



The Wave Bender

April 2015



WRARC PREZ SEZ . . .

2015 Officers:

President: Roy Haren, KD8IJF kd8ijf@wrarc.net
VP: Joe Wojtowicz W0JO w0jo@wrarc.net
Secretary: Kevin Stein, KD8NXS kd8nxs@wrarc.net
Treasurer: Maureen Stein, KD8NXS kd8nxs@wrarc.net
Past President: Allan Avnet AB8AA ab8aa@wrarc.net

Trustees:

Chris Monske, WF8U wf8u@wrarc.net
Harry Harker, KD8PQK kd8pqk@wrarc.net
Russ Williams NR8W nr8w@wrarc.net

Appointed Positions:

Social: Maureen Stein, KD8NXS kd8nxs@wrarc.net
Publicity: Joe Wojtowicz, W0JO kd8rcc@wrarc.net
Nets: Steve Fabry, KC8SOY kc8soy@wrarc.net
Nominating Charman: (Open)
Newsletter/Web: Jane Avnet K8JAA k8jaa@wrarc.net
Facebook/Badges/logo Design:
John Fabry, KC8SPF kc8spf@wrarc.net
Historian: This could be you

Officer's Meeting:

April 14, 7:00 P.M. At Eat 'n Park, 8051 Market St.,
Boardman - All members welcome

Regular Meeting:

April 21, 7:00 P.M. at Davidson's, 3636 Canfield Rd. in
Cornersburgh

Speaker: Our Elmers
Topic: Ham Radio 101

Join us for Dinner before the meeting 6:00P.M.

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

Hi Everyone,

Spring is finally here and our thoughts turn to upcoming events: the road clean up in May, Field Day in June, etc. We need volunteers for all so please sign up for these events. Sign-up sheets will be at our meetings.



Our March meeting was a great success. Thanks to Chris WF8U, Dave KC8WY, Al AB8AA and Steve KC8SOY, our Elmers who gave the presentation and answered the questions that were asked. We all learned something about repeaters, PLs, programming HTs and which ones are on the market to purchase. We had several members that learned how to program them. Nice job guys!

I mentioned at the meeting and on the Net that the club needs a historian to document happenings in the past and into the future. If you would like to do that or know someone that would, please contact me.

Thanks to all and 73
Roy KD8IJF
President, WRARC



A WORD FROM OUR VP



If you missed the March meeting, you really missed a great one. We had a great turnout and the program was both very interesting and educational. Chris, WF8U, made the first of a number of presentations of programming your hand-held transceivers. He basically started with Ham Radio 101 explaining all of the basics of our VHF-UHF radios and repeaters. The meeting gave everyone a chance to ask questions and was very informative. Many thanks to our trustees, Chris, WF8U, Harry, KD8PQK, and Russ, NR8W, former trustee, Steve, KC8SOY and our past-president, Al, AB8AA, for putting together a great program. We will be continuing these presentations, so please be sure to attend our next club meeting on Tuesday, April 21st at Davidson's Restaurant, 3636 Canfield Road, Canfield, OH, starting at 6:00pm EDT

Also, at the meeting, our President, Roy, KD8IJF, mentioned that the HAM Radio Field Day is fast-approaching this year the weekend of June 27-28, 2015. This year, we'd like to get everyone's participation. We are looking both for operators for the various band as well as loggers (to log the contacts). You do not have to be there all day both weekends, but we would really appreciate if you would consider volun-

teering an hour or two of your time, either Saturday or Sunday, to either operate or log. You can bring your own equipment if you like, but our other members will be bringing their radios, power sources and antennas also and you can work their radios. Field Day is a very important part of amateur radio and this year we really would like more of our members to participate. Last year was the first year I operated for about 2 hours and it was great. I, too, was a little nervous at first, but it quickly went away and, overall, I thought it was a great experience. As it says on the ARRL website . . . "Field Day is part educational event, part operating event, part public relations event – and ALL about FUN! So, please mark Field Day on your calendar. We will have more information forthcoming as we get closer and our Elmers will be offering their assistance to anyone who volunteers. Hope to see all of you at our next meeting.

73, Joe, W0JO
VP, WRARC

World Amateur Radio Day which is on April 18 this year.
<http://www.iaru.org/world-amateur-radio-day.html>

This year the Cleveland Marathon will be on Sunday, May 17. The course will be very similar to last year with some changes on the west end due to road construction in Rocky River. We need at least three dozen volunteers.

If you are able to assist this year, please send me a note as soon as possible so that we can begin planning assignments. Please include your current cell phone number and t-shirt size.

Let me know if you have any questions. Please pass this information along to other hams who might want volunteer.

73, Jim, KC8PD
AylwardJim@aol.com



Picture stolen from PCARS NL

I was always taught to respect my elders, but it keeps getting harder to find one.

THE AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT OF 2015 ? INTRODUCED INTO THE US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE

On March 4, 2015, Representative Adam Kinzinger (R-IL-16), along with lead co-sponsor Representative Joe Courtney (D-CT-02) and eleven additional co-sponsors from both parties (seven Republicans and five Democrats) introduced "The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015". Assigned a bill number of HR 1301, the bill directs the Federal Communications Commission to extend to private land use restrictions its PRB-1 rule relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications. The bill, which had been introduced in the previous Congress, was assigned to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Representative Greg Walden, (R-OR-02), is Chairman of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology that will consider the bill. Chairman Walden is an Amateur licensee, W7EQI.

If enacted, HR 1301 would direct the FCC to extend those reasonable accommodation protections to Amateurs who are living in deed-restricted communities. Known as "CC&Rs" (covenants, conditions and restrictions), these are the prohibitions and limitations placed on properties by builders or homeowner associations (HOAs) which prevent licensed Amateurs from erecting antennas. The act does not give Amateurs "carte blanche" to do whatever they wish. Rather, it requires HOAs and other private land use regulators to extend reasonable accommodation to Amateurs wishing to erect antennas.

Land use restrictions that prohibit the installation of outdoor antenna systems are the largest threat to Amateur Radio emergency and public service communications. They are escalating quickly and exponentially. An outdoor antenna is critical to the effectiveness of an Amateur Radio station. Typically, all Amateur Radio antennas are prohibited in residential areas by private land use regulations. In other instances, prior approval of the homeowners' association is required for any outdoor antenna installation. However, there are no standards to determine whether or not the homeowners' association will grant approval.

This issue of ARRL Legislative Update contains information on the key talking points for promoting HR 1301 as well as information on contacting your member of the US House of Representatives, asking for his or her support and co-sponsorship of this important legislation. For more information on visit www.arrl.org/hr-1301
The time to act is now: Let's get it done!

A Message from ARRL President Kay Craigie

Dear fellow ARRL members,
Private land use restrictions that prohibit antennas are growing at an alarming rate all over the country. In the part of the Virginia county where I live, municipal government regulates land use, and we negotiated a very satisfactory antenna ordinance. Not far away in the same county, a bright young electrical engineer who has recently returned to Amateur Radio lives in a newer development that has private land use regulations flatly prohibiting antennas. How does that make sense? In our rural and small-town county, every new development must have a homeowners association, and they all prohibit antennas with cookie-cutter language. This is not just a problem in cities, suburbs, and gated communities. It is everywhere.

H.R. 1301 seeks regulatory parity for my young, technically sophisticated friend ? not a blank check, not the heavy hand of the federal government, but simply the same opportunity for him to negotiate reasonable accommodation that I had because of PRB-1. It seeks a level playing field for him and me. This legislation is simple and sensible. It is about fairness.

If private land use restrictions do not affect you, please stand up for your fellow amateurs. Please stand up for the youth we all want to attract into amateur radio. What is the point of helping youth get their licenses if they cannot go on to develop the skills of amateur radio because they cannot have antennas in their neighborhoods? Please stand up for the amateurs of the future, so they can have the experiences that have made such a difference in our lives.

Today, contact your member of Congress and ask him or her to become a co-sponsor of H.R. 1301. I did, and my Congressman said yes!

73,Kay Craigie N3KN
President, ARRL

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

April 3 Dennis, KA8DJM
April 10 Joe, W0JO
April 17 Dave, KC8WY
April 21 Mike, KC8UNR

May 1 OPEN
May 8 OPEN
May 15 OPEN
May 22 Joe, W0JO



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

WRARC Simplex Frequency 146.565

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 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, KA8DJM, KC8SOY, KC8WY, WO8Y, W6UMH, N8SY, KB8UUZ, W5YI, the ARRL Reflector, and the World-Wide Web.

WHAT'S COMMING UP?

April 14	Board Meeting
April 18	World Amateur Radio Day
April 21	Meeting @ Davidson's
April 25	Ohio ARES NVIS Antenna Day
May 9	Community Service Event - Road Clean-up
May 15 - 17	Hamvention in Dayton
May 23	WBCCI Region 4 39th Annual Rally, W4B, Wally Byam Caravan Club International Region 4 - see pg. 7
June 27 - 28	ARRL Field Day, Contact Steve or Chris to reserve a station or volunteer to be a scribe, help set up or tear down
July 18	4 th Annual Great Lakes Emergency Communications Conference
Sept ??	Community Service Event - Road Clean-up DTBD
Sept.??	Club Picnic Sat. DTBD



Amateur Radio Operator "Amateur means we're simply professional volunteers" ARRL reflector

2015 GREAT LAKES EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, children of all ages,

It is my distinct pleasure to announce the Fourth Annual Great Lakes Emergency Communications Conference.

This was Spam, I got caught!
This is not sponsored by ARRL, Thanks Scott!

Dave Foran, WB8APD
dave@hamnet.org



DAYTON HAMVENTION - May 15 - 17, 2015

DAYTON HAMVENTION, the world's largest amateur radio gathering, returns to Hara to celebrate its 60th show on May 15 - 17, 2015. Close to 500 indoor exhibits and over 2,500 outdoor exhibits showcase the latest in amateur radio equipment, technology, computer software and hardware - along with hard-to-find radio and computer accessories and equipment. For more information or for a full forum schedule, visit the Dayton Hamvention website. This year's theme Local Clubs: the Heart of Ham Radio puts the emphasis on the invaluable and unique role ham radio clubs around the world have played in their communities. Admission is \$20.00 in advance and \$25.00 the days of the show. Hamvention bus tickets are \$8.00. Admission and bus tickets are valid for all three days. Tickets can be purchased at the Hara Box Office, Debco Electronics & Computers Inc. in Cincinnati, OH; Universal Radio in Columbus, OH; Midwest Surplus in Fairborn, OH and R & L Electronics, Hamilton, OH. For more information, visit <http://hamvention.org/about/hamvention/>

AN INTERESTING FIELD DAY STORY

Many years ago when we were in California I had two preteens in a spring Technician class. One was a 12-year-old girl and the other was a 10-year-old boy. They both knew each other from school and church. Both, along with their parents, were in the class, and they all received their Technician licenses.

About a week before Field Day the two kids, and the parents, came to our house and the kids told me that they needed an antenna for Field Day. Since the only band they could use phone on was 10 meters I said, "come with me."

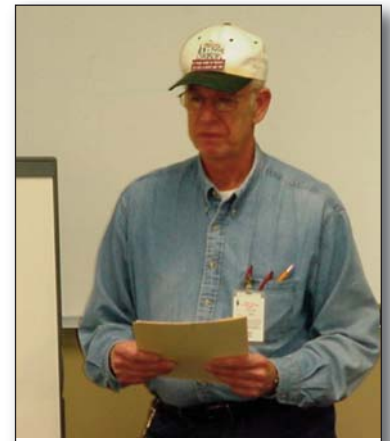
Then the fun began - I took all of them out to the workshop in the garage and looked around for the materials to build an antenna. First I handed them a roll of 14-ga stranded house wire, a rolled up length of coax, a PL-259 connector, some rope, and a piece of black plastic.

The two kids looked at me and said "what do we do with these things." I looked at them and said to them "what did you learn in class about antennas." They stood there with a look on their faces like "what do we do now." All of a sudden the girl's face lit up and she said "we can build a dipole." It took a few minutes for them to figure out what they had to do. First they calculated the length of the wire they needed for the antenna. Then they said they needed to put the PL-259 on the end of the coax.

At this point it was time to show all of them how to put a PL-259 on the coax. We sat down and I showed them how to strip the coax, cut the center conductor to length, fold back the shield, and get everything ready to assemble the connector. At that point I had them put the PL-259 on the length of coax they were using for the antenna. After a few tries they were able to get the connector installed on the coax.

Next they had to figure out how to hook the coax and the wires for the antenna together. After a few minutes I handed them the piece of plastic and told them "this is the part you need." I made a drawing of what they needed on a scrap of paper. Now they were able to move ahead. After a little while and some more help the dipole antenna was assembled.

Then came Field Day. The kids set up their station, put up a tent to work in and now had to get the antenna in the air. We were in the front lawn of the church they belonged to, so we had a building and some light poles to use for antennas. They strung up the antenna. Checked everything out, tuned the antenna and were ready to get going. As soon as field started they got on the air and started to make contacts. All in all they made lots of contacts. These were two very happy kids.



73 AB8AA

Field Day is so much more than just a picnic!

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

Sat, 7 Mar This [email] is just to let you know that my new call sign is: KA8DJM. Just got the confirmation this morning.

73, Dennis KA8DJM aka KD8SNA

(Dennis also has a new email address ka8djm@zoominternet.net.)

March 19 - Bill Wolfe, KA8TZX, was just moved from Vibra, Acute Care Hospital today, after his January open heart surgery to Vista Rehab, Boardman. Had a setback, so he will be moving to another facility as soon as he is out of North Side. He wanted me to say "Hi" to all of you for him. He would welcome visitors.

March 17 meeting comment - Members need to pay attention to the person speaking, even if they are not interested in the speakers topic, not carry on a private conversations. Hummm, sounds like a good idea to me. Respect the person speaking and the members trying to hear the announcement!

David Moore, KE8ALR, joined WRARC at our March meeting - Welcome! David was in one of our Spring Tech. Classes and was in our General Class that just finished.

March 24 just heard Dave, KC8WY, is in St. E's with pneumonia - Get better soon Dave.

05/23/2015 | WBCCI Region 4 39th Annual Rally, W4B, Mansfield, OH.

Wally Byam Caravan Club International Region 4.

7.225 +/- QRM. Certificate.

David, KD8NZF, & Nancy. KD8QNY, Brett

40 Edgewater Dr, Youngstown, OH 44514.

Celebrating the 39th annual rally of Airstream Owners in Ohio, Michigan, and West



Check out Graphene...This is worth watching.

Graphene on The One Show - YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/embed/WFacA6OwCjA>

NOAA Space Weather Scale descriptions can be found at
www.swpc.noaa.gov/noaa-scales-explanation

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

Avnet, Allan AB8AA

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

ab8aa@arrl.net

Beatty, Dave KC8WY

anything

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Fabry, Steve KC8SOY

Yaesu FT8900, FT8800, Mobile

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Electrician, tele-data, Amateur Extra

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Wojtowicz, Joe W0JO

ICOM radios, D-Star

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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 one week 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.

TESTING IN MARCH



March's test session went very well. We had nine folks testing either for an upgrade, or for their first license. The three Hams who tested for their Technician License all passed - Rick Hanley, Julie Henderson, and Catherine Stacy. Sorry, no call signs yet. These Hams were in WF8U's first class he taught on his own. Good job Chris!

New member David Moore, KE8ALR, upgraded to General.

There were five Hams going for their Extra. Four were successful - Harry Harker, KD8PQK; Richard Maurer, KD8YFT; Douglas Steince, W8EPC; William Wilson Jr. KC8GND. Good Job! Congratulations to all the Hams who successfully upgraded.

The VEs who came out to help with the ARRL test session were: Al Avnet AB8AA, contact VE; Pete Finamore, N8XOE; Bob McCully, AB8OP; Jane Avnet, K8JAA, and Roy Haren, KD8IJF. Thank you for your help.



Do you want to learn how to do the net and/or work HF.
Don't be afraid to ask. Almost every Ham has had someone help them to get going.
That is what an ELMER is for.

If anyone wants to see how to work the net and/or work HF. Give me a call and we will set up a time to get you in front of a radio.

It can be a Friday evening while the net is on, or it can be any day or evening.
There are several HF events on the air almost every weekend.
I hope to hear from you soon.

Allan, AB8AA 330-207-3296 or ab8aa@arrl.net



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

KD8YYF
KC8SOY
KD8YFO
N8YMZ

Jeremy Miller 4/01
Steve Fabry 4/04
Rebecca Davis 4/10
David Ruck 4/11

KD8SDZ
KD8NXR
N8GLK
N3DZH

Dave Wilms 4/15
Kevin Stein 4/15
Leon Loveland 4/27
Noah Kindl 4/29

REMEMBERING FIELD DAY 2000

CQ FIELD DAY, CQ FIELD DAY, WE WERE 3-ALPHA ORANGE - West Coast Amateur Radio Club and Fountain Valley RACES joined forces for Field Day 2000. Al and I were members of both. It was to be the last Field Day of the 20th Century. It was smaller that year than it had been in the past, but those that attended had a great time. It was held on the corner of Ward and Slater in Fountain Valley, on the local Baptist Church's large front yard. We strung wire antennas from light poles along the street and the Cross on the front of the Church. (With permission)

We had four stations all running on emergency power. The 10, 15, and 20 meter stations were run out of the RACES emergency trailer using the gas-powered generator, the 2 and 6 meter stations were run with power from the newly reconditioned RACES emergency solar powered battery trailer. Our 40 and 80-meter station and the Novice Tech station both used power from the generator in the emergency trailer.

We used a friend's call, W6WC for all stations, the same call we'd used before, except for the Novice Tech station. It used KF6LHX, Tim's, a new young Ham's call. He, a friend, and his sister, along with their Dad, set up the station. These youngsters operated the entire 24-hours. His dad and another WCARC member were their Elmers.

Kachina Corp. lent us one of their computer powered radios for the O.C. Fair that year. It arrived just in time for Field Day. It was used for the 10, 15, and 20-meter station radio operated by Allan, AB8AA and Jane, K8JAA, Avnet. It stirred up quite a bit of interest in both this years' operators and the visitors to the station. Oh by the way, it was for sale, but with no other takers, we were the proud owners of that radio - which we still have.

A member operated the 2 and 6-meter station with help of two other members and some visiting Hams. The Ham who had coordinated Field Day in the past, N6ISY, coordinated it again that year. He operated the 40 and 80-meter voice station. He was relieved by two WCARC members.

The RACES Radio Officer ran the Saturday RACES net sitting on a chair in the middle of the field with his handheld radio. A good CW operator worked CW on 40-meters. He made more than 100 contacts.

Because the core group was so small, we didn't have a pot luck as we'd done in the past. There were a number of restaurants within easy walking distance of the site, so we ate when we were hungry, and when there was someone to take over our stations. About 40 Hams and the public operated, or visited the site just to observe.

Now for some results . . .

40 meters made 335 contacts; 101 CW balance on phone; Novice/Tech made 74 contacts, majority on 6 Meters; UHF/VHF made 67 contacts, 5 on 440, 25 on 2M SSB and 25 on 6 meters; 10, 15; 20 meters made 73 contacts 35 on 10 meters, 29 on 15 meters and 9 on 20 meters.



Field Day is so much more than just a picnic!



WRITE AN ARTICLE



NUMBER OF US AMATEUR RADIO LICENSEES AT ALL-TIME HIGH

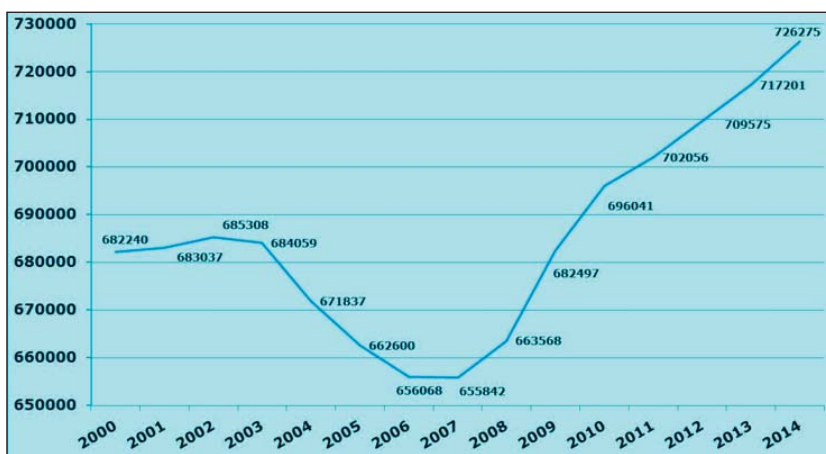
The US Amateur Radio population continues to soar. At the end of 2014, the total number of US Amateurs in the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS) database reached an all-time high of 726,275 -- and the trend has continued in the first 2 months of 2015, which saw the total rise to slightly more than 727,000. The figures exclude expired licenses that are within the 2-year grace period, and club Amateur Radio numbers in the US from 2000 through 2014. The FCC dropped the Morse code requirement in 2007.

[Prepared from statistics compiled by Joe Speroni, AH0A] station licenses. Outside of a little dithering last fall, growth in the Amateur Radio Service in 2014 was steady, according to figures compiled by Joe Speroni, AH0A, on his FCC Amateur Radio Statistics web pages. Over the past decade, the number of Amateur Radio licenses in the ULS database grew by some 8.1 percent. But 2014 was also a banner year for the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC).

"For the first time in the ARRL VEC program's history, we have conducted more than 7000 Amateur Radio exam sessions in a year, an important milestone," said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. "A total of 7216 ARRL-sponsored exam sessions were administered in 2014, compared to 6823 in 2013."

Somma said the number of new licensees spiked to more than 33,000 in 2014, up by about 15 percent from the previous year. Successful license upgrades rose last year by an unprecedented 13 percent over a year earlier. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM.

At the end of 2014, there were 136,405 Amateur Extra, 169,524 General, and 357,236 Technician class licensees -- all record numbers, Somma pointed out. While the number of Amateur Extra licensees grew in each month of 2014, the number of Technicians and Generals -- and of licensees overall -- faltered a bit last July and September. Last year's overall upward trend quickly recovered, however, during the final quarter of 2014. The General population also dipped briefly in May 2014, before rebounding.



Somma believes the July and September dips may have been a result of applicants adjusting to the new Technician question pool that went into effect last July 1. "We always expect an adjustment period when a new question pool is introduced to the public, as VEs, teachers, and candidates must prepare new study and exam materials," she said. Somma called the dips "a normal part of the question pool cycle."

Technician licensees comprise slightly less than one-half of the US Amateur Radio population. As of December 31, some 51,000 Advanced and 12,000 Novice licensees remained in the FCC database. The FCC no longer issues Advanced and Novice licenses, and their numbers continue to decline.

Once again, California far and away was home to the largest number of licensees among the 50 states, with 102,806 at the end of February. Texas was a distant second, with 51,022, Florida came in third, with 40,743, Washington was fourth, with 30,511, and Ohio was fifth at 28,256. With the exception of Ohio, the licensing trend in these states has been through the roof. In Ohio, ham radio numbers began to flag a bit in 2014, after holding steady for about the past 4 years.

The state with the fewest Amateur Radio licensees in 2014 was North Dakota, with 1477, but in an overall upward trajectory since around 2009. Others with small ham populations included Delaware (1715 and growing), Rhode Island (1926 and dropping), Wyoming (1868 and headed up), and Vermont (2101 and slipping, after a bump in 2013 and 2014). These numbers may go a long way toward explaining why these are rare multipliers in the ARRL November Sweepstakes and other events.

Club station licenses in the US numbered 11,501, according to Speroni's statistics. -- Thanks to Joe Speroni, AH0A; FCC ULS licensing statistics; ARRL VEC



FROM THE SECTION EMERGENCY COORDINATOR



OHIO ARES NVIS Antenna Day April 25.. Get your antenna books out, get together with some friends and come up with a winner! The Ohio ARES NVIS Antenna day has been scheduled for April 25, 2015. Operating hours 10AM 2PM. Frequency: around the Ohio ARES 40 meter frequency of 7.240 plus or minus, and around 3.850-3.870 plus or minus.

We have all been through several presentations of NVIS (Near vertical sky wave, or Cloud burner) antennas. Sure, the concept is cool and it ought to work. But it's time to put away the antenna modelers, the calculators and theory and get down with some wire and some coax! Have you actually ~tried~ one of these? If there was a wide-scale disaster requiring you to communicate with nearby counties and Columbus (or other state capitals) do you have confidence you could actually make this work? The best way to find out is to try!

We're taking the lead from Ashtabula, who has had several annual antenna days that were a great success. The idea here is to actually ~build~ different NVIS antennas and try them out against each other. Come up with different concepts: vertical, horizontal, semi-something, and try different elevations from ground level all the way up to the towering height of, say, 20 feet. See which antenna does the best at working nearby counties, Columbus, and neighboring locations as if we were in a large-scale disaster.

This isn't really a contest, in the sense that we're not looking so much at lots-o-qso's as we are at comparing our various antennas. So it will be more beneficial to keep track of HONEST signal reports from the same station using our various antennas. We will want to have reports (including pictures?) of your various antennas and how they stood up to each other. From a simple grid or ranking of your best three or four performers, we can compare these across the state and come up with overall suggestions as the most desirable NVIS setup to have in your tool box. This information may come in very handy for your spring Field Day efforts! But we all know that Field Day, or any other similar contest, is NOT the time or place to be testing antennas we are in it for QSO numbers and rates! So this is a great day to get some honest experimenting done!

And there's MORE!..

We are strongly suggesting additional equipment for your field tests: a good grill, some hamburgers and side dishes! This should be far enough into spring that it will be nice to be outside (even with a jacket on) and it's an excellent time to have a picnic, get some fellowship in, and generally relax! So in your planning, include proximity to somewhere to eat! Use a park, someone's property, or be creative!

Remember we're testing antennas, so next to a power plant might not be the best idea. The food and fellowship makes this great fun! And, we're not limited strictly to ARES People. If your local radio club has some experts, draft 'em! It's all about the fellowship, the fun, and the feuding antennas!

More information will follow- but I would love to activate as many (or all!) Ohio counties as possible to make this a benchmark test!

By Stan Broadway, N8BHL
broadways@standi.com



The basic premise of Field Day is this: "testing and demonstrating Amateur Radio communications capabilities." This year we will be testing our ability to setup operating stations in abnormal situations, and in less than optimum conditions. At the same time, because we setup in a public place, we will have the opportunity to acquaint the public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio.

Field Day is so much more than just a picnic!

APRIL 25 IS THE OHIO NVIS ANTENNA DAY.

What is a NVIS Antenna you ask?

Near Vertical Incidence Skywave (NVIS) is a propagation mode which uses high angle radiation to send signals almost straight up to be reflected back to Earth for very effective short to medium distance communications. This mode of operation makes it ideal for in-state communications during disasters or other emergency situations. The military has used NVIS techniques for decades to provide short haul communication with other units on the ground.

NVIS only works at frequencies from 2 MHz to 10 MHz. The signal must penetrate the D layer of the ionosphere, and bounce off the F layer. Lower-frequency signals will not penetrate the D layer; higher frequencies will not bounce off the F layer at these sharp angles and just goes out into space. Remember the Maximum Useable Frequency, or MUF? So, for us amateurs, we're looking at 40 and 80 meters primarily for NVIS use. (DX Engineering, 2008)

(Near vertical incidence skywave, or NVIS, is a skywave radio-wave propagation path that provides usable signals in the range between groundwave and conventional skywave distances—usually 30–400 miles (50–650 km). It is used for military and paramilitary communications, broadcasting, especially in the tropics, and by radio amateurs. The radio waves travel near-vertically upwards into the ionosphere, where they are refracted back down and can be received within a circular region up to 650 km from the transmitter. If the frequency is too high (that is, above the critical frequency of the ionospheric F layer), refraction fails to occur and if it is too low, absorption in the ionospheric D layer may reduce the signal strength.

There is no fundamental difference between NVIS and conventional skywave propagation; the practical distinction arises solely from different desirable radiation patterns of the antennas (near vertical for NVIS, near horizontal for conventional long-range skywave propagation.) From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

You should be working now on antennas to try out during the event! (And, put your very best BBQ Hamburger recipe's to the test!) More to come from our event organizers, Ashtabula County.

So the weather is breaking and a Ham's fancy turns to antennas. ARES to the rescue. (Apologies to Jim Dandy) April 25, 2015 is OHIO ARES NVIS day.

NVIS day was originated by the Ashtabula ARES group a couple years ago and Ohio SEC Stan Broadway is promoting it as an all Ohio activity this year.

In a nutshell, we are going to meet in a large, flat, grassy area, put up 40M and 80M NVIS antennas, and see how many contacts we can make with other Ohio ARES groups. All modes are fair game.

To keep things moving as smoothly as possible, we are forming two teams, one for each band. Each team is responsible for all aspects of that band from antenna to radio.

Sound interesting?

But Wait There's More. April 25th just happens to coincide with the North-East Ohio 2 Meter FM Simplex Squares Contest. This contest allows all Hams, including Techs, to try out contesting and could be won with nothing more than an HT.

The contest is sponsored by the Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club and their website includes details on the contest as well as recommendations for improving the performance of 2M antennas. <http://www.cfarc.org/contest15.php>

We want a team to take charge of setting up a contest station on the 25th. This contest makes use of the Maidenhead Grid system, so educating us on Maidenhead is part of the team's responsibility. Please reply to this email to let us know you want to play on 2M.

From: Mahoning County ARES OHIO <mahoning.ares@gmail.com>

The average temperature for our area on April 25th is 63° - hope you'll join us for some fun on the radio.



FCC ENFORCEMENT BUREAU FIELD RESOURCES POISED TO SHRINK

According to an internal FCC Enforcement Bureau (EB) memorandum, the Bureau plans to ask the full Commission to cut two-thirds of its field offices and eliminate nearly one-half of its field agents. At the same time, the Bureau would develop a so-called "Tiger Team" of field agents as a flexible strike force it could deploy as needed. In the March 10 memorandum to Enforcement Bureau field staff -- obtained by ARRL and others -- EB Chief Travis LeBlanc and FCC Managing Director Jon Wilkins cited the need to take "a fresh look" at the Bureau's 20-year-old operating model in light of technology changes and tighter budgets. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, expressed dismay at the proposals.



"The ARRL is concerned that there is already no sense of urgency in the FCC's enforcement activities targeting spectrum polluters, such as utilities with noisy power lines, or the few violators in our own ranks," Sumner said. "It is troubling to see recommendations for such drastic reductions in the Commission's geographic footprint and the number of field agents at a time when the Field staff is facing ever-increasing challenges."

The EB and the Office of the Managing Director initiated an effort last fall to modernize the Bureau's field operations, the memorandum said.

"This project sought to ensure that the Field's structure, operations, expenses, and equipment were properly aligned with the Commission's overall mission and resources," LeBlanc and Wilkins said. The Commission hired outside consultants to analyze the EB's current "operating model," gathering input from employees, outside experts, and internal and external stakeholders.

Under its "Phase I" field modernization scheme, the Bureau will recommend to the full Commission that it adjust the primary focus of its reduced field office complement to RF spectrum enforcement. The EB will also recommend "adjusting" the number of field agents from 63 to 33. To compensate, part of that field staff complement would include what the EB called a "Tiger Team" of agents "flexible enough to support other high-priority initiatives." Under the plan, all field agents would have to have electrical engineering backgrounds "to support the primary focus on RF spectrum enforcement." The Bureau will also propose standardizing its investigatory and sanctioning processes.

Management would not be spared. Under the recommendations, the EB field organization chart would shrink from 21 to 5 director positions, and from 10 to 3 administrative support positions.

Under the proposals, the field office would reduce its "geographic footprint," from 24 sites to 8 sites and would "pre-position" equipment in several other strategic locations. Offices slated to stay under the FCC Managing Director Jon Wilkins testifies before the US House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology on March 4.

plan would be New York City; Columbia, Maryland -- the site of the Bureau's HF Direction-Finding Center; Chicago; Atlanta; Miami; Dallas; Los Angeles, and San Francisco. The EB would deploy equipment in or near several other cities, initially to include Kansas City, Salt Lake City, Phoenix, Seattle, San Juan, Anchorage, Honolulu, and Billings, Montana.

Part of the plan calls for the EB to establish "beneficial partnerships between the Field and other organizations that may support increasing our effectiveness."

During a March 4 US House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology Committee hearing on the FCC's FY2016 budget, Rep Michael Pompeo (R-KS) pressed Wilkins on whether the FCC intended to close any field offices and eliminate any personnel. Wilkins attempted to dodge offering a direct answer, and hedged on whether any cuts were planned. He also said the Bureau had not yet received a final report from the outside consultant it had worked with. US Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), chairs the subcommittee.

A copy of the memorandum was sent to National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU) Local 209 President Ana Curtis. The NTEU represents many FCC staff members.



ARRL SEEKS MEMBER INPUT ON DRAFT HF BAND PLAN PROPOSALS

ARRL members are going to be polled for their opinions on the recently proposed HF band changes. The ARRL is asking members to comment by April 19 on possible changes to the League's HF Band Plans suggested by the HF Band Planning Committee. The survey is part of the committee's efforts to tweak the band plans for the RTTY/data/CW portions of 80 through 10 meters with the exception of 60 meters. 400 members commented in response to a March 2014 solicitation that sought suggestions for using the spectrum more efficiently so that data modes may coexist compatibly. This is an important survey and you are encouraged to use this opportunity to provide input on the suggestions the committee has posted. First, review the proposal which will appear in your April 2015 QST. Then go to <http://www.arrl.org/bandplan> to file your comments. "Dale's Tales" for March 2015 73, see you on the bands.



Dale Williams WA8EFK
Director, Great Lakes Division

02/25/2015

The ARRL is asking members to comment by April 19 on possible changes to the League's HF Band Plans suggested by the HF Band Planning Committee. The survey is part of the committee's efforts to tweak the band plans for the RTTY/data/CW portions of 80 through 10 meters — excepting 60 meters. The committee developed its suggested revisions to the voluntary band plans after reviewing some 400 member comments in response to a March 2014 solicitation that sought suggestions for using the spectrum more efficiently so that data modes may coexist compatibly.

"The committee concluded that most of the concerns voiced by members could be addressed by modest adjustments to the existing band plans, and mainly by confining data modes with bandwidths greater than 500 Hz to the FCC-designated segments for automatically controlled digital stations (ACDS) and to parts of the RTTY/data subbands above those segments," ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ said. His article detailing the committee's suggestions will appear in the April edition of QST.



The proposed changes differentiate among ACDS, narrow RTTY/data modes having a bandwidth no greater than 500 Hz, and wider data modes having a bandwidth up to 2700 Hz.

Band by Band Draft Recommendations

The committee suggests several modifications to the 80 meter band plan. FCC action in 2006 reduced the 80 meter RTTY/data subband to 100 kHz and limited access to the 3600-3700 kHz segment to Amateur Extra class licensees. "Unless and until the FCC Rules are modified, changes in the band plan for 3500-3600 kHz will not improve the situation," Sumner said.

The HF Band Planning Committee recommends that the League petition the FCC to move the boundary between the 80 meter RTTY/data band and the 75 meter phone/image band from 3600 to 3650 kHz and restoring that segment to General and Advanced class licensees. Members are asked to comment on this proposal, as well as on whether or not the ARRL should petition the FCC for these other changes:

- Shift the ACDS band segment from 3585-3600 to 3600-3615 kHz, consistent with the IARU Region 1 and 2 band plans.
- Extend the current Novice/Technician CW segment of 3525-3600 kHz to 3650 kHz.
- Add 80 meter RTTY/data privileges for Novices and Technicians.

On 40 meters, the committee concluded that it would be unrealistic to try to bring the ARRL band plan into alignment with the rest of the world, particularly with Regions 1 and 3 where operating patterns developed when the entire band, including phone, was just 100 kHz wide and is still only 200 kHz. While 7040 kHz is a recognized RTTY/data DX frequency in the band plan, the best place for other RTTY/data activity in the US is above 7070 kHz.

The committee proposes aligning the band plan with the "Considerate Operator's Frequency Guide," with wide data modes — outside of ACDS — at 7115-7125 kHz. The "Guide" shows 7070-7125 kHz for

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HF BAND PLAN PROPOSALS - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

RTTY/data, while the ARRL band plan shows 7080-7125 kHz. The FCC mandates that ACDS be confined to the 7100-7105 kHz segment.

On 30 meters, the committee recommends confining wide data modes to 10.140-10.150 MHz, separated from other RTTY/data at 10.130-10.140 MHz.

On 20 meters, the committee recommends using the 1 kHz IARU/NCDXF beacon network frequency (14.0995-14.1005 MHz) as a line in the sand between wide ACDS in the 14.1005-14.112 MHz segment, and narrow ACDS in the 14.095-14.0995 MHz segment.

The committee recommends 14.070-14.095 MHz for RTTY and narrowband data, noting that so-called "weak-signal" data modes often are used between 14.070 and 14.078 MHz.

On 17 meters, the committee recommends confining wide data modes to the FCC-mandated ACDS segment of 18.105-18.110 MHz, separated from narrow RTTY/data at 18.100-18.105 MHz. FCC rules do not permit RTTY/data above 18.110 MHz, limiting options for this band.

On 15 meters, the committee recommends that 21.070-21.090 MHz for narrow RTTY/data modes, the FCC-mandated ACDS segment of 21.090-21.100 MHz for both narrow and wide automatically controlled data station activity, and above 21.100 MHz for any additional wide data activity. The ARRL Board also wants members to comment on the desirability of adding RTTY/data privileges for Novices and Technicians in their existing 15 meter segment, where they're now limited to CW.

On 12 meters, the committee recommends confining wide data to the FCC-mandated ACDS segment, 24.925-24.930 MHz, separated from narrow RTTY/data operation at 24.920-24.925 MHz. FCC rules do not permit RTTY/data operation above 24.930 MHz, limiting options for this band.

On 10 meters, the committee recommends that wide data be confined to the FCC-mandated ACDS segment, 28.120-28.189 MHz, separated from narrow RTTY/data modes at 28.070-28.120 MHz.

How to Comment

The League has set up a web page to record members' preferences and comments. Those wishing to offer more detailed comments may e-mail ARRL. The comment deadline is April 19. The HF Band Planning Committee will deliver its final report at the ARRL Board of Directors' July meeting.



EARTH DIRECTED X-FLARE: On March 11th at approximately 16:22 UT (09:22 PDT) sunspot AR2297 unleashed a strong X2-class solar flare. Extreme UV radiation from the blast is causing HF radio fade-outs and other propagation effects on the dayside of Earth, primarily over the Americas. Visit <http://spaceweather.com> for more information and updates.

NEVER MISS ANOTHER FLARE: Realtime solar flare alerts are available from <http://spaceweathertext.com> (text) or <http://spaceweatherphone.com> (voice).

**Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job
because she couldn't control her pupils ?**

THE MYSTERIOUS "LINE A"

And what it means to Amateur Radio Operators in Ohio..

There's been a plethora of emails flying around lately inquiring about how to properly operate an Amateur Radio Station that is located around "Line A" during times where skip takes radio waves that wouldn't normally travel great distances to all new bounds..

For those of you who have no clue what I'm talking about, "Line A" is a boundary line that was formed from a treaty between the United States and Canada many years ago in order to prevent UHF signals (400 MHz and above) from the United States crossing over the border and entering into Canadian Territory and vice versa. Yes, this does directly affect the 70cm band of the Amateurs in the United States.



What isn't known about "Line A" is more of a mystery than of fact. After a number of phone calls to the F.C.C. and our own (United States) State Department, I found out that there is no map specific to Ohio, or any of the other states that are included in "Line A", that give any real detail to just where on the globe "Line A" truly is. That seemed very odd to me, especially in this day and age of Google Maps where you can see a stake cooking on a grill from 20,000 miles up that there is no precise map that shows the infamous "Line A" on it. What we do have however, is a description of where "Line A" was agreed to be. It is as follows..

"For bands below 470 MHz, the areas which are involved lie between Lines A and B and between Lines C and D, which are described as follows:

Line A - Begins at Aberdeen, Wash., running by great circle arc to the intersection of 48 degrees N., 120 degrees W., thence along parallel 48 degrees N., to the intersection of 95 degrees W., thence by great circle arc through the southernmost point of Duluth, Minn., thence by great circle arc to 45 degrees N., 85 degrees W., thence southward along meridian 85 degrees W., to its intersection with parallel 41 degrees N., thence along parallel 41 degrees N., to its intersection with meridian 82 degrees W., thence by great circle arc through the southernmost point of Bangor, Maine, thence by great circle arc through the southern-most point of Searsport, Maine, at which point it terminates; and

The definition of Line A in Section 90.7 is taken from Paragraph 2 of Arrangement A contained in the revised Technical Annex to the agreement between the United States and Canada on the "Coordination and Use of Radio Frequencies Above 30 Megacycles per Second", signed at Ottawa on June 16 and 24, 1965. As you indicate, some points on the line are defined as passing through certain points of cities. These points have been interpreted differently by various persons who have attempted to draw, or enter into a computer, points along this line. As you have noted, there are at least three sets of points used for the four cities listed. Because these points are subject to interpretation, it would be difficult to argue which set is correct; however, for the sake of consistency, it would be desirable that the same set of points be used by everyone."

Now after all of that said, it really boils down to this, if you live on or North of 41 Degrees of the Great Circle Arc, then "Line A" truly applies to you.. If you live below 41 Degrees then it really doesn't apply.. Except when your signal is traveling far enough North that it does enter into the 41 Degrees or above classification.

Now after extensive research, here is the approximate location of 41 Degrees on the Great Circle Arc through Ohio..

Treaty definition: The area north of latitude 41 degrees N from the Indiana line east to longitude 82 degrees W (near Lodi, OH), and north by great circle arc to Bangor, Maine. In general, the northern quarter of the state. This includes the following major highways:

- I-71 (including I-271) from the junction with I-76 north to its terminus
- I-75 from 2 miles north of Findlay to the Ohio/Michigan border.
- I-77 from Akron north to its terminus.

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LINE A - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

- I-80 (the Ohio Turnpike) from Exit 14 (Niles) west to the Ohio/Indiana border.
- I-90 (the Ohio Turnpike, and then the Northeast Extension) along its entire length.
- US 23 from Carey (junction of State Route 15) north to the Ohio/Michigan border.
- US 24 along its entire length.
- US 127 from Scott north to the Ohio/Michigan border.

This includes portions or all of the following Ohio counties: Ashland, Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Geauga, Hancock, Henry, Huron, Lake, Lorain, Lucas, Medina, Ottawa, Paulding, Portage, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca, Summit, Trumbull, Williams, Woods

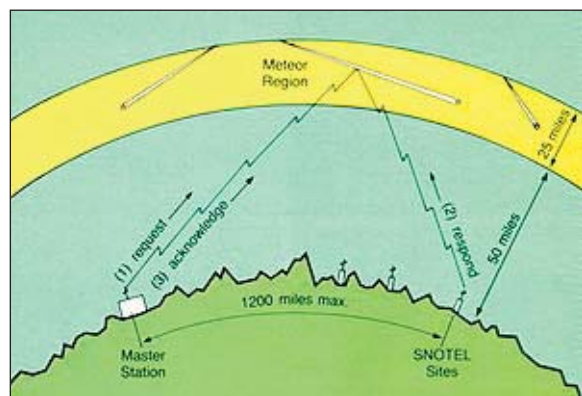
The map below is from the F.C.C. website describing "Line A" .. As you can see, it's not very detailed. If you operate in the 400 MHz band (70cm), you might want to use the land locations listed above as a guide only to where "Line A" lives.



METEOR BURST COMMUNICATIONS

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This article includes a list of references, but its sources remain unclear because it has insufficient inline citations. Meteor scatter propagation as used by SNOTEL (Snow Telemetry) Meteor burst communications (MBC), also referred to as meteor scatter communications, is a radio propagation mode that exploits the ionized trails of meteors during atmospheric entry to establish brief communications paths between radio stations up to 2,250 kilometres (1,400 mi) apart.

**How it works**

As the earth moves along its orbital path, billions of particles known as meteors enter the earth's atmosphere every day; a small fraction of which have properties useful for point to point communication. When these meteors begin to burn up, they create a trail of ionized particles in the E layer of the atmosphere that can persist for up to several seconds. The ionization trails can be very dense and thus used to reflect radio waves. The frequencies that can be reflected by any particular ion trail are determined by the intensity of the ionization created by the meteor, often a function of the initial size of the particle, and are generally between 30 MHz and 50 MHz.

The distance over which communications can be established is determined by the altitude at which the ionization is created, the location over the surface of the Earth where the meteor is falling, the angle of entry into the atmosphere, and the relative locations of the stations attempting to establish communications. Because these ionization trails only exist for fractions of a second to as long as a few seconds in duration, they create only brief windows of opportunity for communications.

Development

The earliest direct observation of interaction between meteors and radio propagation was reported in 1929 by Hantaro Nagaoka of Japan. In 1931, Greenleaf Pickard noticed that bursts of long distance propagation occurred at times of major meteor showers. At the same time, Bell Labs researcher A. M. Skellett was studying ways to improve night-time radio propagation, and suggested that the oddities many researchers were seeing were due to meteors. The next year Schafer and Goodall noted that the atmosphere was disturbed during that year's Leonid meteor shower, prompting Skellett to

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METEOR BURST COMMUNICATIONS - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

postulate that the mechanism was reflection or scattering from electrons in meteor trails. In 1944, while researching a radar system that was "pointed up" to detect the V-2 missiles falling on London, Hay confirmed that the meteor trails were in fact reflecting radio signals.

In 1946 the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) found a direct correlation between enhancements in VHF radio signals and individual meteors. Studies conducted in the early 1950s by the National Bureau of Standards and the Stanford Research Institute had limited success at actually using this as a medium.[citation needed]

The first serious effort to utilize this technique was carried out by the Canadian Defence Research Board in the early 1950s.[citation needed] Their project, "JANET", sent bursts of data pre-recorded on magnetic tape from their radar research station in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan to Toronto, a distance exceeding 2,000 km. To burst the data, a 90 MHz "carrier" signal was monitored for sudden increases in signal strength, signalling a meteor, which triggered a burst of data. The system was used operationally starting in 1952, and provided useful communications until the radar project was shut down around 1960.[citation needed]

Military use

One of the first major deployments was "COMET" (COmmunication by MEteor Trails), used for long-range communications with NATO's Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe headquarters. COMET became operational in 1965, with stations located in the Netherlands, France, Italy, West Germany, the United Kingdom, and Norway.[citation needed] COMET maintained an average throughput between 115 and 310 bits per second, depending on the time of year.

Meteor burst communications faded from interest with the increasing use of satellite communications systems starting in the late 1960s. In the late 1970s it became clear that the satellites were not as universally useful as originally thought, notably at high latitudes or where signal security was an issue. For these reasons, the U.S. Air Force installed the Alaska Air Command MBC system in the 1970s, although it is not publicly known whether this system is still operational.

A more recent study is the Advanced Meteor Burst Communications System (AMBCS), a testbed set up by SAIC under DARPA funding. Using phase-steerable antennas directed at the proper area of the sky for any given time of day, the direction where the Earth is moving "forward", AMBCS was able to greatly improve the data rates, averaging 4 kilobits per second (kbit/s). While satellites may have a nominal throughput about 14 times greater, they're vastly more expensive to operate.

Additional gains in throughput are theoretically possible through the use of real-time steering. The basic concept is to use backscattered signals to pinpoint the exact location of the ion trail and direct the antenna to that spot, or in some cases, several trails simultaneously. This improves the gain, allowing much improved data rates. To date,[when?] this approach has not been tried experimentally, so far as is known.

Scientific use.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) uses meteor scatter extensively in its SNOTEL system. Over 800 snow water content gauging stations in the Western United States are equipped with radio transmitters that rely upon meteor scatter communications to send measurements to a data center. The snow depth data collected by this system can be viewed on the Internet. *Continued page 19*

METEOR BURST COMMUNICATIONS - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

In Alaska, a similar system is used in the Alaskan Meteor Burst Communications System (AMBCS), collecting data for the National Weather Service from automated weather stations, as well as occasional data from other US government agencies.

Amateur radio use.

Most meteor scatter communications is conducted between radio stations that are engaged in a precise schedule of transmission and reception periods. Because the presence of a meteor trail at a suitable location between two stations cannot be predicted, stations attempting meteor scatter communications must transmit the same information repeatedly until an acknowledgement of reception from the other station is received. Established protocols are employed to regulate the progress of information flow between stations. While a single meteor may create an ion trail that supports several steps of the communications protocol, often a complete exchange of information requires several meteors and a long period of time to complete.

Any form of communications mode can be used for meteor scatter communications. Single sideband audio transmission has been popular among amateur radio operators in North America attempting to establish contact with other stations during meteor showers without planning a schedule in advance with the other station. The use of Morse code has been more popular in Europe, where amateur radio operators used modified tape recorders, and later computer programs, to send messages at transmission speeds as high as 800 words per minute. Stations receiving these bursts of information record the signal and play it back at a slower speed to copy the content of the transmission. Since 2000, several digital modes implemented by computer programs have replaced voice and Morse code communications in popularity. The most popular program for amateur radio operations is WSJT, which was written explicitly for meteor scatter communications.

**APRIL FOOLS' DAY ORIGIN, HISTORY**

April the first stands mark'd by custom's rules,
A day for being, and for making fools: —
But, pray, what custom, or what rule supplies
A day for making, or for being — wise?
~ Rev. Samuel Bishop, 1796



Q: What Is April Fools' Day?

.A: An observance which takes place in western countries on April first, traditionally known as April Fools' Day or All Fools' Day (cf. Poisson d'Avril — "April Fish" — in France), during which merriment is expected to reign and pranks, practical jokes, and harmless hoaxes are socially sanctioned. Customary practices range from simple tricks played on friends, family, and coworkers to elaborate media hoaxes concocted for mass consumption.

See also: Urban Legends With a Punch Line <<http://urbanlegends.about.com/od/humor/ss/Funny-Stories-Urban-Legends.htm>>

A theory of origin

The origins of April Fools' Day are obscure. The most commonly cited theory holds that it dates from about 1582, the year France adopted the Gregorian Calendar

<<http://geography.about.com/od/culturalgeography/a/gregorian.htm>>, which shifted the observance of New Year's Day from the end of March (around the time of the vernal equinox <<http://geography.about.com/od/time-andtimezones/a/marchequinox.htm>>) to the first of January.

According to popular lore, some folks, out of ignorance, stubbornness, or both, continued to ring in the New Year on April first and were made the butt of jokes and pranks on account of their "foolishness."

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APRIL FOOLS' DAY - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

This became an annual tradition which ultimately spread throughout Europe and other parts of the world.

However, the earliest known historical reference to April Fools' Day occurs in a Dutch poem published in 1561, <http://hoaxes.org/af_database/permalink/eduard_de_dene> which predates the adoption of the Gregorian calendar by some 21 years.

Another weakness of the calendar-change theory is that it doesn't account for a historical record replete with traditions linking jollity and tomfoolery to this time of year dating all the way back to antiquity, and not just in the west.

The ancient Romans, for instance, celebrated a festival on March 25 called Hilaria <<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/265677/Hilaria>>, marking the occasion with masquerades and "general good cheer."

.Holi <<http://hinduism.about.com/od/holifestivalofcolors/a/holybasics.htm>>, the Hindu "festival of colors" observed in early March with "general merrymaking" and the "loosening of social norms," is at least as old.

The Jewish festival of Purim <<http://judaism.about.com/od/holidays/a/Purim.htm>> has a long history, as well. Coinciding with the advent of spring, it's celebrated annually with costume-wearing, carnivals, and pranks.

It's not unreasonable to suppose that the calendrical changes of the 16th and 17th centuries served more as an excuse to codify a general spirit of mirth already associated with the season than as the sole inspiration for a pranksters' holiday.

Notable April Fools' Day pranks and hoaxes

.One of the great media hoaxes of all time was perpetrated on April 1, 1957 by the BBC, which reported on its news program Panorama that Switzerland was experiencing a bumper spaghetti harvest <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spaghetti-tree_hoax> that year thanks to favorable weather and the elimination of the dread "spaghetti weevil." Staged video footage showing happy peasants plucking strands of pasta from tall trees was so convincing that many viewers actually called the network to ask how they could grow their own.

On April 1, 1976 famed British astronomer and radio presenter Patrick Moore announced over the BBC that a rare alignment of the planets Pluto and Jupiter would occur at exactly 9:47 a.m. during which the effects of gravity would be nullified and everyone on earth would feel weightless for a brief moment. <http://hoaxes.org/af_database/permalink/planetary_alignment_decreases_gravity/> "At 9:47, Moore declared, 'Jump now!'" writes Alex Boese of the Museum of Hoaxes. "A minute passed, and then the BBC switchboard lit up with dozens of people calling in to report that the experiment had worked!" But it was all a complete prank, of course, one of the most famous in history.

Some of the best-known pranks in more recent years have been mounted by advertising agencies. In 1996, Taco Bell ran a full-page ad in the New York Times announcing it had purchased the Liberty Bell and would rename it the "Taco Liberty Bell." Burger King pulled off a similar prank in 1998, announcing the rollout of its "Left-Handed Whopper" supposedly designed so that condiments would drip from the right side of the burger rather than the left.

On the Internet, hoaxes are such standard fare that April Fools' Day is barely distinguishable from any other, though a few notable pranks stand out and tend to be reposted year after year — e.g., a 1996-vintage announcement to the effect that every computer connected to the World Wide Web must be turned off and disconnected for Internet Cleaning Day <<http://urbanlegends.about.com/library/bltune-up.htm>>, a 24-hour period during which useless "flotsam and jetsam" are flushed from the system.



PERCEPTION...



A cold morning in a metro station,, what would you expect?!

In Washington, DC, at a Metro Station, on a cold January morning in 2007, this man with a violin played six Bach pieces for about 45 minutes. During that time, approximately 2,000 people went through the station, most of them on their way to work. After about 3 minutes, a middle-aged man noticed that there was a musician playing. He slowed his pace and stopped for a few seconds, and then he hurried on to meet his schedule.

About 4 minutes later: The violinist received his first dollar. A woman threw money in the hat and, without stopping, continued to walk.

At 6 minutes: A young man leaned against the wall to listen to him, then looked at his watch and started to walk again.

At 10 minutes: A 3-year old boy stopped, but his mother tugged him along hurriedly. The kid stopped to look at the violinist again, but the mother pushed hard and the child continued to walk, turning his head the whole time. This action was repeated by several other children, but every parent - without exception - forced their children to move on quickly.

At 45 minutes: The musician played continuously. Only 6 people stopped and listened for a short while. About 20 gave money but continued to walk at their normal pace. The man collected a total of \$32.

After 1 hour: He finished playing and silence took over. No one noticed and no one applauded. There was no recognition at all.

No one knew this, but the violinist was Joshua Bell, one of the greatest musicians in the world. He played one of the most intricate pieces ever written, with a violin worth \$3.5 million dollars. Two days before, Joshua Bell sold-out a theater in Boston where the seats averaged \$100 each to sit and listen to him play the same music.

This is a true story. Joshua Bell, playing incognito in the D.C. Metro Station, was organized by the Washington Post as part of a social experiment about perception, taste and people's priorities.

This experiment raised several questions:

- *In a common-place environment, at an inappropriate hour, do we perceive beauty?
- *If so, do we stop to appreciate it?
- *Do we recognize talent in an unexpected context?

One possible conclusion reached from this experiment could be this: If we do not have a moment to stop and listen to one of the best musicians in the world, playing some of the finest music ever written, with one of the most beautiful instruments ever made . . .

How many other things are we missing as we rush through life?
Enjoy life NOW... it has an expiration date



A sprint in HAM speak is a contest where you make a contact and then must change frequency to make another contact. That is an oversimplification but it serves the purpose.

Chuck Patellis, W8PT

The reason politicians try so hard to get re-elected is that they would "hate" to have to make a living under the laws they have just passed.

CROWS

Researchers for the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority found over 200 dead crows near greater Boston recently, and there was concern that they may have died from Avian Flu.

A Bird Pathologist examined the remains of all the crows, and, to everyone's relief, confirmed the problem was definitely NOT Avian Flu. The cause of death appeared to be vehicular impacts.

However, during the detailed analysis it was noted that varying colors of paints appeared on the bird's beaks and claws.

By analyzing these paint residues it was determined that 98% of the crows had been killed by impact with trucks, while only 2% were killed by an impact with a car.

MTA then hired an Ornithological Behaviorist to determine if there was a cause for the disproportionate percentages of truck kills versus car kills.

He very quickly concluded the cause: When crows eat road kill, they always have a look-out crow in a nearby tree to warn of impending danger.

They discovered that while all the lookout crows could shout "Cah", not a single one could shout "Truck."

Makes you wonder why you gave me your email address, huh?



This is an illustrated version read by a golden-throat gentleman with delightful pictures to amuse those of us who were children of the 50's ~ I hope you enjoy it.

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/J55S38xwxnQ?rel=0>

This kid should make a fortune in special effects. He's brilliant

Check This out This Guy Is Awesome

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/E2INz1LqYyQ>

THIS IS --- AWESOME-and AWESOME and stupid!!

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/VWf8CXwPoqI>

this is a 35 second video ... but you will watch it at least three times

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/qa0l5jm3wypouib/Accident-acrobatique-motard1.mp4?d=>

WHY SENIORS STILL NEED NEWSPAPERS

I WAS VISITING MY DAUGHTER LAST NIGHT WHEN I ASKED IF I COULD BORROW A NEWSPAPER.

"THIS IS THE 21ST CENTURY" SHE SAID. "WE DON'T WASTE MONEY ON NEWSPAPERS. HERE...USE MY IPAD."

I CAN TELL YOU THIS!.. THAT FLY NEVER KNEW WHAT HIT HIM

I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.





April 2015

PREPAREDNESS LEADS TO READINESS - MATT W8DEC



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Skywarn Net 146.745 8:30 P.M. 	2	3 WRARC Net 9:00PM 145.270 Swap n' Shop Ask the Elmers	4 Passover
5 Easter	6	7	8	9	10 WRARC Net 9:00PM 145.270 Swap n' Shop Ask the Elmers	11
12 Orthodox Easter	13 ARES Net 8:30 PM 146.745 PL 110.9	14 Ham Breakfast Eat'n Park Boardman 8:30 A.M. Board Meeting Eat'n Park Boardman 7:00 P.M.	15 Testing at ITT Tax Day (Taxes Due)	16	17 WRARC Net 9:00PM 145.270 Swap n' Shop Ask the Elmers	18
19	20	21 WRARC Meeting 7:00 P.M.	22 	23 WaveBender Articles Due	24 WRARC Net 9:00PM 145.270 Swap n' Shop Ask the Elmers	25 Ohio Antenna Day
26	27 ARES Net 8:30 PM 146.745 PL 110.9	28 Eat'n Park Boardman 8:30 A.M. Ham Community Breakfast	29	30	5/1 WRARC Net 9:00PM 145.270 Swap n' Shop Ask the Elmers	5/2