



Apologise in advance for UGLY appearance of DX Spots; but links do work.

Have also **ignored** original margins & increased most article point sizes to 11 for easier reading, it's hoped. –*Ye Ed*



Our 51st 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

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	Bruce Vanselow	N8BV	513=251-1555	n8bv@juno.com

OH-KY-IN Repeaters

146.670 (-) Clifton 146.925 (-) Colerain Twp. 146.625 (-) Withamsville
PL tone of 123 Hz required for access as of 6-1-09
APRS: K8SCH-10 Edgewood WIDE, on 144.39

Web Pages

Club: <http://www.ohkyin.org> Section: <http://www.arrloho.org>
Division: <http://www.arrl-greatlakes.org> National: <http://www.arrl.org>

Regular monthly meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM local time at the St. Bernard Recreation Hall, 120 Washington Ave. (corner Washington & Tower Aves) in St. Bernard, just east of Vine St. Visitors are ALWAYS welcome!

For membership information, contact

Nathan Ciufo KA3MTT, 6323 Cinnamon Ridge Dr, Burlington KY 41005,
859=586-2435, <ka3mtt@arrl.>

Permission is hereby granted to any amateur radio group to quote or reprint from this publication, if proper source credit is given, unless permission is otherwise reserved.

The Q-FIVER is the official newsletter of OH-KY-IN ARS, edited & published monthly by
Susie Scott N8CGM 6351 Daleview Road 45247 513=385-5201 Editor
Electronic copies: *OpenOffice* (Ye Ed fibbed a bit in the hard copies)

The Q-FIVER is mailed and e-mailed usually the Wednesday before the club meeting. Normal copy deadline is the weekend before that. Please send submissions for *The Q-FIVER* (including notice of upgrades & call sign changes) to Ye Ed Susie N8CGM. These may be:

- snail-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,*- readability progressing from 1 (unreadable) to 5 (perfectly readable). "You're Q5" = "Your signal is perfectly readable." (*ARRL Handbook*, 52d ed. 1975)

Febzuazy 2011 Volume 51 Number 2

Dug Out Yet?

As I write this, the forecasters are busy predicting the next snow storm. Definitely makes for a good time to lock ourselves in the shack and stay warm.

I want to start off by thanking Rod KJ4IAM for the great January meeting program. The topic of digital scanners has stirred quite a bit of discussion. It was also fun to see some of the "historical" photos of the old scanners. Having been into scanners long before I was a ham, it was fun to see several of the same scanners that I once owned. Rod is willing to do more scanner stuff with us. If anyone would like to learn more about the new digital scanners and associated software, we would be glad to set up an evening workshop on the topic.

In the near future, you will be receiving, via email, a club survey. I know we all get inundated with surveys, especially on the internet. However, this one is very important to us. The questions on it have been chosen to help us pinpoint some of the future directions the club will take. Your input is very important. It will only take you couple minutes to fill this out and hit the send button. One you do so, you will see the overall results so you will know what other members are thinking. Give us your opinion, it will help the club grow.

I would like to send out a big "THANK YOU" to Dennis McGrath KD8ILY and the Cincinnati Public Schools. Dennis arraigned a donation to the club of 3 UHF Motorola Micor repeaters and a large bank of back up batteries. These will be checked out and put to good use!

One last thing, remember the club repeaters are fully operational. Take a minute and give a call out, or even better, answer when someone else calls. The Technical Committee has done a great job of upgrading our repeaters. Now, all they need are **users**.

73, *Gazy KB8MYC*

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Next Meeting NOTICE

Our February club meeting will be a tour of the Hamilton County Emergency Management Operations Center. This center is state of the art and is one of the best equipped centers in the country. Our host for this tour will be Ed Frambes K8EAF, who is the Emergency Planning Coordinator for Hamilton County.

Our meeting will be held at the EOC on Tuesday, February 1 and we will meet there at 7:30 PM sharp. The address of the facility is 2000 Radcliff Drive Cincinnati, Ohio 45204. We will send out driving directions as the meeting draws closer. If anyone needs assistance with directions or

getting a ride to the facility please contact me and I will try to help out.

73, *Gary KB8MYC*

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Club meeting minutes for Tuesday, January 04, 2011

President Gary KB8MYC called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM @ St. Bernard Municipal Building (Rec. Center) followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Approximately 35 in attendance.

Guests: 1 visitor (didn't mention his name)

Jerry KB8UBG applied for and received the vanity call sign W1SCR.

Proceeded to self introductions.

Health and Welfare: None

Brag session: None

Meeting program(s): Digital scanners presented by Rod KD8IAM, recently-licensed student from our last classes. Excellent program!

Break was at 8:50 and was about 30 minutes long.

Gary KB8MYC mentioned that various items were for sale or for free at the meeting this month.

Gary KB8MYC asked for corrections to the meeting minutes of the December 2010 club meeting.

Russ WB8ZCC made a motion to accept as printed. Eric KC8NMP seconded.

Membership: Nathan KA3MTT wasn't here able to be here. Send in your renewals soon! Dues are due.

Treasurer: Gary KB8MYC had a report available. Gary will be meeting with Fred K9OHE soon to discuss and transfer all the Treasurer duties to him. Thanks to Gary KB8MYC for acting as Treasurer.

Silent Key: Bruce N8BV mentioned he still had various items for sale.

Technical Committee:

925 is working better after some repairs. We will have to pay a monthly fee for our 146.925 (Bevis) & 146.625 (Withamsville) repeater sites. If you know of any possible repeater sites that the club can afford, please let a board member know. Thanks!

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Sam KJ8K mentioned a discussion a few months ago about possibly moving Field Day to a park in St. Bernard. Payment has been made already for our spot at Mitchell Memorial. It's possible Field Day will be moved to a park in St. Bernard in 2012.

2. We still need an Audit Committee & an Awards Committee

Split the pot was \$21 and was won by: Mike AC4XS.

The attendance prize winner was Mick KD8IOQ who wasn't present and would have won \$5. The attendance prize will be \$10 for February 2011.

Larry KD8MX made a motion to adjourn, Ted WB8VNV seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Reminder about the February 2011 club meeting at the Hamilton County Emergency Management Operations Center.

Respectfully submitted, *Dale KC8HQ5*

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ARLB003 New Amateur Radio Bill Introduced in Congress posted Jan 11, 2011

The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act, which died at the end of the 111th Congress, has been reintroduced in the 112th Congress as HR 81. The sponsor is Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX-18). The new bill -- which was introduced on January 5 -- has been referred to the

House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Rep Jackson Lee first introduced the bill -- HR 2160 -- in the 111th Congress in April 2009. It gained additional 41 co-sponsors but did not progress out of the committee of jurisdiction. A similar bill introduced in the Senate -- S 1755 -- made it all the way through that body in December 2009, but likewise was not taken up by the House.

The objective of the bill -- which is supported by the ARRL -- is for the Secretary of Homeland Security to study the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief and to identify and make recommendations regarding impediments to Amateur Radio communications, such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations.

"We are hopeful that this early start will lead to success in the new Congress," commented ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner K1ZZ.

HR 81 can be found on the web in PDF format at,

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-112hr81ih/pdf/BILLS-112hr81ih.pdf>.

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ARRL Outgoing QSL Service Announces New Rate Structure

Effective January 17, 2011, a new pricing structure will go into effect for the [ARRL Outgoing QSL Service](#). With the new rate structure, amateurs will no longer need to count outgoing cards and then guess as to what to pay based upon a half-pound rate; a simple weighing of the cards is all that is necessary to determine what amount to send to the Bureau. This new structure also accommodates a small rate increase in response to recent postage, shipping and handling costs.

The last rate revision for the Outgoing QSL Service was in January 2007. Even though international shipping costs have remained flat over the last 4 years, domestic shipping costs have risen more than 16 percent since 2007, while material and handling costs continue to climb 1 to 2 percent each year.

The new rate will be:

\$2 for 10 or fewer cards in one envelope.

\$3 for 11-20 cards in one envelope, or

75 cents per ounce, for packages with 21 or more cards. For example, a package containing 1.5 pounds -- 24 ounces, or about 225 cards -- of cards will cost \$18.

If you have any questions concerning the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service or the rates to use the service, please send them via e-mail to <buro@arrl.org>.







ARRL Letter, Jan 13, 2011 reprinted by permission

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Operations now approved for DXCC credit: Uganda, 5X1XA, 2010 operation; and Kermadec Island, ZL8X, 2010 operation. *ARLD002 DX news* Jan 13, 2011

DX bulletins made possible with information provided by NC1L, *The Daily DX*, the *OPDX Bulletin*, *DXNL*, *INDEX*, "Contest Corral" from *QST* and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

DX Spots - February 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Note:	Note #2:	1	2	3	4	5
You can click on any blue listing if reading the electronic version to be taken to the DXpedition's website.	Ye Ed is very sorry this has come out looking so UGLY! But it should still work as intended.	CN2LWL-Morocco thru 2-5	T88ZM-Palau thru 2-8	C6AWS-Bahamas thru 2-9	JW8HGA-Svalbard thru 2-8	V55DLH-Namibia thru 2-12
		6W2SC-Senegal 3-31	5H-Tanzania thru 3-8	S9DX-Sao Tome & Principe thru 2-17	A35AY-Tonga thru 2-9	J5NAR-Guinea Bissau thru 2-26
		J5UAP-Guinea Bissau thru 3-31				P29CW-Papua New Guinea thru 3-5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	C6ABB-Bahamas thru 2-17	3B8-Mauritius thru 2-17	KH0-Mariana Is thru 2-16	KH2-Guam thru 2-15		T70DXC-San Marino thru 2-13
		T30-West Kiribati thru 2-22	V31TF-Belize thru 3-1	TJ3C-Cameroon thru 2-20		V4-St Kitts & Nevis thru 3-30
			J37-Grenada thru 3-10			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	TT8DX-Chad thru 2-24				3B9-Rodriguez Is thru 2-22	
						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	J73CCM-Dominica thru 3-7	V5-Namibia thru 3-3	J79AN-Dominica thru 3-6		9M8-East Malaysia thru 2-28	
		VK9C-Cocos Keeling thru 3-5				
27	28					

DX Spots is the work of Oh-Ky-In Membership Chair *Nathan KA3MZZ*. What he sends to *Ye Ed* is much prettier than this; uglies created by need to paste into OpenOffice to get it to PDF with links intact.

ENGLAND, G. Special event station GB6ISWL is QRV throughout 2011 in celebration of 65 years of service to both licensed amateurs and short wave listeners. The station will be active from various locations. QSL via G6XOU. From *ARLD001 DX News*, Jan 6, 2011

Contests

February 2011

Jan 31- Feb 1 Classic Exchange, CW

4 NS Weekly sprint, CW

5-6 EPC WW PSK Contest; FYPO Winter QRP Field Day, SSB & CW; Straight Key Party; North American Sprint, CW; XE International RTTY Contest; Black Sea Cup International, SSB & CW; 10-10 Winter Phone QSO Party;

5-6 QRP Fireside SSB Sprint; VHF School Roundup; YLISSB QSO Party; VT QSO Party; MN QSO Party; BC QSO Party; DE QSO Party

8 ARS Spartan Sprint, CW

9 NAQCC Monthly QRP Sprint, CW; CWOps Mini-CW Test

11-13 LA QSO Party; NH QSO Party; OMISS QSO Party; YL-OM Contest, all mode; PODXS

Valentine Sprint, digital modes; CQ WW RTTY WPX; Dutch PACC Contest, SSB & CW; Asia-Pacific Sprint, CW; FISTS CW Winter sprint; Classic Exchange, phone; RSGB First 1.8 MHz Contest, SSB & CW; Classic Exchange, SSB; NA Sprint, SSB; ME FM Simplex Challenge, 144 MHz; FM Simplex Contest, 50-440 MHz

16 Semiautomatic Key Evening

18-20 ARRL CW DX Contest; Russian PSK Contest; AM QSO Party; Feld-Hell WAS Sprint, digital; CQ WW 160 m SSB Contest

26-28 PA FM Sprint; MS QSO Party; NC QSO Party; REF contest; UBA Contest; NA QSO Party, digital modes; CQC Winter QSO Party, SSB & CW

The shortest month of the year-- but a **lot** of contests! Keep warm. For more information see *QST*, *CQ*, or <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>

73, *Dan K74AV*

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Just too late for Jan 2011 issue – but still bears telling

Now, a year-end bedtime story...

Once upon a time, there was a repeater site in Colerain Twp. Let's call it 925. One day, a nice young man (okay, not so young or nice) who was the chairman of the committee responsible for maintenance of the repeater, came to 925 to exchange some equipment with a slightly better version. The exchange was made, tests were conducted, all seemingly went well. The young man even used the repeater most of the way back home.

But then, when the nice, young man finally arrived at home and attempted to bring up the repeater, what do you think happened? His transmissions were met with The Silence.

"Oh no," thought the young man. "What could have happened? Or more likely, what stupid thing did I do when I was at the site?"

The young man called up another nice, young man with whom he had tested the repeater... let's call him B.B., and explained what he found.

"Impossible," said B.B., "we were just using the repeater."

Assuming something catastrophic had happened to the replaced equipment, the young man and B.B. made plans to return to the site later that day, in the early evening. In the meanwhile, the young man decided to modify the equipment he had swapped from 925 to make it as good as the equipment he thought had failed... except working, of course. ;-)

The time came to return to the site, and the young man and B.B. arrived there as planned. But they had to be

quick, because this night was the night of The Net, and B.B. could not miss The Net, otherwise there might not be any business or purpose for The Net that evening.

Then something very odd was discovered. Equipment was checked and found to be in working order.

"Hmm, something's not right," said the young man in a moment of absurd obviousness.

B.B. and the young man went quickly about their work, inspecting every other piece of equipment and cable that could have possibly been the source of The Silence. After a few moments of tugging on this coax and pushing on that connector, what do you think B.B. and the young man found?

THIS! Bad N Connector

An N adapter, who up until this time had been living at the Tee connector at the output of the repeater's duplexer, fell apart in the young man's hand when he removed the duplexer output cable.

To make an already too long a story much shorter, the adapter and cable was immediately replaced with a properly connectorized cable, the original equipment was replaced (just in case), and the repeater began to operate as it should. Everyone was happy.

So, the point and moral of this story is...

"Use adapters for testing and emergencies when you haven't the correct cable. But in no case should adapters be left in an RF system if you expect that system to be reliable, because the adapter will eventually fail and bite you in the *ss." ;-)

Happy New Year!

73, *Russ WB8ZCC*

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Technical Committee report

It's always good to report that all 3 of our 2m VHF repeaters are still on the air. On January 5th, it wasn't clear that would continue. 146.625 in Withamsville was off-the-air all day, apparently due to a tripped circuit breaker or some such. Before yours truly could get over there that evening, the repeater had returned to air, with only the Arcom RC210 controller misreporting the time of day the only clue anything had happened. It sure would have been nice to have back-up power out there, huh?

Speaking of the Arcom controller, N8BV has given me the "thumbs up" (or has thrown in the towel, I don't know which) so we'll be moving the RC210 to 146.67 shortly. We'll return a CAT-300DX controller to .625 while the RC210's programming is massaged for duty at .67. Listen for "the voice" sometime this month.

At 146.67, we have a pleasant surprise. Since no one bought it from Bruce at last month's meeting (he only wanted \$1), we've modified the ancient but still-working Regency WeatherRadio so that we'll be able to use it on .67 in the near future. It won't automatically "break-in" during weather warnings, but KIH-42 audio will be accessible to repeater users via a simple DTMF command (I know, but it's the best we could do on short notice and without a schematic). Look for this shortly following the Arcom install, certainly by spring. Maybe we'll figure out the "auto break-in" thing by then.

Two of the three Vertex repeaters have had the previously-mentioned technical bulletin mod done, and the third will likely be done by the time you read this. This apparently has taken care of the noise/desense issue at 146.925, along with finding a bad adapter (more on that elsewhere).

A big "thank you" must go out to the Cincinnati Public Schools and Dennis KD8ILY for donating to the club (3) Motorola Micor UHF repeaters and a large bank of vented wet-cell Nickel-Cadmium batteries. It's a great acquisition if the club ever wants to consider returning a UHF repeater to air, and the batteries (if good) could potentially supply all of our repeater sites with several hours of emergency back-up power. Wow, that was quick. Stay tuned.

Finally, I cannot forget to thank the various members of our Technical Committee, who braved the weather and loss of a couple of hours operating the NAQP, to secure the donated equipment on January 15th. Thank you.

You guys are awesome.

Good things continue to happen!

73, *Russ WB8ZCC*

Weaver's words: Survey update posted Jan 17, 2011

[Reply to <k8je@arrl.org>]

As I write this brief note, nearly 800 Division members have responded to the current Division survey about possible means for delivering *QST*. Thank you for your interest and the time you've taken to do this.

Anyone who has not yet taken the survey, can still do so until Jan 31 by going to <http://arrl-greatlakes.org/>. The success of this survey has caused me to back away from one of my standard practices. This is to acknowledge personally each E-mail that I receive. I began to follow this practice with the survey, but it soon became apparent that doing this would mean there would be **no** time for visits to hamfests, club meetings or duties related to the Board of Directors.

Please be assured I will continue to read each of your survey replies. If you insert an *ad libitum* comment in the open box at the end of the survey, I still plan to send a personal reply. I apologize that acknowledging each of the other responses is impractical.

I must say that I am very pleased with your responses to the survey. It is nice to be overwhelmed by involved members. Keep me working!

73, *Jim K8JE* Director, Great Lakes Division

ARRL Great Lakes Division Director: James E Weaver K8JE <k8je@arrl.org>

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Ohio Section School is an ARRL Grant Recipient posted Thu Jan 13, 2011

As many of you know, I am a large supporter of getting our youth involved in our hobby. You have read about it in my *OSJ* articles, you have read of my visits to youth clubs. This announcement made by the League should give each one of us a reason to smile, and to challenge ourselves to push the bar higher.

My heartfelt congratulations to Crenshaw Middle School on a job well done! Many thanks to the local Hams such as William Hannon N8PW and John Kalafice W0OZZ who gave time and effort to support the program at Crenshaw.

Here is the edited release from the ARRL website:

ARRL Executive Committee Approves Grant Funding for Five Schools 01/12/2011

In December 2010, the ARRL Executive Committee reviewed grant applications for the ARRL's Education & Technology Program (ETP), awarding equipment valued at nearly \$5000 to five schools. More than 525 schools across the country have received support from the ETP in the form of grants for equipment, curriculum and resources, as well as teacher in-service training through the Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology.

Applications for equipment and resource grants are accepted twice each year; application deadlines are May 1 and November 1. Applications for 2011 summer sessions of the Teachers Institute are currently being accepted.

A central goal of the ETP is to develop a foundation of wireless technology literacy among America's teachers and students. It employs Amateur Radio to explore radio science and electronics and provide hands-on activities that engage students' minds and imaginations, opening doorways into math, science and technology curriculum topics, as well as other core curriculum areas such as geography and language arts.

ETP Grants

Grants for school radio stations are awarded to schools that provide a plan to use Amateur Radio as part of an enrichment program and/or as part of in classroom learning. 3 schools recently received

ETP grants: 8< snipCrenshaw Middle School, Canton, Ohio: The applicant for this grant has been developing a program and already has a club station, AK8CC

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Students have become very active with Amateur Radio activities, and the instructor has a clear and concise plan to further grow the program. It is very apparent that the teacher has taken experiences and lessons from the ARRL Teachers Institute and applied it to their school. The program development has progressed to the point where the instructor is ready to formalize the ham radio component of the program; the station has been using borrowed equipment. To date, 10 students have received their Amateur Radio licenses.

Progress Grants

The purpose of the ETP Progress Grant is to offer modest resource support to those teachers who are currently using Amateur Radio in their classrooms as an instructional tool and who need additional resources for specific purposes. Schools in Mississippi & Florida received Progress Grants.

ARRL Ohio Section Manager: *Frank J Pipez* *KJ8GW* <ki8gw@arrl.org>

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Hamfests &c.

February 2011

6 Lorain OH Annual Winter Hamfest sponsored by Northern Ohio ARS at Gargus Hall, 1965 N Ridge Rd. 8 AM-1 PM. Dealers, fleas, handicapped access, refreshments. Free breakfast with paid admission, \$6. Talk-in: 146.7. Info: Thomas Porter W8KYZ, 440=930-9115, tporter161@oh.rr.com, www.noars.net

13 Mansfield OH Mid-Winter Hamfest & Computer Show sponsored by InterCity ARC at Richland Co Fairgrounds, 750 N Home Rd. Dealers, fleas, handicapped access, field checking of QSL cards, refreshments, seminars, VE exams at 1 PM (must pre-register by e-mail to <vkafletch@aol.com>.) Advance \$5, door \$6. Info: Danny Bailey KB8STK, 419=896-3603, kb8stk1@hotmail.com or Dean Wrasse KB8MG, 419=589-2415, www.w8we.org

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Severe Weather Spotter Training

In the midst of the cold and snow, it's hard to think about the threat of severe thunderstorms and tornados, but the people who work to keep everyone safe from violent weather have already begun preparing for

spring storms. The National Weather Service (NWS) office in Wilmington OH and local emergency planners in conjunction with other agencies are already scheduling training classes to teach interested people how to detect and report severe weather. These trained volunteer spotters are a very important part of warning the public about damaging weather. At the same time, it's important to note that the NWS discourages storm chasing in the Cincinnati area, pointing out the vast difference between spotting and chasing.

The annual training class sponsored by the Weather Amateur Radio Network has been scheduled for Friday, April 1, 2011 at 7:00 PM in the usual place, the American Red Cross building on Kenwood Road in Blue Ash. For more information on this class, please see <http://www.warn.org/training>.

It's sponsored by WARN, taught by the National Weather Service, in conjunction with the Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency, in a facility provided by the Red Cross – a real group effort. This particular class has a little additional content for amateur radio operators, but everyone is welcome. Other classes are scheduled throughout the County Warning Area of the Wilmington office of the NWS.

The latest schedule is always posted at <http://www.weather.gov/iln/training.php>. It changes quickly as more classes are added, so check back frequently.

The NWS works with local agencies, many times county Emergency Management Agencies, to schedule and host the classes.

The Weather Amateur Radio Network (WARN) is a Cincinnati based volunteer organization of amateur radio equipped weather spotters that works with the NWS office in Wilmington and operates in a 17 county area surrounding Cincinnati. They primarily work to collect severe weather reports and report them to ILN using amateur (HAM) radio. WARN also assists in coordinating Cincinnati area classes and training, as

well as publicizing weather related training, drills, and other information. You can view our web site at <http://www.warn.org>.

73, *Mike Nie W8VMA* Public Information Officer Weather Amateur Radio Network (WARN)
<mnie@warn.org>

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The [World Wide Radio Operators Foundation, Inc.](#) (WWROF) has been granted IRS 501(c)3 status as a tax-exempt public charity. This means that contributions to WWROF by U.S. taxpayers are deductible to the extent allowed by law. Two new directors were also added; John Sluymmer, VE3EJ, and Tine Brajnik, S5ØA, both well-known in the international contest community for their operating skill and leadership talents. In the past year, WWROF has provided financial and "behind-the-scenes" technical support for several programs of interest to active operators, including several award programs and log-checking services for the IARU HF Championship HQ station competition. In 2011, WWROF will be seeking to implement several high-impact, high-return programs that will benefit the contest community at large and would appreciate your financial support.

Everybody needs a [miniature solder pot](#) now and then and here is the Goldilocks version - it's "just right". (Thanks, Dan KI4YZE)

I debated whether to put this [video of a 190-foot tower going up](#) under Sights and Sounds, but as it provides some heavy-duty guidelines for heavy-duty towers, it's a Technical Tip. (Thanks, Craig K9CT)

ARRL Contest Update Jan 5, 2011 *Hi Wazd Silver NOA* Ed reprinted by permission

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VE exam opportunities pls see also Hamfests &c. pg 10

February 2011

1st Sat each month: Cincinnati-Hartwell OH, sponsored by GCARA, at Hartwell Presbyterian Church. Register 8:30 AM; walk-ins only! All licence classes. Info: Dale Pritchett KC8HJL, 513=769-0789.

2d Mon each month: Edgewood KY, sponsored by NKARA, at Hilltop Church of Christ, 5300 Taylor Mill Rd, Taylor Mill KY 41015. Park in back, pls enter thru basement. Pre-registration preferred, walk-ins accepted as space permits. Info: Lyle Hamilton AB8SH, 513=315-4032. Talk-in 147.22

2d Thu each month except March & December: Milford OH, sponsored by Milford ARC at Faith Church, 5910 Price Rd. Register 6 PM. Walk-ins OK. No exam fees at Milford; they use Laurel. Info: Barb Steward KA8AXY, 513=625-8651, <wsteward@fuse.net>

In all cases, tests require 2 IDs (preferably at least one with photo). Bring with you the original, as well as photocopies, of current licence & CSCs. \$15 is current ARRL/VEC exam fee where applicable; exact change, check or money order appreciated.

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Sights & sounds

If it seems like the QRN from a thunderstorm is curiously strong, perhaps it's just the echoes of matter-antimatter annihilation! It turns out that thunderstorms can [actually create antimatter and gamma rays](#) like a giant particle accelerator. The NASA story has lots of interesting graphics and animations to explain how this happens. You'll never look at big cumulonimbii the same way!

From *ARRL Contest Update* for Jan 19, 2011, *Hi Wazd Silver NOA* Ed, reprint by permission

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ARLS001 NASA Seeks Amateur Radio Operators' Aid to Listen for Nanosatellite's Beacon Signal

posted Jan 20, 2011

On Wednesday, January 19 at 1630 UTC, engineers at Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala-bama confirmed that the NanoSail-D nanosatellite ejected from Fast Affordable Scientific and Technology

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Satellite (FASTSAT). According to NASA, the ejection event occurred spontaneously and when engineers at Marshall identified and analyzed onboard FASTSAT telemetry; the ejection of NanoSail-D also has been confirmed by ground-based satellite tracking assets.

NASA is asking radio amateurs to listen on 437.270 MHz for the signal and verify NanoSail-D is operating. Hams should send information to the NanoSail-D dashboard via the web at <http://nanosaild.engr.scu.edu/dashboard.htm>.

NASA said that the NanoSail-D science team is hopeful the nanosatellite is healthy and can complete its solar sail mission.

"This is great news for our team," said Dean Alhorn, NanoSail-D principal investigator and aerospace engineer at the Marshall Center. "We're anxious to hear the beacon which tells us that NanoSail-D is healthy and operating as planned. The science team is hopeful to see that NanoSail-D is operational and will be able to unfurl its solar sail." As of Thursday, January 20, the NanoSail-D dashboard is reporting that beacon data has been received, but NASA still wants amateurs to track and report the signals.

On December 6, 2010, NASA triggered the planned ejection of NanoSail-D from FASTSAT. At that time, the team confirmed that the door successfully opened and data indicated a successful ejection. Upon further analysis, however, the team found no evidence of NanoSail-D in low-Earth orbit (LEO), leading them to believe NanoSail-D remained inside FASTSAT. The FASTSAT mission has continued to operate as planned with the five other scientific experiments operating nominally.

"We knew that the door opened and it was possible that NanoSail-D could eject on its own," said FASTSAT Project Manager Mark Boudreaux. What a pleasant surprise we had Wednesday morning when our flight operations team confirmed that NanoSail-D is now a free flyer."

If the deployment is successful, NASA said that NanoSail-D will stay in LEO between 70 and 120 days, depending on atmospheric conditions. NanoSail-D is designed to demonstrate deployment of a compact solar sail boom system that could lead to further development of this alternative solar sail propulsion technology and FASTSAT's ability to eject a nanosatellite from a micro-satellite -- while avoiding re-contact with the FASTSAT satellite bus. (Considerably shorter version of this put out by *World Radio Online News*.)

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Two Ham Radio Centennial Celebrations in release from *World Radio Online News*, also Jan 20

***Wish a Happy 100th to a Ham Radio Legend**

Leo Meyerson W0GFQ, a longtime leader in the ham radio industry as owner of World Radio Laboratories (think Globe Scout and other Globe radios from the "golden age" of ham radio), will turn 100 years old in February.

QCWA Chapter 154 is hosting a birthday party for Leo and running a special event station (W0G) on February 24. (Look for W0G on or near 14.260 MHz between 1800 and 2400 UTC. QSL via the operator you contact.)

Leo is planning to be listening in, and may even make some contacts himself.

In addition, QCWA national president Bob Roske N0UF suggests that all hams who would like to join the celebration write "Happy 100th Birthday, Leo" on a QSL card and mail it to: Leo Meyerson W0GFQ, 19 Park Lane, Rancho Mirage CA 92270.

***Ronald Reagan Centennial Special Events**

Two amateur radio clubs in California are planning special event stations in honor of the 100th birthday of former President Ronald Reagan on February 6th.

1. The Ventura County Amateur Radio Society will operate N6R from Thousand Oaks, California, from 1600 UTC on Sunday, Feb. 6, through 0200 UTC Monday, Feb. 7, and intermittently at other times on Saturday (2/5) and Monday. Tentative frequencies (QRM): CW: 3545, 7045, 14045, 21045, 28045 kHz; SSB: 3820, 7260, 14255, 21320, 28490 kHz, plus local repeaters and FM simplex. More details at

www.qrz.com/db/n6r. E-mail scheduled requests to <n6rn6r@aol.com>. QSL with SASE (no eQSL or LoTW) to Peter Heins N6ZE.

2. The Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club will operate W6R at various times and from various locations on Friday, Feb. 4 through Monday, Feb. 7. Main operation will be on 2/5 from 0300-2100 UTC. In addition, a rover operation from the Reagan ranch is scheduled on Feb. 7. For updates and QSL information, see www.sbarc.org/w6r.html.

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Spring 2011 Greene County License Courses

The Greene County Amateur Radio License Courses, jointly sponsored by the 3 Greene County amateur radio clubs (Bellbrook, Fairborn and Xenia) and Greene County ARES, will be held concurrently on Sunday evenings from 7 to 9 PM beginning February 13 and continuing through April 10. An exam session is scheduled for Sunday, April 17, at 6 PM.

The entry level Technician Class Course will be held in the Training Center at the Bellbrook Amateur Radio Club Clubhouse, Room 1 Sugarcreek Elementary School, 51 South East Street in Bellbrook. No experience is required and there is no minimum age required to earn a Technician Class license.

The General Class Course and the Test Session will be held in the Training Room at Beavercreek Township Fire Station 1 located at 1298 Dayton-Xenia Road just west of Orchard Lane.

The Extra Class Course will be held in the Training Room at Fairborn Fire Station 2 located at 2200 Commerce Center Blvd just south of Dayton-Yellow Springs Rd (just east of I-675).

Detailed directions to each site will be included in a follow-up announcement to prospective students.

There is no charge for the courses or the test session but all students are encouraged to have a copy of the respective ARRL License Manual. Current editions of each license manual will be available the first two weeks of the courses at a discounted price of \$26 including sales tax.

Please pass this information along to any prospective hams you know. No experience is required for the entry level (Technician Class) amateur radio license & there is no age limit for obtaining an amateur radio license. Also, all current Technician Class hams should seriously consider upgrading to General Class and the Greene County course provides an ideal opportunity.

To register for one of the courses or for more information, please contact Mike Crawford KC8GLE by email at <KC8GLE@earthlink.com> or by phone (between 10 AM and 10 PM) at 937=426-2721.

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“Spilling the beans” a bit early, the next **Oh-Ky-In ARS one-day Technician class** will be held Saturday, April 16 in the St Bernard Recreation Hall, 120 E Washington, St Bernard; same place as club meetings when an election isn’t scheduled. Further details to come.

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Radio law: FCC seeks members for Consumer Advisory Committee

The Federal Communications Commission is seeking applications for membership on its Consumer Advisory Committee which is now beginning its sixth 2-year term. Since its establishment in November 2000, the Committee has made many valuable recommendations to the regulatory agency regarding consumer issues within the jurisdiction of the FCC. In addition, the Committee has helped to facilitate the participation of all consumers in proceedings before the Commission. This includes groups like people with disabilities and underserved populations such as Native Americans and persons living in rural areas.

Applicants should be recognized authorities in their fields, including, but not limited to, organizations focusing upon consumer advocacy, disabilities, underserved populations, telecommunications infra-structure and equipment, telecommunications services including wireless and broadcast/cable services.

Individuals who do not represent an organization, institution, or entity, but who possess expertise valuable

to the Committee's work, are also welcome to apply. Such applicants should be aware, however, that government ethics rules may require financial and other disclosures.

Committee members, all of whom are volunteers, must be willing to commit to a two-year term of service, should be willing and able to attend 3 one-day meetings a year in Washington, D.C., and are also expected to participate in deliberations of at least one working group or subcommittee. Working groups meet via email or teleconference, and all meetings are accessible to people with disabilities.

The application deadline is February 11th. Full details on the Committee and how to apply for membership can be found on-line in Adobe file PDF format at www.tinyurl.com/4vx38d5. (FCC)

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QSLing: ARRL LoTW now available to VHF & UHF operators

The ARRL has announced that its very popular Logbook of the World has been upgraded to support awards based on Maidenhead grid squares, such as VUCC and the Fred Fish Memorial Award.

Logbook of the World is an online system for hams to use to confirm two-way contacts. It can also be utilized that can be used for various ARRL awards. Until now it has been limited to confirming contacts on the high frequency bands. Now members of the ham community who enjoy operation on 50 MHz and above can utilize its services as well.

To take advantage of the new features, you need to log in to your Logbook of the World account or create one if you are not already a user of the service. After that, just follow the outlined procedures found on the Logbook of the World pages. More information on how to do this is at the ARRL website. Use www.tinyurl.com/5vw4nkd to take you directly there. (ARRL)

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Washington happenings: President calls for agency streamlining

The CGC Communicator reports that President Obama has signed an Executive Order instructing government agencies to modify, streamline, expand or repeal regulations that cause unnecessary burdens. As a result, a number of FCC Rules might be eliminated or improved. At this time which ones cannot even be speculated on. More on this latest development out of Washington is on line at www.tinyurl.com/WhiteHouseExecutiveOrder. (CGC)

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Names in the news: DJ9KR publishes 40 meter broadcast intruder list

Ulrich Bihlmayer DJ9KR of Tuebingen, Germany, has published a list of broadcast stations still operating in the 7.0 to 7.2MHz amateur service radio band. The list can be downloaded in Adobe PDF format from www.tinyurl.com/4c8ootr. The latest version was published on January 11th. Using it as a handy reference you should be able to determine what station might be interfering with a QSO and where that station is located. (IARU) 4 preceding stories in *Amateur Radio Newslines* #1745 for Jan 21, 2011 via qrz.com

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What's coming in February

Tue Feb 1 7:30 PM Club meeting at Hamilton Co Emergency Management Ctr, 2000 Radcliff Dr, Cincinnati 45204. Program is a tour of the facility; host/tour guide is Ed Frambes K8EAF, Hamilton Co Emergency Planning Coordinator. Talk-in directions will be sent out prior to this meeting. Pls see also **Next meeting**, pg 3

Wed Feb 2 9:00 PM Tech Talk on 146.67 repeater, NCS Dale KC8HQS

Fri Feb 4 8:00 PM Amateur Radio Public Svc Corps, Hamilton Co Communications Ofc Conference Rm, 2377 Civic Ctr Dr – pls park in Bd of Educ lot

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 open
 Field Day Chair Eric Neiheisel N8YC
 Special Publications Jo Haltermon KD4PYS
 Equipment Mgr Brian Fulmer KC8FJN
 [n8yc@arrl.net] 513=598-1659
 Silent Key Chair Bruce Vanselow N8BV
 K8SCH QSL Mgr Gerry Weimer KD8ASL
 Life Members Kenneth E. Wolf N8WYC
 John W. Hughes AI4DA

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Tue Mar 1, 7:30 PM Club meeting at St Bernard Recr Hall, 120 E Washington, St Bernard
Program: TBA

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Adam R Colwell KC8ARC	Michael A Herman KD9PCW	Roderick T Villari KJ4IAM
John W Landrum KD8PCV	Charles L Carter K8CLC	Gregory A Turner KJ4ZKE
Alan B Turner KJ4ZKD	James L Spurlock KD8PCU	Marji A Garrett KJ4ZKC
Robert L Withers KD8PCT	Charles A Bishop KD8PCS	Michael C Bricker KD9PCR
John Shipp KC8TPN (upgrade)		

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Former Oh-Ky-In member **Charles E (Chuck) Brandenburg III KB8JJJ** became a Silent Key on Saturday, Jan.22. Services were held at Fairfield Church of Christ at 6 PM Thursday, Jan.27. Chuck's passing was announced on the Tri-State Amateur Traffic Net Wednesday, Jan. 26.

Absolute copy deadline for March QFivez is Friday, February 25

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