

Q-FIVER

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



From the VIP's desk.... December is a time to celebrate previous accomplishments and to focus on the New Year ahead!

As I sit down to write this article the month of December is only about half way completed and I just celebrated my 58th birthday. I am reflecting on our Clubs Holiday party and the previous year's accomplishments along with all of the exciting projects I want to be a part of in 2016. December for me is my favorite month always has been ever since I was a kid. I have always used this month to reflect on the past so that I can plan for the year ahead. Some may call this a New Year's resolution I call it my "Play Book" to success! Speaking of success our club wouldn't be successful if it weren't for our members! We at OH-KY-IN in the December club meeting not only celebrate our club members by throwing a pizza party and giving away some nice door prizes, we like to take it one step farther. We like to recognize our club members for their contributions to the club. Now I am not talking about monetary contributions, I am speaking to their commitment to the club, their time and involvement to the club!

I know what you're thinking these awards are fixed and whoever is on the Board of Directors or an Officer of the club would surely win! Well you would be wrong because it is that same Board of Directors and Officers that sit around and decide who we should give awards to and then we vote on them. Trust me a lot goes into this decision because we have individuals that head up several key positions in this club that deserves an award every single year! Some take on multiple positions year after year not expecting anything most realizing that no one will step up and replace them. Why do they do this? Because they are dedicated individuals that want to see our club succeed! To all of those individuals you have this Board's gratitude and admiration!

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2015 Board of Directors

President

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

Vice President

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

Secretary

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

Treasurer

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

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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

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 CommitteeBrian DeYoung, K4BRI
ARPSC Representative.....Jerry Shipp W1SCR
Volunteer ExaminersBrian 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
PIOTed 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 KeyBruce Vanselow N8BV
Tech Talk Net MgrBruce Vanselow N8BV
K8SCH QSL MgrGerry Weimer KD8ASL
TV/RFI Dick Arnett WB4SUV

The December meeting will not only be elections, but will have free pizza and soft drinks, and some very nice door prizes

January Calendar

Sun Jan 3	7:00 PM	Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: Books, Books, and More Good Books! —NCS Robert AK3Q
Tue Jan 5	7:30 PM	Club Meeting at St Bernard Recreation Hall, 120 Washington Avenue. Program: Contesting Tips—Kitty, W8WTA
Wed Jan 6	9:00 PM	Tech Talk, NCS Robert AK3Q
Sat Jan 9	10:00 AM 1:00 PM	Mobile Foxhunt, starting at Mt. Storm park in Clifton—talk in on 146.670 Brunch Bunch at Blue Ash Chili - 11711 Princeton Pike
Sun Jan 10	7:00 PM	Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: Analog and digital Volt Meters —NCS Robert AK3Q
Wed Jan 13	9:00 PM	Tech Talk, NCS Brian K4BRI
Sun Jan 17	7:00 PM	Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: Building Kits ads a Way to Learn —NCS Robert AK3Q
Wed Jan 20	9:00 PM	Tech Talk, NCS Dale KC8HQS
Sun Jan 24	7:00 PM	Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: How to Shop Around for Deals —NCS Robert AK3Q
Tue Jan 26	7:00 PM	Board of Directors meeting
Wed Jan 27	9:00 PM	Tech Talk, NCS George N3VQW
Sun Jan 31	7:00 PM	Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: What is Grey-Line Propagation —NCS Robert AK3Q

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This year the Board of Directors decided on three awards to be given out this year and they are follows. **Youngest Ham, Most Enthusiastic Ham, and the coveted “Ham of the Year”**. The three Hams that were nominated for these awards are all well deserving and also have the gratitude and the admiration of this Board of Directors. The categories and winners are as follows...

Youngest Ham – Jason Nivens Jr. – KD8ZYR

This young man since he joined our club has been “all in”! He first started by coming to our 2015 Field Day event and jumped right in helping the installation crew. He helped with shooting the air gun along with basically learning the process of putting up a Dipole Antenna. He went on that evening to help us get the 23 contacts needed by the GOTA station. He went on to be a valuable asset in the other OH-KY-IN events such as the Weekend at the Museum, The Ohio QSO Party and The Ohio State Parks on the Air contest. It was with great honor that we presented Jason with this plaque for the 2015 Youngest Ham award but also for his hard work and dedication to our hobby and to our club at such a young age.

Most Enthusiastic Ham – Robert Louie – KD8WLV

If there was such a position as Event/Trends/Hobby Scout this hard working Ham would most certainly meet this job criteria. At the beginning of the year when I was elected Vice President of the club I threw out a challenge/request to the membership. That request was to e-mail me your ideas on projects, events, and information on the latest and greatest upcoming trends in our hobby, ideas for presentations that you would like to see our club present at our club meetings. Don't be afraid to burn up my e-mail box!

This Ham took on my challenge and to this day still keeps me informed on important issues such as Makers Mark, Mesh Network, Cincy Preparedness coming again in October 2016. Last year Ryan Williamson, W1RYN, Robert Louie, KD8WLV and I talked with over 600+ individuals at the Sharonville Convention Center about Amateur Radio and the OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Club. Getting your club and hobby out there for people to become interested in is probably one of the most important things you can do to assure your own survival. This hard working Ham helped us pull this off in one event! It without question was a great honor to present Robert with the 2015 Most Enthusiastic Ham of the year award.

2015 Ham of the Year – Jerry Shipp – W1SCR

It is all the things that this Ham does behind the scenes without seeking recognition that elevates this Ham to this prestigious award this year. I never understood just how much until I took over his previous job with the club as Vice President a transition I might add that he helped me make seamless! He stayed in that role essentially for the first few months as I was acting President covering for Fred who was dealing with some unexpected family commitments. We have so much to thank Jerry for such as the meeting hall we have our monthly stated meetings, the classrooms we have our classes in, and his work as a Volunteer Examiner. It was also his idea for OH-KY-IN to host a NVIS Antenna Day an event that he coordinated and was a huge success! On a cold and rainy day we had 50 people show up to this event. Had it been a warm and sunny day based on the talk over the “67” repeater we would have easily pushed over a 100+. He went on to coordi-

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nate our Ohio QSO Party which this year saw a 3X turnout over previous years and the Ohio State Parks on the Air where we set up in Stonelick State Park for the first time and had a great turnout. It was an opportunity to put our NVIS Antennas to work in a contest format. The coordinator of this event came to me from the Milford Club and personally thanked me for OH-KY-IN joining this contest at our annual Hamfest. I pointed him to Jerry this hard working Ham was taking/selling tickets at the front door! As I said in the meeting I could go on and on but it was an honor to present Jerry with this very prestigious award 2015 Ham of the Year!

This will be my last article from the Desk of the Vice President as I have been elected by our membership to be the President of our club. I am really excited as I follow in the footsteps of many great individuals that have held this position. I am going to quote a Ham operator that was on our Repeater last Saturday morning right after The OH-KY-IN Fox Hunt net started and he said: "This is the reason I like this repeater because this repeater always has something going on". He was alluding to our club and I consider that the ultimate compliment that your radio club can receive! When fellow Ham operators get on the air and tell other operators what they like about your club.

As always I 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! If you are not already a member please consider joining our club, if you are a member tell a friend about our club and about our hobby and invite them to our meetings and our classes! 73's and until next month be looking for my articles "President at Large"!

Michael L. Sien

Michael Sien – KD8SOH

Minutes of the October 6th, 2015 Regular Meeting

CORRECTIONS TO MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2015 REGULAR MEETING: *In re: State Parks on the Air, Bobby Revis' call sign was misidentified--he is KD8TPU; also Michael Sien's (KD8SOH) last name was misspelled. In re: the website, President Fred Schneider K9OHE thanked also WB8ZCC for his cooperation in transferring the website to Ryan Williamson W1RYN.*

President Fred Schneider K9OHE called the meeting to order, commencing with the Pledge of Allegiance. Self-introductions followed, including our two presenters and one student signed up for our Technician Class course.

Michael Sien KD8SOH introduced our presenters, Bill Curtice WA8APB and Fred Stone W8LLY, both deeply involved with “Mesh Computing” and the Miami Valley Mesh Alliance. They presented an “Introduction to Mesh Network.” Bill led us through the concepts with a PowerPoint presentation and Fred fleshed out areas of particular interest to the group and shared with the Q&As.

Mesh Networking in the context of Amateur Radio represents an inexpensive way to integrate multiple nodes (computers, radios, and peripherals) to help out in emergency and public service operations. Using off-the-shelf networking hardware and shareware software, a wireless, “Wide Area Net,” can be formed. Utilizing ham (FCC Part 97) and commercial/consumer (Part 15) band assignments, resources can be shared by other nodes, such as a webcam being operated remotely by a computer not hardwired to the camera, but linked across the WAN.

Working at UHF frequencies (2.4 GHz, 5 GHz, etc.) practically limits how far nodes can communicate, how much power can be applied, and what kind of traffic can be passed (for example under Part 15 rules, business communications are permitted, but not under Part 97 rules—which offer higher power operations. Nodes which are suitably established can “discover” other nodes, and join nearby Mesh Networks. Where band conditions or physical barriers block node communications in one direction, other nodes can automatically “route around” the trouble spot and continue sharing across the (remaining) network.

In EMCOMM situations, a group of suitably configured amateur radio nodes can provide a “back-up” to existing Public Safety infrastructures when they are damaged/taken offline. Using battery power within the affected area, and line power where available, messages and data (images, etc.) can be exchanged with unaffected locations. These Mesh Networks can provide continuity while regular network services are being restored, provide high speed tactical communications in support of search & rescue, and restore access to the Internet from within a stricken area.

Fred Schneider K9OHE proposed the program portion of the meeting be extended, so Bill and Fred could answer more questions from the audience. They shared via their PowerPoint slides the names of numerous organizations active in the Mesh Networking arena, and links where more information can be found.

To accommodate all of the group’s questions, their presentation was extended through 8:55 PM, followed by a brief recess.

Silent Keys After the break, Bruce Vanselow N8BV reported on Silent Key Jimmy Cordrey WD8RHP, John Phelps N8JTP noted the passing of Mildred Patterson, XYL of Amos Patterson W8EMF, who himself had passed away in July.

Technical Committee Brian deYoung K4BRI reported the 146.925 repeater is on the air, but without some of the capabilities we want. The next Technical Committee will be Tuesday October 13 to finish hooking up the controller.

Nominating Committee President Fred Schneider K9OHE, called for formation of this year’s Nominating Committee; Kitty Hevener W9TPA, Dick Arnett WB4SUV, and Mike Niehaus KD8ZLB volunteered. We need nominations for four offices and one 3-year director term. Fred reminded us that, per the by-laws, nominations are to be presented at our November meeting, where any additional nominations from the floor can be made. These must have the written approval of the nominee. Voting takes place at our December meeting, with installation of officers and directors at the January meeting.

Brunch Bunch Bruce N8BV announced the next Brunch Bunch will be held October 10th at Camp Washington Chili.

Fox Hunts Brian K4BRI reminded us that this month, the Fox Hunt will be held on the *third* Saturday, October 18, starting as usual at 10:00 AM sharply from Mt. Storm Park. All are welcome and anyone interested in hunting can call Brian and Dick WB4SUV to arrange a ride-along, or to borrow equipment for their efforts. Reminder: you must arrive at Mt. Storm Park early enough to set up for the Hunt, since at 10:01 everyone will be gone.

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Health Department Bryan Hoffman KC8EGV shared that the Hamilton County Health Department EMCOMM group (Amateur Radio Group (ARG)) will hold an exercise on October 31st. The group will meet October 15th for a briefing and logistical presentations. Ted Morris NC8V and Ryan Williamson W1RYN will talk about formal message handling in the context of the Incident Management System (IMS).

Next Meeting Our next Regular Meeting will be November 3, 2015, which is Election Day. We will meet *downstairs* from our regular room, to accommodate the polls. Enter from the North side of the building.

ARRL Sweepstakes Brian K4BRI announced he plans to host a club CW entry in the contest, and any operators who want to participate are welcome. Please RSVP to Brian.

Hamfest Chair Gary Coffey KB8MYC reported we had 263 paid admissions. Comments from attendees lauded the concession operated by Aiken High School Athletic Boosters, and the support from the School in general.

Door Prizes Some equipment left from Silent Key estates was available, and Jerry Shipp donated two "BasicTalk" units (as described in this evening's program) he had pre-programmed.

Split-the-Pot Brian K4BRI received \$55. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ted Morris, Secretary.

Minutes of the November 3rd, 2015 Regular Meeting

President Fred Schneider K9OHE called the November 3, 2015 regular meeting to order at 7:33 P.M., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Fred then called for self-introductions.

Fred then called on the Vice President Michael Sien, KD8SOH to introduce the presenter for the evening. Our program for the evening was Fox Hunting and our presenter was Dick Arnett, WB4SUV. Dick talked about a problem he faced, how he designed specialty equipment, used a computer program written by Brian, K4BRI, and how the problem was ultimately resolved.

After the program Fred introduced Kitty Hevener, W8TDA who was in charge of the Election Nominating Committee. She proceeded to announce the nominees for the following positions:

President – Michael Sien, KD8SOH

Vice President – Ryan Williamson, W1RYN

Secretary – Ted Morris, NC8V

Treasurer – Brian DeYoung, K4BRI

Board of Directors position – (1 to be elected)

Bruce Vanselow, N8BV Gary Coffey, KB8MYC Mike Niehaus, KD8ZLB

Going position by position, Fred asked if there were any additional nominations from the floor. Continuing position by position, Fred proceeded to close the nominations asking for a motion to close nominations and for it to be seconded for each of the positions of nominations. Voting was position by position, as well. The motions were made, seconded, and decided as follows:

President – John Phelps, N8JTP/Ed Frambes, K8EAF, passed

Vice President – John Phelps, N8JTP/Bobby Revis, KD8TPU, passed

Secretary – Eric Simon, KC8NMP/Ryan Williamson, W1RYN, passed

Treasurer – John Phelps, N8JTP/Eric Simon, KC8NMP, passed

Board of Directors position – (1) - Eric Simon, KC8NMP/Ryan Williamson, W1RYN, passed

Fred then called on the Vice President Michael Sien, KD8SOH for the Split the Pot drawing. Michael announced that we had collected \$100 and the drawing was going to be for \$50. The winner of the Spilt the Pot

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drawing was John Phelps N8JTP. In turn at the end of the meeting John Phelps donated the \$50 to the Oh-KY-IN,ARS Repeater fund or Christmas fund whichever the Board of Directors felt that the money could be best used.

Fred then called on Bruce Vanselow, N8BV and asked if there were any Silent Keys. Bruce announced two:

1. James F. Sullivan, NG8T
2. The mother of Edward L. Sulek, WD8NNB

Minutes from the last meeting – Our secretary Ted Morris, NC8V was not at the meeting so no minutes were read. They will be read at the next regular meeting.

Treasurers Report – Brian Deyoung, K4BRI was not at the meeting so the treasurers report was not read. It will be presented at the next regular meeting.

Tech Committee Report – Brian DeYoung, K4BRI was not at the meeting so our President Fred Schneider, K9OHE discussed a few of the items that we went over in the last Board of Directors meeting:

1. We are in process of removing the phone line from the 67 Repeater location. We are not using it any more so it is just costing us money.
2. Brian DeYoung is working on getting the ARCOM controllers on-line.

Fred announced that we needed Volunteer Examiners for Saturday 11/7/15 Exam session in St.Bernard.

Fred then asked from a report from our Librarian Howard Alban, KD8WOY.

Fred went on to call on Bruce Vanselow to announce the next Brunch Bunch which was to be held on Saturday November 14th at Steak and Shake in Bridgetown.

New Business

Fred asked if there was any new business to be brought before the club. Kitty Hevener, W8TDA asked for the floor and announced that she writes articles for the ARRL Ohio Journal. She went on to say that she is writing an article profiling veterans in the South West Ohio area. If you are a veteran and interested in being in her article, please contact her.

The meeting was adjourned a little after 9 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Sien, KD8SOH

Vice President OH-KY-IN, ARS, and Secretary Pro Tem

10 meter contest winners!

*Congratulations to
KA3MTU and KA3MTT
for a fine effort in the
2014 ARRL 10 meter
contest!*



Foxhunting and ARDF

The December mobile hunt had 4 teams of hunters—it is great to see more people out for the foxhunts.

I was late getting started to the hunt start, so I did not have much time to set up, and as usual, I had a lot of extra stuff to play with. So I didn't get everything set right and I went off in a wrong direction once again. It didn't last long, tho, and pretty quickly we headed up route 4, rt 747 and found Phil pretty quickly. We ended up being second—I need to focus more in 2016!

One reminder, please. If you check into the foxhunt, please check out if you have to leave the hunt.

Brunch Bunch

The next Brunch Bunch will be held Saturday, January 9th at 1pm. The location for January is Quatman Cafe. Quatman Cafe is located at 2434 Quatman Avenue in Norwood, at the corner of Quatman Avenue and Montgomery Road, 45212. Quatman Cafe is a friendly family-oriented restaurant.

"Best known for its huge, tasty burgers, Quatman's offers an uncomplicated menu of pub grub for cheap. Pair a burger with some fries and a mug of suds and you've got a meal for under six bucks. The draw here isn't the extensive menu, but the friendly service, neighborhood convenience, and ice cold Hudy Delight on tap."

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

www.blueashchili.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



Elmers Corner: Radio Kits By Robert Gulley AK3Q



I confess fall and winter months bring me thoughts of what kits I am going to build, and what interesting projects I can explore. In this edition of The Elmers Corner I would like to explore some of the more interesting radio kits which have come on the market in the last few years, and maybe, just maybe, tickle the builder hiding within!

Digital SWR Kit

A kit by Radio-Kits allows the user to build a nice HF SWR meter which can be used for QRP or for 100+ watts depending on power supply. Like many kits the user supplies their own case, and this can be quite convenient for ensuring the size and weight of the case can match QRP needs, if that is the intended use. The company actually offers two display options which is a nice touch, one high contrast and one a more soothing blue/white combination.

An interesting kit which could be quite useful while learning CW (as well as learning to zero-beat a tone) is the Son of Zero^{beat}. This board has 7 LEDs which graphically indicate the frequency of a received CW audio tone. By adjusting the transceiver's frequency until the center green LED lights up, the signal will be within +/- 10 Hz of zero beat with the transmitting station. The kit comes complete except for a few user-supplied parts: metal enclosure, +12V power jack, audio jack and a switch to complete the kit. The offset frequency is adjustable from 400 to 1200 Hz by cycling a switch, and the unit has a default offset frequency of 600 Hz.

Another kit which I have on the shelf waiting for a cold winter's day is the QRP Labs Ultimate 3 QRSS/WSPR kit. The Ultimate3 transmitter kit transmits QRSS, Hell, Opera, PI4 and WSPR slow-signal modes on any HF or MF band. The kit comes with one plug-in low pass filter module. Additional plug-in low pass filter modules are available for any of 12 HF or MF bands from 2200m to 10m. The kit can transmit on any frequency up to over 40MHz, and changing bands is a matter of plugging in the appropriate low pass filter kit to attenuate unwanted harmonic output.

The Opera mode is of particular interest to me as some of the utility boards I monitor talk about this mode extensively, but I have never been able to give it a try. With a kit like this well under \$50 (US), one can afford to experiment a bit without breaking the bank. And there is always the thrill of using something you built yourself!

Single band radios are a great kit value, and in addition to the more common CW kits, there are some SSB kits starting to show up such as the KN-Q7A SSB Transceiver Kit by CRKITS. There is a 20m or a 40m option kit, with 10 watts PEP for 40m, and 5 watts PEP for 20m.

MST2

The Minimalist Sideband Transceiver 2 (**MST2**) is designed in Australia by Leon Williams VK2DOB, along with a digital display kit and SWR meter kit as options. MST2 can be built for 20m, 40m, or 80m, with 5W PEP power output using a power MOSFET output stage. It is a Superhet receiver using a 5 pole 10MHz crystal filter.

ILER SSB by EA3GCY

Another SSB radio kit is the ILER-20 4-5watt QRP SSB monoband transceiver. This kit is also available in a 40m version, and the frequency coverage range can be selected according to operating preference

This radio is great for simple QRP work with a receive power drain of 35mA or less, and a TX drain of 800mA. The receiver is a simple single conversion superheterodyne and balanced mixer design, and requires a dynamic 600 Ohm microphone. The construction is through-the-board, with no surface mount parts (that's a plus if you're like me!).

EA3GCY also offers a QRP tuner kit, the ILERTENNA 40m-15m end-fed QRP tuner:

- Frequency Coverage: 40-15m (30-10 m modified).
- Antenna type: "end-fed" or "zeppelin"
- 5 watts CW 10 watts P.E.P.

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- LED SWR indicator
- Only weighs about 100 gr.
- Connectors and controls: Tune, Tuning/Operate switch, Antenna sockets, BNC to Radio
- Size: 80 x 50 x 22 mm.
- All components, Box, PCB, knob and connectors included

An end-fed antenna is a great option for portable work, needing only one end to be fastened to a tree or other high point, and a counterpoise along the ground. The small size of this tuner makes it easy to pack, and of course it can be used for other antennas as well.

For lighter fare, Oak Hills makes a kit for adding a digital display to older radios like my Realistic DX-160, or any other radio needing a digital display for accurate tuning.

From the company's product description:

The DD-1 is a six digit counter, and the counter will operate with tube or solid state equipment having a variable oscillator system up to 50 MHz. It will accommodate cases where the oscillator tunes in reverse with respect to operating frequency. Direct frequency readout can be displayed with any IF offset as long as the frequency being measured is 50 MHz or less. These displays are often used with QRP kits such as TenTec and MFJ, as well as the QRP kit offered by Oak Hills.

The company also offers a wattmeter kit, the WM-2, which is specifically designed for QRP work. One of the difficulties in using regular wattmeters is that the accuracy at low power levels is often lacking, to say the least. The WM-2 is designed to be accurate at QRP levels. It can measure power levels (both forward and reflected) down to 5mW.

Olde Thyme Radios

For a taste of the past there are a number of kits available for building radios which reflect the early days of amateur radio. A simple kit which can serve as a code practice transmitter is the LOOK MA Qrp CW TX Low Voltage Tube transmitter oscillator bread-board kit from Pastime Projects. This single-tube design is a great introduction to tube-type radios using a crystal. The extreme low power means it will not go much farther than the shack.

The company also offers a more traditional QRP kit for 40m or 80m, the 6V6 Transmitter kit, based on designs common in the 1940s. This radio puts out 2-5 watts and so can be used as a standard QRP rig, but with a real olde-thyme design, including nails and sucker sticks! It is crystal controlled, but changing bands requires re-soldering a coil, therefore it will typically be used only on one band.

There is also a companion power supply, the PPS—1, which can be used with any radio, not just the 6V6 (120 VAC primary voltage output as supplied; approximately 200 VDC max; transformer rated at 250 VCT @ 130 ma and 6.3 VAC @ 2A).

Wrap-Up

These kits are reasonably priced, a good educational tool, and something of which to be proud for being home-brewed. While I do not get the opportunity to build as many things as I would like, every piece of equipment, just like every antenna I build, brings with it a great sense of satisfaction.

Web Address of links above:

http://www.radio-kits.co.uk/swr_meter/index.htm

<http://wb9kzy.com/zerobeat.htm>

http://www.qrp-labs.com/index.php?route=product/product&path=59&product_id=50

<http://www.ozqrp.com/index.html>

<http://ea3gcy.blogspot.com.es/2013/03/iler-20-4-5w-qrp-ssb-monoband.html>

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

<http://www.pastimeprojects.com/transmitterkits.html>

Hamilton County Amateur Radio Emergency Services 2015 Review & 2016 Plans

By now we are all hungover from our food and sugar highs from the Holiday Season. I hope everyone had an enjoyable time with family and friends. I sure did! We are just past the end of 2015 and starting the beginning of 2016. So I wanted to share with you some information about ARES in Hamilton County. I can proudly say that ARES in Hamilton County is alive and well based on the activities in 2015. Here are a few highlights:

July - ARES members supported Hamilton County EOC operations during the Major League All Star Game festivities. A special request was made to monitor the weather the day of the game.

August - ARES promoted its mobile capabilities at a local church festival.

September - Hamilton County EMA and other local agencies requested an ARES activation to assist with determining the effects of the blue-green algae bloom on the use of the Ohio River during Riverfest. Teams were activated and sent along the Ohio River banks to the East (upriver) of Cincinnati. The teams took pictures with GPS locations and sent them to the EOC staff for analysis. With this information the agencies were able to make an informed decision on the use of the river that weekend.

October - Hamilton County ARES participated in the Ohio Section Emergency Test (SET). A lot was learned about our strength and weaknesses during an actual incident. Plans are being put into place to improve our weaknesses and to expand our strengths.

December - The mild weather has been acting more like Springtime than Winter. Some severe storms and the threat of flooding have kept local ARES groups on standby in case additional spotters and communicators are needed for SkyWARN or served agencies. Hopefully January will bring us "real" Winter weather. Also in December ARES came to a verbal agreement to provide emergency communications and assets to Anderson Twp when requested. A formal agreement will be in place sometime in January 2016.

Plans For 2016

- Regularly scheduled meetings throughout the year.
- Exercises to test our capabilities and make adjustments.
- Invite more member participation in data communications to provide to our served agencies.
- Provide training opportunities to local operators.
- Expose our offered services to more agencies to educate them about what we can do for them.
- Finally, expand operator participation and ARES membership. More operators mean more capabilities and more served agencies. Thus safe communities.

Be Safe! 73 Bryan Hoffman - KC8EGV

Hamilton County Emergency Coordinator Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES)

January DX Spots de KA3MTT

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
JD1BMH - Ogasawara thru 1-9 	ZF2LL - Cayman Is thru 1-5 			NEW YEAR'S EVE	1 5W0UO - Samoa thru 1-7 ----- V63GG - Micronesia thru 1-8	2 YJ0AFU - Vanuatu thru 1-10 
3 4S - Sri Lanka thru 1-8 	4 7P8VR - Lesotho thru 1-7 	5 6W7SK - Senegal thru 1-31 	6 V25GB - Antigua thru 1-14 	7 ZL9A - NZ SubArctic Is thru	8	9 ZF2PG - Cayman Is thru 1-17 ----- V31 - Belize thru 1-21
10	11	12 K5P - Palmyra Is thru 1-25 	13	14	15 XW4ZW - Laos thru 1-24 	16
17 VP8STI - South Sandwich Is thru 1-25 	18	19 PY0F - Fernando de Noronha thru 1-26 ----- H44MS - Solomon Is Thru 1-31	20	21 T88UC - Palau thru 1-26	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 T88HK - Palau thru 2-2	30
31						

The next meeting of the Oh-Ky-In Amateur Radio Society will be Tuesday, January 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!

OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society

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