

PostScript



**Ohio
Section**

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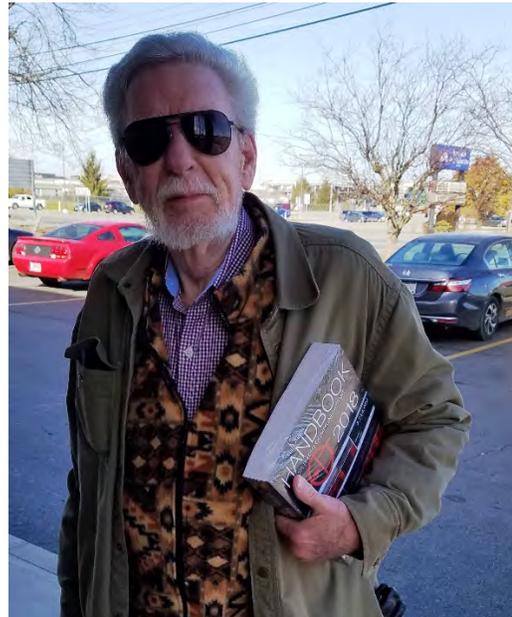
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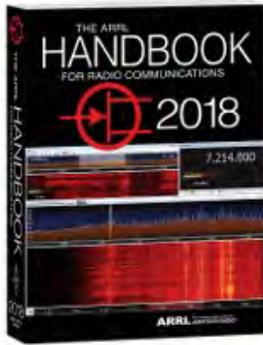
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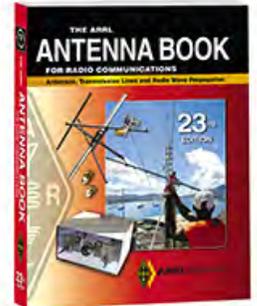
Handbook Give Away



Hey Gang,

Here's the WINNERS – Yes, that right, WINNERS from the Thanksgiving drawing...

Lynn Lovell, W8MLL won the Handbook and Len Kinaitis, KD8FKD won an ARRL Antenna Book. Dale Waymire, WA8KQQ and Gary Overfield, KB8VJO won Ohio Section Knit Caps!



Now don't think that this is it for the month, IT ISN'T!!!

There's another drawing at the end of the month. Hey.. If you entered BEFORE the Thanksgiving drawing, you're automatically entered for this next drawing too!!

If you haven't entered yet, shame on you!!! All you have to do to enter is fill in a couple

of boxes on the form... and here's a link to the form to get you entered... <http://arrl-ohio.org/handbook1a.html>

That's you need to do to for a chance to at a 2018 ARRL softcover Handbook and some other really neat items as well. There's nothing else required (Oh, you do need to be a resident of Ohio to win..) The winner will be mailed the Handbook at my cost.

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One Question Questionnaire

Hey Gang...

There's another NEW – one question – questionnaire on the Ohio Section Website! <http://arrloho.org> I was glad to see most of you (65%) are like me, and only have ONE monitor hooked to your computer. I was really surprised to see that we did have 4.5% say that they had four or more monitors! I hope they read this and send me pictures of their computer station. Anyway, it's all in fun and I hope that you are enjoying answering these “ONE QUESTION” questionnaires.



Now... Since we are on a roll with having some fun at this, let's see how you answer this next one. It comes from Jim Yoder, W8ERW. “**Are you Right Handed or Left Handed?**” Jim told me that about 10% of folks in the country are South Paws, so let's see if our questionnaire proves it out! Oh, by the way, I'm a South Paw as well!

The survey will only take 2 seconds for you to answer it, and you can see how your answer stacks up with others instantly. If you haven't done it yet, please do. I really want to hear from you. Hey.. If you've got a question that you'd like to see on our questionnaire, please send it to me!

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White Wire Blues

Do you know the difference between the neutral and ground wire? Here's something that you should be keenly aware of, but I'll bet you don't. The "white" wire in your homes electrical panel is not the same as the ground. Oh yes, it does connect to the grounding buss bar on your electrical panel, but it isn't ground.

How can this wire be hooked to ground yet not be ground? It's because it is the return leg that completes an electrical circuit. Although the white wire is called "neutral", it can still carry current, particularly from an unbalanced load. Unbalanced means any electricity not being used and being returned to the electrical service.



Do you know that electrical outlets, plugs and even the wire itself have the "neutral" side of the circuit identified? They do. Ever wonder about that fat spade on your electrical plug? It's not there to be an inconvenience when you go to plug something in and you can't because you have it upside down. It's there as an identifier and protector. It is telling you that IT IS the "neutral" side of the line. The same goes for the outlet. The longer slot is the neutral. And yes, even most electrical cords tell you which conductor is "neutral". Ever look at that brown electrical cord coming from your lamp? One side of this cord usually has a "rib" on it. That rib identifies

which wire is the neutral.

Now if you've ever looked at an electrical panel you'll find the white and ground wires on the same buss bar. What you need to remember is, the ground is there to help the circuit breaker (or fuse) blow in the case of a fault current (the imbalance between the white and black wires). It's also there to make sure any exposed conductive (energized) parts of a device will not have much voltage on them in the event of a fault. It's ground, and yes, it is going directly to the ground. Whereas, the white wire can have some current on it.



Why is all of this important? Simple, a lot of us wire up our own shacks. It's very important that we do it not only to "code", but more importantly, we do it for our safety. Having the shack wired properly can help to prevent you from having one very terrible afternoon.



If your shack is anything like mine, there's a lot going on with wires everywhere. There's even low voltage lines running here and there. Oh, low voltage doesn't worry you? My low voltage carries close to 100 amps, and that's enough to do a little welding! I also have 110volt generator lines in the shack as well. Imagine what would happen if any goes wrong. Yes, I do have a fire extinguisher and a "KILL" switch close by, just in case.

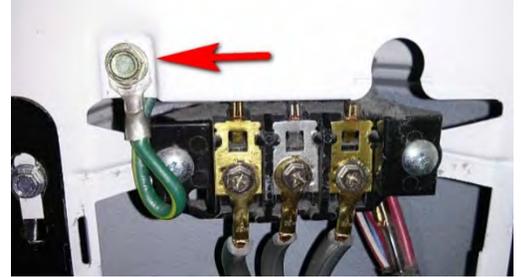
You might also want to consider doing the same, if you haven't already.

All of my lines (AC and DC) are properly identified, BUT things can still go wrong, even with the best laid plans.

So, having the commercial and generator power properly wired is a must, just like it is with the low voltage lines! I'm sure that all of you have experienced, at least once, what happens when you reverse the RED and BLACK wires on your low voltage stuff. If the rig didn't smoke, then you need to thank the fast acting fuse that just blew, because I'm sure it DID! Remember, things like your HF rig, antenna tuner and linear amplifier sometimes can get really fussy if the hot side of the electric line is reversed. And, always independently ground your radio and all associated equipment, as that ground loops can happen at any time without them being bonded together through a good common ground.

If you are in a home like mine was, there were no grounded outlets in the house when I purchased it. No, you don't have to have it completely re-wired, although that's an option you might want to really think about. There are some things that you can do to protect you and your family from electrical shock without breaking the piggy bank.

First things first. If your major appliances aren't grounded, get them grounded. That's where most electrocutions happen in the home. It's really not that hard to do. But, I will state it this way, if you don't feel comfortable with doing anything electrical, DON'T... have an electrician do it for you. Believe you me, you'll be much better for it. In most cases less than \$100 can get all of your major electrical appliances grounded.



If you're handy and not afraid of changing out your outlets, you can get some protection from a GFCI outlet even without having a ground wire hooked to it. How's this possible? A GFCI protection device operates on the principle of monitoring the current imbalance between the ungrounded (hot) and grounded (neutral) conductors. In a typical 2-wire circuit, the current in amperes returning to the power supply will be the same as the current leaving the power supply (except for small leakage). This is basic Ohms Law, you remember that from when you were studying for your license, don't you? If the difference between the current leaving and returning through the current transformer of the GFCI protection device is 5mA, the solid-state circuitry activates the shunt trip feature to open the switching contacts of the GFCI, thereby de-energizing the circuit. So, you can get protection from a GFCI that you wouldn't have without it. You might want to consider this option. I will state that you still don't have a properly grounded circuit however, and so the possibilities are still there that you could get shocked! A ground wire properly installed is still the BEST option. But, if you just can't get a ground wire to the outlet, this is a way for you to get SOME protection.

Now, I don't expect all of you to go rushing out to your local electrical store and start getting things for your complete home re-wire, but I wanted you to know that there is a real risk of things going very, very wrong if you don't have some basic understanding of what the "Neutral" wire is all about.

Please keep this, and the need for a proper grounding system in mind when you go to work on the shack. Grounding is THE most important thing that you can do, and it's really the easiest and the least expensive if the items in our ham shack, yet it will reward you the biggest when the time really comes.

There are literally hundreds of things that you can do above and beyond what I've mentioned here. A good search on the internet will provide you with a lot of expert knowledge on your electrical system and what you can do to protect yourself from a very nasty afternoon.

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IARU Cites Progress Toward 50-MHz Region 1 Allocation

(from arrl bulletins)

The International Amateur Radio Union ([IARU](#)) says “significant progress” was made during World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 (WRC-19) preparations that took place earlier this month at International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Headquarters in Geneva. But the IARU cautioned that a lot remains to be done before the “reservations and concerns of regulators and spectrum users are adequately satisfied.”



The team representing IARU in Working Party 5A (WP 5A) of ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) consisted of amateurs from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Norway, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, and the US. For IARU, the main focus was on the WRC-19 agenda item that will consider an Amateur Radio allocation in Region 1 from 50 to 54 MHz that is similar to the one available in regions 2 and 3. The current, mainly secondary, allocation of 50 to 52 MHz in most European countries is a regional agreement.

Delegates to the meeting considered input documents from IARU, France, the Russian Federation, and Switzerland were considered. A rough consensus was achieved on the text that will provide the technical basis for discussions concerning the access to 50-54 MHz for the Amateur Service in Region 1. Additionally, some administrations accepted an IARU-proposed method to calculate the spectrum needs of the Amateur Service at 50 to 54 MHz, but more information to justify the requested bandwidth will be required, the IARU said.

For sharing studies, particularly in relation to the Land Mobile Service and Radiolocation applications in the 50-54 MHz allocation, a mutually agreed-upon propagation model remains to be determined. No major objections remain to sharing with analog television broadcasting in the 50-54- MHz band in Region 1, provided that a time-limited field strength limit is applied.

Other key issues affecting the Amateur Service remain to be addressed prior to WRC-19. These include securing protection for Amateur Service primary allocations at 24 GHz and 47 GHz and minimizing possible interference arising from Wireless Power Transmission (WPT) for the charging of electric vehicles.

Following the meeting of Working Party 5A and other meetings related to the work of ITU-R Study Group 5, the ITU hosted the first of three planned Inter-Regional Workshops on WRC-19 Preparation. IARU Vice President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, who also attended the WP 5A meeting, represented the IARU at the workshop to hear reports on progress by the regional telecommunication organizations. -- *Thanks to the IARU*

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Fun Things To Do & Hamfest Too

(from various newsletters and sources)



2017 CQ World Wide DX Contest

CW: November 25-26

Starts 0000 UTC Saturday; Ends 2359 UTC Sunday

Log Deadlines: CW – 2359 UTC Dec. 1, 2017

12/02/2017 | Tigers 44444 The Holidays

Dec 2, 1400Z-2000Z, K8TGR, Newton Falls, OH. Newton Falls Technology and Multimedia Club. 146.52 14.275 14.250. QSL. NFHSTMC, 909 1/2 Milton Blvd, Newton Falls, OH 44444.



Will be running a special event station at the 2nd Annual Tigers 44444 The Holidays Craft Show and School Holiday Spectacular. Check in to receive a special QSL card. www.k8tgr.org

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. 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 need operators for this event but you must register with the Hospital. Please contact me and I will put you in touch with the Hospital contact person. We would love to have you, your children, grandchildren, neighbors or anybody that wants to talk to Santa also check-in.

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.

Hamfests

12/02/2017 | FCARC WinterFest

Location: Delta, OH

Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club Website: <http://k8bxq.org/hamfest>

NOTE: Winter Hamfest is changing to The Village of Delta Memorial Hall at 401 Main St, in Delta



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

Location: Nelsonville, OH

Sponsor: Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation

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

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Ohio's ARES NIMS Milestone Reached

Hey Gang,

I wanted to let all of you in on a little secret, we've been waiting on a milestone to happen in the Ohio Section for some time now. That milestone was to get 600 Ohio ARES volunteers registered with all 4 of their NIMS course completed and entered into our statewide database!

Well, the best news imaginable came when we reached that milestone today! Troy Blair, KE8DRR submitted his 4 certificates to us late last night! He becomes our 600th person and to celebrate this fantastic goal, we are sending Tony an ARRL - ARES Deployment Vest (Mesh).

Please help me congratulate Tony on becoming the 600th person in Ohio's ARES Program to complete their NIMS courses!!



Now, I will tell ya' that's not the end of this story either. With this goal achieved, I am setting a new goal for our ARES Program. Let's see if we can reach that goal by the end of the year! Yup, we have about 5 weeks left. Do you think we can hit the 625 mark by then? I do! I'm ready to purchase another ARES Deployment Vest just as an incentive to get there!! What do you say, are you in? We need 25 people to step up and either get their 4 certificates to me, or get going on wherever you are in your training, and complete those so important classes now!

Oh, and as an extra incentive, I'm not stopping at 625 either. We will continue this for as long as it takes to get ALL of our ARES membership in our database!

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WHAT TO TAKE TO BED WITH YOU - not a joke.

(from Don Wade, W8DEA)

Here's a really great idea... Put your car keys beside your bed at night.



Tell your spouse, your children, your neighbors, your parents, your doctor's office, the check-out girl at the market, everyone you run across. Put your car keys beside your bed at night.

If you hear a noise outside your home, or someone trying to get in your house, just press the panic button for your car. The alarm will be set off, and the horn will continue to sound until either you turn it off or the car battery dies.

This tip came from a neighborhood watch coordinator. Next time you come home for the night and you start to put your keys away, think of this: It's a security alarm system that you probably already have and requires no installation. Test it. It will go off from most everywhere inside your house and will keep honking until your battery runs down or until you reset it with the button on the key fob chain. It works if you park in your driveway or garage.

If your car alarm goes off when someone is trying to break into your house, odds are the burglar/rapist won't stick around. After a few seconds, all the neighbors will be looking out their windows to see who is out there, and sure enough the criminal won't want that. And remember to carry your keys while walking to your car in a parking lot. The alarm can work the same way there. This is something that should really be shared with everyone. Maybe it could save a life or a sexual abuse crime.



P.S. Send this out to everyone that you know because it's really a fantastic way of letting would be intruders that you are aware of their presence. This would also be useful for any emergency, such as a heart attack, where you can't reach a phone too. Here's another suggestion that I wish I had thought of when I broke my ankle in the driveway and I laid there for almost 20 minutes yelling my darn fool head off! Carry your car keys with you in case you would fall outside and no one is within earshot of you to hear you yelling. You can simply activate the car alarm, and then everyone around the neighborhood will know that there's a problem.

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The Murphy Philosophy



- Smile... tomorrow will be worse.
- If there is a possibility of several things going wrong, the one that will cause the most damage will be the first one to go wrong.
- If anything can't go wrong, it will anyway.

Final.. Final..

Hey Gang,

Wow, I had such a wonderful Thanksgiving. Like most of you, I stuffed my face full of every kind of food imaginable this past holiday! Now I've really gotta' get back on the diet once again and lose all those extra calories that I just consumed.

I had a fantastic time at the Southern Ohio Amateur Radio Association (SOARA) Christmas Party this past week. I presented them with their ARRL Affiliation Certificate. They now become the 111th Affiliated Club in the Ohio Section!



Did you hear, Ohio's own, Jack Purdum, W8TEE was selected for the November 2017 QST Cover Plaque Award. The winning article was co-authored by Jack and Farrukh Zia, K2ZIA, and it was titled "Build Your Own Arduino-Based Antenna Analyzer" Congratulations Jack!!



C.Q. C.Q.. 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 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, gets signed up to receive these Newsletters. You can always "[Opt-Out](#)" at any time if you feel this is not what you were expecting.

Got questions, concerns or would just like to sit and chat awhile? Heck, I'll even buy the coffee!! Give me a call at (419) 512-4445 or email me at: n8sy@n8sy.com

73, for now, I will catch you on down the log for sure.

Scott, N8SY...

-sk-

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PostScript is produced as a weekly supplement to the Ohio Section Journal (OSJ). I sincerely hope that you have enjoyed this edition of PostScript, 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!