



# THE Q-FIVER

K8SCH



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OH-KY-IN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY, INC.  
PUBLISHED MONTHLY AT CINCINNATI, OHIO



Our 49<sup>th</sup> Year of Service to Cincinnati in Amateur Radio  
 A Special Service Club of the American Radio Relay League  
 (the national association for Amateur Radio)

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**Web Pages**

<http://www.ohkyin.org>

<http://www.ardfusa.com> (ARDF)

Regular monthly meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM local time at Salem Presbyterian Church (corner Mozart & Higbee) behind the Harrison-Boudinot White Castle, in Westwood-Cheviot. Visitors are ALWAYS welcome!

**For membership information, contact**

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- 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 fye 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)

## *February 2007 Volume 49 Number 2*

### **From The President...**

February is here! I can't believe in just 3 months we'll be drooling over the latest ham radio equipment available (AKA: Dayton Hamvention). I will be there and hope to see many of you. In other news, the FCC has dropped Morse Code as a requirement to get a General Class license. Whether you see it as a good or bad thing, this is a chance to encourage our young people to get more interested in ham radio. OH-KY-IN will be hosting classes soon so stay tuned! Come out to the February club meeting for info on how the HF bands will be effected by the Report and Order soon to be in effect.

73, *Dale KC8HQS*

### **Next meeting**

The next club meeting of the OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society will feature a program on **Band Plans**. That club meeting will take place Tuesday, February 6, 2007 (starting at 7:30 PM) at the Salem Presbyterian Church, located at the corner of Mozart and Higbee in Westwood.

To get to the meeting from downtown Cincinnati, go north west on Glenway Ave. to Boudinot Ave. (approximately 4 miles; at Walt Sweeney Ford on right). Turn slight right on to Boudinot. After approximately 1 1/2 miles turn left on to Mozart (before the White Castle). The church is on the right. Please enter the building through the doors beneath the front steps.

More info can be found at: <http://www.ohkyin.org>.

Visitors always welcome!

73, *Tom NG8A*, cell # 919-8163

### **Minutes of General Membership meeting, Oh-Ky-In ARS, January 4, 2007**

Dale KC8HQS called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Two guests in attendance, Tom N4WAZ, and Harvey Hesson. 22 members attending.

The brag session heard from Steve KC8VQS for advancement at work and Emily K4MLE for ARDF published info and pictures. Dick WB4SUV was also featured and pictured.

A great program was given by Jim W8IOA and John W9JRB about digital scanning, and programming digital scanners.

Break from 8:10 to 8:25

Dale thanked Tom NG8A for running the hospitality table.

A motion was made to accept the printed minutes from December by Steve KC8VQS, seconded by Jim W8IOA – motion carried.

Nathan KA3MTT reported for the membership committee that we have 65 members so far in 2007. He also reported that the club can now process ARRL membership applications and renewals.

Rick KD4PYR forwarded financial reports and they were passed around.

Bruce N8BV reported nothing new for the silent key committee.

Brian K4BRI reported that all the club repeaters are finally on the air – please use them! Receptions reports are always appreciated. He also reported that there will be no meeting of the Technical Committee this month – there will be one in February.

Phil KG8AP will hold a Hamfest Committee meeting at the church on January 11<sup>th</sup>.

The fox for the December foxhunt was Phil KG8AP – he hid near Echo Lake, and it was a good hunt. The ARDF group also held an event at McFarlan Woods in December.

Bruce N8BV reported that Carol WA8YL is the next control operator for Tech Talk.

Dale KC8HQS reported that the web site is going well – some minor modifications are needed on the hover buttons.

Pete KC8BZM reported for liaisons, that the Red Cross will hold their normal meeting at the chapterhouse.

The Flying Pig marathon will be on May 6<sup>th</sup> – mark your calendars. He reported that the ARPSC will also have their normal meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Pete also talked about the Delhi CERT group.

No old business discussed.

New business -- The Audit committee needs people! Dale KC8HQS asked for volunteers.

The random member drawn was WB8BFQ Madison Teese, who was not present.

Split the pot of \$17 was won by Gene N8KOJ.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:52PM

Respectfully submitted -- *Brian K4BRI*, Recording Secretary

### **ARLB005 It's official! Morse code requirement ends Friday, February 23.**

Circle Friday, February 23, on your calendar. That's when the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement will officially disappear from the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules. On or after that date, applicants for a General or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio license no longer will have to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. They'll just have to pass the applicable written examination.


*Federal Register* publication January 24 of the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235, starts a 30-day countdown for the new rules to become effective. Deletion of the Morse requirement - still a matter of controversy within the amateur community - is a landmark in Amateur Radio history.

"The overall effect of this action is to further the public interest by encouraging individuals who are interested in communications technology or who are able to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, to become Amateur Radio operators; and eliminating a requirement that is now unnecessary and may discourage Amateur Service licensees from advancing their skills in the communications and technical phases of Amateur Radio," the FCC remarked in the "Morse code" R&O that settled the matter, at least from a regulatory standpoint.

The League had asked the FCC to retain the 5 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants, but the Commission held to its decision to eliminate the requirement across the board. The R&O appearing in the *Federal Register* constitutes the official version of the new rules. It is on the web in PDF format at,

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-729.pdf>.

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Until 1991, when a Morse code examination was dropped from the requirements to obtain a Technician ticket, all prospective radio amateurs had to pass a Morse code test. With the change the US will join a growing list of countries that have dropped the need to demonstrate some level of Morse code proficiency to earn access to frequencies below 30 MHz.

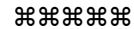
The new rules also put all Technician licensees on an equal footing, whether or not they've passed a Morse code examination. Starting February 23, Technicians will gain CW privileges on 80, 40, 15 meters and CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on 10 meters. Once the revised rules are in place, an applicant holding a valid Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for Element 3 (General) or Element 4 (Amateur Extra) may redeem it for an upgrade. A CSCE is good for 365 days from the date of issuance, no exceptions. For example, a Technician licensee holding a valid CSCE for Element 3 may apply at a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) test session, pay the application fee, which most VECs charge, and receive an instant upgrade.

The FCC R&O includes an Order on Reconsideration in WT Docket 04-140 -- the so-called "omnibus" proceeding. It will modify Part 97 in response to ARRL's request to accommodate automatically controlled narrowband digital stations on 80 meters in the wake of other rule changes that became effective last December 15. The Commission designated 3585 to 3600 kHz for such operations, although that segment will remain available for CW, RTTY and data. The ARRL had requested that the upper limit of the CW/RTTY/data subband be set at 3635 kHz, so that there would be no change in the existing 3620 to 3635 kHz subband.

The ARRL has posted all relevant information on these important Part 97 rule revisions on its "FCC's Morse Code Report and Order WT Docket 05-235" Web page, <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/morse/>.

I would like to congratulate Emily K4MLE for being the champion in the **2006 OH-KY-IN Fantasy Football League**. She defeated my XYL, Nicole, in what was an absolute pummeling. Great job Emily, and I look forward to next year!

73, *Nathan K4SM77*



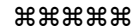
### **Directions for the finding --**

News of the December fox hunt and ARDF exercise, finally, at the January members' meeting:

On Saturday, December 9, Brian K4BRI hid near the Playhouse in the Park. After taking initial readings, two of the hounds took off in different directions. Then they thought better of it and took more readings before haring off in two still different directions.

Dick WB4SUV covered all corners of McFarlan Woods on Saturday, December 16 with mini-fox transmitters. Guess they were all eventually found, by him if by no one else ...

The January hunt was moved to the third Saturday to allow folk to attend the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual SW OH Digital Symposium in Middletown.



There is a great program that the ARRL has which I feel we don't use to its full potential. It's called the **ARRL Club Commission Membership Recruitment Program**. Rick KD4PYR has mentioned this program before, and I would like to begin actively using this resource.

The program allows us to renew our annual ARRL membership through OH-KY-IN (as an ARRL affiliated organization), and the club actually gets to keep a portion of the proceeds for our income.

For every ARRL annual renewal (regular and senior memberships only) that is done through OH-KY-IN, the club gets to keep \$2 of each fee. For every NEW membership to the ARRL, OH-KY-IN gets to keep \$15 ! While it doesn't sound like a whole lot of money, every little bit helps, as you know.

Please keep this information in mind so you can get in touch with me BEFORE you renew your ARRL membership. I will take care of the paperwork involved. All you need to do is send me your check.

This is a great way to help both organizations, so let's take full advantage of its benefits.

73, *Nathan Ciupo K4SM77* OH-KY-IN Membership Chair, Board of Directors

### **Weaver's words – A New World Is Coming**

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| - An Opportunity or a Disaster -- It's up to you | - What Can We Do?              |
| - ARRL Legislative Goals for the 110th Congress  | - HQ Organizational Changes    |
| - Report: E-mail, I receive E-mail               | - Unique Special Event Station |
| - Board of Directors Assignments                 | - Tentative Travel Schedule    |

### **An Opportunity or a Disaster -- It's up to you**

We've learned the FCC's Report & Order that abolishes testing on Morse code for Amateur Radio licensing will probably (no guarantee, yet) become effective Friday, February 23. This would be the first day new General and Extra class licenses can be earned without needing to pass the 5 wpm Morse code test. Whether one likes or hates the idea, code testing will no longer be required.

We can make of this what we choose. We can take the attitude this marks the pending death of Amateur Radio or we can look upon it as the best opportunity Amateur Radio has had in decades for regaining its health and growth. It is up to you . . . and to no one else. If we choose to take the first attitude, you will be right. Amateur Radio's pending doom is on the horizon. You will make this happen. It will be a self-fulfilling prophesy.

If we take the second attitude, we will again be right and we will see resurgence in Amateur Radio.

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Through our own will, we will have a favorable, self-fulfilling prophesy.

In other words, the future of hamming is in our own hands. Will we grab hold of it and hold on for dear life, or will we let it fall like an egg on concrete to be crushed?

If we greet new, codeless hams with a sullen attitude, we will drive them away before they even know what Amateur Radio is. If we meet them with welcoming arms and nurturing friendship, and help them get started and on the path to good operating practices, they will become good, friendly, active amateurs -- just like we did.

Look back over the years. How was it that we became active hams after we were first licensed? Was it because some old goat growled at us and made us feel unwanted and ignorant each time we made a mistake on the air? Or, was it because an established ham took us by the hand and led us along the path to become good hams? Was it because everyone ignored us and made us feel unwelcome when we went to our first amateur club meetings, or was it because members of the club made us know they wanted us to come back . . . wanted us to join them . . . truly wanted us to become part of them?

If we don't want new hams in our clubs or even in our communities, we shouldn't offer VE Exams. This would be much better than to get new people licensed and then abandon them as though they were "unclean."

The decision to be a welcoming, nurturing club and club member is the first decision club officers and members should make concerning incoming amateurs. Do we want them or not? Will we go out of the way to make them feel welcome or not? Will we help them become good amateurs or will we let them drift by themselves to pick up bad operating habits so we can complain about how ignorant new licensees are these days?

I've heard the officers and members of club after club after club cry out for new, active members. The rising tide of new amateurs that will soon reach our doors is your opportunity to get the needed new members.

Will you open the door to this tide of new blood or will you pile sandbags to prevent them from coming in?

#### **What can we do?**

What can we do to get new licensees interested in joining local ham groups . . . to become the good amateurs we need? Here are a couple of ideas that just might spark interest.

HAVE A MIDNIGHT MADNESS licensing session followed by a pizza party. At midnight of the first day exams can be given under the new, no-Morse test rules, hold a VE session at midnight on (presumably) February 23. Have a pizza party before or after the session. Print special Midnight Madness VE Session certificates complete with the names of successful candidates, the date of the exam session, the name of the sponsoring club and have at least one of the VEs who heads the session sign the certificate. If you have a laptop and portable printer, and enough help to do the job, you could print the certificate and hand it to the candidate before he or she walks out of the session. If you can't do this, mail the certificate to them over the weekend.

If you publicize this well, you will be surprised at the response you will receive to this "special" VE session. Be sure to invite them to the next club meeting and arrange for a club member to bring them to the meeting.

HOLD A SPECIAL NEW OR RECENT LICENSEE Night at your club. Welcome new amateurs, including the "no-coders" with open arms. Assign a member of the club to be a tour guide for groups of one or two new people at the meeting. Instruct these guides to introduce the newbies to the members and show them your club station . . . in action. Encourage them to operate. During the evening, find out if the recent licensees would welcome having an Elmer, if they would like help in putting a station together or would

like someone to come over to help them get comfortable with operating their station on the air. Make certain one or more members of the club will take care of advising them on equipment and putting the station together, or helping the new people learn how to operate.

FIND A RECENT LICENSEE and have one or two of your members visit them to welcome them to the local amateur community. Make the new people feel welcome. Give them any Elmering assistance they might need. Bring them to a meeting and treat them as discussed above.

AT LEAST UNTIL NEWBIES BECOME INTEGRATED into the club, be sure someone drops by their homes and brings them to meetings and other club functions. At meetings and club activities, be certain to give new people things to do. Put them on committees that actually do something. Get them involved in on-air operating.

I'm sure many of you can come up with still more and better ideas than these. Whatever you do, welcome new amateurs into your club as though you want them to become valued parts of your group. Recruit them to join. Make them want to join.

Oh, yes, you might even want to form a Member-Search Committee. Task this committee with finding ways to attract new -- and older -- amateurs to your club. Put people with innovative thinking on this committee. They need to develop fresh ideas or at least fresh approaches to attracting and keeping new members.

Keep in mind that getting new members is less than half the job. Keeping them as active members is the main job. Club leadership is the key to this job.

#### **ARRL legislative goals for the 110th Congress**

You've seen me write about ARRL members needing to become active in helping get our national legislative agenda passed in Congress. Many of you have wondered if the Board of Directors, our officers or I were serious about this. Well, folks, we are as you can see below.

Last week, the ARRL Board of Directors voted unanimously to pursue five objectives in this Congress. These objectives are:

- To have Congress expand the requirement of "reasonable accommodation" for Amateur Radio antennas (such as in FCC PRB-1) to all forms of land use throughout the U.S. This would be equivalent to having a national PRB-1 rule, but enact it through U.S. law.
- To have Congress require the FCC to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the interference potential of BPL to public safety and other license radio communication services, and to adopt improved rules to prevent deployment of BPL systems having potential to cause destructive interference to radio communication systems.
- To oppose legislation that would diminish the rights of Federal licensees in favor of unlicensed emitters, especially unintentional emitters.
- To recognize the unique resources, capabilities and expertise of the Amateur Radio Service in any legislation addressing communications issues related to emergencies, disasters or homeland security.
- To support the complementary legislative objectives of other radio communication services, particularly the public safety and scientific services that require spectrum access and protection from interference for noncommercial purposes that benefit the public.

How do we expect to accomplish some or all of these goals? We expect to do this by activating the new, ARRL Legislative Action Program in addition to our Washington Government Relations experts.

Now you know the specific agenda we have set. We can accomplish much of this agenda during the coming two years provided you as ARRL members agree to help out. We need two or three of you in each Congressional District and for each Senator to join in our Legislative Action Program by agreeing to make visits to the "home" offices of your own U.S. Representative or U.S. Senator a couple of times a year. No



one will ask you to go to Washington to do the job.

To learn more about how you can help pass the ARRL legislative agenda, please contact Great Lakes Division Legislative Action Chair Val Rose N8EXV at [n8exv@arrl.net] or me at [k8je@arrl.org]. We seriously need help with this program. Please find out how you may fit into it.

### **HQ organizational changes**

When Wayne Mills N7NG resigned, I received a number of E-mails asking who would follow him. The answer was not immediately available. The search for a successor was still underway. At our meeting last week, the Board heard the plans COO Harold Kramer W1JB and CEO Dave Sumner K1ZZ had not only for finding a new head of Membership Services, but for upgrading the Field & Educational Services organization as well. We enthusiastically approved the plans which were announced officially yesterday.

Well-known and accomplished DXer Dave Patton NN1N is the new head of what is tentatively being called the Programs & Services Department. This puts Dave squarely in charge of the DXCC, Contests and Awards Programs as well as continuing his old job as head of F&ES. I'll talk more about this and its ramifications for beefing up our Em Comm services in my next newsletter. Until then, let me say that Dave is a frequent DXpeditioner, has 348 confirmed countries, has 2475 Qs in the Challenge listing with 340. Dave has also been instrumental in developing LoTW.

Dave is a fine, dedicated gentlemen, a fact I believe all who need to interface with him will appreciate.

### **Report: E-mail, I receive e-mail**

I want to bring you up to date on the response I received from two topics during recent weeks. These are my poll concerning what you think ARRL should be doing and not doing, and my personal perspective on losing code requirements for licensing.

#### **What ARRL Should and Should Not Do**

In contrast with the blasts often directed at ARRL over Internet reflectors and bulletin boards, nearly each one of the 200-plus responders to my poll on this subject were essentially satisfied with what ARRL is doing and wants these items continued. A few people suggest additional emphasis on certain tasks, such as our effort to undue overly restrictive codes, covenants and restrictions against antennas in deeds, leases and rental contracts as well as one or two additional actions they encourage the Board to undertake. My take-away from all this is that the Board is doing pretty much what the membership has told me you want done. Tackling CC&Rs is, of course, a fight the Board has already accepted. Selecting the best timing for our effort is crucial.

Before going on to the next topic, let me add here that the effort on CC&Rs will be carried to a large extent by the ARRL Legislative Action Program (LAP). If you are interested in overturning overly restrictive CC&Rs, you ought to be interested in helping in the LAP. We are approaching the "fish or cut bait" time.

In other words, it is getting to the time when one either need to "put up" or "shut up." Contact Division Legislative Action Chair Val Rose N8EXV at [n8exv@arrl.net] to see how you might fit in to the LAP and our fight to influence legislation that affects Amateur Radio.

#### **My Personal Perspective on Losing Code Requirements.**

On this one, I received about 300 comments. I had expected many responders would really tear into me for my rather neutral position which, in the end, can be summarized as "Don't sweat the small stuff; we have more pressing things to worry about." I was surprised that only three responders expressed disagreement with my position. Certainly, many responders indicated they were not pleased with the FCC decision to drop code testing, but they recognized it was a done deal and that in the long run it might even be good for Amateur Radio. This puts them squarely in the same category I am in.

Agree with me or not, I want you all to know that I appreciate the time and thought you invest when you write to me. Agree with you or not, I need to know your opinions so I can include your thinking in the

facts I collect before voting on topics in Board meeting. Whether my vote on Board issues follows your line of thought, I consider every comment and suggestion very seriously -- testing my personal thinking against your thinking and against other information I receive. Thanks.

#### **Unique Special Event station**

I don't usually list Special Event stations or operations, but the following is sufficiently unique I will make an exception. This is from my old friend Hank Greeb N8XX, who takes somewhat perverse pleasure in, well, being a little bit different.

"On February 3, 2007, several hams are going to Hell -- Hell, Michigan, that is -- to operate during the AzScQRPions FYBO (Freeze Your Buns Off) contest. So far, the contingent will include Ed AB8DF, Courtland KA5S, and Hank N8XX. A special event call of N8H has been reserved.

"We'll be operating on all the QRP frequencies, but the best chance for folks in this area will be on 7.04 CW or 7.285 SSB MHz. We will operate between 1400Z and 2359Z. We will try to activate a station using the preferred mode, Hellschriber."

If the weather stays as warm as most of this winter, maybe the contest should be renamed the MOTF "Melt off the Fat."

#### **Board of Directors assignments**

At the January ARRL Board of Directors meeting, Great Lakes Division Vice Director Gary Johnston KI4LA was named to chair the ARRL Historical Committee and I was named to the membership Program & Services Committee. The ad hoc Legislative Action Committee I had chaired was discharged after it had completed its assigned task.

As some of you may know, Gary is President of the Behringer-Crawford Museum in Covington, Kentucky. The ARRL Historical Committee is charged with reviewing items of historic interest held at ARRL HQ and maintaining an accurate, historic record of ARRL and Amateur Radio.

The Programs & Services Committee is responsible for reviewing programs and services offered to members by ARRL, for developing modifications to these programs and services as this is appropriate and for developing and recommending new programs and services to the Board of Directors. The EmComm operations of ARRL are included in the activities of this Committee.

Gary has previously served as liaison from the Board to the Public Relations Committee. I've previously served on the P&SC (and Membership & Services Committee as it was titled previously), the P&SC and the Administration & Finance Committee that oversees administration of the League and its financial health.

#### **Tentative travel schedule for K8JE**

Feb 7: Cincinnati FM Club, Cincinnati.	May 18-20: Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, OH.
Feb 8: Milford ARC, Milford, OH.	Jun 17: Monroe Hamfest, Monroe, MI.
Feb 11: Mid-Winter Hamfest, Mansfield, OH.	Jul 20-21: Board of Directors Meeting, Newington, CT.
Mar 12: West Chester ARA, West Chester, OH.	Aug 18-19: ARRL National Convention, Huntsville, AL.
Mar 15: Bellbrook ARC Dinner Meeting, Waynesville, OH.	Sep 8: GRAHamfest, Grand Rapids, MI.
Mar 18: Toledo Hamfest, Toledo.	Sep 9: Findlay Hamfest, Findlay, OH.
Apr 14: QCWA Meeting, Cleveland, OH.	Sep 22: Great Lakes Division Convention, Cleveland, OH.
Apr 20: KY Colonel ARC, Bowling Green, KY.	Sep 23: Cleveland Hamfest, Cleveland, OH.
Apr 26: SUMCO ARES, Stow, OH.	Oct 2: OH-KY-IN ARRL Night, Cincinnati, OH.

73, *Jim K8JE*

Jim Weaver K8JE, Director ARRL Great Lakes Division 5065 Bethany Rd. Mason, OH 45040

E-mail: [k8je@arrl.org]; Tel.: 513=459-0142

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## DX Extras

February 2007

SUPRIZE!!!! (sic)

Well guess it's about time I got back to talking DX. The new shack is up and running in limited fashion. With just a vertical and soon a dipole my approach to HF operations has made a shift to different modes of operation including PSK31 and computer aided CW.

I just read an article in *QST* where a ham went from 80 to 250 DXCC countries in just over a year using a hybrid Mini Quad. Not bad for a modest antenna that only supports a maximum of 300 watts. Guess it goes to show that you do not need a big beam and lots of power for that first 100 or even 200 countries.

Even with less than ideal band conditions, the solar numbers have been lousy, there have still been some great opportunities for DX.

Just completed:

1A4A -- Sovereign Military Order of Malta with 20,00 plus QSOs.

VU7RG, VU7MY -- Lakshadweep

S2 -- Bangladesh -- Check your contact at <http://ea3bt.com/s21xa.htm>

XT2C - Burkino Faso. QSL via F9IE

February Operations:

The biggest scheduled operation is Spratly DX0JP, Feb 3d to 13th. Lets' hope it happens.

Other operations include 5W, 7X, YW0DX -- Aves Island, and J2 - Djibouti.

Cool Site: Check out this site. [www.hamatlas.eu](http://www.hamatlas.eu). It contains info on all 337 DXCC entities with over 3000 pictures and 1100 maps.

During the year, I hope to spend more time discussing and exploring some of the new digital modes like WinDRM. Thanks, Nathan, for the tip on this one.

So till next month, GUD DX and 73, *Bob WA6EZU*

## Contests

February 2007

3-6 NA Sprint, SSB; MN QSO Party, CW & Phone; Ten-Ten International Winter Phone QSO Party; XE International RTTY Contest; DE QSO Party, CW, Phone & Digital; VT QSO Party, CW, Phone & Digital; YL-OM Contest, CW; QRP ARCI Winter Fireside SSB Sprint; FYBO (Freeze Your Butt Off) Winter QRP Field Day, CW & SSB; Spartan Sprint, CW

10-14 NA Sprint, CW; School Club Roundup, all modes; *CQ* World Wide RTTY WPX Contest LA QSO Party, CW & Phone; NNY QSO Party, all modes; British Columbia QSO Challenge, CW, SSB & Digital; RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest, CW; Asia-Pacific Sprint, CW; FISTS CW Winter Sprint, CW; Dutch PACC Contest, CW & SSB; YL-OM Contest, SSB; OMISS QSO Party, SSB, Old Man International Sideband Society; Classic Exchange, AM & SSB; NAQCC Monthly Straight Key Sprint

17-18 ARRL International DX Contest, CW; AM QSO Party

24-25 CQC Winter QSO Party, CW & Phone; *CQ* WW 160-meter SSB Contest; EU EME Contest, Digital; UBA Contest, CW; REF French Contest; NC QSO Party, CW & Phone High Speed CW Contest; NA QSO Party RTTY

What a month for contest volume. Many sprints to keep you warm. For more information see *QST*, *CQ*, or <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>  
73, *Dan K7AAU*

## Hamfests &c.

## February 2007

4 NOARS Annual Winter Hamfest at Gargus Hall, 1965 N. Ridge Rd, Lorain OH. Public 8 AM-1 PM. Free pancake & sausage breakfast included with \$6 admission ticket. Talk-in: 146.7. Info: Tom Porter W9KYZ, 440=930-9115; [tporter161@oh.rr.com]; [www.noars.net](http://www.noars.net)

11 Mansfield OH Mid\*Winter Hamfest/Computer/Hobby Show sponsored by InterCity ARC at Richland Co Fairgrounds, 750 N Home Rd. Public 7 AM-3 PM. VE sessions, ARRL forum, OSSBN Bi-Annual Meeting. Talk-in: 146.94 (71.9 Hz). Advance \$5, door \$6. Info: Dean Wrasse KB8MG, 419=589-2415; [deanwrasse@yahoo.com]; [www.iarc.ws](http://www.iarc.ws)

24 LaPorte IN "Cabin Fever Hamfest" sponsored by LaPorte ARC at Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. 7 AM-1 PM. Talk-in: 146.61 (131.8 Hz). \$5 door. Info: James Jesko KB9MAS, 219=325-0043; [jjj1@skynet.net]; [www.k9jsi.org](http://www.k9jsi.org) --thanks *QST* Feb 2007

## VE exam opportunities

**1<sup>st</sup> Saturday each month:** Cincinnati (Hartwell), CRA, at Hartwell Presbyterian Church. Registration 8:30 AM; walk-in only please! All licence classes. Contact: Dale Pritchett KC8HJL, 513=769-0789

**2d Monday each month:** Kentucky (Edgewood), NKARA, at Turkeyfoot Middle School, 3230 Turkey foot Rd. Registration 6 PM. Follow the signs. Pre-registration preferred, walk-ins accepted. Contact: Lyle Hamilton AB8SH, 513=315-4032. Talk-in 147.255

**2d Saturday odd months except July:** Hamilton (Butler Co), Butler Co VHF Assn at Joint Vocational School Communications Ctr, 3603 Hamilton-Middletown Rd (Rt 4). Registration 8:30 AM; walk-ins OK. All licence classes. Contact: Ted Wilson K8TCR, 513=868-7012. Talk-in 146.97

**3d Wednesday Feb and April:** DIAL Radio Club at Rm 110, Johnston Hall, Miami U Middletown. Register 6 PM, exam 7 PM. Walk-ins on space-available basis. Map to exam site and/or NCVEC Form 605 available from [k8cm@arrl.net] for SASE. Advance registration consists of completed NCVEC Form 605, copies of current licence if any and valid CSCEs and \$14 check payable to DIAL Radio Club. Please include note stating class of licence you wish to attempt. Mail advance registrations to: David Williamson KD8W, 5766 Trenton-Franklin Rd, Middletown OH 45042. Pre-registration must arrive at least 2 days before exam. Please include your telephone number on your check. Special exam accommodations must be requested 2 weeks prior to test date. More info: David Williamson KD8W, 513=424-5819.

**In all cases,** tests require 2 IDs (preferably one with photo). Bring with you the original, as well as photocopy of current licence and CSCEs. \$14 is current ARRL/VEC exam fee, exact currency appreciated.

## February Ohio Section News by Affiliated Clubs Coordinator, *Joanne Solak K930*

Please go to [www.iarc.ws](http://www.iarc.ws) to read. There wasn't room here, with K8JE's huge column. Sorry, Joanne! ....I will end this time around with what I will call "**MY WORDS.**"

Lately I have been receiving more questions from club officers and concerned amateurs concerning discontent within their memberships and clubs. A lot of these seem to be related to individual likes or preferences of members concerning their preferences in amateur radio. One of the things that make

*The 2-Fiver, Oh-Ky-In ARS, February 2007, page 12*

amateur radio such a great hobby is that unlike many other things it is multifaceted. There are many areas to explore and these run from very simple to extremely complex. Just what is right for each amateur is a matter of their likes and dislikes.

Just like modes of operation, some prefer one mode and others look toward the mode that best suits their current operations. Be it DX, traffic handling, moon bounce, QRP, public service, VLF, digital modes, CW, developing new ways to communicate or just plain rag chewing, IT IS AMATEUR RADIO. Who and what are more important is not the question. In their way they are all very important to our hobby.

One of the major problems is recognizing that every one does not like the same thing and maintaining a high interest in anything for a long period of time is difficult at best. If it were not for the varied interests and likes of radio amateurs we would not have the hobby we share today.

Remember that the ARRL owes its beginning to message handling, not because every early amateur wanted to handle traffic but because that was the only way they could communicate among themselves. Hams have typically been in the forefront of communications development. They explored higher frequencies, developed new ways to communicate and new technology.

When the Air Force wanted to find an alternative to CW communications they used amateur radio equipment to try SSB. Amateurs developed the technology that made cell phone possible and the list goes on. What does all this mean to us? Simple! It means that we have all benefited from what other amateurs have done. We tend to over look the fact that we are a part of the whole. Too often we are too engrossed in what we think amateur radio should be.

Club officers, ARRL Officials and even FCC commissioners are placed in a position where they need to think in terms of what is best for the country, amateur radio and their fellow man instead of what they themselves want. It is difficult and often thankless but that is the responsibility that goes with the job.

Club members tend to look only to their likes and overlook the likes of others. We all need to take a minute and remember that we're all part of the same group. Any threat to any frequency or mode or privilege, no matter how little we care for it, is a threat to amateur radio and in so being it is a threat to us and our hobby collectively. For our hobby to remain healthy we must all support it in its entirety. In addition, if you are a member of a club or other group, support it. Years ago radio clubs were radio clubs. Then hams started looking to DX and repeaters, the result was special groups that split off to support their special interests and or egos. The result is more groups with smaller memberships. But, they have their special interest. The end result is the decline of the whole. Club members need to realize that they are a part of the whole. Supporting your group and those who do not enjoy your specific facet of our hobby is part of your responsibility.

President Kennedy said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." Modify that and substitute club for Country. Be a part of the whole and be a part of the future.. Amateur radio is supposed to be fun. In our world of exploding technology amateur radio is still recognized as the mode that will work when all else fails. It is up to us to see that this continues to be true..

To those inquiries, to those wishing my input, this is it. I promised you "my input" in the Ohio Section News this month. "My Words" my opinion.

So until I see you somewhere when you least expect it....

Best 73, *Joanne Solak KJ30*, ACC OHIO

### **Tech support, swiped from an Internet humour net**

Cust: I can't get on the Internet.

Tech: Are you sure you used the right password?

Cust: Yes, I'm sure. I saw my colleague do it. Tech: Can you tell me what the password was?

Cust: Five stars.

## What's coming in February 2007

- Fri 2 7:30 PM Amateur Radio Public Svc Corps, Hamilton Co Communications Ofc  
Conference Rm, 2377 Civic Ctr Dr – park in Bd of Educ lot
- Tue 6 7:30 PM Club meeting at Salem Presbyterian Church, Mozart & Higbee in Westwood-  
Cheviot behind the Harrison-Boudinot White Castle  
Program: Band plans
- Wed 7 9:00 PM Tech Talk, 146.67, NCS Carol WA8YL
- Sat 10 10:00 AM Oh-Ky-In Monthly Fox Hunt, hounds start at Mt Storm Park; talk-in to  
start on 146.67
- Tue 13 7:30 PM Technical Committee meeting if needed, location TBA
- Wed 14 9:00 PM Tech Talk, 146.67, NCS Dale KC8HQS  
Valentine's Day
- Fri 16 7:30 PM Queen City Emergency Net at Red Cross HQ, 820 Sycamore St downtown
- Mon 19 Presidents' Day, observed
- Wed 21 9:00 PM Tech Talk, NCS Dennis KB8ROA  
Ash Wednesday
- Wed 28 9:00 PM Tech Talk, NCS Brian K4BRI
- Fri Mar 2 7:30 PM Amateur Radio Public Svc Corps, Hamilton Co Communications Ofc  
Conference Rm, 2377 Civic Ctr Dr – park in Bd of Educ lot
- Tue Mar 6 7:30 PM Club meeting at Salem Presbyterian Church, Mozart & Higbee in Westwood-  
Cheviot behind the Harrison-Boudinot White Castle  
Program: 2006 Oh-Ky-In DXpedition

### ==>President expresses appreciation to Amateur Radio operators

President George W. Bush has written the ARRL to recognize the just-ended Hello Amateur Radio public relations campaign and to extend "greetings to all those celebrating 100 years of voices over the airwaves." The president said the centennial of Reginald Fessenden's landmark Christmas Eve 1906 voice broadcast "opened the door for technological advances" that improved the lives of people around the world.

"I appreciate all who work in radio, and I am grateful to the Amateur Radio operators who provide emergency communications that help make our country safer and more secure," President Bush wrote. "Your good work strengthens our society and represents the American spirit."

ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts W1AGP conceived and developed the Hello campaign. He says that while that initiative is formally over, ARRL public information coordinators and officers will take advantage in the new year of the momentum it generated.

"As we begin launching the new Emergency Communications campaign, the friendships and goodwill developed in Hello will aid in future promotions of Amateur Radio," Pitts commented. "For 100 years, radio in its many forms has saved lives and aided in crises. We have a great legacy and a bright future."

The grand finale of the Hello campaign December 29-30 involved special event operations from W1AW (see *The ARRL Letter*, Vol 26, No 02, Jan 12, 2007), W1F at Brant Rock, Massachusetts (see below), and GB1FVT in Scotland.

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## OH-KY-IN 2006-7 Committee Appointments

Technical Committee Brian DeYoung K4BRI, Chair  
Volunteer Examiners Brian DeYoung K4BRI, Chair  
Membership Nathan Ciufo KA3MTT, Chair  
Education Chair Ev Giglio KC8JR  
PIO Bruce Vanselow N8BV  
*Q-Fiver* Susie Scott N8CGM, Editor

Special Publications Jo Haltermon KD4PYS  
John M Hugentober Sr Memorial CW Proficiency Award  
Brian DeYoung K4BRI, Chair  
WebMeister Dale Vanselow KC8HQ5  
Equipment Mgr Harry Davis WA8LOJ  
TVI/RFI Dick Arnett WB4SUV, Chair  
Tech Talk Net Mgr Bruce Vanselow N8BV  
Silent Key Bruce Vanselow N8BV, Chair  
ARPSC Representative Peter J Feichtner III KC8BZM

QCEN Representative Peter J Feichtner III KC8BZM  
WARN Representative Peter J Feichtner III KC8BZM  
Repeater Control Ops Mgr Bruce Vanselow N8BV  
Librarian James E. Keely KC8PRY  
Field Day Nathan Ciufo KA3MTT, Chair  
Hamfest Coordinator Phil Smith KG8AP  
Slow Scan TV Net Mgr Harry Davis WA8LOJ  
Fox Hunters Co-Chairs Dick Arnett WB4SUV  
Bob Frey WA6EZV  
Robotics Chair Dana Laurie WA8M  
DXpedition Coordinator Eric Neiheisel N8YC  
[n8yc@arrl.net] 513=598-1659

Life Members Kenneth E Wolf N8WYC  
John W Hughes AI4DA

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The theme of the ARRL's 2007 public relations initiative is "Ham Radio . . . Getting the Message Through for your Family and Community." It will focus on Amateur Radio's capability to provide reliable emergency communication when traditional systems fail or become overloaded.

-- *The ARRL Letter*, Vol 26 #3, Jan 19, 2007

## News of members and students in recent classes

### On the mend, at last

Otto Bielefeld AA8KK, recovering from cancer therapy

### Change of e-dress for Steve Brown KD8CUI

Old address: sbrown16@cinci.rr.com

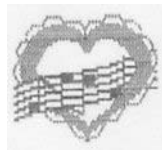
New Address: sbrown32@gmail.com

### Too many holidays in February!!!

Feb 6 Waitangi Day, NZ no art  
Feb 12 Lincoln's Birthday too much art  
Feb 18 Chinese New Year too much art  
Feb 19 President's Day observed, too much art  
Feb 21 Ash Wednesday too much art  
Feb 22 Washington's Birthday too much art



Feb 2, Groundhog Day



Feb 14, St Valentine's Day

*Copy deadline for the March 2-Fiver is Friday, February 16*

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Cincinnati area residents, please print this page, trim & attach to your calendar – thanks!

The OH-KY-IN A.R.S. presents

# AMATEUR RADIO EXAMS

**Saturday, February 24**

12:00 Noon

Salem Presbyterian Church

***Western Hills Area***

*of Cincinnati*

**Walk-Ins Accepted!**

*For Info Call:*

***859-635-3095***

***E-MAIL: [exams@ohkyin.org](mailto:exams@ohkyin.org)***

--> Morse Code is no longer required for any  
amateur radio license! ...effective 02/23/07 <--



