



The Wave Bender

March 2019

AWARD WINNING NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It was a sad few moments at breakfast because of the closing of the Eat 'n Park in Boardman. We enjoyed many good times and breakfast every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. We normally averaged 10 hams each time we met. We will move to a new location in Boardman soon.

We are having a short monthly meeting in February so we can offer testing to new potential Hams and those Hams who wish to upgrade. Next month we will resume our normal schedule. We are trying to get information about upcoming races this summer. The rumor is the Peace race and the Youngstown marathon will take place in October. We'll keep everyone informed when we get a confirmation.

73 Brian, AB8BL



IN THIS ISSUE

2019 Officers:**President:** Brian Lewis, AB8BL ab8bl@wrarc.net**VP:** Maureen Stein, KD8NXS kd8nxs@wrarc.net**Secretary:** Stan Adamski, KB3WPD kb3wpd@wrarc**Treasurer:** Rose Marko, KD8TII kd8tii@wrarc.net**Past President:** Bob Mitzel, N8RCM n8rcm@wrarc.net**Trustees:**

Darrin Cannon, N8DMC n8dmc@wrarc.net

Roy Haren, KD8IJF kd8ijf@wrarc.net

Steve Fabry, KC8SOY kc8soy@wrarc.net

Appointed Positions:Social: Maureen Stein, KD8NXS
kd8nxs@wrarc.netPublicity: Joe Wojtowicz, W0JO
w0jo@wrarc.netNets: Steve Fabry, KC8SOY
kc8soy@wrarc.netClasses: Chris Monske WF8U
kd8ely@gmail.com

Testing: Bob Mitzel, N8RCM n8rcm@wrarc.net

Newsletter/Web: Jane Avnet K8JAA
k8jaa@wrarc.netHistorian: Rose Marko, KD8TII
kd8tii@wrarc.netBadges: Darrin Cannon, N8DMC
n8dmc@wrarc.net**Officer's Meeting:**March 12, 2019, 7:00 P.M.
Austintown, Eat 'n Park,
5451 Mahoning Ave
All members welcome**Members Meeting:**March 19, Davidson's
3636 Canfield Rd., Cornersburgh**Speaker:** None

Testing - contact Bob, N8RCM

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

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**OTHER IMPORTANT WEB SITES****THE ARRL EXAM SEARCH PAGE**<[HTTP://WWW.ARRL.ORG/FIND-AN-AMATEUR-RADIO-LICENSE-EXAM-SESSION](http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session)>**OHIO SINGLE SIDEBAND NET**<[HTTP://WWW.OSSBN.ORG/INDEX.HTML](http://www.ossbn.org/index.html)>**ANTENNA HEIGHT ABOVE AVERAGE TERRAIN (HAAT) CALCULATOR**[HTTPS://WWW.FCC.GOV/MEDIA/RADIO/HAAT-CALCULATOR](https://www.fcc.gov/media/radio/haat-calculator)

FROM OUR VP

As we enter the month of March, we'll be looking for that early spring the ground hog promised us. I hope he's right and soon as it's going to be very cold tonight. Oh boy!

We are looking forward to our year (our ninth!) unfolding. We hope everyone will be renewing as you are all very important to the club. Please contact Rose, KD8TII, if you still need to renew. Some of our time frames for the annual things we do will be changing this year. First will be the schedule of licensing exam sessions. Most will be on meeting nights this year. As I write this, we have our first one coming up at our February meeting. The next one after that is likely to be at Field Day. We'll keep you informed of these things as they are scheduled.



As we told you previously, we had heard rumors that the time frame for some of our major public service events might be changed to different dates all together. That proved to be true for the Youngstown Marathon and the Peace Race. The Panerathon will remain at its usual time in the summer, being held on August 25. The official web sites of the other two races are up and there are changes there. You can visit each one of them for race details.

The Peace Race is moving up a couple of weeks and will be run on Sunday, October 13. We provide radio communication coverage for the 10K portion that kicks off at 10:00 A.M.. It appears that the race route will be basically the same as in years past, requiring the same amount of volunteer operators. The course map and video are on the web site. Our logo is on there too as a sponsor. Check it out when you can.

The Youngstown Marathon has the greatest amount of change of all. It will not be run in June, but also in Oct. on Sun., October 27 at 7:30 A.M.. I don't think there are any changes in their course either. We will set up a meeting with them soon to ascertain if there are any changes in their needs from us. Unfortunately, these two races are only two weeks apart in time, but both need full coverage. Mark your calendars now!

Since our last newsletter we had the sad news of another silent key, a man who was briefly a member of WRARC (only one year, 2014). This was K8NI, Norm Into. He was very integral to the formation of the YSU Amateur Radio Club and was extremely knowledgeable.

As I write this, I am still securing a March speaker. We will have the usual meeting format this month. The general meeting date is March 19. As always, stay warm 'til then.

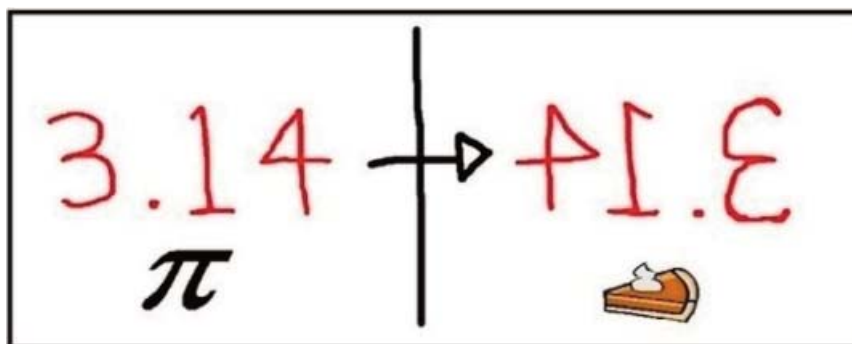
73, Maureen,,KD8NXX,
VP/WRARC



SAVE THE DATE
MAY 17 - 19, 2019
DAYTON HAMVENTION® WILL HOST THE
2019 ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION IN
GREENE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS AND EXPO CENTER
XENIA, OHIO

WHAT'S COMING UP?

- Mar. 02 YL Breakfast C's Waffles, Boardman, 9:00A.M.
 Mar. 10 Spring ahead
 Mar. 12 Board Meeting - Austintown Eat 'n Park
 Members welcome
 Ham Community Breakfast - C's Waffles, Boardman
 Mar. 14 PI Day
 Mar. 19 Members meeting 7:00 P.M.
 Mar. 26 Ham Community Breakfast
- Apr. 06 YL Breakfast C's Waffles, Boardman
 Apr. 09 Board Meeting - Austintown Eat 'n Park
 Members welcome
 Ham Community Breakfast - C's Waffles, Boardman
 Apr. 16 Members meeting 7:00 P.M.
 Apr. 23 Ham Community Breakfast
- May TBD Semi-Annual Spring Road Clean-up
 May 17 - 19 Dayron Hamvention
- June 22-23 2019 ARRL Field Day
 Aug. 26 PANERATHON
 Oct. 13 2019 Youngstown Peace Race
 Oct. 27 2019 Youngstown Marathon



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



Beatty, Dave KC8WY
 Fabry, Steve KC8SOY
 Haren, Roy KD8IJF
 Williams, Russ NR8W
 Wojtowicz, Joe W0JO

anything
 Yaesu FT8900, FT8800, Mobile
 ???
 Electrician, tele-data, Amateur Extra
 ICOM radios, D-Star

kc8wy@zoominternet.net
 kc8soy@yahoo.com
 harens@juno.com
 rwilliams@neo.rr.com
 w0jo@arrl.net

He who is afraid of asking, is afraid of learning

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Articles from members for the Wave Bender are encouraged. They must be received by the editor by the 20th each 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, 1440 Skyhawk Pl., Wright City, MO 63390

Join us for the WRARC Friday night Net 9:00 P.M.

KD8DWV - 145.270, PL -110.9

Upcoming Net Control Operators

3/1	Aiden, W0TIS
3/8	Rose, KD8TII
3/15	Bob, KE8HHH
3/22	Ray, K8NVY
2/29	Joe, W0JO
4/5	Aiden, W0TIS
4/12	Rose, KD8TII
4/19	Ray, K8NVY
4/26	Dennis, KA8DJM



If you don't see your name on this list
Contact Steve, KC8SOY to take your turn at Net Control
330-774-6346

WRARC Simplex Frequency 146.565

Mahoning County ARES® Nets

1st Monday 8.40 PM ET W8QLY Repeater - 146.745 (PL 110.9)

&

3rd Monday 8.40 PM ET W8QLY Repeater - 146.745 (PL 110.9)

ARES thanks 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

Get on the Air

Thanks & 73 to all of our members (and others) look forward (hopefully) to getting this newsletter every month, so keep sending those articles, jokes, and suggestions! sending those articles, jokes, and suggestions!

Thanks goes out to this month's contributors; KD8TII, KA8DJM, N8GOB, N8SY, W5YI, the ARRL, Face-Book, and the World-Wide Web.

A WORD FROM OUR TREASURER

Can you believe it's March already! Where has the time gone??? This leads me to the topic of dues renewals for 2019. You know the deadline of January 31, 2019 has passed, but time is running out. Two of our major events have been moved to the same month. They are The Youngstown Marathon and The Youngstown Peace Race. They both will be happening in October. The dates, times and paths for the races have not been released. Maureen will find out all that information sometime in the spring. We will need many more volunteers for this big event because the race will be spread out in different directions more so than it was in the past. The club members and I really wish this club to continue to thrive and prosper, especially for this event and The Panerathon Race which is still being put on in August, but with only 39 members as of today, it will be hard to do that.



Our February YL breakfast was a success for the first-time luncheon. We had six ladies and two gentlemen. They were: Donna and her husband, Roy Haren, KD8IJF; Rose, KD8TII, and her husband, Dennis Marko, KA8DJM; Maureen, KD8NXS; Janet Egan; Shirley Boles, KD8SSB; and Liz Beatty KD8DWV.

For Saturday, March 2 we are going back to having our YL breakfast at C's Waffle House on South Ave. in Boardman at 9 A.M.. I also want to point out that we had our last community Ham breakfast at Eat n Park 'n Boardman on Tuesday, February 12, because they closed their doors for good, Sunday, February 17.

On Tuesday, February 26, we had our last community breakfast at Bob Evans Restaurant in Boardman. The second Tuesday, March 12, we will be holding it at C's Waffle House in Boardman. From there, the regulars have not decided where we will go for Tuesday, March 26.

Until then, I hope to see a lot of you at our March General Meeting.

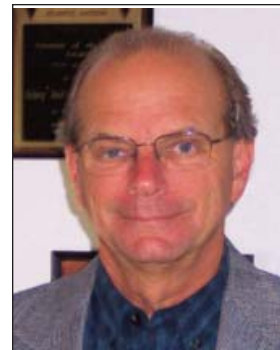
73 Rose, KD8TII
WRARC/Treasurer



RILEY HOLLINGSWORTH, K4ZDH

Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, to Oversee Volunteer Monitors Development and Implementation

Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, will oversee the development and implementation phases of ARRL's new Volunteer Monitors (VM) program, which will replace the Official Observers (OO) program. Hollingsworth, who once handled Amateur Radio enforcement for the FCC, has stepped down as ARRL Atlantic Division Vice Director to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest. The development phase of the program is already under way.



"I am grateful for the Atlantic Division ARRL members supporting me, but I think I can better serve the Atlantic Division and all ARRL divisions by working in the Volunteer Monitors program," Hollingsworth said in his resignation letter. A new Atlantic Division Vice Director will be appointed.

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, said that Hollingsworth was the ideal person to lead ARRL's efforts in the development and implementation of this joint program with the FCC.

"I support Riley's decision to concentrate his efforts on this very valuable project on behalf of the ARRL," Roderick said.

Approved by the ARRL Board of Directors last July, the Volunteer Monitors will work in cooperation with the FCC. Volunteers trained and vetted by ARRL will monitor the amateur bands for possible instances of misconduct or to recognize exemplary on-air operation. Cases of flagrant violations or noncompliance will be directed to the FCC for action, in accordance with FCC guidelines. The program, which aims to re-energize Amateur Radio enforcement efforts, was proposed by the FCC following the closure of several FCC regional offices and reductions in field staff.

Hollingsworth has identified three phases to the program -- development, solicitation and training, and implementation. The development phase will include drafting a mission statement, clearly defining ARRL's and the FCC's requirements and needs as part of the program, drafting a Volunteer Manager job description, and developing a training manual for volunteers.

The solicitation and training phase will involve identifying the geographical locations where volunteer monitors will be most needed, soliciting applications, and screening applicants. Current Official Observers will be invited to apply for appointment as Volunteer Monitors (VMs). The ARRL Board has expressed its appreciation to the OOs for their dedicated volunteer service over the years.

Implementation will involve having the volunteers provide field reports, and ARRL staff offering guidance to volunteers to ensure that the information gathered meets FCC requirements. Continuing education will be provided to the volunteers as part of the program.

Hollingsworth has committed to ensure training adequacy for new VMs, to review the quality and utility of Volunteer Monitor submissions to the FCC for enforcement action, and to advocate for rapid disposition of cases appropriately submitted to the FCC.

ARRL officials estimate that it will take 9 - 12 months before the first Volunteer Monitors begin filing reports.



Two antennas on a roof met and fell in love, then they got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.

CHECK YOUR HAM LICENSE

Without looking at your Ham Radio License, do you know its expiration date?? 95% of respondents will say "NO". At a recent license PCARS exam session one examinee, who thought he had a General Class license, was SHOCKED to find out that it had actually been expired for more than 2 years, and as a result, it was WORTHLESS. He had to start completely over, exam wise.

Obviously, operating without a license can get a Notice Of Violation or worse from the FCC. For that matter, the same applies to ones Drivers License, etc. Everyone should know the expiration of one's licenses . . . Ham Radio, drivers licenses, or otherwise. Not knowing it could cause real problems.

**Braid versus Strap**

Flat, solid strap or heavy wire are the standard for making grounding, bonding, or high-current connections at RF. Braided strap is often used for dc and low-frequency power and grounding connections — is it ever acceptable to use braided conductors for RF?

If the connection needs to flex — for example, for grounding equipment that has to be moved frequently — and it's protected from water, it is OK to use tinned flat-weave braid. Never use a braided conductor for high-frequency connections outside or where it can get wet! Water will be drawn into the braid between the strands where it cause the individual strands to corrode, reducing the effectiveness of the braid.

It is common practice to remove copper braid from old coaxial cable and use that for ground-ing — don't do it at RF! Coax braid works fine inside a cable but when removed from its protective jacket, rapidly begins to loosen and corrode, losing its effectiveness at RF.



**Semi-Monthly
Ham Community
Breakfast
Tuesday 3/12
9:00 A.M.
at Boardman
C's Waffles
Tuesday 3/26
9:00 A.M.
Undecided
Join Us!**

NORM INTO, K8NI, SK



Norm Into K8NI was briefly a member of our club, one year only, 2014, as he was legally blind and unable to drive and therefore limited on how much he could participate. He was instrumental in setting up the YSU Amateur Radio Club and was a willing mentor to any Ham who sought his advice. He was a WRARC Mentor while a member. He also accompanied us on our first visit to k3LR. He was truly a nice man and was so knowledgeable. You can go to Vindy.com and click on tributes then on, 2/10/19, on the calendar to see the obit.



NORM FROM QRZ

My Class A ham license, W9NTH, and my 1st class commercial phone licenses were issued in April 1945, my senior year in high school.

I went into Navy flight training that June and was commissioned in the regular Navy. Served in Fighter and Attack (carrier) squadrons as a pilot and as an Electronics Officer.

After gaining a B.S. in Engrg. from Yale worked for RCA in N.J. for 11 years, then several other firms, retiring in 1995.

About half the members of our South Jersey Radio Ass'n were RCA. Learned a great deal from my seniors there. RCA was the no. 1. electronics co. then, and a great place to work. I was very active in SJRA and was club president in 1965. Got my Extra in 1954, before there were any band privileges.

Moved to Conn. in 1968, where I was W1CCZ / W1RN and involved in starting several repeaters. Some of the members of our club, Talcott Mountain, were ARRL staff, including Dave, K1ZZ.

Moved to Chagrin Falls, Ohio in 1975 and got my present call, K8NI. Am still active in the club there, WRECS, where I was president for a couple years. I've enjoyed a wide variety of operation from Aero Mobile, over the years, QRP in Youngstown, to being DX at a variety of places in Europe (5 ops at 4U1ITU), Monaco, Mainland China, Caribbean, PJ9 and KP2. I held the call G5ASW for a while.

Since retiring and moving to Youngstown, OH, in 1996, I've "returned to my roots", building a variety of tube and contemporary gear. Of course, I still use my "appliances", mostly Icom and Collins. I'm a new member of the Mahoning Valley Club (MVRA) and have enjoyed meeting and making some friends here.

Recently I built the club station, K8YSU, at our local college, Youngstown State University, which is now on the air on 160 thru 70cm.

My first name, and the name on my license (and Social Security card) is "Albert" and I'm sometimes surprised when a CW contact (using QRZ.com, of course) will greet me by that name, but I've always gone by my middle name, "Norm". I'm hoping to meet you on 40 CW, or any other band - or by email - and you can just call me OM, if you like.



SWAP 'N SHOP



5 gal plastic gas can & spout	\$ 5
ARRL Ham Manual 1975	\$ 2
Bird Model 43 Watt meter no slug	\$150
B&K Precision PS-500 Prescaler	\$ 5
Devry Institute VTVM	\$ 5
Eico Mod 1064S variable bench supply	\$ 10
Fluke Mod 8030A Digital Multi Meter	\$ 10
Heathkit capacitor checker IT-11	\$ 75
Heathkit FET checker IT-121	\$ 20
Heathkit HW-2036 2mtr mobile & pwr supply	\$ 20
Heathkit IM 5228 VTVM	\$ 5
Heathkit Oscilloscope calibrator IG-4505	\$ 10
Icom O2AT with batteries, mic, ant	\$ 20
Icom O2AT with batteries, mic, ant	\$ 20
Icom 2AT with batteries, ant	\$ 10
Icom 2AT with batteries, ant	\$ 10
Icom 4AT with batteries	\$ 10
Icom IC-756 ProII service manual	\$ 10
Micronta VOM	\$ 5
Olson SWR & Power meter	\$ 5
Power Sonic 6v battery charger	\$ 5
Realistic HTX 202s meter HT	\$ 20
Winradio WR-G31DDC Excalibur SDR rcvr	\$500
Hewlett Packard 5381A freq counter	\$ 40
Daiwa CN-101L swr/pwr meter 1.8-150 mhz	\$ 45
Ten Tec Argonaut II	\$400
Kenwood TM-241 mobile 2 meter xcvr	\$ 40
Realistic Pro-2005 400 chan scanner rcvr	\$ 40
Kent Single Paddle CW key	\$100
DSI Model 3550 550mhz frequency counter	\$ 30
Large 12 inch Quartz 24 hour clock	\$ 10

Contact Frank Sole if interested, call or email

Phone 330-360-1551

<youngshotdog@yahoo.com>

THE WRARC NET NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT....

9:00 P.M. Friday evenings: 145.270 Mhz (minus offset), PL 110.9

You can advertise your Swap 'n Shop. You can ask our Elmers anything -

No Question too big or too small!

The only dumb question is one you don't ask Hope to hear you on the net.

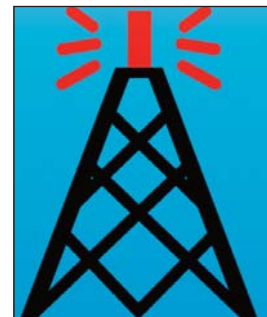


NEW ECHOLINK LINK STATION

K8NVY LINK
146.580 SIMPLEX

I have been working on putting together an Echolink link station. The hardware and software have been tested over the last several weeks along with channel monitoring taking place.

I am Just waiting on the radio to computer interface. I will have it on the air, If all goes well, no later than this Monday, 2/18/19.



THE RULES OF THE NODE

1. Please use your call when connecting or disconnecting
2. Please be aware of other users and BE POLITE!
3. make sure to ID YOUR STATION the TOT is set for 3min
4. yeld to emergency or priority traffic, also special event traffic .
5. Please note: weather emergencies and use by ARES come first
6. All hams in the armed services are welcome to use this link
7. Here are the commands to access echolink using your radios keypad .
 To connect *9 then enter node number ex #9245678
 Disconnect #
 Reconnect 09

Have fun hope you enjoy using my link. This link wouldn't possible without some help - I would like to thank the following stations KC8SOY, W0TIS, KB3GRF, KC8WY, KC8UNR , KD8JMO.N8DMC and most of all MRS. K8NVY. Any question drop me an email <k8nvy@yahoo.com>

73 Ray L, K8NVY

21 Feb. 2019 I did run into a issue. I have echo link transmitting, but no return audio from the radio to the computer. I am waiting on parts - hopefully I will have the bugs worked out by next week. I do have my DMR up and running.





Devon Wilms, KD8SNV
Jack Twaddle, KB8VRF
Kevin Settle, KD8YFU
Mike Malarky, KE8IWZ
Tom Sly. WB8LCD
Carol Gottesman, KD8NFD



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

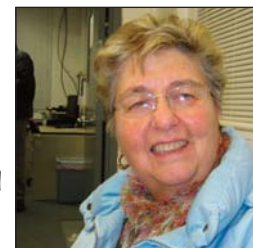
COULD THIS BE YOU?

Could this be YOU? This is the Wave Bender YOUR Newsletter. We have plenty of room for YOUR article(s)! If something is of interest to you, odds are that we all will enjoy your thoughts and activities! Have a favorite radio? Have some reminiscing to do? maybe you have a question for one of our Elmers. OR, a Tip or Trick you learned that would help one of YOUR WRARC friends. You are warmly invited to contribute! Don't worry about writing or formality - we can help you with that. Your article could go in this spot next month!!



I'm always asking for input by members. The following questions may give you something to think about.

- What was your first station?
- How about a Shack Shot.
- How old were you when you got interested?
- How did ham radio shape your life? and/or
- Who was your First Elmer?



-ed



ELECTRICAL TEASERS

What happens if you plug an electric cord with a missing ground prong upside down in an outlet?

Basically, you have created two problems. One, the device which was supposed to be grounded for safety reasons is not grounded and therefore unsafe.

Second, you have reversed the normal hot and neutral wires. The wire that the designer thought was neutral is now hot.

So pretty much all the safety protection that was built into the device is now gone.

If there are no fault conditions, then you will be OK.

If there are fault conditions (like internal wires coming loose or metal objects penetrating the case) your likelihood of getting shocked has gone up exponentially.



TOP 10 REASONS TO VOLUNTEER

Community/Public Service: Top 10 Reasons to Volunteer: Thinking of becoming a volunteer? Here is a list of reasons that will help you make up your mind.

#10: It's good for you.

Volunteering provides physical and mental rewards. It:

- * Reduces stress: Experts report that when you focus on someone other than yourself, it interrupts usual tension-producing patterns.
- * Makes you healthier: Moods and emotions, like optimism, joy, and control over one's fate, strengthen the immune system.

#9: It saves resources.

Volunteering provides valuable community services so more money can be spent on local improvements. The estimated value of a volunteer's time is \$15.39 per hour.

#8: Volunteers gain professional experience.

You can test out a career.

#7: It brings people together.

As a volunteer you assist in:

- * Uniting people from diverse backgrounds to work toward a common goal
- * Building camaraderie and teamwork

#6: It promotes personal growth and self-esteem.

Understanding community needs helps foster empathy and self-efficacy.

#5: Volunteering strengthens your community.

As a volunteer you help:

- * Support families (daycare and eldercare)
- * Improve schools (tutoring, literacy)* Support youth (mentoring and after-school programs)
- * Beautify the community (beach and park cleanups)
- * Help in raising funds for good purposes
- * Help in the event of emergencies and natural disaster

#4: You learn a lot.

Volunteers learn things like these:

- * Self: Volunteers discover hidden talents that may change your view on your self-worth.
- * Government: Through working with local non-profit agencies, volunteers learn about the functions and operation of our government.
- * Community: Volunteers gain knowledge of local resources available to solve community needs.

#3: You get a chance to give back.

People like to support community resources that they use themselves or that benefit people they care about.

#2: Volunteering encourages civic responsibility.

Community service and volunteerism are an investment in our community and the people who live in it.

#1: YOU make a difference. Every person counts, including YOU.

USE YOUR LICENSE TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY - VOLUNTEER



MAKE HAM RADIO A HABIT

Every week, I get an email newsletter from Penguin Random House called Signature. Signature includes links to articles about books and writing. Being a writer, I clicked on the link to "5 Good Writing Habits You Need to Learn Now." As I was reading the article, it occurred to me that the advice could also apply to Amateur Radio. So, with apologies to the author, Lorraine Berry, here are five things you can do to make Ham Radio a habit:



1. To get on the air more, set up a time to do it. If you enjoy getting on the air, but never seem to be able to find the time to do it, you need to put it on your schedule. Set aside the time a couple of days, or a week, or even a month in advance, and you'll be more likely to do it. If you set up a regular time every week, pretty soon it will be a habit.

2. If Ham Radio is important to you, create an environment that encourages you to do Ham Radio To make Ham Radio a habit, you really need a place that's set up to do Ham Radio If you have to dig out and set up your equipment every time that you want to get on the air, you're just not going to do it. You need a "shack" that makes it easier for you to engage in the hobby. Jim Richards, K8JHR, gave me some great advice back in 2012 on where and how to set up a shack.

3. Create temptations that reward you for your new habit of Ham Radio For me, being able to operate is reward enough, but you may want to reward yourself with a beer or some ice cream after an operating session.

4. Make it easy to practice the habit of Ham Radio This is related to #4. Your shack should have everything you need to easily do whatever Ham Radio activities you enjoy doing. If you enjoy operating, then it should have a nice operating desk. If you enjoy building, then set it up so that all of your tools are readily accessible. The easier it is to do, the more likely it is that you'll do it.

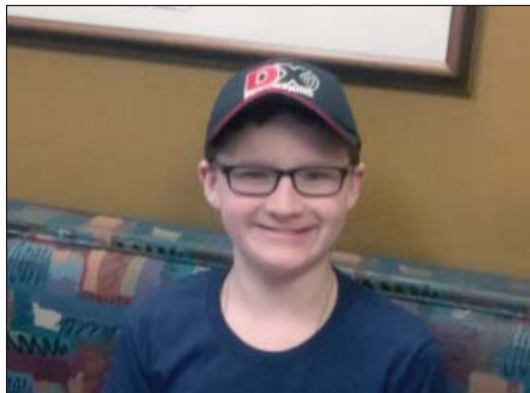
5. Start with the Two-Minute Rule for new habits and continue from there. The "two minute rule" is a tool to help you overcome procrastination. The idea is to allot just two minutes to a task that you'd like to complete or a skill that you'd like to develop. It's a small commitment, but enough to get you started, and the idea is that once you're started on a particular task or project, continuing work on that task or project becomes a lot easier. Not only that, those two minutes could easily become a half hour or an hour once you've gotten the ball rolling. So, armed with this advice, I'm expecting you to get on the air more in 2019.

I'll be listening for you.

When he's not teaching Ham Radio classes, Dan blogs about Amateur Radio, writes exam study guides (www.kb6nu.com/study-guides), and operates CW on the HF bands. You can email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

"Stolen" from The February 2019 RADIOGRAM - Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)

By Dan, KB6NU



**At February's Meeting/test session,
Aiden, WOTIS, got his General license.
There were four V.E's
present for the testing:
Roy Haren, KD8IJF; Bob Mitzel, N8RCM;
Darrin Cannon, N8DMC; and
Bob McCully, AB8OP**

NATIONAL NEWS

ARRL Launching New Podcast Geared Toward New Radio Amateurs

For those just getting started on their Amateur Radio journey, ARRL is launching a new podcast aimed at answering your questions, providing support and encouragement for newcomers to get the most out of the hobby. The podcast "So Now What?" will launch on Thursday, March 7, and new episodes will be posted every other Thursday, alternating new-episode weeks with the "ARRL The Doctor is In" podcast.



Co-hosting "So Now What?" will be ARRL Communications Content Producer Michelle Patnode, W3MVP, and ARRL Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q. Presented as a lively conversation, with Patnode representing newer hams and Carcia the veteran operators, the podcast will explore questions that newer hams may have and the issues that keep participants from staying active in the hobby. Some episodes will feature guests to answer questions on specific topic areas.

"No other podcast is really aimed at this segment of the Amateur Radio community... that is being underserved, that is not getting the answers to the many questions they have," said ARRL Communications Manager David Isgur, N1RSN, who will serve as the podcast's executive producer.

Topics to be discussed in the first several episodes include getting started, operating modes available to Technician licensees, VEC and licensing issues, sunspots and propagation, mobile operating, contesting, Amateur Radio in pop culture, and perceptions of Technician license holders.

Given the growing popularity of podcasts, Isgur believes that providing this information in a podcast format will be a very effective method of reaching out and engaging this particular part of the Amateur Radio community, which is important for building and maintaining Amateur Radio interest and activity.

Patnode said she is excited to ask questions she has about different aspects of Amateur Radio, such as how to incorporate ham radio with newer technologies like Raspberry Pi computers and Arduinos, and to learn more about the hobby right along with the audience.

Carcia believes the "So Now What?" podcast will be a perfect complement to the podcasts that the ARRL already offers — "ARRL The Doctor Is In" and "ARRL Audio News."

In addition to serving as co-host, Patnode is also the audio editor/producer of the podcast. ARRL Graphics Department Supervisor Sue Fagan, KB1OKW, designed the podcast logo, and ARRL Radiosport Administrative Manager Sabrina Jackson, KC1JMW, will voice the introduction and closing.

Listeners will be able to find the "So Now What?" podcast on Apple iTunes, Blubrry, or Stitcher (free registration required, or browse the site as a guest) and through the free Stitcher app for iOS, Kindle, or Android devices...or wherever you get your podcasts. Episodes will also be archived on the ARRL website.

"So Now What?" will be sponsored by LDG Electronics, a family owned and operated business with laboratories in southern Maryland that offers a wide array of antenna tuners and other Amateur Radio products



PETITION FOR RULE MAKING

ARLB004 FCC Invites Comments on Amateur Radio-Related Petition for Rule Making
To all radio amateurs

The FCC has invited public comments on a Petition for Rule Making (RM-11826) from an Ohio radio amateur seeking to amend the Part 97 station identification rules to better accommodate and simplify station identification during an emergency net, drill, or activation.

The Petition can be found in PDF format online at,
<https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/1020726398395/18013004-1.pdf>

ARRL member Robert A. Dukish, KK8DX, filed the petition in December, and the FCC put it on public notice this week. Dukish seeks a change to Section 97.119(a) of the rules, which requires an amateur station to transmit its "assigned call sign on its transmitting channel at the end of each communication, and at least every 10 minutes during a communication."

He noted that during emergency networks, requiring participating stations "often portable" to use their assigned call signs during each transmission could prove "burdensome and can hinder the flow of emergency traffic on the channel."

Specifically, he is suggesting that a simple approach would be to permit the net control station or other designated participant to announce from a single point the call signs of every station taking part in the net or exercise, when tactical call signs often are in use, at 10-minute intervals, using automatic CW identification.

Dukish suggested amending Section 97.119(a) to add, "except during a local emergency network activation or drill," and providing that in such situations, a net control or designations station would be "authorized to announce all participating stations' assigned call signs at no more than 10-minute intervals while the net is in progress."

The amendment would provide that participating stations "be within a 50-mile distance of the identifying station, and each individual station must self-identify by transmitting its assigned call sign at least once per hour." CW transmission could be no faster than 25 WPM if sent automatically to satisfy the suggested amendment.

In his petition, Dukish noted petitions filed in 2005 and 2006 seeking changes to the Amateur Radio station identification rules. The FCC did not adopt either proposal.

Interested parties may comment via the FCC Electronic Comment Filing Service (ECFS) at,
<https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/> .



Operating Safety

No matter how good your lightning protection system is, you must not be in electrical contact with the radio equipment during a lightning strike event. Even assuming there is no current flowing between the radios in your radio room, the voltage of all equipment will be raised above ground potential. If you are touching any piece of equipment, including a microphone, key, or keyboard during the strike event, you are now the path of least impedance from the equipment to whatever ground you are standing on. This ground path can be through the rebar in a concrete floor or to a nearby electrical wire or water pipe.

Consider getting a storm warning device capable of alerting you when lightning activity is within 10 miles of your station. When the alarm sounds, leave the radio room. If your lightning protection system is designed and installed properly, you may leave the equipment connected and powered-on — but you must leave the room and not be near the equipment. Alternatively, if you have only 1 or 2 feed lines or cables and do not have a fully functional lightning protection and grounding system, disconnect and place them outside of the building, preferably connected to a ground rod.

FT8

FT8 Mode is Latest Bright Shiny Object in Amateur Radio Digital World -8/01/2017

It's still in beta testing, but FT8 — the latest digital bauble to capture the imagination of the Amateur Radio community — has been luring away many of those already using the popular JT65 “weak-signal” mode. FT8 is included in a beta release of WSJT-X, version 1.8.0-rc1. Among its biggest advantages is a shorter transmit-receive cycle, meaning quicker contacts. The notes for the “candidate” release say that FT8 offers “sensitivity down to -20 dB on the AWGN channel.” Contacts are four times faster than with JT65 or JT9, and an entire FT8 contact can take place in about 1 minute.



The new mode is named after its developers, Steven Franke, K9AN, and Joe Taylor, K1JT. The numeral designates the mode's 8-frequency shift keying format. Tones are spaced at 6.25 Hz, and an FT8 signal occupies just 50 Hz. Unlike JT65 or JT9, transmit and receive cycles in FT8 each last about 15 seconds. Like JT65, FT8 requires accurate time synchronization. An auto-sequencing feature offers the option to respond automatically to the first decoded reply to your CQ.

“FT8 is an excellent mode for HF DXing and for situations like multi-hop Es on 6 meters, where deep QSB may make fast and reliable completion of QSOs desirable,” Taylor's release notes assert.

The beta release came out just days before the July CQ VHF Contest and proved to be a boon to many operators who took advantage of FT8 on 6 meters. In a limited outing for the CQ VHF, Frank Donovan, W3LPL, made 22 FT8 contacts on 6 meters, “during which the FT8 software reported SNRs from my receiver below -10 dB (measured in a 2,500-Hz bandwidth). Some of the 22 QSOs may have been difficult to complete on CW.”

Enthusiasts will have to wait a little longer for Logbook of The World (LoTW) to accept FT8 contacts as FT8 contacts. Because FT8 is still in beta, it has not yet been added to the ADIF tables. Configuring TQSL to automatically map FT8 contacts to “DATA” will enable users to upload FT8 contacts now, and confirmations will be valid for DXCC Digital, VUCC, WAS Digital, and WPX Digital awards. A new TQSL configuration will be released once the new mode has been accepted to ADIF, which could happen within a week.

Operational documentation for FT8 has not yet been finalized. “We know that the advent of new mode FT8 means that new material is needed for the User Guide,” Taylor told the Yahoo Meteor Scatter and Weak Signal Group this week. “We will be working on that in the near future.”

A new Facebook group has been established for FT8 experimenters.



**"Science is knowing, art is doing, and
common sense is knowing and doing on the basis of experience." Alex Shigo**

FROM THE AFFILIATED CLUB COORDINATOR

February 2019 In my comments last December, I noted that “Amateur Radio has a public relations problem. It’s all about our image.” What is our “Image”? Unfortunately, outside of our own circles, we are for the most part invisible. Many, especially in the younger generations, have no idea that we even exist! Older Americans may have a totally outdated image of who we are and what we do. As I pointed out in my January column, we, as members of the Amateur Radio community, are a very small percentage of the American population. We gotta start making some noise! ** Goal #1 needs to be making Amateur Radio “visible” in a positive and non-threatening way.



We need to have every club’s Public Information Officer (PIO) active in promoting the activities of his/her club – TO THE PUBLIC – not just to the local club members. (As a club PIO myself I’m as guilty as anyone and talking to myself here) Got a meeting, a VE session, a licensing class or any other activity coming up? Write up a press release and send it out to any and ALL newspapers that serve your local area. Start making a list, editor’s name, address, email address, phone number so that it’s easier to do next month. Don’t forget local radio and TV, especially any Public Broadcasting stations in your area. Get your list made and make a habit of sending them a release every time you do something that is open to the public. Don’t forget to follow up with a release about the event after it’s over! Photographs of smiling faces having fun or holding up their Certificate of Successful Completion from their Tech exam or their Upgrade exam are the types of things that get into the local papers! If you are consistent in sending them notices of everything you’re doing, pretty soon they will get the impression that you are a legitimate group with an ongoing program and will be more likely to include your releases in their publication.

Social Media is a huge area where I personally have limited knowledge. I hope to spend some of my “free-time” learning more about it.

But I do know that platforms such as Facebook make it very easy to get our information out in the public domain. Everything you as a club, or even you as an individual, put out that has an Amateur Radio theme is another exposure for someone in the non-ham population. Exposure is what will build our Image. **Where I said we gotta’ start making some noise, I also want to point out that we need to make noise that will stand out from the background of noise that is always out there. Exposure is what we need, but we need exposure that gets noticed. Here is where I’m asking you to “think outside of the box” and send me your ideas. For example, I eat breakfast at a local restaurant called Little City Grill in Kent. The owner has been generous to our club. I’ve talked to him about ham radio, told him about all the things I do, and he thinks it sounds pretty cool. He’s amazed at how many of his customers are also hams that I have pointed out to him. I asked him if I could put a QSL card holder on one of his walls and he said “sure”. So I put a couple of my cards in it and hung it up. This morning he said we are almost full and I’m going to have to bring in another holder! He’s told me that many of his customers have asked about it. Next up will be a flier about ham radio and our local club! It’s low key and has got some conversations started. (He would be thrilled if you would send him your card, and I will supply him with as many QSL holders as he needs! Help me fill his walls up!

Please, send a card to: Little City Grill – attn: Bert, 802 N. Mantua St. Kent, OH 44240)

If the folks who see it, ask about it, have a conversation about it run into Amateur Radio operators or activities in other parts of their world, they will at least have an awareness, hopefully in a positive light. Maybe even enough to think to themselves: Hey, that might be fun! Amateur Radio did not slip into obscurity overnight. It happened over several decades. Because of our small numbers in relation to the total population, it may take us decades of positive promotion. That promotion will need to be intentional and it will need to be something that stands out and captures the attention of the general public over all the other “stuff” that they come into contact with daily.

After last month’s Section Journal came out, I received an email from David Kazdan – AD8Y. David is the faculty advisor for the Case Amateur Radio Club – W8EDU. Dave tells me that there are about 180 College Amateur Radio Clubs licensed, but today, very few of them are active. Perhaps this is an area where local clubs could get involved with the clubs at their local colleges and encourage their participation and/or help with making sure they have an operating station for their students. By the way, Case has a HamSCI *Continued page 19*

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Program on campus at CWRU on March 22 & 23. Check out the HamSCI website at www.hamsci.org and also the W8EDU website at www.w8edu.wordpress.com. Both have lots of interesting information!

I once had a conversation with someone whose opinion I respect, who told me that the problem with bringing younger people into Amateur Radio, was that in their middle teens through maybe their 20's, they have too many other things that pull them away from Amateur Radio.

(His words were that teenage boys get too attracted to the smell of perfume and gasoline and loose interest in radio.) Perhaps Dave is right, in that if we supported college stations and clubs, it might help some younger hams remain in the hobby once they get out of High School.

Click Here for a flier for the PCARS March meeting, featuring Carole Perry – WA2MGP. I hope that you can make it out – we've got plenty of room. This meeting is also open to non-ham educators to expose them to all of the benefits a Ham Radio program at their school could have for their students. Please, help us spread the word!

Although I've been off to a slow start in travelling to visit you all, it's now starting to fill in on my calendar. I was out to visit NOARS in January. I was not on their agenda, but I did have a Special Service Club certificate to present to them. It was a fun and interesting evening and I enjoyed their hospitality very much!

Thank you. On Wednesday February 20 I'll be with the Canton ARC, looking for a good time there. I'm hoping that in the next 12-36 months I get the chance to visit with every club in the OH Section.

That's it for now. Let me know what's on your mind. tomsly29@gmail.com

73, Tom WB8LCD - ACC



FROM THE STATE GOVERNMENT LIAISON



In my previous column I had discussed a proposed law designated Ohio HB 95, which provides for enhanced penalties for distracted drivers. This bill is now law, having been passed by both the Ohio House and Senate and signed by Governor Kasich on 29 October 2018. It is known as the "Enhance penalty for moving violations while distracted." Note that this law does not create new violations, but merely increases the fine that you pay if you violate an existing motor vehicle law. For example, if you cross over the center line while distracted, you may have to pay up to \$100.00 in addition to the regular penalty and court costs, if applicable. To avoid the enhanced penalty, you are allowed to take a distracted driving course.

Of concern to Ohio hams is whether talking on your ham radio is considered a distraction. My take is that almost anything you do while driving, other than keeping your eyes on the road and your hands on the wheel, could be a distraction if it leads to a driving error. For example, if you momentarily take your eyes off the road to glance at your AM/FM radio, turn on your radar/laser detector, adjust the air conditioning, or lean over to take something out of your glove box, then you could be "distracted." If a peace officer stops you for going through a red light and subjectively determines that your distracting behavior caused you to do so, then you would be subject to the enhanced penalty. I still believe that the aim of this legislation is to deter texting which has resulted in many injuries and deaths over the years and that a mere \$100 fine is not going to stop this behavior. The distracted driving course is a good idea and will probably be a better deterrent than the fine.

I suggest that you mount the control head of your mobile amateur radio as high as possible so that it is in your line of sight while you are driving and that you do not look down, even momentarily, while operating your rig. Otherwise, you may find yourself distracted.

If you know of any hams that have been ticketed under the new distracted driving rules, please let me know. Or, if you are a peace officer, and would like to add to this discussion, I would be happy to hear

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from you. [w2thu (at) arrl.net]

The other law we were following is the proposed Ohio Community Rights Amendment to our state constitution. This amendment would allow local communities to pass home rule laws in derogation of state law. For example, Ohio allows fracking, but some communities don't want it. Without the amendment, any local legislation enacted to outlaw fracking would most likely be unenforceable in the courts. This amendment had been certified for signature gathering but there is still no news that the required number of signatures have been obtained to place it on the election ballot.

We were concerned that if passed, a local community could circumvent Ohio PRB-1 which affords strong statewide protections for amateurs wishing to erect antennas and antenna support structures.

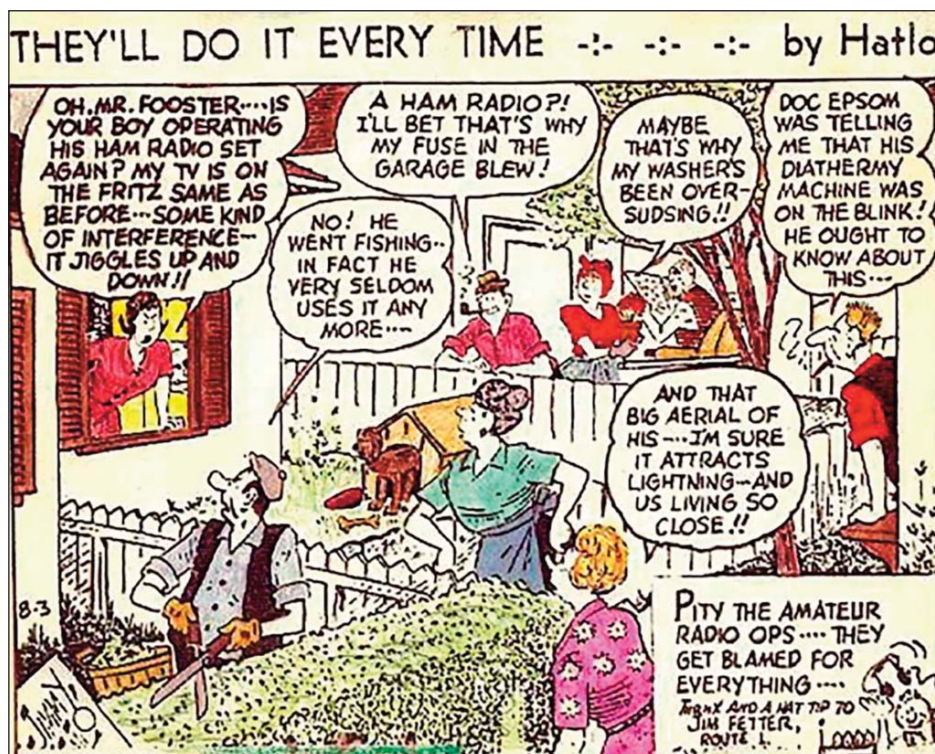
While I can easily monitor proposed legislation in Columbus via the internet, I always need your help regarding local legislation or other government action that may impinge on our great hobby. Please continue to advise me of any township, village, city or county activity that concerns ham radio.

We also have 6 Local Government Liaisons (LGL) in Ohio. They are James Ashman, W8ASH in New Bremen (Auglaize County), H. Richard Burdick, K8WWA in Blue Ash, Richard Carey, KB8OTZ in Marion, David Dextradeur, W1GBA in Kettering, Steve Katz, N8WL in Granville and Gene McCoy, N8KOJ in Cincinnati. All are good on qrz.com with contact information.

I was fortunate to have attended the Orlando Hamcation last week. This "mini Dayton Hamvention" is also a 3 day affair with plenty of forums, vendors, indoor and outdoor tailgaters and lots of warmth and sunshine. I attended the Youth Forum with Carole Perry, WB2MGP, the QCWA Forum and the Collegiate Amateur Radio Forum. The latter interests me because I want to see the ham station at my alma mater become more active. If you have the same interest for your college or university, you may want to check out <http://www.arrl.org/college-students-and-educators>.

I hope to see you at Xenia in May.

Best 73, Bob, W2THU – SGL
w2thu@arrl.net






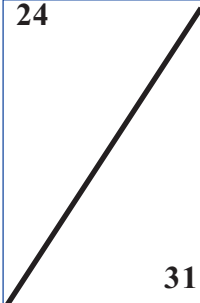




March 2019

PREPAREDNESS LEADS TO READINESS - MATT W8DEC



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 WRARC Net 9:00PM 145.270 Swap n' Shop Ask the Elmers	2 YL Breakfast 
I put my grandma on speed dial I call that instagram						
3	4 ARES Net 8:30 PM 146.745 PL 110.9	5 Mardi Gras Fat Tuesday	6 Ash Wednesday	7	8 WRARC Net 9:00PM 145.270 Swap n' Shop Ask the Elmers	9 Panic Day
10 Daylight Saving 	11 Worship of Tools Day	12 Ham Breakfast 8:30 A.M. Board Meeting Eat'n Park Austintown 7:00 P.M	13	14 π	15 WRARC Net 9:00PM 145.270 Swap n' Shop Ask the Elmers	16 International Sports Car Racing Day
17 Saint Patrick's Day 	18 ARES Net 8:30 PM 146.745 PL 110.9	19 WRARC Meeting 7:00 P.M	20 First Day of Spring 	21  WaveBender Input Due	22 WRARC Net 9:00PM 145.270 Swap n' Shop Ask the Elmers	23 National Puppy Day
24  31	25	26 8:30 A.M. Ham Community Breakfast	27	28	29 WRARC Net 9:00PM 145.270 Swap n' Shop Ask the Elmers	30