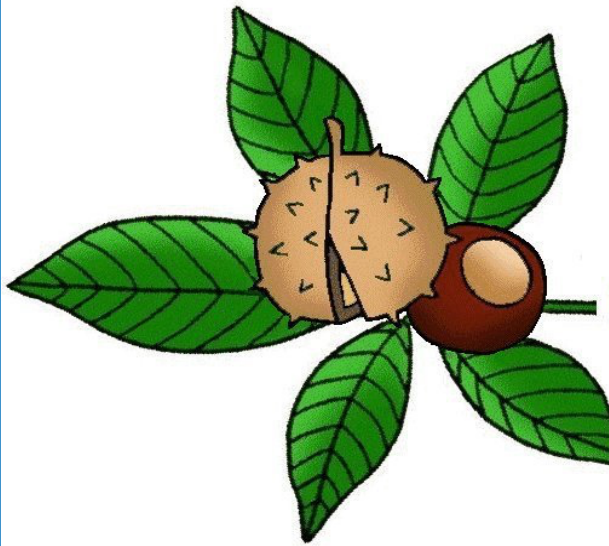


Ohio Section Journal

MAY 2026



Ohio Section

APRIL ONE QUESTION QUESTIONNAIRE

**DO YOU BUILD YOUR OWN
ANTENNAS?**

**Out of 79 responses, 67 said
“Yes”; and 12 said “No”. I
guess what we see from this is
that there are many reasons
folks get into Amateur Radio!
We have many interests in the
use of “RADIO” in our lives
that draw us all to this hobby.
Everyone’s reason is valid!**

**THIS MONTH’S “ONE
QUESTION
QUESTIONNAIRE” AKA
1QQ -**

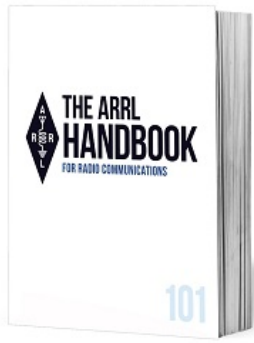
**GO TO THE WEBSITE
WWW.ARRL-OHIO.ORG TO
SUBMIT YOUR ANSWER!**

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



ARRL HANDBOOK GIVEAWAY

April Handbook Winner – Jeff Davis, N8ADX. Congratulations! Your handbook is on the way! There were 103 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.

ARRL FIELD DAY

ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June, more than 31,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations. Is your club getting ready and making plans for Field Day 2026? If your club is planning a Field Day event, make to registrar your FD 2026 site on the Field Day Locator page and your site may receive a visit from an Ohio Section official. <https://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator>



AMATEUR RADIO
FD ★ 26
A NATIONAL RESOURCE

Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator

Mat Nickoson – KC8NZJ, SEC
kc8nzj@outlook.com



Planned Events as Training Opportunities

We've probably all heard the term, "Spandex Watchers". It's the term often bestowed upon our ARES volunteers who choose to volunteer their time at planned events such as marathons and bicycle rides. It's a term often wielded by people who are of the opinion that as emergency communications volunteers, "spandex watching" is beneath us. It's sometimes paired with comments like "we train for emergencies, not <insert planned event of your choosing>"

Unfortunately, this thinking can be flawed. If ARES groups sit around waiting only for "the big one" the facts and statistics suggest that they will spend far more time waiting. And volunteers who aren't utilized tend to stop showing up.

So, where does this leave "spandex watching"?

Emergency Activation

- Net Control Station
 - A station set up somewhere near the served agency with sometimes permanent, sometimes temporary equipment depending on the location. Antennas, Radio, Computers, etc.
- Net Control Operators
 - Trained radio operators who are capable of operating a net control station, effectively controlling the information coming in and going out, relaying info to the served agency as necessary, and accurately documenting.
- Field Stations

Trained radio operators who are capable of deploying to a location, setting up their own radio equipment, and making contact with the net control station to relay appropriate information from out in the field. Obviously, there will be additional jobs depending on the emergency, but these should exist at almost every activation.

Next, let's break down the primary jobs that will exist with almost every single planned event.

Planned Event

- Net Control Station

- A station set up somewhere near the event organizer with sometimes permanent, sometimes temporary equipment depending on the location. Antennas, Radio, Computers, etc.
- Net Control Operators
 - Trained radio operators who are capable of operating a net control station, effectively controlling the information coming in and going out, relaying info to the event organizer as necessary, and accurately documenting.
- Field Stations
 - Trained radio operators who are capable of deploying to a location, setting up their own radio equipment, and making contact with the net control station to relay appropriate information from out in the field.

Are you starting to see the similarities yet?

It becomes very obvious that the equipment, skills, and processes utilized for planned events are actually IDENTICAL to those that will be utilized when an emergency activation occurs. Practicing with setting up at a marathon is a great place for operators to figure out what equipment works, what doesn't, and what's easier and more practical to transport and set up BEFORE an emergency happens.

Next, let's break down some of the kinds of documentation that will be required for both instances and compare.

Emergency Activation

Incident Action Plan (IAP) probably containing some of the following ICS forms

- ICS-201 Incident Briefing
 - Provides the Incident Commander (and the Command and General Staffs) with basic information regarding the incident situation and the resources allocated to the incident. In addition to a briefing document, the ICS 201 also serves as an initial action worksheet. It serves as a permanent record of the initial response to the incident.
- ICS-202 Incident Objectives
 - Describes the basic incident strategy, incident objectives, command emphasis/priorities, and safety considerations for use during the next operational period.
- ICS-204 Assignment List
 - Informs Division and Group supervisors of incident assignments. Once the Command and General Staffs agree to the assignments, the assignment information is given to the appropriate Divisions and Groups.
- ICS-205 Communications Plan
 - Provides information on all radio frequency or trunked radio system talkgroup assignments for each operational period. The plan is a summary of information obtained about available radio frequencies or talkgroups and the assignments of those resources by the Communications Unit Leader for use by incident responders. Information from the Incident Radio Communications Plan on frequency or talkgroup assignments is normally placed on the Assignment List (ICS 204).
- ICS-205A Communications List
 - Records methods of contact for incident personnel. While the Incident Radio Communications Plan (ICS 205) is used to provide information on all radio frequencies down to the Division/Group level, the ICS 205A indicates all methods of contact for personnel assigned to the incident (radio frequencies, phone numbers, pager numbers, etc.), and functions as an incident directory.

Again, the actual extent of forms utilized will vary based on the size and complexity of the incident.

Let's again compare this to what should be provided to volunteers working a planned event.

- A document summarizing the event, and what the overall objectives of our participation are.
 - Can be put in the format of ICS-201 and 202
- A document that lists each volunteer and their assignment
 - Can be put in the format of ICS-204 and/or ICS-205A or also included in the ICS-201
- A document outlining what radio frequencies volunteers will need to have accessible
 - Can be put in the format of ICS-205
- A list of all volunteers and how to contact them via radio and cell phone to be kept by net control
 - Can be put in the format of ICS-205A

With a little bit of work and preplanning, it becomes very easy to substitute your spreadsheets and word documents with applicable ICS forms. This helps you as an event coordinator organize your information better, make it more complete, and at the same time familiarizes you with the ICS forms that you are likely to see during an event. From the volunteer perspective, it gets them used to seeing ICS forms and understanding what kind of information will be contained on them, as well as how to properly utilize them, so that the first exposure to ICS documents is not in the middle of an emergency.

When you think about planned events as what kinds of skills and equipment are needed to be successful, and focus less on WHAT you will actually be doing, it becomes clear that they are probably one of the best training opportunities around. And best of all, we don't need to bother our served agencies to be involved in them. So, I encourage all ARES groups and volunteers to get out and watch a little spandex this summer. It will be a great low stress opportunity to hone your skills and equipment before it's too late and "the big one" happens. I would be happy to hear YOUR comments about what YOU would like to see from ARES. Feel free to visit the Ohio ARES site <https://arrl-ohio.org/ohio-ares/> and click "contact me" or utilize the contact form at www.n8esg.org and check out what we have going on in the Cleveland area while you are there.

Mat KC8NZJ

Ohio Section Public Information Coordinator

Elizabeth Klinc, KE8FMJ AUXC

ke8fmj@gmail.com

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

ARRL - The National Association For Amateur Radio



Repurposing Old Equipment and Mixing Old with New: My Hybrid Vehicle Radio Installation

Intro:

Not exactly the kind of article you'd expect from the Public Information Coordinator but hang in there until the end and I promise my point will be made. I actually wrote this up as I was preparing to submit my project to a Homebrew contest at a local club. When I hit the end and made my final point, I decided to come back to the beginning and write this intro and use it for my article, as well.

Article:

Part of this project happened a little over a year ago. Actually, the very beginning – the repurposing part - happened several years ago.

Since I was licensed, I always had cheap, new radios or HTs with external antennas installed in my vehicle. I'm not much of a rag chewer. I prefer my communication to have some sort of purpose – plus I just don't have that much to say! However, nearly 10 years now of working in Cincinnati suburbs, tends to make one re-evaluate all they need out of their vehicle and their accessories.

APRS was a must and I became fascinated with a setup where the standalone GPS unit displayed the callsigns. And heck, I had one of those Garmin Nuvi 350s circa 2005 sitting in a desk drawer unused because mapping updates had been discontinued for years! I was fortunate enough to obtain an older model (circa 2000, which isn't very old at all in the Ham Radio world!) Kenwood D700 mobile from a dear Silent Key friend. The D700 has access to the TNC but doesn't have a built in GPS like many of the newer D710 models. That worked for me because I wanted it solely to attach to an external GPS with screen for call signs.

To accomplish this goal, I need a translation cable that I purchased from Argent systems. Output is NMEA at 4800 Baud with GPRMC, GPGLL, and GPWPL sentences. In plain English, the language of the GPS. Waypoint



input is accepted in GPWPL or Kenwood proprietary format. So, a debatably older radio and now useless GPS unit were repurposed for a fun new way to travel.

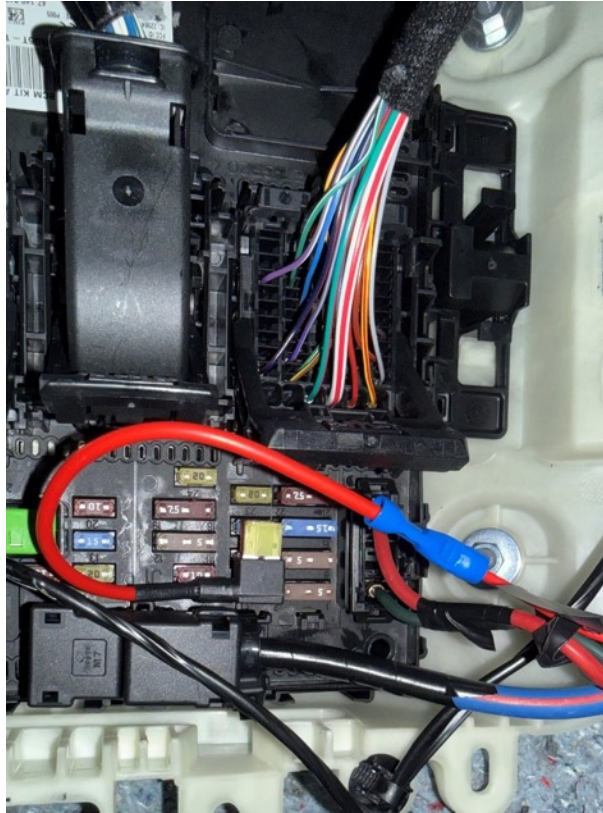
A little over a year ago, I purchased a lightly used Hybrid Ford Maverick. Thus began a whole new saga of how to install my repurposed setup in a newish technology vehicle. I should mention that I am horribly against drilling holes in cars...especially new ones! The 12-volt battery is underneath the backseat. That helps quite a bit in the hole department! Wiring new drains to such an important part of the newish technology, though? Latent drains? At that time, I went with an APO unit that had multiple small power off times that could be set. And

where to mount an antenna on a truck (yes, all you diesel fans out there, it is still a truck!) Again, I am aware that center roof is the best place. No holes and no mag mounts because I'm not scratching the paint. I've seen nice hood ones, but I didn't want it there when I just finally got rid of the broadcast radio one there. So I went with this simple but effective tail gate mount. Now as you may imagine, more and more bodies of vehicles are using aluminum. Not exactly great for grounding. So, I did upgrade my antenna, as well, to a more ground independent style dual band.



Is that the end? Not quite...

This February, exactly a year after purchasing my 2023 Maverick, it was in the dealership for an oil change. They just insisted on buying back my '23 and supplying me with a brand new leftover 2025 Hybrid Ford Maverick AWD. After some haggling, it was an offer I couldn't refuse. Luckily, a lot of the truck was the same, but there were some very big differences in how to mount the equipment. The vehicle screen more than doubled and removed some of the prior space. There is an accessory company called Mabett that supplies neat accessories for Ford Mavericks and Broncos. I have plenty of their pieces either in one or transferred between trucks. They make a specialized "phone holder" for the 2025 and 2026 Maverick versions that is unlike anything else on the market. The bracket slips on top of the large screen snugly and there is a rotatable arm on each side of the bracket. I thought this would work perfectly for mounting and I was right! The radio body is under the driver's seat, working well because the hand mic plugs in there and I set it in my center console. Also, I finally relented with a tiny hole in an inconspicuous place on a cheap part. Add a grommet and it looks factory installed! The APO was, in fact, a little goofy with the 12-volt battery, so a relay was made and attached directly to a spare fuse in the second fuse box under the glove box. All wires and mounting are hidden or internal making a VERY clean installation with no dangling wires!



Another fun thing happened with these installations. The Maverick Modifications are never done. That is a slogan and fits well with Ham Radio. There is an entire social media site devoted to the Maverick truck. In addition, there is an entire Facebook group for Mabett Maverick Accessories. I am a member of both and not only did my posts create excitement in both places for what to do with radio equipment in a Ford Maverick as

well as excitement for the accessory and what can be done with it, it also generated questions and involvement on what ham radio was and how to get licensed - proving that *you never know where public information coordination is going to be realized.*

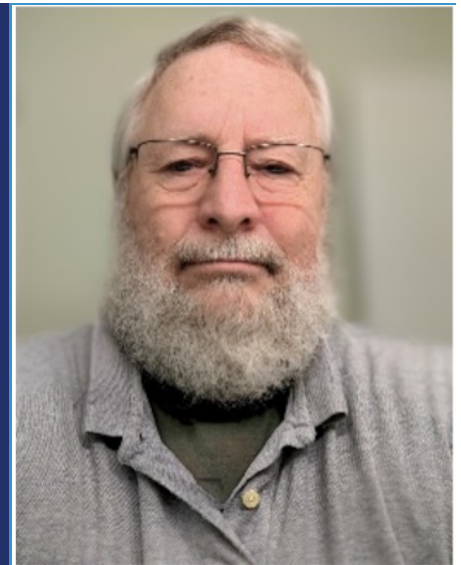
--

Elizabeth Klinc, KE8FMJ AuxC
OHIO Section PIC and ASEC
DEC, D3 Ohio ARES
AEC, Greene County Ohio

ARRL - The National Association For Amateur Radio™

Ohio Section Traffic Manager

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Hams Over IP #101918



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 4th of each month.** The QST deadlines have changed so I need to get my reports by the 8th of each month. Any reports after the 4th will be added to the next month's QST report.

ARRL Field Day: Scoring Big with Message Handling — Understanding the 100-Point Bonus Opportunities

Field Day isn't just about racking up QSOs or showing off antennas in a park. It's also one of the best opportunities each year to demonstrate the **public-service mission** of amateur radio. That's why the ARRL awards **valuable bonus points** for formal message handling — a skill at the heart of both ARES and the National Traffic System.

Two bonus categories often get overlooked, yet they're among the easiest to earn:

- 100 bonus points for sending a formal message to your Section Manager (SM) or Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC).
- 100 bonus points for sending a formal message to *any* third party.

Together, these represent **200 points** that every Field Day group should claim.

Let's break down what they mean, why they matter, and who you can send messages to in the **Ohio Section and Great Lakes Division**.

The 100-Point Message to the SM or SEC

ARRL Field Day Rule 7.3.5 awards **100 bonus points** for originating a formal message from your Field Day site to:

- The **Section Manager (SM)**
- The **Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC)**

Some clubs also include the **Section Traffic Manager (STM)** as a courtesy, even though the rule doesn't explicitly list that role. Many sections — including Ohio — welcome this as a way to strengthen cooperation between ARES and NTS.

Your message must include:

- Club name
- Number of participants
- Field Day location
- Number of ARES operators involved
- (Optional but encouraged) Number of NTS operators involved

The message must **leave or enter the Field Day site via RF** and be logged or copied for submission.

The 100-Point Bonus for Sending a Message to Anyone

Separate from the SM/SEC message, Field Day Rule 7.3.6 awards **another 100 points** for sending **at least one additional formal message** to any third party.

This message can go to:

- A public official
- A served agency
- A club member
- A friend
- A family member
- Another ham

- Anyone willing to receive it

The content can be simple — a greeting, a status update, or a short “Happy Field Day from ___ ARC!” message.

This bonus is extremely easy to earn and is often left on the table.

Who Can You Send Messages to in the Ohio Section?

Here are real, appropriate, and Field-Day-friendly examples of people your club can send messages to. These are **public ARRL leadership roles**, not private individuals.

Ohio Section Leadership

- **Section Manager (SM):** *Bret Stemen, KD8SCL*
- **Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC):** *Mat Nickoson, KC8NZJ*
- **Section Traffic Manager (STM):** *Dan Rinaman, AC8NP*
- **Assistant Section Managers (ASMs):** Various — any ASM is a valid message recipient
- **Public Information Coordinator (PIC):** *Elizabeth Klinc, KE8FMJ*
- **Section Youth Coordinator (SYC):** *Anthony Luscre, K8ZT*

Any of these individuals can receive a Field Day message, and many of them actively encourage it.

Who Can You Send Messages to in the Great Lakes Division?

The Great Lakes Division includes **Ohio, Michigan, and Kentucky**. Messages to division leadership also count for the “anyone” bonus.

Great Lakes Division Leadership

- **Division Director:** *Scott Yonally, N8SY*
- **Vice Director:** *Roy Hook, W8REH*

Other Valid Division-Level Recipients

- State Section Managers in neighboring states
- Section Emergency Coordinators in Michigan or Kentucky
- Section Traffic Managers in Michigan or Kentucky
- Any ARRL Cabinet member in the division

These are all excellent, appropriate recipients for Field Day traffic.

Sample Message Ideas

For the SM/SEC Bonus

“SENECA RADIO CLUB OPERATING 3A FROM SENECA COUNTY WITH 27 PARTICIPANTS. FIELD DAY SITE AT HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP PARK. FIVE ARES OPERATORS AND TWO NTS OPERATORS ACTIVE 73”

For the ‘Message to Anyone’ Bonus

“HAPPY FIELD DAY FROM THE SENECA RADIO CLUB WE HOPE YOU ARE SAFE AND WELL 73”

Short, simple, and effective.

Why These Bonuses Matter

Message handling is more than a checkbox — it’s a demonstration of:

- Interoperability
- Traffic-handling proficiency
- Emergency-readiness
- Cooperation between ARES and NTS
- The ability to originate, relay, and deliver formal traffic under real-world conditions

For clubs that want to strengthen their public-service identity, these 200 points are a perfect opportunity.

Final Thoughts

If your Field Day site is already running HF, VHF, or Winlink, you’re only a few minutes away from earning **200 easy points**. With a little planning — and a list of Ohio Section and Great Lakes Division contacts — your club can demonstrate real emergency-communications capability while boosting your score.

Print and Mail a Radiogram Postcard

ARRL — the national association for Amateur Radio™

RADIOGRAM

NAME: TO: RANDY FISHER K1TSP
2840 TR 182
FRESNO, OH 43024 US

FROM: DAN AC8NP

CLASS OF SERVICE: AC8NP

CLASS: 73

PLACE OF ORIGIN: FRESNO, OH

TIME: 1400 03

MESSAGE: (blank)

IF READY THIS IS A NEW SERVICE FROM THE NTS2 COMMITTEE X 73

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.

Virtual NTS Traffic Net

Many Technician class amateurs miss out on fun and skills traffic handling because they reside in areas of the country where local traffic nets on VHF repeaters don't exist. The Virtual NTS (VNTN) seeks to address this problem with the creation of a local traffic net that can be accessed by anyone with an internet connection.

VNTN will accept check-ins and radiogram traffic utilizing 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?

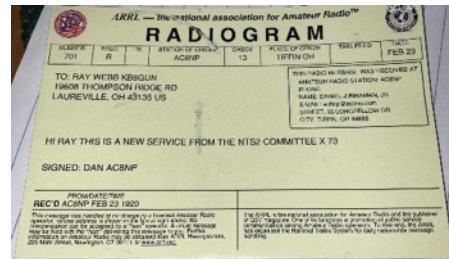
You've probably heard of amateur radio ("ham") operators, and you might know a friend, family member, or neighbor who loves to build radio equipment and talk to thousands of other ham operators around the world! But you might **not** know that amateur radio operators are primed and ready to step in and 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/>



learning of where local Training Net Zoom-based internet

standard



National Traffic System
 Traffic and Message
 Handling
 For Skill, Service, and Fun!



The ARRL got its start by organizing message delivery to get messages delivered efficiently, accurately to its destination by different radio stations. This tradition continues today using CW, voice, and digital.

- Why practice traffic handling?
- It teaches operator good skills.
- It gives you valuable skills in times of emergency passing health and welfare messages.
- You learn how to operate under adverse conditions without power.
- You create friendships and camaraderie.

Any license class can handle traffic even with a basic HT. Ask a mentor, club, or go to nts2.arrl.org for more information. There are nets you can join to learn and practice this skill. Consider Traffic Handling as part of your Ham Radio experience!

Ohio Section Nets

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

OHIO SINGLE SIDEBAND NET

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

OHIO HF CW TRAFFIC NETS

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

All CW net frequencies plus or minus QRM

OHIO LOCAL VHF TRAFFIC NETS

VHF NETS	NET TIMES	FREQUENCY	NET MANAGERS
BRTN	Monday, Thursday Saturday 9:30 PM	145.230 MHz PL 110.9	KD8GXL
COTN	7:15 PM DAILY	146.970 MHz PL 123.0	KV8Z

NWOATT	Mon, Tue, Thu, Sat at 07:30 PM	147.375 MHz PL 103.5	KE8VJP
ODMR	Monday 8:30 PM	TG 3139	WB8YYS
TCTTN	9 PM Sun, Tues, Fri	147.015 MHz PL 110.9	WB8YYS
TATN	8:00 PM DAILY	146.670 MHz PL 123.0	K8KRA

BRTN - Burning River Traffic Net (serving the Cleveland area and all North Central Ohio)

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

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

ODMR – Ohio DMR Net (serving Ohio)

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

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

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

NTS® Resources

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

[NTS 2.0](#)

[NTS Manual](#)

[NTS Methods and Practices Guidelines](#)

[Handling Instructions](#)

[Numbered Texts](#)

[Form Encoding Rules for Form](#)

Sign Up to Receive *The NTS Letter*

The NTS® Letter is published monthly and is free of charge to ARRL members. Subscribe: www.arrl.org/opt-in-out

Assistant Section Manager

Anthony Luscre, K8ZT – ASM

k8zt73@gmail.com



A Big Problem- “Readers & Needers”

Who are Readers & Needers? Well, you, the person currently reading this, are one of the Readers. The Needers, on the other hand, are those who could benefit most from the information being presented, but they will miss it because they are not reading this! So how can we solve this problem? It is up to you, the Readers, to pass the information on to you, the Needers.

How you can do this:

1. Forward the link to the Ohio Section Journal to them via email or text
2. Copy and paste the article into an email to them
3. Include links to OSJ, article reprints and other important Amateur Radio information on your club’s website, newsletter, etc.
4. Post and share links on social media
5. Provide information on how they can subscribe to be notified of the publication of AR news
6. Suggest they join the ARRL Ohio Section Facebook page- [link](#)

These are all important ways to share the information with the Needers, but just like you cannot force a horse to drink when you bring it to water, you cannot force a Needer to be a Reader even if you provide them a link to information.

So there are additional methods you might want to try:

1. Provide announcements about Amateur Radio news on your club's weekly net and your monthly club meetings
2. Speak directly to Needers who you know can benefit from the information
3. Become a mentor to one or more new or recent hams

2. You can use your favorite *[DX Cluster](#)* to watch for spots
3. On FT8 & FT4, you can use *[PSKReporter](#)* and enter W1AW/8 as callsign to view
4. Using the *[RBN \(Reverse Beacon Network\)](#)*, you can see CW activity

Dayton Hamvention®

It is only a few days until the biggest in-person ham radio event of the year-- the Dayton Hamvention. If you have never been there, you are missing out on a great adventure. I would like to invite you to a Forum I am presenting 9:15 - 10:15 AM, Sunday Morning of the Hamfest in Room #2-

“Ten Meters for Techs - Guide to Getting on HF for Newer Hams”. This is a great example of the Readers & Needers, as most of you reading this are probably already active on HF. So I need you to pass on information about this forum to your fellow ham friends, especially newer hams.

If you cannot make it to the forum, you can stop by to see me during the Hamfest at Fleamarket space #9904. If you cannot make it to the Hamvention, you can watch a previous video recording of the Ten Meter for Techs presentation at <https://youtu.be/GM973olPuwY>.

Summer Camp

The Youngstown State University College of STEM will host two weeklong **STEM Wireless Communication Day Camps** for rising 6th-8th grade students this summer. This is an excellent opportunity for youngsters, and I need you to get the word out to friends, family, schools and organizations. The brochure is below, but you can share it with others using this simple shortcut -

tiny.cc/ysu-wc. Please forward this link to anyone who might have students who would be interested.

Wireless Communication Camp

at Williamson Innovation Park

Youngstown State University College of STEM will host two week-long STEM Wireless Communication Day Camps for rising 5th—8th grade students **(Beginner): July 20-24** & **(Advanced): August 3-7**

tiny.cc/ysu-stem-camp



Do you
travels
Learn
from



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Through fun and hands-on activities, attendees will examine how radio works, learn different ways to use it, and get an introduction to the electromagnetic spectrum. Activities include building a Morse Code Key to take home, learning Morse Code, tuning in to radio signals from around the world, and demonstrating two-way radio voice, digital, and CW communication using Amateur (Ham) radio!

Camp is Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 3 PM. Registration closes two weeks before camp starts or when the camp is full, whichever comes first. Space is limited! The cost is \$175 per attendee, which includes all supplies, activities, take-homes and lunch. The Williamson Innovation Park is at 8399 Tippecanoe Rd, Canfield, OH 44406. We hope to see you there!

That's it for this month for me; I hope to work you on the air soon, maybe as W1AW/8 OH or meet you in person at Dayton Hamvention!

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



Technical Coordinator

Jeff Kopcak – K8JTK TC
K8JTK@arrl.net



Hey gang,

This article, in my AREDN mesh series, will discuss some of the concepts around network design and principles for creating a robust network. This is geared at event and network admins to determine a network layout before having many endpoint users participate. A network could be temporary covering a local race/event or a wide-area permanent deployment. These are taken from concepts detailed in the [AREDN documentation on Network Design](#).

Reviewing some common terms:

- **network throughput** (or throughput) – rate of successfully transferring data taking into account real world conditions including latency, congestion, overhead, and packet loss. Measured in bits/s or packets per second (pps).
- **bandwidth** – maximum potential capacity of a connection
- **high** (or increased) **latency**. Also referred to a latency, high ping, or lag. This is an increase in the time it takes for communication to travel from a source endpoint (laptop, phone) to the destination server and back. Latency in general browsing is seen as slower load times, video streams will see drop outs, stuttering, or delays receiving the stream real-time.
- **Radio link** – a path with at least two radios communicating back and forth
- **Fresnel zone** – an ellipsoidal region centered around a transmitter and receiver's direct transmission path. Diameter of the Fresnel Zone depends on frequency and distance.
- **Contention** – competition among other Wi-Fi devices to access shared channels

Planning. First and foremost, determine the purpose of the network. Is it temporary or permanent? Networks deployed short-term such as those used in day-long events or a training exercise versus long-term deployments will have different requirements. Short-term will require portable nodes with devices and computers operating from battery.

Long-term involves careful planning of network considerations and construction. Reliable power for high-profile nodes will include things such as backup power or generators. Nodes in harsher environments will require ruggedized equipment. Isolated nodes will need alternative sources for power such as solar. Analysis of the physical location as well as the RF environment should be completed as part of a [site survey](#) in a deployment. Not completing a site survey can result in unanticipated issues and poor performance.

Geography and terrain. Where is communication needed? Places and locations the network must reach will provide a foundation for the number and locations of nodes. Unique terrain challenges may require specialized types of equipment such as directional and higher gain antennas. Demanding terrain such as hills, peaks, and valleys are often better served with multiple relay nodes.

Expansion and growth. It might not be initially known how the network will expand and grow over time. Day-long deployments usually see a fixed number of nodes during the event. Mesh networks don't scale as more devices are added to the network. Increased latency or unusable parts of the network will cause a deployment to fail. I tend to look for already established communication norms as examples to help with design. A pre-existing logical breakdown used by officials or served agencies is a good place to start. It could be as easy as north & south regions or east & west regions of the county.

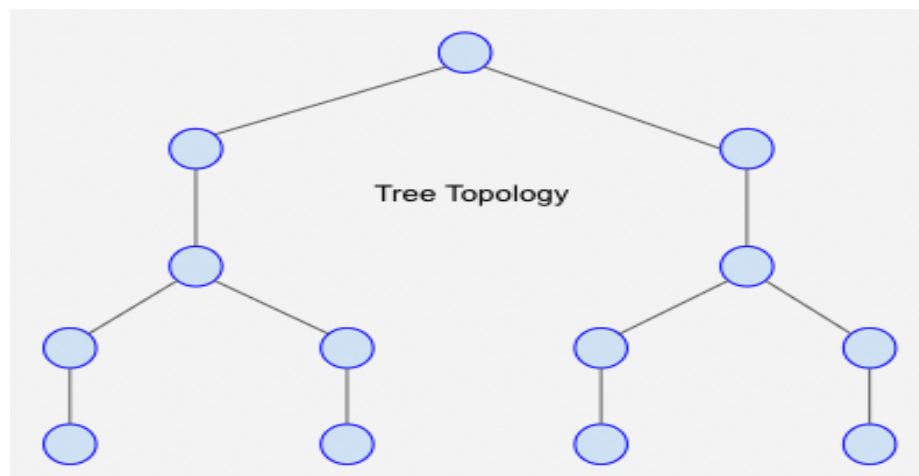
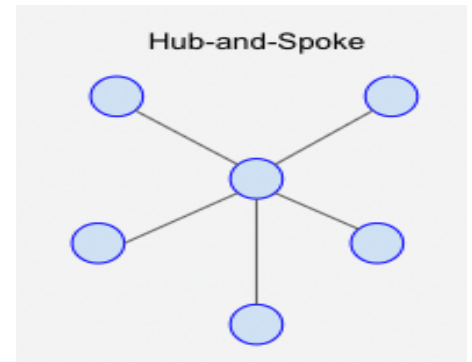
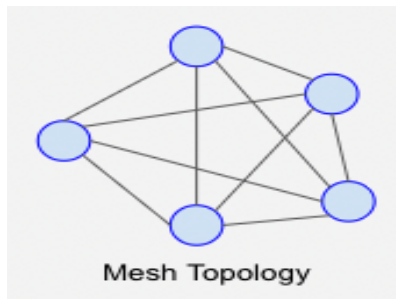
Where I live, Cuyahoga County, has a population of 1.2 million residents. It's divided into six regions: Cleveland, Westshore, Southwest/South Central, Cuyahoga Valley, Chagrin/Southeast, and Heights/Hillcrest. A design might include a couple backbone nodes which feed high-profile relay nodes in each of the six regions. This segments network traffic keeping it local to each region. Endpoint nodes likely need access to the same services as others in region which traverses the relay nodes at the network level. Backbone nodes won't see regional traffic unless an endpoint accesses resources in other regions. This design is known as a tree topology.

Applications and throughput. Services and applications which must be available to meet the purpose of the network. Each user will generate a certain amount of data traffic on the network when they access applications and services. As the number of users and simultaneous users increase so will the amount of data being passed on the network. Programs such as computer aided dispatch used for resource planning are not as demanding on the network. Compared to something like video cameras deployed for Skywarn use or video conferencing services for club meetings with the same number of users. Both can have a successful deployment with proper planning. Allowing only required services on the network keeps the network as simple as possible to meet the intended purpose.

AREDN nodes form a simple mesh network by default. Larger deployments should be arranged in a topology that meets the needs of the network. Common topologies include:

- **Point-to-point** – suited for moving data between far endpoints, using one or more intermediate nodes. One node going offline breaks the network.
- **Hub-and-spoke** – communication to outlying nodes funneled through a central location. Outlying nodes can go offline and the network will still function. However, the central node going offline will break network function.
- **Tree** – suited for segmenting network traffic to localized areas. This topology easily scales. A single point of failure can happen with intermediate nodes going offline resulting in branches being unavailable. Deploying multiple intermediate nodes will limit unavailability when other nodes fail.

Node type is determined by characteristics of the installation. These would be characteristics such as location, height, type of antenna system, redundancy of radio links, power sources, and coverage area. **Backbone** or backhaul links are permanent installations on mountain peaks, tall buildings, or high up on towers with very reliable power sources. These are often point-to-point links to other backbone and intermediate nodes, but can serve endpoint links as well. Backbone nodes operate over distances of 10 to 30 miles or more.



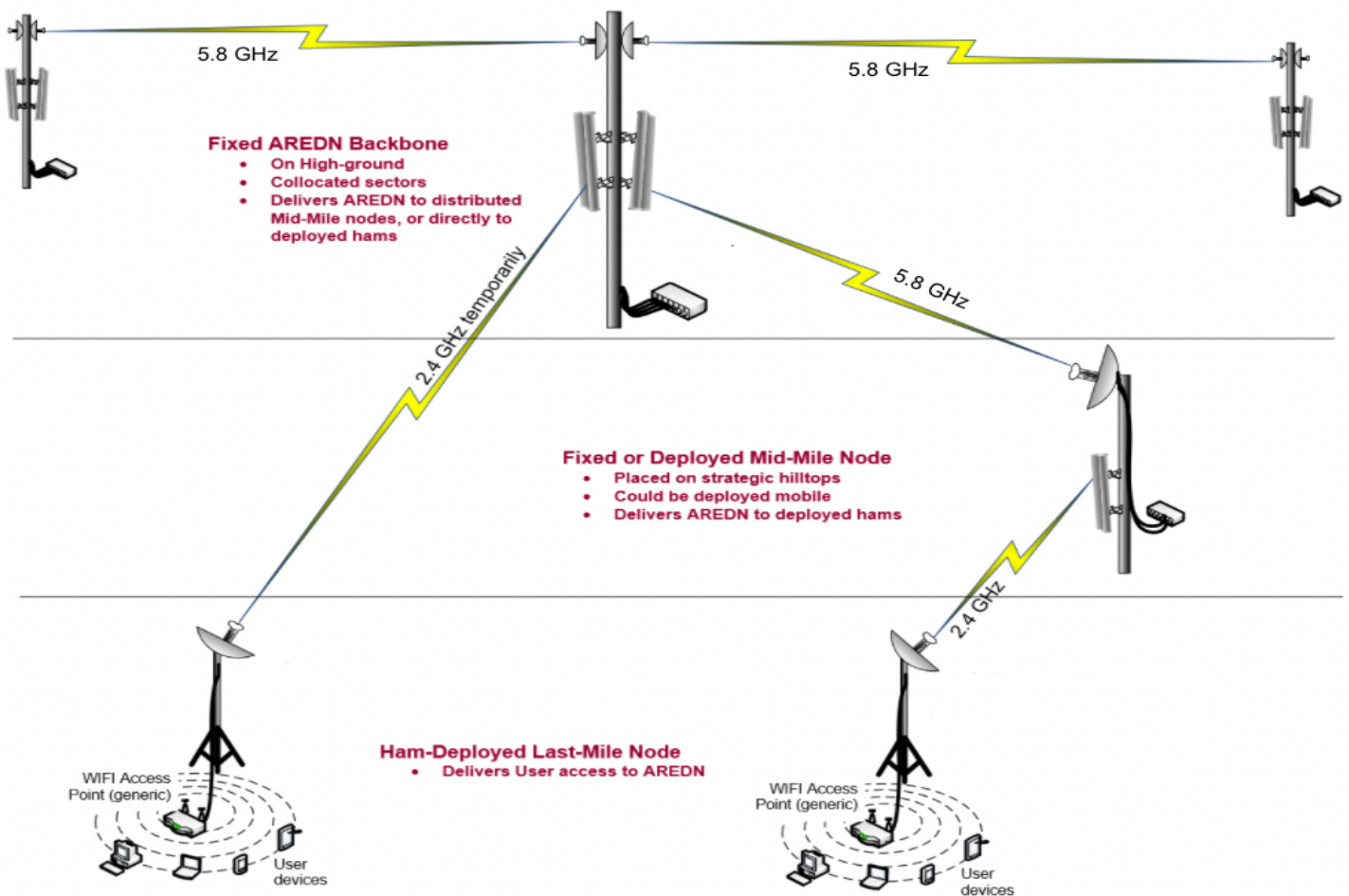
Common mesh topologies (arednmesh.org)

Relay links bridge the gap between backbone and endpoint links, also referred to as “intermediate” “distribution” or “mid-mile”. These are installed on medium height towers/buildings with good line of sight to backbone or other relay nodes. Relays operate over typical distances of 3 to 10 miles.

Endpoint, “end user,” “last mile,” “tactical”, or “ham QTH” nodes are installed by typical hams wanting to participate in the network or operated as portable nodes in short-term scenarios. These are far end devices. They can host applications and services or connect user devices to the network. Endpoint distances are 3 miles or less.

Wi-Fi access points have the ability to choose different channel widths – amount of frequency spectrum occupied by a channel. AREDN has options for 10 & 20 MHz in 2.4 and 5, 10, 20, 40, or 80 MHz for 5.8 GHz. Choosing smaller channel widths increases the number of available channels, reduces overlapping (interfering) channels, and increases quality on marginal links. Wider widths have less available channels, overlapping channels increases as well as interference potential, and less signal quality due to power distributed over wider spectrum. The advantage is higher data rates with wider channels. Choice of frequency band depends on network design and can be mixed and matched across the network. However, both sides of a radio link must use the same band, channel, channel width, and SSID (name of the Wi-Fi network).

Each side of the radio link must have a clear unobstructed path with a clear Fresnel zone in order to achieve reliable data communication. A Fresnel zone blockage of 20% results in some signal loss, 40% or more results in significant signal loss and an unusable radio path. Things such as trees, buildings, houses, planes, bridges, and nearby highway/traffic can disrupt a Fresnel zone.



Mesh nodes types (arednmesh.org)

For larger deployments to be sustainable and scale up when needed, channel planning becomes important to support the expected number of nodes. Poor network performance occurs when too many nodes are contending for the same shared resource. Wi-Fi is a shared half-duplex medium meaning one node can transmit at a time. When two stations key up on a repeater at the same time, they interfere with each other and often neither is heard. Same thing happens with data transmitters. Network throughput can be cut by one-third or more resulting in increased latency and re-transmissions. AREDN implements [IEEE 802.11a/b/g/n](#) standards and [Carrier Sense Multiple Access / Collision Avoidance \(CSMA/CA\)](#), listen-before-talk and [Request to Send/Clear to Send \(RTS/CTS\)](#), to assist nodes determining if a channel is busy. These are not a substitute for lack of planning.

One way to minimize the performance impact of many nodes is to create a channel plan. A channel plan identifies cells or small areas and frequency(s)/channel(s) to use with the intent of minimizing interference to the rest of the network. A degree of trial-and-error is needed to determine the best channels to use. Towers adjacent to other towers or cells need to use different channels to avoid poor performance.

Sites with multiple pieces of collocated AREDN or other Wi-Fi equipment (such as a mountaintop, tall building) can have performance reduced by half or more if multiple devices are using the same channel. It is beneficial to use wired Ethernet links between AREDN devices in these situations. Using wired Ethernet cables (and network switches if necessary) into the POE LAN port on each device will pass traffic over the wire instead of using airtime in a crowded environment. This is called Device to device linking (DtD). A low link cost is assigned to Ethernet links forcing routing to use Ethernet instead of an RF channel. DtD is the way to mix and match different nodes to the network.

Examples: nodes on different bands (900 MHz, 2.4, 3.4, or 5.8 GHz) and nodes with differing antennas (directional and sector antennas). DtD linking is best practice to minimize unnecessary RF communication, contention, and maximize network stability.

Latest AREDN devices utilize [MIMO](#), a technology which uses multiple transmit and receive antennas to multiply the capacity of radio links. Single polarity antennas can benefit by changing the orientation to achieve signal separation. Testing vertical antennas in a horizontal configuration or vice-versa validates performance improvements achieved dealing with issues such as a noisy environment.

Once the network is fully deployed, how will firmware upgrades be handled and tested on a large network? It will be fairly easy to keep backbone and intermediate node admins on the same page with regard to upgrading. End users will find it hard to lay off the “update now” button. Thanks Windows. This is of particular importance when significant changes happen in the firmware such as the deprecation and later removal of routing protocols ([OSLR in favor of Babel](#) starting May, 2025). Isolated nodes will be harder to repair if an upgrade fails because they’re at harder to reach sites

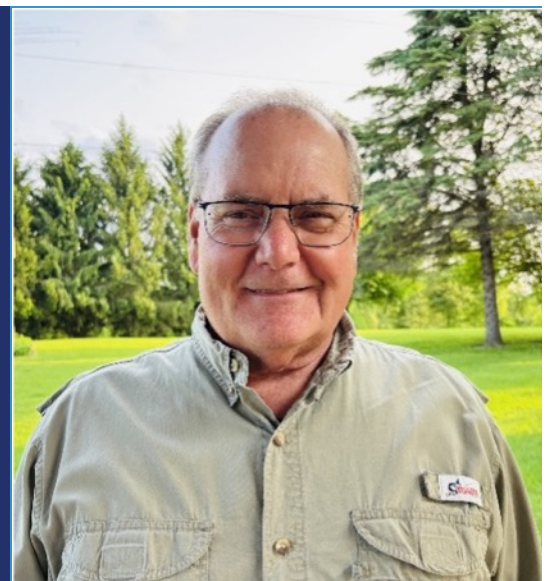
Proper planning will lead to a successful AREDN mesh network deployment. Documentation provides a list of [Network Modeling](#) tools to assist in planning. These tools help plan paths between nodes and links, estimate expected signal quality, display the Fresnel zone, and approximate node and network coverage.

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

Affiliated Clubs Coordinator

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Writing a short column this month as it has been busy and I have several items I am and need to work on and this message kind of got lost in my schedule. I hope everyone is having a good month, being “radio-active” and planning ham radio related events.

I am starting to feel like a broken record here, but there are still a majority of Ohio Affiliated clubs that have not completed their annual reports for 2026. Checking ARRL club records, I also still see that most clubs need to renew

their Special Service Club (SSC) endorsements. If you are reading this, at your next club meeting please bring this up and inquire if your contact person will take a few minutes to update the club information at <http://www.arrl.org/find-a-club> and renew your SSC at <https://www.arrl.org/ssc-application>. If you need assistance accessing your club's information or filling out the application, please let me know and I will assist.



This month starting on the 6th was Ohio's turn to be W1AW/8 on the bands. Did you or your club participate in activating this event? You could also be a hunter and contact the activators. I did a few hours on the air as one of the stations and had a good time interfacing with ham stations in the USA and worldwide. If your club wants to activate but were unable to this time, there is another opportunity starting August 12th. For more information contact Anthony Luscre at k8zt@arrl.net.



Has your club started preparing for ARRL Field Day June 26 - 28? I hope your organizer has listed your club's location in the Field Day Locator. <https://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator>. Last year I used this map to find Ohio Field Day locations I visited, and that is my plan again this year.

I attended the Cuyahoga Falls and TUSCO hamfests and got to talk to several people at each. I am not sure which hamfests I will get too next but will check the schedule and look forward to seeing what is for sale and talking to more Ohio based hams. Check the schedule on the Ohio Section web page (<https://arrl-ohio.org/hamfests/>) and get out there and support the clubs that put these on.



Last item I was told about a contest called the Club QSO Party. This event is scheduled June 20 – 21 and intends to celebrate each club's anniversary date. From the supporter's web page; "Members of other clubs would sign their callsign with /## indicating the age of the club they are affiliated with. We also encourage clubs to put their club stations (club call sign) on the air as well making this a large scale coordinated effort." The QSO Party would be a fun activity for Ohio section clubs to be involved in. Check out the information page - <https://sites.google.com/view/wwwclubqsopartyorg/home>.

Who is the most dangerous person in the world? A ham with an idea, some wire.... And a bow and arrow in his hand!

Till next month, Stay "Radio-Active" and Ham It UP!

73.

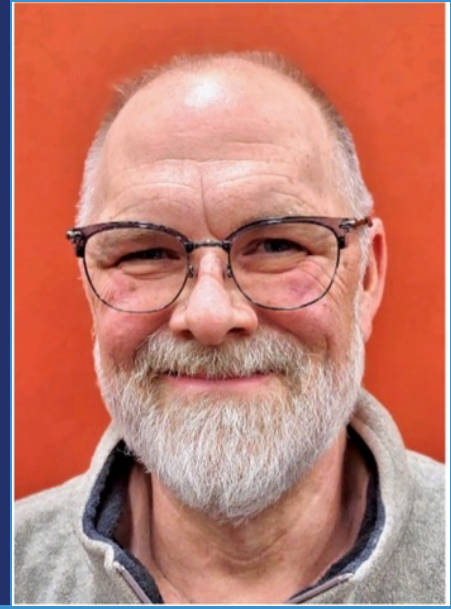
Terry, KI8N



Assistant Section Manager

Al Andress – KD8ZBS

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Maximizing Your Club's Community Opportunities

I thought I would take the opportunity to ask radio clubs how do you engage your community with our hobby?

Does your local club show up at the local outdoor festivals with a portable setup demonstrating radio communication around the globe? Or even at a local gun show or such? These opportunities, and many many others like these, serve to help with the promotion of Amateur Radio in our local communities and create an opportunity to increase our influence through the use of Amateur Radio in these communities.

The local Amateur Radio clubs have many opportunities to connect with our local communities throughout the year to provide assistance and educational awareness of what Amateur Radio is all about. And many times clubs are not able to seize those opportunities for a variety of reasons; one of those reasons could be a lack of available funds. We know that club membership fees barely keep the repeater on the air some years much less being able to accomplish anything else. I also understood that many may not have extra personal funds that could be used to help promote Amateur Radio, fear not, there are many ways available for the local club to help with the cost associated with their community outreaches. The idea of fund raising and local community grants comes to mind.

I get it; we are radio operators more likely capable of knowing the difference between a HT radio and an antenna; and not being a salesperson. But as in any effort that is worthwhile, the idea of promoting and marketing is necessary for the future of any organization. I believe that in every club there is at least one person who is not only a radio operator, but deep down they have that salesman gift of "gab" in them just waiting to be released.

It has been my experience in my community, there are organizations that WANT to help other organizations maximize their community engagement and are willing to assist them in doing so by making funds available to those organizations in order to make that dream become a reality. The work comes in searching for those who are willing, and approaching them to see what is required to seek their assistance.

If your local club has not taken the time to establish itself as a non-profit corporation now is the time to do so. Many may not realize that Amateur Radio Clubs can be incorporated as a non-profit organization for the purpose of educational and scientific experimentation. The non-profit status of an Amateur Radio club opens doors to access funding for its various community engagements that would not be available any other way.

I ask if there are licensed Amateur Radio operators reading this who are also an attorney and would like to help radio clubs in this pursuit, please reach out me so I may get your information in order to share with others as they may ask.

Start today looking at how your local club can be an asset to its local community, and take that next step to making it happen.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at. I look forward to hearing how your local club made a difference in your community.

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

John Myers, WG8X

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May 2026 OSJ Article

It's almost here; Hamvention! I spent far too many years skipping the pilgrimage, so now I try not to miss a single one. When scheduling my knee surgery, I told the doctor that anything before Hamvention was a definite no-go! How's that for dedication? HI HI

The weather has given us a few false starts over the last month, but hopefully things will stabilize soon. My antenna work for the season still hasn't begun, though certainly not from a lack of motivation. Last night was my first scheduled activation as W1AW/8, and wow, was it fun!

I made it to a couple of Hamfests last month; Tusco and Athens. I enjoy both of them, especially since they provide a good excuse for a road trip. The crowds seemed solid at each event. Of course, May means Hamvention season, and Four Days in May happens at the same time, making for a busy and exciting stretch on the calendar.

As we move into the first week of June, the FCARC Summer Fest in Delta, Ohio, will be taking place. I've never attended that one, but it's definitely on my list for someday.

You can find the schedule for all Ohio Hamfests at [ARRL Ohio Hamfest Schedule](#).

Why do I Hamfest? It's certainly not for the deals; after 45 years in the hobby, I already have more than enough gear! I Hamfest to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones. At Hamvention, I always try to make time for one

or two forums each year. This year, I signed up for Contest University. It's been a few years since I last attended, and I'm looking forward to it.

Of course, attending Hamfests is also a great way to support local clubs. There are so many good reasons to go out and visit your local events. If you haven't been to one in a while, give it a try; you may be surprised by how much fun you have.

And remember, if you're heading outdoors for a Parks on the Air (POTA) activation, invite a friend . . . or two . . . or three! POTA is a fantastic group activity. As I mentioned last month, many hams are curious about POTA but may feel more comfortable trying it for the first time alongside someone with a little activation experience. A simple invitation can turn into a great day of operating, learning, and fellowship.

That's about all for this month. I hope you have a wonderful May, get on the air, and maybe even make it out to a Hamfest or park activation.

Until next time, 73 de WG8X

DX This Month #358

Bill, AJ8B

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Welcome to the May 2026 edition of DX This Month. As this is now a monthly column, I will focus on updates from upcoming DXpeditions, results from recently finished 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* program which is available every Saturday morning at 1200Z. This 10-minute overview is available in podcast and YouTube format. Just search for The DX Mentor. 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, as well as a bi-weekly one hour show on DX. Check it out at www.w2phradio.com.

Are you attending Hamvention? If so, why not join DXers at two events. The first is the DXDinner® sponsored by the Southwest Ohio DX Association. The dinner is Friday night, May 15th at the University of Dayton Marriott. Details and tickets can be found at <https://swodxaevents.org/>. The Keynote speaker will be ARRL CEO, DXer, and DXpeditioner David Minster, NA2AA.

Your second opportunity is to stop by the DX Forum held on Saturday morning in Room 1. Brian, AD8FD, has put together a great lineup. The topics are “The 3Y0K Bouvet DXpedition”, 10:15 to 11:10 AM, “Desecheo 2026

DXpedition: The First All Solar Powered Unattended DXpedition in History”, 11:15 to 12:10 PM, and “Failures & Lessons learned from DXing in Adverse Conditions”, 12:15 to 1:20 PM.

I will be around those events as well as others. Track me down and say “Hello” – I’m 6’9” so you can’t miss me!

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

We have a quick summary of the **3YØK DXpedition to Bouvet**. The number of QSOs uploaded to clublog was 102,280.

LA7GIA, Ken Opskar, says that 3YØK was a very successful expedition “where we reached our goals.” The team is now safely back in Cape Town, South Africa. The 20-foot container has been packed for shipment to Texas “in anticipation of our next adventure,” 3YØL, Peter Island in 2027.

We also have a **Sable Island, CY0S**, Update. The CY0S team departed Sable Island on Tuesday morning, March 31, after 103,145 contacts with 169 DXCC countries. The team members are traveling back to their respective homes over the next few days. OQRS will be available this weekend.

The team would like to thank the Parks Canada Sable Island staff members for their outstanding support to the CY0S team. We would also like to thank Sable Aviation and Vision Air Services for transporting the team to the island.

Here is an update on the **S21WD DXpedition to Bangladesh**. The S21WD DXpedition has successfully concluded operations from IOTA AS-140, with the team safely returning to Dhaka after completing its primary objective.

During the 12-day activity period, the team reached a total of over 73,000 QSOs, exceeding the initial target of 70,000 contacts. This marks a strong operational result under challenging environmental and technical conditions. The team had the privilege to operate from Char Kukri Mukri, located in the very south of Bangladesh. Reaching this remote location required extensive logistics, including approximately 18 hours of travel one way within the country, using a combination of speedboat, tuk-tuk, cargo tricycle, ferry, and moped.

A special thank you goes to Apon S21ABO and Anup S21TV for their outstanding involvement and commitment throughout the project. Their local support was essential for both preparation and execution.

Following the return to Dhaka, the team is currently regrouping at the hotel. Additional updates regarding the QTH setup and further impressions from the island will follow shortly, including selected photos from the operation.

The team will now begin processing log requests. Once completed, the full log will be uploaded free of charge to LoTW, and OQRS via Clublog will be opened for all QSL card inquiries, as outlined on the expedition website.

3D2JK is now QRT from Fiji, with 3,300 QSOs logged, from 86 countries. He says band conditions were challenging. Rates increased quickly on the first two days, then it was a struggle the last two days. The last four hours, on 20, he was able to log only eight callsigns. He then got most of the gear packed, including the Buddihex antenna, for his flight out. During his last few hours, he actually was able to keep working JA on 6M.

Upcoming: Tokelau Islands DXpedition 2026

In January 2026 it was announced that members of the Perseverance DX Group (PDXG) and the Western Washington DX Club (WWDXC) intended to activate Tokelau ZK3. Planning for this project continues.

On April 3, 2026, we had a meeting in Auckland, New Zealand with our Tokelauan sponsor, additional project details were discussed. We will be on the atoll for the last 2 weeks of November 2026. The exact dates will be announced after the Tokelau Transport Office finalizes their November boat schedule. The operating location has

been selected and accommodations for the team were discussed. Also discussed were the details of a humanitarian project we're planning for the local school.

There are formal governmental meetings planned for November. We elected to be there after these meetings conclude. The meetings are part of an ongoing recognition of 100 Years of the Tokelau / New Zealand relationship. While the team is funding this project without a major fundraising campaign, we appreciate donations to offset the equipment shipping expenses and the humanitarian project.

Upcoming: Democratic Republic of the Congo 2026

The Callsign will be 9T0MD - first time the prefix 9T0 has ever been used. The Mediterranean DX Club is pleased to announce the organization of a major amateur radio expedition to the Democratic Republic of the Congo from September 30 to October 11, 2026.

The expedition will involve 14 international operators and will aim to activate amateur radio in one of the most sought-after countries in the world for amateur radio DXers.

Great importance will be given to traditional operating modes (human modes): CW & SSB. This choice will allow radio amateurs from around the world to contact the expedition even without the use of automatic digital modes, keeping alive the spirit of radio and manual operation.

DXpeditions are one of the most complex and expensive projects in the amateur radio world, but they allow thousands of radio amateurs around the world to connect rare countries and keep their passion for radio alive. Any contribution, large or small, will be extremely important to the success of the expedition.

Upcoming: 3Y/P - Peter I - The 3Y0L DXpedition to Peter I Island is planned for February 2027, involving a team of 19 operators. The group has secured a financial partnership with a private entity to share the expedition costs. In April 2024, the Norwegian Polar Institute granted the landing permit necessary for the amateur radio operation. Preparations are underway, with the 2026 3Y0K Bouvet Island DXpedition container of equipment currently being shipped to Texas for repacking before its final journey to the island. The team aims to spend about 20 days near Peter I Island, dedicating approximately 14 days to on-island radio activities. Departure is set for February 2027. <https://3y0l.com>

Hy-Gain and Cushcraft antennas have been sold. K5FLU, Martin F. Jue, president and founder of MFJ Enterprises, Inc., has announced the sale of the Hy-Gain and Cushcraft product lines, including antennas, rotators, and communication equipment, to ITU Corporation, an engineering and manufacturing company based in Indiana with 25 years of experience. According to news reports, ITU Corporation will repurpose the 15-acre Linton National Guard Armory site for this purpose, creating 20 to 50 jobs for the local economy. Jue said, "I am thrilled to pass the torch of these legendary antenna brands to Dave and Kambi Carpenter and their team at ITU Corporation. After nurturing these brands for decades, it was vital to me that Hy-Gain and Cushcraft, premier brands that have served radio operators and stations worldwide for generations, landed in the hands of someone who understands their legacy."



DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH DAH DIT DIT DIT DAH

CONTEST CORNER

Below is a list of upcoming contests in the “Contest Corner”. I think this is important for someone who is trying to move up the DXCC ladder since entities that are on the rarer side and easiest to work in contests. Some of my best “catches” have been on the Sunday afternoon of a contest when the rarer entities are begging for QSOs. Of course, 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
New England QSO Party	5/2/2026	5/3/2026
7th Area QSOP	5/2/2026	5/3/2026
Indiana QSOP	5/2/2026	5/3/2026
Deleware QSOP	5/2/2026	5/3/2026
New England QSO Party	5/2/2026	5/3/2026
SWODXA DXDINNER	5/15/2026	
SWODXA DXForum	5/16/2026	
Arkansas QSOP	5/16/2026	5/17/2026
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	5/30/2026	5/31/2026
Kentucky QSOP	6/5/2021	6/6/2021
All Asian DX Contest, CW	6/19/2021	6/20/2021
West Virginia QSOP	6/19/2021	6/20/2021

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!



DX BULLETIN

SB DX ARL ARLD018

ARLD018 DX news

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

RODRIGUES ISLAND, 3B9. Suvarna, VU3OPT, is QRV as 3B9G from grid MH10qh until May 20. Activity is on 20 to 10 meters.

JUAN FERNANDEZ ISLANDS, 3G. Felipe, XQ7IR is QRV as 3G0Z from Robinson Crusoe Island, SA-005, for approximately three weeks during May. Activity is on 160 through 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8.

KENYA, 5Z. Paul, MMOZBH is QRV as 5Z4/MMOZBH from Murang'a until June 15. Activity is holiday-style with a focus on 10 meters FT8, 20 meters CW, and SSB.

GUYANA, 8R. Aldir, PY1SAD, is QRV as 8R1TM from Georgetown until May 10. Activity is on all bands and 6 meters using CW, SSB, digital modes, and satellite.

TONGA, A3. Takio, JH3QFL, is QRV as A31AA from Nuku'alofa, Tongatapu Island, OC-049, from May 13 to May 22. Activity is on 80 through 6 meters using FT8.

THE GAMBIA, C5. Arnaud, F4AGG and Luc, F5RAV are QRV as C5B, C5C, and C5D until May 8. C5C is active on CW and SSB, while C5D is active on RTTY, PSK, and FT8 from the mainland.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, E5. Tom, K7TLM, and Leslie, KD7YZE, are QRV as E51TLM from Rarotonga, OC-013, until May 9. Activity is QRP on 28385 kHz, SSB, and 28060 kHz, slow CW, between 1900 and 0100 UTC.

FRENCH POLYNESIA, FO. Didier, F6BCW, is QRV as FO/F6BCW from Tikehau Atoll, OC-066, from early May until mid-July. Activity is on 80 through 6 meters using CW and SSB.

FRENCH GUIANA, FY. Ronan, F4LJA, is QRV as FY/F4LJA until June 5. Activity is on HF bands primarily

using FT8.

MINAMI TORISHIMA, JD1. Take, JG8NQJ is QRV as JG8NQJ/JD1 during his spare time until mid-May. Activity is focused on CW and FT8.

KANTON ISLAND, T31. Dom, 3D2USU is QRV as T31TTT until May 12. Activity includes CW, SSB, and digital modes.

ICELAND, TF. Rikk, WE9G is QRV as TF/WE9G from Borg, EU-021, from May 10 to May 19. Activity is on various bands using primarily FT modes with limited CW and SSB.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, TL. Joao, CR7BNW is QRV as TL8BNW until June. Activity is on 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters using SSB and FT8.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. Roger, EI8KN, is QRV as V49B from Basseterre from May 13 to May 21. Activity is holiday-style on the HF bands.

COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS, VK9C. Mark, VK6BSA, and Deena, VK6DEE, are QRV as VK9BSA and VK9DEE during free time until late May. Activity is on most bands using an FTDX-10.

BURKINA FASO, XT. Harald, DF2WO, is QRV as XT2AW from Ouagadougou until May 19. Activity is on 160 through 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT modes, as well as the QO-100 satellite.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. NCCC FT4 Sprint, Weekly RTTY Test, NCCC Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed Test, Flemish Windmill Contest, VOLTA WW RTTY Contest, CQ-M International DX Contest, SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, Canadian Prairies QSO Party, 50 MHz Spring Sprint, and 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint are all scheduled for May 8 to 10.

4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed Test, ICWC Medium Speed Test, OK1WC Memorial (MWC), RSGB 80m Club Championship SSB, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, DARC FT4 Contest, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops Test (CWT), VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Mini-Test 40, Mini-Test 80 is on tap for May 11 to 13.

Please see May QST, page 80, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites for details.

Club Corner

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

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

Send it to: webmaster@arrl-ohio.org



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 NCVET 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 “NCVET 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@mcacoh.org.

The Milford Amateur Radio Club (MARC)

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

Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society (NOARS)

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

Saturday Jan 3, Saturday March 7, Saturday May 2, Saturday September 5, and Saturday November 7. Sessions are held at the Fairview Park Library, 21255 Lorain Rd., Fairview Park 44126.

Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS)

The first Saturday of every even numbered month -10 am – at the PCARS club site in Ravenna. Please visit the PCARS web site and check out the information about VE testing in the latest newsletter at www.portcars.org . If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me (Jim Wilson – AC8NT) at jawilson@j3solutions.com

Tusco Amateur Radio Club W8ZX

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

Silvercreek ARA (SARA)

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

Watch for 2026 dates.

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

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

Your Club news should be listed here!

I know you're out there doing things! Send me a write-up (MSWord please) and some photo's (.jpg please) and we'll get your club hi-lited here for the other OH Section Clubs to see! Send to KD8SCL@ARRL.ORG

Important Links

ARRL Home: www.arrl.org

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

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

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

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

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

Email ARRL Clubs: clubs@arrl.org

Ohio's



As a youth you probably heard your parents saying “April showers bring May flowers”. And then you heard “May flowers bring pilgrims”. But now as an amateur radio operator you can state “May flowers brings Hamvention®”. Although Greene County is known for its wealth of agricultural



activity, Hamvention® is not a gathering of hog farmers! Instead Hamvention is the world's greatest spectacular gathering of amateur radio operators from all over the world. And what's great is that you don't have to travel days or great distances to get to it because it's right in our backyard. Some may consider Xenia, Ohio just a dot on the map known only for a tornado, but over 35,000 people find it each year. In 2024 35,877 people found that dot only to have 36,814 find it in 2025. It always amazes me that

someone from Australia found it and won a major prize by attending, but someone from the local area didn't even consider going. Hamvention is May 15-17 at the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia. If you haven't been in the past, try it. You might like it and then wonder what took you so long.

Speaking of Hamvention, beginning on Thursday, May 14 the world's largest gathering of hams interested in low power (QRP) operating begins with seminars and exhibits each Hamvention evening at the nearby Double Tree Hotel in Fairborn. The “Four Days In May” features well-known speakers, equipment demonstrations, a banquet and loads of prizes and is sponsored by the **QRP ARC International**. For more information check the www.qrparci.org website.

Bill Salyers, AJ8B, tells us that ticket sales for the 39th annual **SouthWest Ohio DX Association** DX Dinner® are on pace to exceed last years sales. He states ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA, will be the key note speaker at this years event. It is to start with a cash bar at 5:30 at University of Dayton Marriott Hotel on May 15. Last year's attendance neared 400. Tickets can be purchased on the <https://swodxaeventsorg/dinner-tickets/> WSODXA website.



In case you have missed all the campaign ads on the television, Tuesday, May 5 is election day throughout

Ohio. Since the usual **OH-KY-IN ARS** meeting place will be used as an Arlington Heights voting location, the Club has decided to hold their monthly meeting via ZOOM. It will start at 7:30. Their next in person meeting at the 601 Elliott Avenue town hall will be June 2

Besides repeater issues in Greenfield and Wilmington, the **Lancaster Fairfield County ARC**'s newsletter editor Ralph Howes, W8BVH, tells us the club's 146.70 repeater is off the air. Station Engineer John Hilliard, W8OF, indicates the age of the 30-40 year old machine has finally gotten the best of it. The **Hocking Valley ARC**'s Echolink link is having issues.

On April 14, the **Highland ARA** hosted a "Meet and Greet" to welcome Ohio's new ARRL Section Manager, Bret Stemen, KD8SCL, to one of his first trips into the Ohio South 40. The event also featured reports and comments from Bill Salyers, AJ8B, of the

Southwest Ohio DX Association; KF8CXR, Bill Sturgill, of the **Scioto Valley ARC** and the newly formed **South 40 Net** plus Wade Shrack, KA8MKA, and Alan Eldridge, N4MDT, from the **Clinton County ARA and 95.9 WIOH -LP**.



The newly formed **South Forty Net** is off and running and for a newly formed net it is doing well as told by Billy Massie, AK8KY. the net meets nightly at 9 PM with the **Scioto Valley ARA**'s W8BAP 146.85 repeater as the center of operations. The **Grant RC** Georgetown repeater and the **Portsmouth RC**'s repeater system are also tied into the activity via AllStar.

Last fall Wilmington's Rick-KD8DFH established a simplex net that met on Sunday evenings on 146.59. However his work load is such that he has decided to put the net on hold and anticipates reviving it on the first Sunday in September.



Scioto Valley ARC President Jesse Stanley, KD8CHP, invites all hams to join them on May 9 as the SVARA operates W1AW/8 from their clubhouse during the observation of America's 250th birthday. The clubhouse is located south of Chillicothe off of US 23 at the edge of the Scioto Trails State Park and Forest. The fun gets underway at 1. There will also be a cookout for those attending. RSVPs requested.

April was a very busy month for members of the **Athens County ARA**. Not only did they sponsor a hamfest along with a test session, but also provided communications manpower for three running or bicycle races. On top of that a physical business meeting was held (with a program) along with their monthly 2 meter simplex net. And who can forget their seven normal weekly nets on 10, 6, 70cm and GMRS? And these are only the beginning for what appears to be a very busy schedule of races, picnics and operating events for the remainder of the year.

April had reports of at least four South 40 clubs conducting non-monthly test sessions and/or classes. The Adams County **DeForest RC** conducted a VE session on April 9 and had Hillsboro's John Dunlap, KF8FVQ, come away with his General. April 11 saw the **Tri-State ARA** have another of its highly successful test sessions at the radio museum in Huntington, WV. On the 25th the **Highland ARA** concluded its Technician/General class with a VE session. Marilyn Mathews passed her Technician and is now KF8GLG. Three Techs upgraded to General and two Generals passed the Extra. The following day the **Athens County ARA**'s hamfest took place with some upgrades and new licenses. Check this newsletter's test location list for those clubs which offer a monthly test session.

On the hamfest front, several hams from the South 40 region are volunteers for Hamvention's Friday and Saturday test sessions. Most work behind the scenes but you find folks from the **Clinton County ARA**, **Highland ARA**, **Portsmouth RC** and others checking IDs, handing out the tests, grading and various other tasks involved with giving over 300 tests. It always is heart warming to see the joy of a new ham or one upgrading as they realize they are taking home a priceless Hamvention souvenir. Hamvention Chairman Chris Jebens, KZ8XU, and his VE committee are always looking for new volunteers to assist. Testing is not the only function needing volunteers during the event as several other Southern Ohio hams assist with responsibilities. Some drive the golf carts while some work building and/or flea market security. Others man the prize booth or work with set up and tear down. Whatever your talent, you can probably find a place to assist. If interested, check the www.hamvention.org website for information.

The **Tri-State ARA** has received notification of its August 2 hamfest is now approved as an ARRL sanctioned event. It will be held at the New Baptist Church, 610 28th Street, Huntington, WV. Flyers and more details should be known in the near future. Just down river, the **Portsmouth RC** also received notification of their August 22 hamfest in Wheelersburg receiving the ARRL nod.

Saturday, May 9 sees another enjoyable morning of amateur radio groups gathering in their communities for breakfast, coffee and a lot of good conversation and fellowship. The morning begins with two clubs gathering at 8 AM. The **All Things ARC** meets at the Scrambler Restaurant at 1377



Ety Road in Lancaster while the **Bainbridge Area Hams** gather for mush and other Amish delights at the Dutch Restaurant near Bainbridge. Hopefully the weather will be pleasant enough to let the **Highland ARA** start their summer series of Brunch Bunch and business meetings at 10 at the Hillsboro Liberty Park Harmony Lake shelter house. If you still have not had enough food and chit-chat, the end of the HARA gathering should

still leave you with enough time to continue your US 50 journey into the Cincinnati area where the **OH-KY-IN ARS** will hold their 1 PM Brunch Bunch version at a location yet to be announced. The **Fayette ARA** will hold their monthly breakfast on May 16 at the Our Place Restaurant in Washington, CH.

The world's largest operating event is the ARRL's Field Day. It will be here before you know it. A good number of South 40 region clubs have their plans well underway. The **Scioto Valley ARC** intends to operate from the Pike County EOA office near Waverly. The **Highland ARA** is moving from the uptown Hillsboro site of previous years to the Rocky Fork State Park Fisherman's Wharf. The **Athens County ARA** will operate in the 2F Emergency Operations Center class from the Red Cross Building in Athens. The Club is going to operate a GOTA station and apply for a special 1x1 callsign. The **Portsmouth RC** will operate from a location near Minford. The **All Things ARA** will be on the air from the Alley Park in Lancaster. The **Tri-State ARA** will return to the Tri-State Fire Training Academy, 4200 River Road, Huntington, WV. The **Cambridge ARA** will hold their exercise at the Highland Township Grove Park near Bloomfield. The Cincinnati area will be represented by the **Queen City Emergency Net's** operation from the Dana Avenue Red Cross Building while **OH-KY-IN** will operate from the Mitchell Memorial Forest.

The May QST lists the passing of Dan Wells, AC8BU, of Wheelersburg.

The **Hocking Valley ARC** kicked off their 2026 Fox Hunt season on April 18 with their first hunt of the year. Phil Stanley, W8NZB, found the critter in short order. It took him only 50 minutes.



On May 16 the **Cambridge ARA** will assist the Guernsey County Crossroads Marathon by stationing members along the race route.

Our region is the new home for a repeater in the region. Located at South Portsmouth, KY the KG4DVE is currently in the test mode and looking for coverage reports. It is on 147.33 using a 107.2 tone.

Two Highland County hams were recent winners of amateur radio club drawings. Cathy Williford, K8IYO, was the winner of the March *ARRL Handbook* Ohio Section Journal drawing and Steve Stuckey, AC9GK, was the winner of a handgun raffle conducted by the **Portsmouth RC**. The **Hocking Valley ARC** has an interesting fund raising raffle currently underway. It is a basket of rather hard to get bourbons. See the attached flyer for details about the prize, ticket(s) cost and how you can purchase tickets.



In late March the Meigs County **Great Bend Radio Group** and the **Mid Ohio Valley ARC** from Gallia County combined efforts to assist the Middleport Business Alliance's 5K bridge walk. On April 25 the **Bellbrook ARC** assisted the Bellbrook Sugar Maple Festival by providing parade line-up assistance and communications.

Although no verification has been received, it is assumed the Lawrence County **Southern Ohio ARC** will be assisting with the Ironton Memorial Day Parade on May 23. This is the oldest Memorial Day Parade in the nation. Weather permitting, on May 10 the **Highland ARA** will place flags on the graves of the approximate 1,100 veterans buried in the Hillsboro cemetery.

June 6 will be the kick-off of the annual **Clark County (WA) ARA** Lewis and Clark Trail on the Air special event operation. Again the **Portsmouth RC** and the **Highland ARA** are the two clubs authorized to activate Ohio for the event. The objective of this two week long event is to work one authorized activator in each of the 16 states along the Trail in order to qualify for an attractive certificate. More detailed information about this event sponsored by the is available at www.lctota.org. This is a great event to recognize a important part of American history during our 250th birthday.



I really thought there would not be that much to report in this column. However I have been proven wrong for whatever reason or reasons. Until next time, please support your local club and be radio active. And for good reason, do not forget those special ladies in your life on Mothers Day.

John, W8KIW

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

National News *(from ARRL and other sources)*

NCVEC Question Pool Committee Issues Revision to 2026 - 2030 Technician Pool

04/28/2026

This announcement was originally published in the ARRL Letter on February 19, 2026. ARRL members can subscribe to the weekly ARRL Letter at www.arrl.org/opt-in-out.

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) released a February 19, 2026, revision to the new 2026 - 2030 Technician Class question pool. Questions drawn from that pool are valid for Amateur Radio License exams given on, or after, July 1, 2026.

The revision includes minor wording clarifications to four questions in the pool. The revised questions are:

- T1C01
- T5A05
- T7A09
- T0A10

These updated questions have been incorporated into the published Technician question pool documents and are available on the NCVEC website at www.ncvec.org/index.php/2026-2030-technician-question-pool. The 2026 - 2030 Technician question pool will be in effect from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2030. The current Technician Pool is only valid through June 30, 2026.

The ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC) advises the amateur radio community to regularly check the NCVEC website at www.ncvec.org for updates to the question pools, which may include errata and withdrawn questions.

The NCVEC is a not-for-profit voluntary association, with membership comprised of the various Federal Communications Commission (FCC) certified Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs).

FREE ARRL EVENTS APP NOW LIVE FOR 2026 DAYTON HAMVENTION®

05/01/2026

Make the most of your time at Dayton Hamvention® with the free ARRL Events app. Hamvention is the world's largest annual gathering of radio amateurs, and will be held May 15 – 17 in Xenia, Ohio. There is a lot to do and see. Use the ARRL Events app to make sure you don't miss a beat and plan out your visit now. The ARRL events app is produced by ARRL The National Association® for Amateur Radio in partnership with Dayton Hamvention.

The app includes Hamvention's full program, so you can browse and schedule forums, preview the extensive list of exhibitors, and find affiliated events. During the event, attendees can use other app features to follow the hourly prize drawings conducted by the Dayton Hamvention Prize Committee and browse building and site maps.

Those going are also encouraged to tap on the MyProfile icon in the app to add their name and call sign, email address, and any additional information they would like to share with other Hamvention guests. The MyBadge icon displays a QR code of your event badge that can be scanned by another attendee or exhibitor using the Scan Badge icon – instantly connecting shared contact information with other hams at the event.

The app is available for Apple and Android smart devices. You may also access the web browser version, which is optimized for nearly any browser or other type of mobile device.

Download the app at www.tripbuildermedia.com/apps/arrl (or use the web version).

For more information about 2026 Hamvention, visit hamvention.org.

Ohio Hamfests 2026

We do have Hamfests Scheduled



<p>5/14/2026 - 05/17/2026 FOUR DAYS IN MAY Location: Fairborn, OH Type: ARRL Hamvention 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 INTERCITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB HAMFEST Location: Ontario , OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Intercity Amateur Radio Club Website: http://W8WE.ORG Learn More</p>	<p>07/19/2026 - <u>Van Wert Hamfest</u> Location: Van Wert, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Van Wert Amateur Radio Club Learn More</p>
<p>08/01/2026 - <u>2026 COLUMBUS HAM FEST</u> Location: Grove City, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: 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 Hamfest / Division Convention Sponsor: Milford Amateur Radio Club Website: https://cincinnatihamfest.org/ Learn More</p>
<p>08/16/2026 - <u>Warren Hamfest</u> Location: Cortland, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Warren Amateur Radio Association Website: http://w8vtd.com/hamfest Learn More</p>	<p>08/22/2026 - PORTSMOUTH RADIO CLUB 2026 HAMFEST Location: Wheelersburg, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: ARRL, Jett Fire Equipment, Shawnee Computer, 1776 Guns and Ammo Website: https://www.portsmouthradioclub.com Learn More</p>

<p>09/13/2026 - FINDLAY HAMFEST Location: Findlay, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Findlay Radio Club Website: http://findlayradioclub.org Learn More</p>	<p>09/27/2026 - CLEVELAND HAMFEST Location: Berea, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Association of Cleveland Website: https://www.HAC.org Learn More</p>
<p>10/10/2026 - WILLIAMS COUNTY ARA HAMFEST Location: Montpelier, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: WCARA Website: http://ka8ofe.weebly.com Learn More</p>	<p>11/01/2026 - 2026 MASSILLON ARC HAMFEST AT MAPS Location: N. Canton, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Massillon Amateur Radio Club Website: http://w8np.net Learn More</p>

69th Annual Largest Hamfest in the Tri-State Area

\$ BreezeShooters I

HAMFEST / ELECTRONICS / COMPUTER SHOW

Web Site: <http://fwww.breezeshooters.org>

Email: hamfest@breezeshooters.org

8am-2pm (vendor setup Saturday 2pm-8pm, Sunday 6am-8am)

625 Evans City Road, Butler, PA 16001
(same as last year!)

- Site of the 2026 ARRL WPA Section Convention
- Indoor and Outdoor Flea Market spaces available — email for info
 - o Spaces \$15 each(20'x30'); Also limited indoor; email:fleamarket@breezeshooters.org
- Numerous Educational FOPHIOS (watch www.breezeshooters.org for schedule)
- Vendors and Sponsors for 2025 and/or 2026 include: HF Enterprises, Quick Silver, KH Electronics, ICOM, DX Engineering, Radioddity, Reliance Antenna, 4 States QRP,

ARRL, N3ZN Keys, Armoloq, Arrow Antenna, Bioenno Power, Digirig, Easy Way Ham Books, Elecraft, &alibut Electronics, Hammond Manufacturing, Heil Ham Radio, Isotron Antenna, KB3IFH QSL Cards, Messi & Paolini, MPD Digital, N3FJP Software, Penta Labs, RT Systems, Satellite headquarters, Signalink/Tigertronics, **Smiley Antenna**, Sulley Electronics, Time Microwave

- YE License Testing for all Amateur Classes
 - Starts 8:30 am
 - First Testing Fee for each Candidate is paid by Friends of Andy Pato, K3MOB / WA3PBD
- ARRL DXCC Card Checking and Bureau representatives
- Live Demonstrations of the WEARS EMCOMM Mobile Unit Ver26A1
- BreezeShooters Awards Presentations

Need Info: hamfest@breezeshooters.org
 Talk-in will be on the 147.360(+) Repeater-pf UJ.8
 Watch <http://www.breezeshooters.org> for details.

If using a MAPPING APP on your phone, be sure to query “BUTLER FARM SHOW GROUNDS — Butler PA”

<u>ADVANCED MAIN PRIZE TICKET SALES</u>						
Main Prizes Drawing Each	\$2	3 for \$5	7 for \$10	15 for \$20	40 for \$50	90 for \$100
Main Prizes Total OVER \$5000 VALE		Limited Time Incentive: Buy \$50 get Admission Ticket, Buy \$100 We'll fill out tickets plus get Admission Ticket				
ENCLOSED CHECK \$ IN THE AMOUNT OF:		Send a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope to: Advance Ticket Sales, Breezeshooters Hamfest PO Box 101018, Pittsburgh, PA 15237				
Make check Payable to Breezeshooters, Inc. Mail Deadline is May 18, 2026. Ticket Stubs returned in your SASE!						
NAME:		CALL:		PHONE: () -		
ADDRESS:						
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:	EMAIL :			



Swap & Shop

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...

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

Register Now for the 2026 ARRL Youth Rally at Dayton Hamvention®

Get ready for amateur radio's biggest annual gathering! [Dayton Hamvention®](#) 2026 is May 15 – 17 at the Greene County Fair and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio.

Among the activities taking place is the [ARRL Youth Rally](#), returning on Saturday, May 16. The rally is designed for students ages 11 to 21 and offers a great opportunity to connect with other young hams. Youth Rally activities will be led by ARRL Director of Education and Learning Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, and volunteers from the ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Program (CARP).

[Advance registration](#) is recommended. While Hamvention admission is already free for students (high school and younger), the \$20 Youth Rally registration fee includes a T-shirt (to be worn on Saturday), badge and lanyard, reusable tote bag, and a complimentary three-day Hamvention admission ticket (Friday through Sunday).

Students will enjoy an afternoon of hands-on activities, learning, and fun. Highlights include satellite communications, a short sprint contest, a fox hunt, and a chance to make contact with a parachute-mobile station. Attendees are encouraged to bring a 2-meter handheld radio if you have one. The Youth Rally will be followed by the ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Meetup. For more information about the Youth Rally and registration, and to find other ARRL activities and exhibits at Hamvention, visit www.arrl.org/dayton-hamvention-2026. For Hamvention information and general admission tickets, visit hamvention.org.



Print an Official or Unofficial Copy of Your Radio License

(By Anthony Luscre, K8ZT)

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

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

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

Amateur

paper license
Commission
Radio license
Universal
paper license
they prefer to

authorization
License
request an

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE			
KE3GK			
John Q. Amateur 123 Maple Avenue Anytown, State 12345			
FCC Registration Number (FRN) 000000000			
Special Conditions / Embroiderments			
NONE			
Grant Date	Effective Date	Print Date	Expiration Date
01/01/2008	01/01/2011	01/01/2008	01/01/2011
File Number	Operator Privileges	Station Privileges	
000000000	Advanced	FEDERAL	
THIS LICENSE IS NOT TRANSFERABLE			
<i>John Q. Amateur</i> (Licensee's Signature)			FCC 000 - Mar 2007

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

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!



Final...Final



April was a busy month for me as I attended several hamfests and club meetings. I was invited to the Highland County ARA for a meet and greet. Thank you HARA for your hospitality and the invitation to speak to your club, I had a great time. May is going by pretty fast, it's hard to believe that Hamvention 2026 is just a few days away and my calendar is filling up fast. I was able to attend the Lucas Co. ARES Hamfest on the 2nd, they had a good turn out and I really enjoyed the time that I had to speak several of the attendees. I am looking forward to attend Hamvention this year as the Ohio Section Manager and to be able to speak to everyone that stops by the Great Lakes Division Booth.



I had the pleasure of being a part of the Delaware Co, Franklin Co and Ohio EMA communications Drill at the Ohio EOC (The SARGE). Thank you OEMA, Franklin Co and Delaware Co. for allowing the SARGE to be a participant in the drill. We discovered a couple of small areas that we need to work on at the SARGE.



Most clubs and ARES groups are already planning for Field Day 2026, I am planning on getting out to visit as many FD sites as I can. Is your club or ARES group working on FD 2026 plans?

Now it's time to start figuring out which hamfests to get to in 2026. Have you gotten your tickets for HAMVENTION 2026! If you haven't, you can get your ticket at the ticket booth upon arrival. 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