

# Q-FIVER

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



## April 7, 2015 – Club Meeting Program – Introduction to the Traffic Net

Our April program was given by Ryan Williamson W1RYN who introduced and reacquainted our members to message handling on the traffic net that meets every night on the OH-KY-IN 146.67 repeater at 8 PM. Ryan kicked off the meeting by explaining to us what a message is along with the different types of messages that can be sent with the most common being just a routine message up to the most important an Emergency message.

Ryan then went in to Why are message called Traffic along with what I felt was the most important point why do message traffick-ing at all? I am going to take this next quote from Ryan's slide as this is a question I get asked a lot when I tell someone that I am an amateur radio operator and I discuss with them what are hobby is all about. With fax machines, cell phones, and the internet all faster, all readily available why handle messages over the radio? The answer we should all know and hold dear to our hearts..."When all else fails: Ham Radio" is there when nothing else is working in a natural disaster.

Ryan went on to cover the rules and regulations, How to get started filling out the form on to what I found to be the one of the most interesting parts, where does a message go once you call into the net and give it to the amateur radio operator that is going to pass it on. Ryan had an awesome slide that showed where a message goes once it enters the National Traffic System and how it makes it to the intended person. The example he gave was if you were in the Tri-State area and wanted to send a message to the Monterey California area how would it get there? What is the path it would have to take to reach its destination? Not sure about anyone else I was really surprised that this message would touch no less than 9 Traffic nets before it was dispatched to the intended recipient.

Ryan also checked in to the 8 PM traffic net during our club meeting to show just how fun and easy it was and challenged all of us to put together a message and to call in to the Wednesday night net and get their feet wet. I had a meeting that night and couldn't join but hopefully everyone during the course of that week got an opportunity to give it a try.

So I hope that everyone enjoyed the program and at this time I would like to give a special thanks to Ryan Williamson W1RYN for an excellent program. I would also like to give special thanks out to the other hard working amateur radio operators who are also Net Control operators for the traffic net for their continued dedication in keeping this net operating every night always at the ready to pass messages not only for their fellow amateur radio operators but for the community as well.

Charlie/W8QIW – (Liaison-ARES)  
 Will/W8WDS – (Liaison – OSSBN)  
 Greg/WG8Z – (TATN Net Manager)  
 Bruce/N8BV  
 Terry/NF8B  
 Ted/NC8V  
 Ryan/W1RYN

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



## 2015 Board of Directors

### President

Fred Schneider K9OHE..... (513) 729-0945..... fschneider@fuse.net

### Vice President

Michael Sien KD8SOH ..... Michael.sien@zoomtown.com

Secretary ..... OPEN .....

### Treasurer

Brian DeYoung K4BRI ..... (859) 635-3095 ..... k4bri@arrl.net

### Directors

Bryan Hoffman KC8EGV ..... (513) 851-0525 ..... hoffgroup@gmail.com

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

Ryan Williamson W1RYN..... w1ryn@w1ryn.me

### Trustee/Licensee

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

### Past President

Gary Coffey ..... (513) 382-3879..... kb8myc@fuse.net

### 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

## Minutes of the April 7th 2015 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Fred Schneider, K9OHE, at 7:35 PM, commencing with the Pledge of Allegiance. There were no Health & Welfare announcements.

Fred rearranged the agenda to better highlight tonight's program, turning the floor over to Vice President Michael Sein, KD8SOH, to introduce our speaker, Ryan Williamson, W1RYN, who presented "Amateur Radio Message (Traffic) Handling," using the Tristate Amateur Traffic Net (TATN) as a working example.

Ryan explained that there are many reasons hams engage in message handling, but ultimately "When All Else Fails: Ham Radio," is a strong reason to learn how to, and practice the art of, passing traffic: it supports ham radio's emergency and public service communications roles. Ryan had passed out blank Radiogram forms at the beginning of his talk, to help us follow along with his descriptions, as he prepared for the night's TATN's 8:00 PM session. He led us through the various parts of the form, starting with the "preamble," where information about the message is recorded.

Going space by space through the form, he was able to highlight how messages may be formal or informal; may have levels of urgency from Routine to Emergency; and may carry special handling instructions, such as a date to hold the message before delivery, a request to inform the originating station when and to whom the message was delivered, etc. (Using a pre-printed Radiogram blank, such as Ryan showed us, is not required; any scrap of paper you can use to help you keep track of the essential elements of a formal message—even a chewing gum wrapper, if that's all you have!—can be used. Buying or photocopying the pre-printed forms just makes it handier.)

Ryan also noted important restrictions regarding to where, to whom, and about whom our communications may take place, whether they be voice, CW, or digital modes, formal messages or friendly chats. Such restrictions relate to "third party" traffic rules, and to permitted and forbidden types of messages (such as those with a "pecuniary interest" to one persons involved), etc.

Formal messages, like tonight's Radiogram, are usually collected at a local level and then relayed to a net which involves hams from a wider area. These may be "independent" nets, or they may be affiliated with the National Traffic System (NTS) sponsored by the American Radio Relay League. Under the NTS model, those wider coverage nets in turn feed nets covering even larger areas (e.g., Ohio Single Sideband Net—OSSBN—covering Ohio; 8thRegion Net—8RN—covering Michigan, Ohio, and West Virginia; Eastern Area Net—EAN—covering roughly the eastern third of North America; and the Transcontinental Corps—TCC—exchanging messages across N.A.).

A message to California sent via the TATN may be carried next to the Ohio Single Sideband Net the next morning, relayed next to 8RN, then EAN, then TCC, then "down the chain" similarly to the Western Area Net, 6<sup>th</sup> Region Net, all the way down to a local net near some California town where the addressee lives where a ham accepts the message for delivery.

The ham delivering the message usually telephones the addressee and reads it to him or her. Any helpful "shorthand" phrases, such as those in the ARRL's Numbered Messages list, are read out in full—the addressee hears "Greeting by Amateur Radio," not "ARL Fifty"! The delivering ham can ask addressees for any replies, or invite them to listen in on—and participate in—the local traffic net themselves. (For example, the TATN preamble notes, "The Tristate Area Traffic Net is also a training net, and we encourage new check-ins to feel welcome.")

Right at 8:00 PM, W1RYN checked in to the TATN via his handheld (connected to a small mag-mount antenna placed in front of the meeting room's window), telling the Net Control Station, AB8VA (Don Christman), that he had one message to send. After Ryan's check-in, NCS directed several activities, and then came back to Ryan for his message. (AB8VA took the message tonight himself, but other times it might have been picked up by other participants of NCS' choosing.) After acknowledging receipt of

*(Continued on page 4)*

### Oh-Ky-In Life Members

John Phelps N8JTP

Kenneth E Wolf N8WYC

John W Hughes AI4DA

Karl W Kaucher KJ4KWR

*(Continued from page 3)*

W1RYN's message, AB8VA originated a formal reply message and sent it to W1RYN, who acknowledged receipt of that message. The net closed shortly thereafter, and the group briefly discussed the demonstration.

After a ten-minute break, the meeting resumed at 8:30 PM for the business portion. President Fred Schneider, K9OHE, called to the front Past-President Gary Coffey, to receive our thanks. Fred also presented Gary with a pair of QRP kits to express his appreciation for his years of service as President.

Brag Session: Harry Riggs, KC4MS, noted that the Federal "Amateur Radio Parity Act" has been reintroduced for 2015 as H.R. 1301, following last year's expiration of the same bill when the 113<sup>th</sup> Congressional session ended without action. This bill would in part extend the protections of PRB-1 (which addresses municipal, etc., limitation on ham antenna installations) to private contracts which contain "Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions) barring or limiting such installations. We are encouraged to write letters of support to our House delegations, but to send those letters to the ARRL, which will deliver them to Representatives "in bulk" — a proven method for gaining greater attention and impact than separate individual private mailings do.

Minutes: March's regular meeting's minutes were published in the Q-Fiver, and were approved pending correction of two typos (which do not affect the meaning) brought up by Secretary Ted Morris, NC8V.

Reports: Treasurer Brian de Young, K4BRI, distributed copies of the March treasury report, which was approved no questions (NC8V moving, Mike Brooksbank, KC8IVR, seconding.)

Audit Committee: Committee chair Michael, KD8SOH, read the Committee's report approving K4BRI's books and lauding his hard work (including his identification and correction of a prior programming error which had led to mistakes in several reports —but not to our actual funds balances). Michael thanked his fellow committee members for their efforts: Robert Louie, KD8WLV, and Ryan, W1RYN. He also noted that with two of the current committee members now serving on the Board, we will need new participants for this year's audit. Michael also announced we are planning an equipment audit as well.

Technical Committee: Brian, K4BRI, highlighted ongoing work on our repeaters. He and Gary, KB8MYC, investigated recent noise problems affecting the 146.625 machine. At the site, they found two new paging systems had been installed nearby! They made some adjustments and refined the controller's messages while they were there. The 440MHz repeater's amplifier is defective, so we're down to 2 watts output right now. K4BRI and the committee want to put a newly-acquired repeater system up at the 146.925 site.

Fox Hunts: K4BRI noted our mobile hunts continue monthly on the second Saturday, and we will continue holding on-foot hunts on third Saturdays. There are two changes in April, however: The mobile hunt will not be held due to Brian's responsibilities elsewhere. The on-foot hunt will be at Mt. Storm Park as usual, but start at Noon rather than 10:00 AM since Brian will be busy that morning holding our licensing exams.

Hamfest: Gary, KB8MYC, Hamfest chair, announced this year's 'fest will be Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015, again at Aiken High School. The committee meets next at Aiken on April 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM.

Education: Robert Gulley, AK3Q, noted the last sessions of our Technician and General licensing classes will be this following Monday, April 13. The following Saturday, April 11, we will hold licensing exams at 9:00 AM next door in the St. Bernard Municipal Building. 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. We can always use more Volunteer Examiners.

Tech-Talk Net: Bruce, N8BV, attributed the recent slight decline in check-ins to nicer weather and folks spending more evenings outside.

*(Continued on page 5)*

Brunch Bunch: Bruce announced this month's venue: the Butt Shack in Green Hills. As usual, we will meet on the second Saturday at 1:00 PM, this month that's April 11.

QCEN: Pat Maley, KD8PAT, again noted Jerry Shipp's, W1SCR, presented on solar power. A recent trip to the roof of the Red Cross building revealed some of their antennas needed repairs or replacement, which they have begun. She also mentioned that volunteers will be needed for the upcoming Multiple Sclerosis Bike Ride. This year's ride features a new route that will begin and end in Bellevue, KY. Finally, Pat invited anyone interested to their next meeting, April 17, where the station will be open at 5:30 PM before the 7:00 PM meeting.

New Business: Gary, KB8MYC, announced that the club will sponsor a Dayton Hamvention flea market stall again this year; we can get four spaces for only \$100, total. Harry Davis, WA8LOJ, will arrange with Brian, K4BRI to reserve the spaces. We will need a pickup truck or other vehicle to haul tables and our two canopies up there; Gary will check with Russ Hines, WB8ZCC, to see if he can assist with this again.

Jerry, W1SCR, gave details of the upcoming Ohio ARES NVIS (Near Vertical Incidence Skywave) Test, on Saturday, April 25. We are participating in the event from Vine Street Park in St. Bernard, just down the street from the club meeting room. We will have a shelter available and grill space, so we can carry on rain or shine. The event will be held from 10:00 AM through "whenever," depending on how many folks want to set up and test their antennas or work with others'. Some folks may want to arrive early to be ready to test at 10:00 AM. The test will use 40 and 80 meter band frequencies.

Programs: Michael, WD8SOH, announced the for the May meeting, May 5<sup>th</sup>, Ryan, W1RYN, will again be our presenter. This time he will talk about programming radios with the CHIRP software program. Members are encouraged to bring their handy-talkies to take advantage of this handy method.

He is also planning a tour on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, of the Control Tower at CVG (Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky International Airport). This is a popular event with limited space, so if there is enough demand a second tour can be added. Visitors must bring valid picture ID to attend.

Michael asked if there would be interest in "do-it-yourself" classes. He asked for suggestions on what folks would like to learn, and for volunteers who would like to teach. We may have a suitable venue available already.

Robert Gulley, AK3Q, announced that the Newcomers and Elmers Net on Sunday nights will likely be featured in the May issue of Spectrum Monitor. The whole issue will be focused on amateur radio. While he was disappointed that neither QST nor CQ have shown interest in the Net to date, this is a great opportunity.

Ed Frambes, K8EAF, noted that the new director of the Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), Nicholas Crossley, is a ham and heavily into ham participation in emergency services planning. He previously worked in similar positions in Kansas and California. His primary go-to will be ARES, and with WARN needing to relocate he has offered space and resources at the EMA facility, including refitted and upgraded equipment for weather related communications. He is also considering what other activities might benefit from being brought "in house." Ed is serving as a liaison to the EMA.

Split-the-Pot: Ted, NC8V, won \$50.

Fred, K9OHE, closed the meeting by thanking Ryan, W1RYN for presenting, and the assembled group for attending; Adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Morris, NC8V, Secretary



## From the President

So far 2015 has been a busy year. Many personal and family matters have kept me busy. I hope you have had more time for your radios than I did.

The club has also been busy. Work has been done on our repeaters, classes were taught and exams given with success, and Club Meeting have continued to be interesting and informative. I just left the NVIS session where several radios and more antennas were hard at work. An interesting assortment of antennas, too, with a good group busy, even in the rain.

Dayton is soon to take place and I hope to get there this year. Then comes Field Day. We need workers for setup and take down, and operators are needed for operating stations. Planning is already going on for next Fall's Hamfest.

Maybe all this activity explains why club membership is already over 100. Please let me know what you would like to see the club do.

73, Fred K9OHE, President

## Brunch Bunch

The next Brunch Bunch will be held Saturday, May 9th, at 1pm. The location for May is Frisch's Big Boy Bridgetown location at 4227 Bridgetown Road, 45211, just a short distance west of the intersection of Bridgetown Road and Harrison Avenue.

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

[www.frischs.com](http://www.frischs.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 Committee** .....Brian DeYoung, K4BRI  
**ARPSC Representative**.....Jerry Shipp W1SCR  
**Volunteer Examiners** .....Brian DeYoung K4BRI  
**QCEN Representative** ..... Pat Maley KD8PAT  
**Membership** ..... Nathan Ciufo KA3MTT  
**Fundraising** ..... Bruce Vanselow N8BV  
**Education** ..... Robert Gulley AK3Q  
**Repeater Control Ops Mgr** ..... Bruce Vanselow N8BV  
**PIO** .....Jerry 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 Key** .....Bruce Vanselow N8BV  
**Tech Talk Net Mgr** .....Bruce Vanselow N8BV  
**K8SCH QSL Mgr** .....Gerry Weimer KD8ASL  
**TV/RFI** ..... Dick Arnett WB4SUV

*The On-Foot Foxhunt for May will be held near the Dayton Hamvention site, at Sinclair Park at 5:00 PM Saturday May 16th. There is always a good turnout, lots of transmitters (usually more than 30) and prizes!*

## May Calendar

|            |                   |  |
|------------|-------------------|--|
| Sun May 3  | 7:00PM            | Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67 146.67, Topic: Buying Equipment Old and New —NCS Robert AK3Q  |
| Tue May 5  | 7:30PM            | Club Meeting at St Bernard Recreation Hall, 120 Washington Avenue.<br>Program: <b>Introduction to the Traffic Net</b>                    |
| Wed May 6  | 9:00PM            | Tech Talk, NCS Robert AK3Q   |
| Sat May 9  | 10:00AM<br>1:00PM | Mobile Foxhunt—Start at Mt. Storm park in Clifton—talk-in on 146.670<br>Brunch Bunch at On the Pike Steaks n’ More—4960 Delhi Pike—45238 |
| Sun May 10 | 7:00PM            | Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67 146.67, Topic: Operating Tips —NCS Robert AK3Q  |
| Tue May 12 | 6:00 PM           | Technical Committee meeting—location TBA   |
| Wed May 13 | 9:00PM            | Tech Talk, NCS Brian K4BRI   |
| Sat May 16 | 5:00PM            | On-foot fox hunt at Sinclair park— near the Dayton Hamvention site   |
| Sun May 17 | 7:00PM            | Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: Takin' It to the Streets! —NCS Robert AK3Q  |
| Wed May 20 | 9:00PM            | Tech Talk, NCS Dale KC8HQS   |
| Sun May 24 | 7:00PM            | Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: QSLs and Contacts —NCS Robert AK3Q  |
| Tue May 26 | 7:00 PM           | Board of Directors meeting   |
| Wed May 27 | 9:00PM            | Tech Talk, NCS Brian KC8FJN  |
| Sun May 31 | 7:00PM            | Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: Field Day is Almost Here! —NCS Robert AK3Q  |

### Getting Started With Radio Propagation Part 2

By Robert Gulley AK3Q



By now I trust those of you who read last month's column have gotten a taste for learning about propagation and have put some of this new knowledge to good use! Armed with numbers such as the monthly **MUF** (maximum usable frequency), the **LUF** (lowest usable frequency), and information regarding atmospheric layers one may predict with some degree of accuracy just which bands will be open at any given time of day. This is powerful stuff!

This time around we will look at how various solar conditions affect propagation, but still from an introductory perspective. I hardly consider myself an expert!

#### Solar Activity

The sun plays a big role in what happens to radio signals. Recently there have been a number of solar disturbances which have played havoc on HF signals, surprising a number of folks since Solar Cycle 24 is supposed to be winding down. "Wait . . . what do you mean . . . Solar Cycle . . . what??"

Solar Cycles are 11-year periods or "cycles" which are reasonably predictable with solar *minimums* and *maximums*. There is nothing tricky here to remember—high activity means there are a lot of sunspots active, while low activity means fewer sunspots and less activity. For our purposes higher activity *generally* means better DX conditions. But as they say, you have to take the bad with the good, and heightened solar activity also means some signals will not be as good (lower bands), and there will be more interruptions to good signals as we experience solar flares, solar winds, and CMEs. And yes, I will talk more about these in a moment!

Let me state right here that regardless of the solar activity, the solar cycle, or the people bemoaning conditions for whatever the reason, there are always bands open somewhere around the world at any time of day. The study of propagation helps you understand when conditions might be more favorable than others, but there is almost never a time when you cannot talk to someone, somewhere assuming you have the radio/antenna capability.

When I first became a ham we were in the midst of a low point in the solar cycle, and everywhere I looked I saw reports of how the bands were dead, nothing was happening, yada yada yada. The fact is I worked all over the world in those "terrible" conditions, and I discovered the real truth I mentioned above—there is always somewhere to work whenever you turn on your radio.

If you don't believe me, just check out the bands whenever there is a DX contest going on. People are walking all over one another to stack up those points and be declared master of the radio universe and chief muck-a-muck of the airwaves. On those days suddenly "propagation" is just fine! Blaming low activity on poor solar conditions is an example of a self-fulfilling prophecy; if enough people believe good contacts are impossible no one gets on the air and so no good contacts are possible.

Remember too, a quiet band is not necessarily a dead band. Often the bands are quiet simply because no one is putting out a call (hint hint)!

#### The Sunspot Cycle

Sunspots are just one of several solar conditions which have a great impact on RF propagation, but they get the most attention by far. Why are sunspots (or the lack thereof) blamed for all the ills of radio silence? Sunspots are caused by thermal irregularities on the surface of the sun. These spots denote areas of the sun which are cooler than the surrounding area. A larger number of sunspots indicates higher *UV* (ultraviolet) activity, which leads to a more highly-charged atmosphere. More ionization in the "F1" and "F2" layers of the atmosphere means better signal propagation overall. Low numbers generally mean a weaker ionosphere and therefore lower propagation.



Sunspot cycles last about 11 years, swinging from high (*maxima*) to low (*minima*) and then back again. When the sunspots are gone for long periods of time we say the sunspot cycle is at a minimum. Tracking sunspot activity does give a good indication overall of propagation activity, particularly on frequencies above 10 MHz.

For our purposes here the temperature of the sun is not as important as the magnetic activity. The presence of sunspots indicate a higher level of magnetic activity and this changes the ionization of the atmosphere, directly impacting RF activity. During periods of high activity frequencies above 10 MHz come alive, and bands such as 10-meters can stay open all night (I personally can't wait for the next real maximum!). The downside to this condition is that the lower frequency bands such as 80- and 160-meters close up due to absorption.

Low magnetic activity does not mean conditions are necessarily poor for radio signals. While low solar activity means less HF activity on some bands, signals in the usable HF range are more stable because there are less geomagnetic storms and solar flares, and fewer CME (Coronal Mass Ejections, or magnetic explosions). Each of these solar disruptions can adversely affect propagation, so I'll discuss them briefly below.

### **Solar Flares**

Solar flare activity brings with it magnetic fluctuations which can produce unstable HF signal propagation and higher signal absorption in the atmosphere, particularly in the "D" layer. Flares and other magnetic disturbances such as coronal holes can cause radio blackouts on the sunlit side of the earth lasting minutes or hours. These instances are sometimes referred to as a *SID* (Sudden Ionospheric Disturbance). Lower bands are usually affected first, but then the higher bands will also be affected if the disturbance is strong enough. Fortunately they do not last long, and often there are some excellent opportunities as the flare dies down but the atmosphere remains charged.

### **Coronal Mass Ejections**

CME produce those beautiful Northern (and Southern!) Lights as the atmosphere becomes highly charged with trillions of watts of energy. While visually stunning, these solar events can cause satellite and ground-based radio signal blackouts, and if strong enough these disruptions can permanently damage equipment. On the other hand, the greater ionization produced by these ejections can bring about opportunities in the higher frequencies, particularly 6- and 2-meters.

Northern and Southern lights can produce some very interesting signal propagation known as Aurora propagation. While 10-meter contacts are possible, most aurora activity occurs at 6-meters and above, sometimes reaching as high as 1.2 GHz. Signals are bounced off of the aurora with directional antennas, and contacts up to 1400 miles are not uncommon. What makes this type of propagation a bit tricky is the movement of the aurora ionization patterns; adjustments have to be made to track the aurora as it moves along the atmosphere. I will talk more about scatter propagation next time.

### **Geomagnetic Storms**

Geomagnetic storms are disruptions caused by a solar wind shockwave which typically strikes the Earth's magnetic field 24 to 36 hours after a solar flare or CME event. Solar wind pressure changes cause higher ionization which may last for several days, or longer in some instances. One of the stronger storms in recent history caused major power outages in Quebec in 1989. Northern Lights were seen as far south as Texas, a once in a lifetime experience for many to be sure!

Solar activity is monitored on a daily basis; such is the level of importance and impact on day-to-day communications which the sun can have on our lives. Fortunately for those of us interested in the radio hobby there are many online resources for predicting and analyzing this activity, and the hobby is all the better for it!

I recommend getting in the habit of checking conditions on a daily basis if at all possible so that opportunities for unusual contacts don't pass you by. Over time your log books will be filled with those one-of-a-kind entries you'll be bragging about to your radio friends (and anyone else who will listen!) On the Elmers Net page of the OHKYIN website in the notes section you can find a set of notes going into some detail explaining what some of the numbers/readings mean when viewing those ubiquitous propagation banners.

### Wrap-up

Remember, every day is a chance to work stations all around the world if you just turn on your radio. Learning as much as you can about propagation will make every listening opportunity better, and even your serendipitous encounters will be more frequent, I promise! After all, as the old saying goes, “chance favors the prepared mind!”

Until next time, happy signal hunting!

Robert AK3Q

## Hamfest

### Support Your Local Hamfest!

After a huge success in 2014, OHKYIN will once again be presenting our Hamfest for 2015! This year’s date will be Saturday September 19<sup>th</sup>. The location will be the same as last year, Aiken High School.

Last year’s event (our first Hamfest in almost 10 years) was a hit, we had almost 250 people in attendance. In order to make this year’s even bigger and better we need two things from our membership. First, we need help, lots of help! If you can join us in planning the event that would be great. If your schedule keeps you busy leading up to the Hamfest, day of event help is always desperately needed. Second, we need something every member can do, buy a ticket! For \$5.00 you can help support the club. Even if you do not think you can make it out, please consider making the investment. In the near future you will receive a Hamfest ticket in the mail. Please consider sending us the \$5.00 investment to support the event. If you don’t want to pay in advance, you can always pay for the ticket at the door when you come to the Hamfest (it’s not a freebie!!). Either way, this small donation will support all of the functions of the club. Please consider helping us out!

Watch for more announcements and we hope to see you on September 19<sup>th</sup>!

## NVIS Day

I want to thank all that braved the rain and cold to make the first NVIS Day a resounding success! Skills were sharpened, lessons were learned and with the compilation of the test results statewide we will be able to make future recommendations on antennas and deployment techniques. I think there is no doubt that the AS2259 knockoff works very well. It does have a fairly large footprint but it is cheap and easy to build. I also put up a Chameleon EMCOMM II (Recommended by Bobby KD8TPU) and found it worked great both SSB and digital. Verticals on the other hand were a different story. Mike, KD8ZLB, tried it and gave us a valuable benchmark. Our location was intentional, as we were sitting in a bowl, against a huge steel structure. The bad weather was provided by MURPHY, but if called upon to set-up a communications link for some disaster we won't get to pick our sites, dates or weather. Mike, KD8SOH, and Gerri manned (and I guess womened?) the grill to keep us all fat and happy. Throughout the day we had around 50 participants, not only from OH-KY-IN but ARES, QCEN, Hamilton County ARPSC and the Elmers and New Comers Net. There were also a number of fixed stations making contacts to help measure results, in particular our ARES and OH-KY-IN neighbor to the South, Lynn KD8JAW. Thanks again for making this a great experience and as I receive any Statewide results, I will provide them

On a side note pray for the people of NEPAL and please keep 14.310, 14.210 and 7.100 open as our ham brothers on the other side of the globe work this disaster.

Jerry L. Shipp Sr.  
W1SCR

## Foxhunting and ARDF

We had no mobile hunt in April, but we sure had an on-foot ARDF style hunt, and the turnout was great! We had some first-timers give it a try and hopefully they will be back for more. Besides the 'regulars' of Dick WB4SUV, Matthew AA9YH, Marji KJ4ZKC and myself, we also had Phil KG8AP, Pat WD8PAT and Kitty W8TDA. Phil and Pat labored hard and found all 5 of the 2m transmitters, and Kitty got some good exposure to 2m and 80m hunting. It was a great day to be outdoors and a good time was had by all.

In May, the mobile hunt will be on May 9th starting at Mt. Storm park at 10:00 AM, setup to be before that. The On-Foot hunt will be in conjunction with the Dayton Hamvention, and held at Sinclair Park near the Hamvention site. It will start at 5:00 PM on Saturday May 16th and there are normally a good number of hunters, an even greater number of transmitters, and fun times and prizes.



### My entry in to the world of foxhunting

By Kitty Hevener, w8tda

I have long understood the value of fox hunting or direction finding. In fact, I benefitted from it one wintry day in Boston when I discovered that the bus had not let me off at the requested stop. Aside from being in a residential area, I had no clue where I was, and no other pedestrians could be heard braving the sub zero wind chills and snow drifts. When I realized I was hopelessly lost and in danger of freezing, I pulled out my trusty HT and started calling for help. Fortunately, the locals sprung in to action. They kept me engaged in conversation till they found me! O, a warm car never felt so good!!!

I really never thought about direction finding again till I discovered that my ham club in Syracuse did it mobile style. I was intrigued but quickly discovered that it was all visual. So, I chalked it up as something I would not be able to do. But, this past weekend, I had a positive attitude adjustment. Dick, wb4suv, took me to Mt Airy forest as there is no way of getting there via public transportation. I had my first ever experience foxhunting in a way that is meaningful to me. Matt served as my guide on the two meter hunt and had to occasionally reposition my beam. I had soo much to juggle – the five transmitters in right ear, the tone in my left, Matt's directions, the uneven terrain, and Portia's guiding either around something or pulling me toward some tasty delight! But, thanks to Matt's patience and encouragement along with my determination, transmitter 3 was eventually found.

By comparison, the 80 meter hunt was a piece of cake. The equipment was much easier for me to hold and I had the same thing coming through both ears.

In sum, I am so thrilled that our DF gurus took the time to adapt the activity so that I could join in on the fun. Look out, I have been bitten by the bug!

# DX Spots—May 2015 de KA3MTT

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

## The Next Oh-Ky-In Meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 5th 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!

**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!

### **6/2/15 – Field Day informational program**

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

### OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society

Q-FIVER Editor  
Brian DeYoung, K4BRI  
6901 Backus Drive  
Alexandria, KY 41001

Phone: (859) 635-3095  
Web: [www.ohkyin.org](http://www.ohkyin.org)  
E-mail: [k4bri@arrl.net](mailto:k4bri@arrl.net)

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

