



December 2014
Volume 52, Issue 12

Christmas Issue

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**Newsletter of the
Mahoning Valley
Amateur Radio
Association
Established 1919**

The Voice Coil

President's Corner

This year we've made some significant progress as a club.

The code of regulations was updated by a dedicated committee of club members. It was a much needed update, revising some outdated practices and language that dated back to the 1950s.

Membership has done a turn-around since last year. We have streamlined meetings and Frank WB8YHD has done a great job with converting boring financial reports to pie charts. Dave WB8IBA has made improvements to the website.

The MVARA (W8JV) ARRL VE team conducted test sessions in 2014. Along with that effort, and assistance from Dave KD8NZF and Nancy KD8QNY, the MVARA has been conducting additional classes and VE testing. Those efforts allowed over 40 people become hams, and another half dozen to upgrade from Tech to General.

We gained a several new members, as well as introducing the MVARA to some potential members though classes and testing sessions in cooperation with the CRI and Grove City College, among others.

The newsletter continues to grow. It's now up to 18 pages from its original 8, incorporating special interests such as contesting, hands-



on projects and more.

Field Day now has a very desirable and high-profile home at the Metro Park Farm. We also operated as W8O for (OSPOTA) Ohio State Parks On The Air, and a special event operation (W8R), at ITT for World Amateur Radio Day.

Due to the efforts of the Field Day Committee and volunteers, more of the public has been introduced to ham radio and its mission.

In addition, the W8QLY Ops scored a 3rd place finish nationally in the 8A category, an improvement over the last two years.

Our relationship with Mahoning and Trumbull County EMA, and the regional Red Cross has greatly improved. KB8WPZ's Santa Net continues to grow interest and the children he reaches with the event are always appreciative.

So where do we go from here? To involve current members and attract new ones, we need to build
(continued page 2)

2014 Officers

President: Wes Boyd, W8IZC

Vice President: Mike McCleery,
K8PRR

Secretary/Webmaster: Dave Salmen,
WB8IBA

Treasurer: Frank Sole, WB8YHD

Trustees: Andy Brincko, WA8ZLK

Mark Haverstock, K8MSH

Dave Brett, KD8ZNF

Dave Fairbanks, N8NB

Newsletter Staff: Mark Haverstock,
K8MSH ; Joe Vasko, N8SEJ; Dave
Brett, KD8ZNF; Nancy Brett
KD8QNY

Awards Manager: Dave Fairbanks,
N8NB, 330.759.6993, 4770 Logan
Ave. Youngstown, OH 44505

The Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc, meets the second Thursday of every month. Location and time are subject to change. Dues are \$20.00 per year, \$10.00 each for additional family members. A pro-rata discount for first time membership is available as well as special student and military discounts. See this and the January issue for an application form and additional details..

The club call is **W8QLY**; equipment operated under this call includes a two meter voice repeater at 146.745 (-600, 110.9 PL).

For License Classes and VEC info,
Contact Wes Boyd, W8IZC,
W8IZC@yahoo.com

MONDAY NIGHT NET operates every Monday at 9:00. PM on 146.745 MHz. Primary Net Control - Art Burnett, KB8UNJ.

SKYWARN NET - First Wednesday of the month at 8:30 PM on 146.745 MHz as weather warrants.

ARES NET- First and third Mondays of each month at 8:30 PM on 146.745 MHz; prior to the Monday Night Net.

President's Corner (continued)

upon those things we have to offer to the membership. Though it sounds a bit self-centered, prospective members look to see what a club can offer them-- not the other way around. Admittedly, that's sometimes true of us as well.

Much of the 2015 meeting program calendar is still open for suggestions. We should also consider sponsoring a few activities outside the normal Thursday meeting schedule, such as social activities, classes, club participation in contests, public service events-- things that will encourage participation from members and potential members.

We should also remember the reason amateur radio exists: public service. If you had doubts of the value of Amateur radio in times of crisis, look at the snowstorms in Buffalo, NY, recently. It's been a long time since we had similar conditions, but a snowstorm of a foot or more could paralyze the area. Have you thought what you would do if that happened? There are many members of the MVARA who would be happy to show you your value as an amateur radio operator in such an emergency.

Got some ideas? Share them with the club officers. Better yet, volunteer your time and talent to make them happen.

Dues Changes

Rather than wait until the last minute, renew your membership early. We will collect membership dues at the Christmas party through the February meeting. You can also mail your membership form to the treasurer at any time. A printable form is located on page 6.

Dues remain at \$20 for an individual membership--it hasn't changed since the 1990s. However, there have been some changes in our club's Code of Regulations, adopted earlier this year, that will affect a few members. *Additional family members living at the same address may join for one-half the cost of an individual membership per person, in addition to the primary membership.* This means additional family members will be charged half the full rate, or \$10 each. This is a change from previous years.

For new members only, payments made after the first of the year will be prorated quarterly. Students under age 25 and *active duty* military may join for one-half the cost of an individual membership upon verification of their student or military status.

We hope you'll consider renewing your membership early and participate in the activities of the MVARA throughout 2015.

Meeting Programs

December Meeting:

Christmas Party at The Manor
on Rte. 46, Thursday,
December 11, 6:30 pm.

January Meeting:

Part 2 of Andy's presentation
on electromagnetic pulses and
their effect on radio
communications.

February Meeting: Dr. Al
Christman, K3LC, from Grove
City College will be speaking
on antenna topics.

Suggestions-ideas for future
club programs? We're looking
to set up a tentative calendar
for 2015 by March. Please
contact VP Mike K8PRR.

Christmas Party White Elephant Gift Exchange

Coming to the Christmas party? Bring something that you probably already have lying around the house—something you'd likely take to sell at a flea market or hamfest. Ham related items would be best, but not absolutely necessary. Ideally they should be functional or at least have some salvageable parts value. If you still have your heart set on grabbing something at Harbor Freight instead, go ahead. No one will mind.

Wrap it up like you would any Christmas gift—or seal it in a box. The element of surprise is important.

The idea is to have some fun—and save money as well. The exchange process is pretty simple—we'll explain it after dinner. It can take some interesting twists and turns. Please reply to Mike McCleery by Dec 3 with your reservation.

Got an idea for an article? Want to share club news and events?

How about writing a short 30-minute project idea? Your submissions to the Voice Coil are needed to help keep this one of the best club newsletters in Ohio.

Send your articles to: MVARAVoiceCoil@gmail.com

Service Opportunities

Youngstown Holiday Parade will be held on December 5, 2014. Volunteers should meet downtown at 4:00 pm at Valley Foods, 335 E. Boardman Street, Youngstown. Bring your HT and a warm coat. Staging is at 4:30 pm and the parade starts at 5:00 pm. The tree lighting is at 6:30 pm.

Santa Net. Tentative date is Thursday December 18, 2014. You need credentials to participate. Contact Jack, KB8WPZ@arrl.net

Hamfest Calendar

02/01/2015 NOARS Winter Hamfest & Computer Show. VFW Post 1079, 500 South Abbe Road Elyria, OH 44035. **Website:** <http://www.noars.net/> **Sponsor:** Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society **Talk-In:** 146.700 (PL 110.9) **Public Contact:** Darlene Ohman, KA8VTS, 161 Herrmann Drive Avon Lake, OH 44012 Phone: 216-398-8858 **Email:** winterhamfest@noars.net

02/15/2015 Mansfield Mid-Winter Hamfest. Richland County Fairgrounds, 750 North Home Road, Mansfield, OH 44901 **Website:** <http://www.W8WE.org> **Sponsor:** InterCity Amateur Radio Club **Talk-In:** 146.940 (PL 71.9) **Public Contact:** Danny Bailey, KB8STK, 70 Euclid Street Shiloh, OH 44878 Phone: 419-896-2165 **Email:** kb8stk1@hotmail.com

Resistance is not futile. It's voltage divided by current.

Ward Silver Webinar



On November 5, Ward Silver gave a webinar on contesting tips for the Mahoning and Trumbull county ARES groups at the Austintown Senior Center. Silver is one of the instructors at Contest University, which is held prior to the Dayton Hamfest.

Under the Tree

Christmas is only a few weeks away, and perhaps you've been dropping hints to Santa or family members about that new piece of gear you've been drooling over--perhaps the phrase "seriously hoping to get for Christmas" would create a better mental picture.

Several manufacturers have some new rigs, as well as incremental improvements just in time for the holiday season. Some are available right now, while others are waiting in the wings for FCC approval.

Yaesu FT-991. Most believe this is a replacement for the aging FT-897D. This shack-in-the-box covers 160-2 meters in all popular modes, and falls into the small base rig/ larger mobile rig category. Sorry, no detachable faceplate, but the feature list includes: High Speed Spectrum Scope, 3.5" TFT Touch Panel, Roofing Filters: 3 kHz, 15 kHz, Digital Noise Reduction, and Yaesu's answer to D-Star, System *Fusion* C4FM Digital. Looking at the picture, it also bears a family resemblance to the FT-1200 and FT-3000. Price--\$1699.00.



Kenwood TS-590SG. The original TS-590 rated high in Rob Sherwood's receiver tests and offered some of the best bang-for-the-buck in the under \$2k category. After several years on the market, Kenwood has finally decided to address some hardware and software issues, making a new and



73 Magazine

Whether you loved or hated Wayne Green, you probably miss his *73 Magazine* that ceased publication in 2003. Relive the old days, courtesy of the Internet Archive.

https://archive.org/search.php?query=73%20magazine%20AND%20collection%3Aadditional_collections

Old Manuals

Find an old radio and need a schematic or manual? The manuals in the BAMA archive are available to all who enjoy working on and restoring old tube type amateur radio equipment and short wave receivers. Hundreds of "boat anchor" manuals are available--with the notable exception of Heathkit.

<http://bama.edebris.com/manuals/>

BTW, Where is Heathkit?

Hiding with Elvis? Waldo? The group that promised to bring back Heathkit still has a webpage--the last post is now a year old.

<http://www.heathkit.com/>

improved version. Among the upgrades are 500Hz/ 2.7KHz roofing filters standard, CW decoder, improved ALC, new split function, upgraded cooling system and more. Current owners will receive some of the new features with the 2.0 firmware upgrade. In appearance, the SG is identical to the previous model. Price--TBA



Alinco DX-10. Filling a void left by the Uniden HR-2510 and Radio Shack HTX-10, this multimode 10 meter transceiver operates in LSB, USB, AM, FM or CW modes from 28-29.7 MHz. Power output is adjustable (0-25W SSB and 1-12W FM/AM/CW). This radio does *not* employ a traditional VFO. Rather, frequencies may be stored in its memory system and then adjusted by the fine tuning. Price-\$270.



Icom 7850. This is a special limited edition enhanced version of the IC-7800. Only about 150 IC-7850 units (worldwide) will be released as a limited edition to commemorate Icom's 50th anniversary. It includes a newly developed 1.2kHz "Optimum" roofing filter, best in industry class 1st LO Phase noise figure, added USB ports/500kHz band compatibility improved spectrum scope, dual scope function, and high resolution spectrum waterfall. The front panel is pretty cool looking too. Price-TBA.



--K8MSH

A Word from the Guy Who Puts This Together . . .

I hope you like the changes we've made in the *Voice Coil* this year. Since March, the club officers have given me the mission of assembling the newsletter, improving its content and getting it out in plenty of time to inform members of local and club events. Thanks to Nancy and Dave who have handled the distribution, Joe who has done the final proofreading, and members who have contributed articles.

Publishing a quality *Voice Coil* takes a significant commitment of time and resources--something I've gladly done for the last ten months. It also takes the support of the membership. Consider writing an article or contributing pictures in the upcoming year.

One major change begins on with the January 2015 issue--the *Voice Coil* will be distributed *by email only* in PDF format. Please be sure to update your email address on your membership renewal, and avoid using an ARRL mail address since they've been somewhat unreliable.

--Mark, K8MSH

Ham Tips: Upgrade Antenna or Buy an Amplifier?

This question often provokes a lot of discussion. If you look at it from a cost standpoint, moving from a dipole to a full-wave loop antenna or a moderately priced directional antenna will provide more bang for the buck than an amplifier.

Don't forget receive. A better antenna will also improve your ability to receive, something a linear amp can't do.

Membership Renewal Reminder

Why wait? Renew your membership in the MVARA. You can renew your membership at the next club meeting or send in your check with the renewal form below.

Along with your membership renewal, please also consider making a donation to the Repeater fund to help support the repeater. The repeater operation and maintenance is supported by your donations.



MVARA Membership Renewal Form

Name: _____ Call: _____

Mailing Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone # _____

Email: _____ (for sending *Voice Coil/ member alerts*)

ARRL member? *Yes*____ *No*____

Do you want your name and call to appear in a membership list that will be made available to members? *Yes*____ *No*____

Do you want your phone number included in the membership list that will be made available to members? *Yes*____ *No*____

Make checks payable to: Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association

_____ Renewal: _____ New Member: Single membership \$ 20.00

_____ Renewal: _____ New Member: Additional family members, \$10.00 each

_____ Renewal: _____ New Member: Student/ active military membership \$ 10.00

W8QLY Repeater Support

_____ Basic Support Donation \$ 12.00

_____ Gold Level Support Donation \$ 50.00

_____ Other Support Donation \$ _____

***Please bring this renewal form and your payment to the next meeting
or mail to: MVARA, P.O. Box 14141 - 125 West McKinley Way Youngstown, Ohio 44514***

Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association Monthly Meeting

Thursday November 13, 2014, Youngstown
Public Library

Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Eugene R. KB8QXE

Presentation

Wes B. W8IZC, Presented this month's program:
Directional Antennas

Secretary's Report

Secretary Dave S. WB8IBA. Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Frank S. WB8YHD. Everyone was emailed a copy of the treasurer's report. MOTION: To approve the Treasurer's Report for October, made by Mike M. K8PRR and seconded by Mark H. K8MSH. Motion passed. MOTION: To approve the Treasurer's Report for November. Made by Mike M. K8PRR and seconded by Mark H. K8MSH. Motion Passed.

Newsletter Committee

Joe S. N8SEJ, Mark K8MSH. Thanked everyone for their contributions and encouraged members to continue to submit articles.

Website Committee

Dave S. WB8IBA. Nothing new

Programs

Mike M. K8PRR. The Christmas Party will be held on December 11, 2014 at 6:30 pm and will be held at The Manor Restaurant located at the intersection of Route 46 and Kirk Rd. in Austintown. We will be ordering from the menu. Please let Mike know by December 3 so he can give an accurate count to the restaurant. We will be holding a White Elephant gift exchange and accepting donations for a local charity. We are also looking for club photos for a slideshow presentation--send to Wes, W8IZC.

Repeater Committee

Art B. KB8UNJ. The repeater is working well.

Contest Committee

Dave F. N8NB. MFJ Day at DX Engineering:
January 10, 2015 from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Award Committee

Dave F. N8NB. CQ WW DX this weekend and the ARRL Phone contest is going on.

Santa Net

Jack S. KB8WPZ. Tentative date is Thursday December 18, 2014. You do need credentials to participate.

New Business

Dave B. KD8NZF. Youngstown Holiday Parade will be held on December 5, 2014. Meet downtown at 4:00 pm at Valley Foods. Staging is at 4:30 pm and the parade starts at 5:00 pm. The tree lighting is at 6:30 pm

ELECTIONS

The following members were nominated for the following positions:

President: Wes B. W8IZC

Vice President: Mike M. K8PRR

Secretary: Dave S. WB8IBA

Treasurer: Frank S. WB8YHD

Trustees: Jerry G. KC8EFO and Andy B. WA8ZLK

MOTION: To accept and approve the above nominations by acclimation. Motion made by Joe V. N8SEJ and seconded by Dave F. N8NB. Motion passed

50/50 Raffle

Jackpot: \$40.00, with \$20.00 going to the winner, Rick A.

The **VOICE COIL** is the monthly publication of the Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc. (MVARA) and is intended to present news, issues and opinions of interest to MVARA members and the Amateur Radio Community. We encourage contributions of articles, letters to the editor, etc. and welcome newsletter exchanges with other clubs from around the country and around the world. Permission is granted to reprint material contained herein as long as proper credit is given to this newsletter and the author. Ideas for and contributions to the VOICE COIL should be submitted to:

MVARAVoiceCoil@gmail.com

Submissions must be received **no later than the 24th** of the month prior to the month of issue, unless otherwise specified. Submissions should be in MS Word format or ASCII text. Material received after the deadline will be used in the next month's VOICE COIL if it is still current and /or news worthy.

The **VOICE COIL** is published by the MVARA. All material contained herein is considered the opinion of the author and not necessarily that of the MVARA. No responsibility for accuracy is assumed by the editor or newsletter staff. Typos are included for the entertainment of those who enjoy looking for them and should be reported immediately to any nearby MVARA member :-)

DECEMBER MVARA MEETING LOCATION:

The Manor Restaurant
Intersection of Route 46 and Kirk Rd. in Austintown
December 11, 2014 at 6:30 pm
Order from the menu

MVARA 2015



OPERATING NEWS AND INFORMATION

Dave Fairbanks N8NB

The results for Field Day were published in the December issue of QST and congratulations are due to all who participated. W8QLY finished third in the country among all 8A entrants.

December provides a plethora of good contests for all levels of ability. The ARRL 10 meter contest is fun for all and would provide excellent contacts while our sunspots hold on. Technician licensees are welcome. The ARRL Rookie Roundup is also recommended for beginners.

For you QRP fans, the Run For the Bacon sprint is on December 21. This is run by "Flying Pigs QRP Club" and is a 2 hour fun contest with a 5 watt power limit.

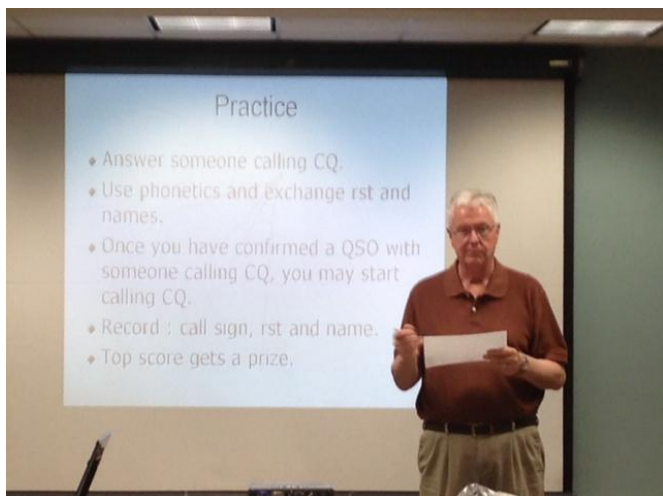
An expanded listing of contests occurring in December is listed below. Just click on the plus sign to the left of the contest for more information about the contest. Source is <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>.

December 2014

+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Dec 2
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Dec 3 and 1900Z-2000Z, Dec 3 and 0300Z-0400Z, Dec 4
+ NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1800Z-1900Z, Dec 4 (CW) and 1900Z-2000Z, Dec 4 (SSB) and 2000Z-2100Z, Dec 4 (FM) and 2100Z-2200Z, Dec 4 (Dig)
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Dec 5
+ ARRL 160-Meter Contest	2200Z, Dec 5 to 1600Z, Dec 7
+ TARA RTTY Melee	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 6
+ ARRL EME Contest	0000Z, Dec 6 to 2359Z, Dec 7
+ Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0600Z-0629Z, Dec 6 and 0630Z-0659Z, Dec 6 and 0700Z-0729Z, Dec 6 and 0730Z-0800Z, Dec 6
+ TOPS Activity Contest	1600Z, Dec 6 to 1559Z, Dec 7
+ Ten-Meter RTTY Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 7
+ SARL Digital Contest	1300Z-1600Z, Dec 7
+ CQC Great Colorado Snowshoe Run	2100Z-2259Z, Dec 7
+ NAQCC CW Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Dec 10
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Dec 10 and 1900Z-2000Z, Dec 10 and 0300Z-0400Z, Dec 11
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Dec 12
+ ARRL 10-Meter Contest	0000Z, Dec 13 to 2400Z, Dec 14
+ NAQCC CW Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Dec 17
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Dec 17 and 1900Z-2000Z, Dec 17 and 0300Z-0400Z, Dec 18
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Dec 19
+ AGB-Party Contest	2100Z-2400Z, Dec 19
+ OK DX RTTY Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 20
+ Feld Hell Sprint	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 20
+ Croatian CW Contest	1400Z, Dec 20 to 1400Z, Dec 21
+ ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW	1800Z-2359Z, Dec 21
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Dec 22
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Dec 24 and 1900Z-2000Z, Dec 24 and 0300Z-0400Z, Dec 25

+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Dec 19
+ AGB-Party Contest	2100Z-2400Z, Dec 19
+ OK DX RTTY Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 20
+ Feld Hell Sprint	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 20
+ Croatian CW Contest	1400Z, Dec 20 to 1400Z, Dec 21
+ ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW	1800Z-2359Z, Dec 21
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Dec 22
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Dec 24 and 1900Z-2000Z, Dec 24 and 0300Z-0400Z, Dec 25
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Dec 26
+ DARC Christmas Contest	0830Z-1059Z, Dec 26
+ RAC Winter Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Dec 27
+ Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Dec 27 to 1500Z, Dec 28
+ RAEM Contest	0000Z-1159Z, Dec 28
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Dec 31 and 1900Z-2000Z, Dec 31 and 0300Z-0400Z, Jan 1

More MVARA 2015



Test Your Ham IQ

1. Who was the first “HAM” in Space?

a) Norm Fusaro – W3IZ b) Dr. Owen Garriott – W5LFL c) HAM – the Space Chimp d) E. Mike McCardel – KC8YLD

2. What type of modulation has a constant power output level?

a) Amplitude Modulation b) Frequency Modulation c) CW d) SSB

3. What is the maximum power output allowed in a transmitter for remote control of model craft?

a) 5 watts b) 2.5 watts c) 1 watt d) 0.5 watt

4. Your station is plagued by interference from a strong local broadcast station. To solve the problem use:

a) Band Pass Filter b) Notch Filter c) Comb Filter d) Chebyshev Filter

5. Vertical antennas can work well for DX due to their:

a) Wide Bandwidth b) Hi-Q loading coils c) Omni-directional radiation pattern d) low angle of radiation

6. The U.S of A. has 3rd party traffic agreements with all of the following except:

a) Israel b) Bosnia-Herzegovina c) Germany d) United Kingdom e) Jordan

7. On 60 meters, amateurs are restricted to:

a) 50 watts, as measured at the transmitter output b) 50 watts to the antenna input c) 100 watts ERP d) 50 watts PEP

8. Ideally, an NVIS antenna should be erected:

a) Between 0.1 and 0.25 wavelength above ground b) as close to the ground as possible c) Between 8 and 12 feet above ground d) With the elements touching the ground at each end

9. Digital FM has an operating duty factor of:

a) 25% b) 50% c) 75% d) 100%

10. “Manhattan Style” is a:

a) Morse Code Cadence b) Technique for operating in VHF/UHF contests c) Technique for home brewing circuit boards d) Technique for mounting multiple antennas on a tower.

11. High end manufacturer of Ham Radio equipment located in OH before going defunct:

a) Collins b) Clegg c) Hammarlund d) R.L Drake

12. In order to conduct a license exam session, there must be at least ____ VE's present:

a) 2 b) 3 c) 4 d) 5

Answers on page 17

--From November 2014 PCARS Radiogram

Amateur Radio News

RADIO LAW: ARRL ASKS FCC TO KEEP ISSUING PAPER LICENSES FOR RADIO AMATEURS

The ARRL is giving partial thumbs down to virtual licenses for radio amateurs. This in comments filed November 5th, where the League has recommended the FCC continue to provide paper license documents to amateur radio licensees who want them.

According to the ARRL Letter, the League's comments were in response to an FCC Public Notice in WT Docket 14-161. Among other issues it proposes the regulatory agency wants to cease the routine issuance of hard-copy license documents to all Wireless Service licensees but will permit the agency to continue the issuance of paper documents during the transition period to specific classes of licensees that specifically request them.

Under the FCC proposal once a license application is granted, the Universal Licensing System will generate an official electronic license but will no longer mail a paper copy license unless notified that the licensee wishes to receive such a document. Until new procedures are finalized, however, the Commission will continue to print and mail paper licenses, unless notified to stop.

The FCC claims that the proposed elimination of most paper documents is an action being taken under the Report on FCC Reform issued earlier this year. It says that to the extent permitted by Federal records retention requirements that licensing bureaus should eliminate paper copies of licenses.

You can read the entire twelve pages detailing proposed changes on the FCC website at tinyurl.com/no-more-paper-license. The ARRL's comments are at tinyurl.com/arrl-paper-license-response.

--ARRL

New "My DX Summit" Website Going Live on November 21

The new "My DX Summit" (MDXS) website will go live on November 21 at 1000 UTC. MDXS will replace the current "[DX Summit](#)" website, but the URL will be the same, and the transition should be seamless. The new site design, which incorporates a number of features — including a handy propagation tool — has been undergoing some beta testing and last-minute tweaking over the past few weeks.

"Predicted propagation is based on your personal location, and by clicking a DX spot you will see the current conditions and a 24-hour window covering all bands from your station, short and long path, to a distant DX location," Radio Arcala said in announcing the changeover. "This recent facelift makes several new functions readily available, assuring a pleasant user experience." The new site has been designed to support mobile devices.

DX Summit came into being in 1998 and won the [Yasme Foundation](#) Excellence Award. Plans are underway to integrate MDXS into January's K1N Navassa Island DXpedition.

"We at Radio Arcala wish to thank the more than 500 individuals who were our test partners and provided exciting ideas for our future endeavors to make MDXS a DX competence center of the future," the announcement continued. Some 135,000 unique users visit DX Summit each month.

Ken Claerbout, K4ZW, is scheduled to host an early December webinar with Radio Arcala specialists to explain MDXS basics as well as the propagation prediction tools.

Radio Arcala added that Santa Claus will appear on the MDXS portal in December before embarking on his world tour. "By sending a maximum number of spots during the first 14 days, three winners will be visited by Santa Claus with a certificate from the OHo-Ho-Ho land of Radio Arcala, OH8X," the announcement said.

--ARRL

(Continued pg.15)

PLANNED DX OPERATIONS:


Dave Fairbanks N8NB

December should be a good month for DX with the decrease in QRN levels and the continuation of good sunspot activity. A few casual dx contacts might be in order if you participated in the CQ WW DX contest on Nov. 29 and 30.

Some of the rarer dx entities are listed below, but there should be plenty of other stations available. Happy hunting!

Further information on these operations and others can be found at the website: <http://www.ng3k.com/index.html>.

December						
2014 Dec01	2014 Dec06	Niue	E6XG	JA1XGI	ATDX 20140526	By JA1XGI; HF w/ focus on low bands; mainly CW, some SSB + digital
2014 Dec01	2014 Dec09	Maldives	8Q7UX	IK0FUX	DXW.Net 20141022	By IK0FUX; HF; holiday style operation
2014 Dec02	2014 Dec10	Andaman & Nicobar	VU4	TBA	DXW.Net 20141103	By ops; fm Port Blair, Andaman Is
2014 Dec02	2014 Dec25	United Arab Emirates	A6 NEW	LotW	VE6LB 20141204	By VE6LB as A6/VE6LB; 40-10m; mainly CW; 100w; holiday style operation; QSL also OK via VE6LB, Buro or direct
2014 Dec03	2014 Dec06	Palau	T88ER NEW	JH7WER	JH7WER 20141122	By JH7WER fm Koror; HF + 6m; SSB; QSL OK via JARL Buro or direct
2014 Dec04	2014 Dec12	Ogasawara	JD1BOX	F4HEC Direct	DXW.Net 20140930	By F4HEC; 80-6m; SSB; QSL request must include SASE + IRC or 2 green stamps
2014 Dec07	2014 Dec15	St Lucia	J6 NEW	Home Call	DXW.Net 20141119	By SM7EQL as J6/SM7EQL and SM7DKF as J6/SM7DKF; 20-10m; CW; holiday style operation
2014 Dec09	2015 Jan08	Canary Is	EA8	LotW	IK1PMR 20141023	By IK1PMR as EA8/IK1PMR and PA3LEO as EA8/PA3LEO fm Tenerife I (AF-004); 160-6m; CW RTTY SSB; QSL via HB9FKK (preferred) or home_call (Buro or direct)
2014 Dec11	2014 Dec14	Lesotho	7P8NH	G3RWF	ATDX 20141010	By G3RWF; HF; CW
2014 Dec12	2015 Jan08	Cape Verde Is	D44TWO	M0OXO	ATDX 20140527	By DF2WO fm Praia, Santiago I (AF-005); HF; CW SSB
2014 Dec20	2014 Dec22	Norfolk I	VK9N NEW	JA0JHQ	ATDX 20141117	By JA0JHQ as JA0JHQ/VK9N; HF; mainly SSB
2014 Dec22	2015 Jan02	Ogasawara I	JD1 NEW	Home Call	425DXN 20141122	By JI1LET as JD1BOI and JA1UII as JD1BON fm Chichijima (AS-031); 80-6m; SSB CW RTTY
2014 Dec25	2015 Jan04	Palau	T8CW	LotW	ATDX 20141107	By JH0IXE fm Koror I; 160-6m; CW SSB RTTY JT65 PSK31; QSL also OK via JA0FOX Buro, JH0IXE direct, eQSL
2014 Dec26	2015 Jan01	Norfolk I	VK9N	M0OXO	DXW.Net 20141022	By G7VJR as VK9N/G7VJR; high bands; CW

2014 Dec27	2014 Dec30	Guam	KH2	LotW	JJ2RCJ 20141113	By JJ2RCJ as AH2/AB2RF; focus on WARC bands; RTTY
2014 Dec28	2014 Dec30	Monaco	 3A NEW	EA5IDQ	EA5IDQ 20141120	By EA5IDQ as 3A/EA5IDQ; 40-10m; SSB RTTY

Are Knobs and Buttons Toast?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

In a recent column on EETimes (http://www.eetimes.com/author.asp?doc_id=1324283), an old colleague of mine, Martin Rowe, says, "Knobs and buttons are slowly on their way out. Get used to it." He's referring to the controls on oscilloscopes, but if he were a ham, he might just as well be talking about amateur radio transceivers, too.



We already see this happening in amateur radio. FlexRadio, and a couple of other companies, already make transceivers with no front panel controls. You must have a computer to use them.

Might we even start to see this with handheld and portable equipment? For example, how much cheaper could they make a Baofeng if to use it, you had to also have an Android or iPhone app to act as the human interface?

To be honest, I haven't really thought about this much myself. I'm enough of a dinosaur to still prefer buttons and knobs, but having to use on-screen controls certainly doesn't turn me off. Rowe claims, however, that "as the old-timers retire (or in our case as older hams become SKs), younger engineers (or young hams) will expect every user interface to function like a phone or tablet. Don't believe me? Just wait."

I got several interesting replies to this idea on my blog. Bill, AD8BC says, "What would be fun would be an open-source mobile radio. I picture an RF deck with a Raspberry Pi and touch screen for control, the Pi would simply tell the RF deck where to tune and handle the interface and scanning functions, it would ship with a stock app, but you could make your own. Built in support for SDR stuff, packet, APRS, remote operation...."

Most commenters, however, even the younger guys, still seem to prefer analog controls. Lucien, DH7LM, says, "I'm a newly licensed ham and I like both – experimenting with advanced computer stuff like SDRs and the great feeling a real radio provides!" Grant, KJ6ZZD, says, "Knobs perform some tasks better than a screen can. Knobs provide some tactile feedback that a screen just can't."

So, what do you think? Are knobs and buttons toast, or do you think there's still some life left in analog controls?

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When not twiddling the knobs on his HF transceiver or relatively ancient Tek 2213 analog oscilloscope, you'll find KB6NU working on updates to his "No Nonsense" study guides or blogging about amateur radio at www.kb6nu.com.



Amateur Radio News (continued)

“Frequency” TV Series Would Reprise Amateur Radio-Themed Movie

Mike Baxter, KA0XTT — Tim Allen’s character in the “Last Man Standing” TV show on ABC — may be getting some competition on the ham bands, as NBC appears poised to launch a television series based on the 2000 movie [*Frequency*](#), in which ham radio — aided by some spectacular solar phenomena — plays a central role in the sci-fi thriller.

According to a November 13 [article](#) in *The Hollywood Reporter*, NBC has already committed to the series. Jeremy Carver is writing the script for Warner Brothers Television and will be the series’ executive producer. Toby Emmerich, who wrote the movie, will be a co-producer.

While Amateur Radio has made only fleeting appearances in “Last Man Standing,” it is an essential plot device in *Frequency*. In the movie, a New York City fireman, Frank Sullivan, played by Dennis Quaid, re-connects via a bizarre ham radio link with his son, John, 30 years in the future. Jim Caviezel, now a star in the CBS drama, “Person of Interest,” portrayed John Sullivan, an NYPD detective. John Sullivan comes across his late father’s 1960’s-era Heathkit transceiver, through which — with the help of quirk of nature and some Hollywood magic — he is able to communicate with his father through time and space.

Once back in touch, father and son conspire in efforts to change the past while also untangling their complicated personal relationship. Both also attempt to prevent a murder.

The ham radio theme and the chance to see vintage ham gear and real, glowing vacuum tubes (Frank Sullivan’s old Heathkit has no cover) on the big screen were sufficient to generate considerable interest within the Boat Anchor community when the movie debuted. The ARRL worked with the film’s producers. *Frequency* remains widely available in DVD and through video services.

-- Thanks to John Bigley, N7UR, Nevada Amateur Radio Newswire



Amateur License Refresher---Dave, KD8NZF

It's probably been awhile since you took your Amateur License exam. Here are a few sample questions from the current question pools just to keep those synapses firing. (answers pg. 18)

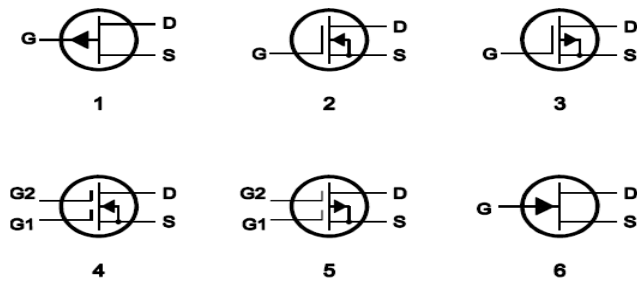
Extra Pool

E6A10

In Figure E6-2, what is the schematic symbol for an N-channel dual-gate MOSFET?

- A. 2
- B. 4
- C. 5
- D. 6

Figure E6-2



E9B10

What is the principle of a Method of Moments analysis?

- A. A wire is modeled as a series of segments, each having a uniform value of current
- B. A wire is modeled as a single sine-wave current generator
- C. A wire is modeled as a series of points, each having a distinct location in space
- D. A wire is modeled as a series of segments, each having a distinct value of voltage across it

E9A10

How is antenna efficiency calculated?

- A. (radiation resistance / transmission resistance) x 100%
- B. (radiation resistance / total resistance) x 100%
- C. (total resistance / radiation resistance) x 100%
- D. (effective radiated power / transmitter output) x 100%

General Pool

G0B14

Which of the following is covered by the National Electrical Code?

- A. Acceptable bandwidth limits
- B. Acceptable modulation limits
- C. Electrical safety inside the ham shack
- D. RF exposure limits of the human body

G0A10

What is one thing that can be done if evaluation shows that a neighbor might receive more than the allowable limit of RF exposure from the main lobe of a directional antenna?

- A. Change from horizontal polarization to vertical polarization
- B. Change from horizontal polarization to circular polarization
- C. Use an antenna with a higher front-to-back ratio
- D. Take precautions to ensure that the antenna cannot be pointed in their direction

Ham Humor: Ukrainian Hamfest Leaves Volunteers Pondering Food



By [WBØRUR](#), on the scene

KIEV, Ukraine – Members of the local ham radio club have found themselves in a bit of a мариновати (i.e., pickle) over the food to offer at the group’s upcoming шинка свято (hamfest), concession booth.

YL ham operator Olga Floyzinski insists on studenetz – aspic made with fish (zalyvne) – or meat (kholodets). But after the gastro-intestinal incident of the 2007 шинка свято (hamfest), others are reluctant to serve the traditional Ukrainian dish. City fathers still remark at the outbreak of stomach troubles, which put a strain on the city’s sewage infrastructure.

Early favorites to replace the studenetz are 1) deruny (potato pancakes), usually served with rich servings of sour cream; or 2) syrnyky (cottage cheese fritters), sometimes with raisins, served with sour cream and jam. There is no question, apparently, that sour cream WILL be served.

The traditional favorite of “Chicken Kiev” was considered, but voted down by the assemblage as “way too damn common around here, it’s on every street corner and in every alleyway and the tourists always make jokes about it at our restaurants and we’re sick and tired of it so why would we want to it!”

Club President Boris Feder says some club members are reluctant to serve such messy dishes while patrons are flipping switches and/or turning dials on “for sale” radio equipment.

“Hams are not known for cleanliness,” he says. (Note: this was loosely translated from the Ukrainian language and we only assume this is what he said.)

шинка свято (hamfest) Chairman Mykhalo Vira adds that he wants this whole controversy to go away and is hoping that золотий загін для худоби ресторан (Golden Corral Restaurant) opens a Ukrainian location quickly and that they have “all you eat borscht on Friday night.”

www.hamhijinks.com

(continued pg. 18)

Quiz Answers

- 1) C – HAM the Space Chimp, born July 1956, died Jan 19, 1983. Launched into space Jan. 31, 1961 as part of America's Space Program. W5LFL – made first 2 meter contact from space – STS9, November 1983.
- 2) B – Frequency Modulation
- 3) C – 1 Watt
- 4) B – Notch Filter
- 5) D – Low angle of radiation
- 6) C – Germany
- 7) C – 100 watts ERP
- 8) A – between 0.10 and 0.25 wavelength above ground
- 9) D – 100%
- 10) C – Technique for home brewing circuit boards
- 11) D – R.L. Drake
- 12) B – 3

Local Man Can't Pronounce Radio Brand

By [WBØRUR](#), on the scene



WEST HELENA, Alabama – Local amateur radio enthusiast “Junior” Thompson says he’d be perfectly fine purchasing a radio from China, if he could pronounce the brand’s name.

“Woosie? Whosin? Wax On? Wapner? Oh, I can’t ever figure it out!” laments the retired cable television installer. “The radio looks like it’s got a lot of great features for the price. But I just get all confused when I start to order it.”

In recent years, imported UHF/VHF radios such as Wouxon and Baofeng have made steady inroads in the U.S. market. And while U.S. hams understand these less expensive radios may come with user-friendly trade offs (difficulty in programming memory channels, etc), hams are often willing to accept the inconvenience in exchange for lower prices.

“I miss the good old days of radio,” opines Thompson. “Why can’t we go back to American names like Yaesu and Hammarlund?”

HamHijinks.com

License Refresher Answers:

- E6A10 (B)
- E9B10 (A)
- E9A10 (B)
- G0B14 (C)
- G0A10 (D)

Ebola-Stricken Hams To Be Quarantined to Allocated Band Space

By K5KAC, on the hermetically sealed scene

ATLANTA, Georgia — In a move that aims to stop the spread of the deadly Ebola Virus among ham radio operators, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the National Radio Retransmission League (NRRL) have begun allocating band space for radio enthusiasts showing symptoms. “We are trying to be proactive here,” says Husk “Bucky” Buckwalter, Head of Infectious Disease Prevention and Card Checker for the NRRL. Citing that his work is typically sanitizing microphones and straight keys at hamfests, he admits he is “a little in over his head.”



Both the CDC and the NRRL admit that the risk of spread is very little considering hams are solitary hobbyists that rarely socialize in-person. However, they have begun testing different frequencies that should be safe for ill hams.

Buckwalter notes, “We believe our best frequencies for containing Ebola will be between 14.212-14.214 MHz.”

The CDC declined to comment directly, but in a news release urges hams to please differentiate symptoms between “a heavy afternoon at the Golden Corral” and “true illness” before confining themselves to radio quarantine.

HamHiiinks.com