

Q-FIVER

The Official Newsletter of the OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society



March 3, 2015 – Club Meeting Program – Introduction to High Power Rocketry

Our March program went outside the Amateur Radio box to introduce and in some cases acquaint some of our club members to the rockets they built and launched in their younger days. Our presenter Victor Kovacs gave an excellent presentation on the above topic. It was very obvious his passion is Model Rocketry as he commented several times throughout his presentation that he could have talked about Rockets all night long.

The passion he brought to the club about Model Rocketry is the same passion that each and every one of us has in Amateur Radio. I ask that you help share your passion with our newcomers that have recently joined our club. Also I ask that you listen to their passions as well and help guide them down the right path to achieving their goals in our fantastic hobby.

I also found it very interesting that you have to take several tests to advance in the hobby of Model Rocketry just as you do in Amateur Radio. The diagrams of Rockets along with modeling software reminded me a lot of our own hobby. I don't know about you but it made me feel better that not just anyone can go out in a field and shoot off one of those big rockets without first having the general knowledge on how to do it safely, not to mention, the know how to build the rocket, and know where it is going to go. Sound familiar? We sure wouldn't want just anyone to pick up a microphone and start transmitting on our bands without knowledge and the authorization to do so.

So I hope that everyone enjoyed the program and at this time I would like to give a special thanks to Victor Kovacs for an excellent program and to Jerry Shipp – W1SCR for getting me introduced to Victor so that we could make this program possible.

What is next you ask?

4/7/15 – Introduction to the Traffic Net – Ryan Williamson, W1RYN will be the presenter. The traffic net is on the repeater every night at 8 PM. Ryan is on the rotation as one of the Net Control Operators. They provide a very important service. Hopefully this will give us a better understanding on how each of us can help them to be successful in their message handling endeavors.

5/5/15 – How to Program your Baofeng with Chirp Software – Ryan Williamson, W1RYN will be the presenter for this program as well. I can't wait for this program! I bought a Baofeng at "R&L Customer Appreciation Day" and have only managed to manually program one station on it. I tried to download the software and I am still not sure I was successful let alone upload it on to my radio. So bring your hand held and your programming cable and let's get those handhelds programmed!

Thanks everyone until next month 73's
Michael Sien – KD8SOH



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OH-KY-IN Repeaters

146.670 (-) Clifton

146.625 (-) Edgewood, KY

146.925 (-) Colerain Twp

443.7625 (+5) Clifton

A CTCSS (PL) tone of 123.0 Hz is required for access to all OH-KY-IN repeaters. All repeaters also transmit a CTCSS (PL) tone of 123.0 Hz

APRS on 144.390 mHz

K8SCH-10 Edgewood WIDEn

K8SCH-9 Clifton WIDEn

For membership information, please contact Nathan Ciufo KA3MTT, 6323 Cinnamon Ridge Dr, Burlington KY 41005, (859) 586-2435 or Email membership@ohkyin.org. Renewals of Club Memberships are due by the end of March. 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 now mailed & e-mailed, it's hoped, a week before the club meeting.

Normally copy deadline is the weekend before that. Please send your submissions for THE Q-FIVER (including notice of upgrades & callsign changes) to Brian K4BRI

These may be: snail-mailed to or dropped off at 6901 Backus Drive, Alexandria KY 41001 or telephoned to (859) 635-3095 any time

Minutes of the March 2015 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Michael Sein, KD8SOH, at 7:35 PM, commencing with the Pledge of Allegiance. President Fred Schneider, K9OHE, could not attend due to a death in his family. Attendees included guest Vic Kovacs, the evening's speaker.

Brag Session: It was announced that Robert Gulley, AK3Q, achieved 1st in class in the ARRL International DX Phone contest, for Kentucky section, Single operator, Low Power. Kitty Hevener, W8TDA, in the same ARRL contest's CW weekend, notably contacted the Republic of Korea. She now has reached over 60 DXCC countries, all using just a dipole.

Program: Michael, KD8SOH, introduced Vic Kovacs, who presented "Intro to Model Rocketry Including High Power." He highlighted many of the myriad parameters and tools used to design, class, and certify model rockets. Examples include "Systems" (including Propulsion, Launch, and Recovery) and "Methodology" (including Stability; Simulation Software; and Controls, Instrumentation, Instrumentation, & Telemetry) to name a few.

High power rockets are classed by many of the same distinctions as low power models, only more so! For example, rocket engines are categorized by their size, character of their burn pattern (such as amount of thrust, strength of impulse power, and type of propellant), and weight. Certain engine parameters are classed according to a geometric scale (Class A represents a certain value, B is twice that, C is twice again (4x), and so on through—in the High Power rockets—N,O, P...(8192x, 16,384x, 32,768x...). Oversight, standardization, and certification of model rockets involves the work of many government and civilian groups, including the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and the National Association of Rocketry (NAR). The Ohio Aerospace Modeling Consortium is a good area resource for further information. "LDRS" this summer in New York is a major attraction ("Large Dangerous Rocket Show").

Reports: Treasurer Brian de Young, K4BRI, distributed copies of the January and February treasury reports.

Health and Welfare, Silent Keys: Michael, KD8SOH, noted again that Fred, K9OHE, had a recent death in his family. (Note: While not mentioned specifically, at the meeting, the reflector has recently acknowledged the passing of Joe Davidson, KB8SBN, Melvin "Chubby" Grubbs, KC8IMY, and James Michael ("Mike") Wagoner, KB4VKS.)

Technical Committee: Brian, K4BRI, reported on several successful work parties for the 146.670 repeater. The Arcom controller is on '67, but still needs more work. The 443.7625 repeater is "on the air" but at very low power for now. The antenna is up and connectors are installed for the hardline, but some further work remains.

Fox Hunts: Brian also reminded the group of our next regularly scheduled Fox Hunt, the second Saturday of the month (3/14). Assemble at Mt. Storm Park in time take off at 10:00 AM ("Don't come at 10:01, because we won't be there"). This month, a On-Foot Fox Hunt has been added for the third Saturday (3/21). Start location, time, and talk-in (146.670-, PL 123) are as usual. We provide equipment for those interested. Call Brian for more information or to learn more about participating in our Hunts.

Classes: The next cycle of Technician and General Class license courses begin Monday, 3/16, and continue every Monday evening through 4/13, in the St. Bernard Municipal Building (immediately West of our meeting site). Sessions are held in the lower level meeting rooms; enter the building from the West side.

Tech-Talk Net: Bruce, N8BV, estimates 25-35 check-ins for the 9:00 PM Wednesdays information sharing and news net sessions.

Brunch Bunch: Bruce also reminded the group about this month's get-together—the second Saturday (3/14) at 1:00 PM—held at Lake Nina Restaurant off Pippin Rd. in Colerain Township.

QCEN: Pat Maley, KD8PAT, noted our own Jerry Shipp, W1SCR, presented on solar power at a recent meeting. She also reminded us that the 17th Annual Flying Pig marathon and associated events are coming up Friday-Sunday, 5/1-3/2015, and will need additional volunteers. QCEN's Steve Lewis, N8TFD, is working on possible Ham Radio activities for this summer's Major League Baseball All-Star game downtown.

Oh-Ky-In Life Members

John Phelps N8JTP

Kenneth E Wolf N8WYC

John W Hughes AI4DA

Karl W Kaucher KJ4KWR

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(Continued from page 3)

New Business: Jerry, W1SCR, related that Ohio ARES is sponsoring NVIS (Near Vertical Incidence Skywave) Antenna Day exercises 4/21.

Kitty, W8TDA, announced the next Ohio ARES conference will be held 4/11 at the Fire Academy in Reynoldsburg (just East of Columbus).

Michael, KD8SOH, announced this year's Audit Committee members, Robert Louie, KD8WLV, Ryan Williamson, W1RYN, and himself, will be meeting 3/7 at Brian's, K4BRI, home.

Bryan Hoffman, KC8EGV, cited plans for an Ohio Tornado Drill this Friday 3/6, at 9:50 AM. WARN plans to activate their network for the drill. Kentucky has moved their previously scheduled exercise to 3/10 at 10:17 AM.

Gary Coffey, KB8MYC, report on upcoming Hamfest Committee logistics. We will use the reflector to alert for meetings, which will be held again at the Hamfest site, Aiken High School. He noted that if we were to hold only monthly meetings, we could work in only six before the 'fest!

Gary was also asked if the club would be hosting Hamvention flea market spaces again this year. He noted this would be a matter for the Board to consider.

Robert, KD8WLV, reminded the group that Daylight Saving Time commences this weekend, at 2:00 AM Sunday morning, 3/8.

Michael, before closing the evening, reminded the group our next meeting presentation will be on Message Handling, hosted by Ryan, W1RYN.

Door Prizes: Eric Goodrich, KD8MEM, donated a resistor kit, which went to Bruce, N8BV. Gary, KB8MYC, donated a multimeter; Brian, K4BRI won but declined; on redraw it went to Pat, KD8PAT.

Split the Pot: Gerry, W1SCR, won \$36.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Ted Morris, NC8V, Secretary.

The next Brunch Bunch will be held Saturday, April 11th, at 1pm. The location is Butt Shack BBQ Grill located at 4 Endicott Street, in Greenhills, 45218.

For a look at the menu as well as a map please go to:

www.buttshackgrill.com

Remember that the Brunch Bunch always meets the second Saturday of every month at 1pm at a location to be announced each month. If you can't join us this month, maybe you'll be available to join us in the months ahead.

I'm always looking for suggestions on what restaurant you think might be a good place for the Brunch Bunch to visit soon.

73,Bruce, N8BV



2015 Committee Chairs and Appointments

Newcomers/Elmers Net..... Robert Gulley AK3Q
Technical CommitteeBrian DeYoung, K4BRI
ARPSC Representative.....Jerry Shipp W1SCR
Volunteer ExaminersBrian DeYoung K4BRI
QCEN Representative..... Pat Maley KD8PAT
Membership Nathan Ciuffo KA3MTT
Fundraising Bruce Vanselow N8BV
Education Robert Gulley AK3Q
Repeater Control Ops Mgr Bruce Vanselow N8BV
PIOJerry Shipp W1SCR
Librarian open

Q-Fiver Editor Brian DeYoung, K4BRI
Field Day..... Eric Neiheisel N8YC
Historian Dale Vanselow KC8HQS
Special Publications Jo Haltermon KD4PYS
Fox Hunters Dick Arnett WB4SUV
Equipment Mgr Brian Fulmer KC8FJN
WebGeezer Russ Hines WB8ZCC
Silent KeyBruce Vanselow N8BV
Tech Talk Net MgrBruce Vanselow N8BV
K8SCH QSL MgrGerry Weimer KD8ASL
TV/RFI Dick Arnett WB4SUV

NO mobile foxhunt in April, but the on-foot ARDF style foxhunt is April 18th

April Calendar

Wed Apr 1	9:00PM	Tech Talk, NCS Robert AK3Q
Sun Apr 5	7:00PM	Easter—No Newcomers/Elmers Net
Tue Apr 7	7:30PM	Club Meeting at St Bernard Recreation Hall, 120 Washington Avenue. Program: Introduction to the Traffic Net
Wed Apr 8	9:00PM	Tech Talk, NCS Brian, K4BRI
Sat Apr 11	1:00PM	Brunch Bunch at Butt Shack BBQ—4 Endicott St Greenhills 45218
Sun Apr 12	7:00PM	Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67 146.67, Topic: What Else Can My Soundcard Do? —NCS Robert AK3Q
Tue Apr 14	6:00 PM	Technical Committee meeting—location TBA
Wed Apr 15	9:00PM	Tech Talk, NCS Dale KC8HQS
Sat Apr 18	9:00 AM Noon	VE Test session—St. Bernard ARDF style fox hunt at Mt. Airy forest—meet at the big circle. Talk in on 146.670
Sun Apr 19	7:00PM	Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: NVIS Antennas —NCS Robert AK3Q
Wed Apr 22	9:00PM	Tech Talk, NCS Brian KC8FJN
Sat Apr 25	10:00 AM	NVIS Day—Vine Street Park in St. Bernard
Sun Apr 26	7:00PM	Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: Dayton Hamvention’s A’Comin! —NCS Robert AK3Q
Tue Apr 28	7:00 PM	Board of Directors meeting
Wed Apr 29	9:00PM	Tech Talk

Getting Started with Radio Propagation By Robert Gulley AK3Q

Email: ak3q@ak3q.com



If one wants to get serious about the radio hobby there comes a time when the study of propagation (or how signals get to where they're going) is a must.

Not only will understanding some basics about propagation make listening opportunities more productive (read "fun"), but it will also allow you to take advantage of special situations where opportunities pop up only for a few minutes or a few hours at best. Catching elusive signals, or even better transmitting under special conditions is a thrill all its own.

The actual composition of the atmosphere and seasonal changes in the ionosphere are two of the biggest factors in propagation, so this is where I will start. There are many, many aspects to the study of propagation, some of which I will introduce now, with more to follow next month.

Atmospheric Layers

As you probably know already, the atmosphere is made up of several layers, determined primarily by the chemical composition and the physical characteristics of each layer and marked by varying elevations. The uppermost layer of the atmosphere is called the ionosphere, made up of a shell of electrons and electrically charged particles. This shell can either allow radio signals to pass through it into space, or it can bend some of those radio waves back toward the surface of the earth allowing communication over great distances. Radio waves which are bent back to earth usually make multiple hops between the earth and the atmosphere, depending on frequency and strength.

How much bending or refracting of a radio signal occurs depends on the frequency of the signal and on the structure of the ionosphere at any given time. Changes in density within the ionosphere (defined as layers) allow some signals to bend while others pass through into space. These layers change daily as well as seasonally. Over time scientists have learned a great deal about what to expect under a given set of conditions, in part due to experimentation and observation by radio amateurs.

While no model of propagation will guarantee signal reception on either end of the intended path, radio enthusiasts can predict with a good deal of accuracy when one is likely to hear signals broadcast in specific portions of the radio spectrum. This ability to predict what can and cannot be heard is both a blessing and a curse. I regularly check propagation forecasts in several monthly radio publications to get an idea of what I am likely to hear at any given time. I also check online resources to see what others are experiencing. That's the upside. The downside of propagation predictions comes when one swears by them—the fact is, propagation is simply too unpredictable to say with absolute certainty something will or will not work.

Seasonal predictions are the most accurate by far, in that changes in the earth's rotation and the subsequent changes in temperature affect propagation in predictable ways. Spring and fall are good times for certain radio activities, while summer and winter are better for others. However, just because something is "out of season" doesn't mean it can't happen; it just means it's more unlikely to happen. The good news is that there are always bands which are open virtually any time of the day if one knows where to look.

The MUF, EMUF, FMUF, and LUF—Enuff Already!

Among many different propagation factors the MUF (Maximum Usable Frequency) and the LUF (Lowest Usable Frequency) are two very important numbers. These terms represent measurements of the ionosphere which determine the range of usable frequencies at any given time of the year. Roughly speaking the MUF represents a monthly prediction which says propagation/transmission at or below the maximum predicted frequency will be successful 50% of the time during a given month. (Go ahead, read that last sentence again!) Just to further complicate the issue, reliable transmission is usually estimated to be between 80-90% of the MUF on any given day.

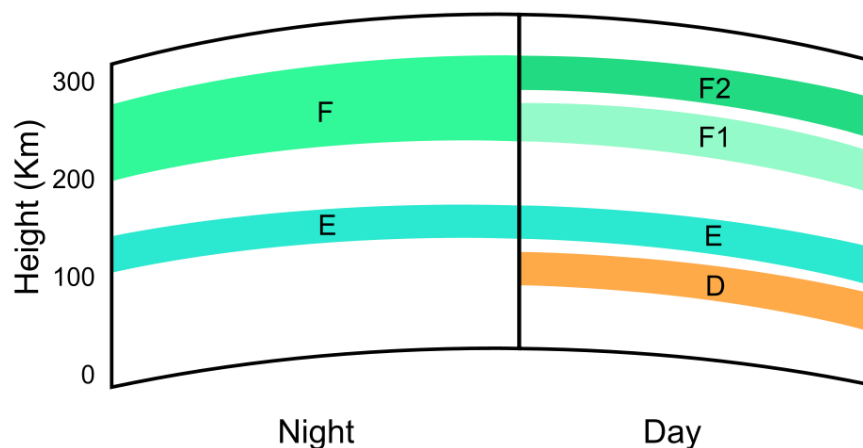
An illustration will help clarify this: if the predicted MUF is for 21 MHz on a given day, a realistic optimum working frequency might be around 18 MHz ($21 \text{ MHz} - 15\% = 18 \text{ MHz}$). Much higher than 21 MHz and signals will not likely be heard. Some days will be better than this, other days not as good. These propagation numbers serve as guides to *likely* propagation, not absolute propagation. They are starting points to suggest which frequencies will work reasonably well for a given time of year.

During winter months the MUF is at its highest during the day for HF frequencies, and the noise level is at its lowest since the summer storm season is over. This means stations which might normally be in the noise floor during the summer will come in fine in the winter. The downside of this condition is the shorter daylight hours means a lower MUF overnight. Winter days are great for higher frequencies, while summer nights are better for the higher frequencies. (This is due to the ionosphere staying more active during the shorter summer nights.)

The LUF

The LUF is the lowest frequency on which one can expect to get reasonable propagation roughly 90% of the time each month. This number is perhaps even more relative than the MUF simply because what is acceptable to one person is not acceptable to another. Still, when calculating the lowest usable frequency, assume the number may actually be a bit higher than predicted.

A projection of, say 5 MHz, may translate more realistically into 6 or 7 MHz depending on local conditions. At other times the number might be a bit too conservative, and a LUF of 5 MHz actually is more accurately 4 MHz. Again, these numbers are meant to be guides, not hard-and-fast rules.



Ionosphere Layers (image from NPS)

Layers In The Ionosphere

I mentioned earlier the ionosphere is made up of several layers. These layers are generally divided as follows: the “D” layer (60 km to 90 km above the surface of the Earth); the “E” layer (90 km to 120 km above the surface of the Earth); and the “F” layer (200 km to more than 500 km above the surface of Earth, and split into the “F1” and “F2” layers during daylight hours).

Each layer has its own impact on radio waves, and both “E” and “F” layers have their own MUF (as if things were not complicated enough!). These maximum usable frequencies are known as the EMUF and the FMUF, respectively. Don’t worry about following these numbers for now—keeping up with the MUF is quite enough as you begin learning the ins and outs of propagation!

How Each Layer Affects A Signal

The “D” layer is primarily active during the daylight hours, having minimal impact on signals at night. The high ionization levels during the day cause the familiar loss of distant AM signals through *absorption*. Signals are literally absorbed into the ionization field

and scrambled rather than reflected. At night the signals reappear as absorption levels drop drastically. Winter is a great time for AM DX listening during the morning hours as the “D” layer often takes longer to form as the days shorten. The shorter days also mean AM DX stations appear earlier in the evening, and nighttime medium-wave DX is fantastic during the winter months because the atmosphere is much quieter.

The “E” layer primarily reflects signals below 7 MHz, but special instances of unusual activity known as *Sporadic-E* propagation allow signals in the 50 MHz and even 2-meter range to skip long distances, sometimes as much as 1400 miles on one hop. This activity can last for a few minutes or for a few hours, and even FM and broadcast TV can be affected. Summer months are the best time to catch E-Skip conditions, but fall and spring can bring interesting opportunities as well.

The All-Important “F” Layer

The “F” layer is the primary layer for HF reflection of signals, and this is the layer which allows shortwave and Amateur radio signals to travel great distances. Because the “F” layer remains throughout the day and night, DX listening is possible from around the globe. While the maximum usable frequency varies throughout the day, this layer always reflects a portion of the HF band well regardless of the season.

During the day this region splits into the “F1” layer and the “F2” layer due to a separation of ionizing particles. As night falls the “F1” layer merges back into the “F2” layer, allowing for radio propagation throughout the night. Both layers will reflect signals, but the “F1” layer is more variable overall, and most usable during summer months.

Finally, it is the “F” layer which is most susceptible to solar conditions, something I will cover next time around. While radio propagation is active in this layer year-round, high sunspot cycles help raise the MUF such that 10- and 20- meter activity is greatly enhanced. Signals in the 10-meter band are few and far between during low solar cycles, but when solar activity is high a few watts of power can be heard around the world!

Wrap Up

Well, that’s all for this month! I hope I have whetted your appetite for investigating propagation, and I also hope you will join me next month for more exploration of this fascinating subject. In the meantime, I have listed some resources at the bottom of the page which I trust you will find interesting.

73, and may the gods of propagation smile kindly on us all!

Resources:

AntenneX

Radio Wave Propagation: Volumes 1-6 by M.H. De Canck, ON5AU

- <http://www.antennex.com/Sshack/prop/prop1.html>

ARRL

- <http://www.arrl.org/qst/propcharts>

Propagation Maps

- <http://propagation.hfradio.org/>
- <http://www.kg7hq.wetnet.net/node/55>
- <http://www.spacew.com/www/realtime.php>

DX Spots—April 2015 de KA3MTT

PJ7PL-S. Maarten thru 4-5 	AH0YL-Mariana Is Thru 4-1 		1 P5 - North Korea Thru 4-1-2016 	2 PQ0T-Trindade & Martin Vaz Is Thru 4-4 ----- 3A-Monaco thru 4-5 	3 ZL7E-Chatham Is Thru 4-15 	4 TK-Corsica Thru 4-9 
5	6	7	8	9 JW-Svalbard Thru 4-15 ----- ZD8N-Ascension Thru 4-21	10	11 VP5-Turks&Caicos Thru 4-16 
12 PJ7-S. Maarten thru 4-17 	13 YJ0XG-Vanuatu Thru 4-19 ----- J88PI-StVincent Thru 4-22	14 DX0P-Spratly Is Thru 4-20	15	16 D44TDK-Cape Verde Is thru 4-24 ----- FR- Reunion thru 5-1	17 5T2MM- Mauritania thru 4-20 ----- V63DX-Micronesia Thru 4-25	18
19	20	21 YJ0MT-Vanuatu Thru 5-5 	22 C6AGM-Bahamas Thru 4-28 ----- YN-Nicaragua Thru 4-30	23	24 VK9NT-Norfolk I Thru 5-4 	25 ZF2CI-Cayman Is Thru 5-2 
26	27	28	29 JD1BLY-Ogasawara Thru 5-5 	30	9	

Emergency Services and Public Health

Why does a health department need help from Amateur Radio?

One of local health department's roles is to immunize its residents during a natural or manmade medical emergency. The most likely event is the spread of a deadly and contagious virus. Another less likely event is a bioterror attack using anthrax or a similar agent. When the need arises for the population to be immunized, the local health departments would open several Point of Dispense or PODs. These PODs would allow the citizens in the area to receive the needed medications in a timely manner. The goal is to immunize everyone within a seventy-two hour period from the time the health department decides to activate the PODs. Health departments in Ohio have realized the capabilities of hams when other communications are not working. It is imperative during POD activation that the local department maintain a constant command and control of the PODs. In Hamilton County, we have taken it one step further and have made amateur radio communications the primary means of communication between the PODs and the Department Operations Center (DOC). We have operators assigned to work in the DOC, acting as net control, and operators assigned to PODs. We have thirty seven PODs that would need an operator for three days, twenty-four hours a day. The DOC requires three operators at all times. As with all volunteer organizations, we are always looking for more help.

If you think you may be interested in helping please contact Bryan Hoffman at bryan.hoffman@hamilton.co.org or 513-946-7812

Foxhunting and ARDF

Mobile Foxhunt for March

Marji and I had Mike KD8ZLB riding with us again, and I was trying the Raspberry Pi with my custom Pi Plate to the in-dash display on my SUV again. Great signal from the start, and it indicated directly South again.

We headed south on I-75 and when we got near Liberty, it started pointing East from there, actually about 80 degrees. We headed east on Liberty, and when we got near Reading, the signal dropped and we could not get a good solid bearing—which said to me that there is a hill in between us and him. So we headed up the hill towards Christ Hospital, and at the top of the hill it pointed south again. We headed down Auburn Ave to where Sycamore splits off and it still pointed straight ahead. Marji wanted to go down the dead end street, which was still called Auburn Ave—which I knew was the wrong way to go. Of course we went down it anyways and there was Phil in a parking pad on the right.

NO MOBILE HUNT IN APRIL !

On-Foot ARDF style Foxhunt

It was a nice Saturday, not too chilly, for the start of our on-foot foxhunts. We had Marji KJ4ZKC, Dick WB4SUV, Matthew AA9YH, and Mike KD8ZLB. I set out 5 transmitters, ARDF style, where each one transmitted for one minute in rotation on 144.525. Most people used the blue Ozzie ARDF radio attached to a tape-measure beam for 2 meters. It was nice to get out again and learn (or re-learn) how to do ARDF style hunts.

We will always welcome beginners, so come give it a try—we will be back at Mt. Airy on April 18th at noon (I can't do 10AM because of a VE test session. We have extra equipment, and we will always have some of the transmitters in simple locations—but we will also start to have some in more advanced placements also :)

73—Brian, K4BRI



NVIS Day

When it comes down to emergency communications, it will be more important to talk to Columbus than France. WHAT!! DX DOESN'T MATTER! We would need to communicate tens and hundreds, not thousands of miles. (Over the ridge, not the ocean) So how do we do it? Read the following announcement and invitation to find out more.

By Stan Broadway, N8BHL broadways@standi.com OHIO ARES NVIS Antenna Day [April 25](#).. Get your antenna books out, get together with some friends and come up with a winner! The Ohio ARES NVIS Antenna day has been scheduled for [April 25](#), 2015. Operating hours 10AM 2PM. Frequency: around the Ohio ARES 40 meter frequency of 7.240 plus or minus, and around 3.850-3.870 plus or minus. We have all been through several presentations of NVIS (Near vertical sky wave, or Cloud burner) antennas. Sure, the concept is cool and it ought to work. But it's time to put away the antenna modelers, the calculators and theory and get down with some wire and some coax! Have you actually ~tried~ one of these? If there was a wide-scale disaster requiring you to communicate with nearby counties and Columbus (or other state capitals) do you have confidence you could actually make this work? The best way to find out is to try! We're taking the lead from Ashtabula, who has had several annual antenna days that were a great success. The idea here is to actually ~build~ different NVIS antennas and try them out against each other. Come up with different concepts: vertical, horizontal, semi-something, and try different elevations from ground level all the way up to the towering height of, say, 20 feet. See which antenna does the best at working nearby counties, Columbus, and neighboring locations as if we were in a large-scale disaster. This isn't really a contest, in the sense that we're not looking so much at lots-o-qso's as we are at comparing our various antennas. So it will be more beneficial to keep track of HONEST signal reports from the same station using our various antennas. We will want to have reports (including pictures?) of your various antennas and how they stood up to each other. From a simple grid or ranking of your best three or four performers, we can compare these across the state and come up with overall suggestions as the most desirable NVIS setup to have in your tool box. This information may come in very handy for your spring Field Day efforts! But we all know that Field Day, or any other similar contest, is NOT the time or place to be testing antennas- we are in it for QSO numbers and rates! So this is a great day to get some honest experimenting done! And there's MORE!.. We are strongly suggesting additional equipment for your field tests: a good grill, some hamburgers and side dishes! This should be far enough into spring that it will be nice to be outside (even with a jacket on) and it's an excellent time to have a picnic, get some fellowship in, and generally relax! So in your planning, include proximity to somewhere to eat! Use a park, someone's property, or be creative! Remember we're testing antennas, so next to a power plant might not be the best idea. The food and fellowship makes this great fun! And, we're not limited strictly to ARES People. If your local radio club has some experts, draft 'em! It's all about the fellowship, the fun, and the feuding antennas! More information will follow- but I would love to activate as many (or all!) Ohio counties as possible to make this a benchmark test!

St. Bernard is lending OH-KY-IN the use of Vine Street Park for the April 25th statewide NVIS day. We will have an covered area large enough to build and setup antennas rain or shine. Completed NVIS antennas can be setup in the ball field and tested for statewide coverage. The attached photo shows the park in relation to our meeting hall (It's just around the corner). Bring your antennas, parts, analyzers, ideas or just the desire to learn to Vine Street Park, [April 25th, 10am](#).

Jerry L. Shipp Sr.
W1SCR

W1SCR@winlink.org

The Next Oh-Ky-In Meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 6th at 7:30 PM

OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society

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

Introduction to the Traffic Net – Ryan Williamson, W1RYN will be the presenter. The traffic net is on the repeater every night at 8 PM. Ryan is on the rotation as one of the Net Control Operators. They provide a very important service. Hopefully this will give us a better understanding on how each of us can help them to be successful in their message handling endeavors

OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society

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