doing a fund raiser to help raise money? After a lot of thought, it was decided that the Swap & Shop webpage could also contain these types of items as well.

The same rules will apply as do for the For Sales and Give-A-Ways and will only be posted for a month at a time. Please see the Terms & Conditions on the webpage. You might want to list your location so that prospective buyers know where you’re at.

If your club is doing a fund raiser and wants more exposure, please forward the information to me and I’ll advertise it on the Swap & Shop webpage for you. Now, I still want to remind you that it won’t be listed in this newsletter because it would take up way too much space, so your ad will only appear on the website. It is there for any individual to post equipment Wanted / For Sale or Give-Away as well as for Club Fund Raisers. No licensed vehicles/trailers or business advertising will be posted.

Postings are text only (no pictures or graphics) will be posted for a maximum of 1 month from date posting and require a contact phone number or email within the posting. Send your Wanted / For Sale or Give-Away post to: [swap@arrlohio.org](mailto:swap@arrlohio.org)

## ***Back Issues of the PostScript and Ohio Section Journal***

Hey, did you know that PostScript and Ohio Section Journal (OSJ) are archived on the website?



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



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*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!*