



# The Wave Bender

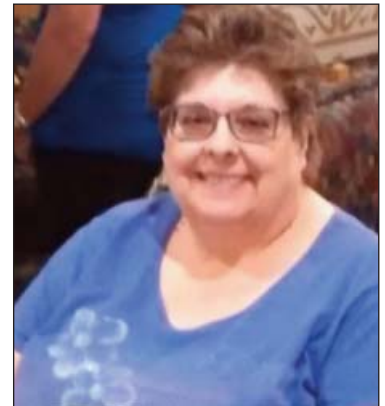
September 2020



AWARD WINNING NEWSLETTER

FROM OUR VP

Hi, Folks. Another month rolls by and the virus still has us all under restrictions. Please stay safe and well. Remember, for all who are able to take the flu vaccine, it is recommended that you have it early this year, preferably during this month of Sept. We still don't know when in person general meetings can occur. The virus numbers are still very high. I wish I had a good answer for you. In the meantime, please try to stay connected by checking in on the Friday night nets if you can, or by sharing your story of what you have been doing during this time. Have you made any interesting contacts? How about some special contests or other radio activities? We'd love to read about them.



In other matters, we are coming up on the usual time to begin nominations for the November elections. We don't know yet if we will be able to hold a meeting for casting votes and having an in person election. In the meantime, give some thought to nominating yourself, or someone else with their permission, of course. The offices up for election this year are Vice President, and at least one trustee's position. Please consider coming forward when this can be held. It takes input and time from all of us to make things run. You all count and everyone is needed to participate. We'll keep you updated on the status of meetings and the election process.

Now we turn to our remaining public service events for this year. It seems unlikely that the Peace Race on October 11 will go on as usual. When I hear officially from race organizers, I'll pass it on to you. We know that for the Youngstown Marathon on October 25, the full and half marathons have been officially cancelled for this year. I have been in contact with the race organizers and they also enthusiastically want us back for the big portions of the event next year as we have done in the past. In addition, there is a small possibility that they may conduct a 5K run on that same date, Sunday, October 25 if it can be cleared with county health officials. The use of staggered starting times for the runners keeps a limited amount of persons on the course at any one time, and can help meet health and safety guidelines, if the COVID numbers for the state aren't too bad at the time. They would like our help if this does happen, so I am asking everyone to "save the date" for Sunday, October 25. We will put out the call, likely by QST and the Friday night nets, for volunteers when we hear something solid from them. We will have details, such as arrival time and place, etc. then.

They tell me that they won't get an OK from county officials until much closer to the time, maybe not even until the end of September or first week of October, Therefore, if we put out a call for volunteers, it will be with short notice. We have no control over that. That is why I am asking you all to keep that date open on your calendars, so we can be ready if we are needed. And so, that's all I've got for this month. Take care and stay safe.

73, Maureen, KD8NXS



**"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world.  
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."  
Margaret Mead, American Cultural Anthropologist**

IN THIS ISSUE

From Our VP 01  
 From the Secretary 03  
 Radio Amateur Takes Part in Spaceflight 04  
 Great Lake Vice Director 05  
 Could this be You 05  
 Thank You CQ 06  
 Ohio Section Newsletter Contest 06  
 SAQ Alexanderson Day in the Age of COVID-19 08  
 Calendar 10

**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  
 Rose Marko, KD8TII kd8tii@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:**

August 10 2019, 7:00 P.M. At Eat 'n Park,  
 Austintown, Eat 'n Park,  
 5451 Mahoning Ave  
 All members welcome

**Members Meeting:**

august 17, Davidson's  
 3636 Canfield Rd., Cornersburgh

**Speaker:** None



**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)



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

FROM THE SECRETARY



Hello to all, I hope everyone is well, and able to do something. Once again nothing to report except the P.O. box is up and running. I hope everyone received that email. Still waiting for the corona virus to go away so we can have in person meetings again. For me

I finally got my hole dug for my tower, the hole is bigger than it needs to be, but I wasn't running the backhoe! (Wish I could have) but since my neighbor was having some work done, and the contractor just happened to have the backhoe with him, I went and asked. He came over and dug the hole in a few minutes. Now I just have to find new parts for my antenna, or maybe upgrade my HF antenna, but I am feeling frugal! I expect (hope and pray) to have the tower up by the end of September. So I should have a few pics for the Wave Bender. Oh! For those of you who keep praying for heat - could you have it at your place not mine!



Thanks much! Mike, KC8UNR, WRARC/Secretary

PS. Yes I know i need to bail the water out and remove the dead roots. Once my parts are here I can get the base of the tower set up.



Steve Melachrinis, W3HF, has a complete listing of old callbooks, covering almost 90 years, from 1909 through 1997. Steve is happy to provide assistance in callsign research.

Requests can be submitted through his website <http://www.w3hf.com/>

This is a volunteer effort on his part so please allow some time for him to respond.

73 Ken Humbertson, WØKAH  
SCARC/Treasurer



KC8UNR Mike Cibella  
KE8OKO Rob Dunham



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

RADIO AMATEUR TAKES PART IN HISTORIC FIRST COMMERCIAL HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT

**Radio Amateur Takes Part in Historic First Commercial Human Spaceflight to ISS** - Bob Behnken, KE5GGX, was one of two NASA astronauts who made spaceflight history over the weekend. Behnken and Doug Hurley were the first astronauts since the 1970s to make a water landing, after their Crew Dragon capsule splashed down in the Gulf of Mexico on Sunday. On May 30, the pair made history as the first live crew to be launched into space in a commercial vehicle, for a stay on the International Space Station (ISS), marking the return of human spaceflight to US soil for the first time in nearly a decade.

A SpaceX Falcon 9 vehicle carried the crew into orbit from Cape Canaveral. The so-called "Demo-2" was the last major test for SpaceX's human spaceflight system, to be certified by NASA for operational crew missions to and from the ISS. Four huge parachutes carried the Crew Dragon capsule to a safe splashdown near Pensacola, Florida, on Sunday, August 1.



**Bob Behnken, KE5GGX (left), and Doug Hurley after splashdown. [NASA, photo]**

"On behalf of the SpaceX and NASA teams, welcome back to planet Earth," SpaceX Engineer Michael Heiman radioed to the crew after their landing. "And thanks for flying SpaceX."

NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine proclaimed that the US was entering a new era of human spaceflight, noting that NASA was no longer the only option for US space travel. "We are going to be a customer," he said. NASA has contracted with two companies -- SpaceX and Boeing -- to ferry astronaut crews to and from the ISS. While part of the space station crew for 2 months, Behnken and Astronaut Chris Cassidy, KF5KDR, the sole American onboard when their Endeavour capsule docked, carried out four spacewalks to install new batteries on the ISS.

The SpaceX Crew Dragon vehicle was designed for short-term missions, and Behnken and Hurley's mission had only been expected to last a week. As a result, Behnken did not receive Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) training on the ISS ham radio gear so he could take part in school contacts.



Used with permission

**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  
 rwilliams@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**

**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**

**GREAT LAKE VICE DIRECTOR**

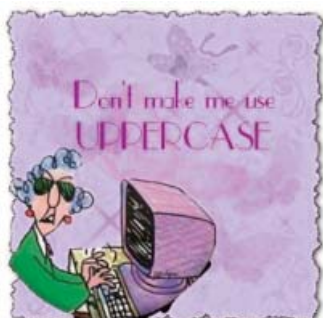
Tom DeLaney, W8WTD, our Great Lake Vice Director, has decided not to run for re-election. Here's his official announcement:

"Greetings Great Lakes Division ARRL Members. After much consideration, I have decided not to run for re-election as Vice Director for the Great Lakes Division. It has been a privilege to serve in this capacity. I remain committed to the ARRL and its goals for amateur radio. Thanks to all who have shown me such support and encouragement over these past six years.

Very 73, Tom Delaney W8WTD"



**COULD I BE TALKING TO YOU?**



Could I be Talking to 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! What are you doing while stuck at home? Do you 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 or one larger next month!!

OHIO SECTION NEWSLETTER CONTEST

Judge Steve Wilson:

“WHEW !!! Difficult to handle newsletter judging with Covid-19, but also difficult to handle the business of putting the newsletters together. Our hats off to everyone who kept working despite the Coronavirus.” Our 2020 Newsletter contest was certainly different this year but we learned many new things about our newsletters and our process....more on that in a moment...let’s get right to the winners.

1stPlace...Alliance ARC –ZERO BEAT - John Myers, KD8MQ, editor

2ndPlace...Portage County ARS PCARS -Radiogram Tom Parkinson, KB8UUZ, editor

3rdPlace...TIE -MahoningValley ARC -Voice Coil - Mark Haverstock, K8MSH, editor  
& Delaware County ARC -DELARA NEWS

4thPlace...ATCO Amateur Television Central Ohio –ATCO NEWSLETTER - Jim Andrews, KH6HTV, editor

Honorable Mention...Cincinnati FM Club CFMC –The SPARK - Ken Irwin, W8LTT, editor

CONGRATULATIONS to our winners and to everyone... a job well done!



What a surprise! In the July issue of CQ I got mentioned because of the Wave Bender. Our Ohio SM, Scott, N8SY, let me know in his July sixth issue of his weekly newsletter the PostScript. (See below) While I try hard to place in the yearly Ohio Section newsletter contest, and have made it a couple of times, but not this year, this came as quite a surprise to know a magazine like CQ would single me out like this.

I waited, not very patiently, to see who the author of the article might be. I routinely send this particular newsletter to long ago SoCal friends as a way to keep in touch, and to let them know what we are doing in and for Amateur Radio, as we’ve always been active contributing Hams. Yes, it was a long ago friend, and Yes, I thanked him!

**Ohio Newsletter Recognized in CQ Magazine**

**“Don’t Forget The Newsletter and Website”**

Each month I look forward to reviewing news from my own from my own club and I sneak a peek at many others by visiting their respective websites. It’s vital to keep that information fresh and a great way to shar some “How To” technical info in graphic form that can’t be adequately shared over the air.

I’ll do a shout-out to Ohio’s Western Reserve Amateur Radio Club and newsletter editor Jane Avnet, K8JAA.

Each month she assembles and distributes a multipage newsletter that’s newsy, topical, and punctuated with a bit of humor. It’s distributed via email in PDF format so it’s easy to read and distributed to anyone who wants it. This proactive approach to distribution is another way to reach club members who may not be able to participate in the nets and, in recent months, unable to attend meetings. Their newsletter format is a good template for other clubs to emulate. If you need samples, an archive is available at the club’s website, [www.wrarc.net](http://www.wrarc.net)



Photo A. The front page of the excellent newsletter from Ohio’s Western Reserve Amateur Radio Club (Courtesy of K8JAA, editor)





The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) announces the 13th Annual "Ohio State Parks on the Air" (OSPOTA) contest, from the hours of 10 am to 6 pm ET (1400 UTC to 2200 UTC).

- 13th OSPOTA - September 12, 2020
- 14th OSPOTA - September 11, 2021
- 15th OSPOTA - September 10, 2022
- 16th OSPOTA - September 09, 2023
- 17th OSPOTA - September 07, 2024
- 18th OSPOTA - September 06, 2025
- 19th OSPOTA - September 12, 2026
- 20th OSPOTA - September 11, 2027

Always on the first Saturday after the Labor Day holiday.

For hams throughout the State of Ohio, this is your opportunity to visit and enjoy the amenities offered by the 75 beautiful State Parks here in Ohio. Don't just make a day of it - spend the weekend at the park of your choice. No matter whether you are camping or staying at one of the outstanding lodges or resorts, you will find that the parks are one of Ohio's greatest assets. Find out more about the Ohio State Parks at:

In past years, hundreds of Amateur Radio Operators (hams) from around the country participated in the event. With the success of OSPOTA, we hope to have amateur radio operators at every Ohio State Park.

This contest places a premium on working stations located in the Ohio State Parks. That means that it is critical to have as many parks activated as possible. The challenge for Ohio stations will be to work HF in the 50 to 300 mile range. This is the perfect opportunity to learn more about the design and deployment of Near Vertical Incident Skywave (NVIS) antennas. You can find numerous designs on the Internet and in various Amateur Radio antenna manuals. Along with your operating skills, it will be a chance to showcase your antenna building skills as well.

Individuals and multiple operators can operate Ohio State Park stations. Non-park stations in Ohio as well as stations outside of Ohio can also compete.

Contacts can be made on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters using SSB. All contacts have the same point values.

Make sure that you read the Rules, FAQ's and get your forms for the contest that are posted on the OSPOTA website: [www.ospota.org](http://www.ospota.org) before the contest.

So get to an Ohio State Park and get On the Air in September. Have some fun with this contest! Learn more about PCARS at [www.portcars.org](http://www.portcars.org).

73 for now, OSPOTA Contest Committee

ARRL Volunteer Monitors recognized 13 operators in 10 states with Good Operator letters during the second quarter of 2020. Among the operators recognized were CW and SSB operators on 20 and 40 meters, outstanding net operators on 2 meters (including a net control of the Central Indiana SKYWARN Net), and an operator on 40 meters who demonstrated exemplary courtesy and assistance to amateurs with technical issues.



SAQ ALEXANDERSON DAY IN THE AGE OF COVID-19

Despite mid-summer conditions, at least seven US listeners, most of them radio amateurs, were able to copy the 17.2 kHz signal from the SAQ Alexanderson alternator at the World Heritage Grimeton Radio Station in Sweden. The July 5 transmission from the vintage electro-mechanical transmitter commemorated the annual Alexanderson Day. All told, more than 600 were received -- a new record.



**Kai Sundberg, SA6KSU, at the helm of SAQ in a radio uniform dating back to the 1960s.**

"The odds were not optimal this year, with the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, and early Sunday morning, the rain was pouring down, and heavy wind gusts made it hard to even take a peek at the antennas outdoors," the report from SAQ said. "The transmitter hall was empty except for five members of the Alexander Association."

Dating from the 1920s, the Alexanderson alternator -- essentially an ac alternator run at extremely high speed -- can put out 200 kW, but is typically operated at less than half that power level. Once providing reliable transatlantic communication, it is now a museum piece and only put on the air on special occasions.

The transmitter was developed by Swedish engineer and radio pioneer Ernst Alexanderson, who was employed at General Electric in Schenectady, New York, and was chief engineer at the Radio Corporation of America.

Two Alexanderson Day transmissions were made. "On the first transmission, the rainy weather was making it hard at first to reach good output to the antenna, but after a few minutes with the 'VVV VVV VVV de SAQ' loop, the system started to dry, and the amps [antenna current] increased. Skies cleared for the second transmission later in the day, and, according to the report, the antenna current rose to 60 A, which 'is optimal,'" the report said.

The occasion marked the inaugural transmission by Kai Sundberg, SA6KSU, at the helm of SAQ in a radio uniform dating back to the 1960s.

An article about Alexanderson Day, "The Legacy of Radio at Grimeton Station, SAQ," appears on page 66 of the July 2019 issue of QST.

Lost Video Archive from 1997 Heard Island VK0IR DXpedition Found

The VK0IR DXpedition to Heard Island took place in January and February of 1997. Co-Leader (with Peter Casier, ON6TT) Robert Schmieder, KK6EK, shot a lot of video during the amateur radio adventure, but lost track of it afterward. During the VK0IR DXpedition, DXers from around the world were astounded that signals from the subantarctic Indian Ocean could be heard at the bottom of the solar cycle. A team of 20 operators carried out the massive, expensive, then-high-tech, and very successful DXpedition, making a remarkable 80,673 contacts. The VK0IR story was told in detail in the September 1997 issue of QST.

"Recently, I discovered about 6 hours of video that I had shot during the expedition, but which had never been seen -- not even by me!" Schmieder told The Daily DX. "I divided the collection into six parts, which I have posted to YouTube." Schmieder offered his introductions to each segment:



**VK0IR operator Willy Reusch, HB9AHL.**

"On 11 January 1997, 20 men landed on one of the most remote places in the world: Heard Island,

*Continued page 9*



## SAQ ALEXANDERSON DAY - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

located in the Southern Ocean, almost to Antarctica. They set up a village with all life support, including accommodations, light and power, galley, and a huge array of radios, antennas, and satellite communications gear.

"Over the next 2 weeks, using the call sign VK0IR, the team logged 80,673 contacts with radio operators worldwide, a new world record for self-supported expeditions. The team also made daily explorations around the island to document the rocks, glaciers, rivers, plants, birds, and seals that are the dominant residents of this live volcano. Many of you will remember this expedition, and quite a few of you made significant contributions.

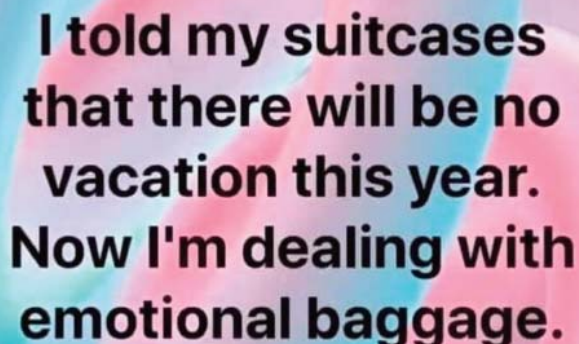
"The expedition was documented in numerous articles, presentations, and professional videos, and received many awards, including a 2020 poll that ranks it #1 among all such expeditions of the past 30 years.

"Unnoticed at the time, [I] shot 6 hours of video of all aspects of the project. Unfortunately, these videos were lost until mid-2020, 23 years later. No one, including [me], had ever viewed these videos. Upon finding them, [I] divided the material into six separate parts. Other than separation into the parts, the videos needed little editing. They contain almost all of the material that was shot in 1997, and most of it is in exactly the order it was shot."

The videos, which might offer an entertaining club presentation, are available by searching "Robert Schmieder Heard Island" on YouTube.com. -- Thanks to The Daily DX <<https://www.dailydx.com/>>

Everyone PLEASE be careful because people are going crazy from being locked down at home! I was talking about this with the microwave and the toaster this morning, while drinking my coffee. We all agreed that things are getting bad. I didn't mention this to the washing machine, because she puts a different spin on EVERYTHING!! Certainly couldn't share with the fridge, 'cause he's been acting cold and distant lately! In the end, the iron straightened me out! She said the situation isn't all that pressing and all the wrinkles will soon get ironed out! The vacuum, however, was very unsympathetic . . . told me to just suck it up! But the fan was VERY optimistic and gave me hope that it will all blow over soon! The toilet looked a bit flushed but didn't say anything when I asked its opinion, but the front door said I was becoming unhinged and the doorknob told me to get a grip! You can just about guess what the curtains told me: "pull yourself together!" we will survive!! Gotta keep the humor!

Been talking to the flowers a lot . . . they sooth my soul! The above was shared by a FB friend.  
PS. My computer and I wonder why we don't hear from more of you. You are what makes this newsletter so special.



**I told my suitcases  
that there will be no  
vacation this year.  
Now I'm dealing with  
emotional baggage.**

# September 2020

PREPAREDNESS LEADS TO READINESS - MATT W8DEC



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 WRARC Net 9:00PM 145.270 Swap n' Shop Ask the Elmers	5
6	7 <b>Labor Day</b> 	8 Eat'n Park Austintown 8:30 A.M. Ham Community Breakfast	9	10	11 WRARC Net 9:00PM 145.270 Swap n' Shop Ask the Elmers	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 WRARC Net 9:00PM 145.270 Swap n' Shop Ask the Elmers	19
20  Wave Bender Articles Due	21 Eat'n Park Austintown 8:30 A.M. Ham Community Breakfast	22 Autumn begins 9:31 A.M. 	23	24	25 WRARC Net 9:00PM 145.270 Swap n' Shop Ask the Elmers	26
27 National No Excuses Day	28	29	30		WRARC Net 9:00PM 145.270 Swap n' Shop Ask the Elmers	