

# Q-FIVER

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



*From the VIP's desk....*

What a great month to be an Amateur Radio Operator and a member of the OH-KY-IN, ARS! So many things to do, so little time to get them all done. I can't believe it is time for me to sit down and type up an article for the Q-Fiver. So let me share with you what has been keeping me busy this month.



To start off with our Club Meeting is the first Tuesday of every month and our August meeting featured Andy Krew, ND8D, President of the University of Cincinnati Amateur Radio Club and I am proud to say that he is also a member of our club as well. His presentation was on Raspberry Pi and TNC Pi. We had a great turn-out and a lot of interesting questions around what is a Raspberry Pi and how can it help you with some of your Amateur Radio projects.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## 2015 Board of Directors

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### 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 Ciufu 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.



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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



### Oh-Ky-In Life Members

John Phelps N8JTP

Kenneth E Wolf N8WYC

John W Hughes AI4DA

Karl W Kaucher KJ4KWR

Howard Hunt NG8P

Next I stopped by a visited my good friends Jerry and Cindy Shipp, Bryan Hoffman, Pat Maley and Mike Niehaus at Our Lady of the Rosary in Green Hills on Friday night and Saturday night the weekend of the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. There was a festival going on and our hard working club members had set up an Amateur Radio demonstration to show and introduce people to our exciting hobby. Jerry was working Digital and was setting up a mesh network. Both are definitely on my must do list in the fall. I would love to learn how to work and set up and operate them both. Mike and Bryan were working the radios! Also I want to thank Mike Niehaus for programming some more frequencies on to my Baofeng! I was having so much fun learning I forgot to take a picture! "Sorry Guys I had to use stock footage for the photo!"

Gary Coffey	KB8MYC	SAG Vehicle
Will Schramm	W8WDS	Net Control/ Mobile Home
Kitty Hevener	WD8TDA	Net Control
Mike Niehaus	KD8ZLB	Backup utility man
Lynn Ernst	WD8JAW	Rest Area
Pat Maley	KD8PAT	Rest Area
Ted Morris	NC8V	Rest Area
Dave Demoss	KD8UTA	SAG Vehicle
Brian Fulmer	KC8FJN	SAG Vehicle
Bobby Revis	KD8TPU	SAG Vehicle



Next my adventures took me to The 2015 CFF Cycle for Life that was held down at Lunken Play Field. This is the fourth year that OH-KY-IN has provided communication for this event. This event was held on Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup> it started at 7 AM and we finished around 2:30. I would like to thank the following club members for all of their hard work in making this event a success:

We are without question integrate part of this event! Every year through countless coordinators it is our communication skills and our willingness to help their team that really helps this event to go smoothly. I would just like to thank our team for allowing me to supervise this event! We did such a great job they want us back again next year! Great job team!

Next stop...The 1940's Event at the Cincinnati Museum Center on August 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and this is an event that we get asked to come back to year after year! The staff at the Museum Center always goes out of their way every year to treat us like royalty we even get billing on the event as a sponsor! We always set up a 2 meter and an HF station most of the time for us to play on and sometimes to show off! We had an awesome turn out this year both members along with people stopping by our booth inquiring about our club and amateur radio! I would like to say thanks to the following members that came out and supported your Amateur Radio club!

Jerry Shipp	W1SCR
Jason Nivens,	KD8YMD
Jason Nivens,	KD8ZYR
Susie Scott	N8CGM
Brad Scott	WD9HDZ
Ted Morris	NC8V
Robert Louie	KD8WLV
George Gardei	N3VQW
Fred Schneider	K9OHE
Ryan William-	W1RYN
Brian Fulmer	KC8FJN
Mike Niehaus	KD8ZLB



If you stopped by and I missed you please accept my apologies! If you didn't get a chance to stop out hopefully you will get an opportunity to stop by next year!

### **Whew...Half way there is it Miller Time Yet???**

Seriously...I am only getting started with all the events you could have been a part of in August if you were a member of the OH-KY-IN, ARS! Are you looking for a club that is out having fun and participating in their community? Then look no farther than OH-KY-IN, ARS. If you are a member tell your other amateur radio friends and have them join our club! If you are reading this for the first time and you are looking for a club to join that is going to give you a wide variety of things to do in amateur radio then stop by our web-site at [www.ohkyin.org](http://www.ohkyin.org) and get our meeting information and come join us!

## Other Events/Meetings I attended...

- 8/11/15 – Tech Meeting – How to program an Arcom Controller
- 8/19/15 – Health Department Emergency Communication Core Meeting
- 8/25/15 – OH-KY-IN Board of Directors Meeting

## Upcoming Events...

Just like everybody else I have deadlines and several events will be happening before this gets posted to the newsletter...

8/22/15 – **Ohio QSO Party** – This year it will be at Ross Park again in St. Bernard from 12 noon to 12 midnight! We are going to have a cookout!

8/29 and 8/30/15 – **Mini Maker Faire** at the Cincinnati Museum Center – we are trying to get some of our members together and set up a booth and talk about Amateur Radio.

9/1/15 – **ARRL Night** at our monthly Club meeting in St. Bernard, OH at 7:30 PM

Thanks for taking this journey with me as I should have titled this article “A month in the life of your OH-KY-IN, ARS Vice President”. But what I really want to leave you with is that there are so many fun and exciting activities to do in Amateur Radio. There are still so many things as a club that we want to introduce and accomplish in Amateur Radio with our club members. All we need is you!

73's and until next month!

Michael Sien – KD8SOH

## Hamfest

It's Almost Hamfest Time

We're less than a month away from the 2015 OHKYIN Hamfest. Once again this year we will be holding the event at Aiken High School in College Hill. If you have not already purchased your ticket please do so now! Response from club members from our ticket mailing has been great. We would like to see every member come out to support our event.

Got a basement full of “stuff”? Consider buying a table in our flea market. Tables are only \$5.00 each in our air conditioned indoor venue. If you prefer being outdoors, flea market spaces are only \$5. (no table provided). Please remember, if you purchase a flea market space you will also have to purchase an entry ticket. There will be plenty of activities throughout the day and plenty of door prizes. See more details on the club's webpage. See you on Saturday September 19<sup>th</sup>!



## Minutes of the August 4th 2015 Meeting

The meeting was held downstairs from our usual room in the St. Bernard Recreation Center, due to local election polling upstairs. President Fred Schneider K9OHE called to order at 7:31 PM, for the Pledge of Allegiance. Forty-five attended, including several guests. Fred laid out the evening's agenda: self-introductions, program, brag session, regular business portion.

Andrew (Andy) Krew ND8D, president of the UC Amateur Radio Club, presented "Raspberry Pi and Amateur Radio." He gave a brief history and description of this popular microcomputer, noting its 2006 origin at the University of Cambridge, intended to foster computer experimentation and hobby programming while retaining low cost.

The unit utilizes SPARC technology to reduce cost and increase performance over other single-board microcontroller-based products. The original Pi 1 used a single-core processor, while the later Pi 2 has a quad-core architecture, more RAM, and higher speed. The Pi and Pi 2 fall between microcontrollers and modern PCs on a usefulness continuum, and are more powerful than earlier PCs. Andy noted that Arduino, another popular product, is at its root a less complete system.

The Raspberry Pi environment includes several simple power and I/O options, compatibility with everyday displays, and a 40-pin general-purpose input/output (GPIO) scheme. The system is designed to use the Linux operating system, and Andy noted there are at least 7 "distros" (distributions) available, including Raspbian (based on Debian), Pidora (Fedora), and a version of Windows 10, among them.

General applications for the Pi include Web serving, auxiliary computer, Media Center PC, robot brain, and security camera platform. Of interest to Ham Radio, it can function as a Software Defined Radio (SDR) server or standalone receiver, a main focus for the remainder of the program. In another application example, Andy adds a Coastal Chipworks TNC-Pi kit and XASTIR software, to create an Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) packet controller. One can also make a transmitter using pulse-width modulation to create FM (at about 10Mw, with lots of harmonics, since the Pi is trying to create square waves).

Other applications Andy noted include Weak Signal Propagation Reporting (WSPR) Beacon service, and remote station controller (with many relay boards, etc., available, and lots of software for control purposes). For the latter application, stepper motors such as those from Parallax facilitate control of external devices via mechanical vs. direct digital interfacing

Andy closed his presentation with a Q&A session, and offered demonstrations of several applications mentioned during the break.

After a 10-minute break, the group reassembled at 8:20 PM

In the brag session, Kitty Hevener W8TDA announced that she had tried N3FJP's contest logging software for the North American QSO Party-CW, tracking some 172 contacts and 9K points, and this may well lead to her first submitted contest log.

Bryan Hoffman KC8EGV announced his appointment as Hamilton County Emergency Coordinator; Andy Krew ND8D recently made his first CW contact; and Jerry Shipp W1SCR reported on our involvement at the Great Lakes Emergency conference.

Kitty W8TDA then noted that the ARRL has an award for Elmering (mentoring), and cited Robert Gulley AK3Q as certainly fitting this category. However, her comments today focused on how Dick Arnett WB4SUV has taken her under his wing and helped arrange for to be able to participate in her first Foxhunt. She nominated Dick to the ARRL, and this evening presented him with his ARRL Elmer Award Certificate.

Silent Keys: Bill Ake W8PRH, founder of the extensive 145.19 linked repeater network, was remembered.

May Meeting Minutes: Fred Schneider K9OHE noted the June *Q-Fiver* was late, but further noted that the May minutes appeared under an April header; the group voted to APPROVE those minutes as amended to reflect the correct May date. Since July's meeting was our picnic, there was no meeting (and thus no July minutes), but also no opportunity to reviews the June minutes at that time. The group voted to APPROVE the June minutes as printed in the August *Q-Fiver*.

Email Reflector: Fred K9OHE noted that Web- and Postmaster Russ Hines WB8ZCC found over twenty of our email addresses bounced reflector messages, causing those addresses to be temporarily suspended. Anyone who has missed reflector messages lately should check with Russ.

Treasury: Treasurer Brian DeYoung K4BRI presented a final June report, and July's report. After he ran through them briefly, the group voted to APPROVE both reports.

Repeater Tower Rental: Fred K9OHE related that the towers used for our current .925 and former .625 repeater sites have been purchased by K-2, but we were still billed by the previous owner. K-2 advised us to not pay the previous owner, and instead to pay them when they send a bill. As a side note, the Withamsville tower now holds Bruce Vanselow N8BV's packet radio system.

Education: Robert Gulley AK3Q has resigned as Education Committee Chair. However, he will continue to operate our Newcomers & Elmers Net. The schedule for Fall licensing classes was announced: Amateur Extra classes run for nine Mondays beginning September 14; Technician and General classes begin October 12 for five Monday sessions. Exams for all three license grades will be offered Saturday, November 14, 2015.

Red White & Blue Ash: Bruce Vanselow N8BV recognized volunteers Dennis McGrath KD8ILY, Michael Sein KD8SOH, Gary Coffey KB8MYC, Pat Maley KD8PAT, Dale Vanselow KC8HQS, along with Bruce's daughter Kelly, for their service at our RW&BA beer booth.

Brunch Bunch: Bruce announced the next session will be this Saturday, August 8, at Price Hill Chili.

Foxhunts: Brian DeYoung K4BRI announced the next hunt will begin promptly at 10:00 AM in Mt. Storm Park, and reminded the group that by 10:01 AM it will be too late to join. Please let Brian or Dick Arnett WB4SUV know if you want to participate and if you need equipment (which they can supply).

Technology: The new Yaesu repeaters will not arrive for a while yet, as Yaesu is backed up with orders. An MFS5000, from an anonymous donor, has been put into service at the 440 repeater site. Interfacing it with a suitable controller is in process.

Brian K4BRI recounted that the .670 repeater and its controller have died. The .925 site lost power due to a fallen tree, and will continue dark for some time. Therefore, the .925 setup was moved to the .670 site and brought online after some work. It appears that heavy use of the .670 repeater had burned out the Power Amplifier (PA) section. K4BRI has engaged working modules of the damaged .670 with some from an earlier machine stored at that site. With UC's offer to loan us a 2M repeater until our Yaesu System Fusion repeaters arrive, Brian hopes to configure it properly to go on 146.670. In turn, the cobbled-together system could go back in service, on .925 where (we hope) it will not get as stressed.

The Technical Committee will next meet August 11 at 6:00 PM, at our Board Meeting location.

TechTalk Net; AK3Q will be NCS on August 5, on .670 now that it is functional again.

QCEN: Pat Maley KD8PAT reported their next meeting will be Friday, September 18.

Health Department Net: Their session on August 2 used the .625 machine. Jerry W1SCR served as NCS with Pat KD8PAT relaying as needed. The net needs to develop a formal frequency plan, to aid in maintain operations if repeaters go down.

Hamfest: Chair Gary Coffey KB8MYC related that the committee had met tonight before the regular meeting. Everyone is encouraged to buy more tickets. All are invited to haul their "junk" to the Flea Market. We still need more volunteers. We have begun receiving door prizes and giveaways from vendor sponsors, and will likely offer as our Grand Prize a \$200 gift certificate to R&L.

No Old Business was reported. No New Business was reported.

Split the Pot: \$92 was collected, yielding \$46 for the lucky winner: our speaker, Andy Krew ND8D.

Several operating events were announced. Bobby Revis KD8TPU reported that we will participate in the Ohio State Parks on the Air Event, Saturday, September 12, from Stonelick State Park. From the main entrance, the first shelter before the beach—"Grant Family Shelter"—will be our QTH.

We will also mount an entry in the Ohio QSO Party, August 22, in St. Bernard's Ross Park. [We will use the shelter closest to the tennis courts.]

Bryan Hoffman KC8EGV is organizing a Special Event Station at the Our Lady of the Rosary Festival, August 7-9.

Also on August 9, we are providing communications for the Cystic Fibrosis bicycle ride at Lunken Playfield, beginning at 7:00 AM. This is the second year OH-KY-IN has helped. We need additional volunteers; contact Michael Sein KD8SOH via Michael.Sein@zoomtown.com.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM.  
Respectfully submitted,

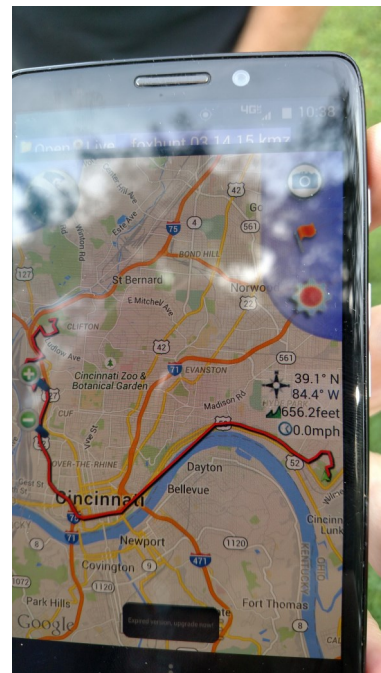
Ted Morris, NC8V, Secretary

## Foxhunting and ARDF

The August mobile hunt had the two regular hunters, Dick WB4SUV, and Marji KJ4ZKC & myself. Howard KD8WOY stopped by before the hunt began, and was able to see how we set up and some of the equipment that we use.

We had plenty of signal at the start, pointing about 120 degrees. That is sometimes hard to distinguish between Ohio and Kentucky so we decided to get down by the river on Ft Washington way, and hopefully we get a good bearing before the I471 exit. Sure enough, a signal came on and my gut was telling me to stay in Ohio.

Heading out Columbia Pkwy, the signal started to pull us to the left, so we decided to check out Alms park. We didn't take the best or most direct way into the park, but we found our way there, and there was Phil! We managed to beat Dick on both time and miles.



## Brunch Bunch

The next Brunch Bunch will be held Saturday, September 12th, at 1pm. The location for September is Frisch's Big Boy Restaurant located at 5216 Glenway Avenue, 45238, in Price Hill. Price Hill Frisch's is directly across the street from the intersection of Glenway Avenue and Sidney Avenue, of course, in Price Hill.

For a look at the menu 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** .....Ted Morris NC8V  
**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

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*Someone paid for a hamfest ticket at the May meeting but forgot to give Lynn the name associated with it—Please contact Lynn WD8JAW if you have ticket #2055 at [wd8jaw@arrl.net](mailto:wd8jaw@arrl.net)*

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## September Calendar

Tue Sep 1	7:30 PM	Club Meeting at St Bernard Recreation Hall, 120 Washington Avenue. Program: <b>ARRL Night</b>
Wed Sep 2	9:00 PM	Tech Talk, NCS Robert AK3Q
Sun Sep 6	7:00 PM	Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67 146.67, Topic: <b>Getting Ready for the Winter Radio Season</b> —NCS Robert AK3Q
Tue Sep 8	6:00 PM	Technical Committee meeting—K4BRI’s QTH—Instruction on programming the RC-210
Wed Sep 9	9:00 PM	Tech Talk, NCS Brian K4BRI
Sat Sep 12	10:00 AM 1:00 PM	Mobile Foxhunt—Start at Mt. Storm park in Clifton—talk-in on 146.670 Brunch Bunch at Frisch’s Big Boy Restaurant located at 5216 Glenway Avenue, 45238
Sun Sep 13	7:00 PM	Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: <b>Around the World: DSTAR, IRLP, and Echolink</b> —NCS Robert AK3Q
Wed Sep 16	9:00 PM	Tech Talk, NCS Dale KC8HQS
Sat Sep 19	8:00 AM	Annual Hamfest at Aiken High School
Sun Sep 20	7:00 PM	Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: <b>DSP Filters</b> —NCS Robert AK3Q
Tue Sep 22	7:00 PM	Board of Directors meeting
Wed Sep 23	9:00 PM	Tech Talk, NCS Brian KC8FJN
Sun Sep 27	7:00 PM	Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: <b>Software-Defined Radios: An Update</b> —NCS Robert AK3Q

### Elmers Corner: Learning Morse Code

By Robert AK3Q



Morse code is most popular among amateur radio operators, although it is no longer required for licensing in most countries. Pilots and air traffic controllers usually need only a cursory understanding. Aeronautical navigational aids, such as VORs and NDBs, constantly identify in Morse code.

Compared to voice, Morse code is less sensitive to poor signal conditions, yet still comprehensible to humans without a decoding device. Morse is therefore a useful alternative to synthesized speech for sending automated data to skilled listeners on voice channels. Many amateur radio repeaters, for example, identify with Morse, even though they are used for voice communications.

For emergency signals, Morse code can be sent by way of improvised sources that can be easily "keyed" on and off, making it one of the simplest and most versatile methods of telecommunication. The most common distress signal is SOS or three dots, three dashes and three dots, internationally recognized by treaty.

Morse code speed is measured in words per minute (wpm) or characters per minute (cpm). Characters have differing lengths because they contain differing numbers of dots and dashes. Consequently words also have different lengths in terms of dot duration, even when they contain the same number of characters. For this reason, a standard word is helpful to measure operator transmission speed. "PARIS" and "CODEX" are two such standard words.[14] Operators skilled in Morse code can often understand ("copy") code in their heads at rates in excess of 40 wpm.

Today among amateur operators there are several organizations that recognize high speed code ability, one group consisting of those who can copy Morse at 60 wpm.[16] Also, Certificates of Code Proficiency are issued by several amateur radio societies, including the American Radio Relay League. Their basic award starts at 10 wpm with endorsements as high as 40 wpm, and are available to anyone who can copy the transmitted text. Members of the Boy Scouts of America may put a Morse interpreter's strip on their uniforms if they meet the standards for translating code at 5 wpm.

#### Common Learning methods

People learning Morse code using the Farnsworth method are taught to send and receive letters and other symbols at their full target speed, that is with normal relative timing of the dots, dashes and spaces within each symbol for that speed. The Farnsworth method is named for Donald R. "Russ" Farnsworth, also known by his call sign, W6TTB. However, initially exaggerated spaces between symbols and words are used, to give "thinking time" to make the sound "shape" of the letters and symbols easier to learn. The spacing can then be reduced with practice and familiarity.

Another popular teaching method is the Koch method, named after German psychologist Ludwig Koch, which uses the full target speed from the outset, but begins with just two characters. Once strings containing those two characters can be copied with 90% accuracy, an additional character is added, and so on until the full character set is mastered. The downside to this method is recognizing code at different speeds than you have learned.

In North America, many thousands of individuals have increased their code recognition speed (after initial memorization of the characters) by listening to the regularly scheduled code practice transmissions broadcast by W1AW, the American Radio Relay League's headquarters station.

In the United Kingdom many people learned the Morse code by means of a series of words or phrases that have the same rhythm as a Morse character. For instance, "Q" in Morse is dah-dah-di-dah, which can be memorized by the phrase "God save the Queen", and the Morse for "F" is di-di-dah-dit, which can be memorized as "Did she like it."

*(Continued from page 10)*

A well-known Morse code rhythm from the Second World War period derives from Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, the opening phrase of which was regularly played at the beginning of BBC broadcasts. The timing of the notes corresponds to the Morse for "V"; di-di-di-dah and stood for "V for Victory" (as well as the Roman numeral for the number five).

How to recognize characters - One of the first things beginners want to do when deciding to learn Morse code is to turn to a reference book and look at the unique dit (dot) and dah (dash) pattern for each character. Don't do this! It adds another step in the mental decoding process. Instead, find a convenient Tool that lets you learn the patterns by listening to the unique sound for each character rather than decoding a sequence of dits and dahs first and then translating that sequence into the character it represents. Once learned in this manner, you will immediately recognize the characters. This is similar to how you read. If you see the word "HELLO" you don't first decode it into the letter sequence H, E, L, L, O; you simply recognize it as hello.

### **Typical code practice example**

There are several kinds of practice session formats that are commonly employed. One method is to generate a fixed number of random characters in a group. The disadvantage of the fixed length grouping is that one learns to expect a pause (space) after each specific number of characters. Later, in a typical QSO (Ham radio conversation) words of different length will cause a loss of concentration and the next word will be missed, or even the next several words. The same distraction occurs if random characters or words are used in the learning process. When the text has meaning there is a tendency to read what is being copied and to anticipate the following word. It is better to practice with real sentences to learn to avoid the reading distraction.

### **Koch Method**

Basically you start off learning the code at the speed you would like to achieve. Unlike the Farnsworth method which seeks to reduce the gap between the letters as you become more efficient, Koch came up with the idea that you should start off just learning two letters at full speed and add an additional letter once you reach 90% proficiency until you have mastered them all. Since you are only learning one new letter or figure at a time, your frustration is significantly reduced.

### **Farnsworth Method**

The Farnsworth format is commonly used when sending code. Characters are formed at a fast speed while the spaces between characters are lengthened so words occur at a slower speed. For example, a character speed of 15 words per minute sent at a word speed of 5 words per minute produces 25 characters in a minute.

## **Practice Methods**

### **How to Practice**

The following are some recommendations that can help you learn Morse code more quickly and efficiently:

- Don't practice in long sessions - short 15 or 30 minute sessions each day is preferable
- Use the Farnsworth method if possible, but the Koch method works too
- Don't visualize the dits and dahs - listen to the collective sound of the characters
- Write down each character as you hear it
- Don't fret if you miss a character, move on leaving a blank on your copy sheet
- Don't try to read what you are copying
- Practice using typical QSOs

## **Resources**

<http://www.ac6v.com/morseprograms.htm>

It was around the beginning of June and I was faced with a choice. I had to choose if I wanted to return for my second year of field day with my father, KA3MTT, or if I wanted to take a trip to Pittsburgh with my mother and sister to visit family. The previous field day was a BLAST especially with it being my first experience and I was DEAD SET on this year being even better as I chose to stay home and go to field day.

At the time, I had been studying for my General License as I had only had my Technician at the time. I had only been studying since the beginning of March so I wasn't quite all the way satisfied with how much I had learned. My father then set up for me to take my General exam on the Saturday of field day. I realized that I REALLY needed to study if I wanted to get this done.

There were only 7 days left to the scheduled date of my test and my father sat me down.

"Listen Nathan, we only have a week until your test and I can tell that you don't feel very comfortable. So, you have the option to postpone the test if you feel like it." He said to me. I thought about it. I had not come all this way to postpone this test.

"No. I want to do this." I told him. All he could do was smile. The decision that I had just made would set off the greatest field day that I have ever experienced.

All that week, there was no playing outside with the neighbors. Studying was my life that week. It was all I did.

Then it was Friday. The day that we come to set up for the main event the next day. The ground was A MESS. It had just stormed so the ground was all wet and mushy. This extremely disappointed me because my father and I had planned on setting up our tent and staying the night (last year we went back home to sleep). But the show had to go on. My dad and I were in charge of setting up the CW dipoles. There were two that needed set up. The 20 meter and the 40 meter dipoles. We got both of them up in the trees with ease. We asked if there was anything else that needed done but everything was being covered and was moving at a steady pace. My dad and I were not disappointed when we heard that because we got to go eat. There was no asking where we were going because each of us loved the local place: Wild Mike's. Their parmesan garlic wings are TO DIE FOR! Mm-mmm!

After a delicious meal, we headed home for a good night's rest.

It was finally here! Saturday. The day that my father and I would make hundreds of contacts and have a great day. And then I remembered that it was the day of my test.

I didn't talk to anyone when we got there. I could feel the butterflies in my stomach and all I wanted to do before the operating started was study. There wasn't any time to go

exploring like I did last year. All I could do was worry. When it was time for the test, I took a deep breath and sat down on the bench. The test was in front of me and I looked through the questions and I realized: This is all the things that I had studied! I breezed through the test and felt pretty confident. And then came the news. I had passed!

I looked at my Dad and he lifted me up and hugged me. All we could do was smile. It was then that I realized: This weekend is going to be great!

Then I decided to do some of the exploring that I didn't have time to do earlier. I saw everybody getting ready to operate. I was scheduled to operate from 2:00-4:00 so I headed up to the station. I was getting ready and was REALLY excited.

And then the contest began. Right off the bat, I started calling CQ and we started to make some contacts. We would get one pile-up after another and all we could do was keep going. When we hit a dead streak, we decided to take a break. But after about 5 minutes, I was ready to get back at it. It was 4:00 and my Dad came up to the station to log for me.



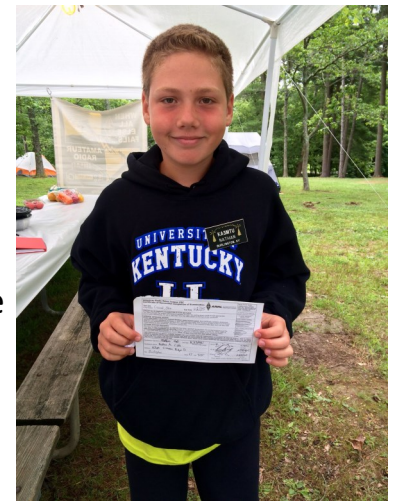
That was when the real excitement began. We would get these huge pile-ups where I could hear at least 7 or 8 people trying to contact us. It was great! We kept going until around 5:30 because I had been operating since 2:00 and I needed to stretch my legs.

I decided to just walk around, sometimes I would just stop and watch some of the others at field day operating. Of course when I stopped by the CW station, I couldn't make anything out because I don't know CW yet.

It was around 6:00 and we could start to smell the grill getting started up for the picnic that we have every year. I decided to mosey on down to see what would be on the menu. I figured it would be the same delicious choices as last year's picnic, but you never know. I saw brats, hot dogs, and ham burgers. Mm-mmm! And then there were the nice people that brought extra things like cookies or potato salad, you know, the kinds of things that you would have at a picnic.

Within a half hour or so, it was time for dinner! Might I just say, everything was scrumptious!

Then my Dad and I got back to operating and we made some more contacts. It wasn't long after that when it was time to go to sleep. Problem was, we hadn't planned on sleeping





overnight at the field day site so we had to drive all the way home before we could go to sleep. But we eventually got there.

The next day, we woke up bright and early, and drove back to the field day site. I started operating while my Dad went down to the CW station. And that is when a boy no older than 11 came waltzing into the tent and said he wanted to help. I told him he could log for me and in a little bit, we could switch and he could operate. His name was Jason Nivens, KD8ZYR. As time went on, I came to find out that Jason was not messing around. He clearly had some experience with logging because he was very good at it.



We spent an hour and a half or so doing our routine. We would get huge pile-ups with about 20-25 people and it was exhilarating! We had some awesome times and then we switched and it was the same thing! It couldn't have been better! As it was closer to the end of the competition, we started to get a ton of duplicates because we had so many contacts, half of them weren't duplicates either of us had worked though because the others at field day were doing an amazing job!

Once the contest ended, Jason and I still hung out and talked about things not even related to ham radio. As we were helping to clean up, we talked about school and about other things like other hobbies or certain radios that we had our eyes on.

Jason and I exchanged contact information and everything that new friends would do. I had an awesome time operating with him and just getting to know him.

All in all, I had a great time at the Field Day of 2015. From meeting new friends, to accomplishing new things, to just enjoying a great hobby with family and friends. And as soon as I left the field day site that Sunday, I knew that I had accomplished my goal of making this the BEST field day ever.



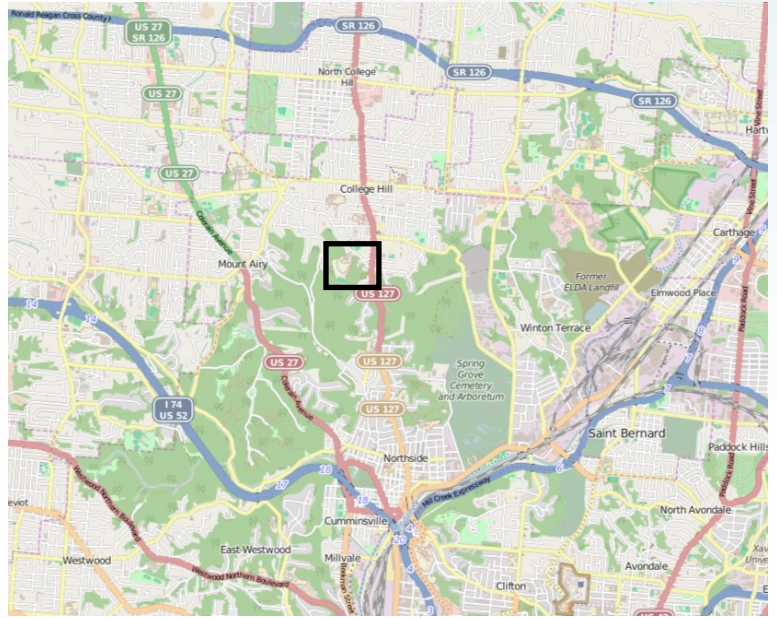
# DX Spots—September 2015 de KA3MTT

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
T88WJ - Palau thru 9-3 ----- CP1XRM - Bolivia thru 9-15 -----	TF - Iceland thru 9-7 ----- P4 - Aruba thru 9-8 -----	1	2	3 YJONH - Vanuatu thru 9-7  	4 JD1BOH - Ogasawara thru 9-7 ----- 5H3 - Tanzania thru 10-18	5 OH0 - Aland Isl thru 9-7 ----- French Polynesia thru 10-1
6	7	8	9	10	11 MJ - Jersey thru 9-14  	12 T88KH - Palau thru 9-16
13	14 D67GIA - Comoros thru 9-23  	15 E6GG - Niue thru 9-29  	16 JW - Svalbard thru 9-23  	17	18 Z21MG - Zimbabwe thru 9-30  	19 VK9C - Cocos Keeling Thru 9-25  
20 T88QB - Palau thru 9-22	21	22	23 3D2YA - Fiji thru 9-28  	24 V73 - Marshall Isl Thru 9-28 ----- T2GC - Tuvalu thru 10-14 -----	25	26
27 E51 - North Cook Isl Thru 10-29  	28 V63WJ - Micronesia thru 10-4  	29	30 NHO - Mariana Is thru 10-16  			

# The 2nd Annual Oh-Ky-In Hamfest is Saturday September 19th at 8:00 AM located at Aiken HS

## 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!



## OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society

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