February 2026 Ground Hog Day!

Punxsutawney Phil predicted six more weeks of wintry weather for Pennsylvania while Buckeye Chuck predicted an early spring for Ohio.

So, my question is? Who is right about the prediction? According to the statistics, Buckeye Chuck has a better prediction rate than Punxsutawney Phil, According to NOAA's data, Punxsutawney Phil's early spring/longer winter forecasts were accurate just 35% of the time while Buckeye Chucks early spring/longer winter forecasts were accurate just 55% of the time

So, who do you believe? I believe Buckeye Chuck. You may be asking yourself, what does this have to with Ham Radio? If you are like me, you are tired of being cooped up in the house and are ready to get outside and get some work done in the yard, get your garden ready, work on your tower and do antenna repairs or even install a new antenna. You may be wanting to install a new radio and antenna in your vehicle. But, with this cold weather and snow, it hard to get out. I for one am ready for the warmer weather so I can get outside some more to get things done and ready. Are you ready for warmer weather? What projects are you going to be working on?

January Handbook Giveaway Winner – Bob Frey, WA6EZV! Congratulations – your Handbook is on the way….. There were 107 entries this month – up from 68 last month. Get out to the Ohio Section website and get yourself in the game!

Go to the website www.arrl-ohio.org to enter!

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!

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

Hey gang,
There's a good chance you use Notepad++ especially if you work in Information Technology (IT) or found the application because it offers quite a bit more functionality over Windows' basic Notepad program. Full disclosure: I've supported this program through donations.

Notepad++ is a free, as in beer and speech (noted by the author), Windows-based text and source code editor downloaded over 28 million times between 2003-2010 (on SourceForge). Features include: syntax highlighting for 78 programming languages, autocompletion for scripting and markup languages, ability to convert between Windows and Linux newline formats on the fly, autosave, tabs, macros, plugins, regex find and replace, split screen editing and scrolling, and on and on.
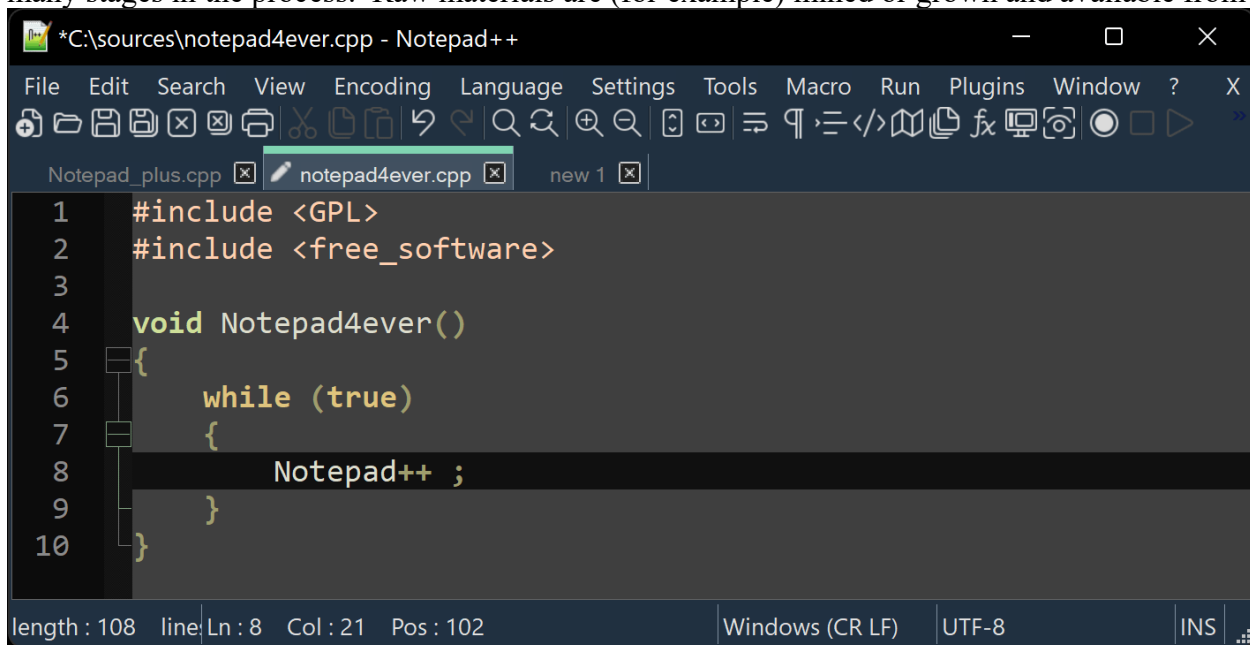
I wrongly believed the name meant Notepad (built in Windows application) improved (the "++"). Instead, the name is a reference to the C programming language post-increment operation. Notepad++ has received accolades such as "The Best Programming Text Editor for Windows" and "Most Popular Text Editor" from Lifehacker. Most used text editor by developers in a worldwide Stack Overflow (developer community) survey.

I don't remember when I started using Notepad++ but it was around the end of college or early in my professional career. I found it while looking for a program to do a side-by-side diff/compare of two files. It did it quite nicely including highlighting, now a standard in version control systems. I love the autosave feature and use it as a scratch pad for short notes and reminders. Closing the program and reopening recalls all unsaved changes to files and unsaved tabs. Use it all the time to strip formatting that comes by way of copying text from sources such as web sites and documents. It allows me to paste clean text in documents as it can display and remove non-printable characters. It is my note taking application on Windows using it to document configurations and changes.

In my professional career, I've used it for coding including writing Bash scripts. Surprisingly there was a plugin, 3P, for a programming language no one has ever heard of called Progress Advanced Business Language (ABL, previously called 4GL). Frequently used it to convert between Windows and Linux newline formats. Windows and Linux represent control characters differently to indicate the end of a line of text and the start of a new line. Windows apps prior to the implementation of Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL) could not parse Linux characters used for newlines. The style token highlighting is a godsend when reviewing large log files looking for specific words, phrases, and number sequences. A coworker uses it like some people use their browser with over 200 new and unsaved tabs.

Notepad++ is one of a handful of applications installed on every Windows system I use including work devices. It's one program I wish there was a native Linux port. It can be installed through alternative package deployment systems such as Snap or through the use of WINE, a Windows compatibility layer for Linux. I've chosen not to go these routes as I was raised on VIM and it covers the majority of similar functionality through configuration options. The popularity of Notepad++ has not gone unnoticed by cybercriminals. It could be used to compromise a large number of computers, servers, and devices solely based on the number of installs. A post on the Notepad++ site disclosed it was the target of a supply chain attack delivering malicious updates to targeted individuals. The hackers are suspected to be the Chinese state-sponsored group "APT" in operation since 2009. They successfully compromised the hosting provider of Notepad++ and hijacked updater functionality. It is believed targeted individuals and organizations were located in the APAC region. Their updates were redirected to malicious servers to deliver malware. Also worth noting, this is an evolving story and details may change or become available after writing.

What is a supply chain attack? If you think about how anything is made or produced, there are many stages in the process. Raw materials are (for example) mined or grown and available from

Notepad++ user interface and syntax highlighting (notepad-plus-plus.org)

a supplier. Such a yarn. The supplier sells to a manufacturer which inputs, often many, raw materials used in the creation of a product. A shirt. That product is then sold to a customer, typically another business, made available for purchase at your favorite clothing store. You, the consumer, purchase that shirt from your favorite clothing store and wear it. There are many entities involved in the handling and processing of goods before reaching the consumer.

A supply chain attack it doesn't always have to involve electronics. Thieves could gain access to a distribution, storage, manufacturing facility, or transportation method stealing product before it reaches the consumer. In the Cybersecurity sense, there is no universal definition but most agree the term involves tampering with some electronic system such as computers, servers, network, providers, third-party vendors, power, or factory systems.

In programming, you have individual contributors to the project. They have thoughts and ideas. Those contributors have computers. They write code and push that code to a repository or version control system. Other contributors may review and approve changes. The version control system may make requests to or from other systems during validation, building, and compiling processes to include libraries or make automated notifications. The final build is provided to a web server for users to download. The website, feeds, and social media are all updated to notify end users of the new version. End users download the new version and install it on their devices.

In a supply chain attack, any one of these stages could be compromised. The reason being, not everything involved in the handling of data has the same level of security and not everyone has the best intentions. When cybercriminals gain access to one system, they can use that power to infiltrate (or pivot) to other systems used in the 'supply chain' process.
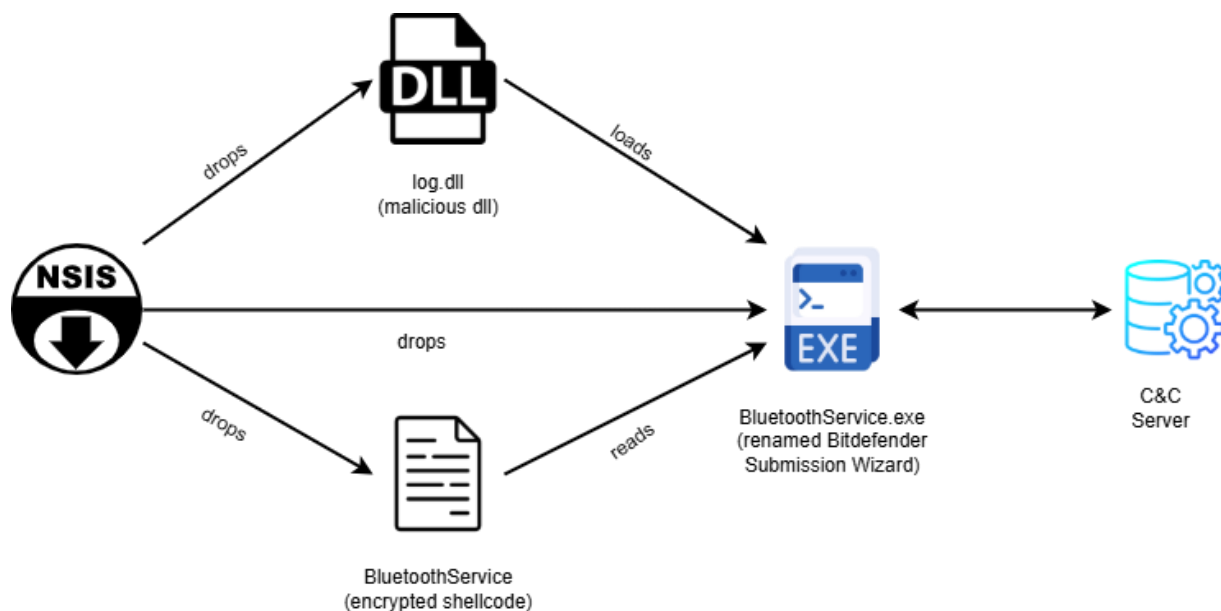
A contributor may make malicious code changes – intentionally or unintentionally. Changes could be made to an otherwise compromised control system which injects or deletes changes. Version control provider could decide to bundle adware programs which are installed alongside the legitimate program. The web server could be hijacked by another user. An end-user's Internet Service Provider (ISP) could be intercepting and redirecting traffic. End-user's computers could already have malware on their device.

Supply chain attacks gain access and manipulate one, or more, parts of the process resulting in downstream affects to the rest of the process. Examples of supply chain attacks are the Target credit card breach at the end of 2013. A third-party HVAC contractor was compromised and used stolen credentials to gain access to Target's network. The result was 40 million credit and debit cards were stolen by way of malware introduced to their Point of Sale (POS) systems. In 2020, SolarWinds Orion was compromised. Average people don't know what SolarWinds is or does. It is a network monitoring tool used by thousands of organizations including federal agencies and Fortune 500 companies. The SolarWinds compromise gained cybercriminals widespread access to many internal networks as monitoring tools are often afforded unrestricted access due to the nature of monitoring networks.

Notepad++ itself was not compromised. That is to say the source code was not tampered with nor was the installer replaced with a malicious version. The shared hosting provider was the one who discovered their server was compromised between June – December 2, 2025. "Shared provider," "shared server," or "shared hosting" means more than one customer uses the same device to host their website. For example, the web server hosting my website hosts 142 other known domains. The ARRL Ohio site is hosted alongside 560+ other domains.

Details of the mechanism used to compromise the webserver is not available (yet). In the Notepad++ post is a letter from their previous hosting provider. It can be inferred the server was not current with patching as "the kernel and firmware were updated." After patching on September 2, 2025, the provider could no longer identify similar patterns in logs indicating the cybercriminals no longer had access to the server. However, credentials used by the attacker were later discovered and removed on December 2, 2025.

The attack involved the Notepad++ updater mechanism, gup.exe. That program requested the

Execution diagram of the malicious payload (rapid7.com)

latest application version from the URL https[:]//notepad-plus-

plus[dot]org/update/getDownloadUrl.php. The URL retrieves the file gup.xml which is downloaded to a temporary directory and executed. The connection made by gup.exe could be easily intercepted at the hosting provider or by an ISP, allowing the download to be redirected to any URL. That's bad because a user of Notepad++ thinks they're getting a legitimate update when, in reality, cybercriminals trick it to download a malicious update, all without the user's knowledge. Instead of a legitimate update to Notepad++ user gets a remote monitoring program. While there was no direct compromise of Notepad++, gup.exe did not perform thorough checks to detect tampering, such as certificate verification – like when your browser says "Potential Security Risk Ahead."

In this compromise, gup.exe downloads and executes the malicious payload obtained from a malicious server. To disguise itself, the malicious update creates a generic sounding directory %AppData%\Bluetooth\, hides the directory, and executes a file called BluetoothService.exe. It then loads malicious code into memory allowing control over the computer by an attacker using a web interface. %AppData% is a variable in Windows which evaluates to the "C:\Users\<Username>\AppData\Roaming" directory.

Notepad++ has since migrated to a new hosting provider "with significantly stronger security practices." The program itself has been updated to version 8.9.1. ANY Notepad++ user should update to that version, at a minimum, then onto 8.9.2 anticipated in about a month. V8.9.2 will enforce further certificate & signature verification.

Kaspersky's research on the incident suggests nearly all Notepad++ users are **NOT** affected. They believe about a dozen machines were targeted belonging to: individuals located in Vietnam, El Salvador, and Australia; government organization located in the Philippines; financial organization located in El Salvador; an IT service provider organization located in Vietnam.

Notepad++'s author has been very transparent and apologetic regarding this incident, setting an example how a security incident should be handled and reported. An additional clarification post includes tips to protect yourself – many are good security practices in general which I covered in my October OSJ article. Other suggestions include disabling the updater completely. If this incident leaves you really unhappy and you vow to never use Notepad++ again or are unhappy with the author's political messaging, there are alternatives. Know that this could happen to any one of those other applications too. Enterprise system administrators, there are links to Indicators of Compromise (IOCs).

For further *light* reading, Rapid7 did a technical deep dive into the toolkit and an analysis of each stage of the compromise once the malicious payload is delivered to a user's computer.

This doesn't change anything for me mainly due to the handling and transparency provided by the author. I might disable the updater as I only used it to notify me of a new version. Out of habit and good practice, I go to the website to download new versions.

Thanks for reading and 73… de Jeff – K8JTK

From the Section Emergency Coordinator
Mat Nickoson – KC8NZJ, SEC
kc8nzj@outlook.com

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bret for having the confidence to appoint me as your new Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator. Many of you in Northeast Ohio know me, but many do not. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and outline the direction that I plan to move ARES in for 2026.

I was first licensed in April of 2000. My main reason for getting an amateur radio license was to participate more in Skywarn. I soon became Cuyahoga County Skywarn coordinator and eventually began coordinating the amateur radio coverage at NWS Cleveland. Along the way, I stumbled on public service events. My first public service event was the Cleveland Marathon. I met Eric Jessen N8AUC in the parking lot of Don's Lighthouse at "O Dark 30" and received my assignment. The water stop at the corner of Lake Avenue and Whippoorwill Avenue in Lakewood. Although the race was uneventful, I could tell that being there could have been useful if I were to observe something and I was hooked. I would go on to work many public service events in our area like the MS150 Pedal to the Point. Eventually I moved to Florida and joined an emergency communications group that supported the local Emergency Management Agency that was just about to become an ARES group. I served as AEC, PIO, and Training officer there before returning to Ohio. Once back I dove right back into public service events by taking over the Bellfaire Biathlon in my hometown of Shaker Heights and ultimately being asked by Jim Aylward KC8PD (SK) to take over coordinating the Cleveland Marathon as he stepped back to deal with his health issues. Eventually I got my next big opportunity from then ARES DEC Eric Jessen who appointed me as Cuyahoga County EC a short time before a small communications event known as the Republican National Convention. I somehow managed to pull together a comprehensive plan to staff the Cuyahoga County EOC, and the American Red Cross for many hours a day the entire length of the event. I then stepped away from ARES for a short time to create a non-profit organization called Event Support Group, converted an old ambulance into a command post, and continued to grow my personal participation in public service while also being able to introduce amateur radio to several new events along the way. I also moved up within ARES to become DEC for District 10, and one of Bret's ASECs. And of course, as of January 2026 I took over as SEC for Ohio.

My first action was to appoint a new slate of ASECs to help me. Welcome to Liz Klinc KE8FMJ ASEC for SW Ohio, Dan Stahl KC8PBU ASEC for NW Ohio, Bret Stemen staying around to help in Central Ohio and in charge of operations at the Ohio EMA W8SGT station, and Gary Hollenbaugh NJ8BB who will stay on as the liaison with OHDEN.

As for plans, I have a few. I've begun focusing on cleaning up the ARES roster and making sure that all ECs and DECs are formally recognized with appointments form the ARRL. I discovered many that slipped through the cracks. I also plan to increase communication from the section to the individual ARES members. I've done this by creating a mailing list for DECs, ECs, and AECs. This way everyone can hear directly from me about what is happening around the state. I also plan to work on getting an increased web presence and increased use of the Ohio ARES Facebook page.

I'm working with the maker of Volunteerham.com to get more people involved in using his outstanding site and possibly creating more streamlined connections between the site and the current ARES reporting website for submission of monthly reports.

I'm also going to work to help DECs, ECs, and me engage more with local clubs to promote ARES and all that it does for those who are interested in public service. Sure, it's not for everyone, but it's there and we want to make it easy for those who are interested to get involved.

Those are just a few of the things that I'm working on right now. I would be happy to hear YOUR comments about what YOU would like to see from ARES. Feel free to visit the Ohio ARES site https://arrl-ohio.org/ohio-ares/ and click "contact me" or utilize the contact form at www.n8esg.org and check out what we have going on in the Cleveland area while you are there. That's all for now. Stay safe, stay warm, and we will catch you "down the page" as they say.

Mat KC8NZJ

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

Elizabeth Klinc, 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

The NTS Committee has started using the NTS Test Tool
Here is an article from the NTS Letter about the Test Tool.

NTS 2.0 Traffic Performance Testing
On January 23, the NTS 2.0 Performance and Standards Team initiated its first round of NTS traffic performance testing using the new HXT handling instruction with a set of radiograms sent between Ohio, Michigan, and New York. If you were to look up the description for this handling instruction, you would see that it means "Special traffic test message, ID_____". So, what is this all about? What are we hoping to achieve? And what should you do if you end up with a radiogram that has this handling instruction?

The overall goal is to improve the performance of the National Traffic System. The desire is to quantify system coverage and identify gaps, and to understand the system's performance in terms of delivery time, reliability, and errors. The results will be analyzed and used to make improvements, and to address issues which were identified. How will this be accomplished?

Enter the NTS 2.0 Test Traffic Reporting Application, developed by Jonathan Taylor, K1RFD, creator of the NTS 2.0 Radiogram Portal. This tool contains a user-friendly website into which traffic handlers can enter information about any radiogram containing the HXT handling instruction that they happen to handle (originate, relay, receive as addressee, or deliver). The information is collected into a database which can then be used for reporting and analysis.

So, let's say you receive a radiogram, and the handling instruction says "HXT 10." Apart from the usual routine of delivering the message to the addressee (if not yourself) or moving it along to the next leg of its journey through the National Traffic System, what additional action does this radiogram require? Well, you will note that the text of the radiogram will direct everyone handling it to a website, **nts2.arrl.org/test**. From there you will be prompted to enter your call sign and the Test Set ID. Use the numbers after the "HXT" in the handling instruction as the Test Set ID. So, in our example, you would enter "10." Note that this is not the message number. A test set consists of multiple individual radiograms. You will next encounter a drop-down list of message numbers (here's where that comes into play) along with the call sign of the originating operator. If there have been no errors in transmission, you should see your radiogram show up in this list. Select the appropriate radiogram and enter the requested information. It only takes a couple of minutes, and you will then become a much-appreciated participant in the traffic test.
– *Michelle Roeten, KM2I (formerly K2MJR), NTS Official Relay Station, Eastern NY Section*

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

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

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

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

W1AW/Portable

One aspect of the **ARRL America250 Worked All States** will be week-long activations of portable W1AW/portable stations in all 50 states, generating on-air activity to achieve this unique WAS Award. For this operating event, ARRL will provide a listing of all W1AW/portable stations, who will each operate for 7 days (from a Wednesday [UTC] through the following Tuesday) for 2 separate weeks in the year (an early week between January and July, and a late week between July and December). A few weeks will be listed as non-W1AW/portable weeks due to contests and ARRL Field Day. The *complete list is available at this link.*

Ohio's W1AW/8

W1AW/8 Ohio will be on the air for two weeks:

- 05/6/2026- Starts 00:01 UTC Wed, May 6th to 23:59 Tues, May 12th, (EST- 7 PM Tues, May 5th to 7 PM Tues, May 12th)
- 08/12/2026- Starts 00:01 UTC Wed, Aug 12th to 23:59 Tues,
- Aug 18th, (EDT- 8 PM Tues, Aug 11th to 8 PM Tues Aug 18th)

The W1AW/8 activation will take place on 2200 Meters LF through all of HF (excluding 60 Meters) and VHF/UHF using CW, Phone and Digital (FT8/FT4, RTTY, etc.) modes.

If you would like to apply to operate during the May week, using the special callsign, you must meet a few guidelines and agree to follow a few rules:

- Currently valid FCC Amateur Radio license (all license classes are welcome to operate, within their allocated frequencies/modes)
- Operate from a location within the state of Ohio
- Agree to:
  - Follow all US Amateur Radio rules and licensing class restrictions (**operate only on frequencies and modes allowed by your personal Amateur Radio License**)
  - Follow the *Radio Amateur's Code* and the *Considerate Operator's Guide* and other accepted Amateur Radio Etiquette. Remember, you are representing the ARRL and the Ohio Section
  - Accurately log all contacts using computer logging software
  - Export an ADIF file of all contacts and submit it in a timely fashion via email to **Anthony Luscre, K8ZT (k8zt73@gmail.com)**

If you meet the above requirements, you can apply by submitting an online form- *tiny.cc/w1aw8-app*. If accepted, you will receive a confirmation email. Later, you will receive complete operating information and access to an online schedule of time slots. A pre-event training session will be held via Zoom, and if needed, assistance will be provided on setting up computer logging software.

If you are interested in making contacts with W1AW/8 Ohio during the week, an online schedule will be available before and during the event.

That's it for this month; I hope to work you on the air soon, maybe as W1AW/8 OH!

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

Other Contests

- 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 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

Happy winter to everyone. As I write this there are only 42 days left till Spring! Now is the time for all Ohio ARRL affiliated clubs to begin planning or firming up plans for 2026 activities. I think of such items as clubhouse clean ups, rearranging equipment layouts, straightening wire runs, and organizing operations like Field Day. It shouldn't be too long before clubs and individuals can put up new antennas or fix weather beaten ones that may not be working as good as we wish.

I just finished checking the ARRL website to see if clubs had started updating their 2026 Annual Reports and was very happy to see that several were completed. Thanks to those clubs/members that have done this. Time for the rest of our Ohio clubs to work on this.

One item from last month I want to apologize about is I did not make it to the Struthers ROAR hamfest in January as I stated I was planning last month. I woke up with intentions to make the drive, but the cold weather changed my mind. I know, I am really turning into a weather wimp. I plan to keep my announced intentions going forward and not let non-critical events dissuade me. My apologies to the Struthers ROAR hamfest organizers and attendees.

I was reading some ham radio materials online and found the following regarding The Amateur's Code posted in 2020 by Tom A. Buchanan titled "Poor Operators in Ham Radio Make it Not so Fun Anymore". I thought this is a great item to share at your club meetings so new hams and those of us disgusted by the "sad or profane" operators are reminded of how we all should be expected to operate.

"The Amateur's Code" as written by Paul M. Segal in 1928, and still relevant today.

THE AMATEUR'S CODE

1. **The Amateur is Considerate.** He never knowingly uses the air in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

2. ***The Amateur is Loyal.*** He offers his loyalty, encouragement, and support to his fellow radio amateurs, his local club, and to the American Radio Relay League, through which amateur radio is represented.
3. ***The Amateur is Progressive.*** He keeps his station abreast of science. It is well built and efficient. His operating practice is above reproach.
4. ***The Amateur is Friendly.*** Slow and patient sending when requested, friendly advice, and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others; these are the marks of the amateur spirit.
5. ***The Amateur is Balanced.*** Radio is his hobby. He never allows it to interfere with any of the duties he owes to his home, his job, his school or his community.
6. ***The Amateur is Patriotic.*** His knowledge and his station are always ready for the service of his country and his community.

Just like many other maxims of social interaction, there are subjects that should be avoided as a radio amateur. In keeping with the first rule above, it is always wise to avoid the following:

- Do not use language on the air that would offend someone or that you would not use in polite company or in front of children. It is not only offensive, but it also identifies a person to be less than sophisticated and is frowned upon as a rule on the air. Unfortunately, there are groups of hams that delight in showing their ignorance of this long-accepted rule and persist in interfering with others' enjoyment with foul language and poor operating practices.

- Do not discuss politics on amateur radio. There simply are thousands of other subjects that can be talked about while communicating with others. Politics is not one of them. Because politics is a personal thing that most people are not comfortable discussing with others unless that is the forum. Avoid pontificating your political views on the air. Amateur radio is an open communications forum that allows people to listen from everywhere in the world and having to listen to people discussing politics is often offensive and does not belong on the airwaves in the amateur service. Once again refer to rule one.

- Do not discuss religion unless you are part of a group that has the theme they use as a religion. Some people are offended by particular religious views and amateur radio is not the place to preach those views. And once again look at rule one for guidance and think it through.

- Avoid discussing other people's sexual preferences. It simply is nobody else's business.

- Avoid arguing about things on the air. If you wish to express your views on things that are controversial, do so in private conversations off the air instead.
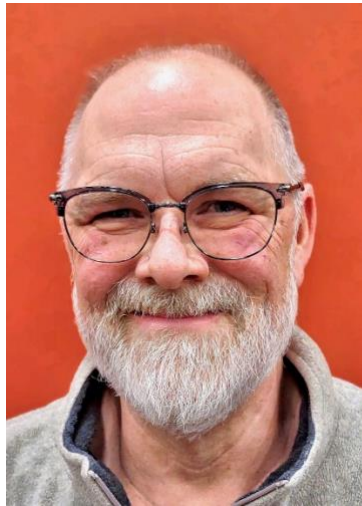
I just want to remind everyone that ARRL's Year of the club 2026 is underway. It would be a great time to submit a photo of your club, enter the website and newsletter contest. Another activity is working the W1AW portable stations as they are scheduled in all states including Washington D.C., Puerto Rico and other DX areas throughout the year. Working these stations would be a good club or member event that can be discussed at your club meetings. You can find the schedule at this link: https://www.arrl.org/america250-was.

One of the resources on the Ohio ARRL section web page is a list of speakers and topics that these hams are will to present at your club meeting. If you are looking for someone to speak at your club meeting drop the individuals on the list an email or call them regarding setting up a date/time. https://arrl-ohio.org/ohio-section-speakers-bureau/. You can also contact me if you need assistance.

One last item, I appreciate the invitations I receive from some club social committees, and I am planning to attend events in the oncoming months. Thanks for your invites. Parting note I heard somewhere – If you don't appreciate winter, you don't deserve spring. Kind of resounds with me, but I still would like to be somewhere warmer!

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

73
Terry, KI8N

_____

Assistant Section Manager
Al Andress – KD8ZBS
Alinfarm12@gmail.com

Success Comes from Effort with Passion

Ask any successful individual how they became successful and they will probably take you on a journey of their success with quite the story to tell. Giving you all the details that they struggle here, lost there, almost gave up multiple time etc. But do you see what played the primary role of that success? It was EFFORT, and in many cases extreme effort by the standards of many who had probably made valiant efforts to reach success as they defined it.

That EFFORT came at a cost that many have chosen not to pay. But are you aware what can be added to EFFORT that will often make that effort palatable for many? It is PASSION…. We often hear "do what you love and you will never work a day in your life". Many have taken a hobby they are passionate about and turned it into a successful business. And that PASSION must be joined with EFFORT to see the success.

As many organizations struggle over time to find a definable and acceptable level of success. What once was born with great passion and an effort that seemed like it could conquer anything, was set aside for the comfortable climate speech that you take this HAM Radio thing to seriously, or (whatever others may think we are too much for). This seed of doubt begins to grow into apathy, an "oh well" attitude where passion is set aside for peace and effort is forgotten and replaced with complacency. And what happens then? NOTHING, skills are lost or minimized, investment of time and resources are left to collect dust and begin to waste away until there is nothing left but a dream that once was and now is not.

Does anyone have an individual they know who is so passionate about HAM Radio that they so desperately what others to experience what they find so intriguing? The PASSION this person shows reflects in their desires to bring others along to a point where others begin to question their sanity, lol.

These are the types of individuals we want and need leading our clubs. Their PASSION becomes infectious, they are willing to go to every social event, club contesting opportunity, and speak to anyone who may be unknowing about how passionate they are about HAM Radio. These are the types of individuals we need.

These individuals expend great EFFORT to encourage, and inspire everyone around them who has that cheap HT in their hand to come along for the journey, and experience the world of communication across their county and around the world. These are the types of individuals we need.

To wonder why, and what it takes to succeed at anything, one only needs to look within

for the PASSION and commit to expend the EFFORT required to find that success. HAM RADIO growth, whether it is at the personal level, or a group looking to breathe life back into a club that seems to be "Just Coasting Along" and maybe not really impacting anyone or anything, needs to be able to find that PASSION and expend that EFFORT to make it happen, maybe for the first time, or the tenth time.

Many principles of success we apply to our lives can often be used to build a successful organization. For me, success in my personal HAM Radio experience means always learning new things, looking for opportunities to expand my understanding. In the local HAM Radio club, success looks like seeing the new person with that cheap HT, and their recently acquired Technicians license being able to understand that radio so they can use it to speak to others on the local repeater for the first time. And when that experience has been acknowledged, being there with them they make their first HF contact and watching them take off…….

Take the time to evaluate at what level PASSION and EFFORT are at work in your life and in the workings of your local HAM Radio club. Then purpose to make a positive move towards success in both areas.

Alan Andres, KD8ZBS
Assistant Ohio Section Manager-ARRL
Williams County Amateur Radio Association, Treasurer

_____

John Myers, WG8X

wg8x.radio@gmail.com
330-936-5021

Hi, it's been a couple months since I've written pretty much anything. We'll call it an unplanned vacation for lack of a better reason.

I hope some of you got your entries in for the ARRL's Website contest. The submission window has now closed. Winners will be notified in May and publicly announced at the Huntsville Hamfest in August. Best of luck to all who entered.

Well, we got a "normal" winter for the first time for a while. The fallout here in NE Ohio from Winter Storm Fern didn't really measure up to the December 1974 snow that kept local schools closed for a week, or the biggie; the Blizzard of '78. Thankfully Fern was pretty well behaved and gave a new twist to Winter Field Day activities for a lot of us in the Buckeye State this year. Buckeye Chuck has predicted an early Spring. I hope he's correct. Otherwise, I'll need to dig out those recipes for Groundhog stew.

Was one of your New Years Resolutions to clean out the shack? Well, we have a Swap & Shop section that can help turn your excess gear into cash. Simply send me a description of your Swap & shop items, and I'll post them for 30 days. I've been told that it works pretty well. Since taking the reins of the site a couple years ago, I honestly don't remember too many times when something wasn't posted there. You can see it by going to https://arrl-ohio.org/section-swap-shop/

Another section of the website which may be underutilized is the section calendar. I've been trying to keep the content up to date by posting items of interest from the Ohio Section Journal, such as Hamfests, & VE exams. I can also add your club events that perhaps you'd like to share
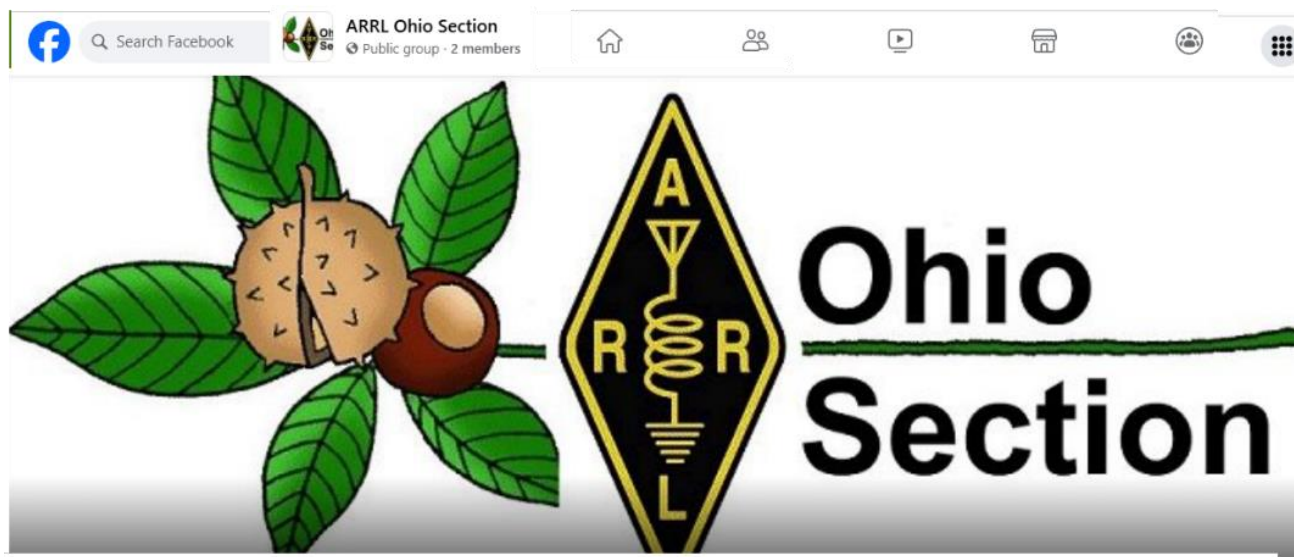
with a wider audience. If you have something to add, just shoot me an email to webmaster@arrl-ohio.org.

And that wraps it up for this month. Stay warm out there. 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)

ARRL Joins America250 as a Supporting Partner for the Nation's 250th Anniversary
02/05/2026

Newington, CT — February 5, 2026 — **ARRL** The National Association for Amateur Radio® announced today that it is a Supporting Partner of America250, joining the nationwide celebration of the 250th anniversary of our country in 2026.

America250 is the national, nonpartisan organization charged by Congress to lead the commemoration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, a milestone that marks America's Semiquincentennial. Through education, engagement, and service, America250 seeks to bring Americans together to reflect on the nation's history and renew commitment to the ideals that unite us.

As a Supporting Partner, ARRL will contribute to America250's mission by highlighting the historic and ongoing role of amateur radio in connecting people, supporting public service, and strengthening civic engagement across the United States. Since its founding in 1914, ARRL and its members have played a vital role in technical innovation, emergency communications, and volunteer service in communities.

"Amateur radio has been part of the American story since the earliest days of wireless communication," said ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR. "For more than a century, the Amateur Radio Service has advanced the nation's communications capabilities by fostering technical innovation, developing a pool of trained and skilled operators, strengthening emergency and public service communications, and promoting international goodwill. These enduring contributions reflect why amateur radio continues to serve the public interest as a uniquely resilient and volunteer-driven national resource."

"As we approach America's 250th anniversary, it's important to recognize the organizations and volunteers who have connected and served communities for generations," said Jen Condon, Executive Vice President of America250. "Amateur radio reflects the spirit of service, innovation, and civic engagement at the heart of our nation's story, and we're proud to welcome ARRL as a Supporting Partner in this historic commemoration."

ARRL is also strengthening STEM education by bringing amateur radio into American classrooms through hands-on, project-based curricula and teacher training. By connecting youth with real-world experiences, these programs bridge educational gaps, boost student achievement, and open pathways to higher education and careers in wireless communications and related technical fields.

As part of its alignment with the US Semiquincentennial, ARRL is advancing several major initiatives throughout the year:

ARRL Year of the Club. The ARRL Board of Directors has designated 2026 as the Year of the Club, recognizing the essential role that local amateur radio clubs play in building community, mentoring new operators, and delivering public service at the grassroots level. This nationwide focus celebrates clubs as engines of civic engagement and local connection. **Icom America** is the Official Sponsor of the ARRL Year of the Club. [**More information.**]

America250 Worked All States Operating Event. ARRL has already launched the America250 Worked All States (WAS) year-long event, calling on amateur radio operators worldwide to make contact with all 50 US states in honor of America's 250th anniversary. ARRL will produce an achievement award for radio amateurs who meet the challenge. [**More information.**]

2026 ARRL Field Day is June 27 – 28. ARRL announces that the theme of 2026 ARRL Field Day will be "Amateur Radio: A National Resource." Field Day is an annual amateur radio activity organized since 1933, and the largest on-the-air operating event in North America. Field Day showcases amateur radio's readiness to provide resilient communications in times of need while engaging the public through hands-on demonstrations and community outreach. [**More information**.]

ARRL's partnership with America250 reflects a shared commitment to honoring America's past while investing in the civic, technical, and volunteer spirit that will carry the nation forward.

For more information, visit **www.arrl.org/America250**.

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

Club Corner

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

Let us know what you club is up to. Are you going to have a special guest at your meeting or are you having a special anniversary? Send it to: webmaster@arrl-ohio.org

---

VE Sessions

The following information is for *ALL* exam sessions:

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

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

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.

2026 dates:

March 21, 2026
June 20, 2026
Sept 26, 2026

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

The Central Ohio Radio Club (CORC)
Administers ARRL-VEC testing in the Central Ohio area.

Our test dates for 2026 are as follows: January 17, April 18, July 18, and October 17.
Time and location for these dates is 10:00am at the Westerville Fire Station #111, 400 W. Main St in Westerville, Ohio.

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

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.ccom or calling at 440-228-2716. More information is available from the Geauga Amateur Radio Association website https://geaugaara.org

Huber Heights Amateur Radio Club

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

The Lake County Amateur Radio Association

The Lake County Amateur Radio Association is holding 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 45150The facility is handicapped accessible. Map and further details are on our website.Pre-registration is required:
https://milfordhamradio.org/license-exams

Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society (NOARS)

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

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 KD8SCL@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 – #355
Bill - AJ8B (thedxmentor@gmail.com / www.aj8b.com)

Welcome to the February 2026 edition of DX This Month. As this is now a monthly column, I will focus on updates from upcoming DXpeditions as well as pending contests and events. If you would like weekly updates as to what you should find on the bands, check out the This Week in DX podcast and YouTube Channels. Each Saturday morning around 8 AM EST (1300Z) I drop a 10-minute overview of what you should expect on the bands in the coming week. Check it out and let me know what you think.

I hope you are handling this blast of winter weather. We received 11 inches of snow and the severe wind chill and low temperatures that everyone else has. However, the antennas at AJ8B are all up and operational. You know what that means? I need to get more aluminum in the air in 2026 – the old saying is "If it didn't come down last winter, it wasn't big enough."

You may recall that last month, I month that there were 2 things that I like to discuss at the beginning of the year. The first was goals for 2026. The second issue was to share those contests that I have participated in over the years. I have found them to be excellent opportunities to improve your skills, garner you some new band slots and potentially some ATNOS.

The dates that I am referring to include the State QSO Parties, international DX contests, and regional DX contests. I have worked many normally difficult entities during contests and found it very easy (sometimes) to get them in the log. I have about 90 dates that I would suggest that you keep in mind. However, you don't need to write them down. I have created three items to make it easy for you. There is a list of dates and contests in both .pdf and Excel format. Both files can be found at www.aj8b.com/files. I have also listed a .csv file that can be imported into your google calendar. That will allow you to view all 90 dates and set reminders. Use this file at your own risk – there are many iterations of Goggle Calendar in use and I can't guarantee that this will play nice! It worked for me.

Let me know if you have any questions.

DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH

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

C2 - Nauru – Phil, FK1TS, is back on Nauru Island and expects to be active as C21TS on FT8 by the weekend, after setting up his vertical antenna. He will operate until July 2026, and Club Log Livestream will indicate when he is on the air.

J5 - Guinea-Bissau - Bavarian Contest Club members will be operating J51A from the Bijagos Archipelago (AF-020), Guinea-Bissau in February/March 2026. Their radio

setup includes five stations, amplifiers, multiple antennas covering
1.8 through 50 MHz, and advanced logging and filtering equipment, all transported as excess baggage (about 500 kg). They will be on CW, SSB and FT8.
The location is on the island's northern shore with an unobstructed view over water, using generator power 24/7 due to lack of public electricity. Their
main goal is to provide contacts from Guinea-Bissau, which is ranked as number
85 worldwide, and number 53 in Asia. QSL cards and LoTW confirmations will be managed through Club Log OQRS, and donations are welcome via Clublog.org.

S21WD – Bangladesh 2026: Project Update - The Next Generation DX Club is pleased to announce a major milestone for its upcoming Bangladesh DXpedition: the callsign S21WD has been officially issued for the project. The team would like to express its sincere gratitude to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) for issuing the callsign specifically for the purpose of this DXpedition. We also thank our friends at the Amateur Radio Association of Bangladesh (ARAB) for their continued support and assistance during the licensing process. The assignment of S21WD marks an important milestone and allows the project to move fully into its final preparation phase.
With around two months remaining before departure to Bangladesh, preparations for the S21WD – Bangladesh 2026 DXpedition are now well advanced. The team plans to operate from IOTA AS-140 (Khulna / Barisal Region group) at the end of March 2026.
As departure is getting closer, the focus has moved from antennas to station infrastructure. Work is ongoing on power distribution, station layouts, cabling, networking, and backup concepts. Full system tests of the complete stations – including radios, amplifiers, filters, and software – are planned for the coming weeks.
The DXpedition will be active for 12 days and operate on 160 through 10 meters, including 5 MHz (60 m), using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8. In addition, activity via the QO-100 satellite is planned using CW, SSB, and FT4.
Update: CYØS, Sable Island – Murray, WA4DAN, writes that "Parks Canada—Sable Island has invited the CYØS team back to Sable Island for another DXpedition during March 2026, with official dates to be determined soon. (The team's QRZ page says March 19-31.) The team, the same as for the 2024 CY9C trip, is authorized for a 10- to 12-day DXpedition. More details will be on the DXpedition website, cyØs.com, and their QRZ.com page.
In closing, Adams notes that Sable is a cold, windy, and snowy environment in March. It will be a challenge!"

Update: AU7RS – Agatti Island, India Update
Dear DX Chasers around the world,
I am excited to share a major update regarding the AU7RS DXpedition. We have received fantastic news: our license has been extended, and we are in the process of securing fresh landing permits for the mission. Additionally, after a 45-day wait, our DX Commander antennas have finally been delivered by UPS. With all our gear now in hand, we are finalizing our site location and propagation plans. All materials have reached Cochin and will be moved to Agatti Island shortly.
Team AU7RS is Ready! We will be live on air from the Lakshadweep Islands soon, (projected the first week of Feb) operating on the 6m to 160m bands, including QO-100 satellite activity. We will have a specific focus on the 40m, 80m, and 160m bands for North America, as well as 10M SSB.

QSL Manager:
Charles, M0OXO

3Y0K Bouvet Island update - Due to unforeseen circumstances, the 3Y0K DXpedition to Bouvet Island will be delayed by approximately two weeks. Our vessel requires additional

maintenance to ensure it is fully prepared for the demanding voyage to one of the most remote and challenging locations on Earth.

While this delay is disappointing, the safety of our team remains our highest priority. The adjustment does not change the overall strategy of the DXpedition, which has been carefully planned over the past three years.

We will continue to keep you informed as our schedule is updated.

73,
3YØK leadership

Late August: RI1F, Franz Jozef Land - The Russian DX Team is preparing a major DXpedition to Franz Josef Land (RI1FJL), the northernmost DXCC entity in the world, located in the Arctic Ocean. A group of six operators will operate at least five high-power radio stations around the clock for 15 days, aiming to contact as many stations as possible, including those in distant regions and with low-power equipment.

The team will depart from Murmansk, Russia on August 25, traveling on an Arctic-ready sailing yacht, with the journey expected to take six to seven days depending on weather and sea conditions. Their destination is Heiss Island, where they hope to secure accommodation at the Geophysical Polar Observatory. The team anticipates challenging Arctic weather, with temperatures below freezing, wind, and snow, and is making special equipment preparations.

Operations will focus on 160-10M CW, SSB, and FT8m with real-time frequency updates available via the DX cluster. The equipment list includes multiple high-end radios, amplifiers, and specialized antennas designed for reliable, high-power performance under extreme conditions.

The DXpedition to Franz Josef Land is costly, with a budget near $80,000, the team's highest yet. Each member covers individual expenses. Support through donations is essential. Contributors of US$10 or more receive fast LoTW confirmation and a direct QSL card, while those donating $100 or more will have their callsigns featured on the QSL card.

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!

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

Contest	Start Date	End Date

Contest	Start	End
10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	2/6/2021	2/7/2021
British Columbia QSOP	2/6/2021	2/7/2021
Minnesota QSOP	2/6/2021	2/7/2021
Vermont QSOP	2/6/2021	2/7/2021
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	2/13/2021	2/14/2021
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	2/20/2021	2/21/2021
CQ 160M Contest, SSB	2/26/2021	2/28/2021
South Carolina QSOP	2/27/2021	2/28/2021
North Carolina QSOP	2/28/2021	3/1/2021
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB	3/6/2021	3/7/2021
YB DX RTTY Contest	3/13/2021	3/14/2021
Idaho QSOP	3/13/2021	3/14/2021
Oklahoma QSOP	3/13/2021	3/14/2021
Wisconsin QSOP	3/14/2021	3/15/2021
Virginia QSOP	3/20/2021	3/21/2021
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	3/27/2021	3/28/2021

   Until next month, 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 month!

OHIO'S

It's rather hard to believe that the holidays are well behind us and we already are into February. As I sit here looking at the vast snow covered hills and valleys we call "Ohio's South 40" I can't help but hope February flies as fast as January did. Mowing the grass and sweating are actually being looked forward to. However before we leave that thought, most reports indicate the various clubs within the Southern Ohio area had well attended holiday gatherings. However attendance at a couple was down because of the weather. The **Portsmouth RC** had to postpone their celebration a week and cancel their January meeting because of anticipated weather conditions. Additionally a couple other clubs cancelled or rescheduled their monthly breakfasts and other gatherings in consideration for the safety of those traveling to the events.

2026 marks the start of celebrating America's 250th birthday. To kick off the New Year and Semiquinncentenial the **Highland ARA** and the Highland County Historical Society conducted their traditional ringing in of the New Year by ringing the huge C. S. Bell bell that graces the front of the Museum in Hillsboro. The bell ringing was broadcast over the 147.21 repeater and was followed by a check-in of 21 stations. Both HARA and the HCHS videoed the event and posted it to their respective Facebook sites. An amazing excess of 100,000 hits resulted with one post from a Highland County native now living in California and a couple others who learned of the event through amateur radio and listened in via a scanner.

The 2026 South 40 hamfest season is off and running according to Billy Massie, AA8KY. Billy states if a full parking lot is any indication, the recent **Sunday Creek ARF**'s hamfest at Shade was well attended and a success by those with cabin fever or with some funds left following Christmas. It appears the next Southern Ohio club to sponsor a hamfest will be the **Athens County ARA**'s event on April 26.

To many January's Winter Field Day is the counterpart to June's ARRL Field Day separated only by the weather. Although each appear to be contests, technically each is a training event. This years snow covered and bitterly cold event was really a training session on how to set up an emergency communications station and operate it under less than ideal conditions. Some clubs best made plans went to the wayside because of weather conditions and a wise concern for the safety of those who would be participating. Several clubs cancelled their plans but suggested their members participate from the safety of their own ham shacks. A listen to HF during the event found many people doing just that as the bands were busy.

The New Year saw the start of a couple new nets centered in our region. The South Forty Net was established to create more activity and serve as a newsline for amateurs in the Southern Ohio area. It mets nightly at 9 PM on the **Scioto Valley ARA**'s W8BAP 146.85 repeater near Chillicothe. Various other repeaters throughout the region are tapping into the Net via AllStar. If you want to check out the simplex range on your personal station, about 9:15 (give or take) on Sunday evenings, Wilmington's Rick-KD8DFH, starts a net on 146.59 simplex. Some impressive contacts and distances have so far been achieved.

Michael Kalter, W8CI, was one of the speakers at the annual **Highland ARA** Christmas Dinner. An item he especially highlighted was the work of Cory, KD9MHB, in the Dayton area. He is

using amateur radio to make an impact with those struggling with substance abuse and has named the program "Radios In Recovery". He is in the process of obtaining a 501c3 in order to receive donations and be able to find space for the headquarters. If you would like to learn more about Cory's effort, contact Cory at 937-516-8622.

According to **Tri-State ARA** Vice President Nathan Thompson, AB8K, the Club has recently transitioned to the Laurel VE group. He anticipates the first Laurel VE test session will be February 14 at 9 AM. The **Cambridge ARA** Laurel VE Team will offer testing on February 28 following the CARA business meeting. It should get underway at approximately 11:30 AM. Testing through a Laurel VE Team is free; however there is still a $35 processing fee payable to the FCC for the issuance of a first time license.

The **Cambridge ARA** also advises us the results from the December nominations for 2026 officers will will be announced at the February meeting. That meeting will be held at the Guernsey County Administration Building in Cambridge.

The February *QST* advises all of the passing of two South 40 Region hams. Robert Fletcher, KE8RM, of Proctorville and Charles Robertson, KD8WRN, of Chillicothe. Our thoughts are with family and friends.

The SouthWest Ohio DX Association announces their sponsorship of the 39th annual DX Dinner®, held in conjunction the 2026 Dayton Hamvention®, will be held at the Marriott at the University of Dayton will be held during Hamvention weekend on Friday evening, May 15. It starts at 5:30 with a cash bar and dinner is served at 7. Last year attendance neared 400.   I've attended Hamvention for over 30 years, but last year was the first time to attend the DX banquet. Although I'm not a "died in the wool" DXer, both N8ZNR and I found it very enjoyable. Tickets can be purchased on the WSODXA website at https://swodxaeventsorg/dinner-tickets/.

The annual **Athens County ARA**'s Technician License Class began on January 12 with classes to be held each Monday evening at 7 PM at the Red Cross in Athens. Because of continuing snow and expected extremely low temperatures the January 26 was cancelled. Therefore future classes will be held as scheduled; however the test date has been rescheduled for March 23. Contact Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, for more information at n8suz@yahoo.com or 740-541-0972.

The Southwestern Ohio Dan Beard Scouting Council has officially launched a new Radio Scouting Committee. It brings together amateur radio operators with Scout leaders to strengthen youth engagement with the ham radio service and hobby. The first formal meeting was in December and had representatives from seven of the Council's coverage area reaching from the Indiana border to Adams County. Anyone interested in using ham radio to support youth should contact ke8bbc@arrl.net for more information.

Although a bit out of the "Ohio's South 40" coverage area, the 1st Lawrence County (KY) CB and Ham Radiofest Sell and Trade Day will be held at the Lawrence County Community Center, 205 Bulldog Lane in Louisa, KY on February 7. It has a 10 AM starting time which is later than most similar events. It will run until at least 2 PM.

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

For the first time in its history, the 2026 Heart of Hocking Award was presented to two individuals during the recent Hocking Hills Winter Hike. The award recognizes former park ranger member Phil Stanley (W8NZB) and Dave Brimner (KB8OTD) of the Hocking County EMS. They were

the founders of the Hocking Hills Rope Rescue Team and members of the ==Hocking Valley ARA==. Congrats to each.

This year many communities across the nation are planning ways and events to celebrate the nation's semiquincentennial in various ways. You don't have to be a historian to realize our part of Ohio played an important part in nation's expansion and its Muskingum Rivers; the National early railroads and canals were early livestock and goods. The early Gallipolis, Athens, New Market and in the Northwest Territory. Plus and the second at Zanesville. The the opening of the frontier to the settlement. The Ohio, Scioto and Road, Zane's Trace and US 50; means of transportion for people, settlements at Marietta, Manchester were among the first Ohio's first capital at Chillicothe Underground Railroad was very active within the region. And look at all the famous people who came from Ohio's South 40-ball players, singers, inventors, politicians. What better way to call attention to the existance 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 smaller clubs teaming with other smaller ones and make it a joint special event? If nothing else check with your local Chamber of Commerce, County Commissioners, historical society or visitor's bureau to see if there are opportunities to become involved.

==Portsmouth RC== President Russ Jett states that due to expected low temperatures the Club's February meeting is going to be postponed for a week. It will now take place on February 9 at the usual time and American Legion Building location.

The ==Highland ARA== will hold their February business meeting on Tuesday, February 10 at the Highland County EMA Office. It starts at 7 PM. Then on Saturday morning, February 14, the monthly HARA Brunch Bunch gathering occurs at the Hillsboro North High Street Burger King. Folks start gathering around 10.

If the recent winter weather has given you a severe case of Cabin Fever and a radio related outting might be the cure, then a February 7 road trip to Huntington WV might be in order. That is the date for the "Dead of Winter Swap Meet" at the ==Museum of Radio and Technology==. The doors open at 8 and contiunue until 1. Information or table reservations should be directed to Bob Ripley at mratwv@gmail.com.

The Wilmington National Weather Service will hold a two hour virtual Storm Spotter Training Session on Thursday, February 19 beginning at 6 PM. Preregistration is requested at https://www.weather.gov/iln.

Until next time,

John, W8KIW

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

SB DX ARL ARLD005

ARLD005 DX news

This week's bulletin is made possible with information provided by PY9BR, The Daily DX, 425 DX News, DXNL, OPDX, Contest Corral from QST, and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM websites. Thanks to all.

MAURITIUS, 3B8. Matt, DL5PT, is QRV as 3B8/DL5PT until the end of March. Activity is holiday style on 20 and 10 meters using FT8. QSL to home call. In addition, Michael, OE6MBG, is QRV as 3B8/OE6MBG until February 23. Activity is also holiday style on the HF bands using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

SRI LANKA, 4S. Peter, DC0KK, is QRV as 4S7KKG until the end of March. Activity is on 60 through 6 meters using FT8, and on Satellite QO-100. QSL to home call.

THE GAMBIA, C5. Przemo, SP3PS, and Magda are QRV as C5SP and C5MB, respectively, from Sanyang until March 2026. Activity is on 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters using SSB, FT8, and FT4. QSL direct via SP3PS.

CAPE VERDE, D4. Helmut, DD0VR is QRV as D4VR from Boa Vista Island, IOTA AF-086, until February 11, and then from Sao Tiago Island, IOTA AF-005, from February 11 to 19, before going back to Boa Vista Island. Activity is on the HF bands using QRP power. QSL via DD0VR.

PHILIPPINES, DU. Bob, KB7TX, is QRV as DU9/KB7TX from Mindanao, IOTA OC-130, until March 1. Activity is on 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via LoTW.

GUINEA-BISSAU, J5. Livio, IZ3BUR is QRV as J52EC from Cumura until March. He has been active on 15 and 10 meters using SSB. QSL direct to home call.

DESECHEO ISLAND, KP5. A group of operators are QRV using remote control as KP5/NP3VI until February 14. Activity is on 160 through 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via M0OXO.

GREENLAND, OX. Mikkel, OZ7AKT, and Bo, OZ1DJJ, will be QRV as OX7AKT and OX3LX, respectively, from February 10 to 17. Activity will be on 160 through 10 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL direct to home calls.

BRAZIL, PY. To commemorate the 92nd anniversary of the Brazilian Amateur Radio League Society LABRE, 28 special event stations are QRV until February 28. Activity is on 160 through 6 meters, 2 meters, 70 centimeters, and 13 and 3 centimeters as well, using CW, SSB, and various digital modes. This includes being active on Satellite QO-100. QSL via operators' instructions.

WESTERN SAHARA, S0. Members of the Sahrawi Amateur Radio Union club are QRV as S0S until around February 9. Activity is on Satellite QO-100 using mostly SSB, and possibly FT8 and FT4, from a variety of grid squares in the area. QSL via LoTW.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, S9. Borut, S53BV, is QRV as S9BV from Sao Tome Island, IOTA AF-023, until February 20. Activity is holiday style on 60, 40, 30, and 15 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via Club Log.

MALI, TZ. Ulmar, DK1CE, will be QRV as TZ1CE from Bamako from February 10 to March 1. Activity will be on 160 through 6 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL to home call.

KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. Tom, K0YA and Toni, W5RCX are QRV as V4/K0YA and V4/W5RCX, respectively, from St. Kitts, IOTA NA-104, until March 9. Activity is holiday style on 160 through 6 meters using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4. This includes Tom being active as V47Y in both upcoming ARRL International DX contests. QSL all calls via LoTW.

LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS, VU7. Operators VU2RS, VU3DXA, VU24DX, VU29AR and VU3GDS will be QRV as VU7R from Agatti Island, IOTA AS-011, from February 8 to 14. Activity will be on 160 through 6 meters, using CW, SSB, and FT8, and on Satellite QO-100, with up to four stations active. QSL via M0OXO.

CAMBODIA, XU. Tom, DL7BO, will be QRV as XU7O from February 7 to 21. Activity will be on the HF bands with a focus on the low bands. QSL via DL4WK.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The 10-10 International Winter SSB Contest, Mexico RTTY International Contest, European Union DX Contest, North American CW Sprint, NCCC FT4 Sprint, Weekly RTTY Test, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint Ladder, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, Vermont QSO Party, LABRE-RS Digi Contest, F9AA CW Cup, Minnesota QSO Party, FYBO Winter QRP Sprint, AGCW Straight Key CW Party, and the British Columbia QSO Party will certainly keep contesters busy this upcoming weekend.

K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint, ICWC Medium Speed CW Test, OK1WC Memorial, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, DARC FT4 Contest, NAQCC CW Sprint, QRP 40-Meter CW Fox Hunt, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops Test, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Mini-Test 40 CW, Mini-Test 80 CW, and the RSGB 80-Meter Club Data Championship are on tap for February 9 to 11.

Upcoming Hamfests

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

Ohio Hamfests

2026

03/08/2026 - Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society Winter Hamfest **Location:** Elyria, OH **Type:** ARRL Hamfest **Sponsor:** Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society **Website:** https://www.noars.net/hamfests/winter-hamfest/ **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**	04/25/2026 - Tusco Amateur Radio Club's 2026 Hamfest, Computer & Electronics Show **Location:** Dover, OH **Type:** ARRL Hamfest **Sponsor:** Tusco Amateur Radio Club W8ZX **Website:** http://www.w8zx.net/hamfest **Learn More**
04/26/2026 - Athens Hamfest **Location:** Athens, OH **Type:** ARRL Hamfest **Sponsor:** Athens County Amateur Radio Association **Website:** http://ac-ara.org **Learn More**	05/02/2026 - Lucas County ARES Hamfest **Location:** Toledo, OH **Type:** ARRL Hamfest **Sponsor:** Lucas County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc. **Website:** http://WWW.LUCASARES.ORG **Learn More**
5/14/2026 - 05/17/2026 Four Days In May **Location:** Fairborn, OH **Type:** ARRL Convention **Sponsor:** QRP Amateur Radio Club International **Website:** http://qrparci.org/fdim **Learn More**	06/06/2026 - FCARC SummerFest **Location:** Delta, OH **Type:** ARRL Hamfest **Sponsor:** Fulton County Amateur Radio Club **Website:** https://k8bxq.org/hamfest **Learn More**
07/11/2026 - 2026 Mansfield Mid Summer Trunkfest **Location:** Mansfield, OH **Type:** ARRL Hamfest **Sponsor:** Intercity Amateur Radio Club **Website:** http://w8we.org **Learn More**	**07/19/2026 - Van Wert Hamfest** **Location:** Van Wert, OH **Type:** ARRL Hamfest **Sponsor:** Van Wert Amateur Radio Club **Learn More**
08/15/2026 - Cincinnati Hamfest℠ , 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**
09/27/2026 - Cleveland Hamfest **Location:** Berea, OH **Type:** ARRL Hamfest **Sponsor:** Hamfest Association of Cleveland **Website:** https://www.HAC.org **Learn More**	10/10/2026 - Williams County ARA Hamfest **Location:** Montpelier, OH **Type:** ARRL Hamfest **Sponsor:** WCARA **Website:** http://ka8ofe.weebly.com **Learn More**

Print an Official or Unofficial Copy of Your Amateur Radio License
(By Anthony Luscre, K8ZT)

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

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

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

---

Final… Final

The Ohio HF Net will resume on Tuesday March 3rd at 19:00 on 3.902 +/-

Now it's time to start figuring out which hamfests 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@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 – 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!