



*Ohio
Section
Journal*

January 7, 2026
Happy New Year!



Hope everyone had a great holiday season, spending time with family and friends.

What an incredible journey I have had since becoming licensed in 2012, from becoming an Assistant Emergency Coordinator in Licking Co. to now the Section Manager. As I mentioned, I started out as an Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Licking Co. to the Emergency Coordinator, I then became an Assistant District Coordinator and then to District Emergency Coordinator when the previous DEC became a SK. Stan N8BHL was ready to retire and I was approached to replace him as Section Emergency Coordinator and accepted. Tom WB8LCD was ready to retire from his position as Section Manager, I was approached to finish his term as SM and agreed.

As we embark on our journey in 2026, I eagerly anticipate assuming the leadership role and attending Hamfests to connect with everyone. Last year, I had the opportunity to attend some of these events and was able to meet individuals whose names I had previously only heard. I am particularly excited about the prospect of meeting and engaging in conversations with you in 2026.

I kindly request your patience as I am currently processing a substantial amount of information, and it will take me some time to fully comprehend it.

On a side note, the staff of the SARGE will be taking a break for January and February. The Ohio HF Net will resume on Tuesday March 3rd at 19:00 on 3.902 +/-

WWW.ARRL-Ohio.org

December Handbook Giveaway Winner – Andrew Thall, K2OO!

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!

December 1 question questionnaire – Do you participate in Straight Key Night?

Out of 93 responses, 18 said “Yes”; and 75 said “No”. 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 -

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

From the Technical

Coordinator

Jeff Kopcak – K8JTK TC

K8JTK@arrl.net

Hey gang,

Have you recently built something? Came up with a solution to a problem in the shack? Experienced something new? Operating HF for the first time? If you were to ask your club newsletter editor (or even our own Section Manager) are they looking for content from club members, I'll bet they say "yes!" Hams are interested in good articles written by others sharing their experiences with projects and adventures. You'll be



surprised to find many other hams interested in the same thing or looking for motivation to take that leap. It happens.

Not sure what to do or where to start? Contact the newsletter editor first. Let them know your intent to write an article. They should provide guidelines and requirements. Deadline for submission and how much space is available for example. They may ask questions to help jump start the thought process which will aid getting details down in written form. Write down those questions or refer back to the E-mail if... when... you get writer's block.

Think about your audience. Is this a general interest club or newsletter? Is it a more technical forum? For general interest audience, keep the concepts broad. "Raspberry Pi 4 with a high-quality SD card" is good because most people have heard of or used an SD card and a Raspberry Pi. Maybe a sentence or two to describe them further for those whom haven't used that particular device. As opposed to: "Raspberry Pi 4 with the Broadcom BCM2711, Quad core Cortex-A72 (ARM v8) 64-bit SoC @ 1.8GHz with a C10 SD card" where only a small percentage of readers will have an idea what any of that means. A technical newsletter, web post, group, or online platform maybe interested in those details. Majority of readers won't care, leave those details to an appropriate forum.

Organize your thoughts and come up with some logical order to them. Chronological often works best. Jumping around and referring to events you haven't yet described will leave the reader confused and likely to move on.

Introduction & problem

Answer the question "what did you try to tackle or what problem did you solve?" Wanting to build an interface for digital operation, build a portable direction finding antenna, evaluate mobile antenna mounts, establish a mesh network, learn Linux or Raspberry Pi, learn a programming language, build a timer circuit, add a spectrum analyzer and waterfall to an older radio using a Software Defined Radio, work a satellite contact, used an SDR to track down a noise source, find an elusive noise source on 40 meters. These are examples of something set out to be accomplished.

Researching & finding a solution

How did you research the topic or how did you find out how to get started? Watch YouTube videos, read online posts or blogs, research in the ARRL Handbook or other publication, consult with friends or club members, attend a club meeting, training session, or hamfest forum? Include a few outstanding resources utilized, such as a website that has a calculation tool for antenna length, tracking satellite passes, finding 6-meter openings, a detailed setup/walk through video, or GitHub repository.

Implementation

This should be the main focus of the article. After all, it's what readers came to learn about. This section should include acquisition of parts & materials, alternatives that were cheaper/more expensive, better/lesser quality, substituted better parts than those in your research, design changes, testing methods, and trial and error antidotes.

Diagrams, schematics, flow charts, reference tables, and pictures are good as long as there is space for those. If there is not a lot of space and highly detailed versions of diagrams or images exist, upload those to Dropbox or a Google Drive folder. Create a read only sharable link to that folder. Include that link in the article or put it at the end of the article for more information.

Installation

Steps taken to get the project ready for final assembly and results of initial testing. How did you make the project look clean and professional? Mounting methods for the project – housing or

risers/standoffs, installation issues, cable management, or batch file/shell script/systemd code snippets to automatically start the program. Initial test results? Did they indicate a good build, point to any issues, or did you miss something along the way?

Testing

Any additional problems encountered, anomalies you came across, or last-minute changes? Antenna analyzer readings, triangulation techniques for foxhunting, signal strength of the next mesh node, speed tests, or other adjustments? Include any debugging tips that another reader is likely to encounter.

Don't be embarrassed about things you've messed up either. We have all done it. Whether its forgot a ";" at the end of a line of code and it took a half-hour or half-day to debug because the compiler thought the error was somewhere else, looked at a wrong date, didn't realize the time was listed in UTC, let the smoke out, scope was on the wrong scale, knocked over a propane torch... whatever the reason, it will make you appear human. Your work will stick with your reader and they'll relate to problems from their own experiences. Inject some tasteful humor and you'll show you learned from your mistakes too.

Operation

Did you accomplish what you set out to accomplish? Did you track down that noise on 40, work moon-bounce to an exotic location, work holiday-style from a sought-after entity, snag that DX you were hoping to get, were published in a magazine because someone used your project as part of theirs, or start an industry because it was so fascinating? Final thoughts about the project.

Was it worth it, would have done anything differently, did it make things easier or harder?

Would have rather spent time doing something else?

Now that your article is written, revise, revise, take a break, and revise again for spelling, grammar, and continuity. Have others proof read and provide constructive criticism. It is hard sometimes when it is your work but they're trying to make it better. Having peers review will help convey your message clearly. Even if you don't consider yourself a writer, it will help avoid making stupid spelling or phrasing mistakes. Still looking for topic examples? Grab any issue of QST and follow the format of a similar article. With a little work, you can become a published author and help your club!

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

From the Section Emergency Coordinator

Mat Nickoson – KC8NZJ, SEC

kc8nzj@outlook.com

Mat KC8NZJ



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



Vital Role of the Public Information Officer (PIO)

From <https://elgl.org/the-vital-role-of-the-public-information-officer/>:

There's absolute truth to the fact that social media has leveled the playing field in terms of telling your story, both from a journalistic perspective and from a government perspective. More so than ever before, dedicated roles to sharing and providing information are popping up in agencies across the United States, with social media managers and public information officers working to not only connect their organizations with their communities, but to guarantee their agency communicates with journalists.

As the turnover rate in journalism continues to persist, social media has become a tool that initially connects, but one that should never substitute for personal networking. The foundations of solid working relationships between journalists and government agencies are ones that need time, attention, and respect.

This effort, without question, often defaults to a public information officer. They are the ever-present middleman, but one that should and can work to connect reporters and subject matter experts within an organization. The role of this individual is to provide **the public with information**. Your public often includes your local media representatives. It is your job to ensure you do all you can to make that happen, every time.

That being said, to hear that a recent study suggested reporters see public information officers as detrimental to their ability to gather information and report a story is not only disheartening, it's grossly misguided. Public information officers are **the** necessary conduit to ensure a reporter gets what they need (or speaks with the right person) in as timely a fashion as possible. A PIO's whole job is to help media representatives tell their stories. Without someone dedicated to ensuring that information is shared, both with the public and with journalists, the disjointedness and the rampartness of rumors would escalate quickly and be difficult, and more than likely impossible, to diffuse. As a former journalist in the Bay Area, I could not have been as successful without the trust, faith and respect I had with local public information officers. And that was not something that just came about — I had to make the effort to make that initial connection, and then I had to work at it. As we learned about one another and relationships were forged, it was the PIO who facilitated further successful connections between myself and other members of their organization.

In a society where terms like “fake news” and “rumor mill” are everyday utterances, should we not be working together to ensure those terms become obsolete? Should we not be working together to ensure that the whole story is told, and that assumptions and misunderstands are corrected quickly to prevent further instability? Public information officers work to ensure that information shared from their agency is factual, straightforward, and thorough. They are oftentimes the only person who can make that happen under a deadline. Others in an organization are not necessarily beholden to the job of information-sharing, or their collateral assignments prevent them from working with journalists in a timely fashion. They may not always understand the nuances behind public records acts, nor may they understand what can or should be released during an ongoing investigation. PIOs work to keep information streams flowing, and they work to make sure journalists get quotes, context and analysis as often as possible.

Journalists have a finite amount of time and space to tell a story, and quite frankly, they often have little or no time to watch the feedback, or perhaps follow up, on stories (a job that also falls onto the public information officer to do in addition to working with journalists in real time). The journalism industry, at this stage, often requires its workers to keep moving, to go to the next story. Very few are able to dig into a story and search all angles — most journalists just don’t have that luxury anymore. Though, they should.

A blanket statement that public information officers inhibit a journalist’s job is as misguided as saying all journalists don’t report the facts. We all seem to operate in a culture where “one size fits all” statements are not only allowable, they’re believed, and that’s dangerous. In truth, a vast majority of journalists do all they can to do their job right. They work hard to ensure they have solid working relationships with the various agencies they cover. They work hard to ensure their reporting is accurate and fair. In turn, public information officers make remarkable efforts to either connect journalists with sources or ensure that they provide them with as much as they are able. Combative relationships with media representatives (and with government agencies) should be an anomaly, not the norm. Both sides should be held accountable, but both sides should also understand that jobs are being performed and that should be respected.

Elizabeth Kline, KE8FMJ AuxC

OHIO Section PIC and ASEC
District Emergency Coordinator, D3 Ohio ARES
Assistant Emergency Coordinator, Greene County

ARRL - The National Association For Amateur Radio

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

AC8NP@AC8NP.COM

419.618.0330

Hams Over IP #101918



Traffic Handling Methods and Guidelines and the NTS Manual.

These two documents which can be found here:

[NTS Manual2015.pdf](#)

[NTS Methods and Practices Guidelines](#)

These documents guide traffic handlers on how to do all things centered around traffic handling. There are 532 pages of information contained in these two documents.

Lately I have heard some questions about whether someone can add or change something in a Radiogram Message. Let's take a look.

2.3.2.2 TRANSCRIBE THE MESSAGE WITHOUT MODIFICATION No part of the message may be altered, even when it appears necessary, except for appending corrections to the check value. If part of a message appears to be in error, confirm the part with the sending station. If it is correctly received, leave it alone. OP NOTES may be used to pass words to the next operator regarding problems or even suspected errors. This is risky business, however, and very easily a situation in which one can insert one's foot in one's mouth. You never really know what the message originator had in mind!

3.2.2.2 TRANSCRIBE THE MESSAGE WITHOUT MODIFICATION No part of the message may be altered, even when it appears necessary, except for appending corrections to the check value. If part of a message appears to be in error, confirm the part with the sending station. If it is correctly received, leave it alone. OP NOTES may be used to pass words to the next operator regarding problems.

So, these two sections refer to two modifications that can be made:

1. Corrections to the check covered in more detail here:

2.3.3.13 AMENDING THE CHECK If the sending station and receiving station eventually agree that they have the same text, and the original check on the sender's copy is in error, the sender made a mistake in not verifying the check when the message was received, or an error was made in copy and not caught. The CHECK may be amended by adding a slash followed by the corrected number as in 12/13, which is voiced as "ONE TWO corrected to ONE TREE", or "ONE TWO SLASH ONE TREE". THE TEXT OR CHECK IS NEVER CHANGED TO FORCE AGREEMENT!

3.3.7.3 AMENDING THE CHECK If the sending station and receiving station eventually agree that they have the same text, and the check is in error, the CHECK may be amended by adding a slash followed by the corrected number as in 12/13, which is sent as 12/13. TEXT OR CHECK IS NEVER CHANGED TO FORCE AGREEMENT!

2. Adding an OP NOTE to explain any questions concerning the message, but you may be misunderstanding the senders intentions.

So, what do you do:

8.1.4 SENDING SERVICE MESSAGES An amateur has an ethical obligation to keep a message "in play" until delivered, and to honor requests for service information specified in the handling instructions. The amateur has only three choices for the disposition of message traffic: 1) RELAY it, 2) DELIVER it, or 3) SERVICE it back to the originator. It is understood that a receiving station shall send back a service message for an undeliverable message even without any HX code or other instruction to do so. If a station is unable to deliver a message after trying all the strategies it has available, it must originate a "SERVICE MESSAGE" back to the station of origin including as much information as possible to explain the problem. Do not report to, or send a service message to, the station who relayed the message to you. Deal only with the originator, you have the ball once you accept the message.

The delivery station has some latitude when trying to find an addressee as noted here:

8.1.1 FINDING ADDRESSEES A complete and accurate address section of a message is the key to successful delivery. As mentioned in the section on message formatting, having the addressee's name as it might be found in the telephone directory along with an accurate street address, etc., will allow the delivering station to recover from most garbling or origination errors. A few useful tips follow for recovering from an incorrect telephone number (or none at all), or a bad address:

This section goes on to recommend many ways to aid in delivery of messages.

So, if you are new to traffic handling or want a refresher look at these two documents. A good place to start is Chapters 1,2,3 and 8.

I learned a long time ago from an old Gunny Sgt that the most important thing to remember is where to find the information you need.

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/>

 The logo for the National Traffic System (NTS) is a circular emblem. It features the letters "NTS" in a stylized, bold font in the center. The background of the circle is divided into sections: the top half is blue with white stars, and the bottom half is red with white stripes, resembling the American flag. The words "NATIONAL TRAFFIC SYSTEM" are written in a circular arc at the top, and "INNOVATION", "TRADITION", and "SERVICE" are written in a circular arc at the bottom.	National Traffic System Traffic and Message Handling For Skill, Service, and Fun!	 A standard black and white QR code is located in the bottom right corner of the table cell.
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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	WB8YY5
TCTTN	9 PM Sun, Tues, Fri	147.015 MHz PL 110.9	WB8YY5
TATN	8:00 PM DAILY	146.670 MHz PL 123.0	K8KRA

BRTN - Burning River Traffic Net (serving the Cleveland area and all North Central Ohio)
COTN – Central Ohio Traffic Net (serving Columbus and Central Ohio)
NWOATT – Northwest Ohio ARES Traffic and Training Net (serving Northwest Ohio)
ODMR – Ohio DMR Net (serving Ohio)
TCTTN - Tri-County Traffic and Training Net (serving Northeast Ohio)
TATN - Tri-State Amateur Traffic Net (serving Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana)

Dan Rinaman AC8NP
Ohio Section Traffic Manager
419-618-0330 HOIP 101918
ac8np@ac8np.com

Assistant Section Manager
Anthony Luscre, K8ZT - SYC
k8zt73@gmail.com

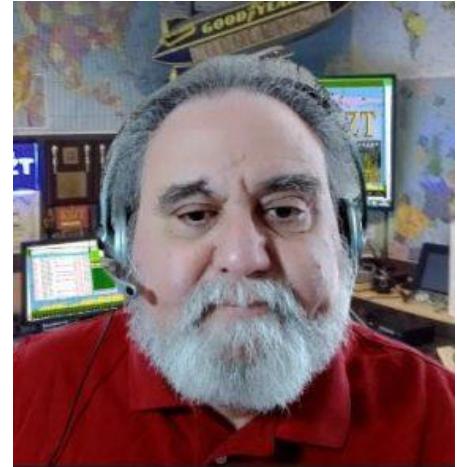
A New Year and So Many Things to Try

The holidays are over; let Amateur Radio keep you company during the Winter cold of the first two months of the year.

ARRL January VHF Contest

**January 17-19, 2026, 1900 UTC Saturday to 0359 UTC Monday
(Sat 2 PM to Sunday 7 PM Eastern).**

Unlike last year, there will be no “Ohio VHF Simplex Contest,” but there is still the underlying ARRL January VHF Contest. This is a great chance for Technician Class Licensees to get on the air and make contacts because Techs have full privileges for all modes on these bands. But it is not just for Techs, all license classes can take part in this activity. For full rules and details visit the ARRL January VHF web page- www.arrl.org/January-vhf.



You can operate on a variety of modes, but the most popular are SSB & Digital (FT8/FT4). There will also be some activity on CW and even FM (non-repeater simplex contacts only). I recently put together an article on operating FT8 during ARRL VHF contests, and you can read it here- <tiny.cc/vu-ft8>. You can also view these other resources for assistance and tips-

- For more information on FT8/FT4
 - FT8/FT4 –
<https://youtu.be/LTUVWW2PIgg>
 - Making Digital Radio Contacts-
<tiny.cc/digiqso>
- FT8 & FT4 Digital Soundcard Modes plus FD & Contests- <tiny.cc/ft8-plus-fd>
- For More information on VHF/UHF Operating
 - Beginner's Guide to VHF/UHF & HF- <tiny.cc/bghfvhf>
- For more information on Contesting-
 - Intro to Amateur Radio Contesting- <https://youtu.be/-n5CLG0IIYw>
- Buying Radio Equipment (including discontinued and used)- <tiny.cc/buyar>

WWA- World Wide Award 2026

One Challenge.

One Month of Activity.

One World Wide Award.

The HF bands are about to explode with activity. From January 1st, 2026, the World Wide Award transforms the airwaves into the biggest global playground for radio amateurs—over 110



special stations from 44 countries with over 1,200 activators. Every contact counts. Every point brings you closer. Every day is a new opportunity.

- Hunt special stations
- Climb the Bronze – Silver – Gold rankings
- Compete with thousands of operators worldwide

All contacts are automatically logged into the contest competition

- No paperwork.
- No log uploads.
- Just pure operating pleasure.
- With Hunter Copilot™, you always know where your next QSO is waiting - in real time, on the right band, in the right mode.

If you love HF...

If you love challenges...

If you love radio...

Then the World Wide Award 2026 is your event.

Let's fill the bands.

Let's make some noise.

Let's make January unforgettable.

See you on the air!-

<https://hamaward.cloud/wwa/award>

One more note about this activity: I will be participating with several other Ohio and Western PA operators (AG3I, K5ZD, K8BL, K8GU, K8ZT, K9NW, KE8DNF, KW8N, NSET, NJ3K, W1NN, W8CAR, W8FT, W8TB & WU8R) who will be activating N8W for the month. So listen for and work us!



Winter Field Day

Very similar to ARRL Field Day in June, but with a few different rules, categories and probably very different weather. The fun can be the same no matter the weather. *Winter Field Day* takes place January 24 and 25th, 1600 UTC (11 am EST), the 24th, and ends at 21:59 UTC (3 pm EST). You can read all about the event on the website: <https://winterfieldday.org>, and/or watch a live Zoom presentation by sponsor Marvin Turner, W0MET, on Wednesday, Jan 7th at 9 PM (www.ratpac.us/zoom). The session will also be recorded.



Other Contests

January and February have a plethora of major Amateur Radio Contests (for details and yet more contests visit- www.contestcalendar.com):

- ARRL RTTY Roundup Jan 3 & 4
- North American QSO Party, CW 1800Z, Jan 10 to 0559Z, Jan 11
- North American QSO Party, SSB 1800Z, Jan 17 to 0559Z, Jan 18
- ARRL January VHF Contest 1900Z, Jan 17 to 0359Z, Jan 19
- CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW 2200Z, Jan 23 to 2200Z, Jan 25
- Winter Field Day 1600Z, Jan 24 to 2159Z, Jan 25
- Vermont QSO Party 0000Z, Feb 7 to 2400Z, Feb 8 (the first of 47 State and Regional QSO Parties for 2026. You should also check out the STATE QSO PARTY CHALLENGE- <https://stateqsoparty.com>).
- Minnesota QSO Party 1400Z-2400Z, Feb 7
- British Columbia QSO Party 1600Z, Feb 7 to 0359Z, Feb 8 and 1600Z-2359Z, Feb 8

- CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest 0000Z, Feb 14 to 2359Z, Feb 15
- ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Feb 21 to 2400Z, Feb 22
- CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB 2200Z, Feb 27 to 2200Z, Mar 1

For more information on Contesting and Logging Software:

- Intro to Amateur Radio Contesting- <https://youtu.be/-n5CLG0I1Yw>
- Logging Software for Contesting & General Use-
<https://youtu.be/INGMfu4Z114>

General Class License Exam Prep

If you are a Technician Class Licensee and would like to expand your operating privileges, consider upgrading your license. The Cuyahoga Falls ARC will be holding a live online Zoom session to help you get your General Class license. Sessions are six Sundays from 1:30 to 4:00 PM. For more details and to register, visit tiny.cc/beahamg. Classes are free and open to all ages. You should have your Tech license or be actively preparing to take the exam to participate.

Two Way Conversations & Announcements

At Ohio ARRL Section we would love to carry on a two way conversations with our readers, let you make announcements about club or personal activities. You can do both by join the ARRL Ohio Section Facebook page.

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



ARRL Ohio Section

Public group facebook.com/groups/oharrlsection

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](#)."

That's it for this month; I hope to work you on the air soon, maybe on VHF-UHF FT8!

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

Greetings all! I pray that you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I also hope that each club and their membership is looking forward to a fantastic 2026.

With the start of the new year, I imagine your club had officer elections. This is a great time to log into the ARRL website and update your club's personnel, meeting location, number of members and especially the contact information. Also, as Affiliated Clubs we agreed to provide these updates even if there were no significant changes starting on January 1st every year. I look forward to seeing each club make their annual report updates.

The 2026 hamfest schedule is posted on the [ARRL Ohio Section webpage](#) and I have gone through it to determine which hamfests I am planning to attend and be present in case any clubs or their members have questions or concerns about affiliation or activities. The first hamfest I will be attending is the Struthers ROAR Mid-Winter Hamfest January 31st. My planned next hamfest is



NOARS Winter Hamfest March 8th. I plan to be at the ARRL table at both. If you read this newsletter and see me there, please stop and say HI.



The ARRL Year of the Club 2026 has officially started. The year-long America250 WAS schedule for W1AW Portable is [posted](#). Description and highlights of the event along with the schedule are on the webpage. There is also an announcement about this event in the January 2026 QST magazine on page 76.

The first W1AW/ activations start 1/07/2026 with New York and Nebraska. I know that by the time this newsletter is posted those will have occurred, but you can check the schedule for all other planned activations. If you miss these two states, they are scheduled later in the year.

Along with this activity The Year of the Club 2026 has three other events your club can participate in.

- Club Newsletter Contest
- Club Website Contest
- Club Photos

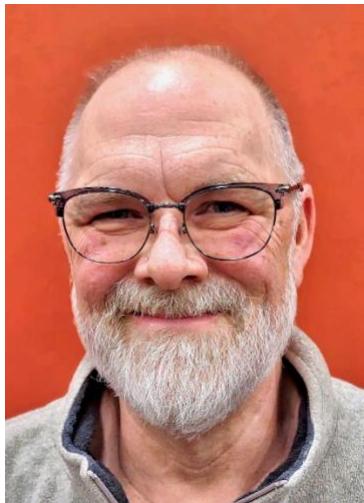
Please read about each of these four events on the ARRL website; [Year of the Club](#).

I have received a few invitations to club events and I appreciate each one. However, I haven't been able to attend as many as I would like to. I appreciate your invitations and I will try to attend. My schedule reminds me of a joke I heard. – "They say once you retire you will travel more. What they don't tell you is it's to doctor's appointments."

Work on staying "Radio-Active" and Ham It UP!

73

Terry, KI8N



Assistant Section Manager

Al Andress – KD8ZBS

Alinfarm12@gmail.com

Personal and Club Success in 2026?

WOW that went by quickly.. What was that? That 2 week period of time we just experienced with the celebration of Christmas and New Year's, which went by quickly at least for me. I hope everyone was able to enjoy the time whether it was spent with family, friends or some alone time with Amateur Radio?

I have previously written about how can we make our local Amateur Radio clubs, and in turn, our personal growth successful with Amateur Radio. And some were willing to share their thoughts on the matter and I appreciate that. So, as with any hobby and that includes Amateur Radio, long term sustainability and growth, depends on those who currently are enjoying, or at least trying to enjoy, what they do and what the experience has to offer them. And that is where each and every one of us who currently have the privilege to enjoy this great opportunity gets to play a part in its growth.

This hobby has many facets and individual personalities of individuals that there should be plenty of options for everyone. So let us explore what I would consider some foundational needs, habits, and faces of what success would start to look like for each person, and as an outflow of the person, the local Amateur Radio club and its influence into its respective communities.

Welcoming, how do we greet people, whether it is out in public as we are living life, or in our club meetings? Are we looking for that opportunity to share a smile and maybe say hello (very simple that even many of those who may be introverted should be able to muster the ability to do this). And for those who may be the “talkers” (there are those of us who do like to talk LOL), that smile and hello would lead in to a bigger conversation that would look to explore the interest of the person who just became our new friend. The backbone of growth is welcoming others into our circles. Without this, we will not grow. I do not like interacting with a grumpy old man (I am nearing retirement myself so this would include me LOL). More on this at a later time....

Inviting, we can smile and shake hands all day long, but until we “invite” others into our circle and making them feel welcomed, they just remain a contact, someone we met, seen on the street etc but never went beyond that level of contact. We need to be able to recognize through our conversations those individuals who have an interest, maybe even a passion for Amateur Radio, and INVITE them to join our our circle. This will be important to assist with expanding any relationship beyond the simple nod of the head to building a mutually beneficial relationship where each person involved has the opportunity to learn, develop and increase their own understanding of this hobby. This would include those who could be struggling with the technical nature of this hobby, to the experienced individual who has a vast understanding of invaluable knowledge looking for a “sponge” to soak it up and take it to the next level. None of this is possible unless we are inviting others with curiosity or experience into our Amateur Radio

circle. It has been said if you want friends, then you have to show yourself friendly. And I would say, if you want your hobby to continue be available to enjoy, then we need to show ourselves friendly. While this is not often easy for some who are technical minded and prefer a resistor to a human relationship, we can find those who enjoy the human interaction and may not be the most skillful with the technical. It defiantly takes many individuals of all personality types to bring about success.

Fear not, there is something for everyone in this hobby, and that includes the level and personal inclination to be welcoming and inviting.

Being Welcoming and Inviting are what I would consider to be the very foundation of any successful organization, and to an extent living life. Stay tuned for more thoughts to come about how some of this might look like when it is put to use....

Feel free to share your thoughts and comments with me. My email contact is listed above.

John Myers, WG8X

wg8x.radio@gmail.com

330-936-5021

Happy New Year everyone! Obviously since you are reading this, we've made it through 2025. Now looking ahead, where do we want to be next year at this time? Now's a good time to make those resolutions. Besides the usual (lose weight and exercising more), I'm hoping to replace my shack rig at Hamvention (reservations are made) and do some antenna maintenance once the snow melts.

Another resolution on my list is to do some updating and replacing of a lot of those "Under Construction" tags on the section website. I'm unhappy with the tasks that I've let hang for too long. So, I plan for the story to be different at this time next year.

Did you know that we have a Section calendar, where your VE sessions, Hamfests, and other section news is posted? Judging by the site statistics, the page seems to be a very well-kept secret. If you submit your stuff to the Section Journal, it should show up on the calendar. But, if you want to be sure, copy those events to calendar@arrl-ohio.org, and I'll get it posted.

The Swap & Shop Page continues to be popular, consistently showing up in our top 5 destinations. From the emails I receive, it appears to work well. Have a look at <https://arrl-ohio.org/section-swap-shop/>.

There are two ways to search Hamfests on the website.

We have a dedicated Hamfest page at <https://arrl-ohio.org/hamfests/>. We continually update it from the information that we receive. You can also click the link in the left sidebar titled "ARRL



Ohio Hamfests.” This will take you to the ARRL website listing of all ARRL approved Hamfests and conventions in the Ohio Section.

The deadline for the League’s Club Website Contest is coming up at the end of the month (Friday, January 30th at 4pm EST). You can find all the information by going to <https://www.arrl.org/club-website-contest>.

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](#)".



ARRL Ohio Section

Public group · facebook.com/groups/oharrlsection



Scouting and Amateur radio ready for 2026!

The new Radio Scouting Committee has officially launched within the Dan Beard Council, bringing together Scout leaders and amateur radio operators to strengthen youth engagement with the amateur radio hobby. The committee held its first meeting virtually on December 16, 2025, drawing a diverse group of volunteers from local troops and clubs, many of whom are long-time hams and former scouts. The shared objective was clear: build a sustainable program that introduces Scouts to ham radio, supports merit badge advancement, and connects the Scouting and amateur radio communities in meaningful, long-term partnership.

Attendees included hams involved in emergency communications, Jamboree-on-the-Air operations, Radio Merit Badge instruction, ARISS contact events, youth nets, and large council events such as Peterloon and Summer Camp, and Camporees. Amateur radio clubs represented included QCEN, BCARA, WC8VOA, W8BLV, OHKYIN, CFMC, DeForest ARC, and K7JEP(?).

The committee discussed its initial work plan, which includes mapping out a calendar of possible events, continuing outreach to local radio clubs, and beginning direct outreach to districts, troops, and packs. Early ideas included supporting Merit Badge Challenge events, Winter Field Day, AdventureCon, council summer camps, Peterloon, Jamboree-on-the-Air, and other annual opportunities where Scouts can get on the air and learn radio skills. The group also highlighted the need to improve communication tools—exploring options such as forums, email groups, and social media—to coordinate volunteers, share resources, and keep leaders informed about upcoming activities and new requirements for the Radio Merit Badge starting in 2026.

Looking ahead, the Radio Scouting Committee plans to meet monthly, mostly virtually, with periodic in-person meetings. Volunteers are now being sought from both the Scouting and

amateur radio communities to help with planning, event staffing, on-the-air activities, instruction, and behind-the-scenes coordination.

Anyone interested in supporting youth, sharing a love of radio, or helping build this new program from the ground up is invited to join the committee. The next meeting will be virtual on January 14th at 7pm.

Follow this link to register, <https://tinyurl.com/37pdcfnf> or contact Shawn at ke8bbc@arrl.net

National News (from ARRL and other sources)

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.

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,

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.

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](#)

Sign Up to Receive *The NTS Letter*

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

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

Up to \$25,000 at Stake in New ARRL Student Coding Competition

Pre-registration is now open for a [Student Coding Competition](#), a new national challenge sponsored by ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®. The project is designed to engage young radio amateurs in shaping the future of amateur radio through software development. Open to ARRL-member amateur radio operators aged 21 and younger, the competition will invite students to

design a mobile app that supports ARRL and the amateur radio community. Cash awards totaling up to \$25,000 will be presented to one or more winning entries.

The competition officially begins on January 1, 2026, when complete rules and application specifications will be released at coding.arrl.org. Participants are reminded not to start coding yet — entries must follow the published requirements. Project submissions will be due by March 31, 2026. Entries will be judged on how well they meet the specifications, user interface design and usability, code quality and stability, and the inclusion of extra features.

Adult ARRL members are encouraged to help spread the word and support the next generation of amateur radio innovators. [ARRL Student Membership](https://www.arrl.org/students) is free for full-time students aged 21 and younger, removing a key barrier to participation. Young hams, educators, and mentors are encouraged to pre-register now at coding.arrl.org

to receive updates as additional details become available and to prepare for this exciting opportunity to contribute lasting tools to 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 your club is up to. Are you going to have a special guest at your meeting or are you having a special anniversary?

Send it to: webmaster@arrl-ohio.org



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.*

DeForest Amateur Radio Club offers Exam Testing (Adams County)

Exam Session for 2026: February 12, 2026, April 9, 2026, June 11, 2026, August 13, 2026, October 8, 2026, December 10, 2026

Sponsor: DeForest Amateur Radio Club

Time: 6:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: William E. Hablitzel @ (513) 310-3541

Email: K8WEH@arrl.net

VEC: LAUREL VEC

Location: Adams County EMA Office, 33 / 31 Logans Lane (lower level in rear of building)
West Union OH 45693-1186

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

DeForest Amateur Radio Club offers Exam Testing (Adams County)

Exam Sessions for 2026:

February 12, 2026, April 9, 2026, June 11, 2026, August 13, 2026, October 8, 2026, December 10, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: William E. Hablitzel @ (513) 310-3541
Email: K8WEH@arrl.net VEC: LAUREL VEC

Location: Adams County EMA Office 33 / 31 Logans Lane (lower level in rear of building)
West Union OH 45693-1186

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

All VE sessions for 2026 will be on the 2nd Saturday of each month except for July. No testing in July. Check in (with FRN) at 1:00PM and testing at 1:30 PM.

We are located at the Columbiana County EMA, 215 south Market St., Lisbon, OH.

Contact Don Kemp, NN8B at nn8b.oh@gmail.com.

No phone calls.

We can usually have a VE session at our monthly meetings each month. We are currently meeting on the 2nd Tuesday (except for June, we have a Nuke drill that day) at 6:30 PM at the Columbiana County EMA. The meeting day may change so email for details.

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.

Saturday Jan 3, Saturday March 7, Saturday May 2, Saturday September 5, and Saturday November 7.

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)



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.

Contest	Start Date	End Date

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



First and foremost, those of us in Ohio's Southern part of the State, hope everyone had a fantastic holiday sharing it with friends and family. Since the last time we met, several things have happened. Not only did the calendar change months, but found itself in the trash bin because it is of little future use because we are now in a new year. It's replacement is already starting to have the grid filled in with events, appointments, happenings and other things we don't want to overlook nor forget. With luck several of those entries will be driven by amateur radio and celebrating our nation's Semiquincentennial or 250th birthday. Typical of Southern Ohio weather, we have seen 6-8 inches of snow throughout the region only to be followed a few days later by record temperatures in the 60s and then plunging into the teens the following day.

Since the last column, most of the Clubs have held their annual elections, holiday dinners and parties. It's fun to read about and view photos of those events and see how those clubs wrap up their year. Unexpected weather caused the **Portsmouth RC** to postpone their celebration a week and to cancel their January meeting. Because of all going on in December, the **Grant RC** usually delays their holiday gathering until around March. At least four clubs assisted their communities holiday parades and one entered a float promoting the service in a parade. The **Tri-State ARA** conducted an "On the Air With Santa" day in conjunction with the **West Virginia Museum of Radio and Technology**. One actually physically rung in the New Year.



As most know by now Ohio Section Manager Tom Sly resigned 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. of the more remote parts long as four hours, it was hamfest in Portsmouth, award presentation in presentation in Hillsboro years back he even farm near New Vienna to at the **Highland ARA**'s heading towards home visits on the way. 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. The **Highland ARA** presented he and his wife Mary with a gift certificate as a token of appreciation for their support of the Club at the recent HARA Christmas Party.



Because a trip from Kent to some of Ohio's South 40 could be as not unusual to see him at the Georgetown or Owensville, at a Cambridge, a Special Service or Hamvention in Xenia. A few ventured to the N8ZNR/W8KIW make the ceremonial first contact Field Day operation before while making other Field Day

The **Cambridge ARA** held their annual Awards Banquet in early December in Cambridge. The highlight of the afternoon was the announcement of Carl "Junior" McDaniel-KE8ZKR, as the Club's Amateur of the Year. Special guests were Santa and Mrs. Claus.

In election news, John Willis-KE8JEM; Demond Crider-N9QOX and Kathy Levo-N8ZNR were re-elected to the President, VP and Secretary/Treasurer positions with the **Highland ARA**. Randy McFarland, KC8DDW, was elected as a trustee and will join Sara Crider-KC9QON, Jeff Collins-KD8VUY and Ken Lightner-KE8JEL on the Administrative Board. The **Cambridge ARA** advises us the nominations for 2026 officers will take place during their January 31 business meeting. Voting results will be announced at the February meeting. Both meetings will be held at the Guernsey County Administration Building in Cambridge.

In repeater news, Paul Jellison, K8IO informs us of some changes to the **Clinton County ARA**'s 444.575 Snow Hill machine near New Vienna. Paul states it has been modified to a Fusion repeater with a 141.3 tone for the input and a 123 tone for the output. Because of the dangerous condition of the tower at the **Scioto Valley ARC**'s Bainbridge 146.925 site, the Club decided to relocate the machine to near Piketon.

It is with extreme sadness we announce the passing of two South 40 hams. Gregg Barr, KD8UVU, passed away recently at his home in Greenfield. Gregg was a former Chief of Police in Greenfield and served on the Hillsboro Police Department for years. He was also a Greenfield McClain School Board member as well as a representative to the Great Oaks Vocational Board. Services have been held in Greenfield. Bob McFarland, N8ZDL, recently passed at a Cincinnati hospital. The long time Ohio Bell employee started his career in Dayton and later was transferred to the Hillsboro switching office. Bob was a long time HARA member, former club president and active until the end—most recently he attended the annual HARA Christmas dinner party. Services have been held in Hillsboro. Gregg and Bob will be greatly missed.

This year many communities across the nation are planning ways and events to celebrate the nation's semi-quincentennial in various ways. You don't have to be a historian to realize 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. The Underground Railroad. 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 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? What about a couple of our smaller clubs team up with another small one and undertake a joint special event? If nothing else check with your local Chamber of Commerce, County Commissioners, historical society or visitor's bureau to see opportunities to become involved.



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.

The **Highland ARA** will physically 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 past years normally over 20 stations check in with stations as far as Vinton and Montgomery Counties making the trip.

The **Bellbrook ARC** recently conducted their first event from their new clubhouse at the St. Pierre Education Center in Bellbrook. Besides a tour of the facility, visiting hams were invited to participate in the 10 meter contest.

The *Logan Daily News* reports the **Hocking Valley ARA** is one of several Hocking County Emergency Response organizations to share in an almost \$294,000 TIES (Tourism Impact Emergency Services) grant from the Hocking Hills Tourist Association. These grants are to be used to "support equipment purchases, training and enhanced capacity to meet the growing demands of tourism-related activity". The Club's share of the funds will be used to upgrade their equipment. Congrats to the HVARA. Way to go!

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.

Because a sudden snowstorm forecast caused the **Portsmouth RC** to delay their Holiday gathering by a week, the January business meeting has been cancelled.

President Jesse Stanley, KC8CHP, states the **Scioto Valley ARC** Elmer's Night will be January 8 at the EMA Office at the Pike County Airport. Information about building a 2 meter JPole begins at 6:30.

The **Mid Ohio Valley ARA** is restarting their Tuesday evening 10 meter SSB net on 28.305 at 8:00 PM.

The **Highland ARA** will hold their monthly Brunch Bunch of Saturday morning, January 10 at the Hillsboro North High Street Burger King. Folks start gathering around 10. A proposed January 24 Winter Field Day operation will be discussed.

The **Sunday Creek ARF** will hold the first Southern Ohio hamfest for the year on Sunday, January 18 at the Community Center in Shade, OH. The doors open to the public at 8 AM with a biscuit and gravy breakfast available by donation. Admission is \$6.



According to Billy Massie, AA8KY, representatives of several Southern Ohio radio clubs recently met in Chillicothe to discuss forming a network of repeaters to serve the region as well as create methods to increase the amount of activity on otherwise silent repeaters. The network would be linked by AllStar and be called the "South 40 Net". To be transparent, it would have no connection with this column.

From the January *QST* we learn of the passing of Margaret Shook, KC8DFM, of Coalton; Charles Bailey, K8AKF, of Ashville and Robert Robinson, KU8C, of Huntington, WV. Our thoughts are with their families and friends.

QST also let us know the ARRL has renewed the Special Service Club designation of the **Cambridge ARA**, W8VP, in Cambridge. Congrats to a long recognized outstanding club and its members.

Speaking of an outstanding club, you will be hearing a lot during the year about the ARRL proclaiming 2026 as the "Year of the Club". Personally I believe every year should be the year of the club because the thousands of ham radio clubs throughout the nation are the back bone of our hobby. In past years whenever outside interests tried to swipe our frequencies it was through the efforts of individual clubs and their members who united to tell our officials in Washington "Oh No You Don't". And although it's fair to say COVID made it very clear that "I don't need to be a member of a club to enjoy ham radio". But meeting with others who share our interests, getting to know them and having a team to go to for assistance when needed sure makes the hobby more enjoyable. Now I'm not saying clubs can't do something to make meetings shorter, more interesting and informative and worth someone's time to attend. A common comment is "they kick the same can down the road meeting after meeting. Plus they never discuss anything new or have a program". If you haven't been to a local club's meeting for a bit, give them another chance. And if you're a club, do a serious survey of all local licenses to see their likes and dislikes. Make a serious effort to reach out to your local non-member ham community to see why they haven't

joined. Make it a point to visit a successful nearby club to observe what they do differently. A ham radio club is a two way street with the club in one lane and the individual ham in the other.

Before I wrap it up, I wish to acknowledge and thank those of you who have congratulated me on being presented with the 2025 "ARRL Ohio Section AB8P Memorial Award" by out-going Section Manager Tom Sly. It was totally unexpected and will grace the shack wall along with the 2021 ARRL's Board Silver Antenna Award. Although I anticipate turning this column over to new blood in 2026, my devotion to letting the world know that amateur radio is alive and well in Southern Ohio will continue.

Happy New Year from Highland County's Highland ARA and N8ZNR and W8KIW.

John, W8KIW

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

SB DX ARL ARLD052

ARLD052 DX news

This week's bulletin is made possible with information provided by IK1QBT, The Daily DX, 425 DX News, DXNL, OPDX, Contest Corral from QST, and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM websites. Thanks to all.

AZERBAIJAN, 4J. Jan, DL4XT is QRV as 4K/DL4XT until January 3. Activity is holiday style on 40 through 10 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via ClubLog.

PORUGAL, CT. Special event stations CS26REP, CR26REP, and CR3REP are QRV until January 7, 2026, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Portugal's IARU member society REP. Activity is on various bands and modes, and on Satellite QO-100. QSL via operators' instructions.

NEW CALEDONIA, FK. Phil, VK3HA, is QRV as FK1TS until January 31, QSL to home call.

FRENCH POLYNESIA, FO. Pascal, F6HCM, is QRV as FO/F6HCM until February 5, 2026, from various islands in this archipelago. Activity is in his spare time and generally on 15 meters using CW with QRP power. QSL to home call.

FRENCH GUIANA, FY. Pierre, F4GPK, is QRV as TO2FY from the Kourou Space Center radio club until January 15, 2026. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands using SSB. QSL via LoTW.

HAITI, HH. Special event station 4V1L is QRV during January 2026 to commemorate Marie-Jeanne Lamartiniere, a heroine of the Haitian Revolution. QSL via N2OO.

GRENADA, J3. Rikk, WE9G is QRV as J38WG until February 16, 2026. Activity is on 160 through 6 meters using mostly FT8 with some CW and SSB. He may also activate some POTA references. QSL to home call.

MARIANA ISLANDS, KH0. Ken, JO1VRK is QRV as KH0/AJ6VJ from Saipan, IOTA OC-086, until January 3, 2026. Activity is on 40 through 10 meters using CW and various digital modes. QSL via LoTW.

AMERICAN SAMOA, KH8. Darren, VK4MAP is QRV as KH8/VK4MAP from Tutuila Island, IOTA OC-045. He has been active on 10 meters using SSB around 2200z. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS. Ivo, LZ1AAW, plans to be QRV as LZ0A from station St. Kliment Ohridski on Livingston Island, IOTA AN-010, until mid-February 2026. Activity will be in his spare time. QSL via LZ2UU.

GREENLAND, OX. Michael, OX3MC, is QRV from Pituffik Space Base until February 25, 2026, and plans to be active as time permits on 160 through 10 meters using SSB, and on occasion on various FM LEO Satellites. QSL via the OZ QSL bureau.

MALI, TZ. Jeff, TZ4AM is QRV from Bamako and plans to be active until February 2026 as local conditions permit. Activity is on 40 through 6 meters using mostly CW and some SSB. QSL via KX4R.

KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. Brian, GW4DVB is QRV as V4/G4DVB from St. Kitts until January 9, 2026. Activity is on various HF bands. QSL direct to home call.

PITCAIRN ISLAND, VP6. Mike, WA6SVT, is QRV as VP6MC. Of late, he has been active on 20 meters using SSB around 0200z. QSL to home call.

INDIA, VU. Sandy, VU22DX, is QRV as AT3WWA from Goa until January 31, 2026, for the World Wide Award event. QSL to home call.

BURKINA FASO, XT. Max, DK1MAX will be QRV as XT2MAX from Ouagadougou from January 4 to 11, 2026. Activity will be holiday style on 20 through 6 meters, and possibly the lower bands, using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4. QSL via EA5GL.

CAMBODIA, XU. Tom, DL7BO, is QRV as XU7GNY until January 18, 2026. Activity is on the HF bands, with a focus on the lower bands, using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via DL4WK.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. ARRL Straight Key Night, The QRP 40-Meter CW Fox Hunt, Phone Weekly Test, Bogor Old and New SSB Contest, A1Club AWT, CWops Test, Mini-Test 40 CW, Mini-Test 80 CW, AGB New Year Snowball Contest, SARTG New Year RTTY Contest, AGCW Happy New Year CW Contest, AGCW VHF/UHF CW Contest, IRTS 80-Meter Counties Contest, NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest, SKCC CW Sprint Europe, NCCC FT4 Sprint, Weekly RTTY Test, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint and the K1USN Slow Speed CW Test are all on tap until January 2, 2026.

ARRL RTTY Roundup, ARRL Kids SSB Day, Marconi Club ARI Loano CW QSO Party Day, EUCW 160-Meter CW Contest, The PODXS 070 Club PSKFest, WW PMC Contest, and RSGB AFS CW Contest are all scheduled for this upcoming weekend.

The FOC Old School Classic 1960s CW QSO Party, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, ICWC Medium Speed CW Test, OK1WC Memorial, ARS Spartan CW Sprint, and the Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest are on tap for January 5 to 7, 2026.

The World Wide Award 2026 Event is active during the month of January 2026.

Please see December 2025 QST, page 78, January 2026 QST, page 90, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites for details.

Upcoming Hamfests

We **DO** have hamfests scheduled for 2026!!



Ohio Hamfests

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](#)

<p>03/08/2026 - Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society Winter Hamfest</p> <p>Location: Elyria, OH</p> <p>Type: ARRL Hamfest</p> <p>Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society</p> <p>Website: https://www.noars.net/hamfests/winter-hamfest/</p> <p>Learn More</p>	<p>03/15/2026 - Toledo Mobile Radio Association Hamfest and Computer Fair</p> <p>Location: Perrysburg, OH</p> <p>Type: ARRL Hamfest</p> <p>Sponsor: Toledo Mobile Radio Association</p> <p>Website: http://www.w8hhf.org</p> <p>Learn More</p>
<p>04/11/2026 - Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club 70th Hamfest</p> <p>Location: Cuyahoga Falls, OH</p> <p>Type: ARRL Hamfest</p> <p>Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club, Inc.</p> <p>Website: https://www.cfarc-hamfest.org</p> <p>Learn More</p>	<p>04/25/2026 - Tusco Amateur Radio Club's 2026 Hamfest, Computer & Electronics Show</p> <p>Location: Dover, OH</p> <p>Type: ARRL Hamfest</p> <p>Sponsor: Tusco Amateur Radio Club W8ZX</p> <p>Website: http://www.w8zx.net/hamfest</p> <p>Learn More</p>
<p>05/14/2026 - 05/17/2026</p> <p>Four Days In May</p> <p>Location: Fairborn, OH</p> <p>Type: ARRL Convention</p> <p>Sponsor: QRP Amateur Radio Club International</p> <p>Website: http://qrpaci.org/fdim</p> <p>Learn More</p>	<p>06/06/2026 - FCARC SummerFest</p> <p>Location: Delta, OH</p> <p>Type: ARRL Hamfest</p> <p>Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club</p> <p>Website: https://k8bxq.org/hamfest</p> <p>Learn More</p>
<p>07/19/2026 - Van Wert Hamfest</p> <p>Location: Van Wert, OH</p> <p>Type: ARRL Hamfest</p> <p>Sponsor: Van Wert Amateur Radio Club</p> <p>Learn More</p>	<p>08/15/2026 - Cincinnati HamfestSM , ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention</p> <p>Location: Owensville, OH</p> <p>Type: ARRL Convention</p> <p>Sponsor: Milford Amateur Radio Club</p> <p>Website: https://cincinnatihamfest.org/</p> <p>Learn More</p>
<p>08/16/2026 - Warren Hamfest</p> <p>Location: Cortland, OH</p> <p>Type: ARRL Hamfest</p> <p>Sponsor: Warren Amateur Radio Association</p> <p>Website: http://w8vtd.com/hamfest</p> <p>Learn More</p>	<p>09/27/2026 - Cleveland Hamfest</p> <p>Location: Berea, OH</p> <p>Type: ARRL Hamfest</p> <p>Sponsor: Hamfest Association of Cleveland</p> <p>Website: https://www.HAC.org</p> <p>Learn More</p>
<p>10/10/2026 - Williams County ARA Hamfest</p> <p>Location: Montpelier, OH</p> <p>Type: ARRL Hamfest</p> <p>Sponsor: WCARA</p> <p>Website: http://ka8ofe.weebly.com</p> <p>Learn More</p>	

Print an Official or Unofficial Copy of Your Amateur Radio License

(By Anthony Luscre, K8ZT)

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

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

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



Final... Final

Well, we’ve closed 2025. Let’s start planning out your 2026 Schedule. Both personal and for your club. Being successful requires planning. Being mediocre does not.

Now it’s time to start figuring out which fests to get to in 2026. 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 this year!

Share the Magic of Radio!

73,
Bret, KD8SCL

“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@arrl-ohio.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 – Bret Stemen, KD8SCL	Section Traffic Manager – Dan Rinaman AC8NP
Asst Section Manager – John Levo, W8KIW	Asst Section Manager – Alan Andres, KD8ZBS
Section Emergency Coordinator – Mat Nickoson, KC8NZJ	Asst Section Manager – Anthony Luscre, K8ZT
Technical Coordinator – Jeff Kopcak, K8JTK	Affiliated Clubs Coordinator – Terry Windsor, KI8N
State Government Liaison – Bob Winston, W2THU	Public Information Coordinator – Elizabeth Klinc, KE8FMJ

Chit – Chat, and All That!

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



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!