



June 2020
Volume 58, Issue 6
Our 101st 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

We are about to experience a Field Day like we never have before. We aren't going to be meeting at the usual location, Mill Creek Metro Parks Farm, to put up antennas. We aren't going to set up radios and call W8QLY hundreds upon hundreds of times. We aren't going to have all the great food that we do and all the camaraderie of the folks that show up.

This year, even with the closing of the farm and the help of Mike, K8PRR, procuring us a new location. After considering the options, I decided to do what the ARRL recommended. Stay home. It's just that simple--stay home. I just can't take the risk of any of you getting sick.

Don't let this stop you from getting on the air though. Use your call sign. You will be credited with the points and the club's call will be associated with it.

Be creative--use a generator if you have one, set up an antenna you don't use normally, operate under the shade of a tree in your yard or a screened room. These all will change your designator and gain you some extra points.

As I sit here and write this I am getting a lot of ideas. I have a small tent I could use and operate out of or I could operate out of the barn use the generator and put up a wire that I have in the barn.



Folks, I can't wait until we can feel safe enough to meet again. I miss you all. I miss the things that we do. I was hoping that we could be together for Field Day, but it just isn't going to happen this year. However, we're coming up with some plans for keep the seasoned HF operators involved and also involve those that are not HF operators.

I will be sending out emails as soon as all the details are ironed out. I hope to hear you on the air during Field Day.

73, Scott

Next Zoom Meetings:

June 11: Paul Bourque, N1SFE Field Day under Social Distancing.

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 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

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.

Paul Bourque, N1SFE, June Speaker

Paul Bourque, N1SFE, will be joining us via Zoom for our June meeting. Paul is the Contest Manager for ARRL, a position he took on in June of 2019. Paul's interest in Amateur Radio started as a youngster and continued as he pursued a career in the engineering side of Broadcast Radio. Of course, it didn't hurt that he grew up in Newington, CT, home of the ARRL.

The Contest Manager title might lead you to think Paul spends all his time with the Big Gun contesters and that is a good part of his job, as witnessed by his involvement with the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee. But his job also involves outreach to both old and new hams on a variety of Amateur issues. For instance if you are a new Ham and listen to the "So Now What" podcasts ARRL is doing, you will run into Paul on the 11th Podcast explaining what contesting is about, what you need to get started, and some of the skills a ham develops in contesting.

Also under the Contest umbrella is Field Day, at the very least a pseudo-contest, and that is what Paul will be addressing with us during his presentation. Field Day this year will likely be one for the record books, so please plan to join us on June 11th when Paul gives us the latest on doing Field Day under Social Distancing.



License Refresher Answers: E6E01 (C), E6E02 (A), G3A01 (A), G3A02 (B)

Current Activities

May 30: Lou Malice Memorial 2 meter contest, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

June 11: Paul Bourque, N1SFE Field Day under Social Distancing.

June 27-28: ARRL Field Day.

Contact Us:

-Email: mvara.W8QLY@gmail.com

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

-Meeting ideas/ suggestions? Contact Dave, KD8NZF,
KD8NZF@zoominternet.net

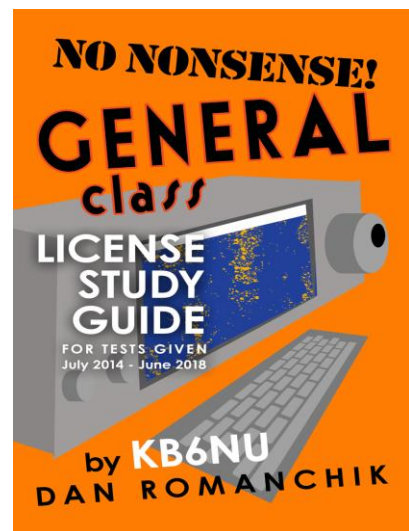
VE testing May: The May session was a great success! 11 candidates took the test, 10 successfully got their Tech licenses or upgraded.

Hamfest Calendar: Due to the coronavirus epidemic, there are no listings.

General License Class

The MVARA General Class License Workshop started May 13 and our students are on their way to having their General Ticket for Field Day. If you are interested in upgrading but couldn't make the class, here is a rundown on how the class is structured.

We are calling this a blended class. That's School of Education talk for saying part of the work is done in class and part of the work is done online. In this case, with the stay at home restrictions, the in-class part is being done via Zoom meetings. We are recording the sessions but have not posted them publicly. If you are interested in following the classes you can request the link by email to mvara.w8qly@gmail.com



The exam for the General license is based on questions in ten sections called sub-elements. You can find the question pool and breakdown of the sub-elements here: <http://www.arrl.org/general-question-pool>. Each week the students study two sub-elements using the No Nonsense General Guide by Dan KB6NU and the practice exams on qrz.com. There are many-many resources both in print and online for exam prep and they are very good. We chose these two because QRZ allows practicing by sub-element and the no-nonsense guide is about the most economical reference.

The pattern is to take an exam on QRZ (about 12-15 questions on average), note the ID# for any you are unsure of, use the ID to find the section in the Guide that deals with the question. If you are still unsure, bring the question to the next class session. Each session we will spend the majority of the time dealing with any questions from the weeks study and a little time with some Hints & Kinks in areas the instructors thought could be troublesome. Repeat as needed, your mileage may vary.

Salvagers to attempt recovery of Titanic's Marconi radio

Dan, KB6NU (From Yahoo! Finance)

A federal judge says RMS Titanic Inc. can go forward with its plan to cut into the Titanic shipwreck and try retrieving the Marconi wireless telegraph machine that sent out distress calls 108 years ago.



In an order issued Monday in Norfolk, Va., District Judge Rebecca Beach Smith said RMS Titanic, the court-designated salvage firm for the Titanic, made its case that the radio had enough historic value to justify sending a specially equipped robot into the wreck. The remotely operated submersible would be equipped with tools to cut through the deckhouse if necessary.

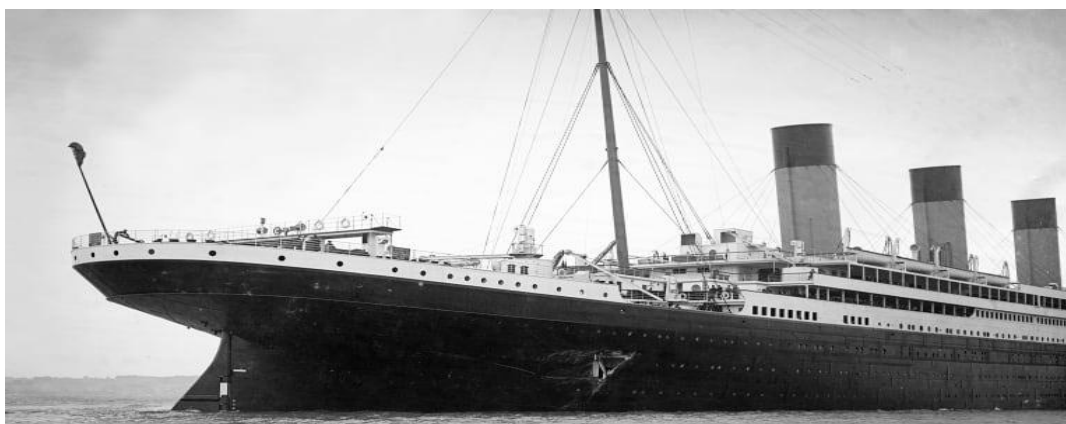
The Titanic is arguably the world's most famous shipwreck — and a monument to the more than 1,500 people who died when the luxury liner struck an iceberg and sank in the North Atlantic, during its maiden voyage from Southampton to New York in 1912.

Researchers rediscovered the wreck in 1985, and since then, hundreds of artifacts have been recovered from the bottom of the ocean and put on exhibit. That's what RMS Titanic is planning to do with the radio.

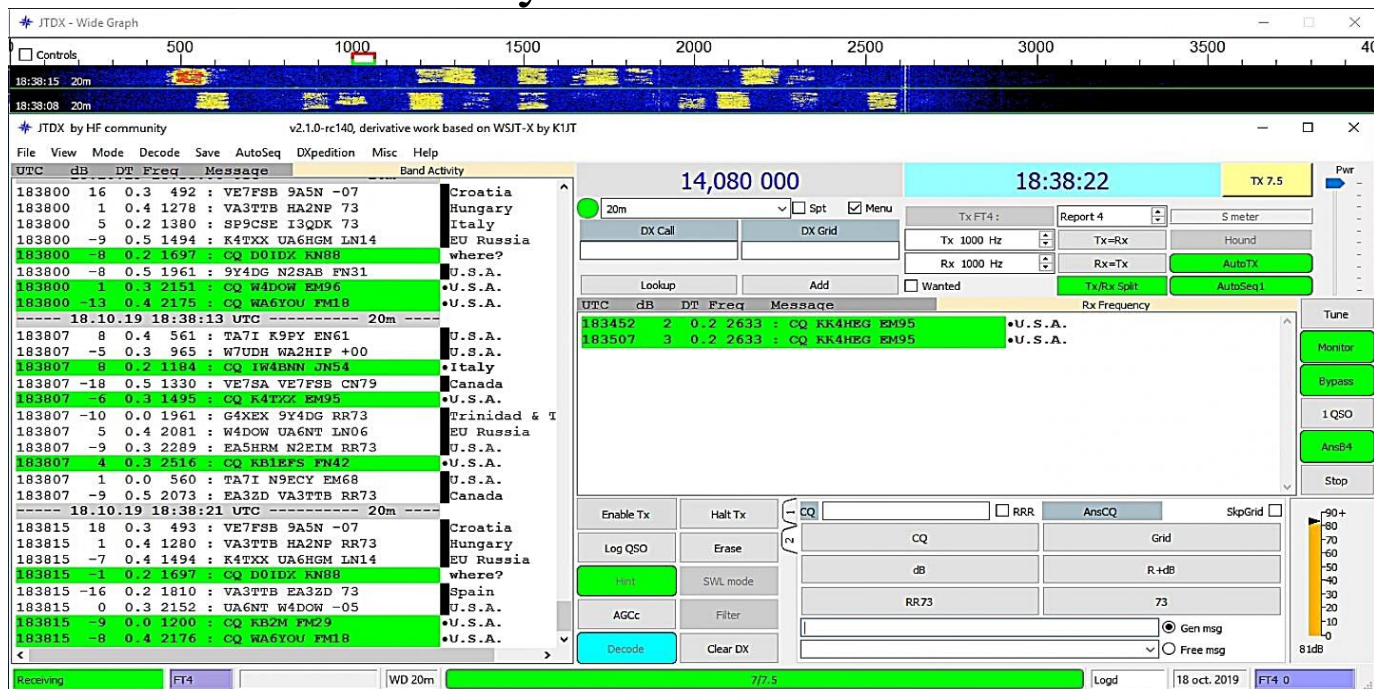
In her ruling, Smith wrote that retrieving the radio “will contribute to the legacy left by the indelible loss of the Titanic, those who survived, and those who gave their lives in the sinking.”

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration had argued that the expedition was prohibited under federal law and an international agreement, but the judge said a salvage agreement dating back to 2000 took precedence.

RMS Titanic Inc. is planning to conduct its expedition in August.



FT4/FT8 for Field Day?



The ARRL Field Day Packet for 2020 specifically references the use of FT4/FT8 for Field Day. Below are some extracts from the packet.

* Can I operate FT4/FT8 for Field Day?

All digital modes can be used during Field Day, provided they can accommodate the Field Day exchange.

* 6-meter Digital Meteor Scatter FSK/MSK activity is from about 50.250 to 50.290 MHz, and now you can find FT8 users occupying frequencies between 50.300 – 50.330 MHz (with a primary focus on 50.313 MHz).

* The 2 meters SSC/CW calling frequency is 144.200 MHz. As with 6 meters, please do not monopolize the calling frequency. Digital MSK/FSK and even FT8 operations can generally be found between 144.140 and 144.160 MHz. JT65 operation is generally only used for Moonbounce (EME) between 144.100 and 144.150 MHz. Remember, per FCC Rules, the range 144.000 to 144.100 MHz is limited to CW only!

* If your club has lots of experience in various modes and operating conditions, plan a more challenging test for your group. For example, the latest digital modes (including FT8) are allowing beginner operators and small stations the ability to enjoy the hobby in ways never before envisioned.

* Don't ignore one mode for another. Many groups have concentrated on CW only to miss out on some easy Phone contacts, and vice versa. Digital modes, especially MSK144 on VHF, and FT8 on HF and VHF are two of the fastest growing areas of Field Day contacts. Always keep in mind that every contact counts, no matter what the mode.

If you've never experimented with digital modes, perhaps this year is an opportunity to give them a try. Setup is relatively straightforward. You'll need a computer and a digital interface to connect the radio to the computer, and you'll need to download one of the digital mode software packages such as the free WSJT-Xsuite, which incorporates FT8 and FT4. Many modern transceivers have built-in support for digital modes, so in those cases, all you'll need is the proper cable to connect the radio to the computer's USB port. You'll need software that supports the ARRL Field Day exchange (WSJT-Xversion 2.0 or later, for example)

Here Comes the Sun . . . The K7RA Solar Update

Still no sunspots to report. Spaceweather.com reported on May 20 that the current stretch of days with no sunspots has now reached 18. And with that the 2020 percentage of days with no sunspots has risen to 77%, equal to 2019. Until May 15 that statistic stood at 76%.

Average daily solar flux for the week rose to 69, marginally higher than last week's average of 68.5. Average planetary A index declined from 4.1 to 3.7, while average mid-latitude A index shifted from 4.7 to 4.

Predicted solar flux for the next 45 days is 70, every day from May 22 through July 5. Predicted planetary A index is 5 on May 22 until June 14, 8 on June 15-16, and 5 on June 17 through July 5.

Geomagnetic activity forecast for the period May 22 until June 16, 2020 from F.K. Janda, OK1HH.

Geomagnetic field will be

quiet on: May 25-31, June 2-5, 9-13

quiet to unsettled on: May 22-24, June 14

quiet to active on: (June 1, 6-8, 15-16)

unsettled to active on: - none predicted!

active to disturbed: - none predicted!

Solar wind will intensify on: May (23,) 24, June (6-7)

- Parenthesis means lower probability of activity enhancement.

- The predictability of changes remains lower as there are no indicators.



AA8WH reports from Dearborn Heights, Michigan, "I been listening over the last few days. Yesterday, May 20, 6 meters has been open at various times all day. Sometimes, FT8 would be up, stay up for a while, then, a few minutes later would fade back into the noise.

"I figured that must've been sporadic E. I went down to 10 meters and it was quiet, but 12 meters was open, as was 15. Seventeen and 20 meters were hopping most of the day. I was able to hear the W1AW broadcasts up to 15 meters and sometimes even 10 meters."

Regular contributor David Moore sent this article about the Parker Solar Probe: <https://bit.ly/2TrgRy8>

Another article about solar minimum: <https://bit.ly/2LQ94pv>

Here is the latest video from Dr. Skov: <https://bit.ly/3cOUV7X>

For more information concerning radio propagation, see <http://www.arrl.org/propagation> and the ARRL Technical Information Service at <http://arrl.org/propagation-of-rf-signals>.

For an explanation of numbers used in this bulletin, see <http://arrl.org/the-sun-the-earth-the-ionosphere>. More good information and tutorials on propagation are at <http://k9la.us/>.

Sunspot numbers for May 14 through 20, 2020 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, and 0, with a mean of 0. 10.7 cm flux was 67.6, 67.8, 69.4, 69.6, 70.2, 68.7, and 69.6, with a mean of 69. Estimated planetary A indices were 3, 4, 4, 3, 4, 5, and 3, with a mean of 3.7. Middle latitude A index was 3, 4, 4, 3, 5, 6, and 3, with a mean of 4.

CQ MVARA

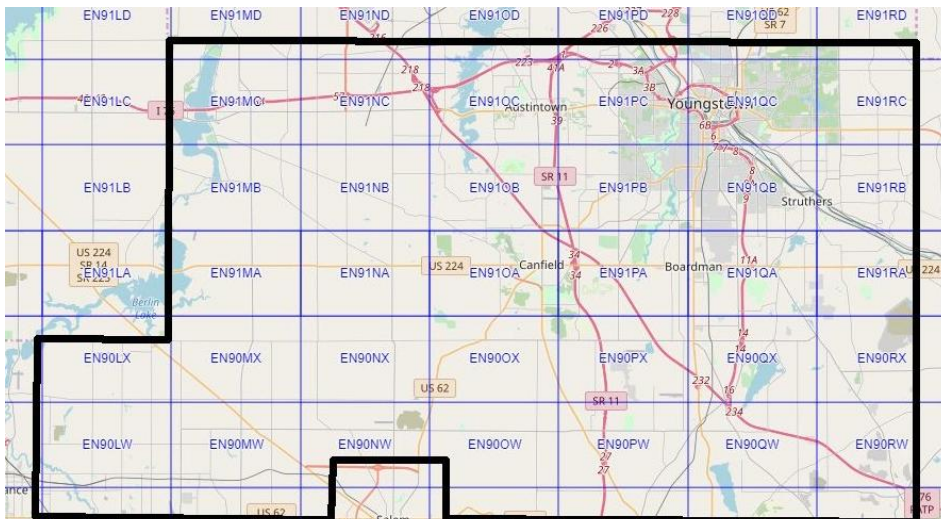
Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 30, 2020, 1:00pm to 4:00pm, for the Mahoning Valley Two Meter Contest. All interested amateurs are invited to join in for a FM Simplex Grid Square Contest covering Trumbull, Mahoning, and Columbiana Counties.

The object is to work as many different stations in as many different grid squares as possible. No 100 watt base station, no problem! The contest has a QRP category for 5 watts or less and a high power category of greater than 5 watts so everyone will have a level playing field. There will be certificates awarded to the highest scoring QRP Power Fixed and High-Power Fixed stations. We currently are not including Rover stations, pending changes in the stay at home orders from the state.

This contest is dedicated to the memory of pioneer Valley ham Lou Malice WA8PKN whose dedication to amateur radio touched the lives of all of us. Even if you never had the pleasure of knowing Lou you are still part of his legacy. Chances are good that the hams who inspired and encouraged you to become part of amateur radio were, themselves, inspired, encouraged, and trained by Lou.

The short version of the rules:

1. Mode and Frequencies: All contacts must be made on **SIMPLEX** using FM voice mode and confined to the frequency ranges 146.400 to 146.505, 146.535 to 146.595 and 147.400 to 147.585 defined by the ARRL bandplan as simplex frequencies. In Ohio FM simplex is often channelized in 15 KHz steps to avoid adjacent channel interference. Please use the frequencies on the 2 Meter FM Simplex Frequencies page available on the MVARA website. Do not use the FM calling frequency of 146.520. **NO CONTACTS MAY BE MADE THROUGH REPEATERS.**
2. Exchange: Each station will give their call and the six character maidenhead grid square they are operating from as shown on the contest maps available on the MVARA website. If your grid square is not on the maps you can find it by putting your call sign into www.qrz.com and clicking the detail tab or use the grid locator at www.qrz.com/gridmapper.
3. QSO: To be valid a contact (QSO) must contain a unique call sign and grid square combination. For complete contest rules and operating aids please check the website here: <http://mvara.org/Mv2mc.html>



HAM HUMOR: VALENTINE'S GIFT A 'BIG HIT' FOR RADIO OPERATOR



By [WBØRUR](#), on the scene

NACODOCHES, West Virginia — Mr. Harold “Butch” Crutchfield of Upper Combover County is nursing a gunshot wound to the upper thigh, after presenting his wife with an outstanding Valentine’s Day present: an Alpha 9500 amplifier!

“She’d been hinting around that she wanted something really special this year,” says the 63-year-old civil engineer. “So I thought about it for a while... and chose the amp. It’s a great piece of equipment!”

Crutchfield, a ham radio operator since 1988, ordered the amplifier online. It was delivered just days before the traditional “love-bird” holiday.

“I didn’t even have a chance to gift wrap it before she ripped into the packaging. We’ve been married for 32 years,” says Crutchfield. “And I’ve got to be honest. I’m about out of creative gift-giving ideas.”

According to a spokesman for the local ham radio club, Marti Jane Crutchfield (the ham’s wife) was so excited upon un-boxing the amp that she retrieved her husband’s shotgun to fire celebratory gunshots into the air.

Apparently one of the blasts caught Butch in the upper thigh.

“I’ll be alright eventually,” he says philosophically. “But I won’t be climbing my tower anytime soon, that’s for sure.”

A year ago, Mr. Crutchfield presented his wife with an RG -58 coax bouquet, complete with silver and gold Teflon connectors, which he says “shimmered like my wife’s eyes.”

Local hams may recall the freak accident last year, when the coax bouquet twisted around Crutchfield’s left forearm and broke his fall from the 2nd story balcony.

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.

Extra Pool

E6E01 (C)

Which of the following is true of a charge-coupled device (CCD)?

- A. Its phase shift changes rapidly with frequency
- B. It is a CMOS analog-to-digital converter
- C. It samples an analog signal and passes it in stages from the input to the output
- D. It is used in a battery charger circuit

E6E02 (A)

Which of the following device packages is a through-hole type?

- A. DIP
- B. PLCC
- C. Ball grid array
- D. SOT

General Pool

G3A01 (A)

What is the significance of the sunspot number with regard to HF propagation?

- A. Higher sunspot numbers generally indicate a greater probability of good propagation at higher frequencies
- B. Lower sunspot numbers generally indicate greater probability of sporadic E propagation
- C. A zero sunspot number indicates that radio propagation is not possible on any band
- D. A zero sunspot number indicates undisturbed conditions

G3A02 (B)

What effect does a Sudden Ionospheric Disturbance have on the daytime ionospheric propagation of HF radio waves?

- A. It enhances propagation on all HF frequencies
- B. It disrupts signals on lower frequencies more than those on higher frequencies
- C. It disrupts communications via satellite more than direct communications
- D. None, because only areas on the night side of the Earth are affected

Answers pg. 2

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>.

June 2020

+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, Jun 1
+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Jun 2
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Jun 2
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 3
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Jun 3
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1900Z-2000Z, Jun 3
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	0300Z-0400Z, Jun 4
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Jun 4
+ NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1800Z-1900Z, Jun 4 (CW) and 1900Z-2000Z, Jun 4 (SSB) and 2000Z-2100Z, Jun 4 (FM) and 2100Z-2200Z, Jun 4 (Dig)
+ UKEICC 80m Summer Series	1800Z-1900Z, Jun 4
+ SKCC Sprint Europe	1900Z-2100Z, Jun 4
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Jun 5
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 5
+ HA3NS Sprint Memorial Contest	1900Z-1929Z, Jun 5 (40m) and 1930Z-1959Z, Jun 5 (80m)
+ 10-10 Int. Open Season PSK Contest	0000Z, Jun 6 to 2400Z, Jun 7
+ PVRC Reunion	0000Z-0200Z, Jun 6 and 0000Z-0200Z, Jun 7
+ DigiFest	0400Z-1200Z, Jun 6 and 2000Z, Jun 6 to 0400Z, Jun 7 and 1200Z-2000Z, Jun 7
+ VK Shires Contest	0600Z, Jun 6 to 0600Z, Jun 7
+ Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0600Z-0629Z, Jun 6 and 0630Z-0659Z, Jun 6 and 0700Z-0729Z, Jun 6 and 0730Z-0800Z, Jun 6
+ SEANET Contest	1200Z, Jun 6 to 1200Z, Jun 7
+ UKSMG Summer Contest	1300Z, Jun 6 to 1300Z, Jun 7
+ Kentucky QSO Party	1400Z, Jun 6 to 0200Z, Jun 7
+ RSGB National Field Day	Cancelled
+ IARU Region 1 Field Day, CW	1500Z, Jun 6 to 1459Z, Jun 7
+ Dutch Kingdom Contest	1500Z, Jun 6 to 1500Z, Jun 7
+ RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint	1600Z-1959Z, Jun 6
+ Cookie Crumble QRP Contest	1700Z-2200Z, Jun 7
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Jun 9
+ NAQCC CW Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Jun 10
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 10
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Jun 10
+ UKEICC 80m Summer Series	1800Z-1900Z, Jun 10
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1900Z-2000Z, Jun 10
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Jun 10
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	0300Z-0400Z, Jun 11
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Jun 11
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Jun 12

+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 12
+ DRCG WW RTTY Contest	0000Z-0759Z, Jun 13 and 1600Z-2359Z, Jun 13 and 0800Z-1559Z, Jun 14
+ SMIRK Contest	0000Z, Jun 13 to 2400Z, Jun 14
+ Asia-Pacific Sprint, SSB	1100Z-1300Z, Jun 13
+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Jun 13 to 2400Z, Jun 14
+ Portugal Day Contest	1200Z, Jun 13 to 1200Z, Jun 14
+ AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1400Z-1700Z, Jun 13 (144) and 1700Z-1800Z, Jun 13 (432)
+ GACW WWSA CW DX Contest	1500Z, Jun 13 to 1500Z, Jun 14
+ REF DDFM 6m Contest	1600Z, Jun 13 to 1600Z, Jun 14
+ ARRL June VHF Contest	1800Z, Jun 13 to 0259Z, Jun 15
+ RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint	1600Z-1959Z, Jun 14
+ 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Jun 15
+ RSGB FT4 Contest Series	1900Z-2030Z, Jun 15
+ SARL Youth Sprint	1200Z-1400Z, Jun 16
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Jun 16
+ NAQCC CW Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Jun 17
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 17
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Jun 17
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1900Z-2000Z, Jun 17
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	0300Z-0400Z, Jun 18
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Jun 18
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Jun 19
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 19
+ Battle of Carabobo International Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Jun 20
+ All Asian DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Jun 20 to 2400Z, Jun 21
+ Ukrainian DX Classic RTTY Contest	1200Z, Jun 20 to 1159Z, Jun 21
+ IARU Region 1 50/70 MHz Contest	1400Z, Jun 20 to 1400Z, Jun 21
+ Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Jun 20 to 1500Z, Jun 21
+ RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint	1600Z-1959Z, Jun 20
+ West Virginia QSO Party	1600Z, Jun 20 to 0400Z, Jun 21
+ Feld Hell Sprint	1800Z-1959Z, Jun 20
+ ARRL Kids Day	1800Z-2359Z, Jun 20
+ WAB 50 MHz Phone	0800Z-1400Z, Jun 21
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	1900Z-2400Z, Jun 21
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Jun 23
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Jun 24
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 24
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Jun 24
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1900Z-2000Z, Jun 24
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	0300Z-0400Z, Jun 25
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Jun 25
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Jun 25
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Jun 26
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 26
+ UFT QRP Contest	0600Z-0900Z, Jun 27 and 1400Z-1700Z, Jun 27
+ His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB	1200Z, Jun 27 to 1200Z, Jun 28
+ Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest	1200Z, Jun 27 to 1200Z, Jun 28
+ RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint	1600Z-1959Z, Jun 27
+ ARRL Field Day	1800Z, Jun 27 to 2100Z, Jun 28
+ 10-10 Int. Spirit of 76 QSO Party	0001Z, Jun 29 to 2400Z, Jul 5

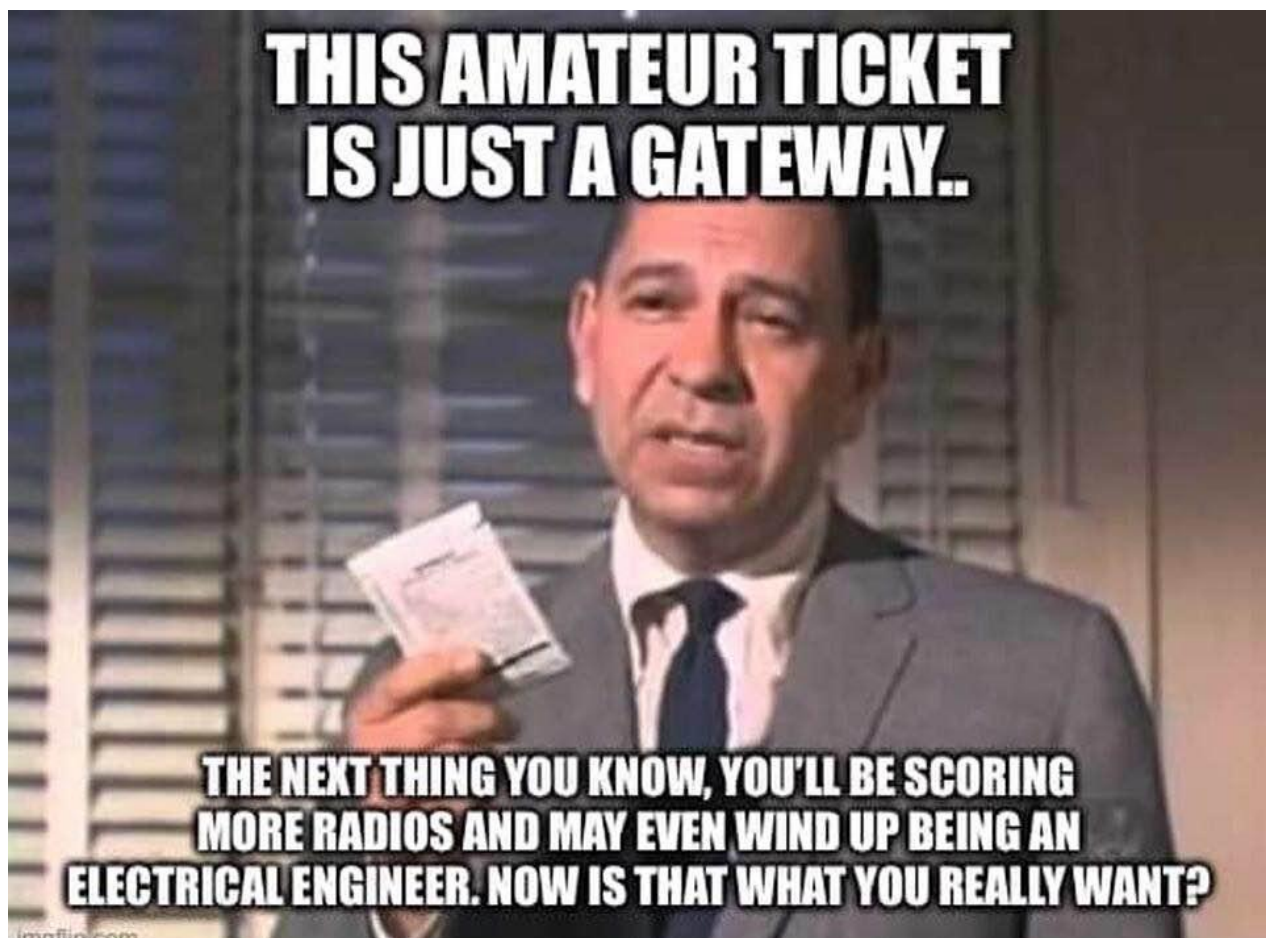
+ QCX Challenge	1300Z-1400Z, Jun 29
+ QCX Challenge	1900Z-2000Z, Jun 29
+ QCX Challenge	0300Z-0400Z, Jun 30
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Jun 30

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>

June						
2020 Jun10	2020 Jun17	Cayman Is	ZF2FD	LoTW	DXNews 20191211	By KK5XX fm Grand Cayman I (NA-016); 80 40 20m; SSB; QSL also OK via KK5XX and eQSL
2020 Jun11	2020 Jul02	St Kitts & Nevis	V47JA	LoTW	W5JON 20191120	By W5JON fm Calypso Bay; 160-6m, incl 60m; SSB FT8; yagi, verticals; QSL also OK via W5JON direct
2020 Jun15	2020 Jul15	Guantanamo Bay	KG4MA	TBA	TDDX 20200508	By W1SRR; HF; SSB FT8, perhaps CW; exact start date not clear; to continue for 12 months



ARISS Multipoint Telebridge Contact via Amateur Radio Concept Proving Successful

Judging by the outcome of two tests so far, the new Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Multipoint Telebridge Contact via Amateur Radio concept appears to be a winner. ARISS completed the second test of the new-style radio contact called Multipoint Telebridge Contact via Amateur Radio on May 15, when Airdrie Space Science Club members in Airdrie, Alberta, Canada, interviewed International Space Station Commander Chris Cassidy, KF5KDR, via ham radio.



“What makes this contact a little different from the usual ARISS contact is [that] everyone involved will be speaking from their homes in Canada, as we all shelter in place,” said the contact moderator John Kludt, K4SQC, in introducing the event. The multipoint telebridge concept was developed to make it possible for students — now at home and engaged in distance learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic — to take part in scheduled ARISS contacts. An ARISS telebridge ground station operated by John Sygo, ZS6JON, near Johannesburg, South Africa, made direct contact with NA1SS onboard the ISS, then passing overhead. Sygo then patched two-way audio into the telebridge network for distribution to each student’s home by telephone.

Each student then took turns asking questions of Cassidy, and their families, faculty members, and the public could also listen from home. One of the participants, Lucas, wanted to know how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected life aboard the space station.

“The pandemic has affected us because it’s affected our families,” Cassidy responded. “Our daily life here on the space station is largely the same, with or without the pandemic.”

The initial multipoint telebridge contact earlier this month, while successful, suffered from some issues on the space station that were unrelated to the new multipoint system. During the more-than 11-minute contact on May 15, some of the students got to ask more than one question.

Prior to the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Canadian students had engaged in lessons about space and radio communication, such as launching balloons carrying ham radio payloads and building model rockets to launch.

One of the Airdrie Space Science Club leaders — Brian Jackson, VE6JBJ — said the pandemic had interrupted opportunities to develop the students’ interest in space. “This ARISS contact gets them looking back up, towards the sky, and imagining themselves as an astronaut one day,” he observed. — *Thanks to ARISS*

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.



Swap and Shop

1. Drake 2B receiver and 2BQ q multiplier. Antique ham band receiver and speaker q multiplier. Works great for its age. Cabinets need repainted but ok. \$235.

2. HA8KF Magnetic Keyer Paddle Iambic keyer with red paddles and large metal base. It features a solid brass polished hub with unique machining markings, mounted on a heavy steel base with a variegated black powder coating. It is pre-wired with a ¼ in. phone plug (6.35mm male TRS). Hand-made in Hungary to bring "easy-to-send" CW joy to your shack. New. \$190.

3. BaoFeng UV-5R Dual Band Two Way Radio 128 Channels 50 ctcss and 104 CDCSS dual-band display, Dual Freq. Display, dual-standby, a/B band independent operation | High/low TX power selectable: busy Channel lock-out (bclo). Tri-color background light selectable: 0-9 grades vox selectable | FM radio (65.0Mhz-108.0MHZ) | large LCD display. Keypad Lock: channel step: 2.5/5/6.25/10/12.5/25Khz | voice Companding: 50 ctcss/ 104DCS coder & tone searching. Emergency alert: 25Khz/12.5Khz switchable | LED flashlight: high/low RF power switchable. New in unopened box, \$20.

Call Dave Fairbanks, N8NB, at 330-501-5031 if interested in these

1---ALPHA DELTA: dx-40

2---PAR ELECTRONIC: ef-30

3---IMD METER (kk7uq): w/ps & mnl

4---TRUE TALK (wa2nan): g5rv w/coax & ll

5---MAXCON: ocf-3k80 w/isltr

6---PALSTAR: at1kp tnr w/mnl

7---YAESU sp-101b speaker

Ken.....KC8Y Email... cct66000@gmail.com

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

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 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. Video files will be too large to email, so contact Dave kd8nzf@zoominternet.net or Rich kb8gae@yahoo.com to make file transfer arrangements.



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THE LAST WORD

“Where there is no vision, there is no hope.”
- George Washington Carver



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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

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 **AND** 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 notified otherwise.

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