

# Q-FIVER

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



## The President's Corner

Another Dayton Hamvention is in the record books! Xenia's second year of hosting this event was quite a success, despite the occasional showers. Several new radios were introduced from the big three (albeit *minimally!*), as well as some very interesting entries in the SDR world. It truly is an exciting time to be in amateur radio!

Speaking of excitement, there are some very exciting things happening right here in our area (and involving our club, wouldn't you know!). Foxhunts are in full swing as you probably know, but with a bit of a twist. The hunts are alternating between mobile and on-foot hunts, with opportunities available to experience both styles while having a lot of fun at the same time!

The Milford Hamfest is coming up in June, the 16<sup>th</sup>, and they have graciously invited us to have a table there to promote the club and sell things. The Hamfest runs from 8 AM until 2 PM, and the cost is only \$5.00. I'll be there for sure, so hope to see you there too! (New Location: Clermont County Fairgrounds!!)

And what is June without Field Day!! June 22-24 is all about operating off the grid! Plan on attending Friday for setup (this is where a lot of learning comes in because setting up antennas and equipment puts practicality to theory!). Operations begin at 2 PM Sat. and run 24 hours to 2 PM Sunday. Radio, food, and fellowship – what could be better!

Also, coming up in September is the Mini-Maker Faire in which OHKYIN is going to participate. This year's festival is on Saturday and Sunday September 15th and 16th at the Hamilton County Fairgrounds - 7700 Vine Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45216. The hours are 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM daily. Contact Cesi, KD8OOB, for more information.

And then of course there is our very own Hamfest in September, the 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is a great opportunity both for getting our name out to the public and for having an opportunity to buy/sell equipment while meeting other amateurs along the way. Mark it in your calendar!

Finally (and I've saved one of the best events for last!), our June meeting will feature Dave Core (K8WDA) speaking on a History of Amateur Radio. Dave is a great presenter (his balun presentation last year was a real hit as was his hands-on soldering class at our seminar this year), and he is quite knowledgeable about amateur radio history. Plan on attending, you won't want to miss it!

So much radio fun to be had, this summer is promising to be filled with many of the things which make Amateur Radio the great hobby and service it has become!

See you all at the June meeting!

Cheers! Robert AK3Q

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### OH-KY-IN Repeaters

146.670 (-) Clifton

146.625 \*(-) Edgewood

146.925 \*(-) Delhi

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*

*\* Fusion Repeater*

### APRS on 144.390 mHz

K8SCH-10 Edgewood WIDEn

### Packet on 145.010 mHz

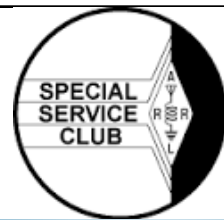
K8SCH-7 Digipeater

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

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

Normally copy deadline is the weekend before that. Please send your submissions for THE Q-FIVER (including notice of upgrades & call sign 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 R Kaucher KK4KRK

Howard Hunt NG8P

Fred Schneider K9OHE

Roger Higley W8CRK

Dan Curtin KF4AV

Steve Weeks AA8SW

## 2018 Committee Chairs and Appointments

Newcomers/Elmers Net..... Robert Gulley AK3Q  
 Technical Operations Group ..... Eric Neiheisel, N8YC  
 ARPSC Representative.....Jerry Shipp W1SCR  
 Volunteer Examiners .....Brian DeYoung K4BRI  
 QCEN Representative ..... Pat Maley KD8PAT  
 Membership ..... Nathan Ciufo KA3MTT  
 Fundraising ..... Bruce Vanselow N8BV  
 Education ..... Michael Niehaus KD8ZLB  
 Repeater Control Ops Mgr ..... Bruce Vanselow N8BV  
 PIO ..... Ted Morris NC8V  
 Librarian ..... Justin Moore KE8COY  
 Digital Group .....Jerry Shipp W1SCR

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 ..... Fred Schneider K9OHE  
 WebMaster ..... George Gardei N3VQW  
 Silent Key ..... Bruce Vanselow N8BV  
 Tech Talk Net Mgr ..... Bruce Vanselow N8BV  
 K8SCH QSL Mgr ..... Bob Frey WA6EZV  
 TV/RFI ..... Dick Arnett WB4SUV  
 HamFest ..... Gary Coffey KB8MYC

*The June Foxhunt will be a mobile foxhunt starting from Mt Storm Park at 10:00 AM. Setup will begin at about 9:30 so come check it out!*

## June Calendar

Sun Jun 3	6:30 PM	Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: <a href="#">An APRS Primer!</a>
Tue Jun 5	7:30 PM	Club Meeting in St Bernard—Topic: <a href="#">History of Amateur Radio—Dave Core K8WDA</a>
Wed Jun 6	9:00 PM	Tech Talk, NCS Robert AK3Q
Sat Jun 9	10:00 AM	Monthly Mobile Foxhunt starting at Mt Storm Park—setup begins about 9:30
	1:00 PM	Brunch Bunch at <b>Cabana on the River, 7445 Forbes Road</b>
Sun Jun 10	6:30 PM	Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: <a href="#">Digital Voice, Digital Pictures</a>
Tue Jun 12	7:00 PM	Board of Directors meeting at My Neighbor's place –3150 Harrison Ave.
Wed Jun 13	9:00 PM	Tech Talk, NCS Eric N8YC
Sun Jun 17	6:30 PM	Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: <a href="#">Keeping an Eye on the Weather</a>
Wed Jun 20	9:00 PM	Tech Talk, NCS Dale, KC8HQS
Fri Jun 22	2:00 PM	Field Day Setup begins at Mitchell Memorial Forest
Sat Jun 23	2:00 PM	Field Day Operation begins
	6:00 PM	Field Day picnic
Sun Jun 24	2:00 PM	Field Day Operation ends, Teardown begins
	6:30 PM	Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: <a href="#">What Makes for Good Audio?</a>
Wed Jun 27	9:00 PM	Tech Talk, NCS George N3VQW

## Minutes of May, 2018 Member Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM by Robert AK3Q with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests: 2

New Licenses or Upgrades: Mike KN4COE, one of tonight's guests, passed his Amateur Extra on Monday.

Self Introductions: 45

Health and Welfare: Nothing

Brag Sessions:

- George N3VQW attended Skywarn training and made a QSO into Switzerland on 20m.
- David NU8H wants to offer use of his DMR 440 micro-repeater to the club for Field Day.
- Bob WA6EZV received the QSL he's been waiting for from Kosovo for his 350<sup>th</sup> DX entity.
- Greg KA8MQD attended the Atlanta Vintage Computer Festival.
- Mike KN4COE assembled a 2m Yagi out of scrap and was able to hit repeaters in the surround metro when he mounted it to his 35' tower.

Program:

- It was decided to have the program first before the rest of the business meeting.
- Brian K4BRI and Eric N8YC presented on Flight Tracking with ADS-B and a Raspberry Pi. Great presentation! Thanks!
- Next month's program will be on the History of Amateur Radio.

The meeting was recessed at 8:47 PM and resumed at 8:56 PM

Prior Meeting Minutes: Accepted.

Membership:

- 120 as of April 4<sup>th</sup> from the latest membership report.
- Looks to be 122 as of the meeting due to renewals/new member at the meeting.

Treasurer: Brian K4BRI submitted April's report. The report was filed, subject to audit.

Silent Keys: None

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#### Tech Operations

- Eric N8YC reported the 670 repeater's firmware has been updated and there seem to be no problems at this time. This fixed the time skew problem and now there is no delay when keying up.
- Work is being performed on the 925 repeater to raise the antenna up 10'.
- The 440 repeater is back on the air.
- A question was asked regarding System Fusion. Currently all OH-KY-IN repeaters have System Fusion except for the 670 repeater.

#### Classes and Exams

- Mike KD8ZLB reported the spring classes have wrapped up.
- License examinations will be held on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM. There is a \$15 fee for ARRL supplies. VEs are needed as the instructors cannot participate in the exams as VEs, so if you are a VE, please show up as you cannot have too many!
- For the fall, the classes might be three hours per session and will cover the new Tech License Exam question pool going into effect July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. The start date is tentatively set for September 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### Fox Hunts and ARDF

- Brian K4BRI reported that there were four teams for the April mobile fox hunt including a new team for Northern Kentucky. Bob WA6EZV won that hunt.
- May will be an on-foot fox hunt, ARDF style. It will be held on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM at Bicentennial Park, off Diehl Road near MacFarland Woods. It will be 80m and equipment will be available, but it is limited, so please let Bob WA6EZV, Brian K4BRI or Dick WB4SUV know if you are coming to assure equipment.
- Bob WA6EZV, Brian K4BRI and Dick WB4SUV will be presenting on ARDF at Hamvention on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 12:15 PM to 1:30 PM in Forum Room 2.
- There will be an ARDF style fox hunt at Hamvention again. It will be on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:00 with 20 – 40 micro transmitters on 2m. It will take place at the park right across from Hamvention.

#### Nets

- Bruce N8BV reported that Tech Talk is still going strong and Robert AK3Q is net control for this week.
- Robert AK3Q reported the Newcomers and Elmers Net this past Sunday had 38 check-ins and the topic was ATV. Prior weeks saw 38 for LV and VLF, 36 for History of Amateur Radio and 34 for Amateur Radio Websites.

#### Website:

- Rocky KE8DZS reported the new layout has been deployed. It is still a work in progress with the ultimate goal of only 2 clicks to get to everything.

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- He is also working on a Member's Only section to host meeting minutes, notes, membership directory, treasurer's reports, slide shows and reserve books from our library.

#### Digital Group

- Jerry W1SCR reported the largest turnout yet at the April meeting!
- The group meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month next door in St Bernard's Centennial Hall, 110 Washington Ave., St Bernard, OH 45217 at 7:00. The format is very open with many topics being discussed, so bring what you want to play with and show off.
- Jerry W1SCR also hinted at a possible project coming up.

#### QCEN:

- Pat KD8PAT reported the next meeting will be a week early due to Hamvention on Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:30, but stop by beforehand starting at 6:30 to play with the radios. Meetings are at the American Red Cross, 2111 Dana Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45207.
- They have reserved swap meet space at Hamvention and are willing to share with OH-KY-IN. Please let them know if you need some space to sell something. They request 10% to a max of \$30 on anything sold.
- You can also leave your large purchases with them and they will transport them back to Cincinnati for you for later pickup.
- They will also have a Red Cross vehicle on display at Hamvention for Friday and Saturday only.

ARES: Nothing reported.

#### Old Business

- The first ever OH-KY-IN Seminar went well with about 22 or 23 people in attendance for four great presentations. We will plan to do it again next year.

#### New Business

- Eric N8YC reported we are having Field Day, but there will be a separate planning meeting coming up sometime in May. There are no major changes expected. We will operate as class 3A again with SSB1 for phone, SSB2 for digital, a CW station and a GOTA station. Let's keep the momentum from last year going!
- Bruce N8BV reported that the next Brunch Bunch will be held on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 at Price Hill Chili, 4920 Glenway Avenue, Price Hill, Cincinnati.
- Bruce N8BV also reported OH-KY-IN has a beer booth at Red White and Blue Ash on Wednesday, July 4<sup>th</sup> at Summit Park in Blue Ash. Since he will be participating, someone else, possibly Robert AK3Q, will need to provide Amateur Radio Newline and Amateur News Weekly for the Tech Talk Net that night.

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- Mike KD8ZLB brought up that Steve Lewis N8TFD still needs about four more hams to operate the Flying Pig Marathon. Please contact Steve N8TFD at n8tfd@fuse.net if you can help in any way.
- Cesi KD8OOB brought up the possibility of OH-KY-IN hosting a booth at this year's Cincinnati Mini Maker Faire on Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at the Hamilton County Fair Grounds. Anyone interested in participating, please contact him at kd8oob@gmail.com.
- The question was brought up about the OH-KY-IN summer picnic. Robert AK3Q reported it was decided not to have a separate picnic from our Field Day cookout where family and friends are all invited. It will be at 6:00 on Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at Mitchell Memorial Forest.

Split the Pot: The pot held \$184 with \$92 going to Fred K9OHE who promptly donated it to the OH-KY-IN repeater fund. Thanks, Fred!

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Cesi DiBenedetto KD8OOB, Secretary.

## Hamilton County ARES & EmComm Notes

### Interview with Steve Lewis, N8TFD

by Justin Patrick Moore, KE8COY

To coincide with the big pig gig that occupied our Amateur airwaves here in Cincinnati from May 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>, I thought I would catch up with Steve Lewis, N8TFD, who organizes the ham radio communications for the race weekend. Steve Lewis got his ticket in 1992 and upgraded to extra class in 1996.

**KE8COY:** This year was the 20th Flying Pig Marathon. How long have you been organizing the ham radio communications support for the race and how did you get started doing so?

**N8TFD:** The first group of paid staff for the Flying Pig Marathon came from the Columbus Marathon. Back in 1998, those staff members asked the hams who provide support for that marathon (that's a coalition of the willing, coordinated by Central Ohio ARES) who they should engage in Cincinnati to get the same type of support. Through Red Cross work (specifically the 1997 flood, but other activities as well) COARES was acquainted with the Queen City Emergency Net and recommended us. As the Communications Manager of the group, I got the initial call to inquire about our availability in interest. A group of 10 of us carpooled up to Columbus to observe the 1998 Columbus Marathon to understand what we were getting into. After observation, we decided to "pitch" the idea to the larger group, and group decided to be the "coordinating" body for ham radio support here. I have been organizing our participation since Day One!

**KE8COY:** What challenges do you face in organizing communications for such an event?

We need a lot of volunteers -- more than any other \*scheduled\* event in the region. There are also a lot of types of radio traffic (event logistics, medical calls, etc.) all occurring simultaneously, most of which are very

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important at the time at which they occur.

**N8TFD:** What do you do when something unexpected crops up? Do you have a backup or secondary communications plan?

We always have a backup plan. It has been required in the past and we'll continue to tune it to be ready for the future!

**KE8COY:** How did the growth of the marathon this year -40,000 participants- effect the ham radio side of the volunteer operation?

**N8TFD:** It caused more radio traffic. More participants equals more logistical issues equals more conversation to work them out. But what it also did is emphasize and strengthen our relationship with our partners in emergency management and public safety.

**KE8COY:** What is on your wish list for next years race?

**N8TFD:** We have meaningful work for even more volunteers, if we can get/find them. It wouldn't be terrible if every volunteer owned some type of DMR HT, but we won't make that a requirement until that is close to reality. We have gotten a lot of feedback about volunteer training (conference call, a net, an in-person meeting?) as we were fortunate to have a high-percentage of ops who were new to the event.

**KE8COY:** How can volunteering for a marathon or bike ride prepare hams for unplanned events where their service may be needed?

**N8TFD:** The nature of an unplanned event is that the nature of the radio traffic will be very unplanned. We'll have no idea what's coming, and within that, what's more important and less important. The priorities and practices may well change during the event. That sometimes happens with the Pig and so it's a great exercise in learning to "adapt and overcome".

**KE8COY:** What other areas, activities or modes of amateur radio are you passionate and excited about?

**N8TFD:** I know that it's a source of controversy, but I have definitely embraced FT8. It's allowing some level of activity during an extended solar minimum. I operate voice, CW, and "data" on 6-160, and operate HF mobile on occasion. What I'm most passionate about is friendship through amateur radio...whether it's serving together at an event like the Pig or catching up with out-of-state friends at Dayton each year.

**KE8COY:** What is SLARC, how did it start and what are the requirements for membership?

**N8TFD:** SLARC is a lot like the TV show "Seinfeld". It's about nothing! Back in 2002, there was a need to form a communications team to support the final Dayton bikeMS 2-day bike tour. I was able to assemble a team from Dayton, Cincinnati, Springfield, and Columbus. Someone asked us what ham radio group we were, and there wasn't really a name for that. N8KOZ (Jeff Winkelman) coined the term "SLARC" (Steve Lewis Amateur Radio Club). It does not officially exist, and I generally have little input into the membership roster. The only semi-official activity is a Facebook group and a dinner or two during Dayton Hamvention each year (sometimes followed by a grillout at SLARC headquarters on Sunday.)

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If you didn't get a chance to work the pig this year, then no need to wallow in the mud. There are plenty of opportunities to help with other events this summer and on into the fall. Besides, it's never too early to put the Flying Pig on your calendar for next year. Steve always needs the help of willing amateurs to fill in spots along the course. And if you are new to ham radio or these types of events you can be paired with an elmer who will be there to show you the ropes on your first run.

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FEMA has released a new Damage Assessment Independent Study Course.

Damage Assessment Operations is a new online FEMA Emergency Management Institute (EMI) Independent Study (IS) course. This course will equip participants to conduct damage assessment in accordance with the *Damage Assessment Operations Manual: A Guide to Assessing Damage and Impact*. Objectives: Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to: 1. Describe the relationship between damage assessment and Federal disaster assistance 2. Describe roles, responsibilities, and activities during each phase of the damage assessment 3. Prepare to conduct damage assessment 4. Conduct damage assessment for Individual Assistance (IA) and Public Assistance (PA) 5. Evaluate damage and impact to the community.

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The Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) & Homeland Security agency make it easy for all residents to stay up to date and ready for any weather emergency. Just sign up for the "Alert HC" system. It is available for individual use and is free. Be ready for those times when the crick does rise. The service includes over 40 alert options so you can customize your notification system. Alerts can be received via text message, email or voice message. Alert HC is also paired up with a system called "Smart911," which allows you to share important information with first responders, so you don't have to figure it out during an actual emergency! With Smart911, both 9-1-1 call takers and first responders can know exactly what you want them to know during any kind of emergency. You can add vital information, such as: information about members of your household, medical details, disabilities and equipment, address and property details, as well as emergency contact information and communication preferences. Sign up for both at: <http://www.hamiltoncountyohioema.org/alerthc/>

Until next time, keep your batteries charged & aials up! 73.

## Field Day DMR Demo

As a technology demonstration for Field Day, I am making available a micro DMR repeater for use on the site by any amateur Technician or above. It is a Duplex MMDVM HS\_HAT on a Raspberry Pi 3 Model B. Feel free to program the codeplug for your DMR radio with the following information:

Frequency: 442.2500 Offset: +5 Mhz Color Code 1

Admit Criteria: Color Code

Allow Talkaround: Unselected

Static Talkgroups:

TS1: TG 3139 Ohio Statewide

TS1: TG 313953 South Ohio

TS2: TS 91 Worldwide

TS2: TG 3100 USA - Nationwide

TS2: Any other Brandmeister talkgroups are PTT.

David, NU8H

### A Creative Person's Journey Into Ham Radio, And The Warm Welcome I Received From Six Meters

I accept responsibility for Springs late arrival. You see, Winter Field Day gave me the cold shoulder. Heck, who am I kidding? Winter Field Day froze me out. I called CQ on 6 meters until I wasn't sure if I should be calling into the abyss of static that was overtaking my senses. I stopped calling and spun the dial in the hope of hearing some shift in the static that might be an indication there was life out there. I planned to call CQ again if I heard that longed for shift. As I spun the dial and listened to the static mocking me, my mind wandered to an old Arby's commercial that I once found funny. Six meters brought me to the point of empathy for that commercial's main character. I felt his pain as he ran through the empty streets of a big city screaming, "Where did everybody go?" They were, of course, at a great roast beef sandwich sale at Arbys. I began to wonder if the sun might be at that sale also.

My intent listening, and vivid imagination, allowed me to enter the Twilight Zone. The static began to sound like voices, far off voices who were desperately reaching for the CQ I had . . . wait a minute, I stopped calling CQ as I listened for a shift in the static. That couldn't be voices desperately reaching back. Were those the voices of disembodied spirits? The voices of Ancestors? Ra the Sun God laughing at me? Desperation? Had the static scrambled my brains like a dozen eggs in a frying pan? No, I am not over-estimating my intelligence by comparing my brain to a dozen eggs instead of a single serving, thank you very much! Oh, did I mention the static and lack of success also made me a little short-tempered?

Three months passed, and I was still shivering. I'm sorry you all had to shiver along with me as the freezing temperatures of six meters lingered long into Spring. I heard there was a faint sunspot visible on April 1, which might have been an April Fool's joke by the sun, but it did seem to tickle Spring's fancy. It doesn't seem to have improved radio propagation, but it apparently prompted Spring into tentatively inching toward us. Spring took its first toddling steps, looked to the sun to see if it should keep going, froze in its footsteps for a few more weeks, and finally, frustrated by the never-ending static it heard while it waited for a response, advanced from a toddle to a walk. Spring finally arrived – just in time for Summer Field Day.

Rhonda Partin-Sharp, KE8IFV

## The Exam Corner

By Steve Weeks, AA8SW

Continuous improvement in our knowledge and skills is a fundamental obligation of every radio amateur. So, it is natural that license class upgrades are an important part of the Amateur Radio experience. Contrary to most of the time that the amateur radio service has been in existence, the FCC now only awards three license levels, so only two upgrades are possible: from Technician to General, and General to Extra Class. This presents a remarkable opportunity for Tech licensees, since it is now possible to gain dramatically increased privileges with only one upgrade. The General license is now the sweet spot – I estimate that it provides 90% of the rights that Extra Class Hams have, compared to perhaps 20% for Technicians. General Class opens up the traditional Amateur Radio experience, with the opportunity to “work the world” and utilize almost the entire spectrum of modes and frequencies that are allocated to radio amateurs. You can disagree with my percentages, which are just my opinion, but it is beyond dispute that General licensees now get the vast majority of the maximum privileges given to Extra Class Hams. It is a great deal that every Tech should consider.

I maintain that almost anyone holding a Technician license can upgrade to General with a very reasonable amount of effort – far less effort than many believe. Why do I say that? Because the FCC has established rules that are so much in your favor:

1. The exam is multiple choice, with only four answers per question, and no penalty for guessing.
2. The passing score is only 74%. And you can re-take the exam as many times as necessary.
3. You only have to do it once in a lifetime – there are no continuing education or re-testing requirements.
4. And most importantly, they tell us all of the possible questions in advance!

Of course OHKYIN offers excellent classes for those desiring to upgrade, but many people fail to take advantage of them. Maybe you are too busy to take an entire night for a class each week, or you are uncomfortable in a classroom situation, or you prefer a slower and less intense approach than weekly classes, or you just didn't realize until now how close the General is to full amateur privileges and how worthwhile it is to pursue, or you have test-taking anxiety. In any case, this column is an experiment, to cut out as much extraneous information as possible and focus on the knowledge needed to pass the test, with an important component being to gain familiarity with the actual questions that will appear on the test. I can assure you, from personal experience, that there is nothing like going into an exam session and thinking, I know that one, and that one, and that one, over and over, because I have seen them before. Exam anxiety is banished! There are also online practice tests to take before the real thing so you will know when you are ready and be confident. You can do this!

This column is not just for Techs, though. All of us who hold General and above licenses can benefit from refreshing our knowledge. If there is interest, this will be a continuing series until the entire volume of General exam material has been covered.

The subject this time is Safety in the Ham Shack. I will briefly discuss what you need to know about an aspect of that subject, then show you the only exam questions that could appear on that aspect, and follow each one with a hint as to how you can remember the right answer. The correct answer is in **bold**.

- The National Electrical Code governs electrical safety (in the shack and everywhere else).

GOB14 Which of the following is covered by the National Electrical Code?

- A. Acceptable bandwidth limits
- B. Acceptable modulation limits
- C. Electrical safety inside the ham shack**
- D. RF exposure limits of the human body

*Hint: the key word is “electrical”, which appears in both the question and the answer. That will be a recurring theme.*

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- Wires are sized by gauge (AWG). Smaller gauge numbers denote larger wires. Residential wall outlets are usually on 15 amp. circuits which require 14 gauge wire – or 20 amp. circuits which require 12 gauge wiring.

G0B02 What is the minimum wire size that may be safely used for a circuit that draws 20 amperes of continuous current?

- A. AWG number 20
- B. AWG number 16
- C. AWG number 12**
- D. AWG number 8

G0B03 Which size of fuse or circuit breaker would be appropriate to use with a circuit that uses AWG number 14 wiring?

- A. 100 amperes
- B. 60 amperes
- C. 30 amperes
- D. 15 amperes**

*Hint: The correct answers have to be 15 or 20 amps. or #12 or #14 wire. If you know that, you will get these questions right even if you forget which of the two wire sizes goes with which amperage. Remember, these are the only two questions that can ever appear on the test on this subject – you do not have to learn a whole list of wire sizes and capacities.*

- In addition to the wires that carry the current, heavy-duty electrical wiring always includes a ground wire. The ground wire must be present at all times for safety, so no fuse is ever placed in a ground wire (if the fuse blew, it would disconnect the ground wire). The ground wire should never carry any current and if any current leaks to the ground wire, it is called a “ground fault” and triggers any GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) that is in place.

G0B01 Which wire or wires in a four-conductor connection should be attached to fuses or circuit breakers in a device operated from a 240 VAC single phase source?

- A. Only the two wires carrying voltage**
- B. Only the neutral wire
- C. Only the ground wire
- D. All wires

*Hint: No fuses are ever used in ground wires. Key words “carrying voltage”.*

G0B05 Which of the following conditions will cause a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) to disconnect the 120 or 240 Volt AC line power to a device?

- A. Current flowing from one or more of the voltage-carrying wires to the neutral wire
- B. Current flowing from one or more of the voltage-carrying wires directly to ground**
- C. Overvoltage on the voltage-carrying wires
- D. All of these choices are correct

*Hint: a ground fault is a fault to the ground (a current flowing in the ground wire). Same key words “voltage carrying”*

- The metal case of all equipment in the shack must be grounded for safety – otherwise you could get a dangerous shock if the equipment malfunctions. All ground connections must be tied (“bonded”) together – this includes lightning safety grounds on antenna lines. Also, metal equipment cases often contain “interlocks” which automatically disconnect the power to the equipment when the case is opened, for safety.

G0B06 Why must the metal enclosure of every item of station equipment be grounded?

- A. It prevents a blown fuse in the event of an internal short circuit
- B. It prevents signal overload
- C. It ensures that the neutral wire is grounded
- D. It ensures that hazardous voltages cannot appear on the chassis**

*Hint: the key word is “hazardous”.*

(Continued on page 13)

G0B11 Which of the following is good practice for lightning protection grounds?

- A. They must be bonded to all buried water and gas lines
- B. Bends in ground wires must be made as close as possible to a right angle
- C. Lightning grounds must be connected to all ungrounded wiring
- D. They must be bonded together with all other grounds**

*Hint: tie all grounds together. Key words are "bonded together".*

G0B12 What is the purpose of a power supply interlock?

- A. To prevent unauthorized changes to the circuit that would void the manufacturer's warranty
- B. To shut down the unit if it becomes too hot
- C. To ensure that dangerous voltages are removed if the cabinet is opened**
- D. To shut off the power supply if too much voltage is produced

*Hint: the key word is "dangerous".*

- Hams often use emergency generators to power their equipment, or even their entire houses. And every year people die from carbon monoxide poisoning due to improper use of generators – which must be in a well-ventilated area. If you use a generator to power your entire house, using your house wiring and not just plugging something directly into the generator, you must disconnect the house wiring from the incoming utility power feed so you don't send power back into the grid and kill a neighbor or utility worker.

G0B13 What must you do when powering your house from an emergency generator?

- A. Disconnect the incoming utility power feed**
- B. Insure that the generator is not grounded
- C. Insure that all lightning grounds are disconnected
- D. All of these choices are correct

*Hint: note that the question relates to powering your entire house (through your internal electrical lines), not just plugging a device directly into a generator. This could be confusing but the other answers are silly so it should not be a problem -- just remember the key words "utility power feed".*

G0B04 Which of the following is a primary reason for not placing a gasoline-fueled generator inside an occupied area?

- A. Danger of carbon monoxide poisoning**
- B. Danger of engine over torque
- C. Lack of oxygen for adequate combustion
- D. Lack of nitrogen for adequate combustion

G0B15 Which of the following is true of an emergency generator installation?

- A. The generator should be located in a well-ventilated area**
- B. The generator must be insulated from ground
- C. Fuel should be stored near the generator for rapid refueling in case of an emergency
- D. All of these choices are correct

*Hint: take note unless you want to die. These last two are obvious answers but a serious problem if ignored.*

- Soldering is an effective way of permanently joining two wires, but here are two cautions: avoid solder that contains lead, due to toxicity, and do not solder any connection in a grounding system since lightning would melt the solder and break the connection.

(Continued from page 13)

GOB09 Why should soldered joints not be used with the wires that connect the base of a tower to a system of ground rods?

- A. The resistance of solder is too high
- B. Solder flux will prevent a low conductivity connection
- C. Solder has too high a dielectric constant to provide adequate lightning protection

**D. A soldered joint will likely be destroyed by the heat of a lightning strike**

*Hint: the wrong answers are silly. This is fairly common on the test. If you don't know an answer, first see if there is only one answer that makes sense – if you can't eliminate all three incorrect ones, try to use common sense to eliminate one or two wrong answers before guessing. Do not leave any questions blank because there is no penalty for guessing.*

GOB10 Which of the following is a danger from lead-tin solder?

**A. Lead can contaminate food if hands are not washed carefully after handling the solder**

- B. High voltages can cause lead-tin solder to disintegrate suddenly
- C. Tin in the solder can "cold flow" causing shorts in the circuit
- D. RF energy can convert the lead into a poisonous gas

*Hint: this is a tricky one since (D) is almost true but it's heat rather than RF that can do that. So go with the food answer – we know that we don't want lead in food.*

- For anyone who is fortunate enough to have a tower and is young and strong enough to climb it himself or herself – basic safety rules include using a safety harness with the right specs. for years in service and your weight; and be sure everything that sends power to the tower is locked down so no one can activate it accidentally while you are up there.

GOB07 Which of these choices should be observed when climbing a tower using a safety belt or harness?

- A. Never lean back and rely on the belt alone to support your weight
- B. Confirm that the belt is rated for the weight of the climber and that it is within its allowable service life**
- C. Ensure that all heavy tools are securely fastened to the belt D-ring
- D. All of these choices are correct

*Hint: this is another tricky one since all of the answers are plausible, just think of the unique language "service life".*

GOB08 What should be done by any person preparing to climb a tower that supports electrically powered devices?

- A. Notify the electric company that a person will be working on the tower
- B. Make sure all circuits that supply power to the tower are locked out and tagged**
- C. Unground the base of the tower
- D. All of these choices are correct

*Hint: key word is "locked".*

That's the end of the first installment! One question on the exam is guaranteed to come from the list above.

Is this a useful effort that should be continued, or just a waste of space in the Q-Fiver? Let us know! Contact me at aa8sw@att.net, or Robert at ak3q@ak3q.com.

## Ham - Amateur Radio or Pork Products ?

### My First Hamvention as a Ham

I have only been a Technician Class Amateur Radio Operator for a few months. When I first became an operator, I thought HAM was an acronym for something about Ham Radio, such as possibly Harbingers of Aerial Media (lol). I was quickly corrected when I kept writing HAM like an acronym in all capital letters on social media.

As I tried to figure out where the term Ham came from, I found myself being perpetually corrected. I have many friends who are vegetarians. They quickly corrected me when they thought attending Hamvention meant I was attending a festival designed to celebrate the culinary conquests of their little pink friends. I quickly corrected them, only to discover that the pork chop sandwich was one of the favored dishes of those in attendance. Did I lie to my friends?

My suspicions became even greater when my husband, an Extra Class Ham, shared the story of a previous Hamvention where activists protested in defense of their little pink friends. Some Ham Radio Operators met the activists and explained the correct reason for our gathering. I bet they didn't mention the pork chop sandwiches.

My suspicions escalated when my husband, driving his scooter like a maniac, almost hit Hammy at the 2018 Hamvention (I must emphasize they were joking around before the activists knock on our door). As Hammy stood in front of him like a pig caught in the headlights, my husband asked, "What would have happened if I would have hit you?" Hammy's answer was, "You would have dinner for a month." We got out of there before the activists returned.

I live in Cincinnati, which used to be called Porkopolis. Our local economy began with the production of pork products. Due to this, we have an annual race called the Flying Pig Marathon – and Ham Radio Operators work at that marathon every year. My suspicions are growing that the activists may be right – not that anyone really gives a flying . . . pig, yes, pig!

I shared my comestible suspicions in an art class, only to be corrected again. A classmate said, "Naw, it must mean hamming it up, because you are perfect for the job. You are a Ham." Well, yes, now I am, thank you for noticing!

But that still doesn't mean I know where the term Ham came from.

"What does Ham mean?" Even Wikipedia gives a list of possible and conflicting etymologies, followed by a list of equal length that lists false etymologies. Therefore, I still don't really know where the term Ham came from. Since I am often corrected for talking too softly on the air, it probably means Hushed and Muted in my case - I don't talk often enough and talk too softly when I do.

If you can't beat 'em, join 'em. This time I'm going to correct myself by trying to talk more often and louder when I do, because I am a Ham! (whatever that means).

Rhonda Partin-Sharp, KE8IFV



## ARRL Field Day Reminder

The OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society will proudly be conducting its annual ARRL Field Day event on Saturday and Sunday, 23 and 24 June 2018 at our usual Mitchell Memorial Forest location. Setup will be on Friday, 22 Jun starting at 2pm (24 hours before actual operation). Please come on down to the park for a weekend full of amateur radio at its best! Field Day is a yearly operating event that starts at 2PM on Saturday and concludes at 2PM on Sunday.

As Field Day Chair I am honored that our Club conducts THE best Field Day operation in the area. With the hard work of so many of you throughout the years, planning each year's event gets a little easier every time. That's due to the fact that we've gotten so good at this that there is very little we need, or would like to change. So this year, we will once again go forward with our same planning as the last few years, but of course, it is an open discussion. Suggestions and comments are always welcome.

We will again be operating five stations:

SSB Station 1: 10,15,20,40,80M  
Digital/SSB Station 2: 10,15,20,40,80M  
CW Station, 20 and 40M  
6 Meter/VHF/UHF Station  
GOTA (Get on the Air Station)

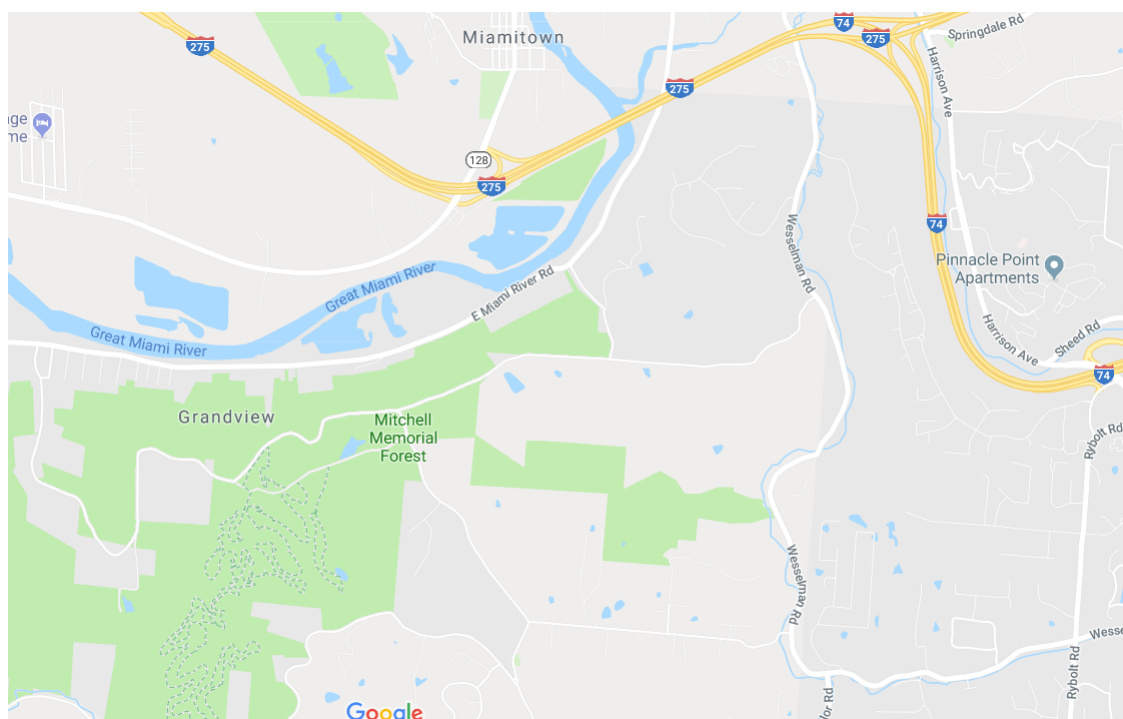
We will also have demonstrations for our bonus points in Solar, Satellite/Digital/APRS and National Traffic System operations among others. If there is any amateur radio technology you would like to bring out to demo, this is the perfect place!

Field Day is a great annual event geared to veteran and beginner operators alike, and of all ages. Anyone, regardless of their skills are free to sign up for any station and there is always someone available to help you along. The GOTA station is a great place for those interested in amateur radio (but have not yet been licensed) to get introduced to the fun of what most often becomes a lifelong hobby!

Come out and join us for a great time of fun, food and camaraderie. The annual Field Day Picnic will start at 6pm on Saturday with burgers, metts, brats, dogs, and snacks. Please bring a side dish or a desert to help build the feast. Bring your friends and family out to see what's going on and to join us for the fun! Also, please feel free to pitch a tent Friday and/or Saturday night and stay the whole weekend if you like...a good number of us have been doing it for years. There is nothing better than the sound of QSOs through the night having a duel with the crickets!

I will have signup sheets available for all stations at the June Membership Meeting. If you would like to sign up and can't make the meeting, just contact me and I'll get you on the roster.

Visit the ARRL's website for a wealth of information on Field Day at: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>



## Foxhunts and ARDF

The monthly foxhunt in May consisted of a 5 transmitter ARDF style hunt on 80 meters, set by Addison Bosley KJ4VCV. The event was held in Bicentennial park, part of Mt Airy forest. Each of the 5 80 meter transmitters, or beacons, transmitted for one minute in sequence, so there was only one on at a time and each transmitter was on in a five minute period. Participating in this hunt was:

Marji KJ4ZKC

Pat KD8PAT

Bill KA8TWB

Dick WB4SUV

Bob WA6EZV

Brian K4BRI

Matthew AA9YH

A light rain did not stop anyone and we all had a good time, found some transmitters, and tried to remember how our equipment works.

The next hunt will be on Saturday, June 9th starting from Mt Storm Park in Clifton. Someone will be listening on 146.670 before the hunt if you need directions. You can ride along with someone if you don't want to try it right away, or at least see how we set up and hunt.

73—Brian, K4BRI

### *Dayton Hamvention Foxhunt:*

On and off rain the entire day caused not just an early exodus from the convention for many on Saturday but it also kept away several of the fox hunters as threatening storms and lightening were projected to hit near the time of the foxhunt. This forced us to limit the hunt to 30 minutes. Hardly enough time to find the 33 transmitters that were hidden in the park. Those intrepid few that decided to hunt had a good time and we finished just before the rain.

A total of seven teams participated.

Many thanks to the ARRL, and NQ1R, Bob Inderbitzen, for providing nice \$50 gift certificates to the winners.

Bob, WA6EZV

## Brunch Bunch

**The next Brunch Bunch will be held Saturday, June 9th, at 1pm. The location for June is The Cabana on the River located at 7445 Forbes Road in Sayler Park. The Cabana is located along the banks of the Ohio River a very short distance off River Road (U.S. 50). The Brunch Bunch visits the Cabana on the River at least once a year and we always have a great time there.**

**If you enjoy eating outdoors in a casual, fun, friendly atmosphere, The Cabana on the River is the place for you. Once a local secret, it has become a westside hotspot. Our menu includes a wide variety of mouth-watering appetizers, salads, sandwiches and dinner favorites.**

**You can find a map as well as the menu at:**  
[www.cabanaontheriver.com](http://www.cabanaontheriver.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



May Brunch Bunch at Price Hill Chili

# June 2018 DX Spots de KA3MTT

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 S9ZZ - Sao Tome & Principe thru 6-9	2 OG0C - Aland Is thru 6-6
						
3	4	5 9X2AW - Rwanda Thru 6-24	6 VP9 - Bermuda thru 6-16	7 TE6DX - Costa Rica Thru 6-11 ----- FO - Fr. Polynesia Thru 6-17	8 KH8 - American Samoa thru 6-10	9
						
10	11 5W - Samoa thru 6-13	12	13 VP5 - Turks & Caicos Thru 6-25 ----- KH8 - American Samoa thru 6-17	14 J3 - Grenada thru 6-28	15	16
						
17	18	19	20	21 H44XG - Solomon Is Thru 6-27	22	23
						
24 BW - Taiwan thru 6-30	25	26 KH1 - Baker & Howland Is Thru 7-6	27 OJ0Y - Market Reef Thru 6-29	28	29	30
						

#### 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, June 5th at 7:30 PM

Program:

## History of Amateur Radio By Dave Core K8WDA

#### OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

