



The
Wave Bender
June 2013

PRESIDENT'S QST

June has arrived. Field Day is soon to be here. Are you ready? What are you going to do at FD this year? Try a new band? a new mode? or just going to sit at home? FD is the single most important "Contest" of the year. How about we do something different this year. Work toward doing the best we can. Make sure that you see Roy, KD8IJF or Steve, KC8SOY and tell them what you want to do.

This is a very important year for WRARC. This is the big election year. We have to elect a President, Vice President, Secretary and a Trustee. Start thinking about which position you would like to fill. If no one decides to run, it could be the end of WRARC. If you are interested in an office and want to know what it requires please contact me.

We have a good standing in the area. I have heard a lot of good things about where the club is going. Let's keep it going.

Classes will be starting in September, talk up the hobby and see if you can get someone interested in becoming a HAM. When people ask me what HAM stands for I usually tell them, it stands for "Haven't Any Money." Remember this is the best club in the valley, let's keep it that way.

Communications Unit News

The meeting attendance last month was weak. If you are a member and do not want to continue, or if you would like to join us, contact me.

Anyone interested in the Rapid Response Team please contact me.

We are going to start a Fldigi round table in the near future. It will meet once a week or more as things progress.

73, AB8AA



Officer's Meeting: June 16, 7:00 P.M. At the Avnet's (330-549-3051)

Regular Meeting: June 18, 7:00 P.M. Davidson's, 3636 Canfield Rd. in Cornersburgh

Speakers: Robert KD8OXJ Talking about simplex Repeaters, and Steve KC8SOY and Roy KD8IJF with final Field Day plans.

2013 Officers:

President:	Al Avnet, AB8AA	ab8aa@arrl.net
VP:	Robert Webster, KD8OXJ	rswebster@mail.com
Secretary:	Jane Avnet, K8JAA	k8jaa@arrl.net
Treasurer:	Maureen Stein, KD8NXS	mfstein@zoominternet.net
Trustees:	Ted Filmer, KD8IJE	efilmer@aol.com
	Roy Haren, KD8IJF	harens@juno.com
	Steve Fabry, KC8SPF	kc8soy@yahoo.com

Appointed Positions:

Social:	Maureen Stein, KD8NXS	mfstein@zoominternet.net
Publicity:	Joe Wojtowicz, KD8RCC	jtwojo@sbcglobal.net
Newsletter/Web:	Jane Avnet K8JAA	k8jaa@arrl.net
Badges::	John Fabry, KC8SPF	JohnnyJukebox@sbcglobal.net

<http://www.wrarc.net/>

BEFORE 007 – THE RSGB IN WORLD WAR II . . .



As this is the 100th anniversary of the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) I have been recently snooping out on the 'net for some of this organization's contributions to King / Queen and Country. It didn't take me very long to discover a valuable service the "Hams" of Great Britain provided during the war against Hitler.

Before World War II the British Secret Intelligence Service (S.I.S), now known as MI6, had no radio communications on which to rely. Rather they used secret inks and other "older" technologies to get messages in and out of Germany. With the Reich's minions reading the mail with great regularity the S.I.S. really had no means to communicate in and out of Germany.

Although the Hitlerian saber rattling was a large concern, an equally large concern was the presence of foreign operatives, spies, using the radio spectrum in Britain to transmit intelligence back to the Fatherland. To counter this threat the National Security Service (now known as MI5) set up the Radio Security Service, with a "cover" name of MI8. A well-known and enthusiastic Ham, Ronald Sheldon (Lord Sandhurst), was appointed as the head of MI8 with the commission of building it into an electronic force to be reckoned with. Sheldon almost immediately contacted the President of the RSGB, Alan Watts, for suggestions on the building of MI8 to meet national security needs quickly.

Ham Radio operators were recruited by MI8 to be Voluntary Interceptors or V.I.s. Even though the Crown confiscated all Ham Radio equipment in 1939, many Hams volunteered to be V.I.s in their own residence or join MI8 full time. The V.I.s logged all messages they received. A team of analysts, in the village of Arkley was established to review all logged messages for the purpose of determining where enemy agents may be transmitting from in Britain. Based on the logs submitted by V.I.s the Arkley team was able to establish there were no enemy signals being transmitted from Britain.

The electronic sights of V.I.s were turned overseas. These volunteers became very accomplished at listening in to and interpreting messages received from outside Britain. Two significant examples I found were quite impressive. The first was a series of messages intercepted by V.I.s that helped Britain become aware of the German invasion of the Netherlands and other countries in Europe during May 1940. The second was the interception of message traffic by V.I.s that was decoded by MI8 even before the facility at Bletchley Park (where the German Enigma code was eventually broken) could perform that task.

Having learned all this certainly gives the slogan . . . "When All Else Fails, Ham Radio" an entirely new meaning.

-73- Robert (KD8OXJ)

OHIO GOVERNOR KASICH SIGNS PROCLAMATION SUPPORTING FIELD DAY

Amateur Appreciation Days June 22-23, 2013 - Ohio Governor John Kasich has issued a resolution in support of Amateur Radio Appreciation Days June 22-23, 2013.

"Amateur Radio Appreciation Days" June 22-23, 2013 is sponsored by the ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. This 2-day event is highlighted by Amateur Radio "Field Day". On these days Amateur Radio operators using only generators, batteries or solar power, construct emergency stations in parks, shopping malls and back yards to test their skills under all situations. The slogan, "Ham radio works when other systems don't!" is more than just words to the hams as they prove they can send messages in many forms without the use of phone systems, Internet or any other infrastructure that can be compromised in a crisis. More than 30,000 amateur radio operators across the country participated in last year's event.

Over the Field Day weekend, June 22-23, 2013 hams will be demonstrating AM, sideband, FM, digital, code and even satellite communications. It was from their practical experience as hams that many electrical engineers went on to develop the marvels of today's communications.

There are over 30,500 Amateur Radio operators in Ohio, 670,000 Amateur Radio operators in the US, and more than 2.5 million around the world. Through the Amateur Radio Relay League hams provide emergency communications for the National Weather Service Corps, Red Cross, Salvation Army, FEMA and many state and local agencies.



**WRARC Communications Unit Net Friday Nites 8:00P.M.
145.270, PL -110.9
Net Control will be rotated**

**Join us for the WRARC Friday night Net 9:00 P.M.
145.270, PL -110.9**

Upcoming Net Control Operators

- June 7 Dennis KD8SNA
- June 14 Darrin N8DMC
- June 21 Dave N8YMZ
- June 28 Jane K8JAA
- July 05 This could be you
- July 12 John KC8SPF
- July 19 Joe KD8RCC
- July 26 Roy KD8IJF



**Contact Steve, KC8SOY to take a turn at Net Control
330-774-6346**

**Ask The Elmer Net Right after the Friday Night Net
KC8SOY Moderator**



Mahoning County ARES® Nets

**1st Monday 8.30 PM ET W8QLY Repeater - 146.745 (PL 110.9)
&**

**3rd Monday 8.30 PM ET W8QLY Repeater - 146.745 (PL 110.9)
We thank MVARA for the use of their repeater**

**W8SGT is facilitating The Ohio HF net every Tuesday - 7:00 PM
The net is run from the State of Ohio EOC on the
Ohio ARES Admin frequency 3875 Khz LSB
moves to 7240 Khz after 20-min.
All are welcome to check in.**

**The Ohio ARES/OES Digital Emergency Net held every Tuesday at 8:00PM.
held on 3585 kHz USB.**

**Please note all digital communications are Upper Side Band.
<http://www.http://ohden.org/> for net details. Net Manager Gary NJ8BB**

COLUMBIANA COUNTY DIGITAL NET

**Wednesdays 8:30 pm - 9:30 pm
145.510 MHZ SIMPLEX**

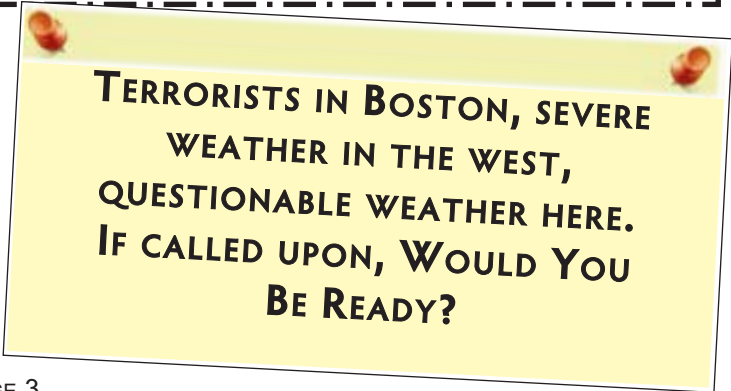
**NBEMS/FLDIGI is being used training on the message handling
capabilities of FLDIGI/FLMSG. Start with BPSK-125 other modes may be used for testing**

**First Wednesday of the Month Mahoning County Skywarn Net
is held on the W8QLY repeater 146.745 (-) at 8:30P.M.**

Thanks & 73

All of our members (and others) look forward (hopefully) to getting this newsletter every month, so keep sending those articles, jokes, and suggestions!

Thanks goes out to this month's contributors; AB8AA, KD8OXJ, KD8SNA, KD8IJE, KD8NXS, KB8UUZ, KC8SOY, W8IZC, W8DEC, KD8RCC, N8SY, N6ISY, W5YI, the ARRL and the World-Wide Web.



THE MOBILE HAM AND HIS (VEHICLE'S) ELECTRICAL SYSTEM



I was listening to one of the local repeaters and the topic of vehicle electrical systems and two way radios came up. After listening and talking for a while, I thought a refresher or a beginner's intro with vehicle electrical systems might be a good topic for the newsletter. Many mobile hams may not know much about their vehicle's electrical system. I will go over just the basics.

I would like to point out there are a lot of various issues and components for all vehicles. Every car/truck is different so I will try to generalize things. The battery, alternator, voltage regulator, and computer monitor systems, along with the bells and whistles in our vehicles that spoil us. All take electricity.

First the battery, even though it says its 12volts, that is NOT ENOUGH. Most batteries are considered fully charged at 12.6volts. At 12.2 volts most are considered very low. Anything below 12v - it's dead. Voltage should be checked when the battery has had a chance to sit for a few hours. While your engine is running 13.6v is the minimum, you should see on a volt meter. Most vehicles will produce upwards of 14 to 14.4volts much more than that and you may have an overcharge condition.

There are many types of batteries for the many vehicles so you may need to check with your manufacturer for exact numbers for your type of battery. If you have a low or weak battery it is best to put it on a battery charger, and do not just let the alternator charge it, as I will point out why below.

The alternator, better sit down, this one is going to be a long read. The alternator primarily is there to run the vehicle's electrical needs, not our radio's needs.

First I would like to say that my brother in law's, brother and wife were engineers for GM and Packard Electric/Delphi. Some info is from them.

Most alternators are rated for 15%-20% more than the total electrical load of the vehicle. So with everything turned on while driving with at least 1000 rpm you should still have 15% of your alternator's output left for the battery. That's not much considering all the factors weather, vehicle age, wiring, battery etc. So in theory, if a vehicle needs 85 amps for everything to run, they use a 100-amp alternator, you should have 15 amps left over. Let's see our 50-75 watt ham radios take (that's right) 10-17 amps of power while transmitting! Hummm, I am starting to see a problem.

Most of us do not have everything on at the same time while we drive so most alternators should have more left over power. But it doesn't take much to max it out. Alternators have something called a duty cycle, just like our radios depending on the mode. The duty cycle refers to BOTH how much voltage, amperage, AND the amount of time it will produce power. Most alternators need to be well over 1000 rpm in order for it to provide its maximum power. For how long depends on the make, model of alternator and the voltage regulator.

The voltage regulator may be part of the car's computer system, it might be a standalone piece in the engine compartment or be built into the alternator. The regulator checks how much power the vehicle needs, and battery voltage and decides how much, and how long the alternator needs to produce power and at what level.

The newer car computers do this but also factor in a lot of other things. Most vehicles after about the year 2000 seem to have alternators rated over 100 amps, many are now much higher, 150 amps or more even! However I am aware of several people who have vehicles that have alternators that are less than 100 amps. Most are prior to 2005. If your radio uses 15 amps to transmit, and your vehicle has an 80-amp alternator you may run short of power if idling at a stop light while transmitting and have the air conditioning, and other car accessories turned on! So for all those who live in a city, and only drive in city traffic you may want to place your car battery on a charger every so often.

Your starter runs off the battery, so you start the car which lowers the battery, then drive 1 mile stop at the store, turn engine off. You shop for an hour come back restart your car and drive two blocks and stop again. Repeating this multiple times and you may find your battery to be low after a while. The amount of charge it received from the alternator and lower rpm's means your alternator was not putting out full power, and the time frame for it to recharge the amount of power your starter used from the battery was not enough. The alternator was never meant to charge the car's battery, only to maintain or top off. Should you find the voltage low on your battery please use a battery charger and not just let the car run for a while. *Continued page 5*

THE MOBILE HAM - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Also the cables to and from the battery, alternator, and starter should be as clean as possible. Small amounts of corrosion and dirt can increase resistance and cause voltage drops, as can loose hardware. I would like to add that your serpentine belt and the pulleys/idler arm also can cause electrical problems. If the pulley attached to the alternator does not spin fast enough, it cannot produce the power it should. If the belt is loose, the same applies. I hope you have learned something about your vehicle's electrical system and why there can be problems when you add any electrical accessories whether it is a 2-way radio or not. Again please remember that a battery charger is for the battery, and that the alternator was not meant to charge a low battery. It was only meant to top off or maintain battery voltage.

Happy Motoring Ham Style! ---KC8UNR MIKE

WHAT'S COMING UP?

For the June 18 meeting program, Robert will be presenting information on Simplex Repeaters. Roy & Steve will be completing plans for Field Day. Let Maureen know what you will be bringing to our Pot Luck! Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, and condiments are provided by the Club.

Testing all license classes Wednesday, June 19, 6:30P.M.- ITT Tech, 1030 N Meridian Rd, Youngstown, OH

June 21 - Setup your trailer or tent, antenna, and other equipment needed for Field Day!

Testing all license classes Saturday, **June 22, 10:00 A.M.** at the Field Day Site

June 22 & 23 FIELD DAY - where will you be operating?

Tour of the Valley, July 12 & 13 - Please volunteer.

July 16 - The WRARC Picnic. Let Maureen know what you will be bringing to our Pot Luck! Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, and condiments are provided by the Club.

The August 20 meeting is scheduled to be "Show and Tell". Robert would like our club members to send an e-mail along to him with:

- Their name and call sign
- The project, or other ham related effort, they have built or participated in

The projector and screen will be available if anyone needs it to present their project or effort

Diabetes Walk in October - plan on volunteering

TECHNICIAN & GENERAL CLASSES STARTING

IN THE FALL

FOR INFO CALL AL

330-549-3051



CONTACT WRARC ELMERS WITH YOUR QUESTIONS - QUESTIONS@WRARC.NET

Avnet, Allan AB8AA

Antennas, radio setup, mobile, grounding, classes, anything anything

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Beatty, Dave KC8WY

Yaesu FT8900, FT8800, Mobile ???

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He who is afraid of asking, is afraid of learning

Articles from members for the Wave Bender are encouraged. They must be received by the editor three days before the end of the month. Please send your articles to: k8jaa@arrl.net, and put WRARC on the subject line of your email. You may also send your articles to the editor: Jane Avnet, 2050 E. South Range Rd., New Springfield, OH 44443

WE ADOPTED A HIGHWAY!



May 4 was the Adopt a Highway Cleanup Community Service Event. We met at Perkins in Canfield, about 9:00 A.M. for breakfast, cleanup started around 10. Our cleanup area is just short of 2-miles. (See the pictures on our website.)

ODOT provided trash bags, safety vests (which were returned) and trash bags. ODOT picked up filled trash bag after we were done

Those who came out and helped: KC8SOY, KD8NXS, Mark Stein, KD8NXR, KD8GGZ, KD8SNA, AB8AA, KD8JMO, KD8ELY, NR8W, and KD8IJE who put this all together.

K8JAA, N9GLK, & KD8JMO were the go-fers.

THANK GOODNESS FOR RESEARCH - IT'S THE DOOR!!

Ever walk into a room with some purpose in mind, only to completely forget what that purpose was? Turns out, doors themselves are to blame for these strange memory lapses.



Psychologists at the University of Notre Dame have discovered that passing through a doorway triggers what's known as an event boundary in the mind, separating one set of thoughts and memories from the next.

Your brain files away the thoughts you had in the previous room and prepares a blank slate for the new locale.

It's not aging, it's the darn door! Thank goodness for studies like this.



"No Greg went to the ham auction this afternoon, to get rid of a couple old radios that were cluttering up the place...Oh I think I hear him pulling in now!"



Behind the McDonalds, across from Walmart on Belmont Ave., Youngstown just for us Hams to get our hair cut & styled. How Thoughtful!

FROM MY EMAIL

Tthis was noted in the FunWithTubes forum at Dayton. You might want to pass it around for area Hams to participate in. Warning: it is LONG. Seems like Heathkit wants to breathe again!

<http://heathkit.com/survey/index.php/278489/lang-en>

You can read how solar flares effect radio communications here.

<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/info/Radio.pdf>

Very interesting.

CQ - CQ - FIELD DAY. THIS IS W8WRC



FIELD DAY 2013 is coming up on June 22, and 23. We have a good list of Hams coming and they've told us what they would like to do. We have a few campers that will be at the site from Friday through Sunday.

If anybody has any suggestions or ideas on how to have more fun, let me, or Steve KC8SOY, (kc8soy@yahoo.com) know. Remember to bring your spouse, kids, and/or friends. All are welcome.

Don't forget the potluck dinner Saturday evening. There will be lots of delicious food. Let Maureen KD8NXS (mfstein@zoominternet.net)

know what you're bringing.

Most important bring your radios, antennae and what other equipment you'll need to operate. Come out early and help set up on Friday afternoon and evening June 21, or Saturday morning June 22. Last year we had a great time, made lots of contacts, and had fun doing it. Come out and join us!

When you get there, be sure to sign in. I'll have sign-in sheets at my trailer. We will be at the same location as last year - Elser Metro Airport, 10800 Sharott Rd., North Lima.

Hope to see you all there,

73, Roy KD8IJF
harens@juno.com



FIELD DAY - RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER



Here we are at that time of year again, time to prepare for Field Day. There are always some things for all of us to think about while getting ready. First of all, the dates, Field Day is June 22 and June 23 this year. Many of us will be either camping at the site (Elser Airport) or spending all day there. That always brings us some special considerations for how we handle our food safely and for our own well being. We have to think about things like a serious sun burn, heat stroke, food poisoning, etc.

First order of business, the sign up sheet for food for the outdoor meal on Saturday evening. We will be eating at about 6:00 P.M., picnic styled. The clipboard will be circulated again at the June meeting. The purpose of this is for people to sign up for various potluck dishes to share with the group. Sign ups are done so that we don't have a lot of duplicate things brought. We always have a nice variety of food to choose from and we eat well every year! Each of us who are attending can sign up for a side dish, a salad of some kind, a dessert, snack foods, or beverages. Please also indicate the number in your party as it helps us to know how many hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, paper goods, and plastic cutlery to buy. The club always provides these things. Anyone not signing up at the meeting can also call me at 330-757-4963 and I can add them to the list. If I am not there, you can leave a voice mail with your name, call sign, number in your party, your phone number, your dish, and whether it is hot or cold food.

We also need to have several banquet-sized folding tables and a few smaller card or camping tables as well for the Saturday evening meal. Please let us know if anyone can bring some of these. We all need to bring a comfortable folding chair for each member of your party so that everyone has seating for the meal and for the entire day. A few extras for any guests from the public who visits would be greatly appreciated too! It would be a good idea to put identification on any tables or chairs brought so that they will get back to their rightful owners. Another thing that we could use is some extra long, outdoor, sturdy extension cords for radio equipment, crock pots, and coffee maker. At least some of them should be 3-pronged plugs and some good quality surge protectors for radio equipment would be good.

There will be some availability of plugs for crock pots so that hot foods can stay hot. Remember, most of us will be there all day on Sat., so we need to keep our foods at safe temperatures. If bringing something in a crockpot, please put an extension cord on it in case the cord needs to reach a long way to a plug. All cold foods need to be packed well into a cooler large enough to have ice surround the dish. I am planning to bring my big coffee urn again, but promise to have someone else make the coffee. No more "spare

Continued page 8

FIELD DAY - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

airplane fuel" this year! Sorry, I'm not good at making it. Those who operate at night may want to have some coffee available. My idea of getting a good cup of coffee is to pull up to the Dunkin Donuts drive through window, but that won't work so well late at night!

Other things that are easy to overlook when getting things ready to take with us are hats or visors, sunglasses, sun screen for daytime use, and mosquito repellent and citronella candles for night time use. We don't want anyone to go home with a bad sun burn or multiple bug bites. I will have a basic first aid kit there too. Garbage control is needed too. We have to clean up really well and not leave food scraps on tables or the ground, so as not to attract animals at night. We will have garbage bags there and some of us who are going home at night can take garbage bags with us so as not to tempt wild animals to come around. There have been reports of rabid raccoons in various places in Mahoning County this year. Even though there is noise and activity at night, it is not a guarantee that it will keep them away. If they are hungry enough, they may venture into the camp site for food.

Lastly, we want everyone to have fun and please encourage people you know, Hams or not, to come out to see us. Please let family and friends know that they are warmly welcomed to come on out to see ham radio at work and to stay for our big meal on Sat. evening. Likewise, please remember to extend a warm welcome to any members of the public who come out and let them know they are very welcome to stay for dinner as there is always a lot of food there. See you all there on June 22. Enjoy the whole weekend!

73, Maureen KD8NXS

Want a challenge? Volunteering is an excellent way to test out your mettle, and find out how good your equipment is. Everyone should try their hand at volunteering for a Public Service activity.

AMATEURS IN OKLAHOMA RESPOND TO STORM AFTERMATH

05/23/2013 - After an EF5 tornado swept through Oklahoma on May 20, radio amateurs in that state assisted the American Red Cross with its communications efforts. "Amateur Radio operators were asked to support voice communications from the American Red Cross Oklahoma City Chapter Headquarters to their feeding station at the Incident Command Post located in Moore," explained ARRL Oklahoma Section Emergency Coordinator Mark Conklin, N7XYO. Moore, located about halfway between Norman and Oklahoma City, suffered the brunt of the tornado damage. As of 8:30 CDT on May 22, all Amateur Radio operations in support of the American Red Cross ceased.

At least 24 people, including nine children, were killed when the 1.3-mile wide tornado moved through Moore, Oklahoma's seventh largest city. The National Weather Service stated that the tornado traveled an estimated 17-mile-long path for 50 minutes, with an estimated peak wind that ranged from 200-210 miles per hour, making it an EF5 storm, the most powerful category of tornados possible.

In addition to the American Red Cross, members of the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) were also in Moore, ready to support and assist with the Amateur Radio response. According to ARRL Oklahoma Section Manager Kevin O'Dell, N0IRW, the tornados disrupted cellular service in the affected areas.

"I have been in regular contact with Oklahoma Section officials since yesterday morning," said ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, K11U. "Through the ARRL EmComm Twitter feed and regular communication with our national partners, the ARRL has been sharing information on the Amateur Radio response to the Moore tornado. Our folks in Oklahoma who have been assisting the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army have been doing a great job and they have my heartfelt thanks for the work they are doing for their community."

Corey also stressed that those who wish to assist with response efforts in Oklahoma should not self-deploy. "The ARES leadership in the Oklahoma Section has everything under control and there is no need for volunteers from outside the Section," he said. "If you would like to assist in the overall recovery effort, please check out the website of National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD)."

Amateur Radio is a Hobby, Emergency Communications is a Commitment!

TO: OHIO AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE

If you have not heard by now, a massive tornado (prelim ranking EF4) touched down in Moore, OK the afternoon of 5/21 outside of Oklahoma City.

I have received a few inquiries from Ohio ARES volunteers about response to Oklahoma. I wanted to take a quick moment to address the inquiries for the benefit of everyone. First and foremost, regardless of what you see or hear, there have been no requests for mutual aid from ARRL Headquarters. If mutual aid is requested, ARRL HQ will send those requests to the Section Managers and/or Section Emergency Coordinators.

My heart goes out to the victims, friends, and families. I sincerely mean that. I could only imagine the devastation. There has to be something I can do to help. What is it I can do from almost 1,000 miles away? I most likely will be making a donation to either the Salvation Army or American Red Cross. I am hoping my money will make a difference somewhere somehow.



I am sure there are those who wish they could just load their vehicle with amateur radio equipment, camping equipment, personal gear, hitch up a communications trailer, and head to Oklahoma. But the reality of it is, that is wrong. While I know your heart is in the right place, showing up uninvited will demonstrate otherwise. ARRL Introduction to Emergency Communications (EC-001) states ARES volunteers do not self-deploy. There are no exceptions. Just showing up uninvited makes you part of the problem and not part of the solution.

What else can be done in the meantime? Check out this link <http://www.arrl-ohio.org/SEC/Notes/self-deployment.html>.

Check out the website below to stay abreast of ARES in Oklahoma.
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/aresoklahoma/>

I'll advise if anything changes. Thank you for your understanding. I encourage everyone to keep Oklahoma in your thoughts and prayers.

I sent an email to the Ohio Section announcing that a committee is being formed to look at the possibility of adding DSTAR, Echolink, IRLP, and/or AllStar (or combination thereof) to the Ohio Section Emergency Response Plan (OSERP). Several people have applied to be on the committee. I ask the applicants to be patient and I'll be in touch to coordinate a phone interview. But here are a couple responses I received from the email.

73 de Matt W8DEC
Matthew Welch W8DEC
Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator
ARRL - The national association for AMATEUR RADIO™
w8dec@arrl.net
440-585-7388

10 BEST WAYS TO WRECK AN ORGANIZATION

- Don't go to meetings
- If you do go, arrive late
- Bad weather? Don't even think about going to the meeting
- If you do go to a meeting, find fault with the president and the officers
- Never accept an office. It's easier to sit back and criticize
- If you should be appointed to a committee, don't go to the meetings. If something gets done, get mad because you weren't there.
- When your opinion is asked, reply you have nothing to say. After the meeting, tell how things should be done.
- Do nothing more than necessary, but, when others do the work, say a clique runs it.
- Complain about everything
- Don't worry about getting new members, let those who do the work do that too.

TECHNICIANS LICENSED BEFORE MARCH 21, 1987 ARE GRANDFATHER GENERALS.

On December 15, 2006, The FCC acted to drop the Morse code requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes. The public notice is located at hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-269012A1.pdf. This change had the effect of making "grandfathers" out of all Technicians licensed before March 21, 1987.

Over the last 10 years the FCC has restructured the requirements for the various classes of amateur licenses. Under the old system, the written examinations for Technician and General class licenses existed as one large exam, the only difference was that Technicians had to pass a 5 WPM Morse code test, while Generals had to pass a 13 WPM test. Now that the Morse code requirement no longer exists, those who held a Technician class license before March 21, 1987, having already passed the General theory exam, can upgrade to General class without further testing (see Figure 1).

In that era many wives or children of amateurs became licensed, mostly to please a spouse, parent or grandparent. Unfortunately, many of those amateurs lost interest and let their license lapse. However, some remain active as Technicians today. My "survivor challenge" is aimed at these Technicians.

Fee Only Upgrade

To get this upgrade the Technician must show:

- proof of that 1987 or earlier Technician license
- that they are presently licensed as a Technician
- and pay the Volunteer Exam Coordinator (VEC) licensing fee.

See the ARRL® website (www.arrl.org/license-restructuring) for upgrading details.

So, if a currently licensed Technician has a copy of their original pre-March 21, 1987 Technician class license, they may claim credit for a new General class license without additional testing. The upgrade is not automatic, however. The Technician has to apply to a Volunteer Examiner at a test session, complete Form 605 (see Figure 2), attach documentary proof listed above and pay an application fee, if any, to the VEC involved.

An original or a copy of your Technician license issued any time prior to March 21, 1987, would suffice. Other documentary evidence could include:

- an FCC letter verifying your having held a Technician license prior to March 21, 1987
- a verification document from the FCC's contractor, ITS Inc
- a Callbook listing dated prior to March 21, 1987, indicating your license class as Technician (see Figure 3).

Searching for Survivors

In Mahoning County, Ohio I searched the FCC ULS database by zip codes and looked at call signs that appeared to be pre 1987. Once you start looking, these older calls are obvious. However, some of these older calls may have been issued recently through the FCC's vanity call sign program. Next, crosscheck those call signs at a website that shows operator licensing information dating back to the early 1980s. I use www.vanityhq.com, but I'm sure there other sites with the same information.

The first problem in the challenge is that some of the present day Technicians were licensed as a Novice and didn't upgrade to Technician until after 1987, making them ineligible for this upgrade. The next problem is that someone who was a Technician before 1987 may not be licensed now, but upon becoming relicensed as a Technician, they can use the old license to upgrade.

Armed with this information, your survivor challenge is to continue the search to contact as many of these "pre 1987 Technicians" as possible and inform them of the upgrade that they are eligible for. This process can seem time consuming but if I can do it single handed you can too and a club effort could do meet the challenge in a much shorter time.

Contacting Eligible Technicians

Upon locating eligible Technicians in the area, I prepared the following letter that informed them of their eligibility for the automatic upgrade and provided information on how to go about upgrading:

Hello,

While doing some Internet web surfing I came across you and found you held a Amateur Radio Technician license before 1987. At that time you were required to take the 50 question Technician/General class theory exam and pass a 5 WPM Morse code test to be licensed as a Technician.

Much has happened over the years and now your pre 1987 Technician license makes you eli- *Continued page 11*



GRANDFATHER GENERALS - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

gible for instant upgrading to General class for a \$15 VEC filing fee.

To upgrade, all you need do is go to a local examination session (Testing is now done by Volunteer Examiners, often through local clubs.), with proof of holding a Technician license before 1987, your current Technician license and a copy of the current license as documentation. You will also need two forms of ID (one being a photo ID) and a completed NCVEC Form 605, which is available at the session or can be downloaded from the ARRL website www.arrl.org/files/file/ncvec605-3.pdf.

When you get to the test session, the Volunteer Examiners will review all your documents to verify that you are entitled to the credit. For the General written exam (Element 3) credit, persons who took the 50 question Technician/General written exam before March 21, 1987 receive grandfathered Element 3 credit per FCC Rules.

As proof of being licensed before 1987, I have a 1987 Amateur Radio Callbook that shows you as meeting the "instant upgrade" requirements. I can supply you with a copy of the page that your call sign appears on, if you wish.

If you have an interest in worldwide communications, this is your opportunity to become active on the HF bands. Information is available at www.arrl.org.

Local exams conducted by the Mahoning Valley ARA (www.mvara.org) are at the YSU maintenance building on Wood Street, at 7 PM, on the third Thursday of "odd" months. The Western Reserve ARC (www.wrarc.net) has VE exams at ITT Tech, Meridian Rd. , at 7 PM on the third Wednesday of "even" months. Other area clubs also offer such testing events and can be found at www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/search.

If you are interested, members of these clubs would be more than willing to assist you with your upgrade. If you would like more information, you can contact me directly: Wes Boyd, W8IZC, at w8izc@arrl.net or 330-565-5129.

Helping Hams, Helping Clubs

The challenge can benefit not only local Technicians but also local clubs. I did my best to include several area clubs as locations for Volunteer Exams. My letter is non club specific and offers information on two local club's websites, the ARRL website and even the FCC website.

I doubt you will receive responses from 6 of 18 letters. Typically, I'm told, a 10 % response is considered amazing. Hopefully, I can convince some area clubs to assist me on continuing my challenge. I still have several adjoining counties to search for "pre 1987 Technicians" and more letters to mail!

My local efforts discovered 18 eligible Technician licensees. I'm happy to report I have received responses from 10, of which six upgraded to General within a month of receiving the letter. One turned out to be an old acquaintance of mine who had no idea such an upgrade was available. Another licensee was the wife of an amateur who had passed away over 10 years ago. She was very excited to learn of the upgrade and was looking forward to getting on HF and perfecting her CW skills. I even found an old high school classmate, now living in Maryland, who was able to upgrade. In all cases the results are more than gratifying.

Thanks For the Upgrade

I received this e-mail from one of the amateurs I was able to contact and help upgrade:

"I want to thank you and all your friends that helped for all the generous work that you had to go through to find all the people in the area that could get a license upgrade or enthuse them about ham radio.

"I met up, this morning, with some friends I haven't seen in many years and even since I got your first letter, about an upgrade, it made me wonder how you knew I could be upgraded.

"Someone went through a lot of time and trouble to do this. I thank you and your helpers for all their efforts."

H. Wesley Boyd, W8IZC, an ARRL member, has been a commercial broadcast engineering since 1960. He was first licensed as KN3VPK / K3VPK in February 1962. Wes moved to Youngstown, Ohio in the fall of 1964 and was issued the W8IZC call in 1967. Wes is an ARRL and W5YI VEC, a member of the Mahoning Valley ARA and Western Reserve ARC and the ARRL-ARES Mahoning County EC. Wes can be contacted at 2699 W Liberty St, Girard, OH 44420-3166, w8izc@arrl.net.

From the ARRL Website

June 2013



PREPAREDNESS LEADS TO READINESS
WE NEVER KNOW WHAT THIS DAY WILL BRING TO US

	5/27 					1
2	3 ARES Net 8:30 PM 146.745 PL 110.9	4	5 Skywarn Net 8:30 P.M. 146.745	6	7 Comm Unit net 8:00 PM 145.270 WRARC Net 9:00PM 145.270	8
9 Happy Birthday K8JWA	10	11 Eat'n Park Boardman 8:30 A.M.	12	13	14 Comm Unit net 8:00 PM 145.270 WRARC Net 9:00PM 145.270	15
16 WRARC Board Meeting 7:00P.M. Happy Birthday AB8AA	17 ARES Net 8:30 PM 146.745 PL 110.9 Happy Father's Day!	18 WRARC Meeting 7:00P.M.	19 Amateur Radio Exam 6:30 P.M. @ ITT	20 Summer begins 1:04 A.M. EDT (05:04 UT)	21 Comm Unit net 8:00 PM 145.270 WRARC Net 9:00PM 145.270	22 Amateur Radio Exam 10A.M. Field Day weekend
23 30	24 Happy Birthday KD8TIK Happy Birthday KD8TIH	25 Eat'n Park Boardman 8:30 A.M. Ham Community Breakfast	26	27 WaveBender Articles Due	28 Comm Unit net 8:00 PM 145.270 WRARC Net 9:00PM 145.270	29 Comm Unit Meeting 9:00 AM