



# December Edition



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## THE TECHNICAL COORDINATOR

Jeff Kopcak – TC

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Hey Gang,

I'm touching on a third-rail topic of ham radio this month, licensing and education. I've heard any number of hams state something like this about new hams: 'ham's today only study the answers to pass the test.' 'I don't like so-and-so's teaching method because their students don't know anything.' They don't approve of the "boot-camp" style training sessions for many of the same reasons. Certainly, their thinking is one school of thought: learn the question pools, know the reasons, learn the theories and be able to provide reasonable explanations before taking the test.



I saw a presentation by Dan Romanchik – KB6NU on the Ham Radio 2.0 podcast (<http://www.livefromthehamshack.tv/2017/05/25/episode-97-teach-1-day-technician-class-kb6nu-dayton-hamvention/>). His presentation caught my attention because he publishes the "No Nonsense Study Guides" (<http://www.kb6nu.com/study-guides/>) which is a text-book approach to learning the question pools. Dan is



sold on and teaches one-day Technician training classes (also called "Ham Crams" or boot-camps). He teaches the answers to the questions and teaches to the test. At the end of the class, follows up with the Technician exam. Why? To get people into the hobby. As a Volunteer Examiner, I can appreciate that. Getting people into the ranks is always important. Dan claims students will learn something from his class and retain at least enough information to pass the exam. This means students don't have to make multi-week commitments to attend class. How often does something come up in real life during a 6-week training class? More often than you'd think. Our school systems have been teaching to standardized tests and college

entrance exams for decades. Iowa Tests, SATs, and ACTs anyone? The reason for Dan's teaching methodology is because the real learning happens on the radio.

After watching his presentation, I realized this is exactly how I learned things in ham radio. When I was studying, my dad mentored me with electronic theory because that is his area of education and he worked in the industry. Electronic theory wasn't necessarily something I cared a whole lot about as a freshman in high school. I knew the Part 97 FCC rules from seeing him operate or explaining them to me and from generally being around the hobby. His interests didn't cover the HF bands. Even by the time I took my General and Extra, I probably couldn't hit 40 meters with a shotgun. When the opportunity came and I found myself interested in HF, that changed. Being around mentors and absorbing everything I could, I think, made learning the material on the General exam easier. That learning happened over the better part of a decade after taking my Novice & Technician exams and when I decided to upgrade to General & Extra.

Ham Radio isn't the only hobby where you receive a license to learn. A roommate in college had his pilot's license. He was always taking aviation classes and getting flight hours in between his other classes. You have to get a pilot's license even before you can begin learning to fly an aircraft. The State of Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles requires an applicant for learners permit to pass a knowledge test about regulations and traffic signs. Then the real learning begins - hours of driving and education. Ham radio isn't necessarily different. Sure, many students will get their license and may not ever become a pilot or ever get on the air, but that's up to them. I believe the ARRL was trying to accomplish something similar by exploring an introductory license: <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-board-explores-entry-level-license-options-ways-to-face-future-challenges>



Hams will argue about skills. Skills needed to build a radio or operate CW are the usual examples. These are seen as relevant to 'separate men from the boys.' Yeah, OK. At this point, neither of those 'skills' are my interests. Can those same operators write a program from scratch or write an article on take-your-pick of an HF digital mode? Maybe yes, maybe no, but I can. Does that make anyone less of a ham because of different skill sets or interests? I don't think so. The hobby is incredibly diverse with people from different backgrounds, levels of experience, and interests not even necessary related to being on the air. Such examples would be scholarships, enforcement, advocacy, public relations, regulations, laws, education, spectrum defense, and publications.

On the other hand, the ham community needs to help those hams who want to learn. I think many new hams give up because they don't get the mentoring they are seeking. They may contact a club or two asking for help and get no response. It's not fun when you have to constantly beg for help or get talked down to. We are all volunteers, have families, and other commitments too.



Club meetings may spark some interest on a topic but aren't typically good places for extensive hands-on training. Many clubs focus on similar (related) topics for their meetings. Holding regularly scheduled classes and training is usually an issue due to time commitments, availability, or lack of regular interest. Other places for training might be evening classes at a local university or look at offerings of a local makerspace. Partnering with makerspaces could facilitate a place for demonstrations and training as well as bringing those with radio

building skills into the hobby. Work ham radio into topics such as WiFi and Bluetooth transmitters. Don't focus exclusively on operating demonstrations.

Working with other clubs to form special interest groups, utilize subject matter "experts" to share their experiences for an extended hands-on session, or a "program your HT" evening are some other ideas. I would like to hear ideas that have been met with success welcoming newcomers into the hobby.

Retired ARRL CEO Dave Sumner - K1ZZ was on the QSO Today podcast. Dave talked about his 44 years with the League. He started as an intern in the 1970's. The podcast starts out talking about how he got into ham radio, his antenna farm, and operating interests. Dave covered experiences with the IARU and other radio conferences during his tenure at the ARRL.



He talked about programs and history of the ARRL including the Spectrum Defense fund and IARU intruder watch program. Check out QSO Today episode 172: <https://www.qsotoday.com/podcasts/k1zz>

In some unfortunate news, one of the largest electronics distributors headquartered in Ohio for 40 years and frequent vendor at Hamvention, MCM Electronics, is partnering with Newark element 14. Two plants will close and more than 90 workers will be laid off before end-of-year. MCM sold all kinds of tools, 3D printers, parts, wires, speakers, Arduino and Raspberry Pi computers. As of September 1, their website redirects to the Newark website. I knew the name element 14 from the Raspberry Pi computers I've purchased over the years. I had the opportunity to visit the MCM facility during a recent trip to Hamvention. The store was quite small compared to the massive warehouse. I couldn't believe the size. Hopefully they'll keep the warehouse open for parts distribution. ARRL News story: <http://www.arrl.org/news/mcm-electronics-shutters-two-plants-announces-merger-with-newark-element-14>

Finally, don't forget the HF Santa Net running through Christmas Eve. Starts daily at 8:30 pm Eastern and can be found on 3916 kHz for the little ones to have a chance to talk with Santa! <http://www.3916nets.com/santa-net.html>. The Santa Watch Net will kick off at 6:00 pm Eastern on Christmas Eve as Santa delivers his presents. The Watch Net can be found on the \*DoDropIn\* Echolink conference node #355800.

Thanks for reading. Happy holidays, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

73... de Jeff – K8JTK

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## THE AFFILIATED CLUBS COORDINATOR

Tom Sly, WB8LCD - ACC

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I probably won't be the first, and I hope I'm not the last, but I want to wish you all a Joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year!

I hope you've all got your club meetings planned ahead, at least for the first quarter. If you have not lined up your speakers, or your activities, here's a couple ideas:

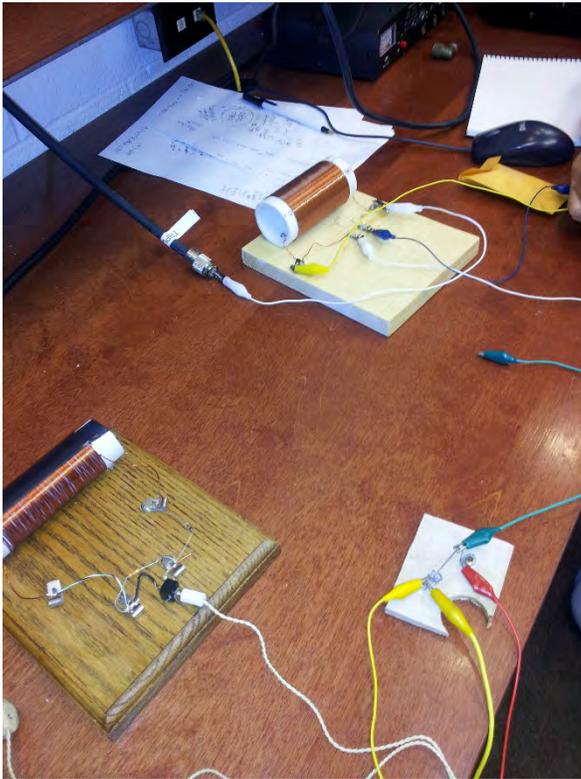


Bring your rig Night: This could be a meeting topic, or a "special" activity for your club. Invite everyone to bring to the meeting, and give a brief description of, a piece of radio equipment that has some special significance to them. Everyone gets 5 minutes to show off their rig. (at 5 minutes each, 6-10 people will take about an hour) You'll see new stuff, old stuff, homebrew stuff and hear stories of why the equipment is significant. Interesting chance to learn something about your fellow club members.



Variation – Homebrew night: everyone shows off a homebrew project  
QSL night: everyone shows off a card(s) of special significance and tells the story of it  
Look at my Shack night: Everyone sends in 3-6 photos of their shack, antenna farm and all the photos are put into one big PowerPoint presentation.

Everyone takes a turn describing what they have and how they use it.



#### Crystal Radio Build:

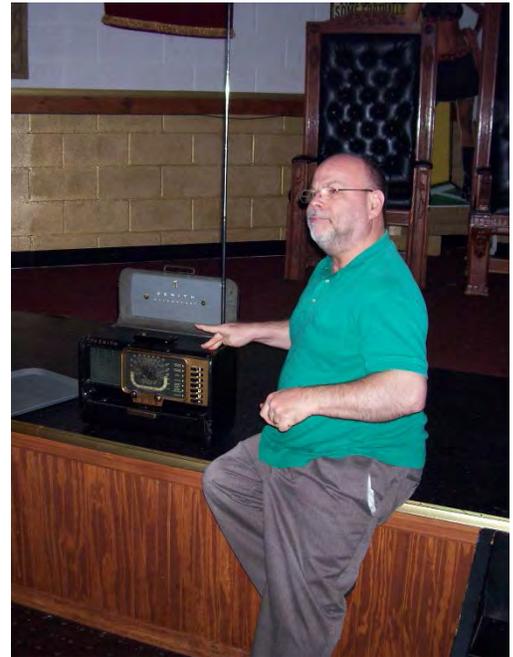
Give everyone a crystal diode (you can find them really cheap on the internet) and tell them that for the next meeting they need to bring back a working crystal radio set. On meeting night provide an antenna and ground so they can all be shown to work. Prizes for the simplest, most complex, and best looking working radio set. Invite some kids to your meeting that night – kids are always impressed with something that's simple, uses no power and works!

Club History: Relive the history of your club, get photos and documents to include. Older members will like to hear about all they've been through, younger members will get a kick out of hearing (and especially seeing) what has happened in the past.

I already know what's going to happen when you try one of these ideas. First, you'll describe it in the newsletter, and maybe send out a follow up email about it. When it comes to meeting night, you'll probably have a disappointing number of people show up willing to share. To make this work you need to be a “bulldog”. In addition to your mass appeals to club members, pick out a few, contact them personally and get their commitment to be there and have something to share. Remind them that the meeting is coming up and remind them of their commitment to “help you” make the meeting a success. Let them know you're counting on them. Getting people motivated is the toughest part of any of this!

These are a couple ideas that have worked in my club – PCARS. Sometimes it's nice to have something a little less formal than an “expert from afar,” and sometimes you just need something that can be put together quick and easy. How about you guys?

What have you done in your clubs for interesting meetings that are simple to set up, yet still interesting for the members? Let me know so I can share your ideas with everyone.



Next month I'm going to talk about the same kind of thing, but more about you, individually.

Are you as engaged in the Amateur Radio Hobby as you would like to be? Are you having as much fun with it as you could (should)? People will gravitate in one of two directions – that which is FUN, or that which is just easy.

Hope to hear you on the air!

73,  
Tom, WB8LCD  
OH ACC

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## THE SECTION EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Stan Broadway, N8BHL - SEC  
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### How does it all fit together?

If you compile a list of specific modes, it will be rather long and very detailed. Starting with little teeny wavelengths (5 and 2.4 GHz) and MESH, our list will travel through 440, 2 meters, 6, HF and carry such variables as CW, SSB, FM, Fusion, DMR, D-Star, many digital data modes, Winlink and more.

When ARES is activated, how's an EC to decide?? What do we use for our networks? How do we do our job? The answer in print is simple...executing in real life, not so much. Use what works best in this situation.



The Ohio Section Emergency Response Plan can be of some help. In most, if not all, ARES activations will come from the county EOC, where command decisions should be made. The common denominator is 2-meter/440 FM repeater communications. With all the new gadgets we have, our trusty repeaters are still the go-to devices. They provide reliable local and even regional communications which nearly every amateur is equipped to use. Remember simplex! With no repeaters, you might be surprised at how well you can communication using simplex. Use the frequencies that are in your District Plan to avoid conflicts with neighboring counties. Have your county's frequencies (and your neighbors') programmed into your handhelds before you need them! As the situation would require, you can also use fldigi and send digital messages on 440/2-meters.

As situations escalate into wide regions or even statewide, it's time to think about other basic platforms. We know that the Sarge (at the Ohio EOC) will be on HF-3.902 primary. There's a possibility we would be on the 40-meter frequency, but 80 is your first shot. So that would involve HF SSB for your county control station! On that frequency alone you can pass messages, status reports and requests by voice. Simple, maybe not as efficient, but again- your first try. There's more to HF: the OHDEN (Ohio Digital Emergency network) on 3.585 +/- will be your second shot. With the ability to pass formal messages digitally (ensuring they're correct and timely) is a requirement. Your County Control station operators should be able to handle fldigi software easily to make this happen. Inter-agency type messaging would be directed to these nets. But don't forget the traffic system for more routine messages that are not time-sensitive.



Now- with the basics covered, we can begin to apply other modes and technologies. The ability to "cluster" DMR repeaters presents an excellent opportunity to afford digital hand-held coverage across an entire region. Our go-to talk group will always be the Ohio group- so listen there first when you add digital to your comms. There are bridges for Fusion and D-star; check with your local people to see how you can bridge into the Ohio talk group. With Internet working, this is a dependable and flexible method of communicating. Will this replace your local repeater? Probably not although the two modes can work together to provide a wider range of communications.



Once your basics are covered, it's time to add in or even switch to other modes- such as Winlink. This offers a great and flexible platform. I am pressing all our regions to get involved with Winlink. Bryan Hoffman in Hamilton County can be your contact if you need information. They have a tremendous program in southwest Ohio.

My suggestion is first, have a good understanding of what will most likely play out on the state and regional level. If, for example, your surrounding counties are all on FM simplex you would not be wise to isolate your own county on a different platform. Plan to play nicely with others, and cover the basics first. But be eager to embrace other modes that might help your operation.

You can view the SEC's monthly reports on the website.. <http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/default.html>

73, Stan, N8BHL

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## ULS NOT WORKING CORRECTLY

(from Gregg Gary, WB8YYS)

Last week I tried to sign into the ULS system to get a copy of my license from the FCC and the system didn't work...I ended up calling them on their toll free number, and they were very surprised to learn of the trouble. They stated that they would look into it asked me to try again later.



This week I had the same problem and ended up calling them again. The person I talked to tried to talk me through the steps to get a copy of the license, and they ran into the same problem. So, evidently the problem hasn't been fixed yet.

They did manually send me a PDF of my license, and they are again aware of the problem, but gave no timeline as to when it might be corrected. I guess for now, anyone wanting a copy of their license and runs into the same problem is going to have to call the FCC direct in order to get it, at least until they fix the problem with their computer system.

*(editor's note.. I tried it just this past weekend, and it's still not allowing anyone to access it)*

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## The Sarge Is Now On DMR



Hey Gang,

It's now official, the Sarge (W8SGT) is now on DMR. Yes, that's right, we now have a brand new DMR radio in the State EOC. This is in great thanks to Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR and Stan Broadway, N8BHL, along with the folks that take care of W8SGT as well. They worked out a way for this to happen some time ago during the rebuild of the station, and just this past week the final piece of equipment (DMR Radio) was installed, tested, and it's now all rarin' to go!

So now we actually have a FULL-service State EOC for sure.

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## JETSTREAM

*(from Ohio District 3 ARES Program for Wednesday, December 13, 2017)*

Most of the training opportunities I've mentioned over the past few years have involved a registration process with some governmental or non-governmental entity. Today's featured site has no such requirement.

**JetStream** is the **National Weather Service Online Weather School**. There is no cost to use the training materials, and registration is not required. The site is designed for anyone interested in weather related subjects.



I found well over a hundred choices in the site's topic matrix, and you can pick and choose without taking all of the preceding topics in your particular area of interest. To look over the choices or get started on a topic, visit <http://www.weather.gov/jetstream/>

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## THE PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR

John Ross, KD8IDJ - PIC

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### FROM THE PIC

## 2018 OHIO SECTION NEWSLETTER CONTEST



The 2018 Ohio Section Newsletter contest is underway! To enter you need to send two copies of your newsletter from different months or, if you have an on-line newsletter, a notification when it's ready for viewing.

You can either send via email or snail-mail through June...after that the judges will make their final decision in July and the winners will be announced in August at the Columbus Hamfest.

Our newsletter contest is the best and longest running contest and that's because we have the best editors and writers.

Good Luck to everyone...I'm looking forward to another great year!

## Amateur Radio In The News !

The Huntington, WV newspaper, the Herald Dispatch, published a great article on Ken Massie, WN8F in it's December 10<sup>th</sup> edition. Thanks to SOARA/ARES PIO Mike Love WB8YKS we are able to share that article this month. Written by Clyde Beal it showcases a dedicated Amateur Radio operator who takes his hobby seriously.

Tri-State Native's Hobby Provides Potential Lifeline in Times of Need...

*By Clyde Deal Herald Dispatch*

Ken Massie was born during the summer of 1929 in Kelly Bridge, Ohio, 4 miles outside of Ironton. Five years later, with the nation in the grip of a depression, his father was forced to sell their larger home and move to a smaller, more affordable location.

"I grew up in a one-story frame house with a fireplace in the living room and a woodstove in the kitchen," Massie said. "We drank well water and lit up the night with kerosene lamps."



We bathed in wash tubs, slept under feather tick blankets and used an outside toilet that never stopped up. In the evenings Dad would listen to Lum and Abner on our battery-powered Zenith floor model radio. He also loved listening to boxing matches."

Massie still remembers the thrill of every ride the day his fourth-grade class took the school bus to Camden Park. He never went swimming in the Ohio River because kids in the area preferred Storm Creek, which was closer and deep enough for a good swim. "At one time, there were five movie houses in Ironton: The State, Lyric, Marlo, Grand and the Ro-Na," Massie said. "The Ro-Na was restored and looks beautiful today with the marquee lights on. The Grand had the best westerns. Roy Rogers was the favorite because he once lived near Portsmouth, Ohio. I still remember him singing 'Happy Trails.' We rode the city bus for a dime. When we didn't have bus fare we'd ride our bikes."



As a carpenter, Massie's father would make winter sleds, but there was a twofold reason for doing so - they also were used for hauling firewood. Aside from sleigh riding, the creek behind the grade school made a great ice rink when frozen. His greatest Christmas present ever was a cowboy outfit when he was 12. It came complete with twin holsters and a pair of chrome cap-firing six-shooters. He didn't care for the new winter jacket because it covered his cap pistols.

I went to Kelly Bridge grade school," Massie said. "It was about a quarter-mile walk. The school had two buildings, grades 1-4 in one building and grades 5-8 in the other.

Each building had a potbelly stove that got red hot in the winter. Three of us boys got caught smoking Bugler cigarettes one time. Two were older and got paddled. Because I was in the fourth grade, the teacher thought I didn't know any better, so I didn't get punished."

Massie graduated from Pedro High School in 1947. He took classes that allowed dismissal around noon so he could help his father build homes. Every piece of wood was hand cut, and every evening, his father would place those saws in a vise to be sharpened like new.

"When Dad and I completed our seven-room house, he told me I could paint it," Massie said. "When Dad began telling everyone that I painted the entire house, I began getting all sorts of paint jobs. That's when I bought a Cushman motor scooter. I still don't recall what happened to it, but it sure was a lot of fun to ride."

After high school, Massie drove a milk delivery truck for a few months before selling life insurance. That's when he began dating a young lady and finally got married in 1950. Two years later, he was taking an enlistment physical at Ashland's Ventura Hotel. "My wife had a good office job at Ironton's Fire Brick Company," Massie said. "She continued to work when I was drafted. She retired in 1990 after 40 years. Avanelle and I have been married 67 years now."

According to Massie, Parris Island Marine boot camp in South Carolina teaches discipline, respect for authority and a strict military code that begins right about the time you step off the bus. "Eight weeks later, I was sent to Camp Lejeune in North Carolina for additional training with amphibious landing techniques and assault weapon qualification," Massie said. "Next, we went to Little Creek, Virginia, for some temporary additional duty that was followed by practice war maneuvers back at Camp Lejeune."

Massie served aboard the USS Taconic, a 459-foot amphibious force command ship. They participated in numerous exercises with NATO. He finished his military obligation in Quantico Marine Base, Virginia. "I would have been shipped to Korea if I had six months left on my tour, but I was two weeks short," Massie said. "I was discharged and went back to selling insurance for six years. I was offered a chance to interview for a job at Dow Chemical (and got a) position I retired from after 30 years."



Ken and Avanelle have long been avid campers, a hobby that went through two motor homes before medical complications forced them to sell their camper. He has even enjoyed woodworking and photography, but his passion has always been amateur radio.

"Amateur ham radio is a popular hobby and service that brings people together," Massie said. "We use ham radios to talk across town or around the world. It's social, educational and has often been a lifeline during disasters. When normal means of communication fail, like television and radio, licensed ham radio operators get the word out to areas in need. Ham radio may be a popular hobby, but it also has the capability to become that one connection ... to save lives."

Massie does have one more interesting pastime, and that is teaching 17-year-old Cassie, an African grey parrot, to speak. So far, Cassie announces, "There's the mail, did your prescription come today?" Massie says that Cassie does a darn good Willie Nelson impersonation singing "On the road again."

If you are interested in becoming involved with ham radio procedures or if you already pursue the hobby and wish to share your knowledge and service with others, send Massie an email at [WN8F@ARRL.net](mailto:WN8F@ARRL.net).

*Clyde Beal seeks out interesting stories from folks around the Tri-State. Email [archie350@frontier.com](mailto:archie350@frontier.com).*

## **DRONES FOR AMATEUR RADIO**



Mike Love also reports that members of the Southern Ohio Amateur Radio Association (SOARA) recently used a drone to inspect their repeater tower and hard line! Great idea!!

At AT&T we've been using drones for tower inspection for several months and sometimes to hold up temporary antennas during emergencies or testing. But drones need certified/licensed operators to make them legal and to make sure they don't drift away.

Toy store drones are not the best for amateur radio use...mainly because they are toys! They are not designed to be "flown" around neighborhoods and by no means around guy wires and electric lines. The FCC has a whole set of rules and regulations...and forms...that you'll need to operate a drone and you'll need an upgraded drone as well.

The toy drones don't have very powerful radio control systems and it's possible they can get away from the operator and fly out of control. The "more professional" drones use GPS navigation and are usually programmed to return to you if the control signal is lost. The last thing you want is your drone in the flightpath of a commercial aircraft!



By all means think about drones for tower or antenna inspections at your QTH...it's beats climbing! But check out all of the requirements before you fly.

## **FINAL FINAL**

Thanks for another great year of newsletters, hamfests and contacts. I received more mail from all of you than I did from the government...and that's a good thing!

This is truly the greatest hobby in the world and best people are right here in the Ohio Section.

Happy Holidays to everyone!

73, John, KD8IDJ

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## **THE SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGER**

David Maynard, WA3EZN – STM  
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With the holiday season here, a reminder that the traffic nets meet 7 days a week and 365 days a year. I say this wishing you all a safe and happy holiday season and don't forget the nets. This is the perfect time to send holiday greeting to family and friends via a radiogram. Here is where you will find the nets.

### **Ohio Section Traffic Nets**

#### **SSB**

Ohio Single Sideband Net (OSSBN), 10:30 AM, 4:15 PM. and 6:45 PM daily, 3.972.50 MHz, KC8WH manager  
[http://ossbn.org/traffic\\_nets.html](http://ossbn.org/traffic_nets.html)

#### **CW**

Buckeye Net (Early), BN-E, 6:45 PM daily, 3.580 MHz, WB8YLO manager



Buckeye Net (Late), BN-L, 10:00 PM daily, 3.590 MHz,  
WB9LBI manager

Ohio Slow Net (OSN), 6:00 PM daily, 3.53535 MHz,  
W8OLO manager

Have you tried checking into or listen to the 6:45 Ohio Single Sideband Net (OSSBN) and heard nothing? I can guarantee the net was there but you just couldn't hear it or maybe you heard one or two weak stations and not the net control. Well, it was not you radio that was at fault. Since the time change from Daylight Savings to Eastern time things have changed. Is the sun responsible for these poor conditions? I didn't know so I asked the professor for an explanation.



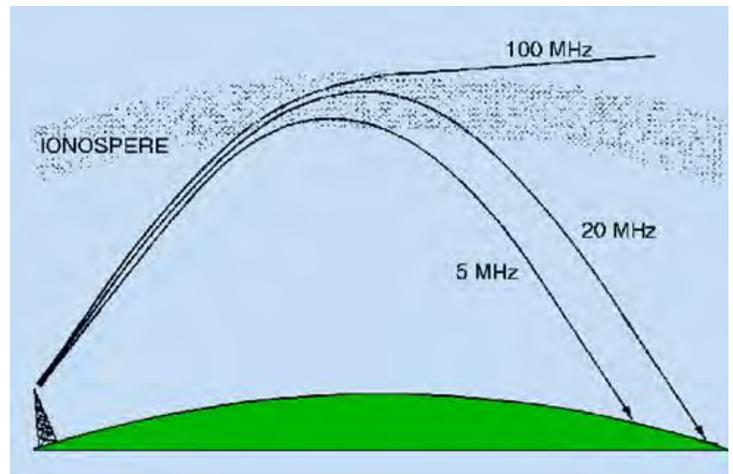
#### THE PROFESSOR

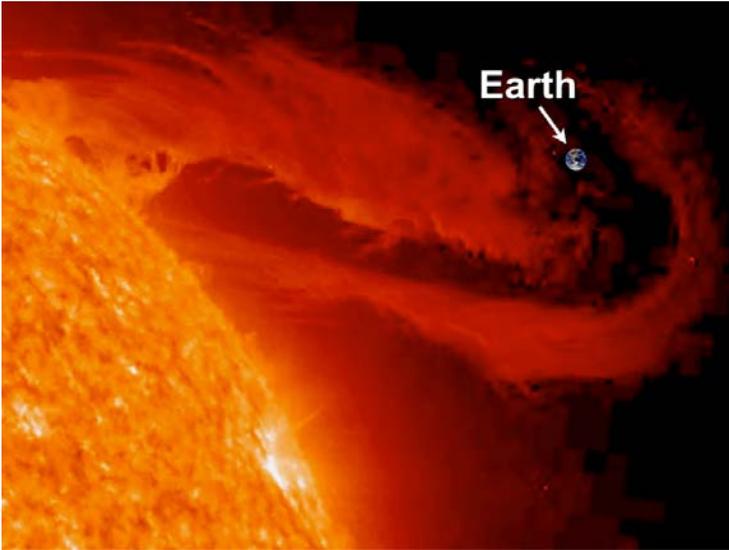
First, let me state that the interactions between the Sun and our Earth are incredibly complex. Even scientists who have studied the subject for years do not completely understand everything that happens on the Sun. I will try to give you some general background information about how the Sun affects radio propagation here on Earth.

It seems that higher sunspot numbers generally indicate a greater probability of good propagation at higher frequencies. HF propagation is done through bouncing signals off of charged particles in the earth's atmosphere. High sunspot numbers indicate higher activity in the sun, which shoots off energy into the earth's atmosphere, charging more particles that increases the amount of reflected power on the atmosphere, increasing received signal. So what's up?

#### RADIO WAVE PROPAGATION

When the sun releases solar flares a large amount of energy and radiation are released. RF energy, including ultraviolet and x-ray radiation, travels out from the sun at the speed of light. It takes about 8 minutes for this radiation to reach the earth. These large bursts of radiated energy cause the sudden increase of ionization in the ionospheric layers of earth's atmosphere. These are known as Sudden Ionospheric Disturbances. During daylight hours, this can really change the way transmitted radio signals are received. It can be wonderful for distant communications using the upper F layers of the atmosphere, where the layer is excited and can better support longer angle signals. However, on the lower regions of the atmosphere, especially that "Daylight Dud" D-layer, this ionization causes greater absorption and disruption of radio signals more than those on higher frequencies. This could explain why suddenly short-range communications (Ohio to Ohio stations) is nearly impossible but stations in Florida and Iowa offer their services to relay for station in Ohio.





## 1. Solar Flares

Solar flares are cataclysmic eruptions that suddenly release huge amounts of energy, including sustained, high-energy bursts of radiation from VLF to X-ray frequencies and vast amounts of solar material. Most solar flares occur around the peak of the 11-year solar cycle. The first earthly indication of a huge flare is often a visible brightness near a sunspot group, along with increases in UV and X-ray radiation and VHF radio noise. If the geometry between the Sun and Earth is right, intense X-ray radiation takes eight minutes to travel the 93 million miles to Earth at the speed of light.

### SOLAR FLAIR

The sudden increase in X-ray energy from a large flare can immediately increase RF absorption in the Earth's lowest ionospheric layers, sometimes causing a phenomenon known as a *Sudden Ionospheric Disturbance* (SID). An SID affects all HF communication on the sunlit side of the Earth and signals in the 2 to 30-MHz range may disappear entirely. Even background noise may cease in extreme cases. When you experience a big SID, your first inclination may be to look outside to see if your antenna fell down! SIDs may last up to an hour before ionospheric conditions temporarily return to normal.

Typically, several hours after a flare erupts at the Sun, particles begin to arrive at the Earth in the form of a *plasma*, a highly ionized gas made up of electrons, protons and neutral particles, traveling at speeds up to 300 miles per second. This may interact violently with the Earth's magnetic field. Really high-energy protons may even disable satellites orbiting high above the atmosphere.

Another possible effect of a high-energy particle bombardment during a flare may be high absorption of HF signals propagating through the polar regions. This is called a *Polar Cap Absorption* (PCA) event and it may last for several days.

Approximately how long does it take the increased ultraviolet and X-ray radiation from solar flares to affect radio propagation on the Earth? RF energy waves, such as ultraviolet and X-ray radiation, travel at the speed of light (approx. 300 million meters per second, or approx. 186,000 miles per second). The earth is about 93 million miles from the sun, and so it takes just over 8 minutes, on average, for a burst of radiation from solar flares to affect radio-wave propagation on earth.

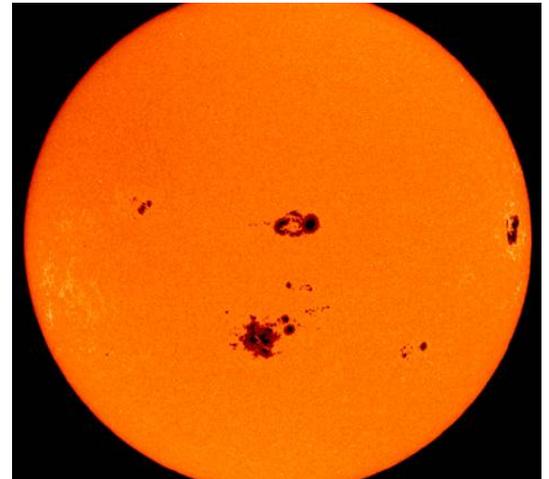
What is the solar flux index? Measuring solar flux is another way of expressing the amount of solar activity. The solar flux is the intensity of the sun's RF energy emissions.

The Solar flux index is a standardized representative of this radiation energy which is measured at a fixed value of 2800 MHz frequency (10.7 cm wavelength).

The advantage of this measurement over the sunspot index, is that it can be measured during any weather conditions - the sun doesn't have to be visible. The higher the solar flux index number, the greater the amount of solar activity indicated.

## SUN SPOTS

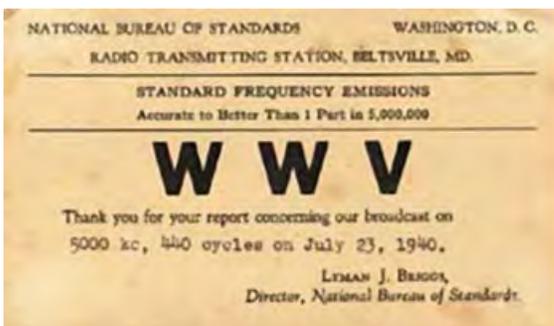
One of the best-known gauges of overall solar activity is the number of *sunspots* seen on the Sun's surface. Sunspots are relatively cool areas that appear as dark spots. (**CAUTION: Do not look at the Sun with the naked eye or a telescope; you could permanently damage your eyes.**) Surprisingly, sunspots are not really dark, but appear so only because the surrounding surface is even hotter and brighter. A large sunspot can be up to 80,000 miles in diameter.



Systematic study of solar activity began around 1750. Long-term sunspot activity varies in cycles. On average, the number of sunspots reaches a maximum every 11 years, but the period has varied from 7 to 17 years. The first cycle to be completely and scientifically observed began in 1755; we know it as Cycle 1. We are now just starting Cycle 23. Solar activity also follows a 27-day cycle: the sun's rotational period.

Sunspot activity changes continuously. A sunspot can vary in size and appearance, or even vanish, within a single day. Large areas of sunspot activity usually last through several rotations of the Sun, some as long as two years. To offset the confusing effects of short-term changes, we average (or *smooth*) solar data. HF propagation predictions commonly use Smoothed Sunspot Numbers (SSN), which are monthly sunspot counts averaged over a 12-month period.

*Solar-flux* readings are another measure of solar activity. The average intensity of solar emissions also varies slowly over the 11-year solar cycle. A solar flux reading is a measure of power received, per unit area, per unit frequency. The Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory in Penticton, British Columbia, measures 2800-MHz (10.7-cm) solar-flux data daily at local noon. Solar flux correlates well with the intensity of ionizing UV and X-ray radiation. Smoothed Sunspot Numbers range from 0 to over 200 and solar-flux numbers range from 60 to 300.



There are many sources for numbers related to propagation:

- 1) National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) stations WWV and WWVH broadcast propagation information on 2.5, 5, 10, 15 and 20 MHz (WWV only) at 18 and 45 minutes past each hour, respectively.
- 2) The NIST in Boulder provides a telephone voice recording of the WWV/WWVH propagation message at 303-497-3235.

There's also a continuous audio rebroadcast at 303-499-7111 (Colorado) and 808-335-4363 (Hawaii). NOAA provides the WWV solar-terrestrial data via several on-line services Gopher service is available by telephone bulletin board (303-497-7788; up to 28.8 kbps; login: gopher), telnet (telnet [gopher.sec.noaa.gov](http://gopher.sec.noaa.gov); login: gopher) and the World Wide Web (<http://www.sec.noaa.gov/>). Files are available by FTP at <ftp.sec.noaa.gov>

- 3) When time permits, W1AW broadcasts a [weekly propagation forecast](#) as part of the normal, daily bulletins. The W1AW schedule appears monthly in *QST*.
- 4) Local PacketClusters. Use the command SH/WWV/*n*, where *n* is the number of spots you wish to see (five is the default).
- 5) There are numerous sources for solar and propagation data and information on the World Wide Web. (A search for WWV yielded several hundred hits.)

HF propagation is a complicated, fascinating topic. To further your knowledge of the ionosphere and solar-terrestrial interactions, I highly recommend a book called *Radio Amateur's Guide to the Ionosphere*, by Leo F. McNamara.

### **Summary**

The sunspot activity is of great importance to anyone involved in HF radio communications. Whether two way radio communications, maritime mobile communications, general mobile communications, point to point radio links, amateur radio communications, or whatever form of radio communications. The level of sunspot activity has an enormous effect on the ionosphere and hence on HF radio propagation conditions. Accordingly even a superficial understanding is advantageous.

I am by no means an expert or even well informed on this subject but have tried to give you some information to get you started.

### **TIP OF THE MONTH**

Straight Key Night is held every January 1 from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC.

This 24-hour event is not a contest; rather it is a day dedicated to celebrating our CW heritage. Participants are encouraged to get on the air and simply make enjoyable, conversational CW QSOs. The use of straight keys or bugs to send CW is preferred. There are no points scored and all who participate are winners.

When participating in *SKN* instead of sending RST before sending the signal report send the letters *SKN*, to indicate your participation, and to clue in passers-by who may be listening that *SKN* is going strong. After *SKN*, send the Contest Branch a list of stations worked, plus your vote for the best fist you heard (it doesn't have to be one you worked). Also, include your vote for the most interesting QSO you had or monitored.

All authorized Amateur frequencies can be used, but activity has traditionally been centered on the HF bands. More information can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night>  
Have fun and I'll meet you on the OSSBN.

73,

David, WA3EZN  
Ohio Section Traffic Manager

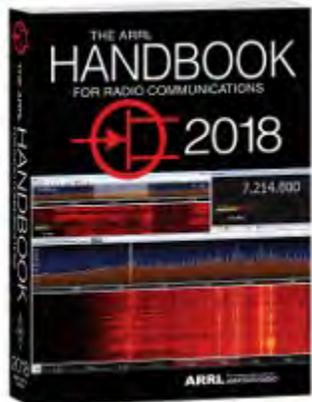
You can view the STM's monthly report on the website.. <http://arrl-ohio.org/stm/stm.html>

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## Handbook Give Away

### *Special Christmas Drawing*



Hey Gang,

There will be **2 drawings** this month - one for Christmas, and one at the end of the month.

The first winner will be announced on Christmas Day - December 25th. Wow, what a Christmas gift this will be for someone! The second winner will be announced on January 1st. Each winner will be notified by email, so PLEASE use a valid email when completing the form.

*Now since it is Christmas, I can't just give away one present either... There's going to be much, much more for sure, but like Santa, I'm not going to reveal what the additional gifts will be right now !!*

**Hey.. and if you enter BEFORE the December 24th deadline for the Christmas Drawing, you'll automatically be entered for both drawings!! Now how much better can it get!**

To enter the drawing all you need to do is fill in a couple of boxes on the form. That's you need to do to be entered into a drawing. <http://arrl-ohio.org/handbook-christmas.html>

There's nothing else required (Oh yeah, you do need to be a resident of Ohio to win...) The winner will be mailed the Handbook at my cost.

This is being offered just to see how many folks are really checking in on the Ohio Section website. Got the idea? Best of luck to you!! <http://arrl-ohio.org/>

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## OUT AND ABOUT

Lyn Alfman, N8IMW - ASM

[lynalfman@aol.com](mailto:lynalfman@aol.com)

In November, I checked into seven nets (was net control for two of them), attended seven amateur radio meals, submitted meeting announcements to the local media, had two articles published in the local newspaper, and edited and emailed the Cambridge Amateur Radio Association's quarterly newsletter *CARA Communicator*.

I also attended five amateur radio club meetings. Here are some of the things these club were involved with this last month.



## ZANESVILLE ARC

The Zanesville Amateur Radio Club held elections for 2018. The Officers for 2018 were all reelected.

## CAMBRIDGE ARA (W8VP)

The Cambridge Amateur Radio Association discussed:

- 1) Final preparations for the Cambridge Christmas Parade that afternoon
- 2) The Byesville Christmas Parade
- 3) The Annual Awards Banquet on December 9 where the Amateur of the Year Award will be presented
- 4) The reprisal of the Santa Patrol
  - The local “hams” (those that can reach to W8VP repeater) will gather their children, grandchildren, or neighborhood children around the 2-meter radio on 146.850 MHz, PL 91.5, on Christmas Eve, so the children can talk to Santa Claus on the radio. The net will start at 8 PM, and after the children have talked to Santa, there will be a recitation of “The Night before Christmas” before closing.



## D.E.A.R.S. (KD8NOM)

The Dresden Elementary Amateur Radio Station club has more than 30 students this year! The class is made up about half girls and half boys. Approximately every two weeks on Tuesday afternoon the students meet to learn more about amateur radio. Currently seven students are beginning their studies for their amateur radio license. At least one other student is already licensed.

These students placed first in the Fall School Club Roundup in October. CONGRATULATIONS!! The D.E.A.R.S. students have had nothing but first and second

place finishes in the School Club Roundups since they started competing in this contest a couple of years ago. Good luck in the School Club Roundup February 12-16, 2018!

Their advisor and mentor Jim Mayercak, WX8J, was interviewed by Gordon West, WB6NOA, on Ham Nation webcast on November 15 at 9 PM about the success of the D.E.A.R.S. Club in the ARRL School Club Roundup Contests over the last several years.

## COSHOCTON COUNTY ARA (W8CCA)

At the Coshocton County Amateur Radio Association meeting, Section Manager Scott Yonally, N8SY, and Section Emergency Coordinator Stan Broadway, N8BHL, presented Coshocton County Assistant Emergency Coordinator Randy Fisher, KL7RF, with the Section Manager’s Special Recognition Award for his very diligent role in the Black Swan exercise.





Also in attendance was from left to right: Section Manager Scott Yonally, N8SY; Section Emergency Coordinator Stan Broadway, N8BHL; District 9 Emergency Coordinator Sonny Alfman, W8FHF; myself; and Coshocton County Emergency Coordinator Steve Wheatcraft, AA8BN.

### **BELLE VALLEY AMERICAN LEGION ARC (W8BVL)**

District 9 Emergency Coordinator Sonny Alfman, W8FHF, was invited to discuss A.R.E.S. at the Belle Valley American Legion Amateur Radio Club meeting. I was asked as Assistant Section Manager if I could help their club recruit members through my position as ASM of SEO and as an Ohio PIO. (They only have about 50 amateur radio operators in Noble County where they are located.) So, this is what they are offering to potential members:

The Belle Valley American Legion Post 641 Amateur Radio Club, WQ8BVL, wants to increase its membership, so the club is inviting hams from adjacent counties, who are Legion members, to attend their December 20 meeting at 7:30 PM at the hall. (Normally they meet the fourth Wednesday of the month; however, due to the holidays, they moved their meeting to the week before.)

Any American Legion member can join. They can be a member of another post and join the Belle Valley radio club as long as their post does not have a radio club. If they have an amateur radio license, they will have full voting privileges. If they are not licensed or not eligible to be a legion member, they can be an associate member with no voting rights. If not licensed, the club plans on offering an amateur radio Technician Class license cram course on February 11, which will be open to anyone who wishes to attend. For more information, email [garyoliver523@gmail.com](mailto:garyoliver523@gmail.com) or [lynalfman@aol.com](mailto:lynalfman@aol.com).

If you are interested in possibly joining their club, please attend one of their meetings. Normally they meet the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM at Post 641; however, due to the holidays, they elected to meet on December 20 at the same time.

### **MORGAN ARC (KD8MC)**

The Morgan County Amateur Radio Club is making plans to have a Winter Field Day on January 27-28. They now have a 10-meter net on Wednesday nights at 7:30PM local (00:30 UTC). Listen for them on 28.455MHz USB. Approximately ½ of their members are under 18 and licensed!

### **SCARF (KC8AAV)**

The Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation is hard at work with preparations for their hamfest on January 14 in Nelsonville.

## TUSCO ARC (W8ZX)

The TUSCO Amateur Radio Club is also busy with preparations for their hamfest at Strasburg on January 28.

If you are a club in my area, I would love to hear what your members have been doing or plan to do, so feel free to email me at [lynalfman@aol.com](mailto:lynalfman@aol.com).

I hope everyone has a safe MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Remember to be "Radio Active"!

'73 de Lyn

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## ARES TRAINING UPDATE

Jim Yoder, W8ERW – ARES Data Manager  
[w8erw@arrl.net](mailto:w8erw@arrl.net)

I survived Thanksgiving and it was a great meal with family getting together this year at my sister's here in Fremont. They all were not able to make it but those that couldn't did have a wonderful Thanksgiving with their in-laws or other family members elsewhere. So now Christmas will be here soon and I imagine many of you like me are busily finishing up the shopping and have started to wrap gifts for under the tree. Having grandkids makes this a lot more fun than it was a few years ago before they began to arrive. I would like to wish all of you and your families a very merry Christmas and a Wonderful New Year.



Thinking of 2018 seems strange. Perhaps being born in 1949 and living most of my life prior to this century has biased me a bit. I remember AM before SSB. The change caused Hams to refit their stations with the new technology and more than a few were not happy. Now we have digital modes. Reel to Reel tape recorders too, before 8 track and cassette tapes were the rave of their day as were vinyl records before CD's and DVD's. Cars had 6 volt batteries and the milk was delivered and placed in an insulated box on the front porch. The paper boy delivered the news on his bicycle and came to collect, punching that card with your name on it which hung on a ring with the others in the neighborhood. I could continue with this, but no doubt you like me have seen these reminiscent lists before. We can't go back to those times and in many ways, although it is hard to admit, we'd not be happy losing all the technological changes that we now enjoy. We old timers enjoy the thought of it though. Technology is not bad and indeed it often saves money and resources, is far superior to what we gave up and it propels us all into the future. That may well be the scary part. We as Hams often lead the charge however and many advances in technology came directly from our creative efforts in the shack. So what are you going to jump into this next year? DMR perhaps, MESH Networking, HF Digital or maybe the guy in the red suit has a new rig to deliver for your shack.

Are you a Leftie? SM Yonally and I are and after wondering how many of our Ohio Hams might be, I mentioned my curiosity to Scott and he posed the question in the survey section of the arrloho.org web page. It seems to me that as Hams, we are a curious lot, often a bit creative and interested in new ideas, concepts and certainly technology. All of which are attributes often ascribed to Lefties. So, I wondered, are more of us left handed than the incidence of the general population would indicate? The survey question has now changed, but the last time I looked at the numbers, Lefties were running over 17%. It is generally thought that within the population at large, Lefties make up about 10%. Now the survey was not done scientifically and the results are not going to lead us to any great revelations. But perhaps, there are more Ham Lefties as those numbers seem to show.



Many of the common traits that are thought to go with left handedness have not been borne out by the studies that have been done. We are not prone to an earlier death than right handed people. Premature birth does seem to correlate with being left handed however as does a greater incidence among males than females. One study I looked at said that college educated Lefties make 15-18% more income than the same right-handed people. As for motor skills, in all of us, our right side is controlled by our left side of the brain and the left side is controlled by the right side. In Lefties, that is reversed. Lefties also process thoughts differently. We tend to take a broader more inclusive look at concepts and problems. We can often be skilled in Math and Music. Could that mean being better at CW? One study looked at professional musicians who were part of an orchestra and a much higher incidence of Left handedness was found. All in all, nothing earth shattering here, but a little interesting at least. For me, this keyboard and MS word area blessing, else my sloppy left-handed penmanship would likely prevent most of you from deciphering what I am writing this evening.

This last month represented a milestone for ARES training. Our 600<sup>th</sup> member to complete NIMS training was entered into the database late in November. SM Yonally, N8SY thought we should celebrate and Troy Blair KE8DRR from Huron County will receive a Safety Vest to recognize the achievement. But we don't want to slow down. Scott says there will be more to come in order to encourage everyone to get those FEMA courses completed.



Currently we have 608 who have completed the four required NIMS courses and a whopping total of 5,584 courses have been taken by Ohio Amateurs. It is still very early in the month of December as I write this and I expect those numbers will increase during the next few weeks until the end of the year. It has been a truly outstanding year for ARES training and it is rewarding for me to see this all happening.

I have mentioned before that several of you have taken many more than the four required courses. Employment in public service usually dictates more of this training. I think today rang the bell with the most classes taken by any single ARES member. I won't mention a name, but I logged 131 classes for one Ham in Franklin County. That was a lot of keying this afternoon, but I am happy to do so and if you take all those classes, I will gladly get them entered for you.

When you complete the NIMS training, please let your local Emergency Coordinator know and follow your local procedure to report them to me. I can accept them directly from you. Your EC and SEC Stan Broadway N8BHL also forward them to me as does SM Scott Yonally N8SY. We do need them in the database however

along with a copy of your certificate(s) or a transcript from FEMA that you can request from them. My email is [w8erw5574@gmail.com](mailto:w8erw5574@gmail.com) or [w8erw@arrl.net](mailto:w8erw@arrl.net) will get them to me.

For DEC's and EC's, there are several reports that can be generated and sent to you from the database. I would be happy to provide these for you. Sometimes it is good to verify what you have with what I have recorded in the database. Please let me know if I can help you.

That's it for this month. Thank you all again and please have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

73,

Jim W8ERW

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## FROM THE EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH ASM

Anthony Luscre, K8ZT

[k8zt@arrl.net](mailto:k8zt@arrl.net)

### A Website to Share with Kids for the Holidays



This month I have a last minute, free, holiday present for you to share with kids in your life. The **Kids Radio Zone** is part of my collection of web pages for use by teachers and students. Hopefully you can spend some time in person with the kids you share this with but it is still very usable for family and friends afar. If it all seems a little overwhelming just pick one section to get started. I will draw your attention to a few sections I have found interesting to students I work with:

- The Zack & Max Comic Books
- The Morse Code section
- The Space & Satellite Tracking section
- The Online SDRs you can use to tune the bands without owning an antenna or even a radio.

The link to share is [www.ztlearn.com/radio-kids](http://www.ztlearn.com/radio-kids)

Until next month I wish you success demonstrating Amateur Radio to a student and/or non-ham.

73,

Anthony, K8ZT

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## FROM THE SCOUTING ASM

**Scott Hixon, KC8ITN**

[kc8itn@arrl.net](mailto:kc8itn@arrl.net)

I am looking for someone that would be willing to take on a large, yet rewarding, endeavor.

May 4-5-6, 2018, there is a large Boy Scout event going on at the Ross County, Ohio fairgrounds. The event is "Thunder Base 2018". Thunder Base is a Simon Kenton Council Jamboree that will be attended by a few thousand boy scouts and scout leaders. We have been asked to set up an amateur radio demonstration for the scouts.



At the 2014 Thunder Base event, amateur radio was set up in a 40ft X 170ft building. We had multiple ham radio groups that set up all different modes of communications, we were administering amateur license testing, and even put on BSA Radio Merit Badge classes.

I am looking for someone who would like to coordinate and head up the amateur radio side of jamboree. The only day that amateur radio would be needed is on Saturday, May 5th, of the event from 9am until around 6pm.

If you or your group would be interested in coordinating this event, please contact me. My home phone number is 740-474-5293.

Thanks, **73**,

**Scott Hixon KC8ITN**

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## THE OFFICIAL OBSERVER COORDINATOR

John Perone, W8RXX - OOC

[w8rxx@arrl.net](mailto:w8rxx@arrl.net)

The Ohio OO's spent a total of 964 hours monitoring in November. There were no cards sent.

On behalf of all of the Ohio OO's I want to wish all a very Joyous Christmas Season!

73, John / W8RXX

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## OHIO DMR NET

A suggestion came in during one of the Ohio DMR Nets several weeks ago from Zeke, AB8OU and I thought that I would try out what his suggestion was on you in this edition. The suggestion was to report on how many folk's check-in, and from which districts they are checking in from. I had to think about just how we would report it and I decided to try this format out to see if it makes sense and is of any value to our readership.

Ok, here goes.. December 13 DMR Net

|                |                 |   |                  |
|----------------|-----------------|---|------------------|
| District 1 – 5 | District 5 – 8  | District 9 – 6                                    | Total: 60        |
| District 2 – 2 | District 6 – 9  | District 10 – 3                                   |                  |
| District 3 – 0 | District 7 – 10 |   | Time: 37 minutes |
| District 4 – 3 | District 8 – 7  | Out of State – 7 TX,<br>MN, MT, MI, CN, CA,<br>NC |                  |

It seems that District 7 won the prize for the night with 10 check-ins. There were several net announcements given after all the check-ins were established.

Lastly, thanks to Greg, WD9FTZ for gathering the following information, as of December 13 there are 79,352 DMR ID's, including 1,810 from Ohio. Now as Greg explains, that doesn't necessarily mean that Ohio has 1810 users since some folks do hold more than 1 DMR ID.

The reason for conducting this net every week is to make sure that all of our connections to the **now 75** repeaters throughout the state are working as we want them to be. Sometimes things don't always work as we expect them to, and testing this system, and ourselves each week gives us the ability to better understand what can happen during any emergency situation, and a better understand of how to work around any discrepancies that may occur before the emergency happens. Come join in on the fun every **Wednesday evening at 8:30pm local on the DMR - 3139 talk group!**

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## FUN THINGS TO DO & HAMFESTS TOO



**'Twas the Night Before Christmas** – we all remember that poem from our childhood I'm sure. Did you know that there is a Ham Radio version of this poem? There is... and I have it posted on the Ohio Section website. Here's a link to that very famous poem just for Christmas.

<http://arrl-ohio.org/twas.html>

### Santa Claus Net

The Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association, in conjunction with Akron Children's Hospital, Boardman Campus will be having the annual Santa Claus Net



**Thursday December 21, 2017 at 7:00 PM** on 146.745/R.

For those who are new, MVARA members take 2-meter radios into Akron Children's Hospital and let the kids talk to Santa over the air. We would love to have you, your children, grandchildren, neighbors or anybody that wants to talk to Santa also check-in.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, DECEMBER 2017**



FROM OJ9X, FAR NORTH OF EUROPE - WHEN IS SANTA CLAUS' PRIME TIME ON AMATEUR RADIO?

AS FINLAND'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS WIND DOWN, WE SLOWLY TURN OUR THOUGHTS TO SPREADING THE WARM CHRISTMAS SPIRIT.

The precise timing of Christmas celebrations varies from one region to another. For some it's Christmas Eve. For some Christmas Day. In some cases, it may even be later on in January when the Russian Father

Frost makes an appearance. But in the world of Santa Radio, prime time is this coming weekend – December 16th-17th.

During the first Santa week, some 18.000 QSOs were made and the competition in the ClubLog for Santa slots is fierce; see [www.clublog.org/charts/?c=OJ9X](http://www.clublog.org/charts/?c=OJ9X).

Conditions so far have not been favorable towards North America, and thus more fire-power will now be directed towards the US. Also, RTTY will be getting a big boost on virtually all bands as Santa may even jump into deep waters and join the OK RTTY Contest for 24 hours: Saturday from 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC.

The overall target has been set: to surpass last year's QSO total of 33.615. You have a major say in this!

We are proud to announce this year's Santa team of some thirty (30) members, while some late arrivals may still be added onto the list:

OH0XX, OH1EG, OH1HS, OH1MA, OH1NOA, OH1NX, OH1TM, OH1RX, OH2BAD, OH2BCI, OH2BEE, OH2BH, OH2FB, OH2GEK, OH2EUU, OH2HAN, OH2KM, OH2KW, OH2LU, OH2MZB, OH2PM, OH2XX, OH5BQ, OH5CZ, OH6KN, OH6KZP, OH6MW, OH6NVC, OH6VDA, OH7ER, OH7UE, OH7WP, OH7XI.

These fine operators represent some ten (10) different clubs and have been in part selected based on their good operating skills as well as the strength of their signals.

A few additional comments may be in order;

- The QSOs will be added to ClubLog with an approximately 24-hour delay – do not panic
- Dedicated specific band mode-stations cannot move as such, but other band mode stations may be QRV just around the corner
- If Santa Radio is calling a specific area, such as USA, please kindly co-operate and allow them to accomplish their mission

- See more details about the “Finland 100-Years Award!” on OJ9X's QRZ.com page
- If you expect Radio Santa to appear down the chimney – kindly leave some milk and cookies on the table

Merry Christmas to our Wonderful World of Amateur Radio and good luck to those who are keeping the dials lit for more Santa Radio slots!

Bernie McClenny, W3UR

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**Straight Key Night**  
**January 1 from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC.**



Objective: This 24-hour event is not a contest; rather it is a day dedicated to celebrating our CW heritage. Participants are encouraged to get on the air and simply make enjoyable, conversational CW QSOs. The use of straight keys or bugs to send CW is preferred. There are no points scored and all who participate are winners.

All authorized Amateur frequencies, but activity has traditionally been centered on the HF bands.

Entries for Straight Key Night must be received by January 31. Votes for ‘Best Fist’ and “Most Interesting QSO” will be tabulated and

included in the results.

Send your information to [straightkey@arrl.org](mailto:straightkey@arrl.org) For contest information contact [contests@arrl.org](mailto:contests@arrl.org) or (860) 594-0232

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**Kids Day**  
**Saturday, January 6 from 1800 UTC through 2359 UTC**

Twice a year, ARRL offers an event designed to promote Amateur Radio to our youth. Share the excitement with your kids or grandkids, a Scout troop, a church or the general public!

Kids Day is designed to give on-the-air experience to young people and hopefully foster interest in getting a license of their own. It is also intended to give older hams a chance to share their station and love for Amateur Radio with their children.



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## Ohio ARES VHF Simplex Contest January 13 – 10AM through 4PM EDT



The purpose of our annual simplex activity is to improve our station and antenna capabilities, and to test our coverage areas on simplex frequencies. These may be very important in times of emergency, when repeaters have failed and simplex is the only method of emergency communication. We are NOT giving any consideration for backup power- this exercise is aimed at testing antennas and determining coverage areas.

**Bands - All bands from 50 MHz up**

We anticipate primary activity to occur on the 2-meter band. We recommend the following frequencies:

- 50 MHz – Standard simplex calling frequencies
- 146.52 – Only after making sure you will not be interfering with existing conversation  
146.46 through 146.49
- UHF and above - Standard simplex calling frequencies

### Modes

- ALL MODES are acceptable- it's your choice
- Digital- using any mode generally accepted by NBEMS/ARES in fldigi. (Default = Mt63 2K)

### Entry Categories

- FIXED: Any fixed station can operate. Single or Multiple Operators, no restrictions.
- FIXED EOC: Any station using equipment and antennas permanently installed at an EOC. An EOC is recognized under the same provisions as a Field Day category "F".
- PORTABLE: Any station established under portable conditions in a temporary location.
- ROVER: Any mobile operator may join as a "Rover". A rover vehicle may transport only one station using a single call sign. It may be in motion or stopped.
- Rover vehicles must transport all the equipment, power supplies, and antennas used at each operating site. Rovers MUST sign "rover" on Phone and /R on CW and digital modes after their call sign.

### Exchange

The exchange will include your station callsign and your county. In the case of stations outside Ohio, please include your state.

- If you are operating from an EOC, please include that in your exchange. (+5 for them)
- If you are an ARES official (AEC and above) Identify yourself as such. (+5 for them)
- You are encouraged to announce your station details if you wish, so that other stations can judge the performance of their equipment. This is NOT a part of the required exchange.

### Scoring

No duplicate contacts per band / per mode. Rover/mobiles can be contacted one time in each county.

**QSO Points**

- Each contact is worth 1 point.
- Each contact with an EOC station is an additional 5 points per QSO. That would score as 6 points.
- Each contact with an AEC or above is +5 points. That would score as 6 points.

**Multipliers**

- Multiply your QSO points (calculated above) by the total number of counties you've reached.
- Make sure you include your own county.
- Rover/mobile station DOUBLE the number of counties you've contacted.
- Rover/mobile add 25 to your final score.
- EOC stations add 50 to your final score.
- Portable stations add 100 points to your final score.

All entrants, regardless of category, are permitted to use spotting assistance or nets including but not limited to DX-alerting nets, internet chat rooms, APRS and other packet, reverse beacon networks and repeaters to identify stations available for contacts and to announce (self-spot) their availability for contacts.

Announcements shall be limited to call sign, location, band or frequency. These methods of spotting assistance may also be used to coordinate antenna peaking prior to initiation of the contact and to explain contest rules, such as the exchange required, for those who need clarification.

Scores should be emailed to [contest@k8es.org](mailto:contest@k8es.org) before February 15.

Ohio ARES Simplex VHF contest, January 12, 2018.

My station call: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of hours operated \_\_\_\_\_

QSO Points (Include all bands, all +5 points) \_\_\_\_\_

Multiply QSO points above by total counties worked \_\_\_\_\_

EOC Operation: Add 50 points \_\_\_\_\_

Portable Operation: Add 100 points \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL SCORE QSO pts X Counties = (+50 +100) \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Seneca Amateur Radio Club Classes**



Amateur Radio Technician License Class 2018, a free training course with the only cost being materials and test fee. The Seneca Radio Club (W8ID) is presenting the course which will be held at the Public Safety Building at the Seneca County Fairgrounds.

The start date is **January 10, 2018** from 6:30pm to 9:30pm and will meet one night each week for 12 weeks. An application for the course can be found on the W8ID website at [www.W8ID.org](http://www.W8ID.org).

## Hamfests

### 01/14/2018 | SCARF's 22nd Annual Hamfest

Location: Nelsonville, OH

Sponsor: Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation

Website: <http://www.qrz.com/db/kc8aav>



### 01/28/2018 | Tusco ARC Hamfest, Electronics & Computer Show

Location: Strasburg, OH

Sponsor: Tusco Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://tuscoarc.org>

For a complete listing of Hamfest around Ohio go to: <http://arrl-ohio.org/hamfests.html>

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## SEASON'S GREETING FROM THE DAYTON HAMVENTION® Prize Committee!



This message is the Prize Committee request for volunteers. The 2018 Dayton Hamvention® will once again be held at the Greene County Fair and Exposition Center in Xenia OH on **May 18, 19, 20**. The new location has proven to be a noticeable improvement over our former home, HARA Arena. The facility is clean, modern, and well maintained. The Hamvention leadership and all committees have been working very hard to make additional improvements over the 2017 show.

For those planning on attending there are some great benefits to volunteering. A six hour or more commitment during Hamvention®; entitles you to (1) an admission ticket qualifying you for prize drawings, (2) a volunteer parking pass valid for all three days of the show, and (3) an exclusive Hamvention® cap.

If you are interested in volunteering please send an email to [prizes@hamvention.org](mailto:prizes@hamvention.org) stating which day and what hours you are interested in working. As we get closer to Hamvention, we will be filling slots where we need coverage, so if you wait too long to respond, you may not get a choice in your schedule.

In your response, please provide FULL NAME, CALLSIGN, your ADDRESS, PHONE, and E-MAIL. Thank you in advance. We are looking forward to seeing you in May 2018!

73,

Bill Serra, N8NRT - Chairman  
(937) 524-9615

Jim Nies, WX8F – Assistant Chairman  
(937) 545-9743

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## LET'S TALK

Scott Yonally, N8SY - SM

[n8sy@n8sy.com](mailto:n8sy@n8sy.com)

Hey Gang,

Wow.. I can't believe that this next Monday will be Christmas! Time has really flown by quickly this year for sure. I don't know about where you live, but here in my small village of Lexington it's really beginning to look a lot like Christmas with all the lights and decorations on the light poles around town!

It's been another very busy week visiting with all of you at your various club Christmas parties and meetings. The Ohio Section is really blessed to have so many great clubs within.

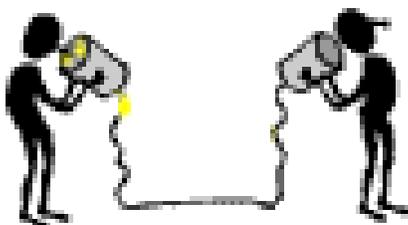


There's another NEW – one question – questionnaire on the Ohio Section Website! I was really surprised to see that only about 34% of you make out a Christmas List. Wow, I thought that most of you would make one so that Santa would know exactly which rig you wanted! It's been a tradition around my house for many years to get the lists made up and out to our family members by Thanksgiving weekend!

Now, for the next fun question... Since it's Christmas, and that usually means good food and drink, and rekindling those forgotten friendships, and parties to go to, the custom around my house is just who gets the last swig of Egg Nog, me or my daughter! So, the question this Christmas week is: **Do You Drink Egnog Over The Holidays?**

It will only take 2 seconds for you to answer it, and you can see how your answer stacks up with others instantly. Go to: [www.arrl-ohio.org](http://www.arrl-ohio.org) and look on the left side of the page. I really do want to hear from you on these questions. And, if you have a question that you'd like to see on our questionnaire, please send it to me! Are you a member of the ARRL? Have you let your membership lapse? Want more information on how to join, or rejoin? Here's the link: <http://www.arrl.org/membership-levels>. There's even a 90-day FREE trial that you can apply for if you've never been a member.

Got questions about becoming a member or your current membership? Send me an email [n8sy@n8sy.com](mailto:n8sy@n8sy.com) I'll be happy to call or write to you. We can even meet and have coffee if you'd like, and I'll buy!!



I'm sure all of you have heard me say that I'm always available for you, whether you're an ARRL member or not. It's true, and you can feel free to write or call me anytime. If you have any questions, concerns, or would just like to sit and chat awhile over a cup of coffee or something cold to drink, feel free to call or write me (419) 512-4445 or [n8sy@n8sy.com](mailto:n8sy@n8sy.com)

That's going to do it for this month. I sincerely hope that you have enjoyed reading all about what's happening within the Ohio Section Cabinet this month, and that's why we call it a "Journal". I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the many hamfests, club meetings that I attend, or even on the air!

73, Scott, N8SY

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## Ohio ARES Tier I Membership Certificate



Hey Gang,

I've gotten a lot questions from all of you about our Tiered system and those that have completed your 4 NIMS courses (IS 100, 200, 700 & 800), is there a certificate for getting these courses in and completed and entered into our statewide database. I now can say YES, there is. Go to <http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/Tier-I-Form.html> and fill in your name and call sign and I'll email you back a really neat looking certificate that shows you are an Ohio ARES TIER I member. It's frameable and, since it will come to you electronically, if you have a smartphone you can download it into your smartphone and keep it with you wherever you go.

Now I do want to tell you all that this is for the Tier I membership only. Your application for the certificate will be checked against the statewide database. I hope that this will help entice all of you Tier II members to get those courses completed and the certificates to me and to your Emergency Coordinator.

I've already sent out over 100 of the certificates to date. Like most of our forms that you fill out, you will get a copy of the form emailed back to you as a receipt that it did get into the system, so PLEASE make sure that you type your email correctly so that it won't go to cyberspace!

Oh, just one more thing, if you didn't know, we set 625 as the next goal for me to give out another ARRL ARES Vest. Just so you know, we are getting really, really close to that magic number. So, if you haven't given me your certificates yet, you could be that very lucky person that receives that vest!!

Are you sure that you are on the list? Make sure, here's the link to the listing:

<http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/special/ICS%20Complete%20by%20County%20and%20Name.pdf>

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## A final – final..



Amateur Radio is exciting and a lot of FUN. It's also a learning experience for everyone! Share your enjoyment and learning experiences with those just coming into Amateur Radio!!

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. Heck, just have them send me an email [n8sy@n8sy.com](mailto:n8sy@n8sy.com) and I'll get them added to the Ohio Section Emailing list.

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 Newsletters. You can always "[Opt-Out](#)" at any time if you feel this is not what you were expecting.

This newsletter is written in a format that will allow you to print it out so that you don't have to read it on your computer screen only anymore. Consider printing out several copies and leaving them on the front table of your next club meeting. What a great way of spreading the news!

And the very last item on the list is that Janie and I want to express our sincerest joy and happiness to YOU and YOURS this Christmas Season. YOUR efforts throughout the year are what make the Ohio Section the greatest Section in the country, bar none!

Please remember those who **have, and are currently serving our nation in uniform** over the holidays, for it is these folks that keep our America strong and Free! Also, please don't forget about those who have far less than what we have, be generous, and give whenever you can.

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*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!*

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