

**OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society Inc.**

Our 45th Year of Service to Cincinnati in Amateur Radio  
A Special Service Club of the American Radio Relay League  
(the national association for Amateur Radio)

**OFFICERS & BOARD**

President	Phil Smith	KG8AP	513=771-7839	kg8ap@arrl.net
Vice President	Brian DeYoung	K4BRI	859=635-0596	k4bri@arrl.net
Cor. Secretary	Carol Hugentober	WA8YL	513=661-5323	wa8yl@arrl.net
Rec. Secretary	Susie Scott	N8CGM	513=385-5201	n8cgm@arrl.net
Treasurer	Rick Haltermon	KD4PYR	859=384-3311	kd4pyr@arrl.net
Directors	Ken Croll	N8ASV	513=202-1208	n8asv@arrl.net
	Lynn Ernst	WD8JAW	859=657-6161	wd8jaw@arrl.net
	Bruce Vanselow	N8BV	513=251-1555	n8bv@juno.com
Trustee/Licensee	Bob Frey	WA6EZV	513=741-9953	wa6ezv@arrl.net

**REPEATERS K8SCH/R**

146.67(-) 146.625(-) 146.925(-) 442.775(+)

**APRS WIDE**

144.39 K8SCH-10

**Web Pages**

[www.ohkyin.org](http://www.ohkyin.org)

[w3.one.net/~bfrey/okidx.html](http://w3.one.net/~bfrey/okidx.html) (DX)

Link to OH-KY-IN Hamfest page, Permanent link to Foxhunting page

Regular monthly meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM local time at the Western Hills Church of Christ, 5064 Sidney Rd. (corner of Sidney & Covedale) in Western Hills, Cincinnati. Visitors are ALWAYS welcome!

**For membership information contact**

Ken Croll N8ASV 9998 Dick Rd. Harrison OH 45030 513=202-1208  
[n8asv@arrl.net]

Permission is hereby granted to any amateur radio group to quote or reprint from this publication, provided proper source credit is given.

*The Q-FIVER* is the official newsletter of OH-KY-IN ARS, edited & published monthly by the following amateurs:

Susie Scott N8CGM 6351 Daleview Road 45247 513=385-5201 Editor  
Jack Koch KA8JFE 2135 Central Parkway 45214 513=721-1203 Publisher,  
Keystone Printing Co.

Please send submissions for the *Q-FIVER* (including notice of upgrades & call changes) as well as circulation problems & address changes to Ye Ed. Susie N8CGM. These may be:

- > mailed to or dropped off at 6351 Daleview Rd, Cinti OH 45247
- > telephoned to 513=385-5201 any time (answerer takes up to 4 min. dictation)
- > e-mailed to [n8cgm@arrl.net]

# THE Q-FIVER

(kyoo fi ver) Q: A scale of amateur radio signal readability progressing from 1 (unreadable) to 5 (perfectly readable). "You're Q5" = "Your signal is perfectly readable." (*ARRL Handbook*, 52d ed. 1975)

*October 2003 Volume 45 Number 10*

**Due to recent demands on his time, Ye Prez was not able to do a column for this issue.**

## **Next meeting**

Tuesday, October 7 is Oh-Ky-In's annual **ARRL Night**. Section Manager Joe Phillips K8QOE has expressed his intent to be present. Assistant SM John Haungs W8STX and Division Director Jim Weaver K8JE were still checking their schedules at deadline. Don't miss this one at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, October 7, 2003 at the WESTERN HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST, 5064 Sidney Rd in Covedale.

Coming west from town on Glenway Avenue, pass Ferguson Rd and turn left onto Sidney between the BP gas station and Sebastian's Greek restaurant, just before the Frisch's. Then turn right at the stoplight into the drive down to the church parking lot. The entrance is at the back of the building. Plenty of parking is available.

73, *Brian K4BRI*

## **Minutes of members' meeting, Tuesday, September 2, 2003**

Phil KG8AP called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions. There were no guests, new licensees or health and welfare traffic. 29 were in attendance.

Brag time: Dick WB4SUV mentioned the ARDF coverage on the ARRL web page.

Brian K4BRI conducted the program, 1. discussion of Broadband over Power Line which seems to be rampant. Maybe a better term might be PLC, power line communications. At lower frequencies and speeds this appears to be less of a problem. But still, to stay within Part 15.209, one needs something encapsulated that won't radiate. It is still possible to file reply comments to the FCC on BPL – if you haven't already done so, please do it!

2. There are 6 separate proposals for CW up before the FCC.

Program adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Business meeting came to order at 8:12 PM. Phil KG8AP thanked Jo KD4PYS for staffing hospitality.

Lynn WD8JAW moved and Mike KC8NMF seconded that the minutes of last meeting be approved as printed in the *Q-Fiver*. No dissent, motion carried.

Ken N8ASV is the new membership chair. He reported that there are 174 members presently.

Treasurer Rick KDE4PYR reported no more big income or expense. \$2200 is accounted for by gear purchases.

Silent Key: Bruce N8BV still has an Icom 735 and 440 HT of W8IIO's to move. They're going to eBay if folk don't call.

Brian K4BRI reported that the Technical Committee will try to climb at Mt St Joseph this Saturday. .67 voter needs work, he will pull it out to take home. Who knows how long this will take, some speed is desired. Committee meets at .67 next Tuesday. We are presently operating as a single site with no remotes in service.

Harry WA8LOJ asked for club gear that if any is sold at the GCARA Hamfest, please advise him. There was some question about whether the old GEs were going out.

Phil KG8AP asked for a volunteer to staff the Oh-Ky-In table at the GCARA Hamfest. The purpose of this is to hand out info, not sell gear. Tom KC8NMF agreed to do this.

Bob WA6EZV reported for the fox hunt that what took an hour in the *Q-Fiver* required 2 hours for all hounds to show up within 2 minutes of each other. Brian K4BRI is the next fox.

Librarian Jim KC8PRY reported the arrival of new books and CDs.

Harry WA8LOJ lamented that the slow-scan net is into its super-slow season.

Bruce N8BV announced that Brian K4BRI will be NCS tomorrow.

ARPSC: Dennis KB8ROA was present, and announced their picnic this Friday (in the *Q-Fiver*).

No WARN report.

Pete KC8BZM reminded those present of the QCEN meeting on the 3d Friday. He is unsure of the topic for this time.

Lynn WD8JAW said it's time for background checks for ID cards again.

Old business: Brian K4BRI reported that the club picnic was nice, no rain but water balloons, and a good turnout. Bob WA6EZV said this week should be the last mention of ARDF on Newslines.  
Hamfest: Lynn WD8JAW announced that Amateur Accessories which comes to our Hamfest has taken a paid business card ad in the *Q-Fiver*. When purchasing gear, think of them. Hamfest wrap-up meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>.  
Bob WA6EZV asked Bruce N8BV to please do a repeater message for the voter pull for pre-emptive maintenance. Our own "desert rat" Eric N8YC would have won the attendance award if he were not still deployed. Sum next month should be \$15. Ken N8ASV won \$11.50 in split-the-pot.  
Judd N8RVR moved to adjourn at 8:33 PM, Bob WB8JHT second, motion carried.  
Respectfully submitted, *Susie Scott N8CGM*, Recording Secretary

2276 Hwy 376  
Webster KY 40176-7314  
[ka4map@bbtel.com]

(logo)

## Amateur Radio Emergency Service – Kentucky Section

September 6, 2003

LYNN G. ERNST, WD8JAW  
10650 Aspen Place  
Union KY 41091-7665

Lynn:

It is with great pride and respect that I, Ron Dodson, KA4MAP, as the Kentucky Section Emergency Coordinator present you with the Kentucky Amateur Radio Emergency Service's Operator of the Year Award for 2003! This award, started in 1999, is given to amateurs who have shown an exceptional dedication to our section's Amateur Radio Emergency Service program in emergency preparedness and response.

In recognition of your unflinching and multi-faceted service to the ARES program within the Seventh District and the Kentucky Section through your work in nets, development of training, participation in exercises and numerous emergency responses. Without exception any time an event occurs within your reach, you are there. Your eagerness to serve as Net Control and handling coordination of activities is unfaltering. Through your cooperative efforts as an assistant to the Seventh District Emergency Coordinator, to work with both amateurs and served agencies, a strong program exists in the district which can be counted upon to respond to any need at any time.

Please accept this, the Kentucky ARES Operator of the Year for 2003 Award, as an expression of the deep admiration held by us all for your boundless dedication to Amateur Radio and the Kentucky Section Amateur Radio Emergency Service from the leadership and the nearly one thousand ARES members section-wide. Given at the Greater Louisville Hamfest this 6<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2003.

Sincerely,

Ronald L. Dodson, KA4MAP  
Kentucky Section Emergency Coordinator

Kentucky radio amateurs in service to  
Kentucky communities .....

== Advertisements == which will not scan for pdf!

N8RVR VIP-PC PEST CONTROL SERVICE (513) 251-6846 E-Mail [N8RVR1@JUNO.COM](mailto:N8RVR1@JUNO.COM)  
William A.J. Sexton

---

---

**THE TRUCK STOP RJW Re-styling** GRAPHICS \* LETTERING \* ACCESSORIES

**4855 GLENWAY AVE. (513) 921-1836 CUSTOM ACCESSORIES FOR TRUCK, CAR, OR SUV**

---

---

single space not permitted in RE/MAX ad

RE/MAX Results Plus

Jim Elmore, ABR Realtor R

photo

Register to Win \$1000 at: JimElmoreSells.com

Direct: 602-SOLD KC8FQY Office: 229-5000

Member Cincinnati Area Board of Realtors

[jelmore@one.net](mailto:jelmore@one.net)

Member National Association of Realtors

Call me for a market analysis of your home

Accredited Buyer Representative

**My team can assist you with all of your real estate needs.**

RE/MAX Balloon

\* Buying/Selling Tips and Strategies

Our offices are located

graphic

Above

\* Neighborhood and School Information

at 5181 Natorp Blvd

The

\* Relocation

in Mason

Crowd!

\* New Homes

ofc photo

- Guaranteed Sale Program

Realtor logo

Equal Housing logo

**Eyeball Cards**      **=====Quik**

**QSL Cards**      **=====Cards**

W5VK – N0NAZ

Darryl & Chris Evans

22103 Gardner Road

Spring Hill, KS 66083

913-302-9731

[quikcards@juno.com](mailto:quikcards@juno.com)

[www.quikcards.biz](http://www.quikcards.biz)

# *Amateur Accessories, Inc.*

"Our Name Says It All!"

lightning bolt

lightning bolt

## **STEVE ZAHOS KR4S**

\* Hamfests      \* Internet      \* Mail Order

**MFJ, Heil, MAHA, Diamond, Ramsey, Battery-Tech, ARRL, Etc.**

**P.O. Box 7333**

**Phone (217) 352-1725**

**Champaign, IL 61826**

**Fax (217) 352-1781**

E-Mail: [kr4s@msn.com](mailto:kr4s@msn.com)

[www.amateuraccessories.com](http://www.amateuraccessories.com)

=====

**OH Section News** last updated: Tue, September 16, 2003 at 7:27 PM ET

SM: Joe Phillips, K8QOE, Fairfield, (to contact me, see page 12 in *QST*); ASM-NE: Bob Winston, W2THU, Cleveland; ASM-NW: Ron Griffin, N8AEH, Findlay; ASM-Central: Bill Carpenter, AA8EY, Westerville; ASM-SW: John Haungs, W8STX, Cincinnati; ASM-SE: Connie Hamilton, N8IO, Marietta; INTERIM SEC John Chapman, WB8INY, Columbus; ACC: Brenda Krukowski, KB8IUP, Toledo; TC: Tom Holmes, N8ZM, Tipp City; PIC: Scott Yonally, N8SY, Mansfield; OOC: Alan Cook, N7CEU, Newark; SGL: Reuben Meeks, W8GUC, Vandalia.

..OCTOBER SECTION NEWS; This edition was going to be a happy one - describing the great success of the Great Lakes Division Convention at Findlay. But just two days later, the Ohio Section suffered a great loss with the sudden death of Loren "Larry" Rain, WD8IHP, of Mansfield. As Section Emergency Coordinator the past four years, Larry brought Ohio's ARES program into the 21st century by enhancing the roles of the DEC's, filling county vacancies and joining the Ohio Single Side Band Net into the emergency response plan. Read the full story at our web sites (1) [www.arrl.org/sections/OH.html](http://www.arrl.org/sections/OH.html) or (2) <http://www.maser.org/>.

..John Chapman, WB8INY, of Columbus, DEC of District Seven (Central Ohio), will serve the Section as interim SEC until November 1. John can be reached at 743 Fleetrun Avenue, Gahanna, OH, 43230 or (cell) 614-946-4001 or E-mail <[wb8iny@arrl.net](mailto:wb8iny@arrl.net)>. Among other ARES projects upcoming is the October SET. Contact your county EC for more details. John will take full authority as SEC in the interim and receive full cooperation from everyone.

..On November 1, a permanent SEC appointment will be made. All DEC's who wish to be candidates should contact the Section Manager. We are committed to fact that the new SEC will come from the ranks of the District Emergency Coordinators.

..October is the month ham radio and the Boy Scouts join forces. It is called "Jamboree On The Air" (JOTA). Many local clubs in Ohio give Boy Scouts actual on air experiences.

..George Henzler, WB8HHZ, of Toledo, District Emergency Coordinator and long time supporter of amateur radio activities, is the 10th Ohio ham to receive the Alan Severson, AB8P, (SK) Memorial Award for outstanding service to the Ohio Section. The presentation was made during the ARRL Forum at the Findlay Hamfest.

.."Pioneer Radiator," the newsletter of the Pioneer ARF of Akron (Summit County), won the 12th annual Ohio newsletter contest, also awarded at the Findlay Hamfest. Second place was awarded to "HF Chronicles" of the West Chester ARA (Butler County) and third place was awarded to "News Unwired," the newsletter of the Grant ARC (Adams County). See full details at the web sites. The winning editors are

Jesse Wall, KA8YYZ, Akron (first place), Mike Ashley, KC8PTP, West Chester (second place) and Carolyn Donner, N8ST, Georgetown (third place).

..OHIO SECTION REMEMBERS: Lillian Abbot, K8CKI (SK), who died in August near Cincinnati. For more than two decades (mid-60s to mid-80s), if you earned a ham license in Cincinnati, you probably passed a ham course taught by Lillian and her husband, Jim, W8CKJ (SK since 1991). And Queen City hams will tell you that's a bunch of licenses.

..OHIO SECTION CONGRATS TO: George Race, WB8BGY, of Albion, MI, the former Great Lakes Division Director for being the first winner of the George Wilson W4OYI, plaque awarded at the Division Convention at Findlay. Mr. Race gain prominence for traveling more than 600,000 miles within the Division (Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky) during his term of office representing the ARRL. Mr. Wilson, W4OYI, of Owensboro, KY, a former Division Director served the ARRL as National President - the only Great Lakes Division member to do so. Mr. Wilson, as League attorney, argued the 1993 amateur radio antenna case in Federal court, which led to the famous PRB-One - the FCC directive solidifying ham radio tower privileges.

.. OHIO SECTION OCTOBER HAMFESTS; (5) at Medina sponsored by the Two Meter Group. For more info; contact <n8tzy@m3net.net> or the web site at <www.qsl.net/n8tzy>; (11) at Lima for the NorthWest Ohio ARC, For more info, contact <kc0jdt@yahoo.com> or go to the web site at <http://www.nwoarc.org> and (26) at Canton for the Massillon ARC. For more info, contact <w9np@qsl.net> or go to the web site at <http://www.marcradio.org>....de *Joe Phillips, K8QOE*.

## Contests

October 2003

- 4-5 Oceania DX Contest, SSB; PSK Rumble (The Fall Classic); CA QSO Party; QCWA QSO Party, CW & SSB; RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest, SSB
- 8-10 YLRL Anniversary Party, CW
- 11-12 Ten-Ten Day Sprint, all mode; Oceania DX Contest, CW; PA QSO Party, CW & Phone; FISTS Fall Sprint, CW (of course!); NA RTTY Sprint
- 15-17 YLRL Anniversary Party, SSB
- 18-19 Worked All Germany, CW & SSB; JARTS WW RTTY Contest; QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party, CW; RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest, CW; IL QSO Party; USI W/VE Islands QSO Party, all mode
- 25-26 CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB; ARRL International EME Contest; Ten-Ten International CW & Digital Contest

Go get 'em! -For more information see *QST*, *CQ*, or <http://www.remote.arrl.org/contests/>

73, *Dan KF4AV*

## Elementary Antenna Experiments

by Greg May KG4QGY

I have been a ham for a year and a half now. Being retired, I have time during the day to tinker with electronics, and this year I started reading about various VHF antennas. My wife Judy and I chose 50 watt mobiles for our first radios, as opposed to the common route of HTs that many new hams take. As a result, much of our on-air time has been conducted through a zero-cost home-built 2 meter vertical dipole. The antenna performs very well for us, but as we plan to move it up in elevation, we wanted to know how much better a different type of antenna could do. Instead of utilizing the trusted experience of other veteran hams, we decided it would be fun to build a variety of simple antennas and test them ourselves.

I started by searching the *QST* archives for antenna articles that might be of interest, and I downloaded those that were available on-line. For the older articles, I wrote down the specific references, and obtained copies from the library's collection of *QST* back issues. I also searched through many antenna books, both new and old, for relevant plans. When the research was done, I had a list of eight antennas to be compared, all quite different from one another. Included in the list was one commercially built antenna, a three element yagi beam from Arrow Antenna, that we already owned for satellite work. By its nature, I assumed it was going to outperform any antenna I built, but I could not resist pitting it against the competition anyway.

The first antenna to be built was a ¼ wave ground plane, based on an SO-239 connector with the radials and vertical whip made of 1/8 inch brazing rod. Second was the classic J-pole made from copper pipe, straight from our copy of *The ARRL Handbook*. Although I am very familiar with various torches, I have actually never sweat soldered copper pipe! Nonetheless, the construction was simple and fun, mostly due to how well the pre-manufactured plumbing parts fit together.

For the testing, each antenna was mounted outdoors, 16 feet above ground on PVC masts, at an elevation of 900 feet above sea level. No metal objects were within 5 feet of the antennas. The feedlines were RG-58, with a coil balun located at the antenna connector. Testing was performed using 5 watts, simplex. The receiving station would be at least 6 miles away, located in less-than-favorable terrain. After mounting, each home-made antenna was tuned for lowest SWR at 146.565. The three aspects to be noted for each antenna would be S-meter signal strength, quality and volume of audio, and the level of background noise.

I must admit, I had a slight fear before beginning these tests, that after all this preparation there might not be an easily perceivable difference between the operational qualities of the various antennas. I need not have been concerned. I had been told by a friend before the first test that any J-pole antenna should outperform a ¼ wave ground plane because J-poles are generally considered to have gain. And he was right! The S-meter told the whole story, not only at the remote receive site, but also back at home base during the receive portions of the contact. Where as the ground plane generated a consistent 5, the J-pole pegged the meter at 40 over 9! I was elated at the results and the intensity of the difference.

Next up was a very simple dipole, made of brazing rod screwed onto a horizontal PVC pipe. At the time, I anticipated that the antenna would have no gain, and would be quite equal to the ground plane. After tuning for minimum SWR, the testing was conducted and I was surprised by the results. The S-meter signal strength came in at a steady 9, right in-between the other two antennas. The dipole was clearly superior to the ground plane. A knowledgeable friend has since filled me in; indeed, a halfwave dipole is a better radiator than a quarter wave, and therefore should exhibit some gain.

It is interesting to note how a low SWR reading during antenna tuning does **NOT** foretell how well an antenna will perform. I have never seen such low readings on my SWR meter as I obtained on the ground plane antenna. At the time, those readings gave me the false impression that the ground plane would perform fantastically. The actual field testing proved otherwise.

In the coming weeks there will be more antenna building, some with a bit more complexity. In addition to the commercial beam antenna already mentioned, the following 2 meter antennas are on my list:

- two different versions of 5/8 wave ground planes with base matching coils
- a funky vertical X-Beam
- a very short whip with both center loading coil and a top hat
- a ½ wave whip with matching circuit
- the DBJ-1 twin-lead J-pole from the Feb. 2003 *QST* magazine

Stay tuned for further testing, and 73! *Greg KG4QGY*

## Ready for 160 mtrs?

Well, the 11 year sunspot cycle is about as low as you can go. You can either pack up your HF equipment and take up some other hobby for a few years, or you can move further down the RF spectrum. When things are bad on 20mtrs and above, they get better below 20mtrs. Now is the time to work on your 40mtr DXCC or try your luck at 160mtrs. The QRN on the lower bands will quite down this winter, so now is the time to make your plans.

While I am no expert on 160, I have made a few contacts with very short (inefficient) antennas. I have even heard a mobile on 160!

Or, you can take the show on the road and build a portable 160mtr antenna and drive it to some open site where all the RF can do its job instead of warming the siding on your house.

Still reading? Check out <http://www.w6trw.com/contests/160.PDF> to see how one group built a portable phased array for 160 and used it in a contest.

Anybody ready for a 160mtr DXpedition?

73, *Ken N8ASV*

## But wait! There's more ...

I have to agree with Ken, N8ASV. During this difficult time in the sunspot cycle, it would be best to head for the bands that make QSO's a little more manageable. Thanks Ken for sending the article along about the wire antenna suspended by the balloon! Those operators had a great time with that experiment.

Another idea for everyone during this dip in the cycle is to get your brass polish out and clean up that morse key! I usually work about as much CW as I do sideband, but it looks like the trend will be towards CW for awhile.

Not only will it help to get you some more QSO's, but it will also aid us in retaining the portions of the bands that seem to get less and less use. We always say we don't want to lose any spectrum...now is the time to do something about it.

Set a goal for yourself...mark a date on the calendar, and decide that you'll be copying 13 wpm by that date, or even 20 wpm.

There are plenty of resources on the internet to help you get your code speed up. I think one of the best resources is turning your rig on and start sending CQ. Don't wait for the other stations to send it. To coin a phrase from the popular athletic company Nike: "Just Do It" !!

73's, *Nathan Ciufo* KA3MTT

### **Weaver's Words -- We-Need-to-Act-Now Edition**

Dear fellow ARRL members,

This message is too long and I know it! In spite of this, I hope you will hang in there with me, read it and take the needed action to protect our -- your and my -- frequencies. Please understand that legislation does not pass Congress unless our Representatives and Senators want it to pass. How do we get them to want to pass Amateur Radio related legislation? Show them that we, the people who control the ballot boxes, want it. President Haynie and our Washing-ton attorneys are doing everything they can, but they can't do it alone. We (all the rest of us hams) need you to chip in and do your thing, too.

Please do it!

**WRITE TO SUPPORT THE FREQUENCY PROTECTION ACT**

The Frequency Protection Act of 2003, IF PASSED, will ensure Amateur Radio has adequate frequencies on which to operate. In short, the FCC will be prohibited from arbitrarily taking frequencies they have assigned to us away from us. Your help is needed to support this act which has been introduced into the US House of Representatives as HR 713 and into the US Senate as S 537. (big SNIP here in print Q-Fiver)

The first action needed is to encourage as many representatives and senators as possible to cosponsor these bills. Many members of Congress will not consider co-sponsorship of comparatively small, technical bills like HR 713 and S 537 without concrete evidence of support from their own constituents. We Amateurs have not yet provided meaningful support of these bills. Now is the time to do it. Please help Amateur Radio make a statement on The Hill, by sending your Representatives and Senators letters asking them to be a co-sponsor. I'm doing this.

Too busy to send a letter? Send a QSL card that simply says "Support Amateur Radio. Cosponsor HR 713 or S 537."

Still too busy? Follow the instructions below to find your representative and senators and see if they list E-mail addresses.

Regardless of how you do it, **please write.**

To learn the names and addresses of your representative and senators, click on (you may need to click while pressing Control) the following links, one at a time:

<http://www.house.gov/writerep/> Representatives.

<http://www.senate.gov/contacting/index.cfm> Senators.

You will need to know your ZIP+4 postal code.

When you write, be aware that the following already are sponsors of the bills. Please write to express your continued interest in the legislation and to thank them for being sponsors. The current sponsors are:

US House of Representatives:

>From Kentucky: None

>From Michigan: Bart Stupak (1st Dist.)

>From Ohio: Paul Gilmore (5th Dist.), Ted Strickland (6th Dist.), Patrick Tiberi (12th Dist.)

US Senate:

>From Kentucky: None

>From Michigan: None

>From Ohio: None



When you can take the time to write a letter, you can use the following sample letter as a starting point. Then insert information about Amateur Radio emergency activities or other benefits we have given to the state and congressional district. Don't have time to modify the letter? Simply remove the "localization sentence" and send it as a boilerplate letter.

NOTE TO CLUBS: Why not get in on the act and write as a club to Representatives and Senators in your members' districts? Be sure to include the number of members in your club in the letter.

FURTHER NOTE: Please send a copy of your correspondence via e-mail to ARRL HQ at [specbill03@arrl.org] and to [k8je@arrl.org]. Tnx.

(big SNIP here in print *Q-Fiver*)

Sample Letters are:

Use this version to write to your congressperson (US Representative) regarding HR 713. It will be most effective if you customize this letter; however, if you do not have the time to do this, feel free to send it without the customization information. A version for your US Senator follows.

<YOUR NAME>  
<YOUR ADDRESS>  
<CITY, STATE ZIP>  
<DATE>

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_:

As one of the nation's more than 670,000 federally licensed radio amateurs, I urge you to co-sponsor HR 713, the "Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003," sponsored by Rep. Michael Bilirakis (R-FL).

This bill is a nonpartisan, non-controversial measure designed to help protect the radio frequencies used by Amateur Radio volunteers throughout our nation in providing emergency communications assistance during times of disaster. Most recently, radio amateurs have aided government and private relief agencies after the terrorist attacks of September 2001, during the severe forest fires which engulfed many parts of the Western United States last summer and during the huge power outage in the /northeastern part of the county just a few weeks ago. In <your state or locality> Amateur Radio operators assisted <name of agencies served> during <name/describe the emergency in which assistance was provided>. When other means of communications fail, Amateur Radio operators very often become the only reliable source of communications for the affected areas.

Your co-sponsorship of HR 713 will help ensure that Amateur Radio operators have access to the needed spectrum, essential to their public service role.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

<YOUR SIGNATURE>

Use the following version to write to your senator regarding S 537. It will be most effective if you customize this letter; however, if you do not have the time to do this, feel free to remove the customizing sentence and send it as the boiler-plate letter.

<YOUR NAME>  
<YOUR ADDRESS>  
<CITY, STATE ZIP>  
<DATE>

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_:

As one of the nation's more than 670,000 federally licensed radio amateurs, I urge you to co-sponsor S 537, the "Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003," sponsored by Sen. Michael Crapo (R-ID).

This bill is a non-partisan, non-controversial measure designed to help protect the radio frequencies used by Amateur Radio volunteers

throughout our nation in providing emergency communications assistance during times of disaster. Most recently, radio amateurs have aided government and private relief agencies after the terrorist attacks of September 2001, during the severe forest fires which engulfed many parts of the Western United States last summer and during the huge power

outage in the northeastern part of the county just a few weeks ago. In (your state or locality) Amateur Radio operators assisted (name of agencies served) during (name/describe the emergency in which assistance was provided). When other means of communications fail, Amateur Radio operators very often become the only reliable source of communications for the affected areas.

Your co-sponsorship of S 537 will help ensure that Amateur Radio operators have access to the needed spectrum essential to their public service role.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

<YOUR SIGNATURE>

Incidentally, I got most of the information for this item from the ARRL web site, [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org). Go there to learn more about this bill. When you get to the ARRL home page, search for Frequency Protection Act.

The main thing for you to do is to **write your representative and senators**. The more of us who write, the more influence we will have. Please do this before you forget. Mni tnx for your help.

## GOINGS ON

Vice Director Dick Mondro W8FQT and I have been making the rounds of hamfests/swaps and club meetings during recent weeks. In addition, we participated in a very successful Great Lakes Division Convention. I want to thank Former Director Gary Johnston, KI4LA for his peerless leadership as Convention Chairman, SM Joe Phillips, K8QOE for managing the arrangements with and at the Findlay Inn and Convention Center, SMs John Meyers NB4K and Dale Williams WA8EFK, former SM Debbie Kirkbride KA8YKK and ACC Sandy Mondro KG8HM for serving on the Planning Committee and Jeanie Dalton, KB8QLC for managing the Convention Headquarters.

The forums were great, having ARRL President Jim Haynie W5JBP with us as speaker for the banquet and during the convention forums was tremendous. Jim told it like it is.

I will mention two Division-centered highlights for me: 1) Learning that FCC Engineer in charge of the Detroit office, Jim Bridgewater is AA8JD and a graduate of Purdue University (my alma mater), and, 2) Most of all, being able to present the very first **George S. Wilson III W4OYI Award for Lifetime Achievement** to Former Director and friend

**George Race WB8BGY**. To the other award recipients and all the rest who gave freely of their time and talents to make this a great, first, full convention, thanks also. You all were wonderful! (NOTE: I expect Gary will have a full summary of the Convention and the Convention Awardees on the Great Lakes Division web site before long.)

Oh, yes, I should not forget the Mighty Wouff Hong Thespians. I will simply say they put on an unforgettable show as they guided "new, aspiring amateur" Jim Haynie W5JBP to become a full-fledged amateur operator. To call this event unique is to understate the facts!

### DIRECTOR-OFFICER PLANNING SESSION

FYI, the ARRL Directors and Officers, and selected HQ Staff members met in St. Louis last weekend (mid Sept.) for a challenging and exhausting session of setting basic goals and strategies for the League for the coming several years. You will hear more about these once the report has been fine-tuned and approved (in January). In the meantime, I firmly believe nearly all members and many nonmembers will be very pleased with where we are heading. I can un-abashedly say, "GO BLUE" regarding this session and I won't mean anything related to college sports.

73, CUL, GL, *Jim K8JE* Tel 513=459-0142

ARRL Great Lakes Division Director: James Weaver K8JE [k8je@arrl.org]

## Ready for 160mtrs?

Well, the 11 year sunspot cycle is about as low as you can go. You can either pack up your HF equipment and take up some other hobby for a few years, or you can move further down the RF spectrum. When things are bad on 20mtrs and above, they get better below 20mtrs. Now is the time to work on your 40mtr DXCC or try your luck at 160mtrs. The QRN on the lower bands will quiet down this winter, so now is the time to make your plans.

While I am no expert on 160, I have made a few contacts with very short (inefficient) antennas. I have even heard a mobile on 160!

Or, you can take the show on the road and build a portable 160mtr antenna and drive it to some open site where all the RF can do its job instead of warming the siding on your house.

Still reading? Check out <http://www.w6trw.com/contests/160.PDF> to see how one group built a portable phased array for 160 and used it in a contest.

Anybody ready for a 160mtr DXpedition?

73, *Ken N8ASV*

**But wait! There's more ...**

I have to agree with Ken N8ASV. During this difficult time in the sunspot cycle, it would be best to head for the bands that make QSO's a little more manageable. Thanks Ken for sending the article along about the wire antenna suspended by the balloon! Those operators had a great time with that experiment. Another idea for everyone during this dip in the cycle is to get your brass polish out and clean up that Morse key! I usually work about as much CW as I do sideband, but it looks like the trend will be towards CW for awhile.

Not only will it help to get you some more QSOs, but it will also aid us in retaining the portions of the bands that seem to get less and less use. We always say we don't want to lose any spectrum...now is the time to do something about it.

Set a goal for yourself...mark a date on the calendar, and decide that you'll be copying 13 wpm by that date, or even 20 wpm.

There are plenty of resources on the internet to help you get your code speed up. I think one of the best resources is turning your rig on and start sending CQ. Don't wait for the other stations to send it. To coin a phrase from the popular athletic company Nike: "Just Do It" !!

73, *Nathan Ciufo KA3MTT*

## **Hamfests &c.**

## **October 2003**

Oct 5 Bedford IN Hamfest sponsored by Hoosier Hills Ham Club at Lawrence Co 4-H Fairgrounds, US 50 2 mi W of Bedford. Set-up Sat, public Sun 6 AM-5 PM. Vendors, VE sessions, free chili dinner Sat eve. \$7, Talk-in: 146.73 (107.2 Hz). Info: Tim Miller K9US, [tim-k9us@msn.com], [www.hoosierhillshamfest.org](http://www.hoosierhillshamfest.org)

Oct 5 Goshen IN Hamfest sponsored by Michiana Valley Hamfest Assn at Elkhart Co Fairgrounds Bldg A, 17746 CR 34. Use US 33 through Goshen, turn E at high school, .6 mi to gate 1, turn right, go 600 ft & park in Lot A. Use Gate B to enter building. Talk-in: 145.43. \$5 advance, \$6 door. Info: Denny Denniston KA9WNR [ka9wnr@att.net]

Oct 5 Medina OH Hamfest sponsored by M2M Group at Medina Co Career Ctr, 1101 W Liberty St (SR 18). 8 AM-2 PM. I-71 N from Columbus to exit 218, go W through downtown Medina. Career Ctr is 2.5 mi outside of town, look for school zone which is Career Ctr. Fleas, new and used ham gear, computer equipment, VE sessions, free parking, handicapped accessible, refreshments. Talk-in: 147.03. \$4 advance, \$5 gate. Info: Mike Rubaszewski N8TZY [n8tsy@m3net.net], [www.qsl.net/n8tzy](http://www.qsl.net/n8tzy)

## **VE exam opportunities**

## **October 2003**

Sat Oct 4 at Hartwell Presbyterian Church, Parkway & Woodbines Aves, sponsored by CRA. Registration 8:30 AM; walk-ins only! Info: Herb Blasberg WA8PBW, 513=891-7556

Sat Oct 11 at Butler Co VHF Communications Ctr in D Russel Lee Vocational School, 3603 Hamilton-Middletown Rd (Rt 4), suburban Hamilton OH, sponsored by Butler Co VHF Assn. Registration 8:30 AM. Info: Ted Wilson K8TCR, 513=868-7012. Talk-in 146.97

Mon Oct 13 at Turkeyfoot Middle School, 3230 Turkeyfoot Rd, Edgewood KY, sponsored by NKARC. 6-8 PM. Pre-registration encouraged but walk-ins accepted. No photocopying on site, please bring all you need. Info: 859=472-6690 or 859=356-5460

Sat Dec 6 at Salem Presbyterian Church, Mozart & Higbee (behind Harrison-Boudinot White Castle), sponsored by Oh-Ky-In ARS. 12 noon. Pre-registration encouraged but walk-ins accepted. Photocopying available. Info: Carol Hugentober WA8YL, 513=661-5323.

IN ALL CASES 2 IDs (at least 1 with photo), originals (bring to exam) & photocopies (enclose with preregistration or bring to exam to file with NCVEC Form 605, of licence & CSCEs), blue or black pen for answers & form filling are required. Current VEC fee is \$12, exact change appreciated.

## **Tall Stacks Radio Volunteers Needed October 15-19, 2003**

Tall Stacks <http://www.tallstacks.com/> is currently looking for volunteers to operate the communication radios during this event. You will need to direct all types of communications from concessions to boat ops to police to life squads and more. We have found in the past that ham radio operators are the most skilled and work well for this position. All volunteers are encouraged to work 3 shifts minimum to be eligible for T-shirts and hats and pins.

To volunteer here's what you do:

1) All volunteers will need to fill out the Tall Stacks volunteer form.

<http://www.tallstacks.com/VolunteerApp.html>

Or browse to the volunteer form through [www.tallstacks.com](http://www.tallstacks.com)

2) In the Anything Else Box, BEFORE submitting the form please add:

“I wish to work as a Radio Operator @ Tall Stacks Command, working with Diane Pegram or Mike Doyle.”

Note: You need to add this or you’ll end up volunteering to empty trash!

3) Click SUBMIT

As the event gets closer, Tall Stacks will be in contact with you about details.

For more information about volunteering: <http://www.tallstacks.com/Volunteers.html>

That’s all and thank you in advance for volunteering.

*Chris Hauck, KC8FFE* [Chris.hauck@manino.com] 513-256-1212

**\*\* LAST CHANCE \*\* Amateur Radio Estate Sale Walter Keck W8HIO -SK-**

Here are the items that are still available and now at final closeout prices. Sale administered by Bruce Vanselow N8BV. If interested, please call 513=251-1555 or 513=471-7373 ASAP or E-mail:

[n8bv@juno.com].

ICOM IC 735 HF, w/AT 150 Tuner, w/manuals, w/boxes	\$450
ICOM IC U16 440 HT w/manual, leather case, PL	\$60
AEA PK64 Packrat 64 w/manual	\$8
ICOM Speaker Mic	\$5
TEMPO HM4 Speaker Mic works on Icom etc.	\$5
MFJ 287 Speaker Mic	\$5
ICOM EM46L Speaker Mic slim line	\$5 (2)
REGENCY HR 212 2m mobile w/Channelizer, manual -DEAD-	\$10
ICOM DC 1 w/cigar plug	\$5
ICOM DC 1	\$5
KENWOOD 2 meter rubber duck antenna	\$2
GOLDLINE Dummy Load	\$8

*Revised 9/18/03 N8BV*

**What’s coming in October 2003**

Wed, Oct 1	7:30 PM	Slow Scan ATV Net, 146.67
	9:00 PM	Tech Talk, NCS Carol WA8YL, 146.67
Thu, Oct 2	7:00 PM	Code & theory class at Salem Presb Church, Mozart & Higbee by Boudinot Av White Castle
Fri, Oct 3	8:00 PM	Hamilton Co Amateur Radio Public Service Corps, Sheriff’s Compound, Hamilton Av at I-275
Sat, Oct 4	all day	OH Section Simulated Emergency Test
Tue, Oct 7	7:30 PM	Club meeting at W Hills Church of Christ, 5064 Sidney Rd Program: ARRL Night, Joe Phillips K8QOE for sure
Wed, Oct 8	7:30 PM	Slow Scan ATV Net, 146.67
	9:00 PM	Tech Talk, NCS Dale KC8HQS, 146.67
Thu, Oct 9	7:00 PM	Code & theory class at Salem Presb Church, Mozart & Higbee by Boudinot Av White Castle
Sat, Oct 11	10:00 AM	Monthly fox hunt, hounds start from Mt Storm Park; talk-in to Start 146.67
Tue, Oct 14	7:30 PM	Technical Committee meeting, .67
Wed, Oct 15	7:30 PM	Slow Scan ATV Net, 146.67
	9:00 PM	Tech Talk, NCS Dennis KB8ROA, 146.67
Thu, Oct 16	7:00 PM	Code & theory class at Salem Presb Church, Mozart & Higbee by Boudinot Av White Castle
Fri-Sun, Oct 17-19		Jamboree on the Air
Mon, Oct 20	7:30 PM	Robotics Group, Dana WA8M’s
Wed, Oct 22	7:30 PM	Slow Scan ATV Net, 146.67
	9:00 PM	Tech Talk, NCS Rick KD4PYR, 146.67
Thu, Oct 23	7:00 PM	Code & theory class at Salem Presb Church, Mozart & Higbee by Boudinot Av White Castle
Tue, Oct 28	7:30 PM	Board meeting at Carol WA8YL’s

Wed, Oct 29	7:30 PM	Slow Scan ATV Net, 146.67
	9:00 PM	Tech Talk, NCS not certain, 146.67
Thu, Oct 30	7:00 PM	Code & theory class at Salem Presb Church, Mozart & Higbee by Boudinot Av White Castle
Tue, Nov 3	Election Day – go vote before you come to the meeting	
	7:30 PM	Club meeting at W Hills Church of Christ, 5064 Sidney Rd Program: Nominations for 2004
Wed, Nov 4	7:30 PM	Slow Scan ATV Net, 146.67
	9:00 PM	Tech Talk, NCS Carol WA8YL, 146.67
Thu, Nov 5	7:00 PM	Code & theory class at Salem Presb Church, Mozart & Higbee by Boudinot Av White Castle

## News of members and students in recent classes

### On the mend

Don Kent WD8DCB after a heart attack in mid-September

### Member on the move

Dale Vanselow KC8HQ5 from Delhi Twp to 80 Fawn Dr. Apt. 305  
Fairfield OH 45014-6154  
513= 860-5079

This should be the first correction to the new directory!

Speaking of **students**, you still have time to enroll in the current session of classes which began on Sept. 25 at the usual place, Salem Presbyterian Church at Mozart and Higbee behind the Harrison-Boudinot White Castle. Classes run for 10 weeks with VE exams on Sat, Dec. 6 at high noon. Start time is 7 PM.

### EarthLink delay to ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service addressees continues

(Sep 24, 2003) -- Despite several discussions with representatives of EarthLink, the Internet Service Provider continues to delay messages sent via the ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service (@arrl.net) to @earthlink.net e-mail addresses. As a result of EarthLink's actions, ARRL cannot guarantee timely delivery of messages forwarded via the ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service to our members' EarthLink e-mail addresses.

At the root of the issue is EarthLink's contention that the @arrl.net domain is a spam source based on their internal standards and analysis. While EarthLink appreciates the concept of a simple e-mail forwarding system like arrl.net and concedes that the spam is not originating from the ARRL E-Mail Forwarding System, it maintains its position that blocking all messages--including valid e-mail--from this domain is an effective tactic in their efforts to fight spam on the Internet. EarthLink has told ARRL that it will continue to delay messages until the amount of spam being sent through this system is reduced to a level EarthLink deems acceptable. For now, the situation is at an impasse.

ARRL understands and appreciates the inconvenience this represents to our members. Other large national ISPs have dealt with this specific issue in a much more reasonable fashion, and those major ISPs, as well as hundreds of other smaller ones, accept e-mail via the ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service.

ARRL advises affected members to consider changing the ISP to which their ARRL E-Mail Forwarding System e-mail is forwarded. ARRL members logged onto the ARRL Web site can make necessary changes through their Member Data page (click on "Modify membership data").

Note that it may take up to 24 hours for changes in your e-mail address to take effect. Affected members also may consider contacting EarthLink abuse@abuse.earthlink.net on their own. ARRL apologizes for any inconvenience and will continue its efforts to resolve this situation with EarthLink.

---

*Copy deadline for November 2003 issue is Friday, October 17*