

Q-FIVER

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



President at Large....2016 Winter Field Day!

Several of my good friends Bobby Revis KD8TPU, Jerry Shipp W1SCR, and Mike Niehaus KD8ZLB and I were having lunch right after attending the Georgetown, Ohio Hamfest. During our lunch we were discussing how great it would be to have a Winter Field Day. During our lunch we discussed all the aspects of what it would take to pull such a Field Day off, along with all of the challenges to making this a fun, safe and productive event. I asked the guys if they would be opposed to this event being sponsored by the club and all felt this would be an awesome idea and event for the club but at the time we knew nothing about the above event that was already being planned by the Winter Field Day Association.

The WFDA is a dedicated group of Amateur Radio Operators who believe that emergency communication in a winter environment is just as important as the preparations and practice that is done each summer but with some additional unique operational concerns. This group has been active for several years trying to get this event off the ground. I happen to run across it in the QSL magazine under contests scheduled for January 30th and 31st. I quickly let my friends know and asked them if they were in and it was a unanimous yes! This launched the beginning of my busiest month ever! With a month to get this pulled together it was going to be a challenge at best and if it weren't for several key individuals this event for our club would not have happened!

- **Bobby Revis** - KD8TPU – Thanks for the use of your Trailer and generator and fuel.
- **Jerry Shipp** – W1SCR – Thanks for the use of your Communication Trailer, Antenna Launcher, and G5R and backup generator.

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2015 Board of Directors

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OH-KY-IN Repeaters

146.670 (-) Clifton

146.625 (-) Edgewood, KY

146.925 (-) Colerain Twp

443.7625 (+5) Clifton

A CTCSS (PL) tone of 123.0 Hz is required for access to all OH-KY-IN repeaters. All repeaters also transmit a CTCSS (PL) tone of 123.0 Hz

APRS on 144.390 mHz

K8SCH-10 Edgewood WIDEn

K8SCH-9 Clifton WIDEn

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 Ciufo 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 Club's 440 repeater is back on and running great. Give it a try—443.7625

March Calendar

Tue Mar 1	7:30 PM	Club Meeting at St Bernard Recreation Hall, 120 Washington Avenue. Program: ARRL—Scott Yonally
Wed Mar 2	9:00 PM	Tech Talk, NCS Robert AK3Q
Sun Mar 6	7:00 PM	Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: Getting Your Computer to Talk to Your Radio —NCS Robert AK3Q
Wed Mar 9	9:00 PM	Tech Talk, NCS Brian K4BRI
Sat Mar 12	10:00 AM 1:00 PM	Mobile Foxhunt, starting at Mt. Storm park in Clifton—talk in on 146.670 Brunch Bunch at Chili Time Restaurant - 4727 Vine Street in St Bernard
Sun Mar 13	7:00 PM	Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: Typical HF Radio Features/Use —NCS Robert AK3Q
Mon Mar 14	7:00 PM	Technician and General Classes—St. Bernard City Building
Wed Mar 16	9:00 PM	Tech Talk, NCS Kitty, W8TDA
Sun Mar 20	7:00 PM	Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: Using Auxiliary Sound Hardware/Software —NCS Robert AK3Q
Mon Mar 21	7:00 PM	Technician and General Classes—St. Bernard City Building
Tue Mar 22	7:00 PM	Board of Directors meeting
Wed Mar 23	9:00 PM	Tech Talk, NCS George N3VQW
Sun Mar 27	7:00 PM	Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: Easter: No Net —NCS Robert AK3Q
Mon Mar 28	7:00 PM	Technician and General Classes—St. Bernard City Building

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- **John Phelps** – N8JTP – “Chef” John Thanks for all of your help with coordinating and preparing enough food to feed 25 people. As always we ate extremely well and you made the whole event awesome!
- **George Gardei** – N3VQW – Thanks for getting the word out on the repeater and getting everyone excited about this event! Thanks for bringing your Yaesu 450D and vertical antennas.
- **Mike Niehaus** – KD8ZLB – Thanks for bringing your Yaesu 450D, your G5R and vertical antenna, and most of all thanks for being part of the organizing team!
- **Tracie Sargent** – Guest Service Manager Great Parks of Hamilton County who helped me find a place to have this event with 2 weeks to spare!

There are just so many people to thank that I can't list them all but without them we would not have had an awesome set up team! We had great operators that worked throughout the day and all night, working the radios, and the digital operation trying to get as many contacts as possible.

For those of you that did not get an opportunity to participate in this year's Winter Field Day let me give you some of the highlights and challenges of this event, and explain why I would be all for being involved in this event again next year! First off all of the challenges of having a winter event made coordinating it very exciting. Here in Cincinnati we never know if it is going to be 63 degrees or zero degrees. You have to plan for both and hope for the best. This year we got the later but had a very strong wind which made it chilly at times especially overnight. Also you were only given 4 hours to set up all of your equipment. So as soon as it became light you needed to start getting strings in the trees and antennas pulled up!

We got all of our equipment set up three Yaesu 450D's and Jerry's Digital communication trailer along with four G5R antennas and two verticals antennas and our generator in four and half hours and we were on the air. A special thanks to Ryan Owens AC8UJ for hooking up the Wi-Fi and networking in 4 Laptop computers! It made logging a breeze! The only thing that would have made this event totally awesome would have been more amateur radio operators on the air participating in this event. Turnout was minimal to say the least! This event in this writers mind needs to have the full backing of the ARRL if it ever hopes to be as successful as the summer Field Day Event!

It however checked off all of the boxes I was hoping for and they are as follows:

- ✓ With minimal notice we had a dedicated team that put together a practice emergency field day event.
- ✓ That team was able to get deployed and operational in 4 and ½ hours with four transceivers and with 6 antennas.
- ✓ That team was able to be operational for 24 hours!

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- ✓ We were able to make contacts on all of the bands available to us.
- ✓ I gained weight after eating Chef John's cooking.

Like I said it was a total success! As I have said in previous articles, if you are looking for a club that gets out there and has fun, look no further! Go to our web-site www.ohkyin.org and find out when our next meeting is and come join us!

73's and until next month!

Michael Sien – KD8SOH



Minutes of the February, 2016 Regular Meeting

President Michael Sien KD8SOH called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests included Tom Delaney W8WTD, ARRL Great Lakes Division Vice Director, Steve Bonnell KD8REK, and William Corrigan KA8WTB. Mark Landis KD8ZLD has upgraded to Amateur Extra. Jason Nivens Sr. KD8MYD and Jason Jr. KD8ZYR welcomed a new baby into the family. There were 38 sign-ins.

Announcements: Michael KD8SOH welcomed Robert Gulley AK3Q, who has been elected by the Board to finish the Director term formerly held by Ryan Williamson W1RYN (now Vice President); and Mike Niehaus KD8ZLB, who has accepted the appointment of Director of Education.

This month's Fox Hunt will be held on the *first* Saturday (February 6), a schedule change.

Program:

The evening's formal program featured President Michael Sien KD8SOH on "State of the Club 2016." He gave thanks to Past President Fred Schneider K9OHE for his service to the club and his personal guidance.

Michael directed our attention to the club's list of officers—posted on the website, with email addresses—and encouraged folks to contact us. He noted the website also features each month's Brunch Bunch location, our repeater lineup, and much more.

Prospective programs under consideration include Yaesu; Homeland Security/Identity Theft; Bob Heil K9EID; and Scott Yonally N8SY, ARRL Ohio Section Manager. Let Ryan Williamson W1RYN know of any other program ideas we may have. Tours considered include the Cincinnati-Hamilton County Regional Emergency Operations Center (ROC); WOBO-FM, Batavia; WKRC-TV Local 12; and the National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting and WC8VOA (West Chester Amateur Radio Association's station there).

Along with our classes, new Interest Groups are being formed. A Digital group meets in the basement of St. Bernard's City Hall (next door to our meeting space) every month guided by Jerry Shipp W1SCR, and a CAD circuit design group, led by Brian DeYoung K4BRI will hold its first workshop, "Electronic CAD for Beginners," on February 25, at "My Neighbor's Place" in Westwood, 3150 Harrison Ave. (45211). The 2-hour session will begin at 7:00 PM; if interested, please RSVP to Brian.

The club hosts or participates in numerous special events and posts pictures to the Gallery on our website. We are always looking for more opportunities to showcase Amateur Radio and OH-KY-IN. Recent events include

- *Cincinnati Museum Center's "1940's Weekend,"* with interactive communications demonstrations; this year we hope to also operate as a recognized "Special Event" station.
- *NVIS Antenna Day;* the 2015 event held in conjunction with the Ohio ARES test event drew over 50 participants and observers. For 2016 we would like to see more antennas tested. The location for the April 23, 2016 event is being determined.
- *ARRL Field Day;* this annual June exercise demonstrates Amateur Radio's ability to assemble and operate effectively under simulated emergency conditions. OH-KY-IN has been operating from Mitchell Memorial Forest, Cleves, Ohio. This year's event is June 25-26; we have been having great turnouts for setup, but could use more CW operators to work overnight—in fact, the more operators available on any mode, the better.
- *"Winter Field Day";* OH-KY-IN set up at the Possum Run Youth Camp in Winton Woods January 30-31 for this year's weekend event. Operations included three Yaesu FT-450F HF transceivers, four G5RV antennas (two raised by slingshot and two by air-gun), plus additional dipoles and verticals for additional VHF and data stations. Again, pictures from the event are on the website.
- *Red, White, and Blue Ash;* managing one of the beer booths at this Annual July 4 event is a major club fundraiser.
- *Ohio QSO Party,* operating from St. Bernard's Ross Park.
- *Hamfest;* the 2015 Hamfest was another major club fundraiser. The 3rd Annual event will be September 17, 2016, at Aiken High School in College Hill. We can always use more volunteers, and more suggestions of vendors to invite.
- *Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Bicycle Races;* in 2015 the race start was moved to Lunken Playfield with routes throughout eastern Cincinnati. In 2016 we will again use Will Schramm's W8WDS RV for Net Control, and post communicators around the courses. Last year some 15 OH-KY-IN operators participated along with folks from other clubs.
- *Ohio State Parks On the Air;* in 2015 we activated Stonelick State Park for this eight-hour operation. This year's operation will be September 10, 2016, at a location to be determined.

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- *ARRL National Parks On the Air*; this new event is being held throughout 2016. We can operate as “activators”—setting up in an approved venue—or as “chasers”—contacting activators across the country. We plan to activate at least one National Park Service-administered venue; locations and dates are still being determined.
- *Cincinnati Preparedness Expo*; in 2015 over 6000 attendees visited our booth. For 2016, the event is October 15-16, at the Sharonville Convention Center. We may not sell anything from our booth, but we are considering services we could provide (donation optional) such as programming handheld radios purchased elsewhere at the event.
- *ARRL November Sweepstakes*; participants in this contest try to work stations in every one of the ARRL/CRRL sections. Operating with our club call K8SCH, we again attained a “clean sweep” in 2015. We can always use more participants in 2016.
- *December Holiday Party*; this is held on our final Regular Meeting night of the year.

We want folks’ ideas and suggestions for programs they want to see (Kitty Hevener W8TDA, offered to do a CW program, e.g.), what tours, and what contests to try (the North American QSO Party CW/SSB sessions were mentioned). As a club, what should we provide for our members? *OH-KY-IN is the largest club in Greater Cincinnati.*

The group then broke for 15 minutes at 8:05 PM. During the break, Librarian Howard Alban KD8WOY called the group’s attention to an array of books being removed from our collection which folks might want to take home.

The group reassembled at 8:20 PM for the Business portion of the meeting.

Tom Delaney W8WTD reminded the group the ARRL is working hard in support of the Antenna Parity Act bills in the U.S. House and Senate. The House version now has some 120 co-sponsors. If and when these bills come to the floor, we should help promote the legislation and contact our Congressional delegation in support.

Minutes: Kitty Hevener W8TDA noted that in the January *Q-Fiver* her callsign appears once correctly, and once incorrectly. The minutes were approved subject to any necessary correction in this regard. (Fred Schneider K9OHE moved/John Phelps N8JTP seconded) [Her proper callsign was given in a correction to the October minutes, reported in the January 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes. However, in the February Calendar section it was listed incorrectly. – Sec’y]

Membership: The latest report from Chair Nathan Ciufo KA3MTT shows 91 current members. Folks can contact Nathan to check if they are paid-up.

Treasurer: Treasurer Brian DeYoung K4BRI reported there were no expenses incurred in January. His report was filed for audit.

Silent Key: Bruce Vanselow N8BV still has a few items for sale from recent SK estates.

Brunch Bunch: Bruce announced the next get-together will be the second Saturday as usual, this time at Chili Time in St. Bernard—commemorating the 5th anniversary of the Brunch Bunch by returning to its first location.

Technical Committee: Chair Brian DeYoung K4BRI reported the 146.925 and 146.625 repeaters are mostly doing okay. The 440 MHz repeater is down while a suspected rectification/retransmission problem is resolved. He is continuing to work on the several issues affecting the 146.670 repeater. There are no Committee sessions scheduled at this time.

Education: Mike Niehaus KD8ZLB reported classes for the Technician and General licenses will commence March 14, continuing weekly through April 11, 2016 in the basement of City Hall, due West of our meeting place. Testing will take place April 16 in the same location. He also noted approximately 10 new questions are expected for the new Extra Class license test pool, to be used after July 1, 2016.

Fox Hunts: Brian K4BRI reminded folks the next Fox Hunt will be *this Saturday*, February 6, at the usual 10:00 AM start time. Setup will begin 9:15-9:30. There is room for folks to ride along, and with advance notice equipment loans can be arranged for those who need them. Phil Smith KG8AP does a great job of hiding the transmitters. Cars depart promptly at 10:00.

Tech Talk: Bruce Vanselow N8BV reported Robert Gulley AK3Q will be this week’s NCS, and Brian K4BRI next week’s NCS.

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Newcomer and Elmers Net: Robert Gulley AK3Q noted the Net is doing well, with 30- 35 check-ins each week. He plans a new focus topic every week, but any radio related questions are welcome. The Net meets every Sunday at 7:00 PM on the 146.670 repeater.

Website: Ryan Williamson W1RYN reported as Webmaster the site is doing well, with still a few items to be worked on. A recent article on “MultiPSK” by Robert Gulley AK3Q, which appeared in the online magazine *Spectrum Monitor*, is now available on our website. Robert also mentioned this month’s *Spectrum Monitor* issue has a great article about uses for Software Defined Radio (SDR) dongles. Single copies of the magazine are available at thespectrummonitor.com for \$3 each; annual subscriptions are \$24.

Digital Group: Jerry Shipp W1SCR reported that around 20 people attended the first meeting in January; the group will continue to meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, at 7:00 PM, in the basement of the St. Bernard City Hall.

QCEN: Kitty Hevener W8TDA reported for Pat Maley WD8PAT. At their last regular meeting they elected new officers and discussed club equipment and needed repairs. Their December meeting was their Holiday Party.

ARES & Health Department: The Health Department is not doing much at the moment regarding the Emergency Communications Amateur Radio Group. ARES is now managing the group, offering the Department access to ARES liaisons and resources.

Grants supporting emergency communications are increasingly requiring “trained” volunteers (i.e., having at least the four basic Incident Command System courses). As of April 1 [now changed to June 1—Sec’y] all ARES members seeking to activate must have completed the four courses. At the same time, declining funds for hiring personnel mean more volunteers are needed.

Anderson Township has an Emergency Operations Center, and has asked ARES to serve as backup help with their emergency communications.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Sound System: Kitty W8TDA asked if we have a sound system or microphone system to use at our meetings, since some folks have had a hard time hearing details. Fred Schneider K9OHE said we do have one, and Michael Sien KD8SOH said he has a wireless microphone which should work with it. Discussion noted that the room has numerous overhead speakers for good coverage.

CAD Workshop: Brian DeYoung K4BRI reminded the group that a beginner “Introduction to Electronic CAD” will begin February 25 at 7:00 PM at “My Neighbor’s Place” in Westwood [3150 Harrison Ave.]. Contact Brian to RSVP.

Kitty W8TDA mentioned that Toastmasters might be another group to contact; the program helps develop communication and leadership skills

Health and Welfare: (Additional) Ted Morris NC8V said his XYL will have total hip replacement surgery on February 12.

Door Prize: Howie Hunt NG8P donated a Vector Finder antenna analyzer, which was won by Fred Schneider K9OHE. Fred then donated the instrument to the club to use in emergencies and for education.

Split-the-Pot: Ryan Owens AC8UJ won \$58.

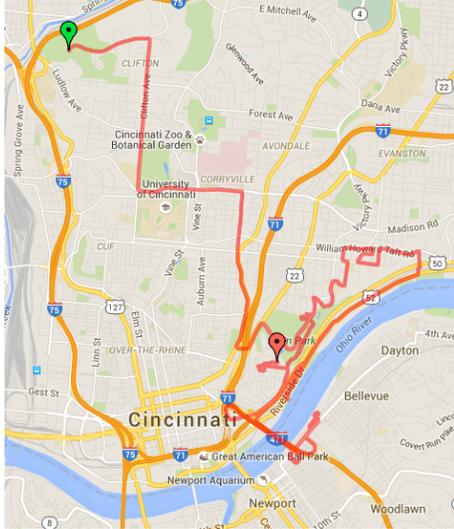
The meeting was **adjourned** at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Morris NC8V, Secretary

Foxhunting and ARDF

The February mobile hunt started out with 4 teams of hunters, but one could not start because of a radio problem. I got to welcome back Bob, WA6EZV into the fold of foxhunters and he rode alone with me. Great signal to start, and it pointed right up that problematic line of the Ohio river—making you decide between Ohio and Kentucky. We drove pretty straight up towards Eden Park, and got some great signals, but they seemed to bounce a lot and kept us jumping around. On the overlook it sure seemed like he was in KY so I went across the bridge, over by Joe's Crab Shack, and it pointed straight back to Ohio!. Driving around by the playhouse, we finally found Phil. Dick beat us, and Marti was not far behind. Still a great day for hunting!



Brunch Bunch

The next Brunch Bunch will be held Saturday, March 12th at 1pm. The location for March is Pearl's Diner in Fairfield. Pearl's Diner is located at 4696 Dixie Highway (Rt. 4), 45014, between Hicks Boulevard and Symmes Road. Going north, Pearl's is on the right side of the road.

Unfortunately Pearl's Diner does not have a website, however if you do a google search for "Pearl's Diner Fairfield OH" you will get several websites that have information about Pearl's including at least one that shows the menu and provides a map and driving directions.

Pearl's is a greasy spoon type of diner that offers large portions at small prices. For many ham radio operators, Pearl's is the place to go before or after their visit to R&L Electronics just a bit north of the diner in Hamilton. I've received referrals to Pearl's from several people.

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: Grey-Line Propagation Robert AK3Q

This is a topic we first discussed briefly on the *Newcomers and Elmers Net* (7 PM on Sundays on the 146.670 repeater – shameless plug!!), and is a worthy topic for us all to consider. Grey-line propagation can lead to some very interesting contacts, but it is something which is often either misunderstood or inadequately understood. Meaning we do not take advantage of it the way we should. The following comes from a discussion on Grey-line propagation by Steve Nichols GOKYA.

Some Basics

Worldwide communication using the HF bands is dependent on radiation coming from the sun. In general, and to grossly oversimplify reality, at LF (160, 80 and 40m) we need a night-time path between the two stations. At 28MHz, a daylight path is generally needed. But twice a day, at sunrise and sunset, the ionosphere undergoes dramatic changes, giving enhanced propagation in some directions.

In terms of radio propagation, the D and E layers are responsible for most of the absorption of radio waves that pass through them, but the absorption is frequency dependent. The D-layer can completely absorb signals on 160, 80 and 40 meters during the day, and can attenuate signals on 20m too. Hence the reason you don't hear much, if any, DX on the low bands during the day as sky-wave signals are absorbed before they can reach the E and F layers.

The ionosphere undergoes a dramatic change in ionization at the transition from day to night. The electron (and ion) density in the E-layer decreases by a factor of 200 to 1 and the F1 by nearly 100 to 1. At sunset, the D layer disappears rapidly.

Around the other side of the world other regions that are entering into daylight have yet to form any significant D layer and the E layer has not built up from its night-time low. Therefore, for a short period propagation between two regions simultaneously experiencing sunrise and sunset can be highly efficient. Signals on the lower bands can theoretically travel over great distances with little attenuation.

This is well documented with many examples of grey line propagation being logged on 160 and 80m over the years.

Many amateurs will be familiar with this so-called grey line propagation – propagation that occurs along a line separating night from day. The line is called the terminator but it is diffuse, due largely to the earth's atmosphere that scatters the light over a large area. This is a key point: in radio terms, the radio terminator is not the same as the visual one. The latter refers to the point when we see the sunrise or sunset at ground level on the earth and the period of visual twilight that either precedes or follows. The former refers to the way the sun illuminates the ionospheric D, E and F layers.

The HF "twilight" zone –the region on earth between the loss of the D layer and where the sun starts/stops illuminating the F layer (roughly defined as being offset from sunset by 14.165 degrees longitude) can therefore be almost one hour before and after sunrise and sunset.

E layer illumination starts/finishes somewhere in between these two, but the average height is much closer to that of the D layer.

To confuse matters, these values are based on average D- and F- layer heights and the apparent heights of these can change too. So it is no good looking for grey line DX exactly at your visual sunrise/sunset – you could be out by up to an hour depending on the band, your respective locations, and the time of year.

And even worse, for signals at an angle to the terminator we are interested in where the first ionospheric refraction or hop actually occurs once you radiate a signal, which is likely to be many hundreds of miles to the east or west of you – where the sun may still be illuminating the F layer.

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John Devoldere's book "ON4UN's Low-Band DXing". suggests that his own experience shows paths perpendicular to the terminator may enjoy the greatest signal enhancement. That is, on the low bands, as sunset occurs at the receiving station, you may get grey line enhancements at right angles to the terminator in the direction towards the dark side of the earth - not along the terminator.

He also points out that the width of the terminator will vary according to the season and your position on the earth, and cannot be thought of as a fixed entity - the grey line will be narrower at the equator and wider at the poles. So the time-span available for grey line conditions will also vary depending upon the time of year, and the locations of the two stations.

Likewise, the width of the grey line will depend upon frequency as D layer absorption is frequency dependent - you may still be able to work DX on 40m 24hours a day in mid-winter, while DX on 160m will fade out quite quickly after sunrise to the greater D layer absorption.

Either way, there is more to grey line and twilight propagation than meets the eye. The effects are different on every band, and the mechanism behind the propagation is probably different too. What we can say is that twilight propagation is not always best along the terminator and there may not be any enhancement at all on some bands. Some books would have you believe that you can just tune up on 20m at sunset and work ZL 59+20dB every day - Not happening!

Conclusion

The biggest takeaway here is to remember 1-2 hours before sunrise and sunset, and up to several hours after conditions can be unusual, often very good. Get on the air and try it! The propagation gods do strange things, some of which we can begin to understand, other things remain hidden to us mere mortals! Like how 5 watts from halfway around the world can break through a ferocious DX pileup ~ I have seen it happen, but this will likely always remain a mystery to me. But hey, that's part of the fun! Try out Grey-line propagation for yourself and enjoy a bit of mystery! 73, Robert

Go Kits and Personal Events

While at work on a Tuesday morning recently, I received a panicked call from my son. He told me that my daughter was in an car accident and trying to reach me. She was in Cleveland after finishing her studies at CSU.

When her phone was answered I was told that she was being transported to a local hospital - no other information was given.

I contacted my wife who was also at work. Due to the lack of details of my daughter's condition we decided that we would be going to Cleveland ASAP.

We both headed home. On the way I started to plan what we would need for the trip.

Then I remembered our Bug Out Kits. I arrived home first and pulled out our bags.

I took a quick inventory and decided we needed to add a small suitcase for additional clothes and other personal items. The bags are designed with 72 hours in mind so we needed to add to it. Once my wife arrived I moved my Get Home Kit from my car to her's and packed the Bug Out Kits.

We finishing packing the suitcase, changed out of our work clothes, turned off the water and adjusted the house lights.

I was notifying our neighbor (who watches our house when we are gone) as we were getting in the car.

That's when I realized that we were at the house for less than 20 minutes.

If we would not have planned ahead with our Bug Out and Get Home Kits who knows how long it would have taken us to get ready to leave.

Our take away from this experience is planning for major emergencies can also help us when other personal incidents occur.

My daughter is doing fine and has since moved to TX. I guess we're going to create a Carry On Flight Kit for the next emergency.

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, March 1st at 7:30 PM

The program will be about the ARRL and presented by Scott Yonnaly, N8SY

Upcoming programs:

**SkyWarn
Hams as First Responders
Field Day**

And more.....

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

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