



# The Wave Bender

May 2020

AWARD WINNING NEWSLETTER

## WRARC PREZ



Hello everyone,

It seems to be that the end of these stay at home orders is near. Soon we will all be able to get together again.

I don't have much if anything to report since alotnofnplans had to be put on hold not being able to have meetings. I hope that everyone has been able to do some operating while being stuck at home. If anyone has any questions, or has something they have done while staying at home, they would like to share with the club, I'd like to make time for you to do so.

Just know that when we are able to hold meetings again we'll be working on putting things back in order as quickly as possible. The plans for learning workshops are still in place, just on hold. Once everything is finished we will post dates and times

of everything.

Hold tight everyone, and we'll see you soon

73 WF8U, Chris  
WRARC/Club President



## SURPRISE GEOMAGNETIC STORM

The first geomagnetic storm of 2020 (category G1) took forecasters by surprise this morning when a CME impact sparked bright auroras over Canada and some northern-tier US states. At the time of this writing, Earth's magnetic field is still reverberating from the impact, raising the possibility of more high-latitude auroras tonight.

Space Weather News for April 20, 2020  
<https://spaceweather.com>  
<https://www.spaceweatheralerts.com>



IN THIS ISSUE

**2020 Officers:**

**President:** Chris Monske, WF8U wf8u@wrarc.net  
**VP:** Maureen Stein, KD8NXS kd8nxs@wrarc.net  
**Secretary:** Mike Cibella, KC8UNR kc8unr@wrarc.net  
**Treasurer:** Bob Kramer, KE8HHH ke8hhh@wrarc.net  
**Past President:** Bob Mitzel, N8RCM n8rcm@wrarc.net

**Trustees:**

Steve Fabry, KC8SOY kc8soy@wrarc.net  
 Darrin Cannon, N8DMC n8dmc@wrarc.net  
 Ray LaShure, K8NVY k8nvj@wrarc.net

**Appointed Positions:**

Social: Maureen Stein, KD8NXS kd8nxs@wrarc.net  
 Repeater & Nets: Steve Fabry, KC8SOY kc8soy@wrarc.net  
 Classes: Chris Monske WF8U kd8ely@gmail.com  
 Testing: Darrin Cannon, N8DMC n8dmc@wrarc.net  
 Newsletter/Web: Jane Avnet K8JAA k8jaa@wrarc.net  
 Historian: Rose Marko, KD8TII kd8tii@wrarc.net  
 Badges: Darrin Cannon, N8DMC n8dmc@wrarc.net

**Officer's Meeting:**

May 08 2019, 7:00 P.M. At Eat 'n Park,  
 Austintown, Eat 'n Park,  
 5451 Mahoning Ave  
 All members welcome

**Members Meeting:**

May 15, Davidson's  
 3636 Canfield Rd., Cornersburgh

**Speaker:** None



<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

Hello to all of you. I hope everyone had a Happy Easter or a Happy Passover, and that you and your families are well. It is April 14 as I write this and we are coming up on the month of May. We are still in a very uncertain time as to how we will be faring in the next month or so. Our April general meeting is not able to happen and May's meeting is likewise uncertain.



We know that Ohio's cases of the coronavirus are beginning to peak and are likely to plateau at this level for a while. How long it will be before going down the slope is still unknown. Until there is an effective, reliable, and fully tested vaccine with widespread availability to our whole population, the virus will still be around us and will still be just as deadly. For that reason, even if things begin to open up in May, it will be a gradual and slow return for all businesses and functions. Even if Davidson's should reopen by our meeting date, we would all have to observe social distancing if we can meet. This would mean sitting 6 ft. away from each other and wearing face masks before and after eating and throughout the rest of the meeting time. This information was given by the Governor's office update today. This will need to be done by all work places, schools, sporting events, restaurants, social activities, etc. That will be hard to accomplish in our meeting room. Another point brought out today was that when things resume, each person will have to evaluate the risks vs. benefits of attending anything based upon his/her own health status and any other factors. There will be no quick return to normal for any area of our lives. So, based on all this, I will say that May's meeting looks uncertain right now. As things evolve and when we know where we stand, we will communicate any return date to you by QST, the Club Facebook page, and the Friday night nets.

Likewise, I have been monitoring the official websites of our three major public service events, the Panerathon (August 30), the Peace Race (October 11), and the Youngstown Marathon (October 25). So far they are all still on. We don't know about Field Day in June either. As I follow the news, I see where some major events, including the Summer Olympics, are cancelled well into July. Fears among the medical professional experts of a seasonal reemergence in the fall could affect all scheduled events in the fall. It is too soon to know if this will occur. We'll keep you updated as we go along. Stay safe and well, everyone. Remember to check in on the Friday night nets, and go on the repeater when, and if, you can so we can stay in touch with each other.

73, Maureen, KD8NXS  
WRARC/VP

FROM THE FIELD DAY DESK



I Hope everyone is doing well at this serious time in April We still are hoping that we all will have Field Day this year. If we do, it will be at Youngstown Elser Metro Airport, 10800 Sharrott Rd., North Lima. It's a nice location, free camping and a lot of fun. Pass the word on, if we do have Field Day this year. Field Day weekend is June 27 & 28. The site will be ready to set up Friday, June 26.

If we can not have Field Day this year, we can operate from home using our call signs. I hope that everyone is doing well, and in good

health and - be safe!



73, KC8SOY  
Steve Fabry  
WRARC/Field Day Captain  
<kc8soy@yahoo.com>

Ham Radio Operator's....Experts in Social Distancing for Over 100 Years

THOUGHTS FROM OUR SECRETARY MIKE, KC8UNR

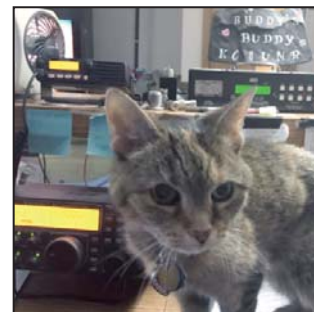


Well, I hope everyone is doing well, healthy, and taking all the precautions you can. Masks, gloves, wipe off your groceries before you put them away. Also when was the last time you disinfected your car and all the knobs, steering wheel, all the regular stuff you touch? Also remember to wipe or spray your shoes and the bottoms of them with disinfectant, and try to find somewhere that you can leave your shoes, and not walk around your house spreading any viruses.

Now that the health lecture is over, I have been doing a lot of reading and watching YouTube on the newer digital radio systems, and modes. I have been trying to reconfigure my shack so my cat, Xena, can sit and stare at me without trying to eat or play with the mic cables or other power wires. Mostly she does this as an attention getter. Like many of you, I'm waiting for better weather to perform antenna work. I have noticed my shack and kitchen doesn't stay clean and organized very long. I am really tired of my own cooking!

I do not have much else to report at this time. Take care of your family and friends from a distance. Hopefully this virus will soon be gone, and the world will get back to normal, but I think we have a way to go. (Xena, with me on the 80 meter railroad net)

73 Mike, KC8UNR,  
WARC/Secretary



**Semi-Monthly  
Ham Community  
Breakfast  
Second and Fourth  
Tuesdays  
9:00 A.M.  
(we hope)  
Eat 'n Park Restaurant  
in Austintown  
Join Us!**



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CONTACT WRARC ELMERS WITH YOUR QUESTIONS - [QUESTIONS@WRARC.NET](mailto:QUESTIONS@WRARC.NET)

Fabry, Steve KC8SOY  
Haren, Roy KD8IJF  
Williams, Russ NR8W

Yaesu FT8900, FT8800, Mobile  
???  
Electrician, tele-data, Amateur  
Extra

kc8soy@yahoo.com  
harens@juno.com  
rwiliams@neo.rr.com

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@arri.net](mailto:k8jaa@arri.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

May This could be you  
Please Volunteer

If your name has never been on this list  
Contact Steve, KC8SOY to take a turn at Net Control  
330-774-6346



WRARC Simplex Frequency 146.565

Mahoning County ARES® Nets  
1st Monday 8.40 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



Don't forget that pandemic rules about physical distancing apply,  
even when working on radio projects.  
If you need help to get that antenna in the air, troubleshoot a rig, or any other reason  
where others are needed to be physically present,  
it's best to wait for now. Even for outdoor projects.

## A NOTE FROM OUR TREAS-PRO TEM

This month's Wave Bender article will be my last article as the Treasurer and interim Treasurer of the Club. I would like to thank the new Board Members for giving me the opportunity to fill in for Bob Kramer, KE8HHH, as the new Treasurer, who will be taking over in May, after his school term ends. Besides being Treasurer, I am also the Data Base Manager and Historian and these two positions will keep me quite busy.

I would like to thank Vice President, Maureen, KD8NXX, for all the hard work she did the last six months taking on her responsibilities as well as the President's and Treasurer's, mine and President, Bob Mitzel as we recovered on our medical leaves. She, along with the rest of the officers, did an excellent job.

I would also like to thank all the volunteers who participated in the three events we assisted in over the past four years and also, while he was with us, Ray LaShure, K8NVY, who filled in for me as Net Control Operator during the last two events, the Youngstown Marathon and the Peace Race both in October. I listened to the races from home and Ray did a fantastic job. He will certainly be missed. Marilyn Ranunno LaShure, the last part of this paragraph is for you.

In closing, I want to let everyone know that the dues can still be paid for 2020. I won't be accepting them, but you can send them to either Maureen or Bob. Bob's address is: 104 Delaware Ave. Poland, OH 44514 and Maureen's address is: 3088 Southwind Trail, Poland, OH 44514. The dues information is listed on the Membership Application on the WRARC web page under membership information.

I want to thank everyone for giving me the chance to do something I always wanted to do and that is to be a bookkeeper. It was the chance of a lifetime and I will always remember the fun times I had doing it. Now I'm handing it off to Bob and I know he will do a great job as all the Treasurers have done in the past.

I hope everyone stays in their homes and stays safe until we can all meet again when this pandemic is over.

73 Rose, KD8TI  
WRARC/Treasurer *pro tem*

Here are a couple sayings I found I thought would be helpful during these trying times.

"When life isn't going right, go left."  
"Be with people who make you laugh."

### OHIO 2020 Weather Safety Week Events

- Lightning Safety Awareness Week: June 21-27
- Ohio's Winter Safety Awareness Week: November 15-21

### 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. What creative things are you doing while 'social distancing?' 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, or one larger, next month!!



A WORD FROM DARRIN

I hope everyone is doing well. I have been working ever since this outbreak, being deemed as an "Essential Employee". I do wish sometimes I was laid off, but I guess I would have to say, I'd rather be working than going stir crazy at home. For those who are paying attention towards me practicing my hobby while being on the radio, I have not been on the air a lot. I recently purchased a new car near the end of February, and as of lately, was able to hook up my handheld DMR radio using an over the window type of antenna. I usually can reach the 147.315 repeater with this setup. As far as the Ol' Ford Crown Victoria, it is now parked in the driveway and put in storage mode with the insurance company. Not sure if I'm going to keep her, or sell her.



I'm sure I speak for the Club Officers by saying, we cannot wait to get back to normal and pick up with our monthly meetings and activities. Don't forget, we will be having Field Day at the Elser Metro Airport. I always liked being there, and watching the planes take off and land too. I'm still Steve's - KC8SOYs field day Co-Chairman. Please let Steve, or myself, know if you are going to "participate" this year. I'm sure Steve will have a sign-up sheet at upcoming meetings.

Speaking of participating, we would love to hear more members check into the Friday night net. It's been going pretty well, but I notice a huge decline in member check-ins.

While you are sitting at home, have you ever thought of upgrading your current license class to the next level? Or do you know someone that wants to get into the hobby? I'll be more than happy to test you or your friend! As far as I know, we still have a connection with a local church in Canfield Ohio to hold a test session. I need to make sure that you are aware of the "Extra" exam question pool is currently effective until June 30th and then it will change on July 1st. Everything else is the same question pool. So, If you'd like, I will keep a list of interested people to contact when we able to set something up. Just provide me with your name, email address and phone number you wish to be reached at. My email(s) that you can use are N8DMC@WRARC.NET or N8DMC@ARRL.NET

73  
Darrin – N8DMC  
WRARC/Trustee, VEC



- |                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Kerrie Lane,</b>    | <b>W8MCG</b>  |
| <b>Paul Gugliotti,</b> | <b>KD8DEL</b> |
| <b>Stu Mulne,</b>      | <b>K8LEA</b>  |
| <b>Roy Dyckman,</b>    | <b>KD8JMO</b> |
| <b>Roy Haren,</b>      | <b>KD8IJF</b> |
| <b>Robert Kramer,</b>  | <b>KE8HHH</b> |





## **AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE (ARES)**

### **Mahoning County, Ohio**

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#### MC ARES Update for April 2020

New AEC. The recent passing of Ray, K8NVY, left MC ARES with a big set of shoes to fill. We are pleased to announce Bob Kramer, KE8HHH, has picked up for Ray. Bob is a member of the Western Reserve Amateur Radio Club and will be our contact point for the WRARC. Our four MC ARES AEC's, listed below, give us members from each of the local clubs. You can reach us via our MC ARES email, [mahoning.ares@gmail.com](mailto:mahoning.ares@gmail.com), which is automatically forwarded to each of us

Dave Brett, EC  
Mike Joseph, AEC  
Bob Kramer, AEC  
Rich Slutz, AEC  
Frank Sole, AEC

April 4<sup>th</sup> we ran a MC ARES net from 9-10:00am. This net was in conjunction with the Ohio statewide nets between 11:00am and 1:00pm and the WPA ARES SET running throughout the day. Our new AEC ran the net and had a busy morning, taking 38 check-ins, as well as gathering information on user's equipment such as their ability to work off grid.

Training Reminder. Part of being prepared is to continually upgrade our Knowledge and Skills. There are a variety of no cost resources available to keep us up to speed, such as these ARRL online courses:

[EC-001: Introduction to Emergency Communication+](#)  
[EC-016: Public Service and Emergency Communications Management for Radio Amateurs+](#)  
[PR-101: Public Relations 101 for Radio Amateurs](#)

Several of the courses have prerequisites from the FEMA ICS series.

Connect Reminder. In 2019 ARRL approved a new updated plan for ARES. You can find the plan on the MC ARES website: <http://www.mahoning-ares.org/>. One part of the plan is the creation of the Connect website that acts as a central resource for volunteers to see ARES activities throughout the country, sign up for events, and record hours volunteering. All MC ARES are encouraged to register on Connect. Instructions for registering are on the Ohio ARES website here: [http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/connect/ares\\_connect\\_directions.pdf](http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/connect/ares_connect_directions.pdf)



## FROM THE STATE GOVERNMENT LIAISON

**MORE ON THE ANTI-TEXTING BILL –**

Ohio Senate Bill SB-285 (“revise law related to distracted driving”) was referred to the Senate Committee on Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs on 4 March 2020. Meanwhile, the COVID-19 virus has shut down life as we know it, and limited access to our state legislature. In short, the bill, which could affect your ability to operate your ham radio while mobile, is not officially being discussed in Columbus.

However, thanks to our Section EC, Stan Broadway, N8BHL, we now have Tim Price, K8WFL, who is a professional lobbyist, assisting in this matter.

I have spoken to Tim several times and he wants you all to know that he is currently lobbying on our behalf to exempt amateur radio mobile communications from the broad language of SB-285. We want to thank K8WFL, a Wickliffe resident, for his efforts, which he is performing on a voluntary basis. I would like to point out that Tim’s success will not only benefit amateur radio, but all the citizens of the State of Ohio, who will continue to receive the pro bono communication services of our fellow hams during emergency situations and public service events.

In addition to Tim’s efforts, Bill Morris, K8BTU, of Lewis Center sent a message to Senator Stephanie Kunze, one of the bill’s two sponsors, suggesting that she amend the bill to exempt amateur radio and other specified groups from the proposed bill. K8BTU reported receiving a positive response from the Senator.

It would be helpful if you contacted your local state representatives to urge them to support a version of SB-215 that exempts amateur radio mobile operations. You can explain that operating a ham radio while driving does not involve texting and it does not prevent you from keeping your eyes on the road. Navigate to [www.ohio-house.gov/indexand](http://www.ohio-house.gov/indexand) [www.ohiosenate.gov/senators/district-mapto](http://www.ohiosenate.gov/senators/district-mapto) find your representatives.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT LIAISONS –**

Not all legislation that could be harmful to our hobby is so well publicized as SB-215. Recall that Gov. DeWine went on TV to promote this anti-texting bill, so it was bound to be seen by the amateur radio community. We are still in need of hams that are willing to monitor proposed legislation in their home communities. As an LGL you would agree to review the workings of your county government in addition to cities, villages and townships therein.

It is not always necessary to leave your shack to do this as most, if not all, of these government bodies duly notify the public by way of the internet. It’s just a matter of checking their websites. For example, I navigated to the website of my QTH, which is Perry Township in Lake County (there’s more than one in Ohio) at [perry-township-lake.com](http://perry-township-lake.com) and easily found the minutes of the Perry Township Board of Trustees going back to 2015 along with a Resolution Index. Additionally, the minutes of the Zoning Board are posted on the same website, but they are not up to date. Since zoning resolutions could easily weigh on your antenna farm, keep an eye on the doings of your local zoning authority.

If you would like to become a Local Government Liaison for your county, send an email to me or Scott, N8SY. (w2thu (at) arrl.net or n8sy(at) n8sy.com)

73, Bob W2THU  
Bob Winston W2THU –SGL  
Ohio Section Journal - April Fool's Edition  
Sun, 29 Mar

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**Never forget public ignorance is the government's best friend. - Source Unknown**

### CONFERENCE BRIDGE NOW AVAILABLE TO CLUBS IN OHIO

Hey Gang, With the government closing down all meetings of 10 or more persons it has become a struggle for clubs all over our Section to find ways of having their meetings, and as you can see in the "Club Corner" section of this newsletter all the cancellations that have happened recently.

Well, the Ohio Section has come up with a tool for the toolbox that will allow you to have a video/phone conference meeting and stay within the CDC's guidelines for distancing. We've partnered up with Zoom, one of the premiere video conferencing bridges in the country and we now have the ability to do our own "on-line" conferences.



Our Zoom account allows for up to 100 persons at a time to be connected with not only audio, but video as well. This is sooooo 21st century. You can share your screen for those really fancy presentations, see everyone that's connected with a camera on the call and really do a first-class meeting with this technology. No, you don't need to have a computer. Zoom will also allow you to just call in on your regular or cellular phone too. That is what makes this so great.

I know that there has been a lot of stories lately about Zoom Bombing and how it can really disrupt a meeting pretty quickly. Zoom just this past week implemented two separate changes to their system to keep this from happening. These changes are in direct response to this issue. But, in defense of Zoom, I will say from all the articles that I've read about the Zoom Bombing it seems to me this could have been resolved with the account holder taking a little more precaution when setting up their meetings in the first place. Having an open meeting where anyone could simply take control and the Host is left powerless is not a good idea. There always needs to be a moderator that can quickly and easily take FULL control of the situation just in case, much like a Control Operator that the FCC requires us to have when allowing others to use our radios. Anyway, Zoom has changed the defaults to how a meeting gets setup now, and it will be much more difficult for anyone just to takeover a meeting without the Host's permission. Problem solved.

I think it is really great for all of us to keep in contact with each other, especially with our older hams that might not be able to get out at night, or just aren't as mobile as they used to be.

Ham radio is a great way for all of us to make those very important contacts with each other to be sure we are all ok and safe. Zoom is another tool in the toolbox for us to use. So, if you want to try Zoom or have a meeting using it, just let me know.

73, Scott, N8SY  
n8sy@n8sy.com

Ohio Section Journal - April Fool's Edition  
Sun, 29 Mar

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### STUCK IN THE SHACK?

#### **Make use of your downtime**

(Submitted by Gregory Drezdzon, WD9FTZ)

The Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club (NJ) Monthly Speaker series videos are available on YouTube. For over five years, the Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club has presented a live monthly speaker series for its members and guests highlighting the leading talent from the local amateur radio community.

The Club reminds hams everywhere that these monthly club videos are available for you to view to stay active in the hobby while isolated because of the Covid-19 epidemic.

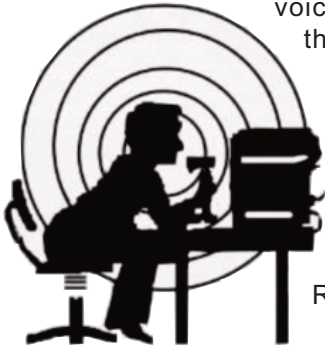
Topics include the development of FT8/FT4, propagation and the 2018 solar eclipse, using oscilloscopes, Echolink and related technologies, MESH networking, using SDR radios, understanding propagation, building a ground radial system, DX'ing, and making the most of QRP among others.

The link to all videos can be found here <http://youtube.FairLawnARC.org> on the Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club's YouTube channel.

**Stay safe. Remember Amateur Radio is contagious, but it will not make you sick!**

**NET CONTROL OPERATORS NEEDED**

We're looking to add a few more Net Control Operators to the current list of regulars. New voices, new styles keep the net interesting! How about giving it a shot? It's not tough, there's a script to work from, and everyone is pretty easy going on the net!



Being a net control operator will help you experience a skill that you might need to put to use during an emergency, but without the pressures that would go along with that emergency situation. It also helps you put names and callsigns together so that you'll be familiar with your other club members, and them with you, it also helps with chronic mic-fright. There's really no downside to it!

Read a one person's thoughts on the value of Net Control here:  
<http://www.aresdec.org/netcontrol.html>.

Our Nets have changed a bit. We take Swap 'n Shop during the net, and our Elmers are ready to answer your really good questions. It is better to ask a question and look 'stupid' for five minutes than not to ask a question and be stupid for life! Remember the only stupid question is the one you don't ask.

If you'd like to give being our Net Control Operator a try, please send Steve an email to [kc8soy@wrarc.net](mailto:kc8soy@wrarc.net) so he can get working on the net schedule for the next couple of months.

Remember, don't feel we will pressure you into being Net Control Operator just because you check in. You'll be surprised what you can learn from the members who check in regularly. Join us!

**Do what you fear most and you control fear. -- Tom Hopkins**

**SUGGESTIONS**

A local Ham in MO, Ward, N0AX, suggests the a couple of resources for contesting ethics: "ARRL's HF Operating Guidelines (<http://www.arrl.org/hf-contesting-guidelines>) deal with a lot of questions about how to operate, should you do or not do certain things, etc. And the CTU Ethics presentations are online at <https://www.contestuniversity.com/videos>."

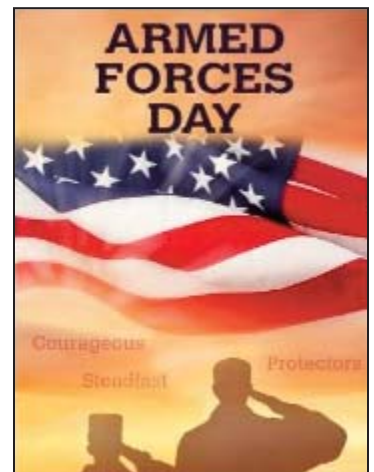
HF Contesting (Radiosporting) Guidelines

[http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20-%20General/HFContestingGuidelines\\_201411.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20-%20General/HFContestingGuidelines_201411.pdf)

<https://www.contestuniversity.com/videos>

**IN BRIEF**

The annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Test has been postponed, due to the ongoing COVID-19 response and mitigation actions. The 2020 Armed Forces Day (AFD) Crossband Test was scheduled to be held on Saturday, May 9. Because it's uncertain just when stay-at-home orders will be lifted across the US, AFD planners chose to postpone this year's event, because the government stations that typically support this event may not be available. Armed Forces Day Crossband Test planners are considering scheduling a November event in honor of Veteran's Day, depending on COVID-19 mitigation actions. During the AFD Crossband Test, military stations in various locations transmit on selected military frequencies and announce the specific ham frequencies they are monitoring to work radio amateurs.  
 -- Thanks to US Army MARS Program Chief Paul English, WD8DBY



**AH! Toilet Paper hoarding explained: Some people are eating their own cooking for the first time.**

## FIELD DAY 2020 — A TIME TO ADAPT

Many individuals and groups organizing events for Field Day 2020 <<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>> have been contacting ARRL for guidance on how to adapt their planned activities in this unprecedented time of social distancing and uncertainty.

“Due to the unique situation presented this year, this can be an opportunity for you, your club, and/or group to try something new,” ARRL Contest Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, said. “Field Day isn’t about doing things the same way year after year. Use this year to develop and employ a new approach that is in line with the current circumstances.”

Social distancing and state and local requirements very likely will impact just how — and even whether — you are able to participate in Field Day this year. ARRL continues monitoring the coronavirus situation, paying close attention to information and guidance offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) <<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>> . If social distancing means that Class A with a 30-member team set up in a city park won’t work this year, then it’s time for a Plan B. Part of the Field Day concept has always been adapting your operation to the situation at hand. At its heart, Field Day is an emergency communication demonstration. Field Day rules are flexible enough to allow individuals and groups to adjust their participation and strategies in a way that still addresses their needs while being fun. Some possibilities:

- Encourage club members to operate from their home stations on emergency power (Class E).
- Use the club’s repeater as a means for individual participants to keep in touch during the event.
- Field Day Family members interested in operating Field Day and unable to participate as part of a larger group may want to consider setting up a portable station in the backyard with a temporary antenna.

One big impact this year will be a decline in public visibility and any interaction with the visitors. Prudence may dictate dispensing with the ham radio PR table to attract passersby, should you set up in a more public location. It’s okay not to score all the bonus points you may have attempted in the past. Local and served agency officials may be unwilling to visit, which is understandable under the circumstances. Do be sure to reach out to them as part of your preparations and remind them that you look forward to continuing your working relationship with them in the future.

The impact will differ from place to place, so ARRL recommends that all amateur radio clubs participating in Field Day stay in regular contact with local or state public health officials for their advice and guidance on hosting Field Day activities.

Demonstrating an understanding of the health crisis we all face and your willingness to adapt will show that you and your club or group are good working partners with local or served agencies.

“With any emergency preparedness exercise, it’s not about adapting the situation to your operation, it’s about adapting your operation to the situation that presents itself,” Bourque said. “Try something different. Learn something new about how you prepare. It may be a challenge, and you may have to ask yourself if you’re up to the challenge. We hope to hear you on the air over the June 27 – 28 weekend.”

— Thanks to Paul Bourque, N1SFE, and Dan Henderson, N1ND

Historic first transatlantic contact made on 432 MHz using FT8  
(Submitted by Gregory Drezdzon, WD9FTZ)

On Tuesday April 7, 2020, a historic contact was made on the FT8 digital mode on 432 MHz between D4VHF on the Cape Verde Islands off the coast of Africa and FG8OJ in Guadeloupe in the Caribbean.

This was the first 70cm transatlantic contact without using satellites or the moon.

The most likely mode of propagation was marine ducting with the signal being trapped close to the ocean.

This FT8 contact which was about 3,867 km or 2088 nm in length.

<https://ei7gl.blogspot.com/2020/04/first-trans-atlantic-contact-made-on.html>

## NOW YOU HAVE TIME TO ACTUALLY READ THE MANUAL!

We are always saying we are too busy to get to things, but all of sudden with COVID-19 self-isolating, most of us actually do have some time to do things. One of the things we never have time for is reading the instruction manual when we receive a new radio or start using a new software program. So, I am suggesting you take this opportunity, you may be astounded by what you learn or at least get a few tips for more successful, efficient and/or enjoyable operation. It may almost be as exciting as getting a whole new radio with all the additional functions you will now have available once you learn how to use them after reading the manual.

Steps:

1. Find the manual
2. Not finding the manual, resort to looking for an online copy Here are some links that might help find the manual:

- Yaesu -[www.yaesu.com](http://www.yaesu.com)
- Icom -[www.icomamerica.com/en/amateur](http://www.icomamerica.com/en/amateur)
- Kenwood -[www.kenwood.com/usa/com/amateur](http://www.kenwood.com/usa/com/amateur)
- Elecraft -<https://elecraft.com/pages/manuals-downloads>
- Flex -[www.flexradio.com](http://www.flexradio.com)
- Ten-Tec -[www.tentec.com/category/product-documentation](http://www.tentec.com/category/product-documentation)
- Alinco -[www.alinco.com/products.html](http://www.alinco.com/products.html)
- MFJ Enterprises -<https://mfjenterprises.com/pages/product-manuals>
- [www.k8zt.com/radios](http://www.k8zt.com/radios)
- Ham Radio Manual Sources -AC6V -[www.ac6v.com/manuals.php](http://www.ac6v.com/manuals.php)
- RadioManual.eu -[www.radiomanual.eu](http://www.radiomanual.eu)
- CQHAM.RU -[www.cqham.ru/sch\\_eng.html](http://www.cqham.ru/sch_eng.html)

3. Prepare a favorite beverage

4. Sit down and enjoy the reading, but don't forget the notepad to jot down a few notes.

### Alternatives

1. Watch a video on Youtube

- On your radio
- On a software program you use (Logging software, WSJT-X, N1MM, FLDigi, etc.)
- On a new mode, you would like to learn about (FT8, PSK, DMR, etc.)
- 2. Watch a video recording of a radio club presentation, blog, etc.
  - Fair Lawn ARC-link
  - <http://www.k8zt.com/ham-news> and look for the blogs
  - ARRL

- On the Air
- The Doctor is In
- So Now What?

3. With the desired software program open, press the F1 key or use the menu to bring up the program's Help.

4. Follow one of these links for software program help

- FT8 & FT4
- WSJT-X
- FT8 Operating Guide
- Additional information on Digital Modes including FT8 & FT4 including guides for setting up specific models of radio

5. N1MM+ Contesting Software

- Getting Started Guide
- Downloadable guide ○ Manual –At-A-Glance

6. Consider creating a help guide for your favorite radio or piece of software to share with other hams (by the way this is one of the best ways for you to learn yourself as you organize information and prepare guide)

- Record a Youtube Video
- Write an online guide
- Create a flow chart or step-by-step guide on a specific operation
- Create a Quick Guide



## READ THE MANUAL - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

- Prepare a presentation to share with your local club once meetings restart or online as a Zoom or other meeting program
- Some of the software tools I find useful in creating the above materials include:
  - Screen Capture Software
    - My favorite, SnagIt by Techsmithsoftware
    - Awesome Screen Capture Chrome Extension
  - Video Capture
    - Screencastify
    - LoomP.S. If you have not watched the old, but funny Middle Ages Help Desk Video, pictured above here is the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQHX-SjgQvQ>

Anthony Luscre, K8ZT-SYC  
K8zt@arrl.net

## HOW ELECTRICITY REALLY WORKS

A sheet of paper crossed my desk the other day and as I read it, realization of a basic truth hit me. So simple! So obvious we couldn't see it! Leo Martin of Hiawatha Division had discovered how power systems work. He says that smoke is the real thing that makes power systems work because every time you let the smoke out of something electrical, it quits working! He claims to have verified this with extensive testing.

I was flabbergasted Of course! Smoke makes all things electrical work. Remember the last time smoke escaped from a transformer? Didn't it quit working? I eat and smiled like an idiot as more of the truth dawned. I remember when I had witnessed the awful destruction of a 12 KV breaker and bus at Sunnyvale. The breaker and bus leaked out so much smoke that they actually melted and quit working,

Yes, I now know that Leo's theory is in fact truth. It's the conductor that carries the smoke from one device to another. It starts at our power plants where stuff is burned to produce smoke. The smoke we see coming from the stacks is the excess smoke the system doesn't need. The smoke is then sent down the conductors to transformers around the system. Transformers are big and require a lot of smoke to work properly.

That's why the conductors are so big. If these conductors spring a leak, it lets the smoke out of everything and then nothing works!

I plan on spending more time with Leo on some of his other theories.

Anonymous

## HAMVENTION QSO PARTY SATURDAY MAY 16!



Let's celebrate the many years we have all had at the Great Gathering we call Hamvention. We also want to remember Ron Moorefield W8ILC who never missed a Hamvention and contributed to our club until his recent death. Let's light up the airwaves with our remembrances of Hamvention's of the past! See you on the air! K3LR, Tim Duffy and W8CI, Michael Kalter.

Here is the deal: 12-hour event, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. EDST on Saturday of Hamvention May 16, 2020. Operate CW or SSB on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters. The exchange is a signal report and first year you attended Hamvention. If you have never attended Hamvention, you send 2020.

Send your score (number of QSOs) to [3830scores.com](http://3830scores.com) within 5 days of the event. You can print a certificate on line via [www.HVQP.org](http://www.HVQP.org). More details will appear on the Hamvention QSO Party web site being set up now. Special bonus: W8BI, the club call of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA is the host of Hamvention) will be activated by designated DARA members from their home stations. You can add 10 points for each band/mode QSO with W8BI (12 available). So you can earn 120 bonus points (like having 120 additional QSOs).

# May, 2020

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
3	4	5 	6	7	8 WRARC Net 9:00PM 145.270 Swap n' Shop Ask the Elmers	9 Lost Sock Memorial Day
10 Mother's Day 	11 Eat What You Want Day & Twilight Zone Day	12 Board Meeting Eat'n Park Austintown 7:00 P.M. We Hope	13	14	15 WRARC Net 9:00PM 145.270 Swap n' Shop Ask the Elmers	16
17	18	19 WRARC Meeting 7:00 P.M We Hope	20  Last Day WaveBender Articles Due	21	22 WRARC Net 9:00PM 145.270 Swap n' Shop Ask the Elmers	23
24 	25 Memorial Day 	26	27	28	29 WRARC Net 9:00PM 145.270 Swap n' Shop Ask the Elmers	30
31						