



February 2015
Volume 53, Issue 2

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

The Voice Coil

President's Corner

Fight Cabin Fever!

Has old man winter done damage to your antennas? Decided you need a new mobile mag mount?

Maybe some books or study materials are what you need to keep you busy over the next few weeks of winter. It's not too early to start thinking of spring and planning those projects.

Well it's two weeks from the big Mansfield, Ohio mid-winter hamfest--just over 2 hours drive and easy to find. I think I've missed 2 of these in about 25 years. The weather is always interesting and often a surprise. But with the event held indoors, in 3-4 huge buildings, you really don't need serious winter clothing. This is a great fest to meet others, find new or used goodies and attend some great forums.

Check with club members and other amateurs before you go; maybe you can carpool. Or maybe they can't make the drive and you can do some shopping for them.

What better way to get acquainted with old friends, new hams, or hams from other clubs? Spend the drive time chatting on 2 meter simplex can be a perfect way for new operators to learn operating techniques. Don't forget to check into the hamfest repeater to register for a "mobile check-in" prize.



Look around, meet other amateurs, and maybe buy something! No reason to be stuck inside at home, the rest of winter. Be sure to watch the hamfest listing in the Voice Coil for others throughout the year.

Another 60 days and it's officially spring. So how many days is it to the Dayton Hamvention or Field Day ?

**February MVARA
MEETING:**
**Youngstown Public
Library**
305 Wick Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44503
February 12, 7:00-8:30 pm

2015 Dues Due

2015 Officers

President: Wes Boyd, W8IZC

Vice President: Mike McCleery,
K8PRR

Secretary/Webmaster: Dave Salmen,
WB8IBA

Treasurer: Frank Sole, WB8YHD

Trustees: Andy Brincko, WA8ZLK

Jerry Goddard, KC8EFO

Dave Brett, KD8ZNF

Dave Fairbanks, N8NB

Newsletter Staff: Mark Haverstock,
K8MSH, Editor; Joe Vasko, N8SEJ,
Copy Editor; Dave Brett, KD8ZNF &
Nancy Brett, KD8QNY, Distribution
Managers.

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.

We will collect membership dues through the February meeting. You can also mail your membership form to the treasurer at any time before the February meeting. A printable form is located on page 6. Forms can also be obtained from Frank, WB8YHD, at the monthly meetings.

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.

Ham Humor: Man Controls House Cat with 40M Signal

By [WBØRUR](#), on the scene



PENGUIN REEF, FLORIDA – A local ham radio operator is making news headlines for what may be a first: a radio-controlled domestic house cat. Walt Munkhausen of 489 Boca Raton Parkway says he was working 40 meter PSK31 when he noticed something very strange.

“It happened entirely by accident. I sent MACRO #3 (SIGNAL REPORT/QTH/NAME) and Mr. Whiskers ran in a counter-clockwise direction. After a few QSOs and giving the cat a chance to rest, it wasn’t too difficult to develop a set of macros so I could ‘drive him’ around the house like a model car.”

Munkhausen says Mr. Whiskers – a family pet – was never a very good mouser, but enjoys lounging in the retired steelworker’s radio room. The next project on the ham’s work bench is an Arduino powered micro-transmitter to mount on the animal’s collar to automatically monitor litter box usage and start a 7.070 MHz QSO when the box needs changing.

“I’m incorporating the 5-9-9 signal report system,” he adds. “And let’s just say your nose doesn’t want to smell anything less than a 5-5-9.”

Right now, Munkhausen says the cat only responds to 40 meters; but adds the family dog begins to act strange when he transmits on 15 meter SSB.

HamHijinks.com

Meeting Programs

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

March Meeting: Early Mahoning Valley radio history 1920 to 1980

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



Andy, WA8ZLK, discusses protection of electronic equipment as well as survival after electro-magnetic pulses.

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

Ohio Special Events Stations

Freeze Your Acorns Off-- Each year, several PCARS members gather on a cold Saturday in February to thumb their noses at Mother Nature. The purpose for this insanity? To have fun and to prove that they're all just a bit nuts. There's been as much as a foot of snow on the ground during this event, but even that isn't enough to deter these intrepid souls from their task of making as many QRP QSOs as possible while trying not to freeze their extremities off. They will be active on CW & Phone in the General areas of the 6, 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80 meter bands.

This year's event will be on Saturday, February 14th from 10AM to 4PM. For more information, please [download the flyer.](#)

ARRL Centennial QSO Party Awards, W1AW/P QSL Cards In Process

Certificates and plaques for stations that participated in the ARRL Centennial QSO Party <http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party> are being processed. At this point, point totals are being calculated and confirmed. Participation exceeded expectations, with nearly 16,000 stations achieving at least 1000 points in the Centennial QSO Points Challenge. Approximately 2500 stations reached the Top Level of 15,000 points. W1AW portable operations completed nearly 3.5 million contacts during 2014, and W100AW logged some 70,000 contacts. Most Centennial QSO Party participants entered their contact information into the ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW <http://www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world>) program.

"The W1AW WAS certificate and plaque designs are complete, as is the design for the Centennial Points Challenge certificate," said ARRL Field Services and Radiosport Manager Dave Patton, NN1N. "Once the web and software processes are ready to go, we will be able to start fulfilling awards." Patton said order forms will be available on the Centennial QSO Party <http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party> web page for those who do not use LoTW or online ordering tools.

Deadline Extended

The ARRL extended the deadline to submit Centennial QSO Party logs to LoTW to January 22, at 2359 UTC. The new deadline will have no effect on awards. Participants will be able to apply for Centennial awards indefinitely, once the process is under way. Accounts for US stations that changed call signs during 2014, will be automatically combined for Centennial award purposes, although any duplicate contacts (ie, stations worked with both the old and new call signs) will be removed. Stations outside the US that changed call signs during 2014 should notify 100QSOparty@arrl.org ARRL.

Patton said that in late January, the entire database of 2014 logs submitted to LoTW was rerun through the Centennial QSO Party software in order to pick up any late changes to the database and produce more accurate scores. "Most participants will see their points total climb a bit higher," he said.

Designs for QSL cards for W1AW portable operations are under consideration, and cards likely will go out via the QSL Bureau and directly to stations in a few months. US stations who prefer to receive W1AW QSLs via a QSL Bureau account may sign up via the web form <http://www.arrl.org/AW-BureauQSLs>. "You must have a current, funded account with your district QSL Bureau," Patton noted. Stations outside the US will receive cards via their bureaus as they normally do. Patton said the number of QSLs from W1AW will be limited to one per each weekly operation and per each territorial operation (KH2, KH8, etc), with each card confirming about 10 contacts chosen from the W1AW logs. Printed cards will not be able to confirm counties or grid squares, but the LoTW system will do this.

--ARRL



The Librarians

The ARRL Library is a repository of information provided free of charge by the amateur community to the amateur community. PowerPoint presentations for club use, PDF's of educational content and personal memories, and oral histories of Amateur Radio operators telling their stories can be found here.

<http://www.arrl.org/library>

Dave Raycroft's ICPO Bulletin

(Islands, Castles and Portable Operations)

Interested in some not-so-usual DXpeditions? check out Dave's bulletins:

<http://www.southgatearc.org/icpo/index.htm#.VLlrMS6ZNII>

Frequency Chart

This downloadable PDF lets you print a chart of US amateur band frequency allocations in B & W or color.

<http://www.arrl.org/graphical-frequency-allocations>

Editor's Notes:

Supporting the Hobby

Some of you may have attended MFJ Day at DX Engineering on January 10. Given the uncertain weather conditions, there was still a good turnout. Those who showed up got a chance to pick up some gear at a discount, as well as a chance of winning some nifty door prizes. MFJ President Martin Jue and several of his team were on hand to meet, greet and answer questions.

As you're probably aware, MFJ is the biggest manufacturer and distributor of ham accessories as evidenced by the thousands of products found inside their 140 page catalog. And it's hard to find a ham that doesn't have some opinion about their product line. Some people love them, yet others complain about quality control and the fit and finish of their products. Just browse the eHam site and other message boards and you'll get the idea.

I'll have to admit, I've fixed some cold solder joints, fashioned missing parts, and fished out loose hardware from inside their product cases over the years. I've even muttered some descriptive phrases that matched the MFJ initials. But as I think about the big picture, ham radio would be quite different without Martin's contribution to the hobby.

Today, an increasing number of hams aren't into homebrewing equipment. The next most economical solution--look in the MFJ catalog. Where else are you going to find two HF amplifiers priced under a grand? Or a legal limit tuner that doesn't break the bank? Or what about something as simple as a replacement resistor for your old dummy load?

Also, don't forget that they resurrected some respected brands that could have faded into oblivion, such as Hy-Gain, CushCraft, Ameritron and others. These brands not only appear in the MFJ catalog, but are distributed to other ham dealers in the US and across the globe. Martin has actually done a lot to preserve the legacy of amateur radio--and is a great guy as well.

But this article wasn't really intended to be all about MFJ, but rather the larger idea of supporting the ham hobby and helping it continue to grow. Our numbers have increased to an all time high of more than 700,000 in the U.S.--yet clubs complain of decreased participation, repeaters sit idle a good deal of the time, and attendance at local hamfests has dwindled over the last decade.

Most of us are content to sit at a club meeting, hopefully be entertained and have some fun as well. Many of us meet for breakfast once or twice a month. It's great socialize with fellow hams, but what are we actually doing to contribute to the hobby?

A simple way that doesn't take a whole lot of time is to renew your membership--or join the ARRL if you're not currently a member. If the 100th anniversary isn't enough motivation, remember that they're our voice when it comes to the interests of ham radio. No one else is looking out for us, especially commercial entities who look at our frequency allocations with envy.

Get involved in your local club. Pick an activity--even if it's just one--in which to participate or lead. Offer to do a program, teach a class, become a VE, serve on a committee, or help plan a club activity.

Join ham-oriented service groups, such as ARES or Skywarn. Volunteer when your club asks for operators for special events such as parades, walkathons, etc.

Help your fellow hams locally. Antennas go up more quickly with help. If you're talented at troubleshooting rigs or setting them up, lend a hand. Be a mentor or "Elmer" to a new ham.

There are so many ways to contribute the hobby and these are just a few ideas you could consider. Perhaps 2015 is the year when we each can do one or two simple things to support amateur radio. Like Martin, you can make a difference too--even if the result isn't always perfect.

--Mark, K8MSH

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. ***Membership renewals need to be made by the February meeting.***

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

**MVARA Monthly Meeting
Minutes
(January 8, 2015)**

Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Roy, KD8JMO

Presentation

Andy, WA8ZLK, presented this month's program:
Preparing for an EMP Event: Part II

Newsletter Committee

Mark, K8MSH
Beginning January 2015, the newsletter will only be published electronically. The newsletter committee consists of:
Mark: Editor
Joe, N8SEJ: Proofreading
Dave B. KD8NZF: Distribution
Nancy B. KD8QNY: Distribution

Secretary's Report

Secretary Dave, WB8IBA
No meeting in December

Repeater Committee

Art, KB8UNJ
The repeater is working. Remember to donate to the repeater fund when paying dues

Website Committee

Dave S., WB8IBA
There have been several issues with GoDaddy hosting the main page of the website. Other hosting sites are being looked into.

Contests and Awards Committee

Dave F. N8NB
Dave received the QRP DXCC Award.
Rare DX station occurring in March: Navassa Island. See www.navassadx.com for more info

Frank, WB8YHD won the 10 meter QRP Contest for the Ohio Section.

January 15 is the final date to submit your logs for the ARRL Centennial Challenge. All logs have to be submitted thru Log Book of the World (LoTW).

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

January 10: MFJ Day at DX Engineering 9:00 am-2:00pm
February 15: Mansfield Hamfest
www.hamfest.w8we.org for more info
Dues are due in January

Good and Welfare

Art, KB8UNJ
There will be no Skywarn Training this year

50/50 Raffle

Jackpot: \$40.00, with \$20.00 going to the winner Jerry, KC8EFO. Jerry donated the \$20.00 to the repeater fund.

Motion to adjourn made by Mike, K8PRR and seconded by Mark, K8MSH. Motion passed.



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.

Extra Pool

E1A04

With your transceiver displaying the carrier frequency of phone signals, you hear a DX station calling CQ on 3.601 MHz LSB. Is it legal to return the call using lower sideband on the same frequency?

- A. Yes, because the DX station initiated the contact
- B. Yes, because the displayed frequency is within the 75 meter phone band segment
- C. No, my sidebands will extend beyond the edge of the phone band segment
- D. No, USA stations are not permitted to use phone emissions below 3.610 MHz

E1A10

If an amateur station is installed aboard a ship or aircraft, what condition must be met before the station is operated?

- A. Its operation must be approved by the master of the ship or the pilot in command of the aircraft
- B. The amateur station operator must agree to not transmit when the main ship or aircraft radios are in use
- C. It must have a power supply that is completely independent of the main ship or aircraft power supply
- D. Its operator must have an FCC Marine or Aircraft endorsement on his or her amateur license

General Pool

G2A07 (B)

Which of the following statements is true of the single sideband (SSB) voice mode?

- A. Only one sideband and the carrier are transmitted; the other sideband is suppressed
- B. Only one sideband is transmitted; the other sideband and carrier are suppressed
- C. SSB voice transmissions have higher average power than any other mode
- D. SSB is the only mode that is authorized on the 160, 75 and 40 meter amateur bands

G2B03 (C)

If propagation changes during your contact and you notice increasing interference from other activity on the same frequency, what should you do?

- A. Tell the interfering stations to change frequency
- B. Report the interference to your local Amateur Auxiliary Coordinator
- C. As a common courtesy, move your contact to another frequency
- D. Increase power to overcome interference

(Answers on page 18)



Ham Humor: DXpedition Launches Payment Plan for QSL

By [K5PO](#), on the scene

WEST HABERFORD, WI — The South-Consin Club of Radio (SCCR), from the Pollack County area of Wisconsin, is known for their successful activation of some of the most challenging DX entities in amateur radio.

Last month SCCR announced their daunting plan of activating one of the most wanted next summer on Bouvet Island. The south Atlantic island is a dependency of Norway, consisting of more than 93 percent glacier cover. Only 49 square kilometers, it is considered the “most remote island in the world.”

“This is going to be the most intense DXpedition we’ve ever attempted,” said SCCR President Rolly Barker. “We spent 16 months just getting the permits and the transportation costs alone have already exceeded \$700,000. This steep price has forced us to look at some more creative financing options.”

This week the SCCR announced a key component of their financing program, a new “Easy Payment Plan” for a confirmed QSL. “DXers that hope to work us can actually pre-order the card from our website stating tomorrow,” said Barker. “They can sign up with PayPal or a credit card and then we’ll bill them in three easy payments of \$19.95; one payment every 30 days.”

Barker said ham operators that want a paper QSL in addition to Logbook of the World will have to chip in a \$39.95 shipping fee in addition to the three payments. Official QSL cards are expected to ship 48-72 months after operation closes on the island.

HamHijinks.com



Mystery Component

So what is this thing? It's been around for awhile, having been patented in 1907.

How Do We Promote Better Operating Practices?

A lament that I often hear is that many amateur radio operators either don't seem to understand the importance of good operating practices or just don't care about them. Just this morning, a reader sent me an e-mail saying, "I think there are too many hams out there that don't how to call a station on split frequency. It's amazing that we have so many dummies out there."

I wrote back, saying, "Maybe we need another type of Official Observer, called the Operating Observer. This group would note when operators aren't following good operating procedures and send people gentle reminders." Of course, as soon as I hit Send, I knew this wasn't a very good idea. As my reader noted, this would be a thankless job, and chances are the poor operators would simply ignore the notices, anyway.

Great Things About Ham Radio

Five years ago, on CQ's 60th anniversary, we ran a feature throughout the year titled "60 Great Things About Ham Radio," in which we listed five "great things" each month. The series was quite popular and we have continued to receive requests to reprint it. So now, in honor of our 65th anniversary, we're repeating the list—with a few updates as well as five more "Great Things About Ham Radio."

1. It works when nothing else does
2. It makes you part of a worldwide community
3. The opportunity to help neighbors by providing public service and emergency communications
4. Some of the nicest people you'll ever meet
5. Some of the smartest people you'll ever meet
6. Some of the most interesting people you'll ever meet
7. Some of the most generous people you'll ever meet (along with some of the cheapest!)
8. Lifelong friendships
9. Friends around the world (including those you haven't met yet)
10. The opportunity to go interesting places you might not otherwise go to
11. The opportunity to do interesting things you might not otherwise get to do
12. The opportunity to expand your knowledge of geography
13. The opportunity to expand your knowledge of earth and space science
14. Practical uses for high school math
15. Practical uses for high school physics

...more to come

Source: CQ Magazine

Operating Practices, continued



Even so, there must be some way to encourage good operating procedures. One effort to promote better operating procedures is the DX Code of Conduct (<http://www.dx-code.org/>). This is a list of 13 suggestions to make DX operation, particularly pileups, less chaotic. The website includes a small image that you're supposed to post to your website to show that you support the Code. While this is certainly a step in the right direction, I wish there was something that we could do to be more proactive in improving operating practices.

There is, of course, the ARRL Operating Manual. This publication is now in its tenth edition and is a valuable source of information about how to operate properly. The problem is only a fraction of the amateur radio operators on the air have a copy, much less read it.

Another attempt at promoting good operating practice is the ARRL's A-1 Operator's Club (<http://www.arrl.org/a-1-op>). While a noble effort, I think that this program really requires more promotion. In addition to being more aggressive about finding A-1 operators and bringing them into this "club," the ARRL should use it to promote better operation. Perhaps a series of videos with the A-1 Ops logo showing how to operate split or how to properly call CQ would help improve operating practices overall.

Talking about videos, I'd be surprised if there weren't already some YouTube videos that illustrate good operating practices. If you know of any, please e-mail me. It would be great to have a list of really good ones that I can send to people who want information on how to operate better.

What do you think? Do we need to be more proactive about encouraging hams to use good operating practices? If so, how do we go about it? What do you do to encourage better operating practices?

=====

When not worrying about the state of amateur radio operating practices, you'll find KB6NU working on updates to his "No Nonsense" study guides, teaching one-day Tech classes, or blogging about amateur radio at www.kb6nu.com.

Amateur Radio News

ARES Volunteers in Ohio Activate Following Loss of 911, Telephone Services

ARES volunteers in northeast Ohio activated on January 13 after 911 and other telephone services went down in six counties due to a power failure at a major AT&T center in Akron. The outage was blamed on a burst steam pipe. Cell telephones and the 800-900 MHz digital Multi-Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS) remained functioning.

The Medina County Emergency Management Agency requested ARES communication support with surrounding counties and with the Ohio Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Columbus as a backup. At the same time, EMA Directors in Stark, Summit, Portage, Mahoning, and Columbiana counties alerted their ARES organizations.

Ohio ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator Stan Broadway, N8BHL, also requested activation of RACES station W8SGT at the Ohio EOC. Communication was established on 75 meters with several county Emergency Coordinators. The EOC also was able to link up with the Stark County 2 meter repeater, some 135 miles away.

Amateur Radio tactical communication regarding the status of systems and repairs confirmed what was being reported via MARCS. The Amateur Radio activation terminated after 4 hours, once the 911 system was brought back online.

"The Ohio EOC staff was extremely cordial as we coordinated with them, and the various county EMA directors were quick to activate Amateur Radio during the event," Broadway said.

Broadway said Ohio volunteers already had practiced for such an event, since the emergency scenario during the Ohio Simulated Emergency Test (SET) last fall involved a statewide communication breakdown.

As occasionally happens, Broadway said, such events occur at inconvenient times. One EMA director was away on a honeymoon, and the Stark County EOC had no antennas in place while the roof of their building was being replaced. "Summit County (Akron) had an additional challenge," Broadway noted. "It was decided to move their EOC, because all phone service was down. ARES members had to grab a 'go bag' and quickly set up operations at an alternate site."

"My thanks to all who were involved!" Broadway said. "Our response was quick and professional, and was a great opportunity to show the value of Amateur Radio."

--ARRL

NEW DXER'S HANDBOOK, Second Edition, Available For FREE!

Yes that is right -- For FREE! If you are a beginner to DX chasing or experienced, you will find this very informative. Bryce, K7UA, informs us of the following: Four years ago I wrote a series of short articles for our local DX club that came together as the "New DXer's Handbook." Much to my surprise it has turned into a fairly big thing with thousands of copies of it out in the world. It was translated into other languages too.

The original has become outdated and wasn't written for a broad audience in the first place. I am retired now and I had some time to improve it. It is now available for download in the revised second edition. It is still free of charge as my gift to the world's new DXers. I will now be hosting it on my own Web site, which came online January 11th: <http://www.k7ua.com>.

(continued pg. 16)

LET'S TALK

Scott Yonally, N8SY - Section Manager
n8sy@arrl.org



Wow.. A New Year is here!! I have to tell ya' this one is starting out much better for me than last year, for sure. If you didn't know, last year at this time I had my right leg in a cast. I had broken both of the bones that connect your ankle to the rest of you.. Because it was my right leg, I couldn't drive, walk or do much of anything, other than hobble around on a set of crutches that I didn't do well with (my wife said that I looked like "PacMan" bouncing off the walls).

Anyway, I'm on my own two legs this year and loving it, and now that I'm retired from my professional job, I even love it more than before! Life on retirement isn't like I thought it would be, it's much better. It's giving me much more time to do the Section Manager's job. Now I can give it full time like this position really demands.

I do have to chuckle a bit on this next item.. No matter how much I mention this, it seems that someone hasn't yet signed up to receive emails from the Section Manager / Great Lakes Director with the ARRL. I'm going to keep encouraging you to check out your account with the League and make sure that the box for receiving emails from the Section Manager / Division Director is checked.

Now, this part has really gotten popular the past couple of months, for those of you who may not want to go to all the bother of checking your account with the League, or you are just not League members,

you still have a chance to get these important emails. All you have to do is to "Opt-In" to receive them. There's a link to do this on the Ohio Section website, it's on the bottom left corner.. For your convenience, here's a direct link to it: <http://arrl-ohio.org/forwarder/forwarding.html>. I urge all of you to make sure that everyone, regardless of whether they are a League member or not, get signed up for one of these options. You can always "Opt-Out" at any time if you feel this is not what you were expecting. But, who in their right mind would want to miss out on anything coming out of the Great Lakes Director or the Ohio Section?

Oh, didn't know that the Ohio Section had a website?? We do.. You can find it at: <http://arrl-ohio.org>. If you don't have this website set as your home page, I urge you to do so. This website is one of the exceptions to the rules.. It changes all the time. It's never stagnating, and I would highly recommend that you check into the website at least 3 times per week or more if you can. Yes, it does change that much!

Ohio's Speaker Bureau.. Need a speaker for your club meeting? Don't forget to invite one of the Ohio Section Cabinet members to your next club meeting. The entire Cabinet is Ohio's Speaker's Bureau. If you'd like any of us to come and be a speaker at your function for FREE, please feel free to give any of us a call, we'll do our very best to be at your function.

Have you noticed? There's a very short – one question – questionnaire that has started to appear on the Ohio Section Website. It changes about once every week or so. It asks just one question that will take all of about 5 seconds for you to answer and you'll get to see how you and others feel about the topic instantly. Why is this there? I want to know how you feel. This is YOUR way of letting me know how the Ohio Section is thinking. Yes, this is very important to me. I represent YOU and I'm asking how you feel about something. Now how many politicians ever go to that extreme? I bet the only time you hear from them is at election time. I'm hear 24/7 for YOU. Let me know how you feel, answer the question now pending.

Have you checked out the Great Lakes Division website lately? <http://arrl-greatlakes.org> It's changed. It's been brought up to the twenty-first century with an entirely new look and feel. It's cleaner and much easier for you to navigate. Check in often, and check out the changes.

(continued pg. 17)

OPERATING NEWS AND INFORMATION

Dave Fairbanks N8NB

The big news is that K1N should be on the air when you get this newsletter. K1N is transmitting from Navassa Island, which is number one on the dx-hunter's most-wanted list, and no one has been on the air from there in 32 years! Navassa is a relatively flat island of about 1200 acres in the Caribbean. It is owned by the United States and should be reasonably easy for American hams to work. More information is available on their website, <http://navassadx.com/>. They do state that another operation there will not take place for at least another ten years. Here's hoping you have a chance to get into their log.

The contest calendar is full for February if you get tired of chasing DX or shoveling snow. Source is of the following information is <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>.

February 2015

+ North American SSB Sprint Contest	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 1
+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Feb 3
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 4
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 6
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 6
+ Vermont QSO Party	0000Z, Feb 7 to 2400Z, Feb 8
+ YL-ISSB QSO Party, CW	0000Z, Feb 7 to 2359Z, Feb 8
+ 10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	0001Z, Feb 7 to 2359Z, Feb 8
+ Black Sea Cup International	1200Z, Feb 7 to 1159Z, Feb 8
+ Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 7
+ British Columbia QSO Party	1600Z, Feb 7 to 0400Z, Feb 8
+ AGCW Straight Key Party	1600Z-1900Z, Feb 7
+ Mexico RTTY International Contest	1800Z, Feb 7 to 1759Z, Feb 8
+ AWA Amplitude Modulation QSO Party	2300Z, Feb 7 to 2300Z, Feb 8
+ North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 8
+ Classic Exchange, Phone	1400Z, Feb 8 to 0800Z, Feb 9
+ ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Feb 9 to 2359Z, Feb 13
+ NAQCC CW Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Feb 11
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 11
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 13
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 13
+ CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	0000Z, Feb 14 to 2400Z, Feb 15
+ SARL Field Day Contest	1000Z, Feb 14 to 1000Z, Feb 15
+ Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint, CW	1100Z-1300Z, Feb 14
+ Dutch PACC Contest	1200Z, Feb 14 to 1200Z, Feb 15
+ New Hampshire QSO Party	1600Z, Feb 14 to 2200Z, Feb 15
+ FISTS Winter Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Feb 14
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Feb 16
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 18
+ AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening	1900Z-2030Z, Feb 18
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 20
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 20
+ ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 21 to 2400Z, Feb 22
+ REF Contest, SSB	0600Z, Feb 21 to 1800Z, Feb 22
+ Feld Hell Sprint	2000Z-2159Z, Feb 21
+ High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z-1700Z, Feb 22
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 25
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 27
+ CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	2200Z, Feb 27 to 2200Z, Mar 1
+ UBA DX Contest, CW	1300Z, Feb 28 to 1300Z, Mar 1
+ North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 28 to 0600Z, Mar 1

PLANNED DX OPERATIONS

Dave Fairbanks N8NB

If you get frustrated or tired of trying to work K1N, there will be many other interesting dx stations on the air in February. A good place to find good dx will be on the air during the ARRL CW DX Contest on Feb. 21-22. For those of you who love cw like me, it is the place to be. Further information on these operations and others can be found at the website: <http://www.ng3k.com/index.html>.

February						
2015 Feb01	2015 Feb14	Navassa I	K1N	N2OO	W0GJ 20141022	By K4UEE W0GJ NA5U AA7JV K0IR K6MM K9CT KT4TTT N2TU N4GRN N6MZ NM1Y W2GD W6IZT WB9Z; 160-10m; CW SSB RTTY; 7-8 stations; dates tentative
2015 Feb01	2015 Feb28	Solomon Is	H44MS	DL2GAC	PA3CWN 20141217	By DL2GAC fm Honiara, Guadalcanal (WLOTA-0086, RI00aj); QSL OK via DARC Buro or direct (see Web page for details); operation to continue until Apr 30
2015 Feb02	2015 Feb02	Curacao	PJ2	W7AUM	DXW.Net 20141231	By W7AUM as PJ2/W7AUM fm SA-099; QRP; from beach
2015 Feb05	2015 Mar06	Ascension	ZD8D	DL9HO	DXW.Net 20141222	By DJ9KH DK9BDN DL6KAC; focus on 160-40, including 60m; CW RTTY SSB
2015 Feb02	2015 Mar30	Guadeloupe	FG	LotW	OPDX 20141222	By F6ITD as FG/F6ITD; HF fm La Desirade I (NA-102); SSB + digital; QSL also OK via F6ITD Buro or direct (LotW preferred)
2015 Feb04	2015 Feb05	St Vincent	J8 <small>NEW</small>	Home Call	425DXN 20150117	By SP3CFM as J8/SP3CFM, SP3IPB, SP7TF, SP7VC, SQ7OYL, K2RPF likewise fm NA-109; 160-10m; SSB CW + digital
2015 Feb05	2015 Feb25	Laos	XW8BM	JA8BMK	DXW.Net 20141020	By JA8BMK; fm new low-noise area
2015 Feb06	2015 Feb09	Grenada	J3 <small>NEW</small>	Home Call	425DXN 20150117	By SP3CFM as J3/SP3CFM, SP3IPB, SP7TF, SP7VC, SQ7OYL, K2RPF likewise fm NA-024, NA-147 and NA-025; 160-10m; SSB CW + digital
2015 Feb06	2015 Feb13	Guantanamo Bay	KG4	See Info	DXW.Net 20150107	By WB2REM as KG4HI, N4PSK as KG4RQ, N4SIA as KG4AS, N9DIG as KG4YL; all bands; CW SSB + digital; QSL KG4RQ + KG4HI via WB2REM, KG4YL via K9DIG, KG4AS via K4SIA
2015 Feb06	2015 Feb06	Cayman Is	ZF2UM	W7AUM	DXW.Net 20141231	By W7AUM NA-016; QRP; from beach
2015 Feb09	2015 Feb20	Namibia	V5	LotW	DXW.Net 20141215	By DC8QT as V5/DC8QT, DD8ZX and DJ9KM likewise; 160-6m; SSB RTTY PSK; QSL also OK via home_call; QRV as V55V for CQ WPX RTTY Contest using V55V (QSL via DJ8VC, DARC Buro or direct)

2015 Feb11	2015 Feb16	Jersey	MJ5RIC NEW	M0OXO	M5RIC 20150506	By M5RIC; focus on WARC bands; QRV using MJ7C for CQ WPX RTTY; OQRS preferred
2015 Feb13	2015 Feb14	Martinique	FM NEW	Home Call	425DXN 20150117	By SP3CFM as FM/SP3CFM, SP3IPB, SP7TF, SP7VC, SQ7OYL, K2RPF likewise fm NA-107; 160-10m; SSB CW + digital
2015 Feb14	2015 Feb19	Aruba	P40JP NEW	WX3P	OPDX 20150119	By WX3P; 40-10m (no 30m); QRP; AlexLoop, perhaps OCD)
2015 Feb15	2015 Feb24	French Polynesia	FO	K8PGJ	DXW.Net 20140728	By K8PGJ as FO/K8PGJ fm Bora Bora; HF; holiday style operation
2015 Feb16	2015 Feb23	Cocos I	TI9	3Z9DX	DXW.Net 20141129	By 3Z9DX TI2HMJ SP8SIW RA9USU as TI9/3Z9DX; 160-10m, perhaps 6m; SSB CW RTTY; 2 stations
2015 Feb16	2015 Feb23	Micronesia	V63MJ	LotW	VA3RJ 20141212	By W5MJ fm Pohnpei (OC-010); 160-10m; CW; QSL also OK via W5MJ
2015 Feb16	2015 Mar08	Kenya	5Z4	DF3FS Direct	DF3FS 20141108	By DF3FS as 5Z4/DF3FS and DL9OLI as 5Z4.DL9OLI fm Diani Beach; 80-10m; CW SSB; verticals and Hexbeams; QSL also OK via DARC Buro home_call
2015 Feb17	2015 Feb25	Honduras	HR5	LotW	AA4NC 20141231	By AA4NC as HR5/AA4NC; 160-10m w/ focus on WARC bands; focus on RTTY; QRV for ARRL DX CW
2015 Feb18	2015 Feb25	Svalbard	JW	DL2JRM	ATDX 20140930	By DL2JRM fm EU-026; HF; CW SSB
2015 Feb18	2015 Mar16	Sint Maarten	PJ7AA	AA9A	AA9A 20140913	By AA9A; 40-10m; CW SSB
2015 Feb20	2015 Mar08	Juan Fernandez	CE0z	LotW	OPDX 20140113	By F5JTV F8ATS F1ULQ + team; 160-6m, focus on low bands; SSB CW + digital; 700w; Spiderbeams and verticals; QSL also OK via Club Log
ARRL International DX Contest, CW (Feb 21-22, 2015) Check here for pericontest activity too.						
2015 Feb21	2015 Feb28	Malawi	7Q7GIA	LotW	DXW.Net 20150109	By LA7GIA fm Lilongwe; 80-10m; CW RTTY; wires and verticals; QSL also OK via LA7GIA or Club Log
2015 Feb24	2015 Mar04	Juan Fernandez	CE0Z	LotW	F5NQL 20141208	By 22 op international team headed by F5JTV F8ATS F1ULQ; 160-10m; QSL also OK via REF Buro
2015 Feb26	2015 Mar10	St Pierre & Miquelon	FP	KV1J	KV1J 20141030	By KV1J as FP/KV1J fm NA-032; 160-10m + 6m if open; mainly SSB RTTY, some CW PSK

DX . . . DX . . . DX . . .

PARF DAYTON BUS TRIP



PARF, Pioneer Amateur Radio Fellowship, Inc. is once again chartering a bus to the Dayton Hamvention for Saturday, May 16th. They are pleased to announce that the cost is the same as last year.

This trip leaves from Akron Baptist Temple, 2324 Manchester Rd. in Akron at 5:30 am sharp. There will be a stop for breakfast at McDonald's and a dinner stop at Golden Corral Buffet (out of pocket expense).

If you're not into the 4-5 hour drive, this is a great and inexpensive way to experience the Hamvention as a day trip. And after arrival, the bus is conveniently parked right outside the fleamarket area, so you can stash those boat anchors and other large items until it's time to leave.

Please note: April 15th is the deadline for the "Early Bird" discount (\$65 including Hamvention ticket), but don't wait. Last year they were at 92% capacity. Several folks who couldn't make it then indicated they would be riding this year! Seats are available on a first come, first serve basis.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to give Joy Spencer-DeZordo, KA8TDF a call at 330-745-5115 or email at KA8TDF@arrl.net. Info and forms can be downloaded from: <http://w8lky.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Dayton-Bus-Trip1.pdf>

(Editor's note: These are forms from last year, but the information is the same.)

Valley Radio History: Astatic Microphones



In 1930, two amateur radio operators, Creed M. Chorpene, W8WR (later W8MJM) and F.H. Woodworth, W8AHW began experimenting with different types of microphones for their ham radio stations. Their mutual friend, Charles Semple, worked for Brush Development Company where he had been experimenting with Rochelle salt crystals. Semple demonstrated some crystal pickups that Brush was working with, leading Chorpene and Woodworth to found The Astatic Microphone Laboratory, Inc. in Youngstown, Ohio in 1933.

Semple was brought into the company as general manager to manufacture and market the company's model D-104 Crystal Microphone as well as other crystal microphones, crystal phonograph pickups and recording heads. In 1944, Astatic moved operations to Conneaut, Ohio and supplied microphones, pickups and crystal cartridges as well as hydrophone and Sonar devices to the military during World War II.

After World War II, Astatic Microphone Laboratory became The Astatic Corporation. Currently, the company is located in Solon, Ohio and offers microphones and audio accessories to various audio industries. The Amateur & CB product division of Astatic was sold to DAS Companies, a major mobile communications product distributor. DAS has since expanded the Astatic name to include many accessories including coaxial cables, meters and antennas. Astatic also currently manufactures bullet style microphones in a partnership with Hohner, which are extremely popular among harmonica players. The original Astatic model JT-30 is one of the most popular microphones for blues harp players. Today, the model is sold as the Hohner Blues Blaster.

The Astatic Corporation is currently located in Solon, Ohio.

Let's Talk (continued)

Speaking briefly about the Great Lakes Division website, Jack Shirely, N8DX has reported the following on the Blog Board for the Eighth (8) Region Incoming QSL BUREAU..

Global QSL Abuse..

We are receiving a lot of USA to USA QSLs from this service. The cards will be returned to you via your letter manager and not forwarded by the ARRL bureau system.

I would encourage all of you to read what is on the site about how this department works. Yes, it is somewhat lengthy, but I think you'll not only learn a lot, but you'll have a much better understanding of what you are supposed to be doing as well.

Jack and I are talking about ways to improve your ability to get your incoming QSL cards. I think it will be a great improvement. I will report on this more as Jack and I continue the discussion.

Elmer Award..

Hay Gang, did you know that the League has a beautiful Elmer Award that you can apply for to give to your Elmer? They do, I presented one of these awards at a club meeting just this past month. It was great giving back to my Elmer and recognizing him for all the great things he did for me as I was starting out.

Recognizing your Elmer is a way of "paying it forward" and to encourage future Elmers out there. Anyone that is a League member can go on line to: <http://www.arrl.org/elmer-award> and fill out the form and either have the form mailed directly to the Elmer, or more impressively, and the one that I would encourage all of you to do, have the certificate mailed to you and present it to your Elmer in person, it's a fantastic way of recognizing your Elmer for all the things that he/she did to get you started. Yes, you do have to be an ARRL member to request a certificate, but you don't have to be one to receive it!

Now for the logistics..

First and foremost, like I said above, you need to be an ARRL member to take advantage of this particular program. If you aren't a League member, this is a great opportunity to become one. This is the perfect reason for you to join. Now, once that is taken care of, go on-line and fill out the form and hit the submit button. That's it. A few simple boxes to fill in and that's all there is to it.

Since this certificate is mailed to you via the US postal service you'll have to wait to get it (about 2 – 3 weeks), as it is a certificate that is snail mailed only at this time.

Hey club officers.. I know that you're always looking for club activities to get your members involved with.. this is a fantastic way of getting old timers and the young folks together. You might have a night set aside just to "award" all of your Elmers out there. Wouldn't that be great!

Let me know if you take advantage of this great recognition, I would like to hear about your Elmer.

The League also has a "First Contact" award for you to present as well.. I'll discuss more on that one in future articles.

Last item of the article.. Most of you know that I'm a diehard Brownies fan. After the trouncing that Ohio State did over Oregon with a third string quarterback, maybe the Head Honchos of the Browns might want to think about replacing "Johnny Football" with this Ohio State kid.. Just sayin..!!

That's going to do it this month from here.. I hope to see all of you at the various hamfests or meetings soon and who knows; maybe you'll be one of the lucky ones to get a "mug" on me. Oh, by the way, the mugs are now filled with some extra surprises..

Have a question? Feel free to give me a call or write to me. My email and phone number are always listed on the Ohio Section Website <http://arrloho.org> as well as on page 16 of QST..

--Scott, N8SY

"I am often asked how radio works. Well, you see, wire telegraphy is like a very long cat. You yank his tail in New York and he meows in Los Angeles. Do you understand this? Now, radio is exactly the same, except that there is no cat." --Attributed to Albert Einstein



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

Answers: License Refresher

E1A04 (C), E1A10 (A), G2A07 (B), G2B03 (C)

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 newsworthy.

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 :-)

MVARA MEETING LOCATION:

Youngstown Public Library

305 Wick Avenue

Youngstown, OH 44503

Second Thursday of each month, 7:00-8:30 pm

*Also, be sure to meet us at the MVR Restaurant for the after meeting gathering, 410 N. Walnut St.
(behind the library)*