

# Q-FIVER

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



Our February 3rd, 2015 club meeting was held at the Hamilton County Communication Center on Civic Center Drive located by the Hamilton County Sheriffs Office Patrol Division District 1 on Hamilton Ave. Twenty of us were greeted by Shawn Crews, Communications Supervisor for the HCDC and shown to their conference room.

Shawn started off the program by showing us a power point presentation outlining the different areas that they provide emergency communications for along with some valuable statistics on the services they provide. He also gave us a brief history on how the 911 communication center was formed. After the presentation he went on to provide us with a tour of the operations.

We spent the next hour getting to talk with each of the nine emergency operators and the two supervisors on duty. We were allowed to observe the calls that came in and how they were handled. What impressed me most was the computer system that they were operating. This system was so precise that the operators could tell a fire fighter where the next available fire hydrant was just in case the one they rolled up on wasn't working properly. It could pick up where railroad tracks were along with where the police and fire vehicles were located at the scene of the emergency. They were even able to get a street view of the location just in case they had to assist Police Officers or the Fire Department in locating the location of the emergency. I couldn't help but thinking it was like my GPS on steroids!

In speaking with Shawn as we were taking the tour he asked me if I thought we would be interested in hearing a tape of some of the 911 calls that came in? Without hesitation I said yes and I think I speak for all of us when I say it was eye opening to hear the emotion of some of the calls that came in! The calls ranged from someone calling in to ask what time it was, to someone asking directions to Montgomery Inn, along with police officers in pursuit of a suspect, an officer getting shot and still providing information as to where the suspect was heading. The call that got to me the most was a gentleman that called in and asked the 911 operator to make sure that when the first responders arrived that they let out his pets. When the 911 operator asked why? He said because the next sound you will here is me shooting myself. Sure enough we heard a gun shot. I left thinking that I could not do this job! Special thanks to all of the 911 operators that can do this job day in and day out!

Also I would like to give a special thanks to Bryan Hoffman, KC8EGV for getting this tour set up for us. I know I speak for us all when I say what an awesome tour!

Our next meeting will be Introduction to High Power Rocketry presented by B. Victor Kovacs. He will give about a 35 minute presentation and will bring along some rockets for us to see.

Thanks,  
Michael Sien - KD8SOH  
Vice President - OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society

## 2015 Board of Directors

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### *Past President*

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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](mailto: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

## The Elmer's Corner: Some Online Resources

By Robert Gulley AK3Q

Email: ak3q@ak3q.com



Access to the Internet brings a lot of good things and some bad things, just like anything else in life. Advances in technology have given us a lot of useful tools, but some advances we could have lived without. Email is great; spam is a bane on society. Having cable and satellite options for TV is great; moving to all-digital TV for local services is a problem for a lot of people. Fuel-injection is great in cars; computers in cars has made it next to impossible to work on them yourself. You get the idea.

Being a computer guy from way back, I still think computers are a good thing, and the Internet a really useful tool for learning and for sharing information. I do not like all the opportunity it brings to pry into people's lives, and I think privacy in our world is basically non-existent. The old saying in life is that you have to take the bad with the good, and nowhere is that more true than with the Internet!

However, I think the rewards far outweigh the negatives, at least for our hobby. Radio sites of all stripes can provide a wealth of information, as well as the opportunity to share discoveries and opportunities in near real-time.

While there is no substitute for hands-on learning guided by someone with a lot of experience, I must admit much of what I have learned about radio has come from the written word, either by books or by online resources. When I have a question about almost anything I can type something into *Google*<sup>®</sup> and within moments I have more information than I could possibly imagine.

Not all of that information is good, however, so I try to compare findings and seek out knowledgeable sources wherever possible. Even sites such as *eBay*<sup>®</sup> can be a learning experience, especially if you are new to the radio hobby. With thousands of items for sale every day, many with good descriptions of specific features and characteristics, there is a wealth of information in these ads which has helped me further my knowledge of amateur radio and related areas of interest.

### Online Resources

Online resources may be divided into several categories. First, there are the "how-to" sites such as how to build an antenna, how to build a radio, or how to use equipment and software or related topics. Second, there are information sites such as *Radio Reference*, *AC6V.Com*, and the *DXZONE* just to name a few. These sites have pages upon pages of information related to scanning, amateur radio, antennas, propagation, and to the radio hobby in general.

Finally, there are message boards for sharing information among users, such as personal experiences with various radios, various reception tips and tricks, and "Elmer" sites which offer advice and mentoring in amateur radio. There are more sites than anyone could possibly visit, so there is a lot of overlap between sites, with each offering more or less information on a given topic. There is no "one size fits all" kind of site, but with a little effort you will find useful sites for your particular needs fairly easily.

One messaging site I will mention here is *Yahoo Groups*. *Yahoo Groups* is an online resource where literally thousands of discussion groups exist for almost any interest and/or equipment related to a given hobby. I am on about 70 lists dealing with topics from shortwave radio, ultralight radios for AM DX, scanning, amateur radio equipment, solar/weather conditions, military/aviation frequencies, and general radio lists just to name a few. (We have one just for the Newcomers and Elmers Net—if you are a Newcomer or Elmer, consider joining!)

### Oh-Ky-In Life Members

John Phelps N8JTP

Kenneth E Wolf N8WYC

John W Hughes AI4DA

Karl W Kaucher KJ4KWR

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## Minutes of the February 2015 Meeting

There were no minutes of the February meeting, which was a tour of the Hamilton County Communications Center.

### Foxhunt Report

The February mobile foxhunt had two teams, and one ride-along. Michael, KD8ZDC came out to see how we do things, and he rode along with Marji and I. Dick, WB4SUV headed up the other team, and right at 10:00 AM Phil started transmitting.

Our initial bearing was due south, and with the beam width of my 4 element quad, that covered quite a bit of area. We came down from Mt. Storm park to Central Parkway, with the intent of getting on 75 south. The new exit by Hopple street was closed so we had to go around but we did manage to get on 75 south. As we got closer to Kentucky, the bearing started shifting East, so we got off on 5th street to get a bearing from a stationary open area.

Still east, right towards the NKy convention area, and those tall buildings. We headed over past the convention center, and the bearings shifted to the Northeast. I wanted to go right to the river to make sure he wasn't over in Ohio, so we went by the floodwall by Riverside drive in Covington.

As we got to the end of Riverside Place, we saw Phil next to a tall concrete floodwall. And Dick was not there—we won!

Come check it out in March—The second Saturday of each month.





## 2015 Committee Chairs and Appointments

<b>Newcomers/Elmers Net</b> .....	<b>Robert Gulley AK3Q</b>	<b>Q-Fiver Editor</b> .....	<b>Brian DeYoung, K4BRI</b>
<b>Technical Committee</b> .....	<b>Brian DeYoung, K4BRI</b>	<b>Field Day</b> .....	<b>Eric Neiheisel N8YC</b>
<b>ARPSC Representative</b> .....	<b>Jerry Shipp W1SCR</b>	<b>Historian</b> .....	<b>Dale Vanselow KC8HQS</b>
<b>Volunteer Examiners</b> .....	<b>Brian DeYoung K4BRI</b>	<b>Special Publications</b> .....	<b>Jo Haltermon KD4PYS</b>
<b>QCEN Representative</b> .....	<b>Pat Maley KD8PAT</b>	<b>Fox Hunters</b> .....	<b>Dick Arnett WB4SUV</b>
<b>Membership</b> .....	<b>Nathan Ciufu KA3MTT</b>	<b>Equipment Mgr</b> .....	<b>Brian Fulmer KC8FJN</b>
<b>Fundraising</b> .....	<b>Bruce Vanselow N8BV</b>	<b>WebGeezer</b> .....	<b>Russ Hines WB8ZCC</b>
<b>Education</b> .....	<b>Robert Gulley AK3Q</b>	<b>Silent Key</b> .....	<b>Bruce Vanselow N8BV</b>
<b>Repeater Control Ops Mgr</b> .....	<b>Bruce Vanselow N8BV</b>	<b>Tech Talk Net Mgr</b> .....	<b>Bruce Vanselow N8BV</b>
<b>PIO</b> .....	<b>Jerry Shipp W1SCR</b>	<b>K8SCH QSL Mgr</b> .....	<b>Gerry Weimer KD8ASL</b>
<b>Librarian</b> .....	<b>open</b>	<b>TV/RFI</b> .....	<b>Dick Arnett WB4SUV</b>

## March Calendar

Sun Mar 1 7:00PM Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67 146.67, Topic: What is "Ground" anyway?—NCS Robert AK3Q

Tue Mar 3 7:30PM Club Meeting at St. Bernard City building—Program: High Power Model Rocketry

Wed Mar 4 9:00PM Tech Talk, NCS Robert AK3Q

Sun Mar 8 7:00PM Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67 146.67, Topic: Antenna Supports—NCS Robert AK3Q

Tue Mar 10 6:00 PM Technical Committee meeting—location TBA

Wed Mar 11 9:00PM Tech Talk, NCS Brian K4BRI

Sat Mar 14 10:00AM Fox Hunt starting at Mt. Storm park in Clifton—talk in on 146.670  
1:00PM Brunch Bunch at Lake Nina Restaurant—7200 Pippin Rd—45239

Sun Mar 15 7:00PM Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: Equipping a Workstation—NCS Robert AK3Q

Mon Mar 16 7:00PM Technician and General classes—St. Bernard City building

Wed Mar 18 9:00PM Tech Talk, NCS Dale KC8HQS

Sat Mar 21 10:00AM ARDF style fox hunt at Mt. Airy forest—meet at the big circle. Talk in on 146.670

Sun Mar 22 7:00PM Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: Building Kits—NCS Robert AK3Q

Mon Mar 23 7:00PM Technician and General classes—St. Bernard City building

Tue Mar 24 7:00 PM Board of Directors meeting

Wed Mar 25 9:00PM Tech Talk, NCS Brian KC8FJN

Sun Mar 29 7:00PM Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: What Else can my Soundcard Do?—NCS Robert AK3Q

Mon Mar 30 7:00PM Technician and General classes—St. Bernard City building

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While messaging (in forums) is the primary use of the service, each group usually has a “Files” section as well which often contains useful tips, shortcuts, or programs to enhance the user experience. If you join a particularly active list, I recommend receiving daily digests of the emails rather than individual emails, else you will spend a lot of time hitting the “delete” key! Most of the groups I belong to I have either set to daily digests or to only visit but not send me emails – that way I can go when I am looking for particular information, without getting deluged with emails each day.

Two cautions: make sure the group you join is moderated and that there are clear indications that spam is not permitted. While some spam does get through, the best groups work really hard to keep it out as much as possible, and one of the best ways to do this is to have a moderated list. Also, always try to keep in mind just because someone says they had good luck doing some radical modification to their equipment or their software, that’s no guarantee it will work for you in your situation. Try to verify information wherever possible regardless of where you get it—that’s just good internet sense all around!

### **Finding Repeaters**

When we are talking about amateur radio frequencies for VHF/UHF mobiles or HTs we are basically looking at 10-meter, 6-meter, 2-meter, 220 MHz, 440 MHz, 900 MHz, and 1.2 GHz. While there are radios with even wider coverage, these are the most common and the most useful since HF frequencies below 10 meters usually require an antenna size which is prohibitive for handheld use. Knowing where to find usable frequencies is 90% of the battle when monitoring amateur signals, so a publication like the ARRL’s *Repeater Directory* is a great resource. It’s main limitation as a paper publication is that it will need to be updated every few years.

The best online resource I had come across for finding repeaters in the area is: <http://www.artscipub.com/repeaters/>. This is a free service with a subscription option, and it is very easy to use. You can search in multiple ways, including zip code, state, and distance from your location. Repeater directories usually list both input and output frequencies for a repeater, so make sure you are getting the right frequency programmed in for receive—unless you are really close to the source you will usually not hear anything coming in on the transmit side of things.

Like many public service channels, amateur repeaters often use a PL/CTCSS tone which may be set to avoid repeater overlap in high volume areas. While some radios automatically search for and identify a CTCSS code, it helps to know which code is in use for a particular repeater when programming it in. It’s easy to forget this step and without the code you may not hear a lot on a given repeater.

There are also Repeater apps for phones and tablets, and these can be good resources as well.

### **Weather And Emergency Services**

In the midst of winter’s blast this month (Feb.), a mention about weather-spotting (SKYWARN) and ARES/RACES participation is certainly in order. I will talk about these groups more in a future article, but be aware both SKYWARN and Amateur Radio Emergency Services/Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (ARES/RACES) hold nets, training exercises, and other on-air events which may be monitored or participated in by members. (For those who may not know, “nets” in amateur radio parlance refers to on-air meetings of ham operators, usually centered around a particular topic or common interest.)

SKYWARN has a page for looking up affiliated clubs and repeaters (<http://www.skywarn.org/skywarnlinks.htm>), as well as a number of good resources for learning how to become a weather spotter.

You can also do a *Google* search for your local SKYWARN group by searching for a nearby city, such as “SKYWARN Cincinnati.” Local ARES/RACES groups also hold regular nets, and these can be educational just from the standpoint of learning what to do during an emergency. Typical topics include emergency preparedness, backup power, and disaster relief.

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A good way to find out about local on-air events in amateur radio is to search for clubs in the area. A good resource for this is the *ARRL* website (*Amateur Radio Relay League*) where they have a search page for finding clubs by state, zip code, or keyword. The web address is: <http://www.arrl.org/find-a-club>. This can help you find emergency services groups which hold training exercises and can alert you to potential weather issues or hazardous conditions.

## **Antennas**

Antennas may or may not already be on your list of interests, but if you intend to explore amateur radio you will eventually want to improve your listening opportunities by going beyond the included rubber duck or mobile antenna. There are a number of great antenna resources online, including sites which review antenna types, list plans for building (or “home-brewing”) your own antenna, and which discuss antenna and RF theory. Antennas can get as complicated as you want, and it is a sub-field of the hobby with truly limitless possibilities. The perfect antenna has yet to be built, so there is always room for more experimentation.

While I will talk about antennas for various amateur bands more fully in future columns, here are a few antenna resources which you may find helpful as you start the process of becoming an expert(!):

### **Antenna Basics:**

<http://www.astrosurf.com/luxorion/qsl-antennas-basics.htm>

<http://www.electronics-tutorials.com/antennas/antenna-basics.htm>

<http://ac6v.com/antprojects.htm>

### **Antenna Design:**

<http://www.hamuniverse.com/>

<http://www.dxzone.com/catalog/Antennas/>

### **Antenna Software**

<http://ac6v.com/antsoftware.htm>

All of these sites have multiple pages of information which should be quite helpful. One additional site I will mention is an online magazine *AntenneX* (<http://www.antennex.com/>), which is geared specifically to all aspects of antenna design and theory with both free and paid subscriber sections. In the interests of full disclosure, I write regular monthly columns for this publication, but don't let that keep you away (smile!). There is a wealth of information in the free areas, so I am in no way “shelling” for them—I discovered it early on as I was learning about antennas and found it worthwhile, so I pass it along only for that reason.

## **Wrap-Up**

Well, that's all for this time around. I hope you find some of these resources useful, and feel free to email me if you find sites you think are particularly useful to others—I'll post some of them in a future column. I have only scratched the surface of what is available on the Internet, and whatever the downsides of the Internet, our hobby would be a lot poorer without it!

Until next time, here's hoping you grab all the good signals in life!

Cheers and 73,  
Robert  
[ak3q@ak3q.com](mailto:ak3q@ak3q.com)

# DX Spots - March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 PJ2-Curacao thru 3-10 ----- XV7BM-Vietnam thru 3-31</p>	<p>2 V63CO-Micronesia thru 3-6</p> 	<p>3</p>	<p>4 C6ATF-Bahamas thru 3-9</p> 	<p>5 PZ5LP-Surinam thru 5-6 ----- V63JYR-Micronesia thru 5-11</p>	<p>6 VU4I-Andaman &amp; Nicobar thru 5-18</p> 	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 9Q0HQ-Dem Rep Congo thru 3-25</p> 	<p>11 T88-Palau thru 3-18 ----- AH0KT-Mariana Is thru 3-15 ----- H44NT-Solomon Is thru 3-16</p>	<p>12 C5-Gambia thru 3-17 ----- J34G-Grenada thru 3-25</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 ZF2UL-Cayman Is thru 3-20</p> 
<p>15 D44TEG-Cape Verde Is thru 3-27</p> 	<p>16</p>	<p>17 PJ4-Bonaire thru 4-13</p>	<p>18 A6-United Arab Emirates thru 3-27 ----- 9N -Nepal thru 3-30</p>	<p>19 OH0-Aland Isl Thru 3-22 ----- KH2-Guam thru 3-23 ----- FR-Reunion thru 4-14</p>	<p>20 VK9M-Norfolk I Thru 3-27</p> 	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 C21EU-Nauru Thru 4-4</p> 	<p>26</p>	<p>27 V6Z-Micronesia Thru 4-9</p> 	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				



## From the President

I am honored to be your President for 2015. Gary's shoes are hard to follow, as the Club has prospered under his leadership. Our future looks bright. As I write this, we already have 87 members signed up for this year! What a wonderful start and what a group of many-talented fellow amateur radio operators.

The Club's visit to the Hamilton County Communications Center was well attended and informative. The operators there are real Pros in every sense of the word. Watch for changes in the communications equipment that is coming; the current Motorola equipment is no longer supported by Motorola. The Center will become part of the State's communication system. The change will be very expensive.

The Technical Committee has been busy. The 146.670 repeater was upgraded in January and the UHF repeater was returned to the air this month – with low power and problems yet to be resolved. Thank you Brian and your crew.

Calls are out for communicators for two upcoming events. More at our March meeting. The events provide opportunities to practice skills needed in emergency situations.

Another good program will be presented at the March Club meeting. See you there!

73, Fred K9OHE

## Brunch Bunch

The next Brunch Bunch will be held Saturday, March 14th, at 1pm. The location is Lake Nina Restaurant located at 7200 Pippin Road, in Colerain Township, 45239. Lake Nina is very popular for their fish log, a log of boneless cod. For those who think fish should stay in the sea and off the plate, Lake Nina offers fried chicken -- very popular here -- chicken livers, sandwiches, double deckers and chili.

For a look at the menu as well as directions please go to: [www.lakeninarestaurant.com](http://www.lakeninarestaurant.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



February Brunch Bunch Attendees

## Spring Classes and Exams

### 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!

The March meeting program will be on High Powered model rocketry.

OH-KY-IN will hold classes for Technician and General Class Amateur Radio Licenses. The 5 week classes begin on Monday March 16 and end on Monday April 13. Classes begin at 7:00 PM and will end at about 9:00 PM.

Exams for all classes of Amateur Radio Licenses will be held on Saturday Apr 18 at 9 AM.

Classes and Exams will be held in the St. Bernard (Ohio) City Building at 110 Washington Avenue. Enter from the parking lot next to Vine Street and the parking lot behind Fifth Third Bank. The entrance is on the Vine Street side of the basement.

If you intend to take a class, Technician Class students should purchase the ARRL Technician Class License Manual, 3rd Edition, available at R and L Radio in Hamilton, on the ARRL web site, and from Amazon and other on line retailers. Read and prepare Chapters 1, 2, and 4 before the first class.

Students who will study for the General Class License should purchase the ARRL General Class License Manual, 7th Edition, available from the same retailers. Prepare Chapters 1, 2 and 3 for the first class. Students who study for the General Class License should be aware that the question pool for the examination will change effective July 1, 2015, and Manuals for exams on and after that date will be available shortly. There are some differences between the present and new question pools.

Please pre-register for classes at [classes@ohkyin.org](mailto:classes@ohkyin.org). There is no fee for the classes. A fee of \$15.00 will be charged to take examinations.

### OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

