

Q-FIVER

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



From the President's Desk...

Thank you for stopping by to view our web-site page and to hopefully find out more information about the OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society! You can click on all of the buttons to find the history of the club, all of the officers, what repeaters we operate in the area and what their frequencies are but you clicked on me to find out what does the President have to say about his club and hopefully tell me why should I become a member? What makes this club any different from any other club and what does it offer me as an Amateur Radio Operator?

Three and half years ago I walked into my first OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio meeting and I didn't know anyone in the club at all. I was a member in my senior year of high school because my Electronics teacher was a member, but 37 years later I didn't know anyone. I didn't have my license and was apprehensive that anyone would even say hello to me let alone help me get back into the hobby I loved in High School.

Just the opposite happened in fact quite a few people stopped by and said hello to me and when they went around the room and introduced themselves and their call signs again I thought when they get to me how embarrassed am I going to be! Again the opposite happened everybody applauded for me and welcomed me to their club. I went on to take the classes that we offer and participated in as many of the events I could, and made lots of new friends, and now I have my Extra Class license, and I am the President of the club.

What makes us different well I haven't been to the other clubs but I can tell you what some of our new members have told us and that is that we treat you with respect and friendship. We truly want you to be not only a member of our club but a member of our hobby, a hobby that we all love dearly. Our club isn't made up of two or three people doing everything and not including input from our members. We get involved and participate, we volunteer and we truly care about the success of our club and the success of our members.

As an Amateur radio Operator what does OH-KY-IN offer:

- Advancement License Classes
- License Exams
- Technical classes on different aspects of the hobby
- Events that OH-KY-IN get involved in:
 - o Fox Hunting
 - o Ohio QSO Party
 - o Summer Field Day
 - o Winter Field Day
 - o Ohio State Parks on the Air
 - o 2016 National Parks on the Air
 - o 1940's Event – Cincinnati Museum Center
 - o CFF Bike Ride
 - o Club Picnics
 - o Monthly Club Programs
 - o ARRL November Sweepstakes
 - o Hamfest
 - o Brunch Bunch
 - o Club Field Trips

Thanks for stopping by and visiting with me and for viewing our web-site! Take a minute to view our photo gallery and catch our members enjoying the activities provided by the club. If you are looking to join a club I hope that you keep us in mind. I will leave you with 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!

2015 Board of Directors

President

Michael Sien KD8SOH (513) 312-0691..... Michael.sien@zoomtown.com

Vice President

Ryan Williamson W1RYN w1ryn@w1ryn.me

Secretary

Ted Morris NC8V (513) 731-3451..... nc8v@hotmail.com

Treasurer

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

Directors

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

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

Trustee/Licensee

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

Past President

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

Packet on 145.010 mHz

K8SCH-7 Digipeater

For membership information, please contact Nathan Ciufo KA3MTT, 6323 Cinnamon Ridge Dr, Burlington KY 41005, (859) 586-2435 or Email membership@ohkyin.org. Renewals of Club Memberships are due by the end of March. Permission is hereby granted to any amateur radio group to quote or reprint from this publication, if proper source credit is given, unless permission is otherwise reserved.

THE Q-FIVER is now mailed & e-mailed, it's hoped, a week before the club meeting.

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

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



Oh-Ky-In Life Members

John Phelps N8JTP

Kenneth E Wolf N8WYC

John W Hughes AI4DA

Karl W Kaucher KJ4KWR

Howard Hunt NG8P

2016 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 Ciufu KA3MTT
Fundraising Bruce Vanselow N8BV
Education Robert Gulley AK3Q
Repeater Control Ops Mgr Bruce Vanselow N8BV
PIO Ted Morris NC8V
Librarian Howard Alban KD8WOY

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
WebMaster Ryan Williamson W1RYN
Silent Key Bruce Vanselow N8BV
Tech Talk Net Mgr Bruce Vanselow N8BV
K8SCH QSL Mgr Gerry Weimer KD8ASL
TV/RFI Dick Arnett WB4SUV

The February Mobile Foxhunt has been moved to the third Saturday of the month, Feb 20th. The March Foxhunt will be back on the second Saturday.

February Calendar

Tue Feb 2	7:30 PM	Club Meeting at St Bernard Recreation Hall, 120 Washington Avenue. Program: Contesting Tips—Kitty, W8WTA
Wed Feb 3	9:00 PM	Tech Talk, NCS Robert AK3Q
Sun Feb 7	7:00 PM	Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: Wire Antennas —NCS Robert AK3Q
Wed Feb 10	9:00 PM	Tech Talk, NCS Brian K4BRI
Sat Feb 13	1:00 PM	Brunch Bunch at Chili Time Restaurant - 4727 Vine Street in St Bernard
Sun Feb 14	7:00 PM	Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: More Wire Antennas —NCS Robert AK3Q
Wed Feb 17	9:00 PM	Tech Talk, NCS Kitty, W8TDA
Sat Feb 20	10:00 AM	Mobile Foxhunt, starting at Mt. Storm park in Clifton—talk in on 146.670
Sun Feb 21	7:00 PM	Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: Programming HTs and Mobiles —NCS Robert AK3Q
Tue Feb 23	7:00 PM	Board of Directors meeting
Wed Feb 24	9:00 PM	Tech Talk, NCS George N3VQW
Thu Feb 25	7:00 PM	Workshop—Electronic CAD for Beginners—to register contact k4bri@arrl.net
Sun Feb 28	7:00 PM	Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: Accessories for HTs and Mobiles —NCS Robert AK3Q

Minutes of the December, 2015 Regular Meeting

CORRECTIONS TO MINUTES OF OCTOBER 6, 2015 REGULAR MEETING: *In re: under the label “Nominating Committee,” Kitty Hevener’s callsign was incorrectly listed as W9TPA; she is W8TDA.)*

President Fred Schneider K9OHE called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, commencing with the Pledge of Allegiance.

He then noted that—given the planned events for the evening—Split-the-Pot ticket sales would close in 10 minutes, and that our Elections, Awards, Split-the-Pot, and Prize drawings would proceed after food service commenced.

There were five guests recognized, including members’ relatives, and the group proceeded with self-introductions.

Fred then announced the prizes for the evening:

- Yaesu FT-1900R/E VHF mobile transceiver
- Yaesu FT-FT-60R VHF/UHF dual band handheld transceiver
- Yaesu FT-252 VHF handheld (very gently used, with extra manual copy)
- BaoFeng UV-5R VHF/UHF dual band handheld
- ARRL Field Day 2015 T-Shirt

The group then began enjoying pizza and pop, along with contributed “covered dish” appetizers, entrees, salads, and sweets.

Split-the-Pot went to Pat Maley KD8PAT (\$100).

Awards Vice President Michael Sien KD8SOH hosted the award presentations. For each award, he read a detailed testimonial of the honored ham’s worthiness for the award given, and then revealed the awardee’s name to enthusiastic applause. Each award includes an engraved plaque. (The text of the testimonials may be found in Michael KD8SOH's Vice President column published in the January Q-Fiver.) The award winners were

- Youngest Ham: Jason Nivens, Jr. KD8ZYR
- Most Enthusiastic Ham: Robert Louie KD8WLV
- Ham Of The Year: Jerry Shipp, Sr. W1SCR

Elections This year the position of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and one Director were up for election. President Fred Schneider K9OHE recapped the election process. Nominations were closed at the November 2015 meeting. He announced that although nominations were closed that Robert’s Rules of Order allowed write in votes. There being no contested positions for Offices, Dick Arnett WB4SUV moved and Pat KD8PAT seconded that uncontested Officers be elected by acclamation; *passed unanimously*.

Director Bruce Vanselow is completing the final year of his term. Three candidates stood for the position: Gary Coffey KB8MYC, Mike Niehaus KD8ZLB, and Bruce Vanselow N8BV. After balloting, Gary KB8MYC was declared the new Director.

[The Officers and Directors for 2016 are:

- President Michael Sien KD8SOH
- Vice President Ryan Williamson *
- Treasurer Brian DeYoung K4BRI
- Secretary Ted Morris NC8V
- Director Brian Hoffman KC8EGV (1 year remaining)
- Director Ryan Williamson W1RYN (2 years remaining) *
- Director Gary Coffey KB8MYC (3 year term)
- Past-President Fred Schneider K9OHE.

Upon his installation as Vice President at the January 2016 meeting, Ryan Williamson’s Director position will become open, to be filled at a later date by the Board of Directors, pursuant to the By Laws.]

(Continued from page 4)

All candidates were thanked for their contributions. Michael KD8SOH thanked Kitty W8TDA for chairing the Nominating Committee.

Prizes The prizes, selected by a drawing, went to :

- FT-1900R/E John Ko, KD8VCN
- FT-252 Michael Sien KD8SOH
- FT-60R Kitty Hevener W8TDA
- UV-5R Walter Knauber NA8R (not present, prize to be mailed)
- ARRL Shirt Howard Alban KD8WOY.

Adjournment Formal activities concluded at 8:15 PM, with all invited to stay a while to continue enjoying food and conversation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ted Morris NC8V, Secretary

Minutes of the January 5th, 2016 Regular Meeting

President Fred Schneider K9OHE called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M., beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance. Self-introductions included 41 members and two prospective hams.

Vice President Michael Sien KD8SOH introduced our speaker, member Kitty Hevener W8TDA, ARRL Ohio Section Assistant Section Manager. Kitty was first licensed in 1974, and has been active in many areas of the hobby, including service to amateurs as an active ARRL member and leader, message traffic handling, emergency preparedness/emergency communications, CW, and many more.

Tonight, Kitty's topic was, "Contesting: What's in it for *You*?" She began by setting a few scenarios we might have encountered on the air: You get on your HF rig to find someone to "ragchew" (chat) with, and find the bands are crammed with testers. What do we do—make some contacts, change bands, turn off the radio and do something else?

Kitty suggested ways to—and reasons to—turn the contesting "nuisance" (as some find it) into something positive. Many of the same skills and knowledge are needed for contesting as for emergency communications and support, such as:

- Understanding propagation
- Antenna style
- Knowing the equipment and how to use its helpful features
- Operating "split" frequency, to separate signals
- Knowing the FCC rules.
- The more you practice something the more it gets "baked in"; Kitty gave the analogy of a new driver vs. an experienced one—the new driver's attention is all over the place, while the experienced driver know what in the environment needs more frequent checking and which less.
- Essentially, one is learning to multitask.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

- Observing the “operating speed” and style of the other operator helps one communicate effectively. This not only means slowing down CW sending where needed, but also providing pauses to allow the receiving operator to copy your message smoothly. Take notice of the rhythm of the net, or of the contest exchanges, to get a sense of the “flow.”
- You learn “endurance” in emergency situations and contesting
- Use proper phonetics to spell out your call and exchange information, especially when working foreign stations.

There are two main patterns in a contest, “Run” or “Search & Pounce.” Running a frequency means continuing to call and make contacts on a single frequency. In a band crowded with signals, you may need to settle for finding a “fairly clear” frequency to call from. You don’t want to have other strong stations operating very close to where you’re trying to set up.

Once that part of the band is “played out” for new contacts, scroll up and down the band looking for new contacts (Search), and make the contact exchanges as you come each one (Pounce).

Contesting is “another tool in your toolbox” for learning technical and operating skills to apply to emergency communications. What’s your back-up plan if equipment fails? If helpers or relief don’t show up? Where can you get helpful information, printed and online aids, etc.?

Kitty will provide some helpful links for our website or the Q-Fiver. Librarian Howard Alban KD8WOY added that our library has several current operating support materials, as well.

Discussion of Kitty’s presentation concluded at 8:00 PM with a 15-minute break. The meeting resumed at 8:15 PM.

Minutes: President Fred Schneider K9OHE called for the approval of minutes published in the January Q-Fiver. The October minutes were approved, pending verification that Kitty Hevener’s call has been corrected in the final version to W8TDA. (Eric Simon KC8NMP/Mike Niehaus KD8ZLB moved/seconded) The November minutes were approved as published. (KC8NMP/KD8ZLM m/s) December 2015 minutes (having missed the Q-Fiver deadline) and January 2016 minutes will appear in the February Q-Fiver.

Treasurer: Brian DeYoung, K4BRI, circulated copies of both the November and December reports. Among larger expenditures were insurance and our Christmas party supplies. Both reports were accepted.

Installation of Officers: Fred K9OHE then led the installation our new officers and directors, introducing them and swearing them in. They are:

President	Michael Sien KD8SOH
Vice President	Ryan Williamson W1RYN
Secretary	Ted Morris NC8V
Treasurer	Brian DeYoung K4BRI
Director	Gary Coffey KB8MYC (3-year term) and
Past President	Fred Schneider K9OHE

Director Brian Hoffman KC8EGV begins the final year of his 3-year term. Outgoing director Bruce Vanselow N8BV gave thanks to the club for the opportunity to serve.

Fred K9OHE expressed how honored and privileged he has felt to serve OH-KY-IN, and offered his thanks. He pointed up a few recent highlights for the club. We’ve been doing very well on memberships and activities. We’re the most active club in the area. We will continue doing “the good stuff,” bringing along new and interesting activities in the upcoming years.

Brag Session: Ryan Owens AC8UJ just got his Extra Class license. George Gardei N3VQW now has a battery and antenna set up to work VHF from a base station. Kitty Hevener W8TDA recently made her first contact under the ARRL “National Parks on the Air” promotion.

(Continued from page 6)

Technical Committee: Brian K4BRI reported that the 146.670 and 146.925 repeaters are working okay. The 440MHz repeater has a bad potentiometer which will be replaced soon. There will be no Technical Committee meeting in January. [See below for discussion of the 146.625 repeater.]

Hamfest Committee: Gary Coffey KB8MYC will again chair this event. It will be held on September 17, 2016, and arrangements to use the same venue are being finalized.

Fox Hunts: Brian K4BRI reported that more teams have been participating lately. Dick Arnett WB4SUV won the December 15 hunt. January's is this coming Saturday, the 9th, with set up an assembly at 9:30 AM in Mt. Storm Park. The hunt begins *promptly* at 10:00 AM. Those who might want to participate or observe should give Brian or Dick a call, to see about borrowing equipment or arranging a ride-along, as needed.

Tech Talk Net: Bruce Vanselow N8BV noted this continues to be popular, with only slightly fewer check-ins as expected over the holiday season.

Newcomers and Elmers Net: Robert Gulley AK3Q indicated we've been receiving about 35 check-ins per session. The OH-KY-IN website has an "Elmer Net" link to information about the Newcomers and Elmers Net, which includes a schedule of topics and many notes he has written up on past topics.

Website: Webmaster Ryan Williamson W1RYN reported that he is looking into the possibility of moving the website platform to WordPress, in order to let content providers have closer control over their content.

QCEN: Pat Maley KD4PAT, liaison, reported on the QCEN Christmas party last month. Pat reminded us folks can come to their Radio Room at the Red Cross building on as early as 5:30 PM on meeting nights to work from the shack's equipment, then stay for the 7:30 PM meeting. Meetings are held every third Friday of the month.

Health Department: Pat speaking here on behalf of Brian Hoffman KC8EGV, related that the Health Department emergency communications group will be melded into ARES, to gain the benefit of associations each has with area served agencies. There will be a meeting Tuesday, January 19, 2015, at 7:30 PM at the Regional Operations Center to present the proposed arrangements.

Pat also reported that this Saturday, January 9th, all group members and other interested parties are invited to join the Ohio ARES VHF Simplex Contest, which will be held from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM EST. More information can be found at the Ohio ARES website.

ARES will be doing a lot of training this year, as FEMA is making a big push for only "credentialed" persons to work at emergencies. The National Incident Management System (NIMS) course series is a minimum to participate. Also, Ohio itself is looking at a credentialing system for emergency volunteers, establishing both short-term and longer-term credential levels.

Through ARES and associated organizations, Hamilton County is working to increase its use of digital modes, utilizing Winlink, fldigi, packet radio, etc.

New Business

Audit Committee: Michael Sien, KD8SOH, asked for volunteers to form this year's committee. Jim Davitt W1JMD, Mike Niehaus KD8ZLB, and Pat Maley WD8PAT volunteered.

Programming: Digital Communications: Beginning a discussion, Jerry Shipp W1SCR noted that he uses a Winbook-to-Signalink setup under Windows, to run Winlink. It was also mentioned that the software program *fldigi* will run on a Mac as well as under Windows. Robert Gulley noted that cables are now available to hook handi-talkies to Signalinks, including BaoFeng units and others.

Jerry W1SCR also announced he'd like to bring together a group to explore digital communications, all the way up through creating Mesh Networking. Topics would include building/assembling your own stations, and applications available to run on them. If there is enough interest, Jerry will arrange for a room (perhaps our meeting room, if possible). The group could be a resource for exploring questions about specific radio use. Among potential resources to explore, he listed the Yahoo Group on Winlink as being very helpful, on both Winlink-specific and other ham-related topics, and featuring very quick responses to queries; and the software package *RMS Express*. Persons interested should contact Jerry.

(Continued on page 8)

Computer Aided Circuit Design: Brian DeYoung K4BRI would like to offer a workshop in Electronics CAD (Computer Aided Design) use, with an eye toward creating circuit layouts using *EagleCAD*. With this product, it is easy to send off designs to have circuit boards etched cheaply. Interested persons should contact Brian, and can prepare by downloading and examining *EagleCAD* for themselves. Brian plans to begin with an example circuit, but the end goal is for us to eventually be able to go off and create our own board designs.

Future Meetings: Michael KD8SOH announced that the February meeting will recap and feature “What OH-KY-IN’s Doing in 2016.” March will see our ARRL Night, with guest Scott Yonally N8SY, ARRL Ohio Section Manager.

Licensing Courses: Licensing study materials were provided to several interested attendees: George Gardei (Extra), Justin Moore (General), and Ephraim Wallace (Tech).

Brunch Bunch: Bruce Vanselow N8BV announced this month’s get-together would be this Saturday, January 9th, at Quatman’s Café in Norwood.

Split the Pot: Ryan Williamson W1RYN received \$66.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ted Morris, Secretary

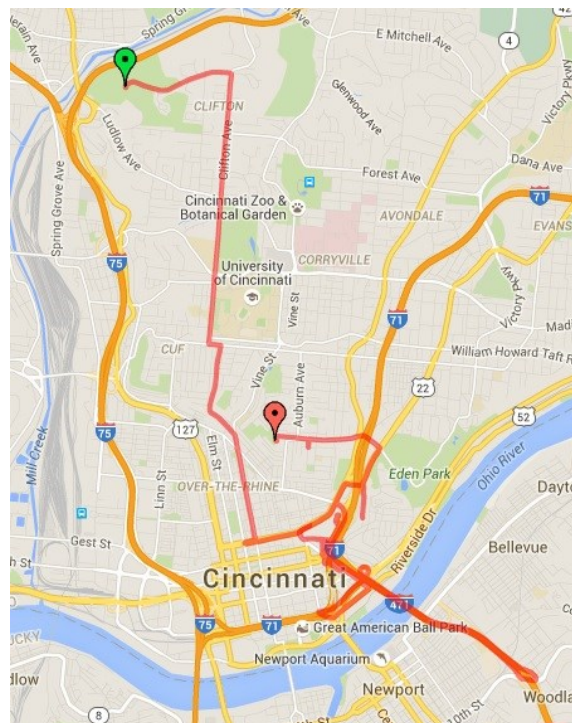
Foxhunting and ARDF

The January mobile hunt started out with 2 teams of hunters, but Howard and Marty started from a different location due to timing, so there were actually 3 teams.

We had strong signals at the start—very strong at about 135 degrees, so we knew he wasn’t all that far away. I did replace my coax to the antenna, so I had better signals as well. We were thinking about the downtown area, or maybe Eden Park—it was also on that darn line down the river that makes you choose Ohio or Kentucky. I didn’t want to go highway, so we went through Clifton and went down Clifton Ave. Little did we know that we passed right by him!

My signal started going all over the place as we went downhill, and it was hard to get a good bearing—so of course I starting jumping to the wrong conclusions and we drove to all the wrong places—P&G, the riverfront, into Kentucky, etc. We got a great signal between P&G and the casino—but he sure wasn’t there.

Then my brain started working again as we decided to head to a high place and try to get a good bearing, so we started up to



(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

Eden Park, and when we got out of downtown and higher up, we got a great signal back towards the channel 12 tower. We went back across 71 and headed up high again, near Christ hospital, and got a solid bearing due east, down Dorchester Ave. Lo and behold at the end of that street there is a small park, and there he was! Dick beat us by a bunch, and Howard wasn't long behind us.

My equipment is working better, but there is still a ton of work left to be done, and of course it helps when the brain works, too.

The February hunt will be the third Saturday, Feb 20th—same start time and place. Come out and see how we do things, or give it a try!



Brunch Bunch

The next Brunch Bunch will be held Saturday, February 13th at 1pm. The location for February is Chili Time Restaurant in Saint Bernard. Chili Time is located at 4727 Vine Street, 45217, across from the corner of Vine Street and Tower Avenue. Chili Time is very near the location of the OH-KY-IN club meetings.

The Brunch Bunch is returning once again to Chili Time in February since this will be the 5th anniversary of the Brunch Bunch. "It's hard to believe that the Brunch Bunch has gone so very strong and has been held without a miss on the second Saturday of every month for this long. Let us look forward to at least another five years."

Chili Time is a "storied joint, known for its chili, hot dogs, breakfast all day & other casual fare since 1963".

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

www.chilitime.net

By the way, Chili Time is aware that their website has problems. In the meantime, just keep scrolling down.

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

Elmers Corner – A Part of Our History
By Robert AK3Q

February 2016



As a kid I tried to learn about electronics the old fashioned way - tear something apart and try to put it back together. Unfortunately I did not have someone overseeing my explorations, and so very little was actually learned! If amateur and shortwave radio itself is an attempt to recapture something I really enjoyed when I was young, tinkering with electronics is even more so a fulfillment of something I sought as a child.

Learning about how things work and then building, repairing, tweaking are all a part of our amateur radio heritage. I think we miss out if we do not add at least a bit of this experience to our hobby. If I am not mistaken to be licensed as an Intermediate in England one still needs to show a bit of proficiency with a soldering iron and some electrical components. All in all I am not sure this is such a burden! I would rather do that than have to pass 13 wpm code! <grin>

Electronics, as it applies to the radio hobby, is almost as magical as the signals these radios receive. Antennas grab signals as they course through the air, and a radio figures out what to do with them. Have you ever thought about how amazing it is we can distinguish one signal from another? Oh I know we all think about tuning and filtering and selectivity, but I find it amazing we can tune a radio at all. Maybe I am still the child in my way of thinking, but at times I still find myself filled with wonder.

When one considers all of the signals bouncing around -- and I mean literally thousands of signals at any one time -- it is an absolute wonder we can hear anything at all. The harmonic combinations alone must be staggering, not to mention reflections and just the general *noise* of all those electrons vying for attention. And yet someone figured out things like oscillators, mixing stages, intermediate frequencies and superheterodynes. Amazing! And we take all of this for granted most of the time as we push a button or turn a dial -- it all seems so easy.

Learning how things work does not remove the magic for me, in fact it only increases my appreciation for the part we play and the part played by this incredible Creation in which we operate according to the laws of physics. That we live in an ordered world of predictable results makes all of our radio explorations and inventions possible.

Whether one dabbles with modern circuits, programming processors, or designing amplifiers, there is a lot which can be learned and applied to real-world amateur radio. If you are like me and have a fondness for the older radios and the larger components, learning about boat anchors is a great way to delve into the electronic side of things. I confess to being a bit envious of MacGyver or others who are able to fashion a working radio out of some spare parts. Even if the theory is there in the ol' brain, the doing is not. I want to change that.

Recently I have acquired some equipment, both old and new, for testing parts and circuits, as well as gathering some of the multitude of little tools and accessories one needs to disassemble and reassemble equipment. I have also built an old fashioned, yet highly effective current limiting device for protecting circuits under test from overload.

The idea here is to provide protection when powering up old equipment in the event a component fails, suddenly drawing large amounts of current, such as in a short circuit. When this current limiter is functioning normally, the power is passed right through to the device under test. When the device suddenly draws a high load the 250W bulb begins to glow depending on the level of current draw. Even if the draw is extremely high, only the bulb will glow and very little current will be passed on to the device, thus protecting the other circuits, tubes, etc.

The bulb is wired so that only the hot wire is connected to the bulb creating a circuit path. The higher the current draw, the brighter the bulb, and thus an easy way to tell if something has gone wrong without damaging the radio. I still plan to use a Variactor to apply power slowly when initially testing so as not to overwhelm the old radio or piece of ancient test equipment.

Of course there is nothing fancy or difficult about building this current limiter, it did serve however as a taste of things to come, and it is exciting. I have built things in the past, small circuits, a meter, even a regenerative radio—but in some ways I was still just

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

putting components on a board designed by someone with step by step instructions. Don't get me wrong, I am proud of my meter and radio, they both worked right from the start. But I really, really want to bring an old radio back to life, and to begin the process of understanding these marvels.

I am beginning at the beginning, so to speak, but I am looking forward to the journey. Who cares that I am in my fifties, or that I am playing an unwinnable game of catch-up with Father Time. I will touch a piece of history and in the process learn more about from whence we amateur radio operators came. After all, when amateur radio first started, everyone, every single ham, built their own equipment. I cannot wait to put my very own transmitter on the air!

Along the way I hope to learn a great deal about these vintage pieces of older equipment, as well as gain experience working on boat anchors, my real goal. Once again I ask, "Is this a great hobby or what?!!"

73, Robert AK3Q

From the Immediate Past President

Thank you for the opportunity to be your President in 2015. It was an experience I will always remember.

I want to thank all of you who contributed to the club's meetings and activities during the year. There were some interesting new activities, too long to list, but a couple I want to mention. The NVIS Day in the spring, held in the drizzle, was outstanding. Officials and emergency communicators from a wide area came to see what we were doing; they left knowing that the many antennas and operators meant that this club knew what it was doing – **they were impressed!** So was I. Even though I could not stay the whole time, I witnessed you putting up several kinds of antennas; stations were on the air making contacts. It was a great day for you and the club. A lesser but no less important event was our first participation in the Ohio Parks on the Air contest. A smaller group, but a great job done. One other club even thanked us for being on the air that day! . Field Day, one of our long time activities, was also an impressive weekend. A better score, many different modes of operation, and again we impressed those involved in emergency communications with our abilities.

You have a Board of Directors dedicated to continuing to have a strong club with an increasing number of activities.

At the club meeting in December I put my finger on our strength. YOU, the club members, are our strength! You have MANY talents and you share them – share them with each other and share them with the club. I know where to go when I need answers to questions! It is great to be a member with you.

I intend to be a member with you for years to come.

73, Fred Schneider, K9OHE

Tips for Beginning Net Control Operators

Here in northwest Ohio, we have acquired many new hams and encourage them to operate as net control station (NCS) for various routine nets to gain them experience, providing us with a pool of competent net controllers in the event of an emergency/disaster. Here are some of the basic tips we convey to our novice net control stations for a smoothly running net:

- Get a glass of water or something to drink.
 - Make yourself comfortable. Sit in a good location with plenty of room on a desk or table to write.
 - Have a good writing instrument and a back-up along with an extra piece of paper in case you need to jot down notes.
 - Take your time; go at your own pace. Remember, you are in control of the net and the frequency.
 - Don't worry about making mistakes; there are no mistakes to be made.
 - To handle the crowd that is trying to check in, you will develop your own way.
 - Stop stations from checking in ("Let's hold it for a minute") until you are caught up.
 - Weak stations and stations who give their call signs too fast, are always a problem -- skip them at first. Go back later for repeats.
 - Write your log as you see fit. You are the one that has to read it.
 - Headphones are a good idea -- they help you focus on what you are hearing and help keep you from getting distracted.
- As I mentioned before, there are no mistakes, only experience. When you've finished the net that is what you will have. -

- Steve Bellner, W8TER, Maumee, Ohio

Electronic CAD for Beginners Workshop

The Oh-Ky-In Amateur Radio Society will be offering their first workshop of 2016 on February 25th at 7:00 PM. The topic will be Electronic CAD for Beginners, and will cover basic information on creating a schematic drawing, creating a printed circuit board layout, and submitting the finished work to a board fabrication house. This will be a 2 hour workshop, and will be held at 'My Neighbor's Place' located at 3150 Harrison Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45211.

The workshop will use the CadSoft program EAGLE, which has a freeware option for non-commercial use. This first workshop will be at a beginner's level, and later in the year we will offer both a beginner and an advanced level workshop.

To register for this workshop, please contact Brian DeYoung, K4BRI at [\(859\) 635-3095](tel:8596353095) or k4bri@arrl.net.

73 - Brian, K4BRI

New to the Area

by Duane Whittingham N9SSN (Ft Mitchell, KY)

So it was fall and I'm moving to a new area.

The nice thing is my sister lives here so I have family and that's good to get familiar with the area, places, people and more.

That's great but what about ham radio. I decided to use some online sources to find freqs/repeaters and maybe clubs in the area.

I have since been in contact with a couple hams in the area on 2 meters and 220 MHz. They were very helpful and one of the places they pointed me was OHKYIN ARS club. The website provides a lot of information and their email reflector gives a lot of good info on ham happenings, nets, operating info and more.

I am now a member and hope to be for along time.
I plan on getting on the air more and hopefully get involved with emcom, ares/races etc.

Hope to catch ya on the radio.

73 from Duane N9SSN

February DX Spots de KA3MTT

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>1 VP8SGI - South Georgia Is thru 2-9</p> 	<p>2 FS - St Martin thru 2-26</p> 	<p>3</p>	<p>4 V31JZ/p - Belize Thru 2-11</p> 	<p>5 V47KA - St Kitts & Nevis thru 2-25</p> 	<p>6 FO - Fr Polynesia Thru 2-7</p> 
<p>7</p>	<p>8 7P8C - Lesotho thru 2-17</p> 	<p>9 V5 - Namibia thru 2-18</p> 	<p>10 CE0Y - Easter Isl thru 2-14 ----- 5V7TH - Togo thru 2-22 ----- 6W7 - Senegal thru 3-1</p> 	<p>11 3B8HD - Mauritius Thru 3-1</p> 	<p>12</p>	<p>13 3D2PW - Fiji thru 2-19</p> 
<p>14 VP8IDX - Falkland Isl Thru 2-19</p> 	<p>15 HR8 - Honduras thru 2-25</p> 	<p>16 PJ7AA - Saint Maarten thru 3-12</p> 	<p>17 J7 - Dominica thru 2-23</p> 	<p>18 A35T - Tonga thru 2-24 ----- 3XY1T - Guinea thru 3-4</p> 	<p>19 V63DX - Micronesia Thru 2-24 ----- KG4 - Guantanamo Thru 3-4</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 V26IS - Antigua thru 3-4</p> 	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 S9BK - Sao Tome & Principe thru 3-25</p> 	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>					

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 next meeting of the Oh-Ky-In Amateur Radio Society will be Tuesday, February 2nd at 7:30 PM

Program: 'State of the Club'

By 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
E-mail: k4bri@arrl.net

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

