

**K8SCH**

# THE Q-FIVE



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

*OH Section News* arrived at *Ye Ed's* too late to include in the hard copies. However, the wonders of PDF make it possible to include it at the end of this edition, as well as an insert in copies for hand-out at the May mbrs' mtg.



## 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

|                  |                 |        |              |  |
|------------------|-----------------|--------|--------------|--|
| President        | Gary Coffey     | KB8MYC | 513=382-3979 | kb8myc@fuse.net                                  |
| Vice President   | Brian Fulmer    | KC8FJN | 513=235-8578 | bfulmer3832@yahoo.com                            |
| Cor. Secretary   | Phil Smith      | KG8AP  | 513=771-7839 | kg8ap@arrl.net                                   |
| Rec. Secretary   | Dallas Vanselow | KC8HQS | 513=939 2592 | kc8hqs@fuse.net                                  |
| Treasurer        | Fred Schneider  | K9OHE  | 513=729-0945 | fschneider@fuse.net                              |
| Directors        | Russell Hines   | WB8ZCC | 513=891-7403 | russ@wb8zcc.com                                  |
|                  | Jerry Shipp     | W1SCR  | 513=242-2369 | jlshipp@zoomtown.com                             |
|                  | Bruce Vanselow  | N8BV   | 513=251-1555 | n8bv@juno.com                                    |
| Trustee/Licensee | Bruce Vanselow  | N8BV   | 513=251-1555 | <a href="mailto:n8bv@juno.com">n8bv@juno.com</a> |

### 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!

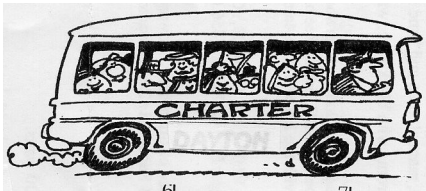
### For membership information, contact

Nathan Ciufo KA3MTT, 6323 Cinnamon Ridge Dr, Burlington KY 41005, 859=586-2435,  
<membership @ohkyin.org>. Dues are due on Jan 1 each year, **last** chance to renew is March 31

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*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](mailto:n8cgm@arrl.net) or to [sscott@iglou.com](mailto:sscott@iglou.com)



# THE Q-FIVER

## How mbrs of some clubs get to Hamvention<sup>R</sup>...

(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)

## May 2011 Volume 51 Number 5

### Spring Has Sprung.....

And that means lots of happenings at OH-KY-IN. It's refreshing to see all of the activities we have beginning in our club. Our slow scan net is taking off, fox hunts have started again, and Bruce's brunch bunch continues to grow each month.

It is also great to see some new faces at our monthly meetings, along with seeing some old familiar faces coming back out.

As summer gets closer a lot more activities will be happening. Dayton is just around the corner. Field Day is, as always, the last weekend of June. Our club picnic will return. Along with these activities, we will work some of the summer contests and also keep doing the things mentioned above. Not seeing an activity that sparks your interest yet? Step up to the plate and get it organized and rolling. I guarantee you other club members will be interested too and you will have a great time.

I look forward, as always, to seeing everyone at the various club activities. And, as always, use one of our three great repeaters every time you get the chance. Hopefully I'll see you on the air!

73 Gary KB8MYC

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### Next meeting

The May club meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 5 at 7:30 PM at the St. Bernard Recreation Hall, 120 Washington Ave. (corner Washington & Tower Aves) in St. Bernard, just east of Vine St. The program at this meeting will be announced on the club repeaters, if it can't be settled before final deadline for *The Q-Fiver*.

73, Brian KC8FJN

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### Club meeting minutes for Tuesday, April 05, 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 30 in attendance.

Guests: Evan Mollen, Jim Huber, Pat Kumpf, Jim N8HQY, Steve W8NYC

New Licenses or upgrades: None

Proceeded to self introductions.

Health and Welfare: None

Brag session: Fred K9OHE got his 50 year pin from the ARRL.

Meeting program(s): Demonstration of Slow Scan TV and the results of the club survey.

Break was at 8:15 and was about 15 minutes long.

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Gary KB8MYC asked for corrections to the meeting minutes of the March 2011 club meeting. There were none.  
 Membership: Nathan KA3MTT reported we currently have 86 members. Renewal reminder cards have been sent out.  
 Treasurer: Fred K9OHE reported that the checking account has been balanced. Report is attached.  
 Silent Key: We have had several silent keys the past couple months. Bruce N8BV sent out letters to the SKs' families offering help with the equipment.  
 Technical Committee: Russ WB8ZCC reported that the repeaters are working great. We continue to make small tweaks here and there.  
 Equipment Manager: Brian KC8FJN reported he is still trying to finalize the list.  
 Classes: Ham radio classes for Extra & General have begun. 1 Day Tech Class will be Saturday, April 16. The Saturday, May 14 exam will begin at noon.  
 Fundraising: Red, White & Blue Ash July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Celebrate St. Bernard – Noon to midnight. May 21<sup>st</sup>.  
 Fox Hunts: Brian K4BRI reported he is starting up Fox Hunts again. 10 AM April 9<sup>th</sup> beginning at Mt. Storm Park. Talk-in on 146.67 repeater.  
 TechTalk: Bruce N8BV reported that we can always have more check-ins on the TechTalk Net. Thanks to the stations who have substituted for regular Net Control Stations in the recent past.  
 Old Business: None  
 New Business: Harry KM4CS mentioned that the ARRL is fighting to keep our 440 spectrum. Also, there are some bills in the house looking to expand PRB-1 for HOAs and Condo associations.  
 Gary KB8MYC gave us a presentation on the survey results.  
 The attendance prize winner was Bob Cooke W8JSO who was present and won \$10. The attendance prize will be \$5 for May 2011.  
 Split the pot was \$18 and won by: Fred K9OHE.  
 John KC8VQU moved to adjourn, Eric KC8NMP seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.  
 Respectfully submitted, *Dale KC8HQS*

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### FCC Launches New "Beta" Website

The FCC has opened access to its new "Beta" website, the first major overhaul of the agency's website in a decade. Once you get past all the buzzwords in the announcement about it ("architected with a more intuitive user experience ... the *reimagined* FCC.gov is proof that ... dot-govs can look, feel and run like dot-coms."), you'll find some interesting features, including blogs by Commission staffers and a very cool "spectrum dashboard" that lets you search for the allocations of various services or "browse" by frequency.

Unfortunately, the architects of the new site appear to believe the radio spectrum begins at 225 MHz and we haven't been able to figure out how to search for amateur allocations, even though they're listed on the chart. Check it out yourself at <http://beta.fcc.gov/>.

Posted by CQ Newsroom at [1:53 PM](#) 4-26-11

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### Fund Raising

The Oh-Ky-In Amateur Radio Society will operate a soft drink/water booth at the Celebrate St. Bernard event on Saturday, May 21. This event, much like a neighborhood block party, will be held with live entertainment etc., as mentioned on Saturday, May 21. Our situation is that this happens to fall on Dayton Hamvention<sup>R</sup> weekend. If you are **not** going to Dayton, or if you plan to be back in the Cincinnati area before the St. Bernard event is over, please let me know that you are available to help out.

Logistics for the operation of this event were finally out at *Q-Fiver* deadline (see event on calendar). More

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details, I'm sure, will follow as the event date gets closer. Since OH-KY-IN *really* appreciates what the City of St. Bernard does for us, we need to respond and have a good showing for this event. It won't be hard work and we will have a covered festival-type booth to help protect us from the weather just in case. Come on out and enjoy the fun! Let's show St. Bernard that we really do mean THANK YOU !!

I know that this is a bad timing event, particularly thinking about it being Hamvention<sup>R</sup> weekend. But, WAIT, if this was a REAL EMERGENCY, would that make a difference?

73, ..... *Bruce N8BV*

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### Re May 1 Flying Pig Marathon & associated shorter runs

From Steve Lewis N8TFD's Apr 5 roster, the following Oh-Ky-Ins had signed up to communicate for the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Flying Pig: Brian Fulmer KC8FJN, Stuart Press KC8HQT, Lynn Ernst WD8JAW, Dennis Marvin KB8JVK, Francis Smith N8PEE, Rich Haltermon KD4PYR, Jim Walsh N8ZZW. Singing rather than communicating at the Eden Park Overlook, again, will be Brad Scott WD9HDZ & Bob Cooke W8JSO. Generally assisting at same location will be *Ye Ed*. Running the full marathon with an HT, tho not an Oh-Ky-In, will be Elizabeth Gilday KD8MJY.

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**Radio's Plus Joe Davidson KB8SBN**

**11641 Colthar Drive Bethel OH 45106-9669 513=752-9570**

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T-shirts recently available from Signals.com

*Resistance is not futile, it's voltage divided by current.  
Engineering. It's like math, but LOUDER.*

*Ye Ed* recalls seeing, & saving, a 2-3 liner re **Russia finally signing the CEPT treaty\agreement**, so that hams with sufficient-grade licenses may now operate there reciprocally. Believe it was in an *ARRL Contest Update*, but am not able to find it again. **However**, a story that FCC has now accepted Russia as a reciprocal nation does **not** appear yet on ARRL.org. Last one was for Montenegro in Feb 2011.

### Still more re DX

We UK amateurs can use a "GR" prefix to celebrate the royal wedding. We need a Notice of Variation and I've applied for one.

GR will be permitted from the day of the wedding (Friday 29th April) for eleven days. Over here, Mon 25th, Tue 26th Fri 29th and Mon 2nd May are public holidays, so you may find more UK stations than usual on the air. We don't often have this many public holidays so close together.....

sent by *Jan Brothwell G3EAN* relayed by *Tony Hirsch W8RSU* to *Bob Roske N0UJ* who sent to QCWA hotlist on Apr 14. More info at <http://www.etcc.rsgh.org/RoyalWedding/>

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**The following operations are approved for DXCC credit:** Tristan Da Cunha and Gough Islands, ZD9AH, 2010 operation and ZD9T, 2010 to 2011 operation. If you had these operations rejected in a recent application, send a note to <dxcc@arrl.org> to have your record updated.







Weekly bulletins are generally made possible with information provided by NC1L, *The Daily DX*, the *OPDX Bulletin*, *DXNL*, *INDX*, "Contest Corral" from *QST* and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all. – *ARLD016 DX news, Apr 21, 2011*

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# DX Spots – May 2011

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday   |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| <b>1</b><br><a href="#">AH0-Marian Is</a><br><a href="#">thru 5-5</a><br><a href="#">T6PSE-Afghanistan</a><br><a href="#">thru 5-31</a> | <b>2</b><br><a href="#">HI7-Dominican</a><br><a href="#">Republic thru 5-20</a><br> | <b>3</b><br>6 W-Senegal<br>thru 5-12<br>  | <b>4</b><br><a href="#">JD1BMH-</a><br><a href="#">Ogasawara</a><br><a href="#">thru 5-13</a><br> | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b><br>ZF-Cayman Is<br>thru 5-13<br> | <b>7</b>   |
| <b>8</b><br>SV5-Dodecanese<br>thru 5-14<br><hr/> 8 P9XB-Barbados<br>thru 5-21   | <b>9</b>   | <b>10</b>  | <b>11</b>  | <b>12</b>   | <b>13</b>  | <b>14</b><br><a href="#">SX5F-Dodecanese</a><br><a href="#">thru 5-22</a><br><hr/> <a href="#">FJ-St Bartholemy</a><br><a href="#">thru 5-22</a> |
| <b>15</b>   | <b>16</b>  | <b>17</b><br>T2XG-Tuvalu<br>thru 5-24<br>   | <b>18</b>  | <b>19</b><br>JW8HGA-<br>Svalbard thru<br>5-23<br> | <b>20</b><br><b>DAYTON</b><br><b>HAMVENTION</b><br><b>THRU 5-22</b>  | <b>21</b><br><b>"CELEBRATE</b><br><b>ST BERNARD"</b><br><b>BLOCK</b><br><b>PARTY</b>   |
| <b>22</b>   | <b>23</b>  | <b>24</b>  | <b>25</b>  | <b>26</b>   | <b>27</b>  | <b>28</b>  |
| <b>29</b>   | <b>30</b>  | <b>31</b><br><a href="#">5R8KS-</a><br><a href="#">Madagascar</a><br><a href="#">thru 6-6</a><br> |  |   |  |  |

**Tnx Gary KB8MYC for DX Spots assistance**

For some arcane reason, *Ye Ed*'s e-mail server refused to receive the May DX Spots column. Nathan KA3MTT tried repeatedly, over a number of **days**, even sending to *Ye Ed*'s *other* main e-drs (used mostly for chorus). At last the suggestion was made that maybe Nathan could send to Gary, who could then relay to *Ye Ed*. **Hey presto!** It's sincerely hoped this will **not** become SOP (standard operating procedure)! Historical note: after *Ye Ed* became *Ye Ed*, upon retirement of the previous one, **all** columns were either read onto landline answering machines, or hard copy dropped off, & the whole issue except for cover typed. Keystone Printing then worked *their* magic.

## Contests

May 2011

- 3 ARS Spartan Sprint, CW
- 6-8 SNS and NS Weekly sprints, CW; 10-10 Spring CW Contest; Microwave Spring Sprint; 7<sup>th</sup> Area QSO Party; 0-Land QSO Party; IN QSO Party; NV QSO Party; Radio Club of America QSO Party; ARI International DX contest; New England QSO Party
- 11 CWops Mini-CWT
- 14-15 FOC QSO Party, CW; Armed Forces Communications Test; CQ-M International DX contest; Portuguese Navy Day, SSB & CW; Alessandro Volta RTTY DX Contest; FISTS Spring Sprint, CW; Worked All Britain LF, phone; 50 MHz Spring Sprint; EUCW Fraternizing CW Party
- 19-21 EU PSK DX Contest; NAQCC Monthly QRP Sprint, CW; Portuguese Navy Day, Digital; His Majesty the King of Spain Contest, CW; Feld-Hell Hamvention Sprint, digital;
- 28-29 CQ WW WPX, CW; EU EME contest; Baltic Contest, SSB & CW; QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint, CW; MI QRP Memorial Day CW sprint
- 31-June 1 MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint
- 30-31 Kids Roundup
- Spring has sprung. Time for antenna work and contests! For more information see *QST*, *CQ*, or <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>
- 73, *Dan K74AV*

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## Hamfests &c.

May 2011

- 14 Louisa KY Hamfest, 8 AM-1 PM, sponsored by Big Sandy ARC at Louisa Sr Citizens Ctr, 109 W Pike St. Dealers, fleas, handicapped access, field checking of QSL cards, refreshments, a seminar, tailgating, ARRL VE sessions (walk-ins welcome) Talk-in: 147.39. \$2. Info: Fred Jones WA4SWF, 606=483-1109, <wa4swf@bellsouth.net>, [www.bsarc.org](http://www.bsarc.org)
- 20-22 Dayton Hamvention<sup>R</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> consecutive, sponsored by Dayton ARA at Hara Arena, 1001 Shiloh Springs Rd, Trotwood OH. Fri 8 AM-6 PM, Sat 8 AM-5 PM, Sun 8 AM-1 PM. Theme "Global Friendship". Dealers, customary **huge** flea market, handicapped accessible, refreshments, seminars and forums, tailgating, VE sessions Fri 2:30 PM. Sat 9:30 AM & 1:30 PM (first come first served, no fee, no pre-registration, info at <exams@hamvention.org>), Tech Class Sat 9 AM-4 PM (one-day wonder in hallway behind main arena, get your license by day's end), special event station W8BI, big ARRL Expo in Hara Ballarena incl DXCC card checking (not as **big** as flea mkt, but **nothing** is! info at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) /expo). Talk-in 146.94, 146.91. 146.64, 223.94, 442.1. \$20 in advance, at Debco, R&L or by mail with #10 SASE to adrs given on Hamvention<sup>R</sup> website, \$25 at door, valid all 3 days, 12 & under free when accompanied by paying ticket holder. Info: Michael Kalter W8CI, 937=276-6934, <info@hamvention.org>, [www.hamvention.org](http://www.hamvention.org)

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## Next Brunch Bunch

Another good group got together Saturday, April 12, for the Brunch Bunch at Blue Ash Chili. Plans were to have the next Brunch Bunch at Camp Washington Chili, however, that restaurant will be closed for vacation until July 27. We'll have to plan to go there at a later date.

So, on the 2nd Saturday of the month in May (May 14), we'll meet this time at Skyline Chili in Monfort Heights located at 5444 North Bend Road, just north of the I-74 North Bend Road exit. As usual we'll meet

at 1 PM. I've been advised that they will put tables together to accommodate us and if they are crowded at all, we'll be given the use of the large room downstairs where we'll be able to be much closer together as a group. So, if available, please plan to join us for some good food, conversation and a good time. If needed, talk-in will be available on the 146.67 repeater.

73, ..... *Bruce N8BV*



N8BV said waitress gets credit for pix

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## Making Hay

As the saying goes, you need to make hay while the sun shines. And, believe it or not, in spite of recent weather and the occasional "dark cloud," the sun has been shining on our repeater system. 146.67 has been running pretty much continuously since July (and pretty much since the installation of the Motorola more than a year ago), and 146.925 and 146.625 has remained on-air since last September and October, respectively. Yes, there has been the occasional power outage and equipment failure, but off-air times have been a matter of hours and not days. That's a good thing.

Now, to making hay. 146.67 is ready to have a "new voice," with the installation of the Arcom controller (finally, they all said). Along with this, we'll be adding a few new features: NWS radio audio and back-up power. Initially, the weather radio audio will be available by DTMF command only, but I'm hoping we can add an "auto alert" function in the future so that severe weather alerts will automatically "break-in" to the repeater. The back-up power will be (2) banks of the vented NiCads we recently received. Needless-to-say, look for a Tech Committee meeting announcement in the very near future.

Thanks to Dennis KD8ILY and Cincinnati Public Schools for the batteries, and Dennis KB8JVK for the charger, you all are awesome.

There's more to come, much of it making our existing system more reliable. The goal remains to improve and move forward, remove single points of failure when and where we can, and, of course, have fun with the repeaters.

Good things continue to happen.

73, *Russ WB8ZCC*

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## ARLB012 Revised Spread Spectrum Rules to Go Into Effect April 29, 2011

The revisions to the FCC rules affecting Spread Spectrum transmissions will go into effect April 29, 2011. The Report and Order was published in the March 30 *Federal Register*.

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Details on the revisions can be found on the web at,

<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-adopts-spread-spectrum-rules-changes>

Adopted February 22 and released March 4, 2011, the Report and Order eliminates the requirement that amateur stations transmitting Spread Spectrum use Automatic Power Control (APC) to reduce transmitter power. The Commission also reduced the maximum power of a Spread Spectrum emission from 100 W to 10 W PEP.

The Question Pool Committee of the National Council of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators has removed a related question, E1F13, from the Amateur Extra Class Question Pool.

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At the meeting this week (posted to reflector Apr 8), I mentioned a **website dedicated to SSTV** and close to real-time images of pictures received in Europe. Here's the site: <http://www.g0hwc.com/>

73, *Nathan Ciufo KA3MCT*

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### Spring 2011 Education Update

OH-KY-IN has a full slate of spring classes ready to go, which has already begun. For the new Ham, our spring one day class, done in conjunction with Queen City Emergency Net, was Saturday April 16. This class is also great for people who let their license expire in the past and would like to become re-licensed. It **will** be offered again!

For those wishing to upgrade, a 10 week extra class began on Thursday March 10. A 4 week general class began on March 30.

Exams were given on April 23 and will be again on May 14.

The technician class was held at the Red Cross building on Dana Ave. in Cincinnati. All other classes and exams are held in St. Bernard. For more info you can send an email to [classes@ohkyin.org](mailto:classes@ohkyin.org) or give me a call at 513=347-6396. 73,

*Gazy KB8MYC*

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### *Amateur Radio in Space: Two Astronauts Get Their Ham Tickets*



all 3 articles in *ARRL Letter* for March 31, 2011

*Chris Cassidy KF5KDR (left) and Luca Parmitano KF5KDP will journey to the International Space Station in 2013.*

Even though they aren't scheduled to go to the International Space Station until 2013, two astronauts -- Chris Cassidy and Luca Parmitano -- are now licensed amateurs. Cassidy, who received the call sign KF5KDR, is scheduled to head to the ISS in March 2013 as part of Expedition 35. Parmitano -- an Italian from the European Space Agency -- is KF5KDP; he goes to the ISS three months later in May, as part of Expedition 36.

"Our aim is to have at least one crew member licensed and trained in on-air protocol, who is somewhat excited about ham radio and the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program ([ARRL ARISS](#)), per expedition," explained ARRL ARISS Program Manager Rosalie White, K1STO. NASA ISS Ham Radio Project Engineer Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, told the ARRL that both Cassidy and Parmitano are "excited and interested in the educational aspects of Amateur Radio on board the ISS."

Currently, there are three Russian cosmonauts, two US astronauts -- Ronald Garan KF5GPO, and Catherine Coleman KC5ZTH -- and one Italian astronaut on board the ISS as part of Expedition 28. Alexander Kaleri

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U8MIR, and Oleg Skripochka RN3FU are Russian; Paolo Nespoli IZ0JPA, is from Italy. In June 2011, a new crew -- Expedition 29 -- reports to the ISS: Michael Fossum KF5AQG; Sergei Volkov RU3DIS, and Satoshi Furukawa KE5DAW. This crew will join Coleman, Nespoli and Dimitri Kondratyev. According to the ISS schedule, at least three hams will be on board the ISS at the same time through the end of 2012.

Ransom told the ARRL that he is especially excited for Expedition 29 launch. "Mike Fossum is a Scoutmaster with a Boy Scout troop here in Houston," he said. "We are hoping that he will be active making Amateur Radio contacts with Scouts all around the world while on the ISS. The World Scout Jamboree is in Sweden this year in July and August, and Jamboree on the Air ([JOTA](#)) is near the end of his mission. Hopefully, he will be available for both events, giving Scouts an exciting QSO from space."

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### NCVEC Deletes Question from Amateur Extra Question Pool



Due to the FCC revising the rules concerning Spread Spectrum, the Question Pool Committee of the National Council of Volunteer Examiner Coordinator ( NCVEC) has decided to delete a question from the Amateur Extra class question pool. According to QPC Chairman Rol Anders K3RA, as of April 29 when the new Spread Spectrum rule change goes into effect, the answer to question E1F13 in the Amateur Extra class question pool will no longer be correct .

In March 2011, the FCC -- acting upon a 2006 *Petition for Rulemaking* filed by the ARRL -- eliminated the requirement that amateur stations transmitting Spread Spectrum use Automatic Power Control (APC) to reduce transmitter power. At the same time, the Commission reduced the maximum power of a Spread Spectrum emission from 100 to 10 W PEP.

Anders encouraged those who administer Amateur Radio license exams to remove question E1F13 as soon as possible, but advised that it must be removed when the rules change goes into effect. The changes to Sections 97.311 and 97.313 of the Commission's Rules will be effective 30 days after the [Report and Order](#) is published in the *Federal Register*. The current Amateur Extra class question pool is effective through June 30, 2012.

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### ARRL Nebraska Section Introduces "Elmer Squad"



*Darwin Piatt W9HZC (left) and Darrel Swenson K0AWB discuss the ARRL Nebraska Section's "Elmer Squad" with ARRL Field Organization Supervisor Steve Ewald WV1X (standing) at the ARRL Nebraska State Convention earlier this month. [Barry Buelow WO1Y, Photo]*

The Nebraska Elmer Squad made its first official appearance in March at the ARRL Nebraska State Convention in Lincoln. Darwin Piatt W9HZC and Darrel Swenson K0AWB were on hand to answer questions about the Squad's mission and plans. According to ARRL Nebraska Section Manager Art Zygielbaum K0AIZ, the Squad is gathering a list of volunteer Elmers throughout the state who are willing to assist not only new Amateur Radio operators, but current operators who need some technical assistance.

"Mentoring of new or prospective hams will be an ongoing part of the mission," Zygielbaum told the

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ARRL. "The intent is to have Elmers participate in their local area radio clubs and give presentations on various subjects relating to Amateur Radio." Nearly a dozen hams signed up at the State Convention to be a part of the Elmer Squad.

Piatt and Swenson said that they believe that people should remember that Amateur Radio is a hobby -- and it should be fun. Both men are QRP operators and builders; part of their enjoyment comes from passing on the fun of building to others.

The Elmer Squad will travel around Nebraska this summer and fall, giving presentations and signing up more Elmers. In addition, Piatt and Swenson are working on a Nebraska Elmer Squad website. Zygielbaum said that this will provide a central contact point to match Elmers with those who would like assistance. Once the site is up and running, the URL will be posted on the [ARRL Nebraska Section website](#).

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### **Wish to move to Newington? ARRL Seeks Book Editor --**



The ARRL seeks a Book Editor to manage the production of ARRL books and other publications, ensuring that they meet ARRL standards. The successful applicant will be responsible for managing the progress of all book materials through the production process, tracking current book inventory and scheduling reprints or new editions as needed, authoring new books and other materials, and editing and formatting manuscript materials provided by authors to ensure correct grammar, punctuation and style. Applicants must hold an Amateur Radio license, a Bachelor of Arts degree in English, Journalism or equivalent, and 5 to 10 years of experience as a professional newspaper, book or magazine editor, or corporate technical writer. For more information, including a complete job description and application details, please see the [Employment Opportunities page](#) on the ARRL website. This position was still open at issue final deadline --



Both of these in *ARRL Letter*, Apr 14, 2011

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### **New Global Emergency Communications Network launches**

For the past year or so, there has been a lot of activity going on behind the scenes to establish an alternative international amateur radio emergency communications network that will serve various communities and authorities during and after disasters.

The team comprises a network of seasoned and experienced operators who have put together a totally new

concept in emergency communication!

We are pleased to announce the launch of the **Global Emergency Communications Network** – or **GEM** for short, which has come into operation.

The group will operate on the normal international emergency frequencies as stipulated during various Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (GAREC) network conferences and will also be available on the Echolink Conference \*KA1AAA\* for passing messages!

The Charter which formulates the activities of the group is available on our website for perusal. A new protocol we have introduced is the appointment or acceptance of members. Initially any person who would like to join the network will be accepted as a Supporter.

Once the Supporter has been 'interviewed' via e-mail and other means he/she will be evaluated and then possibly accepted as a member. We wish to make it very clear that although we acknowledge your interest in joining GEM there are certain criteria that have to be met.

These include the following: - Your availability at any time to be called up, the equipment available to you for emergency communication, your specific interest in emergency communication, your very specific qualifications as to how we can fit you into the organisation and how often you can log in on a daily basis to cover all eventualities on our various means of presence!

Passing messages is one thing but being able to get the message through – whatever the circumstances, is the critical factor! We would also like to establish what other means are at your disposal!

GEM has no outright head or leader – yet the responsibility of leadership at any given time is shared by either the founding members or any person accepting a call at any time prior to establishing a network from where we will establish a formal network to handle any emergency emerging from that initial call!

It is GEM's intention to appoint various sub teams and leaders placed strategically around the Globe so we can monitor our various sites on a 24/7 basis. We are also developing a bulk SMS system whereby initiation of an emergency or call to respond, can happen a lot quicker than under normal circumstances!

We tried this after the Japanese March 11 quake/tsunami. After one bulk SMS around the Globe, we had a net going within 15 minutes of the call going out!

If ever professionalism in amateur radio was an underlying statement, GEM endeavours to meet that challenge. GEM is a young organisation but once you have evaluated our operating procedures, you will be sure that you are joining a group that has the best interest of amateur radio and the community at the forefront. We are making use of tried and trusted means of communication which is available to serve the international community.

GEM will coordinate and work with any similar organisations around the globe that have the same enthusiasm for emergency communications at heart.

Please visit us at <http://www.gem-int.org> for more information.

**Francois Botha – ZS6BUU** story started by qrz mod G4TUT on 4.26.2011

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### **ARRL to Change Providers for Equipment Protection, Club Liability Insurance Plans**

On May 1, 2011, the ARRL will begin a new partnership to provide its ARRL-sponsored Equipment Insurance and Club Liability Insurance plans. The League has signed an agreement with [Hays Affinity Group](#) to serve as the program administrator to provide equipment insurance to its members who choose to elect coverage. In addition, Hays will also provide club liability insurance to ARRL Affiliated Clubs for

those clubs that wish to take advantage of that program. Hays will be replacing Marsh Affinity Group Services as the program's administrator and will be introducing new policies for both plans, underwritten by the Hanover Insurance Company.

Not only is equipment protection coverage through Hays Affinity Group slightly less expensive than with

Marsh, it's easier to enroll in the plans. You can [sign up online](#) and even schedule your equipment online,

too. With Hays Affinity Group, you can have all your radio equipment covered, even the computers, hard drives and printers in your shack. You can also elect to have coverage for your towers and antennas, up to \$15,000 replacement cost. All losses are settled on the replacement cost value you have stated for your equipment. In addition, any newly acquired equipment during the policy term, up to a value of \$2000, will be covered until your next policy renewal. All this -- and more -- with only a \$50 deductible.

Be assured, if you currently have equipment or club liability insurance provided through Marsh Affinity Group, your coverage will continue through the end of your current policy. But keep in mind that when your policy expires, your coverage will not automatically be switched over to Hays. You will need to enroll with Hays to continue coverage under an ARRL sponsored plan. If you wish to switch to either of the new insurance policies now, you will have to cancel your policy with Marsh and sign up with Hays, or wait until your policy with Marsh is due for renewal and then sign up with Hays for coverage. If you choose to cancel with Marsh before renewal, you will receive a pro-rated refund of any unused premium fees you have paid.

The ARRL has been providing opportunities for equipment insurance to its members for more than 25 years. By choosing to let Hays Affinity Group cover your equipment, you are helping to support the ARRL; a portion of each premium comes back to the League to help fund programs that enable you to enjoy your on-air privileges.

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### **Technical Topics & Info in *ARRL Contest Update Apr 27 2 011***

Regular US rural type mail boxes are observed to work well for protecting outdoor gadgets as they have to seal well. The few drain holes let the water out so that they will protect most anything once the door is closed. (Thanks, Mike K5WMG)

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Tom KK3OQ has posted [videos](#) of homebrewed PCB fabrication, PIC chip experiments, high powered LED projects, Arduino applications, QRP kit builds, and Electronics Tourism.

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More and more reports surface of "temporary" rope guys stretching or failing, leading to tower "incidents". Luckily, the reports don't mention fatalities but there have certainly been some near misses, such as to regular climbers Don K4ZA and John W2GD. Don't mess around - use steel or Phillystran, guys, if you or someone else is going to be on that tower. Field Day is coming and the temptation to take short cuts "just for the weekend" is strong - be safe!

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### **VE exam opportunities pls see also *Hamfests &c.***

**1<sup>st</sup> 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>

**2d Sat odd months except July:** Hamilton (Butler Co), Butler Co VHF Assn at D Russell Lee Joint Vocational School Communications Ctr, 3603 Hamilton-Middletown Rd (Rt 4). Registration 8:30 AM, exams at 9 AM; walk-ins OK. All licence classes. Info: Ted Wilson K8TCR, 513=868-7012, <twk8tcr@fuse.net>. Talk-in 146.97

*The 2 Fivez, OhKyIn ARS May 2011*



**Sat May 14:** St Bernard OH sponsored by Oh-Ky-In ARS at St Bernard Recr Hall, 120 E Washington, St Bernard. 12 Noon. All license classes, ARRL exams. Info: Brian deYoung K4BRI, 859=635-3095, <k4bri@fuse.net>. Talk-in: 146.67

**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 & CSCEs. \$15 is current ARRL/VEC exam fee where applicable; exact change, check or money order appreciated.

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## What's coming in May 2011

Tue May 3 7:30 PM Club meeting at St Bernard Recr Hall, 120 E Washington, St Bernard  
Program: TBA on the repeaters, with any luck  
Wed May 4 9:00 PM Tech Talk on 146.67 repeater, NCS Robert AK3Q (new mbr! Welcome!)  
Fri May 6 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  
Sun May 8 Mother's Day  
Tue May 10 7:00 PM Technical Committee meeting if needed, location TBA  
Wed May 11 9:00 PM Tech Talk on 146.67 repeater, NCS Brian K4BRI  
Fri May 13 8:00 PM Queen City Emergency Net, Red Cross HQ, 2111 Dana Av, Evanston  
Sat May 14 10:00 AM Monthly Oh-Ky-In fox hunt, hounds gather at Mt Storm Park; talk-in to  
start on 146.67 rpt  
12:00 N VE exams sponsored by Oh-Ky-In at St Bernard Recr Hall, 120 E  
Washington, St Bernard  
1:00 PM Oh-Ky-In Brunch Bunch at Skyline Chili Monfort Hts 5444 North Bend  
Road, just north of I-74 North Bend Road exit  
Wed May 18 9:00 PM Tech Talk on 146.67 repeater, NCS Dennis KB8ROA  
Fri-Sun May 20-22 Dayton Hamvention<sup>R</sup> pls see **Hamfests &c.** for times  
Sat May 21 1-11:30 PM Celebrate St Bernard, in area outside City Hall, 120 E Washington  
Pls zsee Fund Raising, pg , if you haven't already  
Tue May 24 7:30 PM Board of Directors meeting, location TBD  
Wed, May 25 9:00 PM Tech Talk on 146.67 repeater, NCS Brian KC8JFN



Mon May 30 Memorial Day observed  
Tue Jun 7, 7:30 PM Club meeting at St Bernard Recr Hall, 120 E Washington, St Bernard  
Program: TBA

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Laugh & the world laughs with you.

Laugh hysterically for no apparent reason & they'll leave you alone. --Cheeseburger

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**Wear your name/call badge, please!** Most hams have a badge or hat with their name and call sign on it. Wearing your badge/hat to club events helps others to know who you are. There are new members, visitors and others who may need to refresh their memory. Try to remember to wear yours to the next meeting.

*Steve KC8TVW* , fmr PIO for TMRA, in their *Beacon*, Apr 2011



**But wait!**  
**There's more this time!!**  
**OH Section News was too late for print edition, but *not too late for this one!!!***

## Ohio Section Notes for May, 2011

Rcvd Fri, 29 Apr 2011 09:23:07 -0400 (EDT)

Inserted into PDF ed of May 2011 Q5r, also copied for mtg handouts

In this issue:

- Affiliated Club Coordinator Report
- Website, Public Information Updates, and the ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention
- Out and About in Southeast Ohio
- May Hamfests
- Section Manager Notes

### AFFILIATED CLUB COORDINATOR REPORT

This month's article is a bit different. Yes, there is a lot going on through out the Ohio Section. First, I apologize for anyone who feels slighted because I don't cover your event. I have been reading everyone's newsletters and continue to be impressed. But because I have spent the last ten days on the road and haven't had time to write until now, I want to report on a couple events close to me. Why these two events? Because neither one of them works without the cooperation of many clubs.

First was the "It's a disaster" drill at the Muskingum BSA Reservation. This event was based around emergencies and response and most important communication. The reservation was turned into several real to life scenarios that the scouts needed to respond to. 500 of them! And they were supported by 30 plus hams from four counties. Imagine a real school bus turned over complete with human victims and smoke. What about an actual airplane fuselage crashed into a woods. Then there was the sand bag line at the flood scenario. The scouts used actual radios (FRS frequencies) while being tutored by hams, to communicate. They were schooled in technique and guided through the communication process. Interest in amateur radio during the event was high and I hope the hams in attendance take advantage by following up on the scouts who participated.

The second event was Kenyon College's Earth Day Marathon. This event attracts nearly 250 participants who run the half and full marathon along the Kokosing Gap trail in Knox County. The trail itself is pretty flat but the terrain on both sides makes communication a real challenge. Mount Vernon ARC is a small but active club and they solicit help from several clubs around central Ohio with the most active support coming from Mansfield's Intercity club and the CBF Radio club which is made up mostly of young hams.

I hear reports, occasionally, about differences of opinion within clubs and the riffs this causes over time. I even know of some clubs which formed simply because some members felt left out of events and decision making. Then I see events like these and I witness the full effect of cooperation. No in-fighting, no difference of opinion, no credit grabbing. Just hams working with hams to get the job done. Bottom line here is we have more in common than we have differences.

I actually believe this is the truer side of the hams in Ohio. It makes me proud to see how we are reaching out to the youth of our section and setting such a good example of cooperation. Lead, they will follow.

Thank you for all who give so unselfishly of their time and resources in service to their communities.

Until next month,

73, *E. Michael McCazel KC8YLD* Ohio Section Affiliated Club Coordinator, ARRL

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## WEBSITE, PUBLIC INFORMATION UPDATES, AND THE ARRL GREAT LAKES DIVISION CONVENTION

Hi Gang,

Wow.. It's been a wild month for the folks in tornado alley. April 3<sup>rd</sup> , 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> was almost as bad as back in 1974. You do remember that year don't you? Well, maybe some of you are too young to remember, but it's still the one single year with the largest outbreak of tornadoes ever recorded. I spent a number of days in Xenia helping the Red Cross with all sorts of clean up details. I still can't believe how bad it was then. I went through Xenia just the other day and found it absolutely remarkable. You'd never be able to tell that it was flattened. And speaking of the power and devastation that can be caused by even a small EF-1 tornado is Cardington. This is a very small little town in Morrow County that found its way into the National Weather Services Journals as well. On June 13, 1981 this little village was also the scene of massive destruction. With 4 dead and millions of dollars worth of businesses and homes destroyed, the police, fire and village hall all gone. The lives and futures of many that lived and worked there changed forever. You couldn't go anywhere without seeing something that had been touched by this tornado. Every time that I drive through this little village I'm reminded of just how much damage was done here. By the way, I spent several long days with the Red Cross at this tornado scene as well. This time not as an extra hand to help distribute food and such, but as an Amateur Radio operator, helping get radio messages out of this disaster. It was an unbelievable week!

Now, on to things that we (sometimes) can control. I know that I've been talking a lot lately about free software that you can download and use. I'm not doing this because I have an ax to grind with any one company or another, but I just can't stand to see anyone pay for software that you can get for FREE. Especially if the free software is from a reputable company and it works as good, or maybe even better than the stuff you have to pay for. I mean, if you really have that kind of money to just throw away.. Well, you get the picture.

I get several magazines just for PCs each month that give me all sorts of suggestions on freebee software. I usually get enough suggestions from them to pay for the subscriptions. But if you're not into subscriptions, let me tell you of a neat way to still get the suggestions and it won't cost you one dime. Now you do have to be a little forward thinking to make this work, but it does work.

Do you have a good book store in your area that sells magazines, and has places to sit and read? Even the library will work, but it usually isn't as comfortable. If you do then all you have to do is go to the magazine rack and just peruse all of the PC magazines that they have in stock. Now here's where the forward thinking comes in. In order to gain any real value out of all that reading, you'll need to bring your laptop or just a plain notebook to jot down all the websites that will be mentioned. There's just no way of trying to remember all those links. There's too many. Once you have them jotted down, that's it! You can go visit them any time you want and evaluate what they have for free. If you go to a place that has Wi-Fi and you've brought your laptop.. You're really set to shine!

The really neat thing here is that most of these magazines are monthly editions. So, with that in mind, you can make a monthly adventure out of this and have fun doing it. Now, for the married guys in the crowd, want to win your sweetie's heart? Take her along. Not only will she think you've just gotten more sophisticated, but you could have some fun with her as well. You see, it doesn't have to be all about Amateur Radio.

Ok.. it's time to switch the band selector over.. Let's talk PR.

**The Ohio Section needs PIOs badly.** We have just 25 PIOs to cover the entire state. That's not enough. Every club and ARES organization should have one. By now I'm sure you saw my cleverly written "WANTED AD" that I wrote several months ago. In the past, the PIOs were mostly picked from the newsletter editor pool and that was ok, but it doesn't have to be exclusively from there. We need to have people that are willing to write yes, but it goes a lot deeper than that. As the PIO you will be in the forefront of what is going on. After all, you would be the spokesperson for your organization. It's really not hard to do. Most of the time the story is already written for you, you just have to be the one to distribute it

to the rest of the world.

Now, for those few people around Ohio who have been volunteering your time as a PIO, I commend you and request that you continue to do the excellent job that you have demonstrated that you can do for your organizations and Ohio. All appointments remain, and all standing orders are to continue.

*(FYI, Bruce N8BV & I were both appointed as PIOs - Public Information Officers, for those who may not know what this acronym stands for - by the late great long-serving Section Mgr Joe Phillips K8QOE (SK), current SM's predecessor - Ye Ed.)*

Now switching bands again.. I would like to talk to you a little about the upcoming Division Convention. Yes, we are having one. The Great Lakes Convention will be September 11<sup>th</sup> this year in conjunction with the Findlay Hamfest. We have a very special guest speaker this year, Allen Pitts W1AGP, who just happens to be my boss. He will give us a lot of insight on how Amateur Radio interfaced with the emergency crews of 9/11. Not only will there be guest speakers, but many Division Awards will be presented as well.

Nominations for those awards will soon be taken by the awards chairman. I know this because I've been honored to be selected as your awards chairperson. To see the list of Division Awards go to:

[http://arrl-greatlakes.org/awards\\_criteria.htm](http://arrl-greatlakes.org/awards_criteria.htm) . There you'll find all the criteria for each of the awards. I will announce soon how to nominate someone for these awards, so please stay tuned.

Now switching bands one last time before going QRT.. I do want to mention that since the Division Conference is being held in September, it was decided not to have an Ohio Section Conference this year. Having two conferences so close together (September / October) just didn't make sense. As in the past, Ohio's Newsletter Contest is suspended for that year as well. And, as in the past, the last winner of the newsletter contest is used as our representative to the Divisional Contest. This time around *The DELARA Newsletter*, the winner from last year, will be our representative. I do want to encourage everyone to include me in your mailings (snail mail or email) for your newsletters. They are appreciated. I do read each and every one of them, and come January of 2012, will be automatically entered into the Newsletter contest.

Ok.. It's time to go QRT.. 73 to all,

73, *Scott Yonally N8SY* Ohio Section Public Information Coordinator

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## OUT AND ABOUT IN SOUTHEAST OHIO

On March 12, I made a trip to Gallipolis for the MOVARC Hamfest and assisted in the VE Exams. Since I was a last minute VE, I did participate and then left to come back home. It took me a longer route to go and return due to road closures due to high water. Seems like the mail may have been a problem due to water also! The ARRL is still without the paperwork. I have been contacted several times about the paperwork so have done everything to help as best I can.

My computer has been down for about a month and just got it back to working Wed (Apr 27) with the help of my friend that sure knows more about it than I do.

I won't be able to get to the two Hamfests in SE OH because of prior commitments. Those are the Jackson Hamfest in Jackson, OH on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and the Athens Hamfest on May 1. Sorry guys, but due to Easter being so late this year it has an effect on both of these.

According to my calendar I'll look forward to seeing you all sometime during the Hamvention<sup>R</sup>!

I'm helping with the Exams again this year for 2 sessions. Sure makes me feel good to be able to have a part of helping so many to become Ham Radio Operators and/or upgrading their licenses.

Until next time!

73/88, *Connie Hamilton N8JO* Assistant SE OH



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#### HAMFESTS IN THE OHIO SECTION

Here are the upcoming Hamfests in Ohio for May:

May 1 - Athens Hamfest and Computer Show

Location: Athens Community Center

701 East State Street

Athens, OH 45701

Website: <http://ac-ara.org/>

Sponsor: Athens County Amateur Radio Association

Talk-In: 145.15(-)

May 20, 21, 22 - Dayton Hamvention<sup>R</sup> (Do I really need to give details on this? Sure!!!)

Location: Hara Arena

1001 Shiloh Springs Road

Dayton, OH 45401

Website: <http://www.hamvention.org/>

Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association

Talk-In: 146.94- or 146.64-

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#### SECTION MANAGER NOTES

It's that time! Dayton - with a cast of thousands! I and many of the Ohio Section Cabinet will be in attendance at many of the ARRL EXPO booths and many of the forums. Please, if you spot us, feel free to stop us and say hi!

There are a LOT of people who make Hamvention<sup>R</sup> happen, and we in the Ohio Section are fortunate that the Dayton Amateur Radio Association works endlessly to keep Hamvention<sup>R</sup> continuing every year. If you see any of the organizers, officials, or volunteers, please take a moment to thank them for all the hard work that have put in for the best Amateur Radio show on Earth!

My travels in April took me to Mount Vernon for the Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Clubs monthly meeting. It was a great time visiting with the members, and staying for an interesting talk on the history of the WLW station in Southeastern Ohio (? -- *Ye Ed*). I also had a chance to visit the Jackson County Hamfest and Computer Show in Jackson. I witnessed a lot of enthusiasm for Amateur Radio, and met up with the County Emergency Coordinator and the County EMA Director. It was nice to see the EMA, as well as the local Red Cross have tables set up at this Hamfest.

June is coming up in the wings, and your group should already have plans going for Field Day! Field Day is the one event that can cover a lot of ground, from practicing operations in emergency conditions, to using the event as a mass public relations tool; to having the best food on Saturday night (you thought I wouldn't mention the food, huh?). I look forward to seeing where all the Field Days will be held (make sure you register yours on ARRL.ORG), and then hearing the stories of teamwork, fun, and food! (I know, there I go again!)

In closing, have a safe trip to Dayton if you're attending, and have fun in Amateur Radio!

73, *Frank KI8GW*

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ARRL Ohio Section

Section Manager: Frank J Piper, KI8GW

[ki8gw@arrl.org](mailto:ki8gw@arrl.org)  
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Now, aren't you glad another forest wasn't cut down to provide the paper for your *Q-Fiver*? 4 extra pages even, for no extra postage! **End of File** at last!

