

*Ohio
Section
Journal*

*December 7,
2025*

Pearl Harbor Day



The **attack on Pearl Harbor** was a surprise military strike by the Empire of Japan on the United States Pacific Fleet at it's Naval Base at Pearl Harbor on Oahu, HI, on December 7, 1941. At the time, the U.S. was a neutral country in World War II. The air raid on Pearl Harbor, which was launched from aircraft carriers, resulted in the U.S. declaring war on Japan the next day.

WWW.ARRL-Ohio.org

October Handbook Giveaway Winner - KE8DAC– Bret Johnson!

Congratulations – your Handbook is on the way..... There were 60 entries this month – up from 62 last month. Get out to the Ohio Section website and get yourself in the game!

November 1 question questionnaire – What got you interested in Amateur Radio?

- Chasing DX
- Emergency Communication
- Friendships
- Something Else?

Out of 75 responses, 8 said “Chasing DX”; 15 said “Emergency Communications”; 15 said “Friendships”; and 37 said “Something Else”.

I guess what we see from this is that there are many reasons folks get into Amateur Radio! We have many interests in the use of “RADIO” in our lives that draw us all to this hobby. Everyone’s reason is valid!

This month’s “One Question Questionnaire” aka 1QQ - Do you participate in Straight Key Night?

Go to the website www.arrl-ohio.org to submit your answer!

From the Technical Coordinator

Jeff Kopcak – K8JTK TC
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Hey gang,

RF noise is a frequent issue among radio amateurs and one I’m contacted about many times a year. With the proliferation of electronics and wireless devices, this has



affected and raised our noise floor. As a result, all hams experience some kind of Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) issue relating to radio reception.

What is RFI? Electromagnetic interference (EMI), also called RFI, is a disturbance generated by an external source affecting radio frequency spectrum. This results in the inability to properly receive a signal affecting range, quality, or resulting in total loss of the signal. For data transmissions increased error rates and loss of data occur.

External sources can be natural or man-made. Natural sources can be solar flares, auroras, or lightning/static discharge. We can't do much about natural sources other than to use directional antennas when possible. Man-made examples are much more numerous: infrastructure (power lines), grow lights, timers, TV/plasma displays/monitors, fluorescent lights, appliances, automobiles, streetlights, solar devices, ignition systems (combustion engines/spark ignition), motors, other wireless radio systems and receivers, Industrial, Scientific, and Medical equipment (ISM), switching power supplies, or intentional radio jamming. The list goes on. The result is often a wide-band signal with negative artifacts heard as pulses, clicks, or sweeping on analog signals and seen as increased errors on data signals.

Many man-made sources exist due to rogue manufacturers whom don't obtain proper certifications, devices manufactured in other countries that do not have or follow the same standards, or manufactures that leave out/remove filtering circuits to cut costs. This is largely because consumers demand cheap crap. It seems no one wants to pay for well manufactured devices. Now, we have this whack-a-mole situation where a source of interference shows up, it's tracked down, remediated, and shortly after another source shows up. Rise and repeat. It can really drive a wedge in neighbor and city relations.

In order to troubleshoot RFI, first thing to determine if the noise source is internal to the QTH. Internal to the QTH means it is within the house and under your control. Shut off the main panel circuit breaker to the house. A radio with a battery source will be needed. That could be small battery powered AM radio, HF radio powered with a battery source, or a 2-meter rig with the AM aircraft band. If the noise remains, remove the source from battery powered devices and Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS) to make sure all bases are covered.

If the noise disappears with the main panel off, turn off all sub-breakers and restore mains. One-by-one turn on each sub-breaker until the noise returns. It may not immediately return due to device cycling, such as a refrigerator, or boot-up time for control systems. Identify devices powered by that breaker and unplug all devices. Again, one-at-a-time plug them in until the noise returns. When the source has been identified, determine what can be done. Whether that's removing the device altogether, plugging it in only when needed, replace the device, or apply ferrite rings, snap-ons, or chokes in an attempt to eliminate noise.

If the noise source is determined to be outside the QTH, it becomes more involved. Portable directional equipment is required. An antenna mounted on a tripod is useful for accuracy. It is quite a bit harder to find the source of noise with non-directional antennas, such as whips, wires, and non-directional test equipment. Though not impossible.

Document everything with dates and times. Notes on setup, changes/reconfiguration of equipment, locations, observations, contacts, noise characteristics, current noise floor, noise

changes over time, take photos and screenshots of scopes and spectrum outputs - are a few examples. Don't rely on memory.

Print out a map of a mile or two radius from the QTH.

A loop antenna is preferred with a spectrum analyzer or a portable HF receiver.

Tracking the source will require the triangulation method. A loop antenna is bidirectional. Rotate the antenna finding the null in the interference/noise rather than the peak. The null indicates the noise is 90 degrees from the loop or looking through the loop at the source or broadside to the loop. Practice with a known source, such as a signal generator, to get comfortable with the antenna and triangulating method in a small park, for example. Repeat this process at different locations at least two more times to locate the source.

Plot your location on the map and draw lines indicating the direction of the broadside of the antenna. With any luck, all three lines will intersect and now you've identified the location of the noise source.

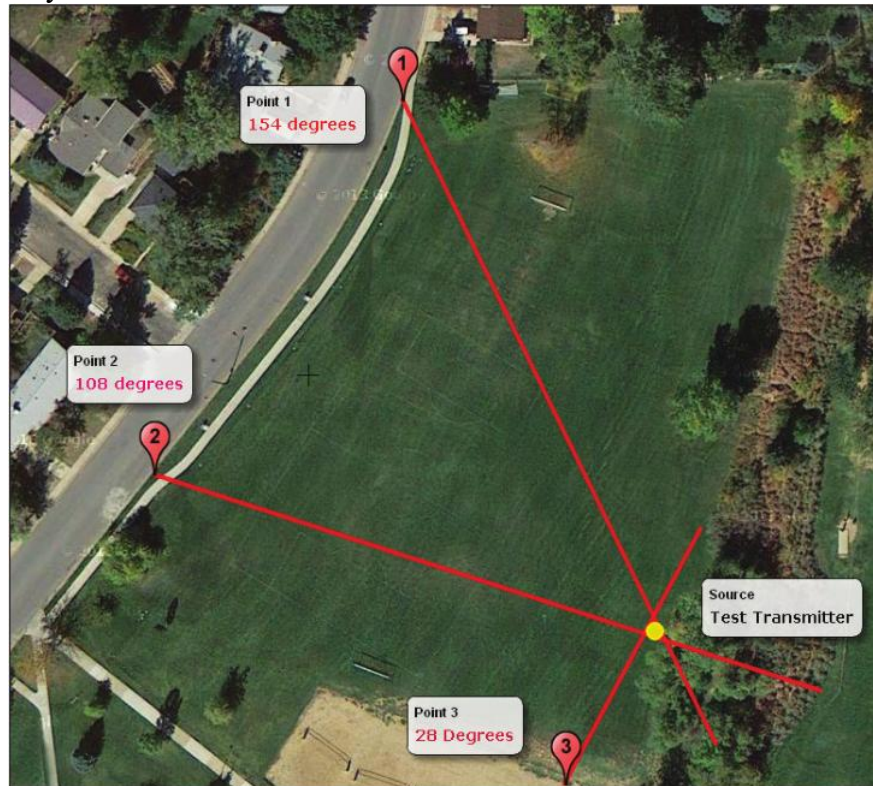


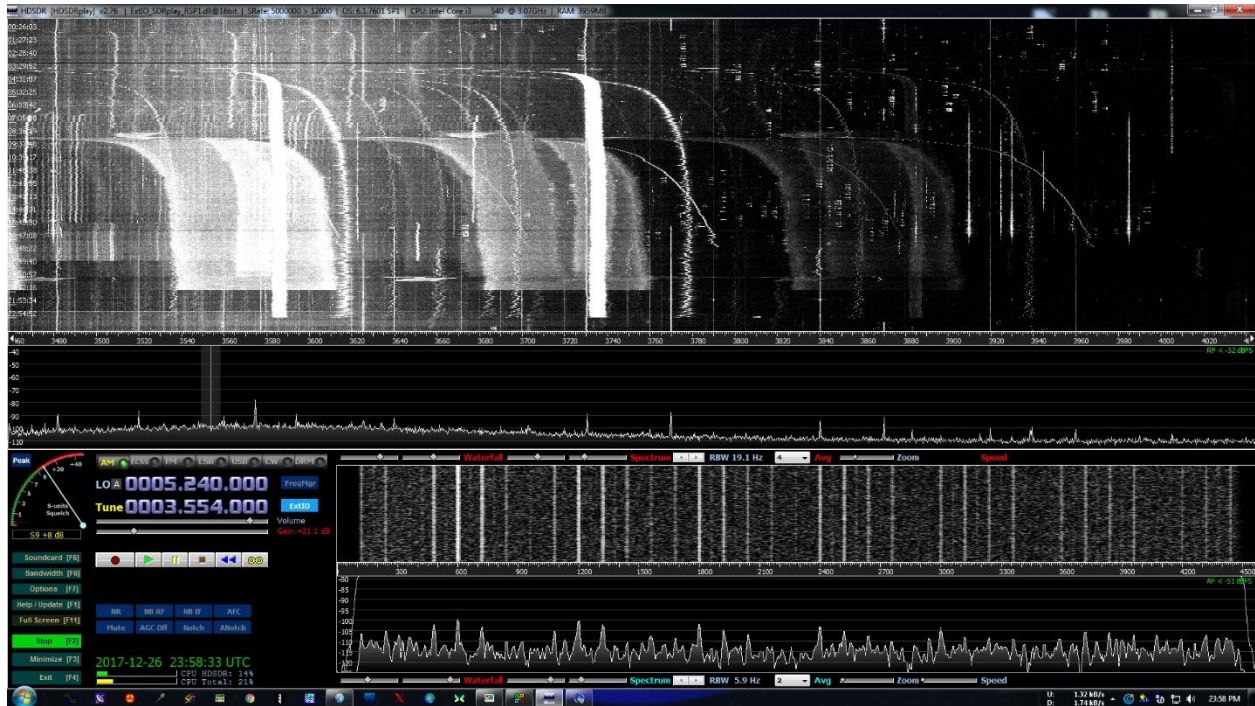
Figure 8 — Triangulation example using in a local park. [Image source: www.scribblemaps.com, copyright 2013 Google]

Triangulation method of RFI hunting (Thompson)

Another way I've seen (or when no directional equipment is available) is to drive around an area recording S level readings every quarter-to-half mile. The AM radio in the car will help locate noise, if your car has one, as the noise will intensify when getting closer to the source. Tune the AM radio to an unused clear frequency, usually the low-end or high-end are good places. Once S meter readings are plotted, it should be obvious where the noise is strongest. An attenuator can be used when getting closer to the noise source.

Once the external source is identified, it is 50/50 whether the problem will ever be resolved. First, rule out **everything** else. That is to make sure no false positives - interference from the car or own equipment. Most owners or service technicians are willing to help resolve issues, up to an extent. They might be willing to replace a neon sign with another type or replace a failing power supply. They will be less likely if it is an expensive piece of equipment or part of a critical function.

Always remain calm, cool, and collected in all interactions and correspondence with all parties, including law enforcement. Introduce yourself, who you are and what you are trying to do. There is a better chance of a positive outcome when not being forceful or accusatory, even if unintentional. Offer helpful suggestions to mitigate the source of RFI. Know that the source may never be found. Whether it's because the source originates from



Grow lights on 80m (NK7Z)

private property and may not be able to obtain access the building or premises, or originates from a distant source – such as another country.

Utility companies, such as [power companies](#), are required to address interference issues. Though “no person shall manufacture, import, sell, offer for sale, or ship devices or home electronic equipment and systems, or use devices, which fail to comply with regulations” [related to radio interference](#), getting an authority to enforce this can be hit-or-miss.

The ARRL has [RFI resources](#) and [EMI/RFI products](#) which include sources of interference, web links to guides and tutorials, sources for filters and chokes. Tom Thompson – W0IVJ’s [QST article from November 2014](#) describes locating noise on HF and the triangulation method. The ARRL RFI Book (3rd edition) is a good source however, is out of print and might be available from another ham or the local library. Alan Higbie – K0AV’s article in the March/April 2021 NCJ “[Tracking RFI with an SDR One Source at a Time](#)” gives great ideas for identifying the sources, techniques, and using an SDR. The article isn’t in the ARRL member Periodicals Archive, for some reason.

I found great technical articles, details, techniques, and his own notes at nk7z.net. QRM.guru has plenty of information to read through on the process, case studies, and lab testing of ferries from various sources. The content, though, is geared toward Australian products. There are plenty of videos including older Ham Nation episodes about [noise sources](#) and [tips for identifying noise in your house](#).

Since MFJ has ceased production, many of the affordable pieces of RFI identifying equipment, such as the Directional Noise Finder (MFJ-856) and the Ultra-Sonic Receiver (MFJ-5008), are out of stock/production and getting harder to find.

If you can't find the source or need help, a Technical Specialist can offer guidance dealing with interference problems. You can contact me and I'll get in touch with a Technical Specialist. A local club may be able to help if you are unable to get out to do the necessary work, don't have the funds or equipment to identify the source.

If you're a DMR user and have not yet [verified your DMR ID is compliant](#), you don't have much longer to avoid interruption.

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

From the Section Emergency Coordinator
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2025 ARES Conference

I would like to say a heartfelt Thank you to all of you that took the time to attend the conference. We had a great turn out and I hope you were able to leave additional training and information. There were 66 in attendance out of 75 registered.



A special Thank you to Tom and Roy for attending, (Unfortunately, Scott could not make it due to scheduling conflicts) and the Ohio Section for the coffee bar and prizes for the drawing, and to the speakers that took the time to put together their presentations and to the Licking Co. team for their help and support as well as the OSU/COTC Campus for the use of the room.

Guest Speakers:

Tom Sly, WB8LCD

Roy Hook, W8REH

Matthew Smith, KE8GTP

Mat Nickoson, KC8NZJ

Dan Rinaman, AC8NP

Bret Stemen, KD8SCL

I apologize if I didn't get a chance to speak to all of you one on one and it was great to have spoken to these that I was able to. I have received several emails with positive feedback.

Congratulations to Tom Sly WD8LCD on his retirement as Section Manager, I will be replacing Tom as Section Manager.

Congratulations to Mat Nickoson, KC8NZJ on his appointment as Section Emergency Coordinator, Mat is replacing me as SEC.

I am looking forward to 2026 and to see what it will bring the Ohio Section.

Top 5 Ways Fraudsters are Targeting YOU

How to recognize the tricks and protect your money



By [Megan Norris](#)

November 25, 2025

The holiday shopping rush has become a hunting ground for cybercriminals. As millions of consumers chase bargains this Black Friday, sophisticated fraud operations are scaling up to meet them. Data from [Pew Research](#) indicates that more than a third of American adults have already experienced some form of online shopping scam, while the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) recorded nearly \$435 million in losses from this category of fraud last year.

What makes 2025 particularly dangerous is the industrialization of fraud.

Researchers have documented a dramatic increase in fraudulent e-commerce domains appearing in the weeks before Black Friday, with NordVPN [reporting](#) a 250% jump in bogus online storefronts like Amazon and eBay.

Source: National Retail Federation

The [National Retail Federation](#) projects holiday retail sales will reach record levels in 2025, approximately 3-4% higher than 2024, with an estimated 187 million shoppers expected over Thanksgiving weekend alone and 130 million on Black Friday specifically. Of significant concern: 55% of shoppers plan to make purchases online, where fraud detection is more challenging.

“Consumers should watch out for phishing scams in the shape of fake coupons, discount codes, and ‘huge deals!’ cautions Randy Rose, Vice President of Security Operations & Intelligence at the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) at the Center for Internet Security (CIS).

Below are five of the most pressing threats facing shoppers this season, along with practical guidance on how to sidestep them.

1. Phantom Storefronts That Disappear After You Pay

The threat:

Criminals are spinning up convincing replica websites at unprecedented speed. These sites mimic legitimate retailers down to the product images, brand logos, and even trust badges. They advertise jaw-dropping discounts through social media ads – often 70% or more off premium products – then collect payment information and vanish within hours, leaving buyers with nothing or a cheap imitation.

Example of a fake IKEA website

Analysis has [identified](#) campaigns impersonating major brands including Amazon, IKEA, and Louis Vuitton. Some operations have leveraged legitimate cloud hosting services to evade spam filters, making them harder to block. The short lifespan of these sites also makes it difficult for authorities to shut them down before the damage is done.

How to stay safe:

- Resist the urge to click through from social media advertisements. Instead, open a separate browser window and navigate to the retailer’s website directly to see if the offer is real.
- Scrutinize web addresses for subtle misspellings, additional words, or unusual domain extensions that differ from the official site.
- Run a quick search combining the store’s name with “scam” or “reviews” to see what others have reported.

- Treat any request to pay by bank transfer, cryptocurrency, or gift card as an immediate red flag. Reputable sellers will always accept standard card payments.

2. Bogus Delivery Alerts Designed to Harvest Your Details

The threat:

When you have several packages enroute, a message about a delivery problem barely raises an eyebrow. Fraudsters exploit this by sending convincing texts or emails claiming a package requires further instructions or is held up and requires a small fee or address update to release.

Source: Federal Trade Commission

It often includes a link that leads to a convincing clone of a postal service or major retailer's website, where any information you enter goes straight to criminals. The United States Postal Inspection Service calls this particular scheme "[smishing](#)," receiving "unsolicited mobile text messages with an unfamiliar or strange web link that indicates a USPS delivery requires a response from you."

This tactic has become the single most reported text-based scam in the United States, according to FTC data, costing consumers hundreds of millions of dollars. The peak shopping season amplifies the risk because people genuinely are expecting deliveries and may act without thinking.

How to stay safe:

- Make it a rule never to tap links in unsolicited delivery messages. Go directly to the carrier's app or website and enter the tracking number you already have.
- Be skeptical of any communication asking for payment to release a package; legitimate couriers do not operate this way.
- If you realize you have entered details on a suspicious site, contact your bank immediately to freeze your card/account and update your passwords.

3. AI-Generated Deception and Deepfake Impersonation

The threat:

Artificial intelligence (AI) has handed fraudsters a powerful new toolkit. Scammers can now generate realistic-looking websites, craft persuasive marketing copy that mirrors a brand's tone, produce fake product reviews at scale, and even create deepfake videos of company executives announcing fictitious promotions. The

telltale signs that once gave scams away – poor grammar, awkward phrasing, low-quality visuals – are rapidly disappearing.

Security researchers have [found](#) that more than three-quarters of phishing sites detected in the second quarter of 2025 contained AI-generated content, contributing to a surge in unique phishing campaigns. Law enforcement agencies have warned that criminals are scraping publicly available photos and videos from social media to train models capable of hyper-personalized attacks.

How to stay safe:

- Look for subtle inconsistencies in video content: unnatural lip movements, strange lighting, or robotic vocal patterns can indicate a deepfake.
- Confirm any sensational announcement by visiting the company's verified social channels or official website before acting on it.
- Be wary of chatbots or customer service agents who push aggressively for personal details or steer you toward unusual payment methods.
- Approach product reviews with healthy skepticism if they lack specific detail or read identically across different sites.

4. Counterfeit Goods Masquerading as Luxury Bargains

The threat:

Black Friday creates ideal cover for sellers of knock-off merchandise. Listings appear offering designer handbags, premium headphones, branded sneakers, or the latest smartwatch at a fraction of the usual price. Buyers either receive a poor-quality imitation, or nothing at all. The problem is especially acute on marketplace platforms where third-party sellers can set up shop with minimal vetting.

Researchers have flagged campaigns exploiting household names across fashion, technology, and consumer electronics. Amazon remains the most frequently impersonated brand globally, appearing in countless phishing messages and fake coupon schemes. Luxury labels like Louis Vuitton and tech giants like Apple are also common targets.

How to stay safe:

- Treat extreme discounts on high-demand items as a warning sign rather than an opportunity. If a deal seems too good to be true, it probably is.
- Check whether the product is sold directly by the brand or an authorized retailer, rather than an unfamiliar third-party seller.

- Be especially cautious with items that will come into contact with skin, food, or children; counterfeits may not meet safety standards.
- A modest discount from a verified source is far safer than a dramatic markdown from an unknown vendor.

5. Fraudulent Customer Support and Fake Account Alerts

The threat:

When checkout problems strike during a busy sale, many shoppers instinctively search for a customer service number. Criminals have exploited this by seeding search results with fake helplines. Callers are then manipulated into handing over card details or redirected to alternative payment methods like wire transfers or gift cards under the pretense that the retailer's systems are experiencing issues.

A related tactic involves unsolicited messages warning of suspicious account activity and urging recipients to verify their credentials immediately. The link provided leads to a replica login page that captures usernames and passwords. In the frantic atmosphere of a flash sale, harried shoppers are more likely to comply without pausing to verify authenticity.

How to stay safe:

- Only use contact details found on the retailer's official website or app. Never rely on search engine results or unsolicited messages.
- Refuse any request to pay via gift card, wire transfer, or cryptocurrency, regardless of the reason given.
- Legitimate support agents will never ask for your full card number, PIN, or online banking password.
- Enable two-factor authentication wherever possible, so that stolen credentials alone are not enough to access your accounts.

The Bigger Picture: Fraud Is Scaling Up

The financial burden of payment fraud on U.S. businesses has reached historic levels. According to [TransUnion](#)'s 2024 survey of business leaders, American companies reported losing an average of 9.8% of annual revenue to fraud over the past year, a 46% increase from the prior survey period and 27% higher than the global average of 7.7%. The data underscores the disproportionate targeting of U.S. enterprises by fraud operations.

Account takeover attacks have emerged as the costliest fraud category for domestic businesses, accounting for nearly one-third of all reported losses. Synthetic identity fraud (use of a combination of personally identifiable information to fabricate a person or entity to commit a dishonest act for financial or personal gain) follows at 24%, with authorized payment scams close behind at 23%, reflecting the diversity of attack methods across the fraud ecosystem.

The trajectory points toward continued escalation. Juniper Research [projected](#) global e-commerce fraud losses will climb from \$44 billion in 2024 to \$107 billion by 2029, a 141% increase. The holiday shopping season concentrates risk factors – elevated transaction volumes, time-sensitive promotions, and reduced consumer vigilance – creating optimal conditions for exploitation at scale.

Quick-Reference Checklist

1. **Navigate directly:** Type retailer addresses into your browser rather than clicking through from ads or messages.
2. **Investigate unfamiliar sellers:** A quick search for the store name alongside ‘scam’ or ‘reviews’ can reveal problems before you commit.
3. **Pay by credit card:** Credit cards offer stronger fraud protections and chargeback rights than debit cards, transfers, or gift cards.
4. **Activate two-factor authentication:** Adding a second verification step makes compromised passwords far less useful to attackers.
5. **Inspect URLs carefully:** Confirm the address matches the official domain exactly, with no extra words or unusual extensions.
6. **Steer clear of public Wi-Fi for transactions:** Unsecured networks make it easier for criminals to intercept data.
7. **Trust your instincts:** An offer that seems too generous to be real almost certainly is not. Source: Canva
8. **Review statements frequently:** Catching a fraudulent charge early makes recovery much simpler.

“Consumers also should be mindful of ‘quishing’ or QR phishing. Don’t scan QR codes from unknown/untrusted sources,” said CIS’s VP Rose.

Black Friday should be an opportunity to secure genuine savings, not a gateway to financial loss. A few moments of caution – verifying a site, double-checking a sender,

or questioning an implausible price – can make all the difference. The best bargain is one that actually arrives and works as advertised.

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

Bret KD8SCL

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ARRL - The National Association For Amateur Radio™

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Thanks for All You Do and Best Wishes for the Holiday Season!

Here is something for the Christmas Holiday Season



The form is titled "RADIOGRAM" with the subtitle "Radio-Telegram via Amateur Radio". It features a header with the RRI logo and a diamond-shaped logo with "A", "R", "R", and "L". Below the header is a table with columns: NR, PRECEDENCE, HX, STATION OF ORIGIN, CHECK, PLACE OF ORIGIN, TIME FILED, and DATE FILED. The form is divided into sections: "Addressee" (NAME, ADDRESS, CITY, ST, ZIP, TELEPHONE, EMAIL) and "Delivered by" (DELIVERY METHOD, DELIVERY DATE/TIME, RADIO CALL, OPERATOR NAME, OPERATOR PHONE). The "MESSAGE" section contains the text "MERRY CHRISTMAS" and "HAPPY HOLIDAYS". Below the message is a "SIGNATURE" line. At the bottom, there are fields for "RECEIVED FROM (DTG/NET)" and "TRANSMITTED TO (DTG/NET)". The form is labeled "RRI Form 1802" at the bottom right.

NR	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE FILED

Addressee		Delivered by	
NAME		DELIVERY METHOD	
ADDRESS		DELIVERY DATE/TIME	
ADDRESS		RADIO CALL	
CITY, ST, ZIP		OPERATOR NAME	
TELEPHONE		OPERATOR PHONE	
EMAIL			

MESSAGE	
MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY HOLIDAYS	

SIGNATURE	

RECEIVED FROM (DTG/NET)	TRANSMITTED TO (DTG/NET)

RRI Form 1802

Click on the image to download a fillable copy of this PDF.

This form has a full page of information about RRI, ARRL traffic handling system. As traffic handlers we could use this fillable form the deliver seasonal traffic.

I got this from an article on the RRI website by James Wade WB8SIW:

Some Recommendations for Traffic Handlers:

For Christmas radiograms, we are encouraging email or hard-copy delivery. This allows for the use of the new "Christmas Season Radiogram Form 1802 available

in the RRI Forms Library” at: <https://radiorelay.org/files/2025/11/ARRL-RRI-Form-1802-Christmas-Radiogram-2025-v2.pdf>

This form has a unique holiday theme layout ideal for delivering Christmas radiograms. The back of the radiogram form includes information on Amateur Radio, the ARRL, and RRI, making it an ideal “advertising” tool for the Amateur Radio Service.

NTS and RRI volunteers delivering these Christmas Radiograms will want to provide a quality delivery experience. If delivering via email, simply populate the form and then print it as a PDF. The PDF can then be appended to an email for delivery. The PDF can also be easily converted to a JPEG for delivery via text message. One can even deliver the form via both methods!

If delivering via USPS or in person, one should print the Form 1802 radiogram form in color (if possible) and double-sided. This places the information about the Amateur Radio Service and the ARRL on the back of the form. One can then place it in an envelope for mailing or personal delivery.

New Award Radiogram All States Certificate

Radiogram All States Certificate

Issued by the Section Traffic Manager

Radiogram All States
Certificate

This Certificate is presented to Amateur Radio station

Who is an ARRL member has received radiogram traffic from all states.

Date

Section Traffic Manager

Radiogram All States Certificate

To encourage participation and traffic generation across all sections, traffic handlers may attempt chasing and earning a Radiogram All States certificate.

To earn this certificate, a traffic handler must:

- Be an active ARRL member.
- Submit documented evidence to their Section Traffic Manager that they have received traffic (as the addressee) over the air (RF) from each state.
 - Delivery by email, voice mail, or other off-the-air methods do not qualify.
 - [Radiogram documentation](#) must indicate what net it was received on.

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 5th of each month.

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 for more information. There are nets you can join to learn and practice this skill. Consider Traffic Handling as part of your Ham Radio experience!

Ohio Section Nets

If you have traffic you need to move, take it to a VHF net or if it is going out of Ohio you can also take it to the OSSBN. Here is WHERE TO FIND AN HF OR VHF TRAFFIC NET IN OHIO

OHIO SINGLE SIDEBAND NET

Morning Session	10:30 AM	3972.5 kHz	Every Day
Afternoon Session	4:15 PM	3972.5 kHz	Every Day
Evening Session	6:45 PM	3972.5 kHz	Every Day

OHIO HF CW TRAFFIC NETS

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

All CW net frequencies plus or minus QRM

OHIO LOCAL VHF TRAFFIC NETS

VHF NETS	NET TIMES	FREQUENCY	NET MANAGERS
BRTN	Monday, Thursday Saturday 9:30 PM	145.230 MHz PL 110.9	KD8GXL
COTN	7:15 PM DAILY	146.970 MHz PL 123.0	KV8Z
NWOATT	Mon, Tue, Thu, Sat at 07:30 PM	147.375 MHz PL 103.5	KE8VJP
ODMR	Monday 8:30 PM	TG 3139	WB8YYS
TCTTN	9 PM Sun, Tues, Fri	147.015 MHz PL 110.9	WB8YYS

TATN	8:00 PM DAILY	146.670 MHz PL 123.0	K8KRA
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BRTN - Burning River Traffic Net (serving the Cleveland area and all North Central Ohio)

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

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

ODMR – Ohio DMR Net (serving Ohio)

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

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

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From the Ohio Section Youth Coordinator

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Ham Holiday Ideas & New Year's Resolutions

It's time to assemble your New Year's resolutions as we end another year. Let me make a few Ham Radio suggestions (with strained Initialisms/Acronyms):



- **NBCHRS-** Night Before Christmas Ham Radio Style.
End December on a fun note with a short video https://youtu.be/c_9REVC4dtc.
Make sure you share it with your ham radio friends and family.
- **GOTAMO-** Get On The Air More Often! You will not regret it, as you meet new friends, learn more and have more fun.
 - **Beginner's Guides to VHF/UHF & HF-**

- If you are recently licensed, I co-presented two programs for new VHF/UHF Operators and new HF Operators. Each has 4+ hours of recorded video. For more details, visit- tiny.cc/bghfvhf.
- I have three presentations you might also find useful-
 - Making SSB Radio Contacts- <https://youtu.be/rtumORYT6Ho>
 - Making Digital Radio Contacts- <http://tiny.cc/digiqso>
 - Making CW Contacts- <https://youtu.be/QHVeSH21CNY>
- **If you are interested in VHF/UHF-**
 - Try some VHF/UHF FT8/FT4- [link](#)
 - Try ARRL VHF/UHF Contesting-
 - [January VHF](#)
 - [June VHF](#)
 - [September VHF](#)
 - Consider a local net. I have a list of Northeast Ohio Nets- tiny.cc/neohnets. You can use the [ARRL Online Net Directory](#) to find nets in your specific area or around the country.
 - Monitor 146.520 Nation FM Calling frequency

An attempt to provide an organized list of local (Northeast Ohio) Amateur Radio nets in the 70 cm, 2, 6 and 10 meter bands. The list below is a start, but it is far from complete. Please help us add new nets and update changes. If you are aware of corrections or wish to submit additions to this list, please e-mail them to: k8zi@ar1.net and they will be included. Thanks and 73! - Anthony, K8ZT & Frank, W8E2T - last updated 2023-12-12

For additional nets around the state and country use the ARRL ONLINE NET DIRECTORY: www.arrl.org/arrl-net-directory-search

Share page with this link tiny.cc/neohnets

Day of Week	Time (Local)	Time (GMT)	Frequency	Call	Type	Description	Website
Monday	7:00 AM		147.39+ (114.8Hz)	W8WKY	General	Barometer Net in Doylestown, Ohio	https://w8wky.org/barometer-net/2023-01-01
	7:30 PM		147.030+ (444.925+ linked)	W8EOC	General	Medina 2 Meter Group Net	http://w8eoc.org
	7:30 PM		444.55+ (Backup 442.5+) See website for Tones	W8ODJ	ARES	Summit County ARES Net	http://www.summitares.org/repeater.php
	7:30 PM		147.21+	N8BC	ARES	Lake County ARES Training Net	www.lcara.org
	7:30 PM		145.410- (224.48+141.3), 442.225+131.8 (linked)	W8PRC	General	Parma Radio Club (1st and 3rd Monday of the month)	www.parmaradclub.com
	8:00 PM		145.15-	W8BQJ	Specialized	Digital Discussion Roundtable (trends in digital modes)	
	8:00 PM		146.73-		General	TUSCO ARC	http://tuscoarc.org
	8:00 PM		147.27+ (444.200+ linked)	W8VPV	News	CFARC presentation of Amateur Radio Newsline	www.cfarc.org
	8:30 PM		147.27+ (444.880+ PL 100.9 is linked)	W8VPV	General	CFARC 2 meter net	www.cfarc.org
	8:30 PM				ARES	Ohio ARES DMR Net (TG: 3139)	
	9:00 PM		147.015+	W8OKE	General	Newberry Net	https://hormaweb.org
	9:30 PM		Rotates by Week of Month 1st. 50.270 (6M) 2nd. 28.360 (10M) 3rd. 7.187 (40M) 4th. 3.827 (80M) (When there is a 5th Monday band rotates see website)	W8VPV	General	CFARC HF Net (starting in Sept 2020 the HF net band will rotate each week, see calendar for frequencies)	www.cfarc.org
Tuesday	9:30 PM		147.150+	KC8BED	Traffic	Burning River Traffic Net (Elyria)	www.qsl.net/btrn
	7:00 AM		147.39+ (114.8Hz)	W8WKY	General	Barometer Net in Doylestown, Ohio	https://w8wky.org/barometer-net/2023-01-01
	7:00 PM		147.12+	W8BAYE	ARES	Stark County AES & Newsline (Check in twice a month to stay on roster)	www.wd8aye.net
	7:45 PM		146.94-	W8CWO	Weather	Steubenville-Weirton area Skywarn Weather Net (approx. 15 minutes duration)	www.swarc.net
	8:00 PM		145.41 (224.48+141.3), 442.225+131.8	KB8WLW/ KB8RS	General	Cuyahoga County ARES (1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month)	https://ccares.us
	8:00 PM		147.39+	AB8GO	News	Silvercreek Amateur Radio Club - Newsline	https://w8wky.org
	8:00 PM		147.51	KB8MO	Specialized	Homeland Security Net Monthly Net (LAST Tuesday of each month) WBLKY Alliance Amateur Radio Club	http://w8lky.org
	7:00 PM		3.902 LSB +/-			Ohio ARES HF	
	8:30 PM		147.39+	AB8GO	General	Silvercreek Amateur Radio Club Net	https://w8wky.org
	9:00 PM		147.015	W8OKE	General	Portage Emergency Net (simplex) ??? STA/HIS???	

- **If you are interested in HF (even as a Technician)-**

- Making QSOs
 - SSB- tiny.cc/hfqso & youtu.be/rtumORYT6Ho
 - Digital- tiny.cc/digiqso
 - CW- tiny.cc/cwqso
- 10 Meters Fun For All- tiny.cc/1omband & youtu.be/im3dbYRkvGo
- **HAYGOTA**- Help a Youth Get On The Air (see below).
- **GANAL**- Get A New Amateur License.
 - If you have your Tech License, join us for a free online **General License upgrade class** starting Jan 11. For more details, visit this link tiny.cc/beahamq.
 - Also, take a look at tiny.cc/new-ham for “Ham Radio Intro & Quick Start Guide.”
- **MANARO**- Mentor A New Amateur Radio Operator. Invite a newly licensed or upgraded ham to your shack to make their first QSOs with their new privileges. Help install a new antenna, set up a new radio, interface a radio to a computer, set up a new mode, help them learn to contest, etc.
- **LOGGING**- If you are not using an electronic log or keeping any log at all, now is the time to get started. Visit my presentation “Logging- General & Contesting” video youtu.be/rosWKUNop7Q & slideshow tiny.cc/logsw.
- **QSLing**- Handle your outstanding QSLs. If you are not set up for online QSLing visit my presentation “Online QSLing” video <https://youtu.be/VqOFt3wyETk> and slideshow <http://tiny.cc/qx3>.



<h1 style="font-size: 4em; color: gold;">K8ZT</h1>	

<p>N- 41° 12' 00.4" W- 81° 24' 21.6"</p> <p>County - Summit Grid - EN91he CQ Zone - 5 ITU Zone - 8 QRP ARCI #5117 G-QRP # 1417 Flying Pigs # 254 10-X # 44561 AMSAT #11640</p>	<h2 style="color: red;">K8ZT</h2> <p>Anthony A. Luscre 5441 Park Vista Court Stow, OH 44224-1663 k8zt@arrl.net Previously: K8BNC</p>	<p>www.k8zt.com</p>
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- **PROGRAM-** Schedule a program for your local club with me. I would happily do any of the sessions from my list at tiny.cc/k8zt-p either in person or via Zoom or other online tools, depending on your location and my schedule.
- **Ham Radio Holiday Gift Ideas**
 - Ham Radio Youth Resources Website- www.k8zt.com/youth
 - Gifts for Youth- <http://tiny.cc/yri>
 - RATPAC Holiday Gift Guide- includes youth, including books & other ideas
 - Join us live via Zoom at 9 PM on Wednesday, December 10th, at www.ratpac.us/zoom
 - Video Recording tiny.cc/ratpac-list
 - Slideshow- tiny.cc/argifts25
- **CQ DX MARATHON-** This annual, year-long contest is a great way to work more DX. If you are a newer HF operator, it is a great way to earn your first [DXCC](http://dxcc.org). I think it is even more fun if you already have a high DXCC total, as it is an opportunity to start from zero each year, with everyone a new one for the Marathon. Visit the website for details- <https://dxmarathon.com> and watch my video <https://youtu.be/kEotxj4soRU>.



SET GOALS- One of the best ways to increase your Amateur Radio activity for the coming year is to set goals and/or use a checklist of items. Maybe a contact a day, work all states, work DXCC, check into a newt for 12 consecutive weeks, etc. Below is one I created last year. Share it with your club and ham friends; you can even turn it into a friendly competition (see chart on last page)

ATTEND / JOIN / MINGLE - Join a local radio club, attend a meeting of a club you already belong to, and find clubs & hams in your area. Video- youtu.be/MxLcg_fKAYY & slideshow- tiny.cc/findar. Visit a Hamfest, convention, etc.

Band Worked	Mode Worked	Activity (or mode of op)
<input type="checkbox"/> - 2,200 M (135 kHz)	<input type="checkbox"/> - SSB	<input type="checkbox"/> - Repeater QSO (2 M and up)
<input type="checkbox"/> - 630 M (472 kHz)	<input type="checkbox"/> - CW	<input type="checkbox"/> - Repeater QSO (10 or 6 M)
<input type="checkbox"/> - 160 M (1.8 MHz)	<input type="checkbox"/> - AM	<input type="checkbox"/> - Simplex FM QSO (VHF/UHF)
<input type="checkbox"/> - 80/75 M (3.5/3.8 MHz)	<input type="checkbox"/> - FM	<input type="checkbox"/> - SSB QSO (VHF/UHF)
<input type="checkbox"/> - 60 M (5.3 MHz)	<input type="checkbox"/> - PSK (31, 63)	<input type="checkbox"/> - CW Contact
<input type="checkbox"/> - 40 M (7 MHz)	<input type="checkbox"/> - FT4	<input type="checkbox"/> - Contest Contact
<input type="checkbox"/> - 30 M (10.1 MHz)	<input type="checkbox"/> - FT8	<input type="checkbox"/> - Satellite and/or EME Contact
<input type="checkbox"/> - 20 M (14 MHz)	<input type="checkbox"/> - Other WSJT- X Modes (FSK441, JT6M, JT65, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> - Fox Hunt (ARDF)
<input type="checkbox"/> - 17 M (18 MHz)	<input type="checkbox"/> - JS8call	<input type="checkbox"/> - WinLink Contact
<input type="checkbox"/> - 15 M (21 MHz)	<input type="checkbox"/> - Packet (AX25)/APRS	<input type="checkbox"/> - EchoLink Contact
<input type="checkbox"/> - 12 M (24.9 MHz)	<input type="checkbox"/> - SSTV or Fast Scan ATV	<input type="checkbox"/> - WAS (work all 50 states)
<input type="checkbox"/> - 10 M (28 MHz)	<input type="checkbox"/> - Digital FM- DMR, D-Star, Fusion, etc. or Hotspots	<input type="checkbox"/> - Work 50 countries
<input type="checkbox"/> - 6 M (50 MHz)		<input type="checkbox"/> - Work 100 countries
<input type="checkbox"/> - 2 M (144 MHz)	<input type="checkbox"/> - Pactor, Clover, Olivia, Throb, DominoEX, MT63, Thor, AMTOR, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> - WAC- Work All Continents
<input type="checkbox"/> - 1.25 M (222 MHz)		<input type="checkbox"/> - POTA (Parks On The Air) or SOTA (Summits On The Air) Chaser Contact
<input type="checkbox"/> - 75 cm (440 MHz)	<input type="checkbox"/> - FAX or Hellschreiber	<input type="checkbox"/> - POTA or SOTA Activation
<input type="checkbox"/> - 33 cm (902 MHz)	Club	
<input type="checkbox"/> - Higher Microwave Bands	<input type="checkbox"/> - Attend an ARC meeting	<input type="checkbox"/> - POTA Activator
Build or Install	<input type="checkbox"/> - Present at ARC meeting	<input type="checkbox"/> - Work your State QSO party
<input type="checkbox"/> - New VHF/UHF Antenna	<input type="checkbox"/> - Head a committee	Build/Test/Repair
<input type="checkbox"/> - New HF Antenna	<input type="checkbox"/> - Attend a Hamfest	<input type="checkbox"/> - Electronics Kit or Homebrew
<input type="checkbox"/> - New Mobile Radio	<input type="checkbox"/> - Teach a Licensing Class or be a VE	<input type="checkbox"/> - Use an Antenna Analyzer or nano-VNA to measure
<input type="checkbox"/> - New Mobile Antenna	<input type="checkbox"/> - Mentor a new ham	<input type="checkbox"/> - Fix non-working Radio
<input type="checkbox"/> - Computer/Radio Interface	<input type="checkbox"/> - Write a newsletter article	<input type="checkbox"/> - Arduino, Rasp Pi <u>microprocess Proj</u> ect or Program
<input type="checkbox"/> - New Operating Desk	<input type="checkbox"/> - Volunteer for Public Serv	

The Cincinnati area Dan Beard Council of Scouting America has launched a new initiative to establish a Radio Scouting Committee. Organizers are currently reaching out to the Scouting and ham radio communities for volunteers to help bring this vision to life. This is an open invitation for anyone excited about connecting scouts and radio to get involved from the very beginning.

Organizers are looking for Scouts, leaders, parents, and amateur radio operators in the Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky area willing to share their passion, technical expertise, and community spirit. Whether you have years of experience as a ham, are interested in helping Scouts earn the Radio Merit Badge, or simply want to assist with planning and outreach, your support is needed to shape the future of this new group.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for both the Scouting and ham radio communities to work together and build something meaningful for our youth," shared a leader helping organize the effort. "We hope to gather a core group of enthusiastic volunteers who can guide the committee's early planning, create engaging first events, and offer mentorship as things get started." By coming together at this formative stage, volunteers will play a foundational role in bringing radio adventures to Scouts in the area.

Anyone interested in helping is encouraged to reach out and express their interest, whether you're a Scout, a ham radio enthusiast, or someone who values youth education and hands-on learning opportunities. With enough community support and enthusiasm, the Radio Scouting Committee can become a thriving part of local Scouting—and it all begins with the volunteers who answer the call.

Follow this link to register for the team: <https://tinyurl.com/37pdcfnf>

Or contact Shawn at ke8bbc@arrl.net



Be a Founding member:
DBC Radio Scouting Committee
Call for Volunteers!





Sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/37pdcfnf>
For more info, email: ke8bbc@arrl.net

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

73,

Anthony, K8ZT (k8zt@arrl.net)

From the Affiliated Clubs Coordinator

Terry Windsor, KI8N

ki8n.tw@gmail.com

Annual
Report
2025

As we close out this year, thanks to the 33 clubs that have updated their ARRL annual report since I became the ACC in June. I hope my constant emails and occasional missteps did not antagonize individual hams or clubs. We need to continue to highlight our hobby and make it easy for new hams and the public to find what clubs in their area have for offerings. The annual report states what programs and activities clubs have available and maintains a “hopefully” reliable database on the ARRL web page. I also want to thank the 39 clubs that continue to file their annual report without prodding.



For the last five years, until December 1st, I worked part-time for a ham radio retailer as one of their online chat personnel. I regularly pointed new hams, that had lots of questions and little experience, to the ARRL club listing so they could find a club in their area that could mentor or answer their questions as they learned this hobby. I was going on the premise that the online information and points of contact were correct and valid.

This year I also had the opportunity to be present when two clubs, Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association and Findlay Radio Club, were recognized for 100 years of continuous ARRL affiliation. I find it remarkable that clubs can persevere throughout the years and yet maintain a strong commitment and growing membership. It will be a few years before another club in Ohio reaches this milestone.

I am still looking forward to being invited to your club meetings, notice of new clubs, or just assisting with information you want. Myself and my wife, WA8KJJ did attend one club meeting that was not our home club (Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club) and enjoyed meeting the people in attendance and letting them know the Ohio Section personnel are here to assist if wanted. Starting in 2026 I am planning to attend at least a couple of different club meetings every month based on schedules and travel plans. I am also planning on attending more hamfests to meet people and represent the Ohio Section.

As I have mentioned in previous newsletter articles, I have started cleaning up the ARRL Ohio club listing and have requested several, now defunct, clubs be removed from the online database. Also, as I wrote last month, I have compiled a list of eight clubs that have not responded to requests for information or have no method of contacting and will be asking the ARRL Field Services Group to remove them from the active database. The intent of this ongoing action is to ensure the Ohio listings are current and valid so new hams and the public can find the information they require.

Another great point is the numerous responses I received regarding the ARRL Grassroots campaign and Ohio individual hams and clubs' participation. Thanks, I am sure your being involved will make a difference and hopefully one day we won't have to hide or use highly compromised antennas to enjoy our hobby or participate in emergency situations or drills.



This coming year is being designated as “Year of the Club” so we all, every ham, need to get out and let the public know what our clubs and members can do. Maybe take the initiative to invite your local elected officials to a club meeting, schedule time with your Emergency Management Director to introduce your team or ask members of the community to attend an activity or open house. Perhaps even you could

do a short club presentation on a part of amateur radio that you find enthralling or necessary to understand. Take the initiative to lead one of your club’s activities this year – make it your mission to Be Involved!

The two parts of the “Year of the Club” are the newsletter and website contests. Take a moment to review your newsletter and ask yourself how can I help improve or contribute to the newsletter’s information? I am sure the editor will greatly appreciate any articles or ideas for improvement. Then go to your club’s website and review it to see if the information is correct and volunteer to assist with making improvements. Getting involved is what is necessary to make the “Year of the Club” stand out.

Another ARRL initiative in 2026 is a Year-Long-Worked-All-States event to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This will be achieved by contacting W1AW portable stations activated in all states. A proposed W1AW portable schedule is listed [here](#). More information on this event is coming soon so check the [America250 WAS](#) webpage as details are published. The January QST will have an announcement with more information.

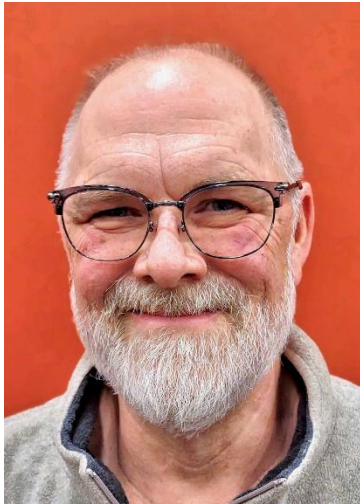
As we move forward into 2026 very soon, I am asking clubs to once again update their annual reports as the ARRL stipulates this should be done every year in January. Again, we need an accurate database for those who are looking for information and assistance. Here is a link to the ARRL web page with the current Affiliated Club listing: [ARRL Affiliated Clubs](#) and a 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.

Let me know if I can be of assistance. In the meantime, enjoy your holidays, Merry Christmas! and Happy New Year!

Work on staying “Radio-Active” and Ham It UP!



73
Terry, KI8N



Assistant Section Manager

Al Andress – KD8ZBS

Alinfarm12@gmail.com

John Myers, WG8X

wg8x.radio@gmail.com

330-936-5021

Well, I survived the past couple months, but I sure don't want to go through it again soon. As things got crazier, something had to give, hence no article from me for the last Section Journal. December is looking much better, so here we are. Life is revolving around the holidays, with some hiking & park activations thrown in for good measure.



Let's have a look at the website. The

most popular pages this month on arrl-ohio.org are

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

I see the League is doing a Club website contest in conjunction with 2026 being the year of the club.

You can learn more about this by going to <https://www.arrl.org/club-website-contest>. The deadline for entries is Friday, January 30th at 4pm EST. And that's all I have for this month.

73 DE WG8X

New Facebook Group

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

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

If you do not have a Facebook account you will first need to sign up for a free account. If you are hesitant to join Facebook, because you have heard horror stories about social media, you are able to limit your activities to just membership of this or other similar groups. Some people choose not to use Facebook for privacy concerns, while others may find it time-consuming, distracting, or simply not interesting, but you can choose your own personal activity and involvement level. Facebook's privacy settings allow users to control who can see their posts, profile information, and other content, as well as who can find and contact them. Users can manage these settings through the "Settings & Privacy" menu and "Privacy Checkup". Key areas to review include who can see your posts, who can send you friend requests, and who can look you up using your email or phone number. Additionally, users can limit who can see their past posts and control ad preferences. You can control a variety of privacy and other settings for your account, including “[Stopping people from posting on your Facebook profile](#)” and “[Manage the About section of your Facebook profile](#).”

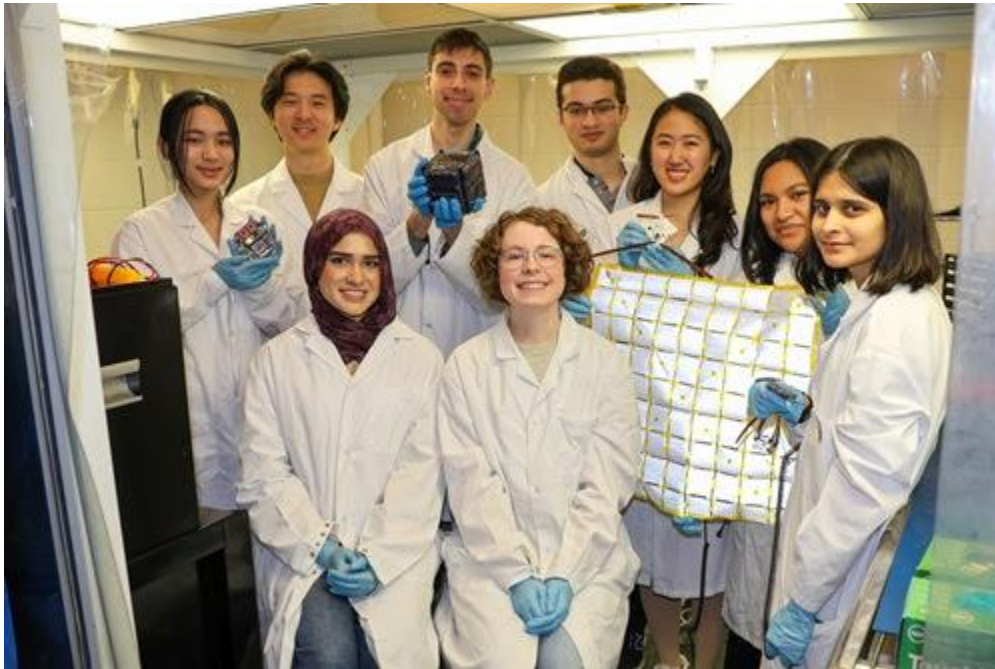


National News

(from ARRL and other sources)

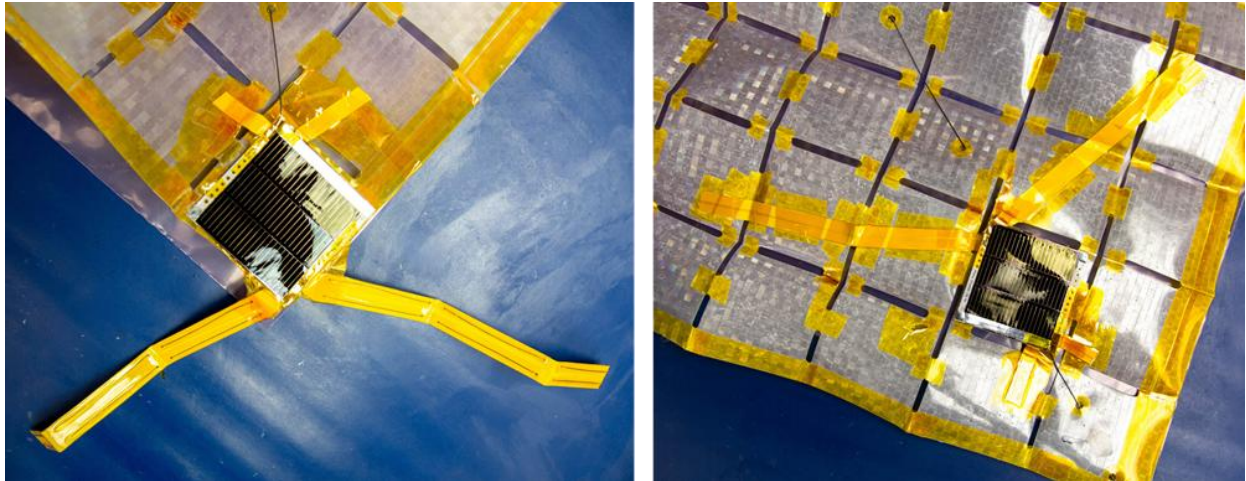
“Space Sailors” Seeking Download Help

A group of students at Cornell University is asking hams equipped with satellite stations for help in listening for signals from a retroreflective laser sail that was deployed yesterday, December 3, 2025. The sail was unfurled from a 1U CubeSat that was launched December 2 from the International Space Station. It is equipped with four tiny “ChipSat” flight computers that are transmitting telemetry data back to Earth with only 100 milliwatts of power. Several dozen telemetry packets have already been received and decoded by stations in Europe and Asia. Additional “ears” are sought because drag created by the sail in low Earth orbit will limit its functional time to no more than 48 hours.



The Cornell students working on the light sail project. [Photo courtesy of Cornell University.]

This is the first flight of these ChipSats, and it is this data that the students seek help detecting, according to Ph.D. candidate Joshua Umansky-Castro, KD2WTQ. The light sail’s ChipSats are transmitting using the LoRa® digital protocol on 437.400 MHz.



Close-up photos of the ChipSat transceiver attached to the light sail. The ChipSats are solar-powered and transmit telemetry data using LoRa® at 100 milliwatts on 437.400 MHz. [Photo courtesy of Cornell University.]

Data is being collected on [the TinyGS project webpage](#), which is also posting updates on progress. Additional information, including LoRa parameters and links to a list of compatible receivers and the decoder file, may be found at alphacubesat.cornell.edu in the [ChipSat Ground Station Guide](#) (.docx).

It is hoped that the ChipSat and light sail will become the trailblazer for future missions around the solar system, and one day to our closest stellar neighbor, Alpha Centauri.

The 2024 ARRL Annual Report: Promote, Protect, Inspire, Educate

(Editor's Note: If you are an ARRL member (or not) I urge you to download this latest annual report. Read it from cover to cover. If you have questions, get them answered. Talk to your Section Managers and your Division Directors. Have conversations based on the facts, be civil to one another, and make your goal neither to defend nor detract, but find ways to make our organization stronger and better. ARRL is the **ONLY** organization that we have representing our interests and our hobby to the US government and other governing bodies around the globe. We can't afford to lose our hobby – once gone the interests of the individual hobbyist and experiment will be gone. We cannot afford to lose the "Individual's perspective" and allow the field of communications and communications technology to be totally controlled by Business and Governmental interests only.)

The recently released [ARRL 2024 Annual Report](#) outlines new and strategic paths aimed at inspiring youth while building on ARRL's five pillars that continue to support members and amateur radio worldwide...Public Service, Advocacy, Education, Technology, and Membership.

“With membership totaling over 137,000 at the end of 2024, ARRL stands as the world’s largest organization of radio amateurs,” states the first page of the report, which also notes that the membership retention rate increased to 79.9%, up from 77.8% the previous year.



A message from ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, is among the highlights of the 2024 ARRL Annual Report.

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, in his message in the report, shares how a visit to an amateur radio club changed his life forever, providing a foundation on which to build his years of involvement and enjoyment of ham radio.

“In 2024, the Board of Directors decided to prioritize reaching out to the next generation to inspire them about their future in STEM...science, technology, engineering, and math...and how ham radio can be part of their educational journey,” said Roderick. “This new ‘third advocacy,’ which was unanimously approved by the Board of Directors at the July 2024 meeting, is critical to the future not only of ham radio, but also to this country’s budding STEM professionals.”

Among the initiatives highlighted in the report are the free ARRL Student Membership program, launched in May 2024 (www.arrl.org/student), and significant growth for the ARRL [Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology](#), which hosted a total of 85 teachers visiting from 31 states.

The report also recognizes that ARRL donors contributed more than \$2.1 million in 2024, fueling innovation, education, and investing in the future of amateur radio. The ARRL Diamond

Club program set a record raising over \$1 million for the first time in the history of the program, which provides critical unrestricted revenue for ARRL programs above what membership dues alone can cover.

The annual report contains much more detailed information, personal stories, and insight into ARRL's increased investment and prioritization to develop the next generation of radio amateurs. Take some time to read the [2024 ARRL Annual Report](#).

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

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.

73, Paul, N1SFE

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](#)

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

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Teachers Institute Telethon Raises Over \$23,000



Screen grab of the ARRL Teachers Institute telethon held on November 29, 2025 on the Ham Radio Crash Course YouTube channel.

The third annual YouTube telethon for the [ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology](#) (TI) was another great success, with more than \$23,000 raised to help cover the costs of ARRL's professional development program designed to help classroom teachers elevate their STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) programs through the use of wireless technology. The program is entirely donor-funded. The telethon ran for more than 13 hours on the Saturday after Thanksgiving on the [Ham Radio Crash Course YouTube channel](#), led by program host Josh Nass, KI6NAZ. YouTube viewers donated \$18,081, plus \$570 in direct donations to ARRL and a

\$5,000 matching grant, for a total raised of \$23,651. The entire telethon may be viewed online. It is in two parts: [Part 1](#) / [Part 2](#).

ARRL Director of Education and Learning Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, said the telethon "has proven to be a great collaboration between ARRL and the YouTube community ... to help ARRL meet funding goals to facilitate the continued growth of TI." He added that "The energy of the community to hold what has grown to be an annual marathon to raise money is amazing." Goodgame said one of the highlights of the telethon was when Nass noted that the gifted program in the school his own children attends is in need of hands-on activities for their students, and that amateur radio is a perfect fit for learning by doing.

"We are thankful for our hosts like Josh, KI6NAZ, and all the donors who helped to make this event a success," said ARRL Director of Development Kevin Beal, K8EAL. "The many donors who gave online for the telethon via YouTube/Google received an email with their tax receipt from 'Network for Good,' which will then transfer all proceeds to ARRL. Donors can get lifetime giving credit from ARRL by forwarding that receipt to development@arrl.org."

In 2025, nearly 200 teachers attended 13 TI sessions, said Goodgame, noting that the teachers "took knowledge and equipment back to their classrooms to elevate their STEM programs." This year, for the first time, some TI sessions were "on the road" in Louisiana, Texas, New York and Maryland (in partnership with Johns Hopkins University).

Twenty-one TI sessions are planned for 2026, including specialized ones on balloons and amateur radio, space communications and radio astronomy, and remote sensing and data gathering. While most of the 4-day sessions will be held at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, the program will return to 2025's remote locations, as well as adding new sessions in South Carolina and the Washington, DC, area. In addition, Goodgame says, ARRL is in the process of building a partnership with the SETI Institute and hopes to hold a session at its facility in California.

The ARRL Teachers Institute is a major part of ARRL's third advocacy of "inspiring youth," along with its advocacies of promoting and protecting amateur radio.

Club Corner

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

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

Send it to: webmaster@arrl-ohio.org



Last year HARA's tradition assisting the City with the annual holiday parade was broken when the new city administration did not ask for our assistance. But as shown by Randy McFarland's photos, not only was HARA back in force helping get the parade lined up and underway--but for the first time in years we even supported it with a float entry. Thanks to Gabby, John and Ken for designing it. Thanks to Demond, Jane, Tom, Jeff and Randy for their assistance during a chilly evening.

The Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club offers
free live online classes to get your
Amateur (Ham) Radio General Class License.
Classes start on Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026.
All sessions are held live via Zoom
and are free.

For information/to register, visit-

tiny.cc/beahamg



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.*

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/.

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

CARS

VE testing from CARS - Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society - at Elmwood Recreation Center, 6200 Wisnieski Parkway in Independence, Ohio 44131 Time: 9:15 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Always the 2nd Sunday of the odd month. Go to CARS www.2cars.org for detailed map of location. Call Metro W8MET 216-520-1320 for details

Clark County Amateur Radio Association (CLARA)

What: CLARA sponsored A.R.R.L. VE Testing - Walk-ins allowed. Pre-Register via email preferred.

When: On every second Saturday of each even numbered month starting at 10:00 AM
Dec 13th, 2025.

Where: Springview Government Center - Emergency Operations Center; 3130 E Main St; Springfield OH 45503 This is US-40 aka "old national road". From Route 40 enter Old Columbus Road, at the fork stay left driving straight onto Ogden Rd, then immediately turn left into the parking lot behind the EMA. Walk to the door with the "Employees Only" sign.

For more information contact Roland W. Ude, W8BUZ, (937) 605-4951 Email: buzz@baylorhill.com

Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club VE Testing

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

Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA)

If you are interested in testing for a new or upgraded license, please come see us at the DARA Clubhouse. If you have questions about testing, please email exams.w8bi@gmail.com

The Findlay Radio Club

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

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

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

Geauga Amateur Radio Association (GARA)

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

Watch for 2026 dates

Exams are held at the Geauga County Department of Emergency Services and Emergency Operations Center, 12518 Merritt Road, Chardon, Ohio 44024. The EOC is located just south of the University Geauga Hospital and just east of the Geauga County Safety Center (Sheriff's Office), off of State Route 44 between State Route 322 and State Route 87 on Merritt Road.

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

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

Huber Heights Amateur Radio Club

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

Storms – AB8YK at ab8yk@hotmail.com

The Lake County Amateur Radio Association

The Lake County Amateur Radio Association is holding Amateur Radio license exams

Watch for 2026 dates

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

To register, you will need a NCVEC 605 Form, which will be available at the test. If you would like to complete one ahead of time, be sure it is the Sept 2017 version or later. You can find it by Googling “NCVEC quick-form 605” and clicking on the url for a pdf of the form. Please note **the FCC requires you to provide a FRN** (FCC Registration Number). Social Security Numbers are no longer accepted. If you are new to ham radio and don’t have a FRN, Google “New FRN” and follow the fcc.gov link.

If you are currently licensed, be sure to **bring a copy of your license to the exam**. The cost of the exam itself is \$15.00, and if you wish to pay by check, it should be made out to the ARRL/VEC. Identification with your picture is also necessary, such as a driver’s license. If you have any questions, please contact Scott Farnham, KO8O, at (440) 256-0320, or scottfarnham@roadrunner.com

In addition to the \$15 test fee, the FCC now charges \$35 to add you to the Amateur Radio database. The FCC will e-mail successful candidates instructions for payment directly to them. Payment must be made within 10 days of the e-mail. This charge does not apply to upgrades.

The Lancaster and Fairfield County Amateur Radio Club (LFCARC)

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

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

Questions: Contact me at ve_testing@k8qik.org.

Lisbon Area Amateur Radio Association

VE TESTING IS At the Columbiana County EMA at 215 South Market St, Lisbon, OH 44432.

Check in at 1 PM, testing at 1:30 PM.

Make sure you have your FRN number from the FCC.

Contact NN8B at nn8b.oh@gmail.com for any further information.

Our Meetings are the 3rd Thursday of each month. We can also give tests at our normal LAARA club meetings. Currently our meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Columbiana County EMA at 215 South Market St., Lisbon, OH.

Madison County

The Madison County Amateur Radio Club Laurel testing group offers testing on the first Thursday of January, March, May, July 10, September and November. Tests are held at 7:00PM at the Madison County EMA located at 271 Elm St. London, OH. There is no Fee for testing. Pre-Registration is not required but preferred. Walk-ins are welcome. You are required to have proper ID, an email address and a copy of your FRN or current ham radio license. For more information or to get pre-registered send email to Exams@mcarcho.org.

The Milford Amateur Radio Club (MARC)

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

Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society (NOARS)

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

Watch for 2026 Dates.

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

Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS)

The first Saturday of every even numbered month -10 am – at the PCARS club site in Ravenna. Please visit the PCARS web site and check out the information about VE testing in the latest newsletter at www.portcars.org.

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

Tusco Amateur Radio Club W8ZX

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

Silvercreek ARA (SARA)

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

Watch for 2026 dates.

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

West Chester Amateur Radio Association (WC8VOA) Exam sessions are held one Saturday each month at 10:00 AM-Noon at the VOA Bethany Relay Museum located at *8070 Tylersville Rd, West Chester, Ohio 45069*. For more information and links to register, please see our website at <https://wc8voa.org/licensing/>

Your Club news should be listed here!

I know you're out there doing things! Send me a write-up (MSWord please) and some photo's (.jpg please) and we'll get your club hi-lited here for the other OH Section Clubs to see! Send to WB8LCD@ARRL.ORG

Important Links

ARRL Home: www.arrl.org

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

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

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

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

Find a Hamfest or Convention: www.arrl.org/hamfests

Email ARRL Clubs: clubs@arrl.org

DX This Week – #353

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

I hope you had a restful weekend and you are taking advantage of all of the DX that is out there! I received a message from Janet, W8CAA. Janet wrote “I was listening to the CQWW CW contest and was confused by some of the characters that were sent. For instance, one station who was in Zone 11, sent his Zone number as AA instead of 11. What was he doing”



Great question Janet. He was using Cut Numbers. In Morse code, cut numbers are shorthand representations of numbers using fewer characters than the full numeric code. They were developed to speed up transmission, especially in telegraphy and amateur radio.

Here's how they work:

- Instead of sending the full Morse code for digits (which are usually five elements long), operators use letters that resemble the number in sound or shape.
- The two most common cut numbers that I encounter are:
 - 1 → A (· —)
 - 9 → N (— ·)

So, Why use them?

- They reduce transmission time.
- Common in Q-codes, signal reports, and contesting where speed matters.

You might ask, does sending AA instead of 11 really make that much difference? Well, to me, probably not. But when a contester is logging 100 QSOs and hour, those few seconds can add up. So, that is what you were hearing! Thank you for the question. If you have a question, please email me at thedxmentor@gmail.com

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

A52AA – Bhutan - Against all hopes, propagation took a nosedive earlier this week, effectively wiping out the bands completely. Not a single QSO has been possible since then. Amateur radio was to have been the sole activity of this trip with no sightseeing at all. But with the situation being what it is, instead of sitting here twiddling my thumbs, I've decided to switch the focus of this trip to sightseeing.

This would mean calling off the A52AA effort prematurely. I apologize to all hams who were looking forward to adding A5 - Bhutan to their logbooks. I'm sorry to have had to take this difficult decision but there are no other options open to me right now. Unfortunately, that's the way the cookie crumbles sometimes. Till next time, 73 de A52AA.

TG – Guatemala - TG9/AF4CZ will be on the air "holiday style," December 7 to January 5, mostly FT8/4 on 40-10. He will upload his log to LoTW, eQSL and Club Log.

C5 - The Gambia – Andre, ON7YK, is once again active as C5YK from Bijilo. Listen for him on all modes on 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters. QSL via ON7YK. <https://www.qrz.com/db/C5YK>

A2 – Botswana – Ben, DB2LS, is back in Botswana for about 10 days. He'll be on as A25LS on FT8 during daytime and may operate SSB and CW during his nights.

HP – Panama OK2WX will be QRV as HP3/OK2WX during the ARRL 160 Meter contest. He and HP3/OK2YL will be there until December 10. Activity will be holiday style on CW and SSB with an emphasis on the low bands. QSL via I8KHC.

9L - Sierra Leone – Stephen, G7BUX, arrived in Freetown, Sierra Leone on November 24 and is QRV until December 10. He will be operating as 9L1BTU with an IC-7300 and G5RV. He is experiencing significant QRM on the low bands and occasional electrical blackouts. He hopes to install a solar power system during this trip and will operate holiday style when he has time available. QSL via G7BXU.

CN - Morocco - From December 11-14, 2025, the special call sign CN25JIM will be used to mark International Mountain Day, which falls on December 11. This year also aligns with the UN's International Year for the Preservation of Glaciers, emphasizing glacier protection and water supply. The occasion will feature both online and local events, including webinars and celebrations.

VK - Australia - From until December 24, VK2SANTA will be on the air, allowing children and others to talk to the North Pole on various radio frequencies. Updated times and frequencies are available online at <https://www.qrz.com/db/VK2SANTA>

Darek, TL8GD / TJ1GD – “The next stage of my journey leads to Chad, where I will operate as **TT1GD** for approximately three weeks starting on December 1st. Radio activity will be in my free time, as the primary purpose of this trip is pastoral and missionary support. You will be able to work **TT1GD** as soon as I arrive and get the station on the air. Thank you for your support, patience, and for following this journey across Central Africa. See you on the bands – active FT8, FT4, SSB, and CW. QSL via OQRS.

T8 - Palau - Koh, JA1ADT plans to be active from Palau as **T88AC** until December 17, 2025. Participation in the ARRL 10m contest. Focus on low bands before / after the contest. QSL via LoTW. Paper QSL will be available if needed – send with enough return postage.

TY – Benin - Red, DL1BUG will again be active from Cotonou, Benin as **TY5FR** until December 11, 2025. He will be QRV on 80-10m including 60m; CW & SSB using an IC-7300 (100 watts) and a G5RV antenna. Participation in the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 29 / 30). QSL via DL1BUG (direct/buro).

6W – Senegal – Michael, DO5RQ, will be active holiday-style from Senegal as 6W/DO5RQ from December 4 to the 14. He will try daily 10-18 UTC on air 10m – 40m SSB only, using a 40m long HyEndFed HW 100W. Possibly an activation of one of the POTA/WWFF Parks nearby to his QTH. QSL information is not clear yet. The 6W License are very fresh (26th of Nov 2025) in obtaining, shortly before travel to Senegal.

The DX Mentor features a new Podcast episode this coming weekend – a discussion with Joe, W8GEX, offering Tips and Hints for DXers to get more into the logbook. Between Joe, and AJ8B, the host, they have almost 100 years of chasing DX. 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!

The next big contest on the horizon is the ARRL 10 Meter contest. The objective of this contest is for amateurs worldwide to exchange QSO information with as many stations as possible on the 10-meter band.

The dates are the second full weekend of December, the 13th and 14th, starting on 0000 UTC Saturday and continuing through 2359 UTC Sunday

Let me know if you participate in this contest and how you do!

Contest	Start Date	End Date
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!

OHIO'S



As Gomer Pyle used to say “Gollee”! Can you believe it’s December already and the year is quickly drawing to a close. And except for a number of contests, with it most amateur radio operating activities end. However, ham radio’s social activities do not because of the number of holiday dinner gatherings, holiday themed club meetings and elections. So let’s jump right into those doings we are aware of.....

By the time you read this some South 40 clubs have already held their celebrations. Being the first to party was the **Hocking Valley ARC**. Those party animals held their annual Christmas dinner along with a short meeting at Logan’s Chef Moes Restaurant. The 2nd had the Cincinnati area **OH-KY-IN ARS** holding their holiday dinner at the Arlington Heights Town Hall. On

December 4 The **Clinton County ARA** held their annual carry-in Christmas Dinner and elections in Wilmington. The Denny's in Cambridge was the December 6 location for the traditional Awards Banquet of the annual **Cambridge ARA** while also on the 6th the **Scioto Valley ARC** held their traditional Christmas dinner at the Pike County EMA Office near Waverly. Reservations from far and wide are still rolling in for the December 9 **Highland ARA**'s Holiday Dinner Party at the Methodist Church in Hillsboro. As of this writing over 80 are expected to attend. On December 13 members of the **Portsmouth RC** will gather at the Gathering Place in Wheelersburg for the annual dinner and auction. The Applebee's on State Street in Athens is the location for the December 16 **Athens County ARA** Christmas gathering. On December 18 the **All Things ARA** will hold their Christmas Party at the Alley Park in Lancaster from 5:30 until 8. Also in Lancaster, but on December 20, the **Lancaster Fairfield County ARA** will hold their Christmas gathering at the Pizza Cottage.

In election news, Athens Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, was 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, becomes the new Secretary. Elections for the **Lancaster Fairfield County ARA** have re-elected the 2025 officers and directors to serve throughout 2026.

I understand NORAD is already tuning up it's radar tracking network to track a non-mechanical object known to cross the skies on Christmas Eve.

The **Tri-State ARA** in conjunction with the **Museum of Radio and Technology** will sponsor their annual "*Get on the Air with Santa*" on Saturday, December 13 at the Museum in Huntington, WV. The doors open at 11 AM with the event concluding at 4. Besides talking to Santa via ham radio, there is a variety of other things taking place to entertain the children while the adults inspect the many radio, television and other electronic equipment exhibits. Admission is free. It's worth the trip. Check it out!

A new two meter simplex net has been started in the Western part of the South 40 Region. Wilmington's KF8DFH, Rick, is the net control for this Sunday evening 9:15 gathering on 146.59.

Fairfield County's **All Things ARA** will hold a free two day class for those interested in obtaining their General License. Classes will be held at the Bloom Baptist Church in Lithopolis from 8 AM until 4 PM on December 6 and 13. Testing will take place on the 13th. For more information contact training@atara-w8atr.fun. Plans are underway for the start of the annual **Athens County ARA**'s Technician License Class. Starting January 12 classes will be held each Monday evening at 7 PM at the Red Cross in Athens until the VE session on March 26. Contact Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, for more information.

The January **Lancaster Fairfield County ARA**'s business meeting is cancelled because of it falling on New Year's Day. The **Cambridge ARA** will not hold a December meeting. Also the December 13 **Tri-State ARA** testing session has been cancelled.

The **Highland ARA** will literally ring in the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States when at the stroke of Midnight on January 1 they will broadcast the ringing of the large bell in front of the Highland County Historical Society's museum in Hillsboro. The ringing will be transmitted over the Club's 147.21 repeater. Once the ringing is over, any station within the repeater's footprint is invited to put out their call sign wishing all a "Happy New Year". In the past over 20 stations participate with stations as far as Vinton and Montgomery Counties checking in.

As mentioned above, many communities across the nation are planning ways and events to celebrate the nation's semiquincentennial in various ways. Our part of Ohio played an important part in the opening of the frontier to the nation's expansion and its settlement. The Ohio, Scioto and Muskingum Rivers; the National Road, Zane's Trace and US 50; early railroads and canals were early means of transportation for people, livestock and goods. The early settlements at Marietta and Manchester were among the first in the Northwest Territory. 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 things from our little part of the nation (as well as amateur radio and the service it provides) than for a group of hams or a club to conduct some type of a special event operation during the year that calls attention to something unique or historic about their community? Or check with your local Chamber of Commerce, County Commissioners, historical society or visitor's bureau to see opportunities to become involved.

We were saddened to learn that Ohio Section Manager Tom Sly is resigning his position as of the first of the year. However the reason is one of joy—his business is growing by leaps and bounds and needs his hands on more. Although Portage County is a long journey to different parts of Ohio's South 40, it was not unusual to see him at the hamfest in Portsmouth, at a award presentation in Cambridge or Hamvention in Xenia. A few years back he even ventured to the N8ZNR/W8KIW farm near New Vienna to make the ceremonial first contact at the **Highland ARA**'s Field Day operation. Tom knows there is an active ham radio presence outside of the major Southern Ohio cities and wanted to share it with the rest of the State. I'm certain XYL Mary and daughter Jennifer will like him around the house a bit more. Thanks for everything you have done to call attention to some outstanding (but quiet) hams and clubs in our region.

Also a big thanks to Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, who has supplied the information about newly licensed hams in the region. After several years providing this columnist with that information, Ted is stepping aside. I know the information he has supplied has helped many clubs and Elmers to reach out to new licensee who now have the license but no idea "where to go next". Thanks Ted.

Although Southern Ohio has had its first brush with winter weather, it's still hard to believe Christmas is less than two weeks away. In case our paths don't cross between now and then, N8ZNR and I wish each of you and your family and friends the best wishes for a blessed, joyful, peaceful and radio active holiday season.

John, W8KIW

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

ARLD049 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. Eric, F6ICX, is QRV as 5R8IC from Sainte-Marie Island, IOTA AF-090, until the end of December. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4, and on Satellite QO-100. QSL to home call.

MALDIVES, 8Q. Harald, DL7MDX, is QRV as 8Q7HT until December 11. Activity is holiday-style on 40 to 6 meters using mainly FT8. QSL via LoTW.

CROATIA, 9A. Special event station 9A169TESLA is QRV until December 31 to celebrate Nikola Tesla's birthday. QSL via operators' instructions.

SIERRA LEONE, 9L. Steve, G7BXU, is QRV as 9L1BXU until December 10. Activity is in his spare time on 30 to 10 meters using CW and FT8. QSL to home call.

BOTSWANA, A2. Ben, DB2LS is QRV as A25LS and is here for about a week. Activity is on the HF bands using FT8 during his daytime and may be active using CW and SSB during his nights. QSL to home call.

THE GAMBIA, C5. Andre, ON7YK, is QRV as C5YK from Kotu until January 25, 2026. Activity is on 20 to 10 meters using SSB, RTTY, FT8, FT4, and some CW. QSL via LoTW.

MOROCCO, CN. Special event call sign CN25JIM will be QRV from December 11 to 14 to mark International Mountain Day, which falls on December 11. This year also aligns with the

UN's International Year for the Preservation of Glaciers, emphasizing glacier protection and water supply. QSL via operators' instructions.

SPAIN, EA. Special callsign AO25YOTA is QRV during December to support YOTA activity. QSL via operators' instructions.

PERU, OA. Jodi, N7IDX is QRV as OA4/N7IDX until December 14. Activity is in his spare time on 20 to 10 meters, and possibly 6 meters. QSL direct to home call.

SLOVAKIA, OM. Special event station OM155BANIC is QRV until December 12 to celebrate the 155th birthday of Stefan Banic. Banic was an early parachute designer who obtained a US patent in 1914. QSL via Slovak QSL Bureau or OM1ARW.

ANTARCTICA. Alex, RI1ANI, will be traveling between Progress and Vostok stations and active in his spare time.

SWEDEN, SM. Radio club SK3GK is QRV with special callsign SM100XF until December 31 to mark the first radio broadcast 100 years ago from Gaevle. QSL via bureau.

TURKEY, TA. Special event station TC25YOTA is QRV until the end of December to support YOTA activity. QSL via ClubLog.

GUATEMALA, TG. Look for TG9/AF4CZ to be QRV from December 7 to January 5, 2026. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 meters using mostly FT8 and FT4. QSL via LoTW.

CENTRAL AFRICA, TL. Joao, CR7BNW, is QRV as TL8BNW until June 2026. Activity is on 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO, Z6. Gabriele, HB9TSW, is QRV as Z68BG near Pristina until December 10. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using CW. QSL via home call.

Upcoming Hamfests

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



Ohio Hamfests

2025 & 2026

01/18/2026 - [SCARF Hamfest](#)

Location: Shade, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: SCARF members

[Learn More](#)

01/31/2026 - [Struthers ROAR Mid-Winter Hamfest](#)

Location: Struthers, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Struthers Regional Operators of Amateur Radio

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61580196127715>

[Learn More](#)

03/15/2026 - [Toledo Mobile Radio Association Hamfest and Computer Fair](#)

Location: Perrysburg, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Toledo Mobile Radio Association

Website: <http://www.w8hhf.org>

[Learn More](#)

04/11/2026 - [Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club 70th Hamfest](#)

Location: Cuyahoga Falls, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Website: <https://www.cfarc-hamfest.org>

[Learn More](#)

07/19/20/26 - [Van Wert Hamfest](#)

Location: Van Wert, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Van Wert Amateur Radio Club

[Learn More](#)

08/15/2026 - [Cincinnati HamfestSM, ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention](#)

Location: Owensville, OH

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Milford Amateur Radio Club

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

[Learn More](#)

08/16/2026 - [Warren Hamfest](#)

Location: Cortland, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Warren Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://w8vtd.com/hamfest>

[Learn More](#)

Print an Official or Unofficial Copy of Your Amateur Radio License

(By Anthony Luscre, K8ZT)

As of February 17, 2015, the **FCC no longer routinely issues paper license documents** to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The Commission has maintained for some time now that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System (ULS). The FCC will continue to provide paper license documents to all licensees who notify the Commission that they prefer to receive one.

Licensees also will be able to print out an official authorization — as well as an unofficial “reference copy” — from the ULS License Manager. I’ve created a set of instructions on how you can request an “official” printed copy of your license*

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE			
KEJK			
John Q. Amateur 123 Maple Avenue Anytown, State 00000			
FCC Registration Number (FRN): 000000000			
Special Conditions / Endorsements			
NONE			
Grant Date	Effective Date	Prior Date	Expiration Date
01/01/2000	01/01/2017	01/01/2000	01/01/2017
File Number	Operator Privileges	Station Privileges	
000000000	Advanced	BOTH	
THIS LICENSE IS NOT TRANSFERABLE			
John Q. Amateur (Licensee's Signature)			
DEC 00 - May 2017			

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

Final... Final

Well, we’re getting pretty close to the end of 2025. It’s not too soon to start planning out your 2026 Schedule. Both personal and for your club. Being successful requires planning. Being mediocre does not.

This weekend I was at the FCARC Winter Fest. A long ride, but worth the trip! The American Legion hall was a very nice venue, but I’m afraid they’re pushing the limits and you’ll probably see them at a larger location sometime in the near future. Lots of good equipment for sale and trading hands. Good food available. Most importantly, a friendly crowd and lots of door prizes. (My photo below was taken during set-up before the doors were open.) The doors opened at 9:00 am – about an hour later than most fests, which was a nice touch getting to sleep in just a bit!



Now it's time to start figuring out which fests to get to in 2025. I'm going to start early on this one, and yes, I've already bought my tickets for HAMVENTION 2026! If you've never been there or you're a new Ham – GET THERE! It will definitely give you a different perspective on Amateur Radio. There are a couple BIG Fests worth going to if you can make it, But this one is right in our own back yard! I'll look forward to seeing you there and at many other Fests and Events throughout the Ohio Section next year!

Share the Magic of Radio!

73,
Tom WB8LCD

“Swap & Shop” on the Ohio Section website - www.arrl-ohio.org

Hey Gang,

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Back Issues of the PostScript and Ohio Section Journal

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



Ohio Section Cabinet

Section Manager – Tom Sly, WB8LCD	Section Traffic Manager – Dan Rinaman AC8NP
Asst Section Manager – John Levo, W8KIW	Asst Section Manager – Alan Andres, KD8ZBS

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

Chit – Chat, and All That!

Do you know someone that's not getting these Newsletters? Please, forward a copy of this Newsletter over to them and have them "[Opt-In](#)" to start receiving them.



We now have many thousands of readers receiving these newsletters weekly. Quite impressive, I'd say! I urge all of you to make sure that everyone, regardless of whether they are a League member or not, get signed up to receive these weekly Newsletters.



You can always "Opt-Out" at any time if you feel this is not what you were expecting. It's fun and very informative. All of your favorite past newsletters are now archived to



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