



June 2020  
Volume 58, Issue 6  
Our 101<sup>st</sup> Year

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Website:  
<http://www.mvara.org/>

**The Voice Coil**  
Newsletter of the  
Mahoning Valley Amateur  
Radio Association  
Established 1919

# The Voice Coil

Here it is that time again, sitting in my recliner on a Sunday night up against a deadline and I can just picture Mark wringing his hands and wondering where my article is.

Well another Field Day is in the books. This Field Day has been defiantly been different, operating out of our homes. From reports that I'm hearing, contact totals were nominal and at least one with phenomenal numbers.

There was no getting together to put up antennas on Friday. No big dinner that Dean put together for us to eat and compare notes with each other. Sandwiches were always available at 1:00 in the morning, or cold lasagna if you dig around. Yum.

There were no generator or network problems to take us away from operating. But somehow we would as always pull it all together and settle down to get on the air in one way or another calling *Whiskey 8 Quebec Lima Yankee*. The thing I miss the most was being with all of you.

I have missed our monthly meetings, all the events that we do and I have missed being with all of you. We will continue with our Zoom and on air monthly meeting for the month of July.



We will be having the Corn Roast in August as it is an outdoor event. From there we will see what happens with the numbers of the Covid-19 cases .

My main concern is your health and I don't want to passably expose someone or all of us to this thing. So come on out to the corn roast, wear a mask if you wish--I will. Let's get together for a change and have a little fun.

-Scott, KE8UHC

**Next meeting on  
Zoom, July 9 at 7 pm.  
Details to follow by  
email.**

### ARRL Email Addresses

We're getting a significant amount of email returned as undeliverable. If the email you provided to the club is (your call)@ ARRL.net , please provide us with an alternative email.

## 2020 Officers

President: Scott Wilton, KE4UHC  
Vice President: Dave Brett, KD8NZF  
Secretary: Mike Malarky, W8IWD  
Treasurer: Nancy Brett, KD8QNY  
Trustees: Dean DeMain, W8YSU (1)  
Jerry Goddard, KC8EFO (1)  
Mike McCleery, K8PRR (2)  
Bryan Bartzi, KF8G (2)

Newsletter Editor: Mark Haverstock,  
K8MSH

Awards Manager: Dave Fairbanks,  
N8NB, 330.759.6993, 4770 Logan  
Ave. Youngstown, OH 44505

The Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc, meets the second Thursday of every month. Location and time are subject to change. Dues are \$20.00 per year, \$10.00 each for additional family member. Contact Nancy, [kd8qny@zoominternet.net](mailto:kd8qny@zoominternet.net) for membership details.

The club call is **W8QLY**; equipment operated under this call includes a two meter voice repeater at 146.745 (-600, 110.9 PL). Club email: [mvara.w8qly@gmail.com](mailto:mvara.w8qly@gmail.com)

MONDAY NIGHT NET operates every Monday at 9:00. PM on 146.745 MHz.

SKYWARN NET - First Wednesday of the month at 8:30 PM on 146.745 MHz as weather warrants.

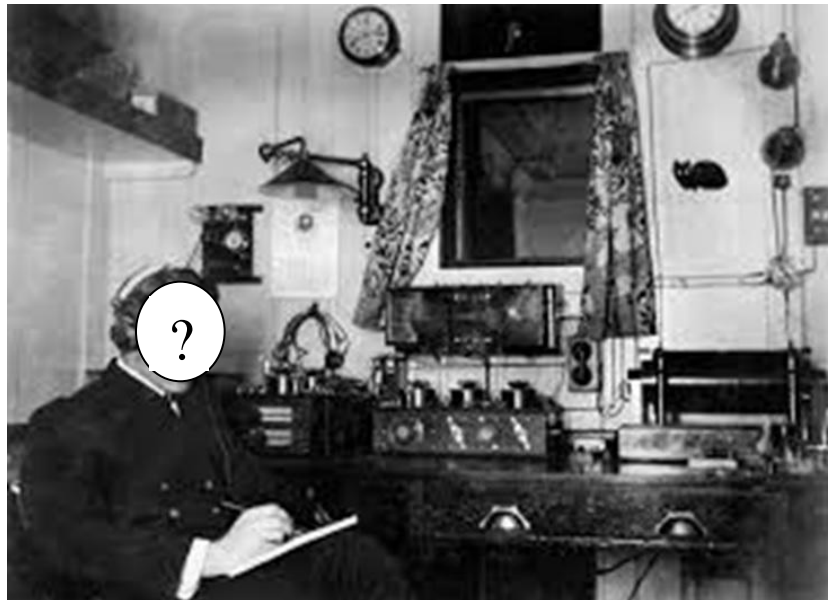
ARES NET- First and third Mondays of each month at 8:30 PM on 146.745 MHz; prior to the Monday Night Net.

## Who's Controlling This Station Anyway?

For the July meeting we will be doing a Zoom meeting once more. The topic for the meeting will be remote control operation of amateur stations and will be presented by our very own *Voice Coil* Editor, Mark Haverstock, K8MSH.

Besides his monthly chores assembling the *Voice Coil* for us each month, Mark is also an accomplished antenna designer and builder and writes for several radio publications. Among other places you will find his work in the *On All Bands* blog at DX Engineering where he has discussed topics from mitigating interference at multi-station operations to weather-proofing your coax.

Mark is also interested in Remote Station Operation and can control his station with a laptop or phone. Please join us on Zoom as Mark talks about his experiences setting up remote control of amateur stations.



### **License Refresher Answers:**

E1A01 (A) [97.305, 97.307(b)]

E1A02 (D) [97.301, 97.305]

G3B01 (D)

G3B02 (D)

## Current Activities

**July 9:** Online meeting via Zoom, 7pm. Remote operation using Flex Radio.

### Contact Us:

-Email: [mvara.W8QLY@gmail.com](mailto:mvara.W8QLY@gmail.com)

-Snail-mail: MVARA, P.O. Box 14141, Poland, OH 44514

-Meeting ideas/ suggestions? Contact Dave, KD8NZF,

[KD8NZF@zoominternet.net](mailto:KD8NZF@zoominternet.net)

**VE testing June:** Congratulations to Julie Sole, KC8VMS (upgrade to General) and David Slagle (new license).

**Hamfest Calendar:** Due to the coronavirus epidemic, there are no listings for the immediate future in our region. See Hamcation 2021 and Virtual Ham Expo articles in this issue of the newsletter.

## Ham Radio News

- The 2019 ARRL DXCC Yearbook is now available for viewing and downloading.
- Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is maintaining a "Compendium of online amateur radio club meetings," which effectively makes any radio club meeting easy to "attend." It's suggested to secure an invitation from the club rather than just showing up.
- Citing public health concerns, DX Engineering has canceled its second annual DXE Hamfest, which was to be held on August 8 at its headquarters near Akron, Ohio. This year's event was planned in conjunction with ARRL's Ohio Section Convention. The logistics of safely managing an anticipated large crowd played a role in DX Engineering's decision.
- The MicroHAMS Digital Conference (MHDC) was held virtually this year, offering an opportunity to reach out to speakers who might otherwise been unable to attend. Typical attendance at the in-person conference is around 100 people. The virtual event attracted between 300 and 500 viewers actively watching the livestream. The 2,000 unique views during the conference indicated that some only attended a portion of the day or specific sessions. The 13th annual MHDC is available on the MicroHAMS website.
- According to a reader report in The Daily DX, a signal on various 20-meter frequencies has been jamming "everything for about 10 kHz" with a strong signal. The signal is believed to be that of a Chinese over-the-horizon radar. The signal has been centered on 14.174, 14.193, 14.240, and 14.267, "moving around."

# Securing PowerPole Connectors

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

In preparation for this year's Field Day, I made a bunch of cables with PowerPole connectors to connect the solar panel, charge controller and batteries that I used. If you're not familiar with PowerPoles, you might want to [check out this YouTube video](#). They're really great connectors, and have become the DC connector of choice for many hams.



When I make up PowerPole cables, I normally don't bother trying to secure the two halves together, especially if you're using some decently heavy gauge wire. They fit together pretty tightly, and don't come apart easily. Even so, I think securing them together is a good idea. You can buy a little roll pin to insert between the red and black housings that is supposed to prevent them from coming apart, but many folks complain that the pin has a tendency to fall out. This not only defeats the purpose, but could also damage your equipment.

Securing them is the right thing to do, though, and I recently came across some great suggestions on how to do this in the daily digest that I receive from the [Elecrafter-KX mailing list](#). Here are the best tips from the thread, [Securing Anderson Power Poles](#):

- Rudy K8SWD: You can thermally bond the red and black housings with a soldering iron like you are making little welds on both sides. Permanent (mostly) but it works better than the roll pins. Just clean the tip really good before soldering!
- Dave K0CDA: [Anderson] also make connectors that are thermally bonded together in pairs. They do NOT come apart.
- Don W3FPR: I use a drop of Super Glue on the junction of the plastic pieces. Warning – that glue grabs quickly, so slide the 2 pieces only enough to start the assembly, then apply the drop of glue and quickly finish sliding them together. I have never had ones prepared like that come apart, and I don't use roll pins. I will say one more thing – use only the genuine APPs. I have seen some knockoffs that do not mate well.
- Greg KC9NRO: Take a hot soldering iron. Wipe the tip with sponge. Run the tip down both side of APP bonding the black and red sides together. Clean soldering iron tip and apply some solder to tip. That's how I roll. Never comes apart
- Mike AI4NS: PVC cement will soften the plastic enough to bond them together. You can also get plastic welding rods, such as [Dainty Plastic Welding Rods](#). Chuck a rod in a Dremel and weld them together. I have made plastic boxes and panels using this method.
- Jack WD4E: Snip the cotton end off a Q-tip, cutting at an angle. Insert into hole made for roll pin, cut off excess, save remainder of Q-tip for next requirement.
- Troy K4JDA: 2.5mm screws work well, stay in, and are easily removable.

I posted these suggestions to [my blog](#) and got a few more great suggestions:

- *Tom KB8UUZ*: Fat tooth picks also work great. Jam it in, break it off.
- *Bruce NONHP*: I use MEK (Methyl Ethyl Ketone) replacement to clean my circuit boards after soldering. A single drop of MEK on the junction between the two halves of the PowerPole shell will fuse them. It can be broken with a sharp tap but not accidentally. It will set and dry in seconds and should be applied after the shell pieces are put together.

I think these are all great suggestions. I think that I'm going to try the cotton swab method. While reading them, another thought occurred to me. I haven't tried this yet, but I'm thinking a little drop of hot glue on the roll-pin hole might work, too.

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*Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and often appears on the ICQPodcast (icqpodcast.com). When he's not thinking up new ways to keep his PowerPoles together, he likes to teach ham radio classes and operate CW on the HF bands.*

## QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo



QSO Today host Eric Guth, 4Z1UG, announced that the first QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo will commence on August 8th and 9th, 2020, over a period of 48 hours. This virtual Expo is built on a live virtual reality platform commonly used by Fortune 500 companies and major universities. The platform simulates a full convention experience with an exhibit hall and exhibit booths staffed by live QSO Virtual Ham Expo attendants, speaker auditorium, lobby, and lounges. Anyone can attend from their home or office. Attendance is free and registration can be found at [www.qsotodayhamexpo.com](http://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com). There are early bird prize benefits for registering now.

Eric and his team, including George Zafiropoulos, KJ6VU, have assembled 50+ of the best ham radio mentors in multiple tracks to address this conference from the virtual Expo's auditorium. At the Expo, amateur radio operators will be able to:

- Learn from a packed line-up of renowned ham radio speakers such as Ward Silver, N0AX, on Grounding and Bonding; Glen Johnson, W0GJ, on DXpeditions, and John Portune, W6NBC, on building slot antennas for HOA.
- See demos of the latest ham radio equipment from the world's top equipment companies. Attendees can easily ask questions and engage with Exhibitors through video, audio, or chat.
- Share ideas and network with their fellow ham radio operators at any time throughout the Expo.

While attendance is expected from traditional convention "goers", the virtual Expo is a unique opportunity for the hundreds of thousands of ham radio amateurs who have never been to an event and can now participate without spending thousands of dollars on travel.

The QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo will commence on Saturday, August 8th, run for 48 hours as a live event, then will be available as an on-demand event for another 30 days.

For more information go to [www.qsotodayhamexpo.com](http://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com)

# How Many Radials are Enough?

- By Stan Zawrotny, K4SBZ

I have seen a lot of articles about how many radials you should install for a vertical antenna and heard a lot of information and some misinformation about that subject. For those new to the hobby, a "Vertical" can be thought of as one-half of a dipole turned on its end just like the ones used for automobiles and the "radials" or "counterpoise" make up the other side of the dipole, except it acts as a ground or reflector of the main radiator for the RF energy to have something to 'push' against.



Some of the information I've found is based on ancient research conducted for commercial broadcasters, who have the space to install over 100 radials per antenna. Many of the articles I've seen draw on purely theoretical studies using antenna modeling software, which also draws on the decades-old research just mentioned. Quite a lot of what we read is essentially anecdotal ("It works really well: I work loads of DX!"). Unfortunately few hams have been able to actually demonstrate what works in a typical amateur setting, or to answer very common yet basic questions such as:

- How many radials do I need?
- How long should they be?
- Should I lay them on the surface, bury them or elevate them?
- Do I need to lay them out symmetrically?

So, it was nice to find a proper scientific study of radials for vertical antennas by a respected amateur, Rudy Severns, N6LF. It's obvious from Rudy's excellent articles in QEX magazine that he knows what he is talking about. His articles are carefully researched both in his professional and amateur literature. He then designs and painstakingly conducts controlled experiments to test his theories against practice.

Here are some of Rudy's key conclusions from a series of 7 articles:

- Try to use at least 16 radials on or below the ground, or at least four radials if elevated.
- If you don't have the space for radials, lay down a larger number of shorter ones.
- The shorter your antenna, or the poorer your soil, the more you'll need to have a good grounding system.
- A surface or above-surface radial grounding system will affect the resonant frequency and you may have to adjust the height of your vertical element for that.

Aside from the earth system, work hard at making the antenna itself more efficient. In other words, use high-Q loading coils, use top loading to minimize the size and inefficiency of the loading coils, minimize conductor loss and so on.

Note that 16 is not a magic number for on-ground radials. His experimental data indicates marginal improvements with more radials but rapidly diminishing returns probably make the effort pointless. He suggests we are probably better-off optimizing other parts of the system than the radials. Unless you are absolutely desperate to squeeze the last tenth of a dB out of your antenna, there is no practical value in going beyond about 32 radials. Note that if you use too few on-earth radials (e.g. just 4), their lengths become critical - they become resonating. This leads to the counterintuitive finding that reducing their lengths to hit resonance may actually improve their efficiency!

Rudy conducted experiments simulating installations where there was no room for radials right around the base of a vertical. These experiments indicated that symmetry is fairly important. Efficiency is slightly reduced if one quarter of the circle is empty, and losses mount to as much as 3 dB if you can only lay radials in a semicircle.

However, it does help to substitute the missing radials with additional shorter ones in the directions that you can lay radials. His experiments also showed that numerous other factors affect the effectiveness of the radials, including for example the soil conductivity which varies with geology, moisture levels and band. Unless you can measure and control these factors, theoretical calculations from antenna modeling such as reported in so many articles may not hold true in real installations. That's why we need careful experimental studies like Rudy's.

Please consider that if you live in an antenna-restricted residence or have very little yard space - an antenna compromise is better than no antenna at all.

From: Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society, *The Printed Circuit*



## Ham Radio Social Distancing

## **HAM HUMOR: NEW EVENT ACTIVATES ANYTHING**



**PORT O' SMITHSON, ALABAMA** — Hoping to fill a ham radio void, the Marshy Plains Amateur Radio Club of Mid-Alabama (MPARCMA) has announced a new on-air operating event. In response to the popular NRRL [National Pizza Ovens On the Air](#) (which concluded last year) MPARCMA has unveiled plans for “Literally Anything On the Air.”

“It’s a no-holds-barred, smoke’em if you got’em type thing,” explains president Jefferson Dillweed.

“We don’t care what you activate: summits, valleys, armchairs or one lane bridges — it doesn’t matter!” he exclaimed.

The club says there are no rules – just upload contacts to NRRL’s Logbook of the Globe and watch the award certificates pile up on your door step. (For a small processing, handling and postage fee.)

“Go have fun and get the mics humming and keys clicking,” says Dillweed, “activating literally anything on the air.”

### **FAQS:**

- Can I activate a state park? *YES*
- Can I activate my town square? *YES*
- Can I activate the dog’s kennel? *YES*
- Can I activate that new credit card I got in the mail today? *YES AND THEN USE IT TO BUY A RADIO AND ACTIVATE LITERALLY ANYTHING.*

Editor’s Note: You can activate literally anything.

By [WBØRUR](#), on the scene   ### www.HamHijinks.com



# Amateur License Refresher

Dave, KD8NZF



It's probably been awhile since you took your Amateur License exam. Here are a few sample questions from the current question pools just to keep those synapses firing. The questions in the Extra section below are from the new Extra Exam that takes effect July 1, 2020.

## Extra Pool

E1A01

Which of the following carrier frequencies is illegal for LSB AFSK emissions on the 17 meter band RTTY and data segment of 18.068 to 18.110 MHz?

- A. 18.068 MHz
- B. 18.100 MHz
- C. 18.107 MHz
- D. 18.110 MHz

E1A02

When using a transceiver that displays the carrier frequency of phone signals, which of the following displayed frequencies represents the lowest frequency at which a properly adjusted LSB emission will be totally within the band?

- A. The exact lower band edge
- B. 300 Hz above the lower band edge
- C. 1 kHz above the lower band edge
- D. 3 kHz above the lower band edge

## General Pool

G3B01

What is a characteristic of skywave signals arriving at your location by both short-path and long-path propagation?

- A. Periodic fading approximately every 10 seconds
- B. Signal strength increased by 3 dB
- C. The signal might be cancelled causing severe attenuation
- D. A slightly delayed echo might be heard

G3B02

What factors affect the MUF?

- A. Path distance and location
- B. Time of day and season
- C. Solar radiation and ionospheric disturbances
- D. All these choices are correct

Answers pg. 2

# What's that Pointy Thing?

Maybe you remember the “PVC Party” the club did in 2017? For that meeting a number of our members did show and tell on Ham Equipment that can be created from PVC pipe. In the photo is Jim, KD8NSM, holding the Yagi antenna he made from PVC pipe and cut up pieces of a tape measure. Before you dismiss this as just another crack pot idea, consider this. As part of the demo, an MFJ antenna analyzer was connected to Jim’s antenna and a range of 2M frequencies was swept to look at SWR. While sweeping through, we passed 146.745 and triggered our repeater from Jim’s antenna just as you see it here, handheld, inside the meeting, and driven by the analyzer!!

We have been threatening to follow up with a build for anyone interested and it looks like now is a good time. John, N8LVA, has procured several micro power transmitters to use for Fox Hunting and our plan is try them out at the August MVARA Corn Roast. For fox hunting, you need a directional antenna and that’s where the Tape Measure Yagi comes in. Of course, you can use any antenna/HT combination you want, but if you want a slick Yagi, this may fill the bill.

The tape measure Yagi is a 3-element directional antenna. There is plenty of material on the internet on Yagi theory and multiple sites on building Tape Measure Yagis, but this website not only takes you through the build but also has a step by step video:

<https://www.jpole-antenna.com/2017/02/07/build-it-2-meter-tape-measure-yagi-beam-antenna/>

The BOM below to give you an idea of the parts needed. We will plan a date before the Corn Roast for anyone interested in doing the build.

## Da’ BOM

Qty	Description
1	25' Steel Blade Tape Measure, 1” Blade (Cheap is ok)
1	10' piece, 3/4" PVC Sched 40 Pipe
2	3/4" PVC Cross Connectors
2	3/4" PVC T Connectors
6	3/4" to 1.5" Stainless hoses clamps
1	5" piece of 14 Ga insulated solid Wire
1	6' coax to jump from antenna to HT
	Misc solder, tape, pl-259, tools, etc.



# ARRL to Hold National Convention at Orlando HamCation in February 2021

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*Do you miss having Hamvention in May? Here's an alternative coming up next February. Of course, it's always subject to change or cancellation. Remember—this is Florida.*

ARRL has announced that Orlando **HamCation®** will host the **2021 ARRL National Convention** in Orlando, Florida, February 11 – 14. The convention will mark the 75th anniversary of HamCation— one of the largest annual ham radio gatherings. The convention theme, “reDiscover Radio,” is a rallying call for radio amateurs committed to developing knowledge and skills in radio technology and radio communication.

The convention will kick off on Thursday, February, 11 with a series of day-long ARRL Training Tracks and a National Convention luncheon at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Orlando at SeaWorld. A complete program and list of presenters will be available later this summer. Registration will open in the fall. HamCation will host the rest of the convention Friday – Sunday, February 12 – 14, at the Central Florida Fairgrounds and Expo Park in Orlando.

HamCation is sponsored by the Orlando Amateur Radio Club (OARC), an ARRL-affiliated club. OARC is supported by volunteers from radio clubs throughout the region. This year, an estimated 24,200 people attended all 3 days of the event. **Details** on tickets and information about forums, exhibits (including information for vendors and tailgaters), testing, travel, and preferred hotels with special rates are on the HamCation website.

Online ticket sales begin in August. Tickets purchased (postmarked) by December 1, 2020, will cost \$15 and are valid for all 3 days.

ARRL and HamCation acknowledge that this year's pandemic has introduced uncertainty into any long-term planning. Both organizations will follow all government and health requirements and guidelines as plans are committed for the 2021 event.



# Contest and Special Event Operating Information

Dave Fairbanks N8NB

Data below as well as more information courtesy of the following website:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>.

## July 2020

+ RAC Canada Day Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Jul 1
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 1
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Jul 1
+ VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	1700Z-2000Z, Jul 1
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1900Z-2000Z, Jul 1
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	0300Z-0400Z, Jul 2
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Jul 2
+ NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1800Z-1900Z, Jul 2 (CW) and 1900Z-2000Z, Jul 2 (SSB) and 2000Z-2100Z, Jul 2 (FM) and 2100Z-2200Z, Jul 2 (Dig)
+ SKCC Sprint Europe	1900Z-2100Z, Jul 2
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Jul 3
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Jul 3
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 3
+ FISTS Summer Slow Speed Sprint	0000Z-0400Z, Jul 4
+ YBDXC 80m Contest	0900Z, Jul 4 to 0859Z, Jul 5
+ DL-DX RTTY Contest	1100Z, Jul 4 to 1059Z, Jul 5
+ Marconi Memorial HF Contest	1400Z, Jul 4 to 1400Z, Jul 5
+ Original QRP Contest	1500Z, Jul 4 to 1500Z, Jul 5
+ PODXS 070 Club 40m Firecracker Sprint	2000Z, Jul 4 to 2000Z, Jul 5
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Jul 6
+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Jul 7
+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Jul 7
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Jul 7
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 8
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Jul 8
+ VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	1700Z-2000Z, Jul 8
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1900Z-2000Z, Jul 8
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	0300Z-0400Z, Jul 9
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Jul 9
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Jul 10
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Jul 10
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 10
+ FISTS Summer Unlimited Sprint	0000Z-0400Z, Jul 11
+ IARU HF World Championship	1200Z, Jul 11 to 1200Z, Jul 12
+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Jul 11 to 2400Z, Jul 12
+ QRP ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint	2000Z-2300Z, Jul 12
+ 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Jul 13
+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Jul 14
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Jul 14
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 15
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Jul 15
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1900Z-2000Z, Jul 15
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Jul 15
+ NAQCC CW Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Jul 16

+ QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Jul 17
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Jul 17
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 17
+ Russian Radio Team Championship	0700Z-1459Z, Jul 18
+ Trans-Tasman Low-Bands Challenge	0800Z-1400Z, Jul 18
+ Feld Hell Sprint	1200Z-1359Z, Jul 18
+ North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Jul 18 to 0559Z, Jul 19
+ CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	1800Z, Jul 18 to 2100Z, Jul 19
+ RSGB Low Power Contest	0900Z-1200Z and 1300Z-1600Z, Jul 19
+ RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint	1600Z-1959Z, Jul 19
+ CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush	2000Z-2159Z, Jul 19
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	2300Z, Jul 19 to 0100Z, Jul 20
+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Jul 21
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Jul 21
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Jul 22
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 22
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Jul 22
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1900Z-2000Z, Jul 22
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	0300Z-0400Z, Jul 23
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Jul 23
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, Jul 23
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Jul 24
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Jul 24
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 24
+ RSGB IOTA Contest	1200Z, Jul 25 to 1200Z, Jul 26
+ ARS Flight of the Bumblebees	1700Z-2100Z, Jul 26
+ QCX Challenge	1300Z-1400Z, Jul 27
+ RSGB FT4 Contest Series	1900Z-2030Z, Jul 27
+ QCX Challenge	1900Z-2000Z, Jul 27
+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Jul 28
+ QCX Challenge	0300Z-0400Z, Jul 28
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Jul 28
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 29
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Jul 29
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1900Z-2000Z, Jul 29
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	0300Z-0400Z, Jul 30
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Jul 30
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Jul 31
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Jul 31
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 31

## DX Operating Information

Dave Fairbanks N8NB

Credit for the below information and further information on these operations and others can be found at the following website: <http://www.ng3k.com>

July						
2020 Jul01	2020 Jul11	Balearic Is	EA6 NEW	LoTW	DK5ON 20200621	By DK5ON as EA6/DK5ON fm IOTA EU-004 (ARLHS BAL-010 Cap de Pera Light, WLOTA 1902); 40-6m; CW RTTY FT4/8; QSL OK via DK5ON (B/d), Clug Log OQRS

2020 Jul01	2020 Jul31	<b>Vanuatu</b>	<b>YJ40IND</b>	TBA	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200618	By YJ8RN YJ8ED YJ8CW; likely 40 20 15m; SSB FT8 CW; 100w; mainly weekends
2020 Jul06	2020 Jul19	<b>Monaco</b>	<b>3A</b> <small>NEW</small>	IW1RBI	<a href="#">425DXN</a> 20200626	By IW1RBI as 3A/IW1RBI; 30-6m; SSB FT8
2020 Jul24	2020 Jul26	<b>Liechtenstein</b>	<b>HB0</b>	EB7DX	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20200618	By HB9HBY HB9TWU as HB0/HB9HBY; 80-6m; CW SSB FT8; may use special call sign on Saturday
<a href="#">RSGB IOTA Contest</a> (Jul 25-26, 2020) Check here for pericontest activity too.						
2020 Jul29	2020 Aug15	<b>Uganda</b>	<a href="#">5X1RI</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200224	By M0KRI; HF; CW SSB FT8 SSB; 100w; vertical, hexbeam; QSL OK via M0KRI or Club Log OQRS; dates tentative

## 2020 Field Day

This was not your typical Field Day, as the Covid epidemic prompted a significant change in how the event was conducted by clubs and individuals. If you participated, be sure to add your club affiliation to your entry so we can get a joint points total for MVARA. Note that the ARRL has set up their Field Day entry page to auto fill in our club name once you type in the first 3 or 4 letters. They want us to use Mahoning Valley ARA. Here are a few pictures of my home-brew version of FD 2020.

### K8MSH—1E



Waterfall view of 40m



Power trip—line to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor shack



Hawk Security—keeping critters off antennas.



# Renewing VE Credentials

If you are accredited by ARRL to help administer exams, you may want to take a peek at your credentials. Like your Amateur License, your VE credentials have an expiration date and must be renewed. With ARRL, the renewal is automatic as long as you have activity at exam sessions. Generally, if you have helped with an exam in the last five years. ARRL will send you a sticker for your badge with the updated dates.



During the current lock downs, they are not able to be in the ARRL building and to mail the stickers, but have a record of the renewal and will catch up as things settle down.

If you aren't already a VE, consider joining our local group. You need to have at least a General license—Extra preferred. Contact Mark, K8MSH if interested: [mh@zoominternet.net](mailto:mh@zoominternet.net)

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## Swap and Shop

No item listings this month. If you have ham gear to sell, be sure to send the information for publication in the next Voice Coil. We also post them on our website.

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## We Need Your Help

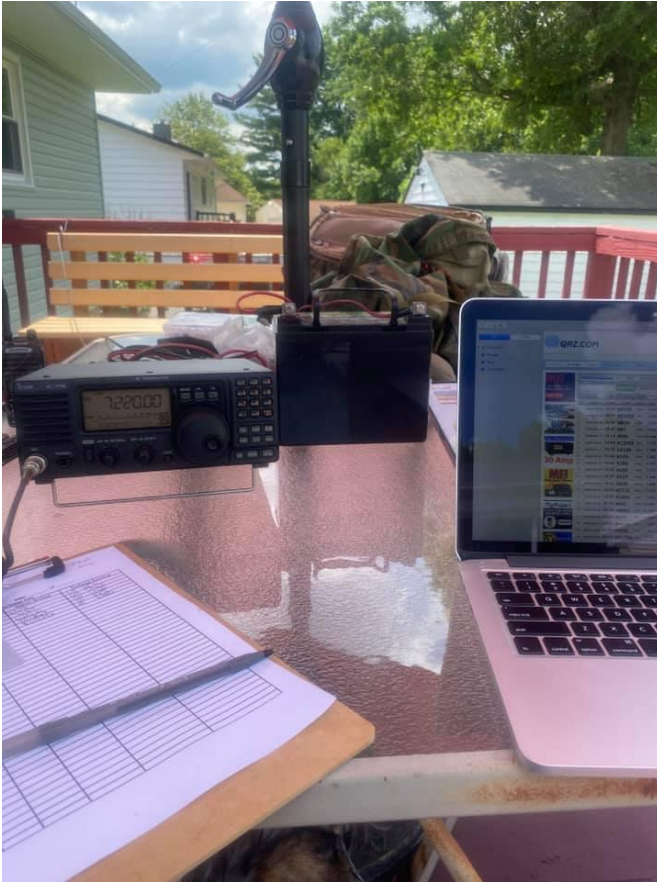
The club has been looking for help with public relations, but no-one is stepping up. Maybe we need to explain a little more about what we need.

At some point we hope things will get closer to normal and we will be able to have regular meetings and events. Wouldn't it be great if we could get that information to those in the area that might be looking for a club or event to attend? Nothing fancy, we just want to send the information to the local Newspapers, TV Stations, and Radio Stations. We will provide a list of emails to send the information and samples of what to send.



Basically, that will be a monthly email announcing our meeting and the occasional event such as our Annual Special Event station at the Boardman Car Show. Can you give us a hand? If so please let any Officer or Trustee know.

**Field Day, (cont'd)** Mike Malarky,  
W8IWD, QRP



Nancy Brett, KD8QNY



Frank Sole, WB8YHD



Dave Brett, KD8NZF





## Station Loaner Program

If you're a new ham/newly upgraded and want to get on the HF bands, MVARA has a loaner program for club members. The club has two complete stations with radio, power supply, microphone, CW key, and antenna tuner. All you need to do is supply your own coax, antenna, and keep the equipment in good condition while you have it.

Loan period is up to 6 months. However, you will be responsible for returning the station temporarily for use during Field Day weekend in June.

With the new ARRL proposal, it looks like even Tech class amateurs may soon have more phone privileges on some of the HF bands. Contact MVARA at our email address: [mvara.W8QLY@gmail.com](mailto:mvara.W8QLY@gmail.com)

## Got Pictures/Video?



If you didn't get to participate when the MVARA joined the Boy Scouts to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of Camp Stambaugh, be sure and check out the audio visual presentation of the on our home page at [www.mvara.org](http://www.mvara.org) You'll feel like you were part of the festivities.

The MVARA can use your pictures and videos of club activities. We would love to have pictures and or video of JOTA, the Christmas Parade, Santa Net, etc. You can submit an edited video file to us or we can put together and edit your raw files. Email your pictures to [MVARAVoiceCoil@gmail.com](mailto:MVARAVoiceCoil@gmail.com). Video files will be too large to email so contact Dave [kd8nzf@zoominternet.net](mailto:kd8nzf@zoominternet.net) or Rich [kb8gae@yahoo.com](mailto:kb8gae@yahoo.com) to make file transfer arrangements.



**ARRL**  
The national association for  
**AMATEUR RADIO®**

## *THE LAST WORD*

“Life is all about how you handle plan B.” -Unknown



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The *VOICE COIL* is the monthly publication of the Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc. (MVARA) and is intended to present news, issues and opinions of interest to MVARA members and the Amateur Radio Community. We encourage contributions of articles, letters to the editor, etc. and welcome newsletter exchanges with other clubs from around the country and around the world. Permission is granted to reprint material contained herein as long as proper credit is given to this newsletter and the author. Ideas for and contributions to the VOICE COIL should be submitted to: [MVARAVoiceCoil@gmail.com](mailto:MVARAVoiceCoil@gmail.com)

Submissions must be received **no later than the 24th** of the month prior to the month of issue, unless otherwise specified. **Submissions should be in MS Word format or ASCII text—no PDF, please!** Material received after the deadline will be used in the next month's VOICE COIL if it is still current and /or newsworthy.

### *Swap and Shop Policies*

Swap and Shop listings are open to all licensed Mahoning Valley Hams, based on space available—you don't need to be an MVARA member. Please submit your list to [mvara.w8qly@gmail.com](mailto:mvara.w8qly@gmail.com) **AND** [mvaravoiccoil@gmail.com](mailto:mvaravoiccoil@gmail.com) for placement in both *Voice Coil* and website. MVARA assumes no responsibility for transactions made or inaccuracies in ads. You are responsible for checking your ad and notifying us of any corrections. Ads will run for two consecutive issues unless we are notified otherwise.

### *Disclaimer*

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