



January 2015
Volume 53, Issue 1

Christmas Issue

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

The Voice Coil

President's Corner

WOW! What an exciting year it's been.

I just finished looking at the December 2014 issue of QST and now it's time to start a new year. If you didn't notice, in QST, the MVARA team (W8QLY) took third place in class 8A. We also were in the Top 10 of all Ohio entries for Field Day 2015. It's an impressive feat considering this is the downward slide of the solar cycle.

January's meeting should make many members happy as WA8ZLK will be finishing his exciting program on EMP. February will see our old friend Al Christman K3LC return for another program on antennas. If there are any future, or repeat programs you would like to see please contact Mike K8PRR. The club can always use helpers and would like to hear from you if you know of an event that needs our help, please let us know.

Have you considered becoming a Red Cross volunteer? They are rebuilding and reorganizing the regional operation and volunteers and radio operators are always needed. Local executive director, Karen Conklin was kind enough to speak at a club meeting several months ago and since then several of us have joined.

I can't think of a better way to



to spend winter, than staying out of the cold and snow, and spending time operating amateur radio. Before long we can start making plans to attend Contest University and the Dayton Hamvention. It's also time to look ahead and help the MVARA continue to grow in 2015. We're not in bad shape considering we're more than 95 years old !!

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

VE Exam Session
Tech/General/Extra
testing. YSU Facilities
Building on Wood Street
(near 5th Ave.) in
Youngstown, OH,
Jan. 15 at 6:30 pm
To pre-register call Jerry
(330) 534-1394 or e-mail at:
w8jv@yahoo.com

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, Circulation
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.

Reminder: 2015 Dues Changes

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.

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 and participate in the activities of the MVARA throughout 2015.



Got an idea for an article? Some pictures of club events? Want to share some club news? 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

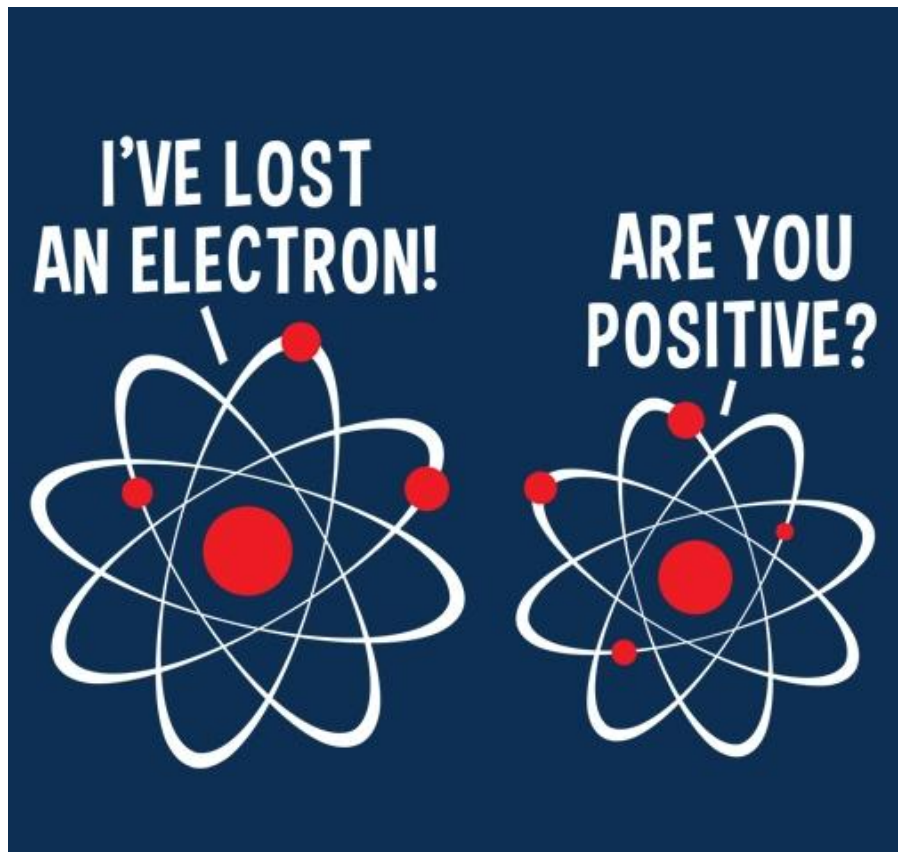
Meeting Programs

January Meeting:

Part 2 of Andy's (WA8ZLK) 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.



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

01/24/2015 | Winter Field Day Jan 24-Jan 25, 1700Z-1700Z, N8W, Mineral City, OH. SPAR Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio. 14.210, 7.050 MHz

QSL: Tom Phelps, 235 Leonard Ave NW, Massillon, OH 44646.

We practice emergency communications during the summer with the June Field Day, but what about emergency communications during the winter months? SPAR helps promote not only emergency communications in the winter months, but also interaction of Amateur Radio Operators worldwide. N8W will be operating near the town of Mineral Wells, Ohio. Our team is KD8ENV(Mike), KD8BBK(Tony), N3JJT (Scott) and WD8MBE (Tom). We will be operating phone, CW and PSK. See URL for more info. www.spar-hams.org

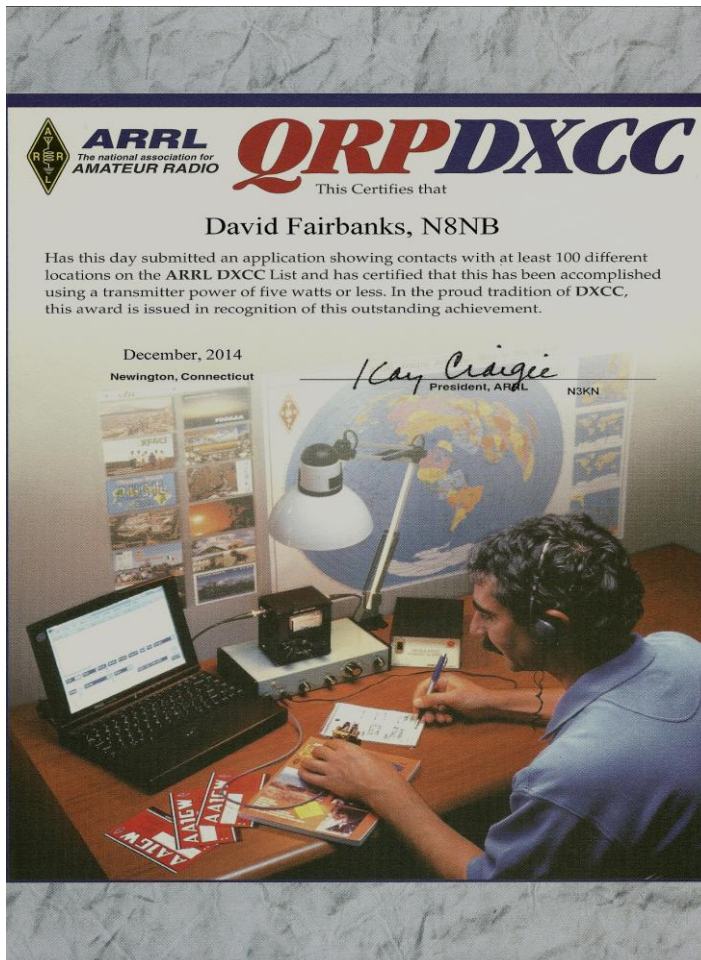
QRP DXCC

One of the members of the MVARA recently received a very prestigious award that only about 500 hams worldwide have received thus far. Dave Fairbanks, N8NB, received this award for contacting 100 different countries using only 5 watts of power! 5 watts is about the same amount of power it takes to run a flashlight bulb.

Dave's furthest contact was to VK2DX in Australia which was over 10,000 miles away. This works out to over 2000 miles per watt. He also contacted China, Japan and South Africa and many others in all continents. In talking to Dave, he said he did it in just two weekends during the CQ WW DX contests for SSB and CW. He noted that propagation was fabulous on 10 meters and there was plenty of room for the big contest stations around the world to hear him.

In comparison, it took him about 3 years to get the regular DXCC award with 1500 watts when he was just getting started in DX hunting. Dave said that the things he learned about propagation and operating during other contests helped immensely in achieving the QRP award.

Congratulations Dave!



MFJ Visits Northeastern Ohio

Stop by, see MFJ products, and tell company president Martin Jue what you think of MFJ products. They'll be visiting DX Engineering on January 10, 2015. Details at:

<http://www.dxengineering.com/mfjday>

Calling Dr. Heil

The University of Missouri-St. Louis granted an honorary Doctor of Music and Technology to Bob Heil during its December 20th commencement ceremony. Heil was recognized by the university for his contributions to the world of broadcast, live and studio sound, and innovations to the Amateur Radio industry. In addition to receiving the honor, Bob spoke at the commencement.

<https://soundforums.net/content/3029-Bob-Heil-To-Receive-Honorary-Doctorate-From-University-of-Missouri>

Skywarn: The latest edition of the NWS Aware Newsletter has been posted at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/Aware/pdfs/14dec-aware.pdf>

Free Stuff!

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I'm a sucker for free stuff. Below, you'll find links to a free transistor amplifier design program, a free printed circuit board design program, and a free tutorial on antennas. All of these look to be worth a look.

TransistorAmp 1.1

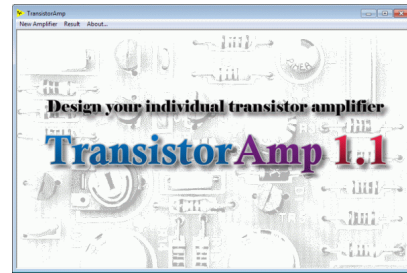
This is free software for designing bipolar transistor amplifiers. I found the link to this software (<http://en.transistoramp.de/>) on the AMRAD mailing list. Phil, M1GWZ, who posted the link, says, "A transistor circuit that I'm developing needed a 5x voltage gain stage. I could have thrown in a single op amp with split power rails and all that DIL8 real estate, but a single transistor stage would suffice. Trouble is, I'm an EE by inclination, not training, and all those calculations - working out those capacitor reactance values - well, I don't do them often enough for them to be easy. And I want voltage gain, not current. And then I found Transistor Amp 1.1."

"It's a nice piece of software," says Phil, "It installs easily and did the job for me quickly and easily. Oh, and when I built the circuit for real - voltage gain of 5x!"

[[NOTE: A screen shot of the software that you can use for the article can be found at <http://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/specify-common-base-circuit.png.....Dan>]]

Altium CircuitMaker

CircuitMaker (<http://www.circuitmaker.com>) is a free printed circuit board design tool for hobbyists, people like you and me. Maxfield Parrish of EETimes says, "one key aspect of CircuitMaker is its intuitive and easy-to-use interface -- all of the important "stuff" is presented in an easily accessible manner in a ribbon at the top of the display. Another major consideration is that Altium has decided to make



CircuitMaker all about "Community," so users can easily share ideas and designs, comment on designs and offer suggestions for improvement, and generally help each other along the way."

Free antenna tutorial

For a limited time, Rohde & Schwartz and the IEEE Communications Society are offering a free tutorial on Antenna Basics (<http://www.comsoc.org/form/tutorial-registration-antenna-basics>). This tutorial explains the basic functionality of an antenna, starting with Hertz's antenna model. It also includes a short introduction to the fundamentals of wave propagation, the important general characteristics of an antenna and parameters, such as antenna gain, radiation pattern, bandwidth or VSWR. A more detailed explanation of the functionality of some selected antenna types (e.g. dipole or monopole) is also given.

Maik Reckeweg, Product Manager Antennas, Rohde & Schwarz GmbH, Munich, Germany, who is responsible for all the company's monitoring, measurement and communications antennas is the tutorial's.

The video is kind of dry, but I think Reckeweg does a pretty good job of discussing antenna basics. The video is also accompanied by a white paper that delves into these topics a little more completely. Overall, there's a bit more math than in most amateur radio discussions of antennas, but this makes the discussion a little more comprehensive.

When not scouring the Internet for free stuff, you'll find KB6NU working on updates to his "No Nonsense" study guides, working CW on 40m, or blogging about amateur radio at www.kb6nu.com.

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**
*(There was no December business
meeting)*

December Meeting--Christmas party.



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 :-)

JANUARY MVARA MEETING LOCATION:

Youngstown Public Library

305 Wick Avenue

Youngstown, OH 44503

January 8, 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)*

MVARA CHRISTMAS PARTY (cont'd)



CQWW CW K3LR M/M HP - Record Breakers - AGAIN!

Call: K3LR Operator(s): K3LR K3UA G4TSH N2NC W2RQ KL9A N6MJ N3SD N6TV N6AN N3GJ VE3RA

Station: K3LR

Class: M/M HP

QTH: West Middlesex, PA

Operating Time (hrs): 48

Summary:

Band /QSOs/Zones/Countries

160: 400 23 84

80: 1549 35 121

40: 2845 40 151

20: 3410 39 166

15: 2684 39 161

10: 2103 40 164

Total: 12991 216 847

Total Score = 38,838,831



Congratulations to the W3LPL team with their outstanding score (Nov. 29/30) in the 2014 CQ WorldWide CW contest. It was great to have the W3LPL team back in the saddle after they had to miss CQWW Phone this year. And big tip of the hat to the W2FU and WE3C teams. Way to go guys! This time there was fantastic USA MM competition. At least four teams broke 30 million points! All multi operator stations share some special team moments and we are thankful to spend 48 hours enjoying our radio hobby with close friends here in West Middlesex, PA at K3LR. Another close race at the top with emphasis on big time fun with the best of friends! Yes, this is VERY special!

Thanks to lots of hard work before, during and after the contest by my very good friend Dave, W9PA who is with us every step of the way. To keep over 20 K3LR computers running for our contesting efforts is a big job. Very TU to W9PA! Also thanks to Greg, W8WWV for all of his help with the hardware here at K3LR. New 15 meter Yagi's, switching designs and problem solving was all thanks to W8WWV. Hours of planning with hundreds of emails all paid off. Also huge thanks to Tim, W3YQ who is the K3LR "project master" developing new switching hardware and installing new RFO proof rotor grounding systems - used on 22 rotors here at K3LR.

HF Radio conditions were OUTSTANDING, which allowed FOR some big fun on the higher bands. We could not imagine how good this contest would be - and it was REALLY GOOD! Our best ever! KL9A, N6MJ and N3SD had a blast on 20 meters, with over 3400 QSOs. This is the third time that the 3K QSO barrier has been broken on 20 CW from K3LR. The super 40 meter team of N2NC and W2RQ kept 40 meters manned for almost the full 48 hours with lots of great rates and good DX. They opened with a 229 hour at the start and set a new K3LR high QSO total for the contest. K3UA and G4TSH worked 80 meters and enjoyed good conditions on the band - nice rates guys Love the new QSO high water mark for K3LR! N6TV and N6AN were the awesome 15 meter team with great rates and some long path DX. N3GJ and VE3RA found some interesting openings on 10 meters with great rates both mornings and they worked 40 zones - WOW - fabulous!

--Tim, K3LR

All the stats & more pictures of the K3LR Contest Station can be seen at: <http://www.k3lr.com>

(An article about Tim's station written by Mark, K8MSH, appears in the January 2015 issue of *The Spectrum Monitor* <http://www.thespectrummonitor.com/>)

"Amateur Radio Parity Act" Campaign Will Resume in New Congress

Largely as the result of a grassroots campaign, "The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014" ([H.R. 4969](#)) attracted the support of 69 members of the US House of Representatives in addition to that of its sponsor, Rep Adam Kinzinger (R-IL). While the just-adjourned 113th Congress did not enact the bill, the effort to gain passage of the legislation will begin anew when the 114th Congress convenes in January. Introduced with bipartisan support last June, H.R. 4969 called on the FCC to apply the "reasonable accommodation" three-part test of the [PRB-1](#) federal pre-emption policy to private land-use restrictions regarding antennas. The limited PRB-1 pre-emption currently applies only to state and municipal land-use ordinances. The FCC has indicated its reluctance to provide the same legal protections from private land-use agreements -- often called covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CC&Rs) -- without direction from Congress. ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, stressed this week that the fight is not over.

"While we are disappointed that the bill did not make it through the process during the session, the effort was extremely energized by the efforts of thousands of ARRL members who participated in our grassroots lobbying effort," Henderson said. "In just 6 short months we gained tremendous traction for the Amateur Radio Parity Act."

Henderson explained that sometime after the new Congress is called into session in January, a new "Amateur Radio Parity Act" bill with a new number will be introduced into the US House. "Once this happens, the ARRL will gear up for a fresh effort to push this legislation forward," he added.

In a note to ARRL Section Managers this week, ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, thanked Section leaders and Field Organization volunteers on behalf of the ARRL Board of Directors and



Headquarters staff for their help in garnering legislative support for H.R. 4969. "We had hoped to gain 30 co-sponsors for the bill and ultimately ended up with 69, plus the sponsor," Sumner noted. "The overwhelming majority of these 70 supporters are returning in January, which gives us a good base on which to grow additional support."

Sumner said the objective for 2015 is to continue the momentum, gathering enough support to move the bill through the Energy and Commerce Committee. "We have received expressions of interest from the Senate side and are hoping to have the bill introduced there as well," he added.

Henderson said the bill would not have attained its current level of support in the US House without the thousands of letters and phone calls made by ARRL members to their congressional representatives. "The success of this crucial issue relies on the efforts of *all* radio amateurs and ARRL members," he said. "We know you will step forward in the new year, when we renew our efforts on Capitol Hill."

The ARRL H.R. 4969 web page provides [additional information](#).

AFFILIATED CLUBS COORDINATOR REPORT

By: John Myers, KD8MQ - ACC
kd8mq@arrl.net

Hi everyone! This month, I've got a bit of a potpourri of subjects. Let's begin by offering some congratulations. First, congratulations to the Bellbrook ARC, who have become our newest Special service Club. At this writing, our Section Manager, Scott, N8SY was planning to attend their meeting to present the SSC certificate personally.

Next, we just received word that the Central Ohio Contest Association, in Hebron has become our newest affiliated club in the Ohio Section! According to Fritz, WD8E, they wanted to become an affiliated club during the centennial year.

We'd also like to congratulate the Warren Amateur Radio Association on their 75th anniversary this month. To celebrate, they went out to Mosquito Lake State Park, and activated it as a special event.

Also, I totally missed another important milestone. The Queen City Emergency Net celebrated their 75th anniversary last month; November 4th, to be exact. Belated congratulations go out to them.

And lastly, I'd like to congratulate Susie Scott, N8CGM as she retires after 30 years as editor of the Q-Fiver, which is the newsletter of the OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society.

So, as 2014 draws to a close, let's take a look at where we're at club-wise in the Ohio section. There are currently 97 affiliated clubs in the Ohio section; only eight of those are Special Service Clubs. Out of 96 Ohio section clubs, only about half of you are up to date on your club reports. That's great, but we can & should do better. Filing your club reports is a big deal. It can be done online, and can be done whenever there's something to update in your club information. That's right, you don't have to wait till after elections. Remember, the more accurate your club info at the league, the better the league is able to help you.



Updating your club information only takes a moment to do, and it's painless. Just go to your club record on ARRL.org, and click on the edit button. Complete instructions on can be found here: www.arrl.org/club-update.

A few weeks ago, an article that appeared in the Des Moines Register caused some discussion on the ARRL PR reflector. The article was entitled "Men support fading ham radio habit". The article implies that Amateur Radio is a "fading" hobby, for "old Men". The article was promptly picked up by the AP, and ran in several other papers around the Midwest.

So, what has this to do with an Affiliated Club Coordinator column? Actually, it has quite a bit to do with it. Part of a clubs mission is to promote Amateur Radio, right? As part of your club activities, do you outreach to non-Hams? If so, do you tell them how you can listen for days without ever hearing a CQ, or about all the great things that Amateurs are doing with MESH, Arduino, and Satellites? How about showing them all the cool gear we use for portable operating? In other words show everyone that all the great stuff we enjoyed 30 years ago is still there, but that there is also so much more to enjoy in this hobby.

Anytime your club gathers, be it a meeting, Field Day, or even an on the air net, you have a chance to make an impression on someone. Will the impression be good, or bad? We should each

(Affiliated Clubs, cont'd)

remember that we have multiple opportunities each year to fight this “Old Guy in a Fading Hobby” type of stereotype. It’s up to us to get the word out!

So, here’s some of what’s happening around the state. If you’re club isn’t mentioned here, perhaps it’s because I am not on your newsletter mailing list. My E-mail address is kd8mq1@gmail.com.

Perhaps you don’t send out newsletters? Well. That’s OK too. Just drop me a line to let me know how things are going, club-wise. What are you doing that works? What isn’t working? Let me know. We’ll share the best ideas in this column each month.

The latest issue of the CARA communicator edited by our new ASM, Lyn, N8IMW just arrived. It has reports from the clubs Field Day, and OSPOTA operations. Congratulations to the Cambridge for placing 5th in the state under the “hi-power in a park, multi-op” category.

Each November, the Portage County Amateur Radio Service donates the club’s share of their 50/50 raffle to a local charity; the Center Of Hope, in Ravenna. By the time this year’s donations were tallied, the total exceeded \$3500!

Gary, N8EMR recently presented a program on Arduino processors to the Mt. Vernon ARC.

Those attending Massillon Arc’s mentoring session in February will be building an Offset Attenuator. The December issue of the Feedback also has an informative article by John, N8CD on Cross-Band Repeating.

The West Park Radio Ops will be doing a discussion & demonstration of D-Star at their January Meeting.

The program at the Alliance ARC’s December meeting was title “Your Best Ham Radio Memory”, and consisted of a roundtable discussion where attendees took turns relating what made Ham Radio special for them. Subjects ranged from first QSOs, to Licensing

Classes & Elmers, to operating W1AW this last summer.

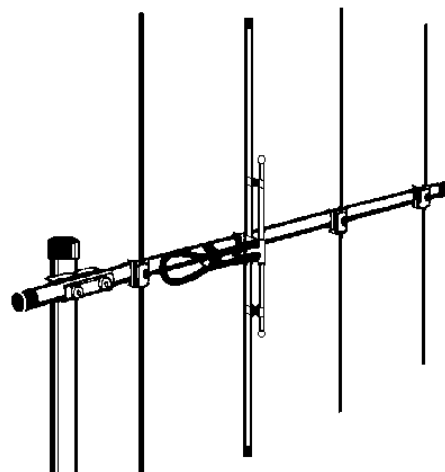
Till next time, 73 DE KD8MQ

K3LR Elected as the Western PA Section Manager

ARRL members in the Western Pennsylvania Section have elected elite contester **Tim Duffy, K3LR**, as their new Section Manager. In a three-way race, Duffy polled 545 votes, Cynthia L. Rushton, WB3CNJ, received 83 votes, and Paul Plants, W3PLP, 62 votes. Ballots were counted Tuesday, November 18, at ARRL Headquarters. Western Pennsylvania Section Manager John Rodgers, N3MSE, of Butler decided to not run for another term after serving since October 2007. He also was Section Manager from 2000 to 2003.

Duffy, who lives in West Middlesex, Pennsylvania, has been an ARRL member and radio amateur for 42 years. He has served for 4 years as the Atlantic Division representative to the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee. Duffy has been an active member of ARES® and RACES and has many years of net and traffic-handling experience.

--ARRL



Financial Woes Reported at Dayton Hamvention® Venue, Hara Arena

Hara Arena - for many years the home of Dayton Hamvention® - is facing some financial issues and has cut back on its full-time staff to save money, according to a WDTN-TV "2 News" account. The Dayton TV station reported on December 2 that the Trotwood complex now has a full-time staff of only 12 employees. Karen Wampler, Hara's Director of Marketing, told the TV station that it's difficult for Hara Arena to compete with other Miami Valley venues, such as the Nutter Center at Wright State University, but she hinted at a positive announcement next year.

"As taxpayers, we're competing against facilities that are subsidized by tax dollars, and because of that, we are struggling to compete," Wampler said. "The primary challenges are that we need renovation dollars, and the ownership model needs to be changed." The Wampler family has owned and operated Hara Arena since its humble origins in the 1950s, when Wampler Ballarena - then a dance hall, now an exhibit hall familiar to Hamvention visitors - was built in what had been a family-owned orchard. Hara Arena has since expanded to a 165,000 square foot, six-building complex.

Last year Hara Arena hosted 239 events, including Hamvention, generating an estimated \$34 million in community revenue. Wampler told 2 NEWS that the arena is working with a company called VenuWorks, which specializes in restoring event venues, and she anticipated some "very, very, good news in 2015."

Hara Arena has hosted everyone from The Rolling Stones and Kid Rock to President George W. Bush over the years. It is home to the Dayton Demonz hockey team. "There's a lot of history," Wampler said. **H**ara Arena was named by founding brothers **H**arold and **R**alph Wampler.

Last year, Dayton Hamvention, sponsored by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association, attracted nearly 25,000 visitors.

--ARRL

From the ARRL: More on the Hara Arena and Hamvention®

Every year about this time, the rumors start about Hamvention® and Hara Arena. This year the Dayton media contributed to the interest by carrying stories about Hara ownership issues. I won't go into any of those articles since they have minimal effect on Hamvention 2015. Here is what we know.

Hamvention® 2015 will come off at Hara Arena as usual starting May 15. The Hamvention® committee has been meeting monthly since September and plans are in place for making this year's event an enjoyable experience for our guests.

We have significantly updated our website. Any process that makes major changes can have errors creep in. If you spot an issue with the website in general, please send a message detailing the problem to webmaster@hamvention.org. If you have specific problems with orders, then send details to the appropriate committee, fleamarket@hamvention.org, exhibits@hamvention.org or tickets@hamvention.org.

Many questions about parking, renting scooters, etc. can be answered by visiting hamvention.org. If you are unable to locate what you need, please contact info@hamvention.org.

(Hara Arena, cont'd.)

Addressing your specific questions to the right people will generally get you quicker results. If you want suggestions from past attendees on what to expect, where to stay, etc. or have general questions that others might also have, feel free to post those to the group. If you are looking for a ride or would welcome riders to share the fuel costs, post your request here. We want this group to serve as a meeting place for those interested in Hamvention. We don't want it to become cluttered with "Where are my tickets?" and similar requests.

Thanks for your help. Hamvention® wouldn't exist without its vendors and its guests.

--73, Henry Ruminski, W8HJR, spokesperson for Dayton Hamfest

Ham Humor: Thanksgiving Turkey Takes Toll on Ham

By [WBØRUR](#), on the scene



SAUSALITO, NV – A local ham radio operator has been cited for careless and imprudent radio operating by the Federal Office Responsible for Monitoring All Transmissions (FORMAT).

Robert “Chick” Brown dozed off during the 40 meter “Thanksgiving Day Net,” a traditional radio gathering since 1942, where hams “check-in” to offer thanks for the blessings of the past year.

As Junior Thompson offered thanks on the net for the blessing of his Kenwood TS-990 due to a large worker’s comp settlement check, Brown’s VOX opened up and he was heard snoring with 1500 watts P.E.P. delivered into a 7-element Yagi.

In a prepared release, the National Radio Retransmission Legion (NRRL) defended Brown’s indiscretion, saying it was directly related to the amount of turkey consumed immediately prior to the net and that the broadcast was purely unintentional. (*Reporter’s note: the chemical tryptophan-L, found in turkey, can induce sleep when ingested in large doses.*)

FORMAT says agents immediately received world-wide complaints about “the buzz-saw noise” emanating from North American shores.

NRRL spokesman Johnson Longfellow says the “...combination of turkey, dressing, cranberries, Watergate salad, and candied yams played the devil with Brown’s metabolism, placing him in a stupor seldom paralleled in the annals of modern medicine.”

For their part, the local ham radio club “Emergency Response Team” was called away from their Thanksgiving tables and placed into action to triangulate the origin of the signal and shut it down.

Brown has 45 days to file an appeal with the Federal Office Responsible for Monitoring All Transmissions, but the sleepy ham says he’ll “...probably just pay the fine and move on, since Junior will spot me some left over worker’s comp money. And maybe I will try not to eat so much turkey next year.”

HamHijinks.com

Riley Hollingsworth to North Carolina Club: Amateur Enforcement “Very Much Alive”

Former FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, told the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club that the FCC is still active in the Amateur Radio enforcement arena, even though it's not always apparent. He spoke to the Winston-Salem, North Carolina, club on November 10.

“You may not think so, but enforcement is very much alive,” said Hollingsworth, who - although retired - still keeps up with goings on at the FCC and with the enforcement activities of his successor, FCC Special Counsel Laura Smith. “You just don’t hear a lot about it, as you used to,” he said, because ham radio news media report only the “big announcements” these days. During his tenure, Hollingsworth routinely released preliminary letters of inquiry and warning notices to radio amateurs suspected of breaking the rules. Now, he said, the FCC is using “the IRS model,” partly in response to privacy considerations. “You only see final actions [now],” he said. “So, you don’t think a lot’s being done, but it’s all behind the scenes, and you don’t know about it.”

What is not helpful, he told the club members, is e-mailing or writing Laura Smith or the FCC proper, regarding enforcement issues. Hollingsworth said the FCC has received “nasty e-mails to FCC personnel” concerning suspected ham radio rule breaking.

“I’m talking about horrible e-mails, threatening e-mails, threatening to the degree that the security office sometimes gets involved,” he said. “We’ve got to stop this.” Hiding behind the anonymity of the Internet, he pointed out, gives some people within the FCC a bad impression of ham radio and could prove counterproductive.

Hollingsworth suggested that hams interested in keeping up with enforcement subscribe to the



FCC Daily Digest or view it on the FCC website. “You read these and you get an idea of how busy the FCC is across the board,” he said. The FCC also documents Amateur Radio Service enforcement actions on its website. The page is not frequently updated, however.

Hollingsworth pointed out that the FCC is still running two parallel websites, since many were unhappy with the new site when it was unveiled a few years ago. The old - or “transition” - site remains fully functional.

Hollingsworth praised FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler for his role in helping to get the agency on a more active footing, and Enforcement Bureau Chief Travis LeBlanc, who was appointed last March. “I’m very impressed with him,” Hollingsworth said of LeBlanc. The Enforcement Bureau is the FCC’s largest bureau.

In remarks now familiar to many who have heard him speak at Dayton Hamvention and elsewhere, Hollingsworth also warned his audience members against getting into on-the-air spats with rude or careless operators.

“Don’t engage people, and don’t humor the idiots,” he said. “Stupidity can’t be regulated, no matter how good the rules are. Just turn the big knob. Every rig has one.”

Hollingsworth speculated that a lot of interference that is considered deliberate actually is accidental,

but that hams encountering it automatically assume offense. He said the number of rule breakers represent only a small fraction of a percent of the Amateur Radio population, however, and “they’re getting whittled down.”

“Our responsibility is to get Amateur Radio through the next 100 years,” Hollingsworth concluded. “You must recruit. You’ve got to keep these newcomers interested” and show them everything ham radio has to offer.

Today’s hams, he said, ought to be presenting a good example for those who follow. “It’s time for us to leave a legacy for this avocation,” he said.

Hollingsworth’s complete talk appears as Episode 174 of the online Amateur Radio television series HamRadioNow, produced by Gary Pearce, KN4AQ. - Thanks to HamRadioNow and Gary Pearce, KN4AQ

--ARRL

Amateur License Refresher

Answers:

E0A11 (C)
E0A09 (C)
G9D03 (D)
G0A13 (D)

Boy Scouts Recognize ARRL Amateur Radio Service to Scouting Award

The Boy Scouts of America’s National Awards and Recognition Committee has officially recognized the ARRL “Amateur Radio Service to Scouting Award” as part of its family of **Community Organization awards**. The ARRL award recognizes actively involved Scouting leaders who make a significant contribution to providing Scouts with a memorable and valuable Amateur Radio experience. This program allows Scouting leaders to wear the



Community Organization Award square knot on their uniform, in recognition of their service within their community organization

“This is yet another step in ARRL-BSA cooperation, one that will recognize the Scouting leaders who have worked tirelessly to introduce the science, technology, fun, and excitement of Amateur Radio to the youth involved in Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, and Venturing,” the Boy Scouts organization said in announcing its formal recognition of the League award.

This award was officially established through a resolution adopted by the ARRL Board at its 2013 Annual Meeting. It builds on the long relationship between the BSA and ARRL that began with the development of the Wireless Merit Badge in 1918 — now the Radio Merit Badge. This relationship was formally recognized through a 2011 *Memorandum of Understanding* (view a [video](#) of the signing).

Nominations for the Amateur Radio Service to Scouting Award are made through the appropriate ARRL Section Manager. A nominee must meet five of 10 requirements. The requirements range from teaching the Radio Merit Badge to participating in the Jamboree On The Air (JOTA), to providing communications support for Scouting events. Scout leaders cannot nominate themselves.

Currently 18 other organizations are included within the BSA’s Community Organization Award program.

--ARRL

QST Centennial Photo Contest Begins!

December 1 kicked off the *QST* Centennial Photo Contest to celebrate the 100th year of the ARRL's membership journal (the first issue of *QST* was published in December 1915).

Between December 1, 2014 and August 1, 2015, ARRL members can submit photos for consideration as possible 2015 *QST* covers. In addition to having their photos grace *QST* covers, each winner will receive \$250.

Contest Rules:

- Images must be submitted by e-mail to upfront@arrrl.org. Only one image can be submitted per e-mail message. You can submit multiple images during the contest period, but you can win only once.
- Images must be in JPG or TIF format at high resolution. However, image file sizes must not exceed 5 Mbytes.
- Do not send ZIP files. These will be rejected by the Headquarters e-mail system. Do not send links to file download sites. These will also be rejected.
- Include a few sentences with each e-mail describing the scenes shown, including names and call signs of individuals shown (if any).
- Images must not include text overlays of any kind, such as date or time stamps.
- Each submission e-mail must include the name and call sign of the photographer. Photographers must be ARRL members.
- If a photo includes anyone under the age of 18, you must submit proof (in writing, such as an e-mail) that the minor's parents have granted permission for the image to be published.
- Photographers retain all copyrights. However, by submitting the image to the ARRL, the photographer grants the ARRL non-exclusive rights to the use of the image for any lawful purpose in any media now existing or yet to be invented. This applies to both winning and non-winning images.
- Winning images will be selected by the QST Editorial Staff.



Amateur License Refresher

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

E0A11

Which of the following injuries can result from using high-power UHF or microwave transmitters?

- A. Hearing loss caused by high voltage corona discharge
- B. Blood clotting from the intense magnetic field
- C. Localized heating of the body from RF exposure in excess of the MPE limits
- D. Ingestion of ozone gas from the cooling system

E0A09

Which insulating material commonly used as a thermal conductor for some types of electronic devices is extremely toxic if broken or crushed and the particles are accidentally inhaled?

- A. Mica
- B. Zinc oxide
- C. Beryllium Oxide
- D. Uranium Hexafluoride

General Pool

G9D03

At what height above ground is an NVIS antenna typically installed?

- A. As close to one-half wave as possible
- B. As close to one wavelength as possible
- C. Height is not critical as long as it is significantly more than 1/2 wavelength
- D. Between 1/10 and 1/4 wavelength

G0A13

What precaution should be taken when installing a ground-mounted antenna?

- A. It should not be installed higher than you can reach
- B. It should not be installed in a wet area
- C. It should be limited to 10 feet in height
- D. It should be installed so no one can be exposed to RF radiation in excess of maximum permissible limits

(answers pg. 16)





All Aboard the Local Club Wagon

As the year of 2014 is quickly winding down and I'm sure that most of us will be up and working stations left and right on New Year's Eve night as it is "Red Badge" night all over the country. I will be on, mostly 80/75 and 40 meters (if anyone is interested..) I do want to take just a quick moment of your time to say it has been a privilege to be able to serve as your Section Manager this past year and I want to wish each and every one of you a very prosperous 2015.

My goal for 2015 is a more robust one for the Section, as that now that I'm retired from my professional job, I plan on being more proactive at visiting with you. Yes, the Ohio Section has done a great job in the past, but I want to make it even better this next year by being at your club activities and not just reading about them.

So, with that in mind, I hope you will continue to extend an invitation to me to come to your meeting/functions. I really enjoy visiting with all of you.

This New Year is also bringing another challenge to our Affiliated Clubs Coordinator and I. We want to get more clubs in Ohio affiliated and those that are affiliated already, well, we want them to become Special Services Clubs.

What you may not know about Ohio is that we in Ohio started what is now the criterion for Special Services Clubs many years ago. We took what the ARRL had and enhanced it. We made it more of a challenge than what it had originally started out being. It was Ohio that set the "gold standard" throughout the country for having the most hard working and committed clubs as Special Services Clubs, and yes, we were noticed for that. Yes folks, the League took notice of what Ohio was doing with this program and incorporated it into what we have today.

Is your club a Special Services Club? Don't think your club is up to the challenge? I think it is!! I think ALL clubs in Ohio can meet/exceed the criteria needed to accomplish this. My challenge for the clubs in Ohio for 2015 is to become an Affiliated Club and/or Special Services Club. Right now our

Affiliated Clubs Coordinator tells me we have about 57 Affiliated Clubs that have the paperwork up-to-date out of 96 clubs registered. On the Special Services Clubs side of things we have 9 clubs who are listed as Special Services Clubs. We have around 28 clubs that just haven't renewed their SSC paperwork, WHY? I'm sure that you still meet the criteria right?

John, KD8MQ and I want EVERY club in Ohio to be an Affiliated AND Special Services Club. After all, we are the largest Section in the country, why shouldn't we also have the most Affiliated and SSC's in the country to go with that.

Now here's what I will do for you. If your club becomes an Affiliated Club or even better yet, a Special Services Club, I will personally come and present the certificate to your club! I've just created an awards night for your club. In addition someone in your club will get a "mug" on me. Yup, I'll be sure to bring one of my very special Ohio Section Coffee Mugs filled with candies and a gift card to somewhere special.

Now, on to another topic. Does your club have a hard time looking for things to do to advertise themselves to the public? Here's something that came across my desk that I think goes over the top for that idea.

Marion--Ball drops at midnight in Marion on New Year's Eve. A lighted ball drop, a "waterfall," fireworks, singing, dancing and hot chocolate will mark the end of 2014 and the arrival of 2015 in downtown Marion. The Marion Amateur Radio Club will provide a portable tower from which the lighted ball will slowly descend from a height of 60 feet via a pulley system beginning 10 seconds before midnight, Kevin Landes, a past president for the club, said.

"We do things of service to the community," Landes said. "That's what ham radio is all about. This is just another thing we could help out with. (And) it gets our name out there." Now there's an original way of getting your name in front of the public for you.

That's going to do it for this year!!! May the best of 2014 be remembered and may we all enjoy an even GREATER and more FUN 2015!

73, Scott, N8SY.

January Contest Calendar-----Dave Fairbanks, N8NB

An expanded listing of contests occurring in January 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>.

January 2015

+ AGB New Year Snowball Contest	0000Z-0100Z, Jan 1
+ SARTG New Year RTTY Contest	0800Z-1100Z, Jan 1
+ AGCW Happy New Year Contest	0900Z-1200Z, Jan 1
+ AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1400Z-1700Z, Jan 1 (144) and 1700Z-1800Z, Jan 1 (432)
+ NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1800Z-1900Z, Jan 1 (CW) and 1900Z-2000Z, Jan 1 (SSB) and 2000Z-2100Z, Jan 1 (FM) and 2100Z-2200Z, Jan 1 (Dig)
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Jan 2
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 2
+ PODXS 070 Club PSKFest	0000Z-2400Z, Jan 3
+ WW PMC Contest	1200Z, Jan 3 to 1200Z, Jan 4
+ ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800Z, Jan 3 to 2400Z, Jan 4
+ EUCW 160m Contest	2000Z-2300Z, Jan 3 and 0400Z-0700Z, Jan 4
+ Kid's Day Contest	1800Z-2359Z, Jan 4
+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Jan 6
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Jan 7 and 1900Z-2000Z, Jan 7 and 0300Z-0400Z, Jan 8
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 9
+ North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Jan 10 to 0600Z, Jan 11
+ NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW	0630Z-0830Z, Jan 11
+ NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB	0900Z-1100Z, Jan 11
+ DARC 10-Meter Contest	0900Z-1059Z, Jan 11
+ Midwinter Contest	1000Z-1400Z, Jan 11
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Jan 14 and 1900Z-2000Z, Jan 14 and 0300Z-0400Z, Jan 15
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 16
+ LZ Open Contest	0000Z-0400Z, Jan 17
+ Hungarian DX Contest	1200Z, Jan 17 to 1200Z, Jan 18
+ North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Jan 17 to 0600Z, Jan 18
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Jan 21 and 1900Z-2000Z, Jan 21 and 0300Z-0400Z, Jan 22
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 23
+ CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	2200Z, Jan 23 to 2159Z, Jan 25
+ REF Contest, CW	0600Z, Jan 24 to 1800Z, Jan 25
+ BARTG RTTY Sprint	1200Z, Jan 24 to 1200Z, Jan 25
+ ARRL January VHF Contest	1900Z, Jan 24 to 0359Z, Jan 26
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Jan 28 and 1900Z-2000Z, Jan 28 and 0300Z-0400Z, Jan 29
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 30
+ UBA DX Contest, SSB	1300Z, Jan 31 to 1300Z, Feb 1