

# Q-FIVER

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



## President's Corner

I would like to say "Thank You" to the club, the Board of Directors, and the members and leaders of other clubs who made my stay as club President both rewarding and enjoyable. There was a real team effort this year as we expanded not only our membership, but also our activities with other amateurs in the Tri-State area.

Thank you to the Board for being proactive and for showing their care and enthusiasm for the club. Thank you to our members for their support and their welcoming spirit as we added new **active** members to our ranks. I have been particularly encouraged by our new members jumping in to help with things like Field Day, Hamfest, the Observatory special event, and more.

And I would like to thank QCEN for their willingness to work together on several projects, and we look forward to more combined activities in the coming year. They are a great group with which to be partnered, and of course their support of our education outreach is greatly appreciated. Here's to even more growth for both our clubs in the coming year!

As we look forward in the new year, I could not be more pleased with the slate of officers we have serving the club. Our new President is going to do an excellent job, as is our new Vice-President and our new Director. All three men have demonstrated an incredible commitment to the club, and this will only increase as they work in their respective roles for the health and growth of the club.

The returning officers have already demonstrated their ability to keep our club strong and healthy, and I only expect such excellence to continue. We are blessed to have such capable and caring people at the helm in the coming year. I hope you will join me in supporting them, encouraging them, and thanking them for their service to us.

And finally, I would like to thank each of you for being supportive of me as your President this year. It has been my honor to serve, and I look forward to contributing in new ways in the coming year.

With deep appreciation, Robert AK3Q

## 2019 Board of Directors

### *President*

Ryan Owens AC8UJ .....

### *Vice President*

Cesi DiBenedetto KD8OQB .....(513) 505-9782 ..... kd8oob@gmail.com

### *Secretary*

George Gardei N3VQW .....

### *Treasurer*

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

### *Directors*

Bruce Vanselow N8BV .....(513) 251-1555 ..... n8bvbruce@gmail.com

Mike Niehaus KD8ZLB .....

Dennis McGrath KD8ILY .....(513) 207-9472 ..... mcgratd@yahoo.com

### *Trustee/Licensee*

Bruce Vanselow N8BV .....(513) 251-1555 ..... n8bvbruce@gmail.com

### *Past President*

Robert Gulley AK3Q.....(859) 638-0374 ..... ak3q@ak3q.com



### 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 & 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 R Kaucher KK4KRK

Howard Hunt NG8P

Fred Schneider K9OHE

Roger Higley W8CRK

Dan Curtin KF4AV

Steve Weeks AA8SW

Kelly Hoffman, K8KAH

Cindy Shipp, KB8WEI

Jerry Shipp, W1SCR

## 2019 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 ..... Justin Moore KE8COY  
 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 ..... Bryan Hoffman KC8EGV  
 Tech Talk Net Mgr .....Bruce Vanselow N8BV  
 K8SCH QSL Mgr ..... Bob Frey WA6EZV  
 TV/RFI ..... Dick Arnett WB4SUV  
 HamFest ..... Gary Coffey KB8MYC

*The January foxhunt has been moved to January 19th, and will be a 2 meter ARDF style hunt to be held at Mt Airy forest, meet at the lodge at the end of Dulmar Ridge Rd. Starts begin at 10 AM*

## January Calendar

Wed Jan 2	9:00 PM	Tech Talk, NCS Robert AK3Q
Sun Jan 6	6:30 PM	Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: <b>Grounding and Bonding</b>
Tue Jan 8	7:30 PM	Club Meeting in St Bernard—This is the Second Tuesday of January
Wed Jan 9	9:00 PM	Tech Talk, NCS Eric N8YC
Sat Jan 12	1:00 PM	Brunch Bunch at <b>Santorini Restaurant, 3414 Harrison Avenue</b>
Sun Jan 13	6:30 PM	Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: <b>Simple, Reliable Antennas</b>
Wed Jan 16	9:00 PM	Tech Talk, NCS Dale, KC8HQS
Sat Jan 19	10:00 AM	Monthly ARDF Foxhunt—starting from the lodge at the end of Dulmar Ridge Rd in Mt Airy
Sun Jan 20	6:30 PM	Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: <b>Good/Bad Repeater and Net Manners</b>
Wed Jan 23	9:00 PM	Tech Talk, NCS George N3VQW
Sun Jan 27	6:30 PM	Newcomers/Elmers Net, 146.67, Topic: <b>Remote Operating - Not Just for the Big Fishes!</b>
Tue Jan 29	7:00 PM	Board of Directors meeting at My Neighbor's place –3150 Harrison Ave.
Wed Jan 30	9:00 PM	Tech Talk

## December 4th 2018 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM by Robert AK3Q with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests:

- Douglas
- Andrew
- Bob Garfield W8MRG – President of QCEN
  - Next QCEN meeting is on Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup> and will be a Show-and-Tell
  - QCEN will again host OH-KY-IN for a joint Winter Field Day at the American Red Cross on Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup>.

Broke for pizza at 7:34 PM

Meeting resumed at 8:00 PM

Self Introductions: 51

Brag Sessions:

- Rocky KE8DZS informed us that his dad, Dennis KD8ILY, is retiring at the end of the year and we are all invited to his retirement celebration at Stump's Bowling Lanes, 5536 Bridgetown Road, Cincinnati, OH on January 4<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:00 PM. Bowling and shoe rentals are covered.
- Cesi KD8OOB has put up a second HF antenna, a G5RV, and will be performing some testing between it and the attic antenna.
- Robert AK3Q and Bob WA6EZV informed us that Cesi KD8OOB found all five foxes in last month's ARDF-style fox hunt, his first time!
- Kitty W8TDA worked all but three states on a single band in Worked All States CW.
- Andrew is a new tech and a new member of OH-KY-IN! Congratulations and welcome!
- Bob WA6EZV informed us that Eric N8YC and crew made the clean sweep for OH-KY-IN this year for the ARRL November Phone Sweeps!

Membership: 149 with some new members tonight.

Elections: Fred K9OHE moved that since there were no new nominations after the nominating committee's recommendations were received and nominations were closed at the November meeting, and that the club by-laws do not allow for additional nominations after they have been closed, that the club unanimously accept the nominations as received. The motion passed. Congratulations to our newly elected officers!

President – Ryan Owens AC8UJ  
Vice President – Cesi DiBenedetto KD8OOB  
Secretary – George Gardei N3VQW  
Treasurer – Brian DeYoung K4BRI  
Director – Mike Niehaus KD8ZLB

Bruce Vanselow N8BV and Dennis McGrath KD8ILY will continue to serve on the board in their current director roles.

Award:

- New Life Members
  - Cindy Shipp KB8WEI
  - Jerry Shipp W1SCR
  - Steve Weeks AA8SW
  - Fred Schneider K9OHE
  - Dan Curtin KF4AV
  - Roger Higley W8CRK
- Meritorious Service
  - Justin Moore KE8COY
  - Mike Niehaus KD8ZLB
- Ham of the Year
  - Cesi DiBenedetto KD8OOB

Congratulations to all!

Brunch Bunch: Bruce N8BV told us that December's Brunch Bunch will be held on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM at Price Hill Chili, 4920 Glenway Ave., Cincinnati OH.

Split the Pot: The pot held \$280 with \$140 going to Bob N8JMV.

Door Prizes:

- 2-band HT Antenna: Bob N8JMV
- Hard-shell Case: Simon KC8NMP
- 2018 ARRL Handbook: Brian KB9SOG
- MFJ 945D Mobile Tuner: Mike KD8TMO
- SDR receiver bundle: Mike KD8ZLB
- SDR receiver bundle: Brian K4BRI

- Yaesu FT-70DR/DE HT: Bob WA6EZV
- Yaesu FT-70DR/DE HT: Ed N8ALN

The next meeting will be held at our usual location, but on the **second** Tuesday of January due to New Year's Day. So Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM at the Saint Bernard Municipal Building at 120 Washington Ave.

Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and Happy New Year to all!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Cesi DiBenedetto KD8OOB, Secretary.

## Brunch Bunch

**The first Brunch Bunch in the year 2019 will be held Saturday, January 12th, at 1pm.**

**The location for January is Santorini Restaurant located at 3414 Harrison Avenue in Cheviot. The restaurant is near the corner of Harrison Avenue and North Bend Road. Santorini Restaurant is a Mom and Pop type place.**

**You can take a look at the menu at:**

**[places.singleplatform.com/santorini-8/menu](https://places.singleplatform.com/santorini-8/menu)**

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

# FULL 2018 Field Day Results

The Numbers and Analysis, GREAT JOB by ALL!

To All,

In late November, the ARRL posted the full 2018 Field Day results and with great pride I announce our scores and standings. You can use the Results Database to search by whatever category or section you wish at [http://www.arrl.org/results-database?event\\_id=102134](http://www.arrl.org/results-database?event_id=102134)

While our score and QSOs went down from last year, we maintained our past standings. What's interesting is that overall, with 63 fewer Field Day events this year, we went up from 87 to 82 (OUT OF 2902)! With our consistent standings from year to year, whether #1 in OH or #2 in GL, vice versa or both each and every year, or even a rare number 3, everyone can be extremely proud of what an Oh-Ky-In Field Day is all about!

We have a formula for success in the 3A category and we are tweeking it every year to fine tune the results. This year, we took a significant effort to increase emphasis on the Digital modes. There were some challenges and with new guidance from the ARRL and others on FT8 Field Day operation we can expect great improvement next year. However the Digital station is a collaboration that will continually evolve, and on multiple modes.

But as we tweek, other things have to be shifted around. Because of increased emphasis on Digital, SSB Phone took a hit this year in manning and Op time. It is my job next year to keep SSB manned 24 hours and bring our SSB scores up. So especially for you night owls, we can use your help! If we can get this done, the formula will be complete! But as the saying goes...never say never!

Below are the results from this year followed by last year's results for comparison:

## **2018 Results**

Total Score: 7,744 Total QSOs: 2,036

In the category 3A in the Ohio Section: 1 out of 16! (Beating Dial RC by only 18 points)

In the category 3A in the Great Lakes Division: 2 out of 35! (But Oakland County ARS beat us by a whopping 1,235 points)

In the category 3A for Field Day overall: 17 out of 346!

All categories in the Ohio Section: 7 out of 138!

All categories in the Great Lakes Division: 11 out of 272 (Interesting to note exact same number of events this year from last)

ALL categories for Field Day OVERALL, out of 2902 Field Day Events this year we were 82!

## **2017 Results for Comparison**

Total Score: 7,956 Total QSOs: 2,271

In the category 3A in the Ohio Section: 1 out of 21

In the category 3A in the Great Lakes Division: 2 out of 41

In the category 3A for Field Day overall: 20 out of 321

All categories in the Ohio Section: 7 out of 142

All categories in the Great Lakes Division: 8 out of 272

ALL categories for Field Day overall. Out of 2965, we were 87.

Thanks to all for another great Oh-Ky-In Field Day!

Eric, N8YC

## New Year's Resolutions and Amateur Radio

Are you big on New Year's Resolutions? Normally, I'm not. I find that I don't follow through with them throughout the year and if I really want to change, today is as good a day as any. But last year, I resolved to become a better amateur radio operator and I made a list of things I wanted to do. I found this fun throughout the year as I pursued my goals. Looking back on last year, I feel a sense of accomplishment.

Why a list of resolutions or goals for amateur radio? Like any acquired skill, stretching yourself makes you better at what you're doing. Just as ramping up mileage makes you a stronger runner or playing against a higher ranked player makes you better at chess. Stretching your amateur operating abilities helps you to become a better overall operator. And having a list helps you focus on selected activities instead of being attracted to the next shiny thing.

What kind of goals? For 2018, I had three goals: Work the CW Station for Field Day, Work Weak Signal Modes and Perform Satellite Operations. I completed all three goal and found them so enjoyable that I've added them to my regular operating practice. For 2019, I am planning four goals: Make my first CW QSO, make a satellite contact for Summer Field Day, get WAS via FT8 and activate a SOTA.

I recommend picking two or three activities to concentrate on for 2019. Here are some ideas:

- Enter a contest – There are plenty of radio sports to participate in throughout the year with a variety of modes and categories. Try and find something that speaks to you and try it out. You may not make the top of the list, but being on the list can be satisfying.
- Partake in an ARDF Foxhunt – OH-KY-IN has ARDF Foxhunts every other month at regional parks. There is plenty of loaner equipment available and several foxes that are setup for the novice. Come on out and see what the fun is all about.
- Activate a SOTA – SOTA, or Summits On The Air, is form of portable operation where the amateur activates one of many designated peaks. There are several in the Cincinnati Tri-State area, including a parking lot next to the Mount Airy Water Tower.
- SWL – There are plenty of shortwave stations out there for the listening. Listening to remote shortwave stations can teach you about radio propagation, and only requires a shortwave receiver and a long wire.
- Satellite Operations – We seem to be in a golden age of satellite operation, with plenty of FM and linear birds to work and new satellites on seemingly every rocket launch. All you need is a good HT, one of several commercial or homebrew beam antennas and tracking software and you're on your way.
- Digital Modes – FT8 is not the only digital mode. Some people don't like it as it is a canned QSO, but PSK31 is still alive and well as an alternative that allows for keyboard-to-keyboard contact. Many of the newer HF rigs have a built-in computer interfaces, but using an older transceiver is possible with an external computer interface. There are plenty of interfaces on the market and even several kits to build your own. And the software to operate once you have the interface is available for all three major operating systems.
- Learn CW – The "original digital mode," CW/Morse code is alive and well on the ham bands. CW give you more "bang for the buck" as it concentrates your transmitting power to a smaller bandwidth. There are plenty of resources available to help, such as apps for smartphones and browsers, websites and code practice files from the ARRL and RSGB. CW also helps with just plain listening skills, helping you to extract more signal from the noise, even on the phone modes.



- Explore the Magic Band – The 6m band is referred to as the “magic band” as it exhibits both HF and VHF characteristics, making it a fun band to operate. Antennas are reasonable in size (about 9’ for a ½ wave dipole or about 4’ 6” for a vertical) with several available on the market and many plans to build your own. Just make sure your transceiver can operate on the band.
- Build a Kit – Dust off the soldering iron and assemble a kit. There are so many fun kits out on the market to be built for all skill levels and to fit any niche in the shack. You will definitely feel a sense of accomplishment when you power on your assembled kit and see it come to life!
- Restore Old Equipment – Go and find a nice piece of vintage radio equipment at a hamfest or off eBay that isn’t working and restore it. With modern search engines and the Web, it’s much easier today to find service manuals online for radios and search for the parts needed to repair them. Buy the radio at low cost, fix it up and sell it and then buy another and keep the cycle going. You can even find vacuum tubes for these old boat anchors as new old stock on the internet and have them shipped right to you.
- Volunteer – Our hobby offers plenty of opportunities to volunteer our service. Look into getting ARES and/or SkyWarn training. Work communications for a community event like the Flying Pig Marathon or the CF Bike Ride. OH-KY-IN also offers volunteer opportunities: Winter and Summer Field Day, special event stations and meeting presentations Open committee chair positions and club officers are all open to club members.
- Get On The Air – Its surprising how the dead band during this solar minimum seem to light up during contests. Get on the air and light those bands up! You won’t regret it.

There are so many aspects to our hobby that, unless you take some time to concentrate on each one, you’ll never learn them all. By resolving to concentrate on a few skills over the entire year, you will discover new aspects to the hobby, add new tools to your skillset and improve your existing skills, making you a more accomplished amateur operator.

73 and Happy Holidays!

Cesi KD800

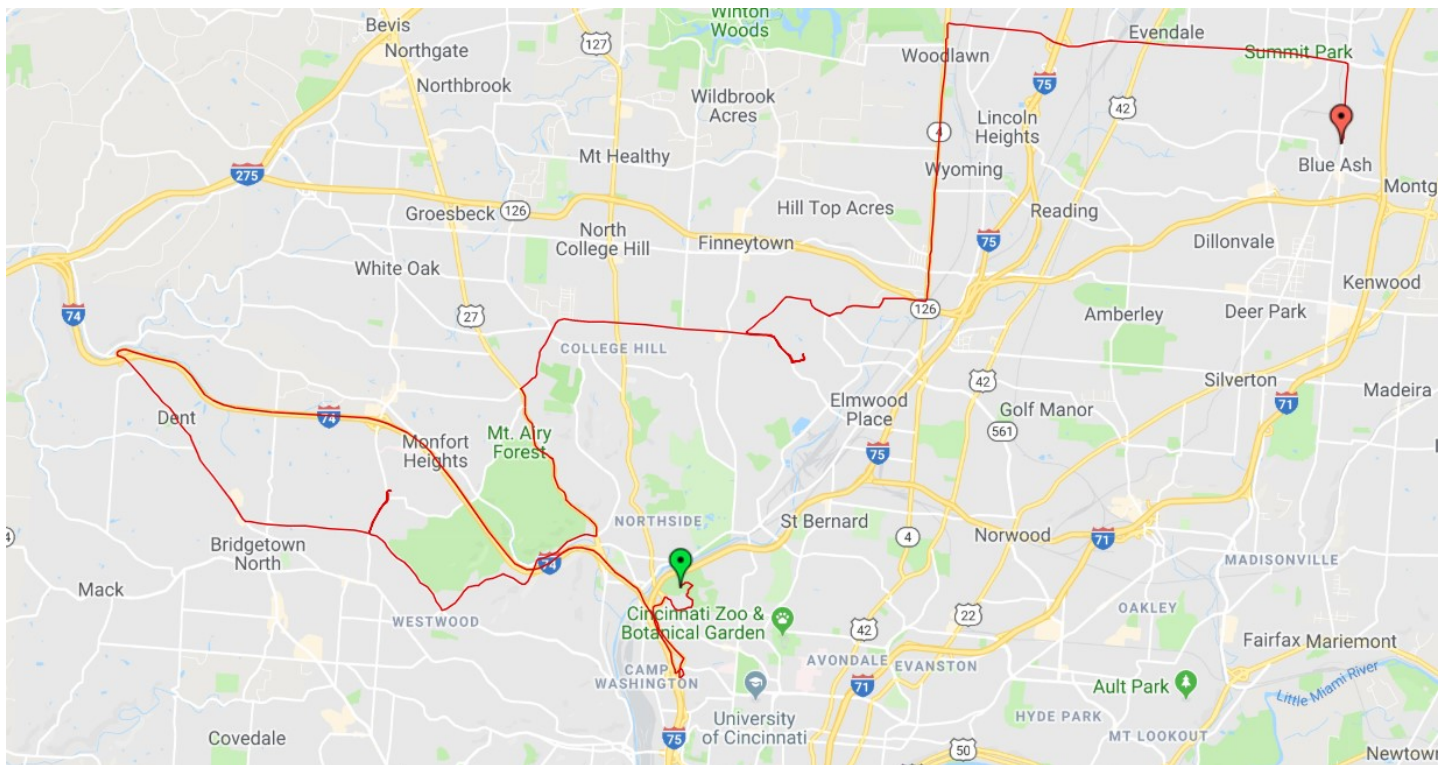
## Foxhunting and ARDF

I am not sure if I have done a worse job on a Foxhunt—so many things were wrong. But it was a nice day and I got to see friends, so I can at least grasp at something positive.

Our initial bearing from Mt Storm Park showed 270 degrees (totally wrong in hindsight) so we decided to head west on 74 until we heard a cross bearing and could narrow it out some. We got on I74 and headed out past Mt Airy until we could get some elevation and get a clearer signal. We had the issue in the car (again) where there was a regular interfering signal on all of 2m that made me think we were going in the right direction when in fact we were not. After we passed North Bend I disconnected our setup and went with a simple receiver direct to the antenna and we started searching again. No signal at all out there, so we got off 74 and headed back on Harrison Ave. We would get a few weak signals that told us we were getting closer (but we weren't) After getting on Westwood Northern Blvd and passing McFarlan Woods we turned on Montana and started getting real signals, so AhHa! We are close (nope). We passed 74 and went over to Mt Airy and it totally dropped out. What the heck? We got on North Bend from Colerain and headed east. A few signals came in but not much, so we continued east, arriving at Rt 4 and we headed North. We got up by Glendale Milford Rd and the car was running out of gas and we had too much coffee in us so we stopped at a Speedway and was ready to call it a day, but I have a real aversion to quitting. I texted Phil and got a clue and we resumed our merry way. Kept heading east, crossed 75 and kept going towards 71—well now we were getting real signals and the radio was working like we thought it should. When we got to Kenwood road it said straight south so we headed down until we saw the tell-tale red F150 and we were there.






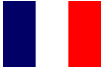

I have said a few times that I need to make a new beam (or 2) and run new coax because of issues I have had—well I will not do another mobile hunt until I make all new stuff. Anyone who wants to make a beam with me let me know.

73—Brian, K4BRI and the one who knows much more than me, Marji KJ4ZKC



Wow did I ever go wrong. K4BRI's route

# January 2019 DX Spots de KA3MTT

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
KH0TG - Mariana Is Thru 1-1 ----- YJ0AFU - Vanuatu Thru 1-8	HI6 - Dominican Republic thru 1-13  	1  	2	3	4	5 S79AA - Seychelles Thru 2-2  
6	7	8 V47UR - St. Kitts & Nevis thru 1-20  	9 9LY1JM - Sierra Leone thru 1-21  	10	11	12
13	14 FG - Guadeloupe thru 1-31  	15	16	17 ZF2PG - Cayman Is Thru 1-20 ----- ZL7 - Chatham I thru 1-29	18 9X2AW - Rwanda Thru 2-14  	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 T88PB - Palau thru 1-28  	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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 November Meeting, Tuesday November 6th, will be held in the downstairs hall. This hall's entrance is off the lower parking lot behind the building we meet in now, so plan on parking in the lower lot.

The next meeting of the Oh-Ky-In Amateur Radio Society will be Tuesday, January 8th at 7:30 PM

\*\*\*Notice \*\*\*

The next meeting will be on the second Tuesday of the month, due to the holiday

OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society

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