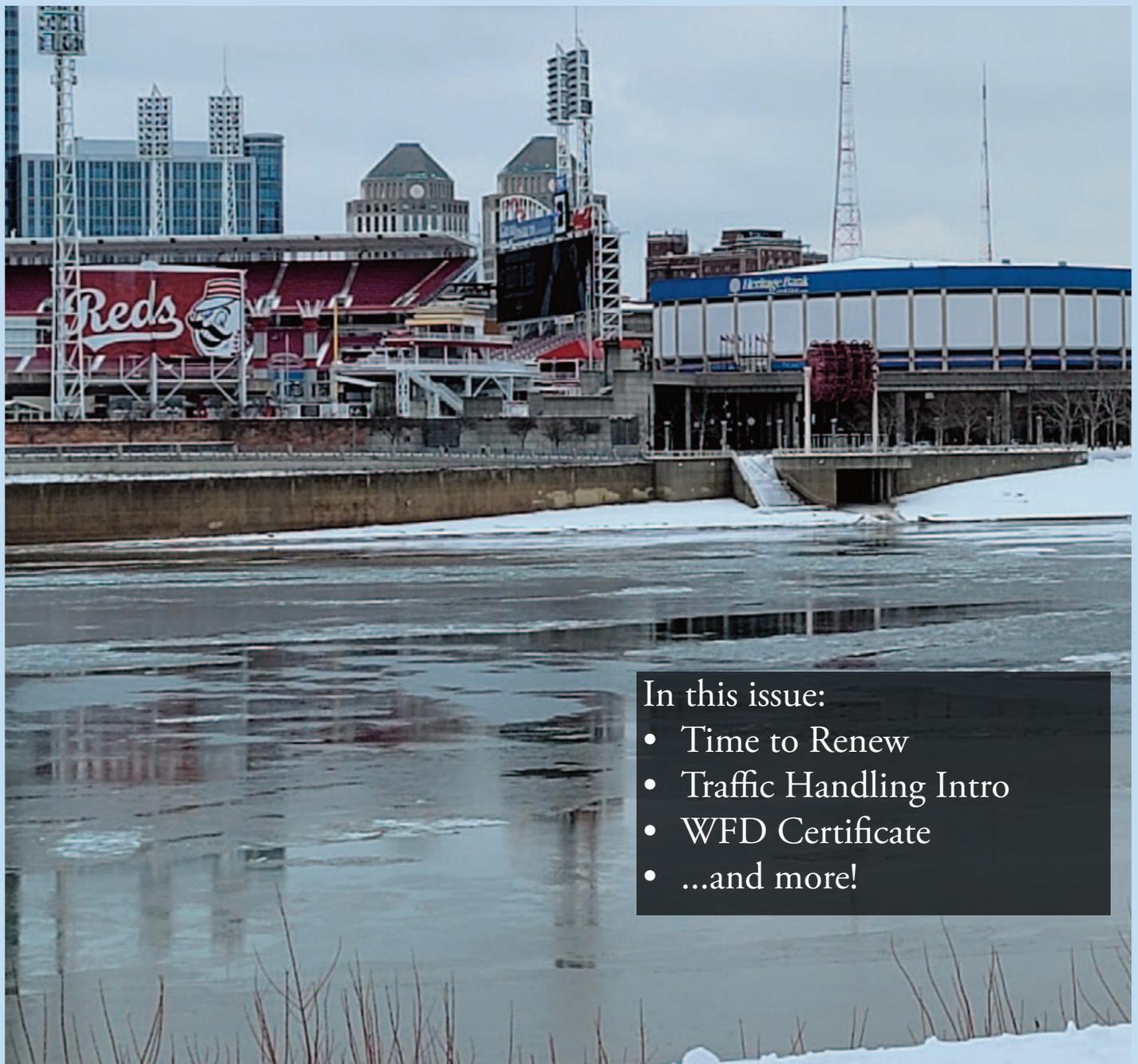




Q-FIVER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OH-KY-IN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
CINCINNATI, OHIO – WWW.OHKYIN.ORG
VOLUME 66 ISSUE 3 – MARCH 2026



In this issue:

- Time to Renew
- Traffic Handling Intro
- WFD Certificate
- ...and more!

A Note from Our Membership Chair

As we welcome the month of March, it is an opportune time to consider renewing your membership or joining as a new member of the OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society.

The OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society serves as a valuable resource for those investing their time and effort in the pursuit of amateur radio. Our collective commitment to advancing our knowledge and supporting each other has strengthened the presence of amateur radio in the Greater Cincinnati Tri-State area and beyond.

We encourage all members—both experienced operators and newcomers—to continue fostering this spirit by helping others achieve licensure and grow within the hobby.

The success and expansion of our organization depend greatly on the continued enthusiasm and support of our members.

Renewing your membership or becoming part of our society not only sustains our current initiatives but also ensures you are part of an engaged and dynamic community dedicated to the advancement of amateur radio.

We have streamlined the process for joining or renewing your membership, thanks to the efforts of Ryan, AC8UJ. There are two convenient options:

- Use the following link to join or renew online securely: <http://renew.ohkyin.org/> The system accepts all major credit cards, debit cards, or PayPal accounts. An instructional video demonstrating the secure checkout process is also available at this site.
- Alternatively, you may download, print, and mail your application and payment using this PDF form: <http://www.ohkyin.org/docs/Applications/Membership%20App.pdf> Please send your completed form and payment to the address indicated at the bottom of the document.

Should you have any questions regarding membership or the renewal process, please feel free to contact me directly.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and I look forward to assisting with renewals, welcoming new members, and addressing your inquiries.

Best 73,

Nathan Ciufu, KA3MTT
Membership Chairman, OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society
KA3MTT@OHKYIN.ORG
859.760.9262

*Please support OH-KY-IN by
renewing your membership
for 2026!*

Brunch Bunch

by George Gardei, N3VQW

The March Brunch Bunch will be at Sugar n' Spice at 4381 Reading Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45229 Saturday, March 14th at 1:00 PM.

<https://eatsugarnspice.com/reading-location/>

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. If you have any suggestions on what restaurant you think might be a good place for the Brunch Bunch to visit in the future, please let me know.

George N3VQW



◆ Photo from the February Brunch Bunch at Pig Candy BBQ on Kellogg Avenue

What “Traffic”? I’m at Home on My Radio!

Or

“Throw a Net on that Guy!”

By Ted Morris, NC8V

Main topics:

What is Traffic?

What is a Radiogram?

What is a Net?

What is "Traffic Handling"?

Where can I hear a "Traffic Net"?

What will I hear on the TATN?

How do messages get relayed? Pt. 1

How do messages get relayed? Pt. 2

Message Handling and Emergency Preparedness

What does a Radiogram look like?

I thought sending Radiograms went out with...

Did you hear some hams talking about “traffic” and from the context, you knew they didn’t mean the road conditions outside? They were probably talking about the process of sending formalized messages back and forth, providing the general public with a friendly service and practicing for service in emergencies. To learn about “traffic” and message handling, let’s get some definitions out of the way right off:

What is Traffic? “Traffic” refers to messages, usually in the form of “Radiograms” (like telegrams, but moved by radio), announcements, and other informative communications. Why “traffic”? Think of the early telegraph systems, often linked to railroad operations. Many stations, all on the same wire, with information about train and railcar progress through the railways. When two trains need to pass one another at a siding, that information is, and is about, traffic indeed!

What is a Radiogram? A Radiogram is a message passed from ham to ham until it is delivered to its addressee, usually by telephone. Like a telegram, it contains not only the addressee information and the message itself, but also contains codes for routing and handling instructions.

What is a Net? A Net is a “meeting on the air,” chaired by a “Net Control Station” (NCS) who determines who speaks, and when, and to whom, just like in many face-to-face meetings. OH-KY-IN’s Tech Talk Net on Wednesday evenings at 9 P.M. local time (146.670-;123.0Hz access) is a net that shares information and helpful hints of interest to the net participants. Traffic Nets facilitate the relaying and delivery of messages, per se.

What is “Traffic Handling”? Traffic handling is the process of originating, relaying, and delivering messages, and determining what paths those messages will take to travel to their addressees.

Where can I hear a “Traffic Net”? The Tristate Amateur Traffic Net (TATN) meets on our 146.670- repeater every evening at 8 P.M. local time. The TATN is also a training net, and new check-ins are welcome. It too is a directed net, meaning there is a Net Control Station (NCS) who directs all net activity.

What will I hear on the TATN? Hams check in with their callsigns, repeating them phonetically; their names and locations; and a mention of whether or not they have something for the net to deal with. Note that they don’t present that “something” now; they wait for the NCS to ask them for it specifically.

Continued on next page

How do messages get relayed? Pt. 1 The NCS asks, of each ham having material for the Net, for the specific nature of their information or the specific town or state destinations for their message(s). S/he may schedule announcements, and also asks for a ham to receive new, incoming messages. These may be from a local ham destined for someone elsewhere, or from a local ham who has gathered a message from elsewhere destined for someone local.

There is a hierarchy, called the National Traffic System, that organizes local, regional, and nationwide nets and establishes liaison activities that tie them together. The NTS is sponsored by the American Radio Relay League, but other independent nets and organizations perform similar functions.

Let's imagine you want to send a birthday greeting to your cousin in Modesto, California: You write out your message in a special format (see below), with certain identifying and instructional coding. You check in to the net "with traffic," and when asked, you tell NCS you have traffic for California. At some point, NCS asks a "liaison" station to call you and receive your message (who will copy it down as you read it aloud, slowly) and in turn they send it on later via another net. That's it! At this point, your message is on its way.

How do messages get relayed? Pt. 2 Your liaison station will take your message to one of tomorrow's sessions of the Ohio Single Sideband Net (as an example). There s/he will transmit it to another ham, who will take it to one of that day's 8th Region Net sessions (Ohio, Michigan, West Virginia). There, another ham will move it to the Eastern Area Net, thence it goes via the Transcontinental Corps to the Pacific Area Net, down to a California net, and down to a net near Modesto CA. Depending on timing, this could take only 24-48 hours!

Once the message "hits" the Modesto area net, a local ham there receives it and telephones your cousin to deliver the message. Easy-peasy!

Many of the messages buzzing along the NTS daily are by nature somewhat banal, but there's a deeper purpose for getting practice with message handling: Emergency Preparedness.

Message Handling and Emergency Preparedness. When we relay messages, we strive to copy and repeat them, word for word, letter for letter, exactly as they are given to us. Imagine how this becomes important in a disaster, where we are the link between providers and their resources, asking for exactly "144 doses of XXY Serum" vs. "XYZ Serum" for the local hospital! By practicing handling every message exactly as it is given, we gain precision and speed, avoiding mistakes and calling for repeats.

What does a Radiogram look like? On preprinted forms, there is a header with room for identifying information and instructions for any special treatment needed. There is room for an addressee's information, including telephone number, if at all possible, and twenty-five words of text. Finally, there is room for a signature, and to note "from whom obtained" and "to whom given" (including delivery). Take a look at this sample:

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Photo by Ron Lach / pexels.com

THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE RADIOGRAM <small>VIA AMATEUR RADIO</small>							
NUMBER 23	PRECEDENCE R	HX G	STATION OF ORIGIN NC8V	CHECK ARL 3	PLACE OF ORIGIN CINCINNATI, OH	TIME FILED	DATE FEB 25
TO					THIS RADIO MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED AT AMATEUR STATION _____ PHONE _____ NAME _____ STREET ADDRESS _____ CITY, STATE, ZIP _____		
TELEPHONE NUMBER							
ARL FORTY SIX _____ _____ _____							
* [Greetings on your birthday and best wishes for many more to come.]							
					TED		
FROM REC'D ---		DATE ---		TIME ---		SENT TO K8KRA	
						DATE FEB 25	
						TIME 0110Z	
<small>THIS MESSAGE WAS HANDLED FREE OF CHARGE BY A LICENSED AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR, WHOSE ADDRESS IS SHOWN IN THE BOX AT RIGHT ABOVE. AS SUCH MESSAGES ARE HANDLED SOLELY FOR THE PLEASURE OF OPERATING, NO COMPENSATION CAN BE ACCEPTED BY A "HAM" OPERATOR. A RETURN MESSAGE MAY BE FILED WITH THE "HAM" DELIVERING THIS MESSAGE TO YOU. FURTHER INFORMATION ON AMATEUR RADIO MAY BE OBTAINED FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS, 225 MAIN STREET, NEWINGTON, CT 06111</small>				<small>THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE, INC. IS THE NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP SOCIETY OF LICENSED RADIO AMATEURS AND THE PUBLISHER OF QST MAGAZINE. ONE OF ITS FUNCTIONS IS PROMOTION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMUNICATION AMONG AMATEUR OPERATORS. TO THAT END, THE LEAGUE HAS ORGANIZED THE NATIONAL TRAFFIC SYSTEM FOR DAILY NATIONWIDE MESSAGE HANDLING.</small>			
				<small>PRINTED IN USA</small>			

You may notice a few special features of this message:

- P – Precedence: Routine, Priority, Emergency
- HX – Handling Instructions: General, Hold until [date] to deliver, Obtain reply, etc.
- Check – Count: Number of “words” in the message.
 “ARL” refers to ARRL NTS Numbered Texts — pre-arranged phrases.
 Here, there are three words in the message: “ARL”, Forty, and Six

(When the delivering ham calls James Doe on the telephone, s/he reads the expanded text, not “ARL FORTY SIX”!) A list of the NTS Numbered Texts is available at <http://nts2.arrl.org/numbered-texts/>.

You don’t have to use a message form like this (although the ARRL sends handy gummed pads of them) but it does help as you get started. (I made a PDF of two of these on a sheet and print them from my PC.)

As you listen to the traffic net, you will notice certain conventions are followed. For example, letter groups (like “ARL”) when dictated are preceded by the phrase, “letter group.” Number groups, like in telephone numbers or data reports, are preceded by the phrase “figures.” Listen a few times around and you’ll get the hang of it.

One of the best ways to learn how to send traffic on the air is to copy along as others receive messages to relay or deliver. Feel free to ask the NCS what something means that you’re not sure of, when s/he asks for additional

Continued on next page

check-ins or further traffic. Briefly announce your callsign and the word “additional.” (“NC8V additional”). Again, the TATN is also a training net and your additional query about the message provides an opportunity for others on the net to review procedures and protocols.

I thought sending Radiograms went out with.... The advent of The Internet - Cell phones - Cheap Fax Machines – Elimination of Morse Code Requirement – Smartphones – etc.

Traffic handling has been at the core of our hobby from its inception. Early ham technology couldn't reach the long distances our medium-wave and shortwave stations do today. Messages had to be passed from ham to ham until they landed close to their addressees. Today the National Organization for Ham Radio is still called the American Radio Relay League.

Wrap up Traffic handling remains alive and well in our hobby, and its importance is as vital as ever as we strive to place ham radio among the valued services for emergency planners and responders. By practicing sending and receiving messages with 100% accuracy, we gain a ready cadre of operators who can function competently in emergency conditions. Why not stop by a Traffic Net in your daily radio travels and see another part of the amateur radio world, up close?

February, 2026 Meeting Minutes

OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society
Minutes of February 3rd, 2026, Member Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Ryan AC8UJ with the Pledge of Allegiance. The club meeting was held in person and via Zoom.

Guests: N/A

Attendance: 9 in person; 12 via Zoom

Program: Open forum on Parks on the Air

Prior Meeting Minutes: Drew KE8JTL made the motion, and Lance KF8EEM seconded accepting the meeting minutes for January 2026 as published in the Q-Fiver. Motion passed.

Treasurer: Kevin W8SM, Treasurer's report read and filed for audit.

Brunch Bunch: 2nd Saturday of the month at 1:00pm. February will be 2/14 at Pig Candy BBQ

Split the Pot: \$20.00 Split \$10.00 Stephen KE8TEY

Motion to adjourn made by Bruce N8BV, seconded by Cesi KD8OOB. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM

Respectfully submitted, Steve Crase N8PUP, Secretary

Winter Field Day 2026

Certificate of Participation

presented to Amateur Radio Station

K8SCH

for their active and invaluable participation during the 2026 Winter Field Day Event. The WFDA, gratefully thanks you for your effort and recognizes your dedication to improving your operating skills, which may be crucial during an emergency event.

Contacts Logged: **201**



Photo by Ant Rozetsky on Unsplash

DX Spots - March 2026

De KA3MTT

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 3Y0K - Bouvet I Thru 3-14 	2	3 VP2E - Anguilla Thru 3-20 	4 DU6 - Philippines Thru 3-12 ----- T8OK - Palau thru 3-19 ----- TY5FR - Benin thru 4-5	5	6	7 FG - Guadeloupe Thru 3-12 
8 PJ7AA - Sint Maarten thru 4-4 	9	10 V47JA - St Kitts & Nevis thru 3-18 	11	12	13 JW8EKA - Svalbard thru 3-15 ----- JD1 - Ogasawara Thru 3-16 ----- KH2 - Guam thru 3-17 ----- J79C - Dominica Thru 3-20	14 TX5EU - Austral Is Thru 3-25 
15 YJ1XZ - Vanuatu Thru 4-3 	16	17 KH0 - Mariana Is Thru 3-23 	18 XX9W - Macao Thru 3-31 ----- 6Y - Jamaica thru 3-24 ----- D44OA - Cape Verde Is thru 3-25	19 CY0S - Sable I Thru 3-31 	20 FG - Guadeloupe Thru 3-27 ----- S21WD - Bangladesh thru 4-1	21
22 5W0AF - Samoa Thru 4-11 	23	24 C6AFD - Bahamas Thru 3-31 	25 FM - Martinique Thru 4-2 	26 T88KH - Palau Thru 3-30 	27	28
29	30 EA8 - Canary Is Thru 4-6 	31				

Prepared by Nathan Ciufu, KA3MTT

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Tuesday	March 3 @ 7:30 PM	Club Meeting (Zoom & Arlington Heights Town Hall)
Wednesday	March 4 @ 9:00 PM	Tech Talk Net (146.670 Repeater)
Tuesday	March 10 @ 7:30 PM	Board of Directors Meeting (same Zoom info as club meeting)
Wednesday	March 11 @ 9:00 PM	Tech Talk Net (146.670 Repeater)
Wednesday	March 18 @ 9:00 PM	Tech Talk Net (146.670 Repeater)
Wednesday	March 25 @ 9:00 PM	Tech Talk Net (146.670 Repeater)
Wednesday	April 1 @ 9:00 PM	Tech Talk Net (146.670 Repeater)
Tuesday	April 7 @ 7:30 PM	Club Meeting (Zoom & Arlington Heights Town Hall)
Wednesday	April 8 @ 9:00 PM	Tech Talk Net (146.670 Repeater)
Tuesday	April 14 @ 7:30 PM	Board of Directors Meeting (same Zoom info as club meeting)
Wednesday	April 15 @ 9:00 PM	Tech Talk Net (146.670 Repeater)
Wednesday	April 22 @ 9:00 PM	Tech Talk Net (146.670 Repeater)
Wednesday	April 29 @ 9:00 PM	Tech Talk Net (146.670 Repeater)
Tuesday	May 5 @ 7:30 PM	Club Meeting (Zoom & TBA)

Meeting Information

Our monthly club meetings are typically held at the Village of Arlington Heights Town Hall (601 Elliott Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45215). Enter using the exterior elevator to the second floor at the rear of the building. We typically also offer Zoom video conferencing as an option. Please join us at 7:30 PM Eastern time each first Tuesday of the month. The Zoom call will open at about 7:20 PM for you to join. The passcode is 146670.

<https://zoom.us/j/996062859>

If you are unable to join online, you may join by telephone at (301) 715-8592 with a meeting code of 996 062 859 and passcode of 146670. Long distance rates will apply.

OH-KY-IN Repeaters

146.670 (-) Clifton

146.625 (-) Edgewood (Fusion & analog WIRES-X)

146.925 (-) Delhi (Fusion & digital WIRES-X)

All repeaters require a 123.0 Hz CTCSS (PL) tone.

Life Members

John Phelps	N8JTP
Kenneth E Wolf	N8WYC
John W Hughes	AI4DA
Karl R Kaucher	KK4KRK
Fred Schneider	K9OHE
Dan Curtin	KF4AV
Steve Weeks	AA8SW
Kelly Hoffman	K8KAH
Mick Cook	KD8IOQ
Steve Crase	N8PUP
Joe Felix	K8NW

Support OH-KY-IN by Shopping

Of course we appreciate your membership dues and all of the ways you give time and energy to the club, but did you know you can also support OH-KY-IN just by doing things you already do?

Kroger Community Rewards is a great source of income for the club and requires no effort! Visit <http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com/> and set us as your charity. We are organization **QY352**.

Contact Bruce N8BV for details about the program.



PANDA/stock.adobe.com

Newsletter Submissions

Please send any submissions you would like included in upcoming newsletters to Ryan, AC8UJ. All content is welcome! You can e-mail content to him at qfiver@ohkyin.org. Please send all content either as plain e-mail text (attach any photos or graphics) or as a PDF file. Depending on the spacing needs of the particular issue, Ryan may reformat your content and adjust the layout. Because of this, if you send a PDF, please also include any graphics used as attachments.

Do you have a photo you think would look good on the cover? Send it! Cover photos must comply with a few requirements. Most importantly, like all content included in this publication, we must be able to clearly determine that we are allowed to reprint it. This can be proven in one of two ways. Method one is if it is original artwork you personally created and you can attest to it being your property, created by you. Method two is for you to provide clear evidence of where you obtained the artwork along with a reference showing that we are free to reproduce it (e.g. a link to the license terms for the artwork, written permission from the creator, etc.). Cover photos/art must also be composed in such a way that the masthead at the top of the cover page will not cover the main subject of the photo/art and space exists for the "In this issue" box. Images that relate in some way to radio are preferred but other pieces will be considered as well.

Please renew your membership, if you haven't already

Committee Chairs & Appointments

Technical Operations	Gary Coffey KB8MYC
ARPSC Representative	(open)
Volunteer Examiners	Gary Coffey KB8MYC
QCEN Representative	Tom Delaney W8WTD
Membership	Nathan Ciufu KA3MTT
Fundraising	Bruce Vanselow N8BV
Education	Tom Delaney W8WTD
Repeater Control Ops Mgr. . .	Bruce Vanselow N8BV
PIO	Steve Crase N8PUP
Librarian	Justin Moore KE8COY
Q-Fiver Editor	Ryan Owens AC8UJ
ARRL Field Day	Eric Neiheisel N8YC
Historian	Dale Vanselow KC8HQS
Fox Hunters	Dick Arnett WB4SUV
Equipment Manager	(open)
Webmaster	Rocky McGrath KE8DZS
Silent Key	Bryan Hoffman KC8EGV
Tech Talk Net Manager	Bruce Vanselow N8BV
K8SCH Paper QSL Mgr	Bob Frey WA6EZV
K8SCH Elec. QSL Mgr . .	Rick Haltermon KD4PYR
TV/RFI	Dick Arnett WB8SUV

OH-KY-IN Officers

President	Ryan Owens AC8UJ
Vice President	Cesi DiBenedetto KD8OOB
Secretary	Steve Crase N8PUP
Treasurer	Kevin Tribbe W8SM
Director	Drew MacDonald KE8JTL
Director	Bruce Vanselow N8BV
Director	Mike Niehaus KD8ZLB
Trustee	Bruce Vanselow N8BV

Consider a Donation to OH-KY-IN

Did you know that OH-KY-IN ARS has been recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization? That means anyone who itemizes on their Federal return can take a charitable deduction for a contribution to OH-KY-IN, as long as it qualifies under the general rules applicable to all other charitable contributions (for example, the contribution must be in cash, or other property which the organization has agreed to accept; the value of volunteered services is not deductible). Membership dues, such as the cost of a life membership, may even be deductible; consult your own tax advisor for details if considering that. Posthumous donations by Will or by naming the organization as beneficiary of a financial account are also welcome.

Special Note for Seniors: Anyone who is over 70½ can make a donation to OH-KY-IN from their IRA and enjoy a tax benefit even if they don't itemize deductions, using what is called a QCD. Simply direct your IRA custodian to make the donation directly to OH-KY-IN (not payable to you) and the distribution will not result in any taxable income to you, even without itemizing deductions on your return. Contact your IRA custodian for the proper form to use.

Please remember to **renew** your membership!

We need all of you to keep OH-KY-IN going strong!



OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society has been a leading amateur radio organization in the Cincinnati, Ohio area for more than 65 years. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of all things radio. No matter the amateur radio interest, OH-KY-IN members are involved.