



The Ohio Section Monthly Journal (OSJ) March 2026



Well, March is coming in like a lion! Lots of rain is forecasted for the first week, but the temperatures are on the rise and that's a good sign the spring is around the corner and I am looking forward to the warmer temperatures. I need to get out to do some yard clean up and antenna work that need to be done. March is also filled with activities such as Spring Forward (don't forget to set your clocks forward on the 8th.), St. Patrick's Day as well as several hamfests. Be sure to check out the Ohio Section Hamfest schedule section below.

The Ohio HF Net is BACK! The SARGE is back to it's normal operation on Tuesday evenings at 19:00 on 3.902 +/-, Hope to hear you on the net.

February Handbook Giveaway Winner – James Totten, WA8HUB!
Congratulations – your Handbook is on the way..... There were 107 entries 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!

February One Question Questionnaire –
Did you participate in Winter Field Day?

Out of 92 responses, 14 said “Yes”; and 78 said “No”. I guess what we see from this is that there are many reasons folks get into Amateur Radio! We have many interests in the use of “RADIO” in our lives that draw us all to this hobby. Everyone’s reason is valid!

This month’s “One Question Questionnaire” aka 1QQ -

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

Year of the Club:



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, a brief history, include the date the club started and membership size and the club’s biggest accomplishment and a website if you have one. I may include your club in the coming months of the OSJ. I will be featuring a club or two every month.

Please send your club’s information as a PDF or Word docx.

Send your club’s information to, kd8scl@arrrl.org

From the Technical Coordinator

Jeff Kopcak – K8JTK TC
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Hey gang,
What is AREDN mesh? [AREDN](#) stands for Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network. As most things in ham radio, the E stands for Emergency. It aims to use low-cost, off the shelf, wireless equipment and access points to create an ad hoc high-speed, self-discovering mesh network. Our previous TC, Jim – W8ERW (SK) encouraged me to give mesh a try. Full disclosure: I’ve supported AREDN through donations. Amateurs radio operators use voice communication to pass messages and standard ICS forms for serviced agencies. Voice communication, while reliable, is slow and prone to errors. Today, digital transmissions are common. Digital offers additional benefits of being able to disseminate information over a wider area to more people and verify proper receipt using hash verification or receiver auto-reply. Messages are passed using digital technologies such as AX.25/APRS packet, HF and VHF/UHF digital (Pactor, NBEMS, FLDigi), Winlink, and others. Those tools have their benefits and advantages. They’re not high-speed, high-bandwidth, and don’t offer real time communication. You can’t have a full duplex phone conversation over any



of those technologies because they don't have the speed or bandwidth to sustain a voice conversation in real time. That is where AREDN aims to fill the gap using FCC Part 97 frequency bands to send digital data between devices over standard IP (Internet Protocol) networks.

Some describe AREDN as the amateur radio version of the Internet though it's not intended to connect people to the Internet. It's also not dependent on the Internet being up and working. Intent is to have intranet-type applications needed to facilitate communication during an emergency or community event. Intranets share information and systems internally often to the exclusion of outsiders. An internal company portal is an example of this. Applications and services served on mesh networks can be E-mail, chat, phone service, Active Directory, document sharing, file transfer (Web, FTP, SMB, NFS) video conferencing, repeater linking (DMR, D-STAR, AllStar), weather stations, application servers, databases, Winlink, and video streaming - among others.

As ham radio operators, we have access to additional spectrum in and around existing Wi-Fi bands. Using off-the-shelf commercially available hardware designed for this spectrum increases flexibility and decreases cost. AREDN firmware reprograms these devices to be ham radio transmitters.

Part 97 spectrum available is often shared with unlicensed devices.

- 900 MHz: channels 4-7 are shared
- 2.4 GHz band: 10 available channels, 8 are shared
 - Channels -2 (2.397) and -1 (2.402) are exclusively for amateur radio use in the US
- 3.4 GHz band: secondary allocation on channels 76-89 - subject to removal at any time
- 5.8 GHz: channels 131-184 are shared with unlicensed devices, DFS & radar (avoid), and other services

On 3.4, channels 90-99 were removed in 2022. [Dynamic Frequency Selection](#) (DFS) is a way for Wi-Fi to co-exist with radar installations (airports, military, weather). When a radar pulse is detected, the frequency must be vacated by the access point. It is best to avoid DFS frequencies for mesh and regular Wi-Fi.

The predecessor to AREDN was the [Broadband-Hamnet HSMM-Mesh](#) (BBHN, High Speed Multimedia) project started in 2010. Information and downloads are still available for supported devices though development has been abandoned. If BBHN could connect to an AREDN device, they can't anymore due to recent protocol changes. If you have a BBHN network and want to keep it, you'll need to keep using devices of that vintage. By now most have migrated to AREDN.

BBHN started with the classic blue box routers (due to their appearance) originally released in 2003. Otherwise known as the

Linksys WRT54G/GL/GS line of hardware. Despite being old enough to drive, these devices are still used and sought after, due to their reliability, longevity, and hack-ability fostered by an open-source community of third-party firmware. Third-party firmware such as DD-WRT, OpenWRT, Tomato, and BBHN. Some Ubiquiti devices were supported such as the Bullet, NanoBridge, NanoStation, and Rocket. The M2, M5, and M9 device designations indicated which bands it covered, 2.4, 5 GHz, and 900 MHz.

Since 2015, AREDN, the successor to BBHN, is actively developing firmware for quite a large [number of devices](#). AREDN supported devices are manufactured by MikroTik, Ubiquiti, TP-



Linksys "blue box" WRT54GL (Ars Technica)

Link, GL.iNet, and virtual machines using VMware ESXi, Proxmox VE, and Unraid. The device I picked up a few years ago is the [MikroTik hAP ac lite](#) (MikroTik RouterBOARD 952Ui-5ac2nD – because why not have two names for one device).

Replacing the stock firmware (firmware provided by the manufacturer) with AREDN was pretty straight forward following [the documentation](#), though I've done similar processes with blue box and Asus routers. If you've done something similar or replaced firmware on Cisco devices using TFTP, you'll be fine. If you're super worried about bricking devices, it would be best to have someone offer help or have a firmware flashing day at a club or Emcomm meeting. Replacing (or flashing) firmware with AREDN firmware only needs to be done once per device.

Subsequent updates are handled through the included updater.

As of February 2026 – AREDN has dropped support for 32 MB RAM Ubiquiti devices (listed under “Sunset Devices” on the devices page). A fork called [AREDN+tiny](#) is available by K3PGM since those devices still have a lot of life left. 64 MB RAM is the new minimum due to use of newer routing protocols.



My current mesh device. MikroTik hAP ac lite/MikroTik RouterBOARD 952Ui-5ac2nD (MikroTik)

Not ALL hardware made by a manufacturer is supported by AREDN. I have a bunch of MikroTik and Ubiquiti devices used in my home networks. Widely popular ecosystems like Ubiquiti UniFi or TP-Link Omada devices are used many home labs, home network, self-hosted environments, or enterprise installations. None of these devices have AREDN firmware options. Those devices could be configured as access points to the mesh using networking standards. An example would be deploying Wi-Fi access points in multiple rooms of an EOC for client access to the mesh network.

Another option, if the EOC will

allow and the network person knows what they're doing, trunk the mesh to their existing access points using a separate SSID/network name and password for mesh LAN access.

Mesh requires Line-of-Sight (LOS) to other nodes. A large area deployment requires nodes, or at least the antennas, to be above the tree line or shoot the signal between the trees. Nodes at ground level, where people have their modem/wireless access point for their home internet, will not be able to reach other nodes. Might work if higher-profile nodes/antennas are very close by. Ground level nodes are referred to as “in the shack” nodes. In small area setups like those in a parking lot of an event or Field Day site don't require high profile nodes.

There are tools to map LOS, some estimate signal strength and expected throughput. Ubiquiti used to have a straight forward tool, it's now more about pushing their devices. A simple one like the [RF Line of Sight](#) tool shows elevation between two points. A red line in the elevation map means communication won't work while a green line suggests that communication is possible. Unfortunately, the tool uses Canadian measurement units so some [conversion](#) will be needed to/from freedom units.

Though mesh serves a purpose in ham radio. In real networking deployments, mesh is considered evil. Not that the technology itself is the problem but there are significant takeoffs using mesh. In infrastructure systems, those being enterprise deployments, private wide-area wireless deployments, and my home networks, mesh is not used. Each access point is backhauled to a (core) network switch. This can mean long runs of cable through walls where

conduit may not be available to easily run wire. When access is needed to remote buildings or areas, point-to-point links are used.

Dual band AREDN devices, such as the hAP, use one wireless band to establish the mesh and the other for LAN devices. If the mesh is configured on 2.4 GHz, client devices need to use 5 GHz for the Local Area Network. If the mesh is configured on the 5 GHz side, client devices must use 2.4 for LAN (e.g.: smart phones and laptops). Most client devices are dual band (2.4 &

900 MHz	Channel	4	5	6	7
	Ctr Freq	907	912	917	922
	Status	Shared with US unlicensed			

You are responsible for using frequencies, channels, bandwidths, and power levels that comply with your country's amateur radio license requirements.

2.4 GHz	Channel	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8 *
	Ctr Freq	2.387	2.392	2.397	2.402	2.407	2.412	2.417	2.422	2.427	2.432	2.437	2.442	2.447
	Status	non-US only		Unshared		Cannot Use	Shared with US unlicensed							

* Only 5 MHz channel width is available on channel 8

3.4 GHz	Channel	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89
	Ctr Freq	3.380	3.385	3.390	3.395	3.400	3.405	3.410	3.415	3.420	3.425	3.430	3.435	3.440	3.445
	Status	US Amateur operations remain on a secondary basis but are subject to removal at any time by FCC notice*													

* per FCC 20-138 IV-E-69

5.8 GHz	Channel	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148
	Ctr Freq	5.655	5.660	5.665	5.670	5.675	5.680	5.685	5.690	5.695	5.700	5.705	5.710	5.715	5.720	5.725	5.730	5.735	5.740
	Status	Shared with US unlicensed indoor/outdoor DFS & Radar Avoidance																	
	Channel	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166
	Ctr Freq	5.745	5.750	5.755	5.760	5.765	5.770	5.775	5.780	5.785	5.790	5.795	5.800	5.805	5.810	5.815	5.820	5.825	5.830
	Status	Shared with US unlicensed indoor/outdoor																	
	Channel	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184
	Ctr Freq	5.835	5.840	5.845	5.850	5.855	5.860	5.865	5.870	5.875	5.880	5.885	5.890	5.895	5.900	5.905	5.910	5.915	5.920
	Status	...Shared with Unlicensed			Shared with US unlicensed mainly indoor										Shared with Intelligent Transportation System				

Amateur Radio and Wi-Fi frequencies, mostly US (AREDN)

5 GHz) at this point, but many IoT devices are only 2.4. A way to work around this issue is to use two nodes like a long/short haul outside node and an in the shack node or a separate access point for LAN access.

Though AREDN delivers significant speed increases over technologies mentioned earlier, mesh will not deliver real-world maximum speeds or bandwidth. Mesh is about coverage whereas infrastructure systems are about speed and bandwidth. Mesh aims to increase coverage by attempting to overcome the minefield of Wi-Fi connectivity issues including reflection, refraction, attenuation, and interference. It is for those reasons some ham groups will deploy their own private point-to-point wireless network in place of or in addition to a mesh deployment.

This is the first in a series of upcoming articles on AREDN, mesh, and networking. There is a lot of flexibility using standard networking protocols while meshing them with ham radio.

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

From the Section Emergency Coordinator

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DMR for Emergency Communications

For a long time now I've been a supporter of DMR. Digitally linked modes of communication like DMR, P25, and YSF (not to be confused with C4FM which is not a mode, but is the digital modulation type also used in P25) do have a place in emergency communications even though they utilize the internet.

In 2016, multiple ARES groups across the state were activated to assist with the Republican National Convention in Cleveland. We were activated as a means of backup communications linking the Cuyahoga County EOC, Cleveland American Red Cross, Akron American Red Cross, and Ohio EMA in Columbus. The main concern during this activation was overwhelming local MARCS and GCRCN sites because of the influx of radios from outside of the area, as well as cell phone difficulties due to the increased number of phones in a small area. Thankfully, we didn't have any issues due to an outstanding communications plan put together by the GCRCN system manager which utilized a combination of simplex conventional channels as well as portable TOWs (Tower on Wheels).

Although we didn't have the DMR infrastructure in place during the RNC that we have now, it would have proven to be a very effective means of communication between the various sites. One thing that was never high on the list of communications failures during the RNC was the internet. The fact is that the internet is an extremely robust and reliable network. Can it fail? Absolutely. Has it failed in the past? Yes, multiple times. Does that make it a no-go for all emergency communications? Absolutely not. Should we replace HF with DMR? Absolutely not. But both should be accessible. After all, solar activity wipes out reliable HF comms far more often than the internet fails.

We need to think of our different means of communications as "tools in a toolbox". We have many tools at our disposal such as repeaters, simplex, VHF, UHF, HF, Winlink, and yes, the internet.

Think of a regular toolbox, and how many ways you can screw in a screw. You can of course use a hand screwdriver, or you can use a corded drill with a bit in it, a battery powered drill with a bit in it, or an impact driver with a bit in it. Now, I don't know about you, but if I had all those tools in my box, I would use the battery powered impact. It's quick, easy, and designed for the purpose. What I wouldn't do is leave the power tools at home because "they might not work when I need them most".

The same goes for communications. It's important that we have multiple tools that both compliment and take the place of each other, and that we understand both the capabilities AND the limitations of each. But it's more important that we don't let the fear of something failing prevent us from enjoying its convenience when it's available.

Several of my goals for 2026 surround the use of DMR. Some of the ideas that I'm currently working on and considering are:

- Getting a reliable permanent DMR station set up at the Ohio EOC
- Promoting the Ohio ARES talk group 31395 to DMR repeater owners around the state
- Creating a monthly ARES net on 31395 for ARES members around the state to practice accessing their local DMR repeaters
- Ensuring that we have policies in place to dictate what kinds of wide area incidents warrant the use of DMR versus local unlinked repeaters, talk groups, or simplex so we don't unnecessarily tie up resources across the state for an incident covering a small area

With a little bit of work and discussion, I think that DMR can be another viable "tool" available to us.

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://arr1-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.

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Why Government Organizations Need Both Public Relations Professionals & Public Information Officers

From: <https://sandandshores.com/2024/02/20/why-government-organizations-need-both-public-relations-professionals-public-information-officers/>

Police departments and other government organizations all have a Public Information Officers (PIO). They have the responsibility of facilitating and nurturing a professional working relationship between the department or organization and the media. They work a rotating on-call schedule and respond to the department’s media needs 24-hours a day. Although PIOs play a crucial role in civic organizations, there are distinct reasons why a dedicated public relations professional is still a valuable asset to have on staff especially if one of your goals is to have community engagement and support. This is integral, no matter the size of the agency or service area. Here’s a breakdown of the differences and why both roles can be complementary:

Public Information Officers (PIO) – The primary duties and responsibilities:

- **Focuses on communicating official information:** A PIO primarily handles the dissemination of factual, official information about the organization’s policies, programs, and activities. They often act as the organization’s spokesperson, addressing media inquiries and providing updates to the public.

- **Government-oriented:** PIOs are typically familiar with government regulations and protocols for information release. They prioritize transparency and accuracy in their communication.
- **May not have strong PR expertise:** While PIOs are skilled communicators, they may not have the same level of expertise in public relations strategies, media relations, and reputation management as a dedicated PR professional.



Public Relations Professionals (PR Pros) – The primary duties and responsibilities:

- **Proactive and strategic:** PR professionals go beyond simply providing information. They actively shape public perception of the organization by developing and implementing strategic communication plans, crafting compelling narratives, and building relationships with key stakeholders.
- **Media relations and outreach:** PR professionals excel at building relationships with journalists and influencers, securing media coverage, and crafting engaging press releases and pitches. They understand how to leverage different media channels to reach target audiences.
- **Crisis management:** PR professionals are trained to handle negative publicity and navigate crisis situations effectively. They can develop and implement crisis communication plans to minimize damage and protect the organization’s reputation.
- **Community engagement:** PR professionals can help build strong relationships with the community through outreach programs, social media engagement, and event planning. This can increase public support for the organization and its initiatives.

Therefore, while a PIO ensures the accurate and timely flow of information, a PR professional adds a layer of strategic communication, proactive outreach, and crisis management expertise. These two roles can work together to create a comprehensive communication strategy that effectively engages the public, builds positive relationships, and advances the organization’s mission.

To be clear, both PIOs and PR professionals have valuable skills and perspectives to contribute to a civic organization’s communication efforts. Having both roles on staff can ensure effective information dissemination, proactive public engagement, and strong crisis management, ultimately leading to a more successful and well-regarded organization.

Elizabeth Klinc, KE8FMJ

OHIO Section Public Information Coordinator, ASEC

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Assistant Emergency Coordinator, Greene County

ARRL - The National Association For Amateur Radio™

From the Section Traffic Manager

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Hams Over IP #101918



NTS Treasure Hunt

March 3 started another round of the NTS Treasure Hunt. The NTS Hunt is now in its third year and is becoming a popular activity. Here is the announcement from The NTS Letter back in Dec 2023:

Arr, Matey! Ready for a Treasure Hunt?

Who says handling formal traffic *always* must be serious business? Our esteemed Chief Executive Officer David Minster, NA2AA, who was once an active traffic handler, recently suggested a fun exercise for the NTS community: "Let's hold a treasure hunt!"

Contestants will respond to clues contained in the initial instructions from an *NTS Letter* to which they will respond via radiogram to a "judge." The judge will, in turn, respond via radiogram with the next clue to the puzzle. You will have to be patient (like any good treasure hunter) and follow this path for at least three or four cycles. If at any point your answer is incorrect, you'll be asked to try again. If you are clever, good at following directions, and not afraid to send and receive a few radiograms, then you'll have a good chance at success. We're still working out the details, but a crack team of NTS 2.0 participants recently conducted a small trial run and the results were encouraging.

While we can't promise that the winner will receive a chest full of pieces of eight* or a multi-kilobuck, state-of-the-art HF transceiver, there *will* be some "trinkets" awarded at the end of the competition.

Plus, all participants will receive honorable mention in *The NTS Letter*.

Stay tuned for an upcoming announcement and rules in a future issue.
** Pieces of eight are historical Spanish dollar coins minted in the Americas from the late 15th century through the 19th century. Made of silver, they were in nearly worldwide circulation by the late 19th century and were legal currency in the United States until 1857.*

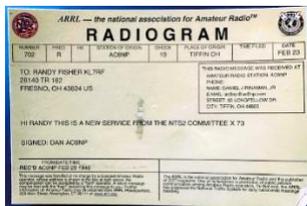


So, if you would like to try this out **Here is the first-round question:**

NR 1 R HXG AC8NP 19 TIFFIN OH MAR 3
 NTS TREASURE HUNTERS
 BT
 THR1 WHAT NEW CONTEST WAS
 ANNOUNCED IN THE JAN 1938
 QST QUERY REPLY TO DAN
 AC8NP TIFFIN OH 44883
 BT
 DAN AC8NP

Please remember to start your message with the THR1-5 answer, which means **Treasure Hunt Round Number**. The judges will respond with a radiogram back to you within 24 hours of receipt of your message most of the time. They may miss a day here and there due to family obligations or illness and sometimes we sneak off on vacation. Our judges are on traffic nets almost daily. The in-transit time will vary. So, if it has been 5 or 6 days and you do not receive a reply radiogram, try sending an email message to the judge.

Print and Mail a Radiogram Postcard



So, have you had a situation where you wanted to deliver a Radiogram via USPS? You would need to print out the Radiogram and stuff it in an envelope, then address it and add a stamp.

Well you have another choice the NTS2 committee now has on their [website](#) a service which you can use to send out a Postcard.

To deliver a Radiogram to its recipient, you can order a 4×6-inch Radiogram Postcard to be automatically printed and mailed. Send a Radiogram Postcard as a courtesy confirmation copy, or in cases where the recipient has been unreachable by telephone or e-mail.

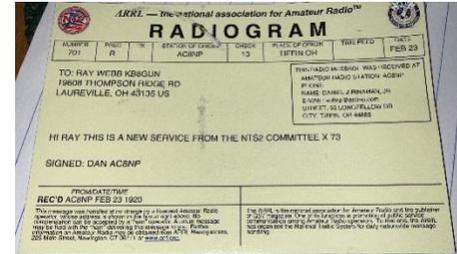
There is a modest cost (about 1 US dollar) for each postcard, which covers the cost of printing, postage, and mailing. You cover this cost by pre-loading your Radiogram Postcard Wallet, using PayPal or a credit card, with enough Postcard Credits to cover the postcards you expect to send in the near future. One credit is deducted from your Wallet each time you send a postcard. (You can add credits to your Wallet each time you fill out a Radiogram Postcard).

I tried it out and you can see the results in the photos in this article.

So, if you want to try this service out head over to nts2.arrl.org/postcard-entry.

World Radio History

I found this website while researching



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)

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NTS® Resources

The National Traffic System® (NTS®) is a network of amateur radio operators who move information during disasters and other emergencies. General messages offering well-wishes also move through the NTS® to help test the system and to help amateur radio operators build traffic handling skills. While the NTS® is primarily set up to serve the United States and Canada, it is possible to move traffic internationally through the NTS® via various local, regional, area, and international network connections.

[NTS 2.0](#)

[NTS Manual](#)

[NTS Methods and Practices Guidelines](#)

[Handling Instructions](#)

[Numbered Texts](#)

[Form Encoding Rules for Form](#)

Sign Up to Receive *The NTS Letter*

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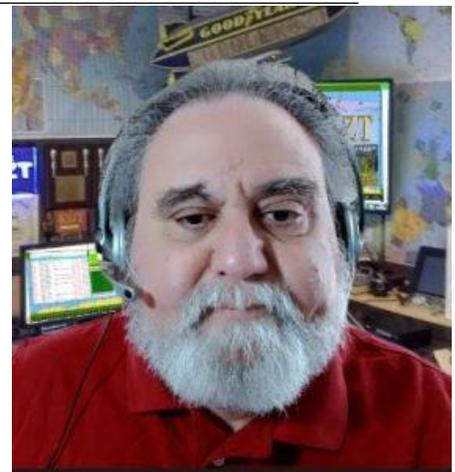
Assistant Section Manager

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](https://www.arrl.org/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 for me; I hope to work you on the air soon, maybe as W1AW/8 OH!

I do have a bonus for you in the following article about Amateur Radio and Scouting from Shawn KE8BBC and the Dan Beard Council Radio Scouting Committee

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



Dan Beard Council Radio Scouting Committee Troop 674 Radio Demo Day - March 3, 2026

Church of the Savior - Cincinnati, Ohio

On the evening of March 3, 2026, the Dan Beard Council Radio Scouting Committee (RSC) rolled into Montgomery's Troop 674 with antennas, radios, and a lot of enthusiasm. About 30 Scouts and 6 adult leaders gathered at the Church of the Savior in Cincinnati for what started as a regular troop meeting and turned into a STEM night on the radio. Running under the Scouts on the Air and call sign K2BSA/8, the RSC team set up three radio stations and spent the next hour getting every Scout on the air - talking to people across the region, across the city, and right across the gym.



The format was simple and it worked well. Scouts rotated through three stations every fifteen minutes, each one showing off a different side of amateur radio. The gear alone turned heads - military-style hard cases popped open to reveal HF rigs running off portable battery packs, handheld VHF radios crackled with local traffic, and FRS walkie-talkies got passed around for a tactical challenge game that had the whole campus buzzing.

One of the real highlights of the night was how many people from the ham radio community “showed up” to support the event. The Queen City Emergency Net (QCEN) jumped in at the last-minute and allowed the scouts to use their club repeater and they had operators checking in all evening. Robert Overstreet and the Milford Amateur Radio Club (MARC) were supporters as well. On the HF station, Scouts made real contacts with W8TDA (Kitty Hevener), KE8TDE (Ben), W8NFM (Bob), KB9ORF (Roy), K9CVO (Ken), KB7PKD (Mark), N8JMV (Rob), Scott Harshman, Ken Castille, Jay Wysong, John Christopher, and Adam Stone - all volunteers who parked on frequency just to talk to a Scout. Bill Stearns (NE4RD) from K2BSA and Kirk Musselman (K9MSG) from Scouts on the Air were also key in making the whole thing happen. And in a pretty special moment, Michael (N2HTE) shared that he was an alumnus of Troop 674 – although his Troop 674 was in West Seneca, NY.

Troop 674 was a great host and a great group to work with. The energy from the Scouts and their leaders made the whole night click. For the RSC, this is exactly what the committee was built to do - get radios in the hands of young people and show them that amateur radio is alive, relevant, and a lot of fun. Next up, the team is already looking at tightening up the format - smaller patrol groups, a real-time contact map, and a more polished frequency plan.

Is your pack or troop interested in hosting a radio demo? The Dan Beard Council Radio Scouting Committee is actively looking to bring this experience to more Scout units across the Dan Beard Council. We'll bring the gear, the operators, and the fun - you just bring the Scouts. Reach out to us on Facebook at [facebook.com/profile.php?id=61585942053513](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61585942053513) or drop us an email at ke8bbc@arrl.net and let's get your unit on the air!

Two big events are coming later this year. Be sure to mark your calendar for Summer **Field Day on June 26-27** and **Jamboree on the Air**, the largest scouting jamboree in the world, on **October 16-18**.

The Three Stations

Station 1: HF - Talking Across the Region (40 Meters SSB)

The HF station was the centerpiece of the night. Jocelyn (KD8VRX) ran it under K2BSA/8 on 40 meters SSB, and Scouts took turns at the mic making real contacts with operators across the region - some hundreds of miles away. Scouts spoke with operators as far away as Texas and Georgia, and plenty of hams here in Ohio. They spoke to former scout masters, a Taekwondo instructor and even an Eagle Scout.



Station 2: VHF - Connecting Across Cincinnati (2 Meters FM)

Kurt (AD8ML) ran the VHF station connected to the local QCEN 2-meter repeater (located at the Cincinnati Red Cross building), where Scouts spoke with hams across Cincinnati who had tuned in to say hello. If HF is the big show, VHF is where you realize just how much radio activity is already happening all around you. Scouts got a quick lesson on how repeaters work and why that matters.



Station 3: FRS/GMRS - Tactical Radio Challenge Game

Michael (N2HTE), Lance (KF8EEM), and Adam (KF8EKW) ran the FRS/GMRS station, and this one was loud in the best way. Each mini patrol got a tactical call sign, radios went in hands, and the Radio Roulette challenge kicked off - net control issuing movement orders, teams

responding and relaying across the church. It was competitive, it was chaotic in stretches, and the Scouts loved it. It's also a natural bridge to Option E of the newly updated 2026 Radio Merit Badge requirements, which now formally recognizes FRS/GMRS as a valid path into radio communications for Scouts.



Event Photos:





Troop 674 Scouts and RSC team at the close of the event.

Thank You to Our Supporters

Big thanks to everyone who made Tuesday night happen - you made a real difference for these Scouts:



And of course, all the hams:

W8TDA Kitty, KE8TDE Ben, W8NFM Bob, KB9ORF Roy, K9CVO Ken, KB7PKD Mark, N8JMV Rob, Scott Harshman, Ken Castille, Jay Wysong, John Christopher, Adam Stone, and all the stations we missed!

Organizations & Key Individuals

- Queen City Emergency Net (QCEN) - qcenorg.wordpress.com
- Milford Amateur Radio Club <https://milfordhamradio.org/>
- K2BSA - Bill Stearns (NE4RD) - k2bsa.net
- Scouts on the Air - Kirk Musselman (K9MSG) amateurradioevents.com/scoutsontheair
- Troop 674 host venue - Church of the Savior - cos-umc.org
- Troop 674 Scoutmaster - Ernie Wallace

Special thanks to on-site amateur radio operators of the DBC Radio Scouting Committee: Jocelyn KD8VRX, Adam KF8EKW, Kurt AD8ML, Shawn KE8BBC, Lance KF8EEM and Michael N2HTE.

From the Affiliated Clubs Coordinator

Terry Windsor, KI8N

ki8n.tw@gmail.com

Spring is upon us and just as old sayings go, March came in like a lion and with all hopes will leave like a lamb. I have a couple of ham radio related outdoor antenna tasks to work on. I have been without a dual band antenna for the radio in the shack all winter since we took down the TV antenna tower last October that was against the house where it was previously mounted. I have a repurposed eave mount and new coax for the antenna now I just need the weather and ambition to coincide with the effort.



With nearly three months of this year gone, there are still quite a few Ohio Affiliated clubs that have not completed their annual reports for 2026. Please take a few minutes to update your information at <http://www.arrl.org/find-a-club>. If you need assistance accessing your club's information, please let me know and I will be happy to answer any questions.

In your club meetings you may want to let fellow members know about making address and email changes to their FRN. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted changes to its rules effective February 5, 2026 to require that every holder of an FCC Registration Number (FRN) update their contact information in the [CORES](#) system (email and postal addresses) within ten business days of a change.

If your FRN information is current and has not changed, no immediate action is required, but you must adhere to the 10-day rule for future changes. It is recommended to periodically check both the [CORES](#) and [License Manager Systems](#) to ensure contact information is accurate, even if no changes have occurred. Everyone should be aware of the amateur rules in sections 97.21 and 97.23 that state a license may be suspended or revoked "if FCC correspondence is returned as undeliverable because of an incorrect address/email."

FCC Tutorial on updating FRN information:

https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/html/Update_FRN_Information.htm

Just a quick question regarding your club equipment and liability, is your club insured? The ARRL administers ham radio and related equipment and club liability insurance through RISK strategies. If you are not covered then it may be time for your directors / officers to check out this link: <https://www.arrlinsurance.com/>. It wouldn't take much for a club to suffer a large financial burden if equipment were damaged or stolen or personnel were injured. I have had this insurance on my personal equipment for several years and three years ago I filed a claim. A tornado went through the back of our property and damaged my tower and tri beam antenna. The policy paid for a replacement rotator and shelf, new elements for the antenna, and coax.

Is your club planning an Open House in April? The second annual ARRL Ham Radio Open House in April offers a chance to show off your club's high-tech gear and skills to your community! ARRL is encouraging radio clubs and schools to promote amateur radio science and technology by opening their stations to the public with an open house during the month of April. In addition, groups are encouraged to set up in public places or conduct outdoor activities. The open-house event is built around World Amateur Radio Day on Saturday, April 18, but your open house may be scheduled at any point in the month. If your club is sponsoring an open house, please send me an email and I will try to attend and meet the club personnel.



I just want to remind everyone that ARRL's [Year of the club 2026](#) is underway. 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. So far 18 states and Puerto Rico have been activated the first time through the schedule. You can find the scheduled activation dates for each state here: <https://www.arrl.org/america250-was>.

Hamfest time is upon us! Have you checked the schedule link on the Ohio section web page? <https://arrl-ohio.org/hamfests/>. This is a good time for you and your club members to schedule which hamfests to travel to.

Just a reminder, 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 present at a club meeting, contact the individuals on the list via 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.

Lastly, it is time to ensure your club officers are working on reporting the club's 2025 Federal IRS taxes (my home club files an online IRS form 990-N) and if applicable the State of Ohio Attorney General's charitable registration system.

I found and like this quote from Charles Dickens regarding our soon to be spring season. "It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold, when it is summer in the light and winter in the shade." Stay "Radio-Active" and Ham It UP!

73

Terry, KI8N



Assistant Section Manager

Al Andress – KD8ZBS

Alinfarm12@gmail.com

The Mussings of a HAM Radio Operator

Has anyone ever stopped and counted the cost of what a HAM operator invest into their hobby? As I prepare this month's OSJ article, I remind myself why it is I am not just involved in this hobby, but committed to this hobby.

This started me thinking back to my younger days, and that was a trip back in time for this HAM. As a kid I had an inquisitive mind, how did this work or that work, what did the inside of my BB gun look like, what tweaks could I make on my bicycle to make it go faster, could I launch a bottle rocket across a major highway and not hit any traffic, and on and on...

At some point in my youth I do remember the idea of HAM radio, seeing the radios advertised and articles about HAM radio in my Dad's "Popular Mechanics", or some type of magazine, and thought to myself that would be fun to play with. Well Dad was not convinced of the idea, or the cost associated with it so HAM radio had to wait. And it became an idea I started to re-examine, only this time I had my own money to use and so let the journey begin.

When I got my ticket in 2014, my thought was that I wanted to be ready for anything. And being a person who likes to stay up to date with what is happening, I thought how am I going to be able to find out important information if my cell phone quit, the internet no longer worked, the local newspaper could not be printed or distributed etc... I knew HAM radio would be the key to speaking to people around the world and in my own "neighborhood". Of course I was not getting any younger, and with age, often comes limited abilities and resources. So why not start young and get ready for those "Golden Years"?

If any of you happened to read my article from February's OSJ, you may recall the conversation about PASSION and EFFORT, both of these being necessary to succeed at most everything. Well my interest was piqued; my desire was stirred, even if my wallet wasn't ready LOL. And off on a journey that challenges me, stimulates my mind, drains my wallet and brings excitement when I make contact with a DX station I want for my log.

They say that PASSION will only take you so far, and they are right. There comes a time that passion may slow down, and that does happen. But when there is a project or goal that has been set before a person, EFFORT gets into that driver's seat and starts to motivate a person to that goal, and I have found that more times than not, PASSION does return and the journey only becomes that much more exciting.

Are you in cruise mode? Just going along because that is what you have always done. I want to challenge you to journey back to the beginning of your HAM radio experience and find that spark of enjoyment, passion that once was, and allow that passion to rekindle itself once again. I am sure that there is someone new to the hobby that had that passion for HAM radio at one point but may have become overwhelmed with everything about this hobby or even life, and is now just trying to find their way.

You can be that catalyst that ignites them once again. Taking the opportunity to invest yourself in to someone else with the skills and knowledge you possess, can bring a whole new world of enjoyment. Face it, climbing towers/ladders or crawling around the shack running cables is not an easy task as a person ages. But teaching someone else about HAM radio will be the key to building the future of a hobby we are PASSIONATE about.

Start today, reignite that passion, find a new opportunity in HAM radio and explore it. You never know where it may lead you.

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

John Myers, WG8X

wg8x.radio@gmail.com

330-936-5021

Well, Spring is almost here, and it's time to get some outside work finished. I have a OCF Dipole to re-hang, and a 5BTV to re-tune, but first. . .

Let's talk about the website. We archive the last 12 months of club newsletters that we receive at <https://arrl-ohio.org/ohio-club-newsletters/>. I don't receive as many newsletters as I'd like, but they all get posted for 12 months. In

addition to sending your newsletter to PIO, Liz, please add the website (webmaster@arrl-ohio.org) to your distribution list. Everything I receive gets posted.



I've found that some of my best ideas are "borrowed" from other clubs newsletters. So have a look.

Also, have a look at our Swap & Shop page where you can post your for-sale & fundraiser items (Ham radio Related only please). You can find it at <https://arrl-ohio.org/section-swap-shop/>. Best of all, it's free! Send your items to me at Swap@arrl-ohio.org

And that's it for this month. Good luck to everyone who entered the ARRL's Club Website contest.

And that wraps it up for this month. 73 DE WG8X

New Facebook Group

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

You do need a Facebook account to join. If you already have one visit www.facebook.com/groups/oharrlsection to join the group. Answer the short questionnaire and your membership in the group should be confirmed in a day or so. You can then start posting to the group. If you do not have a Facebook account you will first need to sign up for a free account. If you are hesitant to join Facebook, because you have heard horror stories about social media, you are able to limit your activities to just membership of this or other similar groups. Some people choose not to use Facebook for privacy concerns, while others may find it time-consuming, distracting, or simply not interesting, but you can choose your own personal activity



ARRL Ohio Section

Public group · facebook.com/groups/oharrlsection

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)

Icom America Named Official Sponsor of the ARRL Year of the Club

02/26/2026

Newington, CT – ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® is pleased to announce that Icom America is the Official Sponsor of the ARRL Year of the Club, supporting the initiatives that spotlight and strengthen ARRL Affiliated Clubs throughout 2026.

The ARRL Board of Directors designated 2026 as the ARRL 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 increases public awareness of the Amateur Radio Service through local connections across the United States.

“Amateur radio clubs are the backbone of the hobby,” said Ray Novak, N9JA, Senior Sales Manager at Icom America. “Icom works closely with them to support education, growth, and engagement. Strong clubs create strong communities, and Icom is proud to support them.”

Supporting Clubs On the Air and Beyond

ARRL has emphasized the broader impact of the initiative. “The Year of the Club places a spotlight on the vibrant community of radio clubs,” said ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA. “By investing in clubs, Icom and ARRL are reinforcing the local foundation of amateur radio—where mentorship begins, technical skills are shared, and public service takes root,” said Minster.

Through its sponsorship, Icom is supporting content that highlights the work of radio clubs in *QST*, ARRL newsletters and publications, and through resources and activities designed to help clubs thrive.

As part of ARRL's broader 2026 activities, ARRL has launched the America250 Worked All States (WAS) operating event, a year-long on-air activity encouraging amateur radio operators worldwide to make contact with all 50 US states in honor of America's 250th anniversary. Radio clubs are participating and supporting a special endorsement for operators who contact ARRL Affiliated Clubs in all 50 states during the year. In addition, clubs and hamfests are hosting W1AW/portable activations in all 50 states, creating another endorsement opportunity for participants.

ARRL also announced that the theme of 2026 ARRL Field Day, held June 27–28, will be “Amateur Radio: A National Resource.” Since 1933, Field Day has been the largest on-the-air operating event in North America, showcasing amateur radio's readiness to provide resilient communications in times of need while engaging the public through hands-on demonstrations and community outreach. This year's Field Day will emphasize club participation and the use of club call signs.

For more information about the ARRL Year of the Club, the America250 Worked All States operating event, and 2026 ARRL Field Day, visit www.arrl.org.

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



Win a Yaesu FT-991A



The Alliance ARC is again raffling a HF Rig
Tickets are now on sale.

The winning ticket will be drawn on Wednesday, July 8th, 2026

Winner need not be present to win

For more information, or to purchase tickets, please go to
https://www.w8lky.org/fundraisers/hf_rig_raffle/

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

Huber Heights Amateur Radio Club

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

The Lake County Amateur Radio Association

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

Watch for 2026 dates

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

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

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

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

The Lancaster and Fairfield County Amateur Radio Club (LFCARC)

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

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

Questions: Contact me at ve_testing@k8qik.org.

Lisbon Area Amateur Radio Association

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

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

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

No phone calls.

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

Madison County

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

The Milford Amateur Radio Club (MARC)

No charge VE exams are normally given the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM. Miami Township Civic Center 6101 Meijer Drive, Milford, OH 45150 The facility is handicapped

accessible. Map and further details are on our website. Pre-registration is required:

<https://milfordhamradio.org/license-exams>

Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society (NOARS)

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

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

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

Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS)

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

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

Tusco Amateur Radio Club W8ZX

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

Silvercreek ARA (SARA)

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

Watch for 2026 dates.

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

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

Your Club news should be listed here!

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

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 Month – #356

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

Welcome to the March 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. Also, I have found an internet radio station that is managed by hams and has hams as DJs. Check it out at www.w2phradio.com



Let me know if you have any questions.

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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

By the time you are reading this, 3Y0K should be underway! Here is the latest:

To say that the world has been waiting on this would be an understatement. We have an update on the Bouvet DXpedition, 3Y0K. They have left Cape Town!

The 3Y0K team has departed Cape Town aboard the Danish registered vessel *Argus* from Icetugs, beginning the 1,500-nautical-mile transit to Bouvetøya. *Argus* completed scheduled maintenance and survey work prior to her arrival in Cape Town, ensuring full readiness for the voyage. Earlier this week, the expedition helicopter was loaded, inspected, and secured on deck. Both the vessel and the aircraft have successfully passed all required inspections. We appreciate the strong commitment demonstrated by the pilots, mechanics, expedition guides, and vessel crew as we move forward together as one team to make this a successful expedition.

The captain and crew are performing excellently, and the team is enjoying good meals prepared by the ship's chef. Despite encountering rough seas during the first day at sea, preparations continue onboard as we expect to arrive at Bouvetøya on February 26th at 08:00 local time.

Further updates regarding our band plans and DQRM strategy will be shared as we approach the island.

We extend our sincere thanks to all contributors for your continued support!

73, 3Y0K Team

We have an Update on KP5/NP3VI, Desecheo Island- As reported last week, KP5/NP3VI, the Desecheo Island DXpedition, has been extended to March 3. As of February 25th, they had exceeded 97,000 QSO milestone, “all generated using our fully solar-powered, unattended Remote Deployment Unit.”

“As we enter the final phase of the operation, we remain focused on providing opportunities for stations that still need KP5 for an All Time New One (ATNO). We respectfully encourage those who already have KP5 confirmed to operate in the spirit of sharing this rare entity by allowing room for stations still seeking it. The cooperation of the DX community has been essential in maximizing new contacts. To further support this effort, we have added an extra hour of FT8 operation specifically looking for ATNOs in Europe. This additional window is intended to take advantage of propagation opportunities and give more stations a chance to log KP5 before QRT...Operating schedules continue to be carefully balanced around solar energy availability, battery reserves, and propagation paths to Europe, Asia, and other regions, while maintaining reliable continuous service.”

J5 - Guinea-Bissau — We have over 61,000 QSOs in the log after the first 70 hours of operation.

We have already logged more than 5,000 QSOs in CW. Only some 100+ SSB QSOs yet. Many more CW and SSB to come in the coming days, don't worry...

Antenna-wise, today the combined 160m/80m antenna went up as well as the Aziloop RX antenna and a BOG (Beverage-on-ground). We also found and replaced a defective PL259 "barrel" in the coax to the 60m Inverted Vee. On 40m we detected some man-made noise (50 Hz) from the neighboring property. We will go there shortly and discuss with the owner. Later on we shall clean up the place, stow away all the things we don't need and finally be ready for a smooth 24/7 operation. This operation is scheduled through mid-March.

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.

The DX Mentor will be dropping a podcast in the next two weeks with members of the S21WD team. Subscribe to the DX Mentor podcast or YouTube channel to watch that!

CY0S, Sable Island DXpedition Update: February 11th, was a milestone day for the CY0S DXpedition team. Glenn W0GJ traveled to meet up with Craig K9CT, to run a full test of the six new FlexRadio Aurora radios, along with the six new laptops. All six 500-watt Flex Radio's were tested in all modes: CW, SSB, FT8 and RTTY. Glenn reports that this was a full test of radios, laptops and networking, and was very successful with no issues. Radio #6 is set up for both HF FT8 (F/H) and 6M (non-F/H) simultaneously. At CY0S, the team will be operating SuperFox mode on FT8 on all bands, but on 60 meters, regular FT8 will be used. As to six meters, Lee WW2DX ran tests yesterday as well, and he was very encouraged by the results.

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 call signs featured on the QSL card.

Finally, we have XX9W, Macao. An international team will operate as XX9W from Macao March 19-31. The group plans to be active on 160-6M CW, SSB, and digital modes, with at least four stations on the air simultaneously. They have at their disposal multiple radios and ACOM, SPE, and HAL amplifiers. Antennas include spiderbeams, hexbeams, verticals, an inverted L, a 6M Yagi, and an Arrow satellite antenna.

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CONTEST CORNER

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

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

Contest	Start Date	End Date
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
SP DX Contest	4/3/2021	4/4/2021
Louisiana QSOP	4/3/2021	4/4/2021
Mississippi QSOP	4/3/2021	4/4/2021
Missouri QSOP	4/3/2021	4/4/2021
Nebraska QSOP	4/3/2021	4/4/2021
Georgia QSOP	4/10/2021	4/11/2021
New Mexico QSOP	4/10/2021	4/11/2021
North Dakota QSOP	4/10/2021	4/11/2021
Holyland DX Contest	4/16/2021	4/17/2021
Michigan QSOP	4/17/2021	4/18/2021
Ontario QSOP	4/17/2021	4/18/2021
10-10 Intl. Spring Contest, Digital	4/24/2021	4/25/2021
Florida QSOP	4/24/2021	4/25/2021
SP DX RTTY	4/24/2021	4/25/2021

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



America's 250th birthday is now underway. And I hope your appropriate community is celebrating in some way and your local radio club is planning to join in the celebration in some way. Based on the popularity of Hillsboro's **Highland ARA** ringing in the New Year each December 31, they have already teamed up with the local historical society to ring in Independence Day at the stroke of Midnight and will be inviting the community to participate with by ringing any kind of bell they can find.

Ken Klosterman, KD8FKU, tells us the results of the recent **Grant RC** club elections. The new officers for 2026 are Joe Lee, KE8NRY-President; Greg Johnson, AB8GJ-Vice President; Roger Suer, WB8HRW-Secretary and Dan Pelzel, KE8TTQ-Treasurer. In February the **Cambridge ARA** announced the results of their annual elections. Jim Shaw, AB8P, was re-elected President and Randall Poore, KD8BYY, is the Vice President. Evelyn Barton, KA8NZS, continues as Secretary and Marilyn Phalin, KD8ZMG, handle the money.

Clinton County ARA Repeater Trustee Paul Jellison, K8IO, informs all there are issues with the Club's 147.12 repeater. Therefore the Sunday evening Skywarn Net will be held on the 145.16 repeater. No tone is required to access this 9 PM net.

Until further notice, the **Highland ARA** has changed the tone on the Greenfield 146.685 and 444.775 repeaters to 100 hertz. This change was necessary due to excess kerchunking of the machines.

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 newslines for amateurs in the Southern Ohio area. It meets 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.

The March *QST* advises all of the passing of some South 40 Region hams. Long-time **Hocking Valley ARA** member Allen Frederick, KD8YYM, recently became a silent key. He was a resident of Logan. Curtis Tackett, KC8KS, Franklin Furnace; Greg Barr, KD8UVU, Greenfield and Bob McFarland, N8ZDL, Hillsboro are now silent keys. **Athens County ARA** member Greg Weinfurtner, NS8O, of Albany became a Silent Key on March 3. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends.

Long-time **Cambridge ARA** member and officer Sonny Alfman, W8FHF, recently suffered a major medical issue. He has been transferred from a Newark hospital to the Embassy Care facility in Cambridge. I'm certain a card or note from his many friends would be appreciated.



Ohio's annual 'Ohio Weather Awareness Week' will be observed this year on March 15 through the 21st. On Wednesday, March 18 there will be a statewide Tornado Drill at 9:50 AM. This would be a great opportunity to conduct an impromptu net activation on a local repeater or on simplex.

Saturday, March 14 will be another morning full of amateur radio groups gathering for breakfast or coffee topped with a lot of good conversation. The morning kicks off with the **Bainbridge Hams** gathering at 8 at the Dutch Restaurant near Bainbridge. Then it's up US 50 to Hillsboro where the **Highland ARA** will hold their Brunch Bunch gathering at the Burger King at 10. If you still have not had enough food and chit-chat, you can continue your US 50 journey into the Cincinnati area where the **OH-KY-IN ARS** will hold their Brunch Bunch version at the Sugar n' Spice, 4381 Reading Road.

The **SouthWest Ohio DX Association** announces tickets for the 39th annual DX Dinner® (held in conjunction the 2026 Dayton Hamvention®) will occur May 15 at the University of Dayton Marriott Hotel. It starts at 5:30 with a cash bar and dinner is served at 7. Last year attendance neared 400. Tickets can be purchased on the <https://swodxaeventsorg/dinner-tickets/WSODXA>.

Tri-State ARA Vice President Nathan Thompson, AB8K, tells us the Club recently transitioned to the Laurel VE group with the first Laurel test session held in February. 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.

Speaking of test sessions and new hams, John Dunlap of Hillsboro is now KF8FVQ. John qualified for his license through a Laurel test session provided by the **DeForest ARC** in West Union. HARA provided him with an HT and yours truly had the honor being John's first contact. Congrats and WELCOME.

The **Highland ARA** will hold an "Introduction to Amateur Radio" on Sunday afternoon, March 15. It starts at 2 PM at the Hillsboro Global Methodist Church, East Walnut Street in Hillsboro. This introduction will mark the start of a class covering the Technician and General and will lead to a Laurels test session on Saturday, April 25. Walk-ins will be welcome. Excepting Easter, classes will be held 2-4 each Sunday afternoon. Check the HARA Facebook page for updates or email highlandara@gmail.com.

The annual **Athens County ARA**'s Technician License Class schedule beginning in January was affected by unusual weather conditions that caused a class cancellation. Therefore the test date has been rescheduled for March 23. Contact Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, for more information at n8suz@yahoo.com or 740-541-0972.

Also affected by the weather was the Wilmington National Weather Service's virtual Storm Spotter Training Session. The scheduled February 19 event had to be cancelled because of expected severe weather in the Clinton County area. However it is expected to be soon rescheduled. Check <https://www.weather.gov/iln> for a future date and how to register in order to participate.

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



Thanks to the WIOH LP Facebook page we learned of the recent **Clinton County ARA**'s road trip to tour the Voice of America Radio Museum at West Chester.

Until next time, please support your local club and be radio active.

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

<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>04/26/2026 - Athens Hamfest Location: Athens, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Athens County Amateur Radio Association Website: http://ac-ara.org Learn More</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>06/06/2026 - FCARC SummerFest Location: Delta, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club Website: https://k8bxq.org/hamfest Learn More</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>07/19/2026 - Van Wert Hamfest Location: Van Wert, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Van Wert Amateur Radio Club Learn More</p>
<p>08/01/2026 - Columbus Hamfest Location: Grove City, OH Type: ARRL Convention Sponsor: The Aladdin Shrine Audio Unit Website: http://www.columbushamfest.com Learn More</p>	<p>08/15/2026 - Cincinnati HamfestSM, ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention Location: Owensville, OH Type: ARRL Convention Sponsor: Milford Amateur Radio Club Website: https://cincinnatihamfest.org/ Learn More</p>
<p>08/16/2026 - Warren Hamfest</p>	<p>09/27/2026 - Cleveland Hamfest Location: Berea, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest</p>

Location: Cortland, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Warren Amateur Radio Association Website: http://w8vtd.com/hamfest Learn More	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 has resumed 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!