



September 2020  
Volume 58, Issue 9  
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

We got together for the first time since March at the Corn Roast and I'll tell you it sure was good to see all of you that came. We even got to meet a few new members.

As usual Dean Demain put on the usual spread of hamburgers, hotdogs, potato salad, macaroni salad and corn on the cob, plus a great cake for dessert. Thank you Dean for all that you did. I also have to thank the cooks Dean, Mike, Joe and Doug--you guys did a great job keeping us supplied in hamburgers, hotdogs and corn on the cob.

I also can't forget Dave and Nancy who helped me pass out the food. A good time was had by all even if we had to practice social distancing and wear masks it all worked out great.

We only have a few more months before the weather turns cold. Some of the other local clubs are meeting outside, so we are going to try it too. We are working on the location for our meeting but it will be a bring your own chair event and we will have to practice social distancing.

Mark Haverstock is going to do a presentation on QRP Radio for us during our first outdoor meeting and that is going to parlay into some more Zoom presentations to follow. Those will be posted on the webpage for all to watch.

We did vote on the changes for the voting this year for the offices of Vice President, Treasurer and two Trustees. We have nominations coming up September 15 through



October 14, 2020 you can nominate yourself or someone else. You do this by either sending an email to [mvara.w8qly@gmail.com](mailto:mvara.w8qly@gmail.com) or call me at 330-333-2761 and I will contact the parties involved. I will be sending out email reminders during the process.

I also want to congratulate Mark Haverstock for putting together the fine newsletter we call the *Voice Coil*. It tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the state of Ohio this year for newsletters. GREAT JOB Mark!!!!!!! First place went to the Alliance club and second place went to PCARS.

Scott, KE8UHC

## **Next Meeting:**

**Sept. 10, 7pm, Mahoning Valley Railroad Heritage Association, 1340 Poland Ave., Youngstown 44502**

*Do you still have an email address with (your call)@ARRL.net? We're still getting mail returned. Please provide an alternate 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.

## Award-Winning Voice Coil

Once again, the *Voice Coil* has placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Ohio  
Section Newsletter Contest. Many thanks to MVARA  
members who have (and hopefully will continue) to  
contribute articles, pictures and projects to our newsletter.

Mark Haverstock, K8MSH, Editor

## August Corn Roast



### John Degutis—N8LVA

Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers. John  
suffered a heart attack, had bypass surgery, and is  
currently fighting sepsis, a potentially life-threatening  
condition. We wish him a successful recovery.

### License Refresher Answers

E1C01 (D) [97.303], E1C02 (C) [97.117], G4A01 (B)  
G4A02 (C)

# Current Activities

**September 9:** VE testing, 6:30, Youngstown Radio, 123 Meridian Rd., Youngstown, OH.

**September 10:** Monthly meeting, Mahoning Valley Railroad Heritage Association, 1340 Poland Ave., Youngstown 44502 (see directions below). Topic: Portable operations/QRP. Bring a chair, face covering.

**September 12:** 13th annual OSPOTA Contest.

## Contact Us:

-Email: [mvara.W8QLY@gmail.com](mailto:mvara.W8QLY@gmail.com) Phone: 330-333-2761

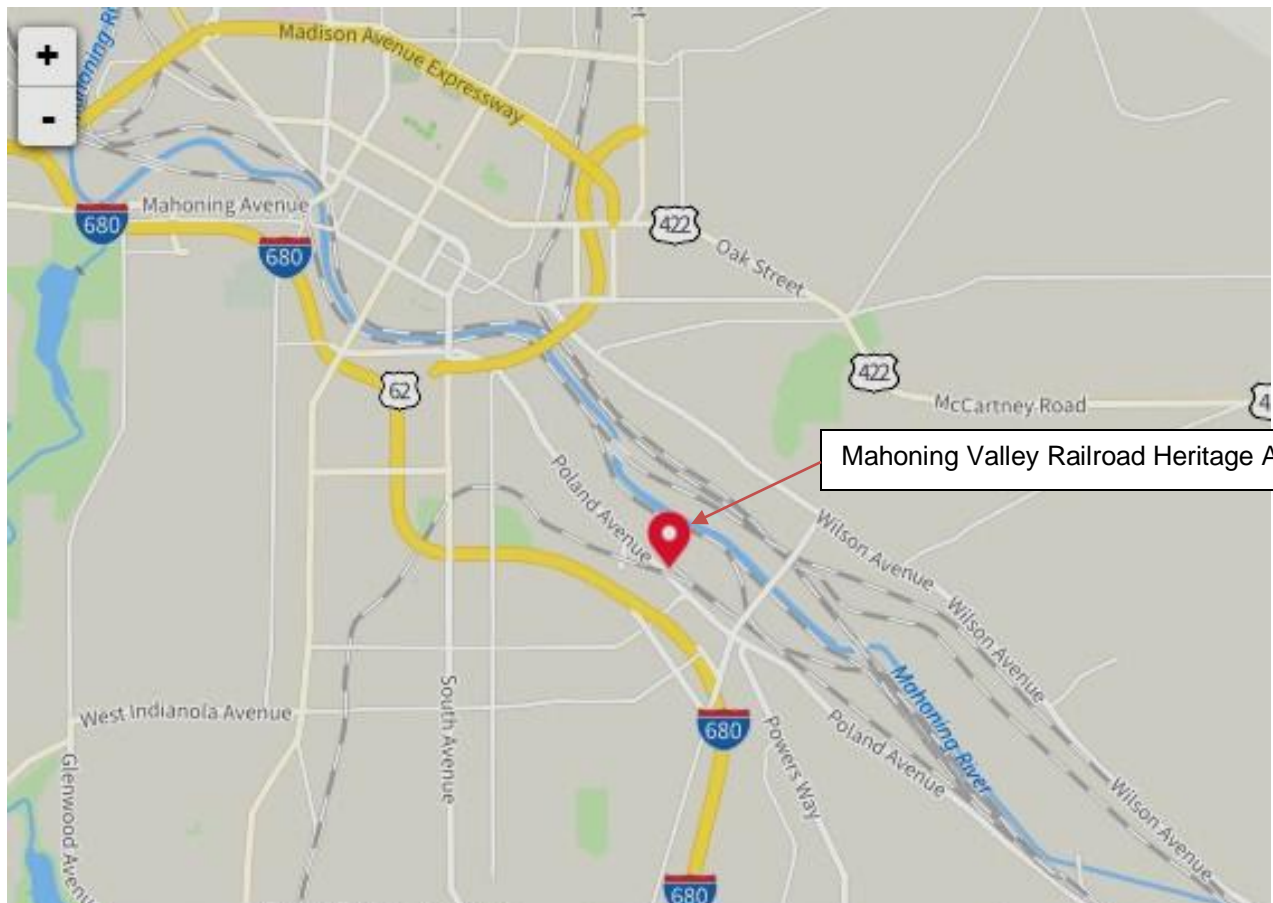
-Snail-mail: MVARA, P.O. Box 14141, Poland, OH 44514

-Meeting ideas/ suggestions? Contact Dave, KD8NZF,  
[KD8NZF@zoominternet.net](mailto:KD8NZF@zoominternet.net)

## September Meeting Location

- **Heading south on 680**, take Exit 8 (Indianola/Shirley Rd.) several blocks until you come to the stop sign at Indianola. Turn left & head down the hill (steep) until Poland Ave. where you will turn left. The train yard will be on your right, just past the machine shop.


**Heading north on 680**, get off at Exit 8 (Shirley Rd.) At the end of the exit ramp turn right onto Shirley Rd and then make a left at the traffic light before the bridge – you will be on Poland Ave. Continue for about a mile, and the train yard will be on your right just past the machine shop.



# Do you have A WTH card?

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



A couple of day ago, Steve, WØAT, who is a big Summits on the Air enthusiast, tweeted: Yesterday we had lots of tourist-hiker visitors wandering by wondering What the Heck we were doing? So I passed out a few of my WTHcards (inspired by Stuart/KB1HQS) He attached this image:



**So What am I Doing??**  
Hi, My name is Steve Galchutt and my FCC call is wØAT I apologize if I disrupted your peace and quiet! I'm a FCC licensed Amateur Radio Operator and Ham Radio is my hobby as is hiking to mountain summits. By using small portable radios and a temporary antenna, with morse code or voice I make contacts with Radio Amateurs all over the world. I also volunteer for local emergency communication services when needed!

Photo: Mt Evans -14,265 feet

Interested in Amateur Radio go to [www.ARRL.org](http://www.ARRL.org)  
And/or Visit: [www.WOTLM.org](http://www.WOTLM.org) (Tri-Lakes Monument Radio Association)



Stuart, KB1HQS, referred to above is a big Parks on the Air guy, and the author of *Portable Operating for the Radio Amateur*. Here's his card:



**Hi! I'm Stuart Thomas (callsign: **KB1HQS**) and I am an FCC licensed Amateur Radio Operator. Amateur radio is a hobby and a volunteer emergency communication service.**

I enjoy the hobby of amateur radio by going out to parks, trails and other outdoor areas and temporarily setting up my radio and antenna with the purpose of talking with other radio operators throughout the world. I use low power (10 Watts) and radio modes such as voice, digital and Morse code to establish contact.

Interested in learning more about Amateur radio and getting on the air?  
Check out [ARRL.org](http://ARRL.org) on how to get started in this hobby!

**For more information on my radio adventures:**  
**[KB1HQS.com](http://KB1HQS.com)**



Both of these are great cards. I don't have my own card, like these two, but I'll often print up a flyer to hand out when I'm operating portable. Here's the flyer that I passed out last year when I activated the Pointe aux Barques lighthouse:

# W8L

## Special Event Amateur Radio Station

This weekend is the National Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend. In commemoration of this event, members of the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society (ARLHS) will be operating amateur radio stations set up at lighthouses and lightships all across the country.

My name is Dan, and my callsign is KB6NU. Please feel free to ask me anything that you'd like about amateur radio. I have been an amateur radio operator for a loooooong time and teach amateur radio classes.

For more information about amateur radio, visit the website of the American Radio Relay League ([arrl.org](http://arrl.org)). For more information about the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society, visit [arlhs.com](http://arlhs.com).



In retrospect, I see that I should have included more contact information.

In any event, these are great things to have when operating portable. You never know who might get interested in the hobby. Heck, they may even end up as good friends.

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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 trying to keep things as simple as possible, but not simpler, he likes to build stuff and operate CW on the HF bands.*



# ARRL

The national association for  
**AMATEUR RADIO**®

# FCC APPROVES SAME SEX CABLE CONNECTIONS

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**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – In a move being touted by proponents as “ground breaking” and by critics as “the end of the world,” the Federal Communications Commission has announced approval of same sex cable connections.

Cable rights activists vowed to get the measure approved through congressional legislative channels should the FCC not take prompt action.

FCC Commisioner Roberto De Stankhousen announced today’s decision as members of the press and the cable connection rights group “Friends and Users of Cable Compatibility” gathered in the Rayburn Office building lobby.

“No longer will it be necessary to connect a PL-259 with an SO-239. An RCA male no longer need feel incompatible when partnered with another RCA male. A quarter inch phono plug may now be used for a direct connection to another quarter inch phono plug. This is truly a landmark day!”

Today’s announcement has left technical specialists scratching their collective heads over the decision.

“I’m all for parity among cables and connections,” says Dr. Phillip Von Beckentoffer, the creator of the small NGF style connector which no one uses and doesn’t even know exists.

“But this creates more issues than answers. Exactly HOW do I get the two male connectors to stay together? I can’t get it to work. I experimented with this type of thing in college.”

Outraged cabling technicians are vowing to appeal the FCC decision. Thomas “Red” Scrolleringer – an experienced cable tech – questions the decision from his office in downtown Petaluma, California.

“There’s no way to mate them together. Further, how robust is the FCC’s decision? How encompassing is this decision? Can I use an RCA male with a BNC male? How about a PL-259? It’s wide open for interpretation. Frankly, I don’t like all the gray area.”

A public hearing is scheduled for Thursday at 4:00 p.m. The FCC ruling goes into effect 90 days afterwards.

### [www.hamhijinks.com](http://www.hamhijinks.com)

# Technology and Technique Making Ham Radio Testing Possible During Pandemic

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Amateur radio license testing continues during the pandemic, with a combination of remote Volunteer Examiner (VE) test sessions and careful in-person session planning. In Hawaii, VE Team leader and Section Manager Joe Speroni, AH0A, said he and his team passed the 100-candidate mark on August 10 for video-supervised remote test sessions. Speroni said the most recent session administered exams to 10 candidates simultaneously.

“Candidates from all Hawaiian Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, and US military bases in Okinawa have had an opportunity to sit for licenses,” he told the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator. “The high pass rate of 95% is most likely due to candidates having had time to prepare for the exam.” Speroni also said his VEs’ willingness to contribute their time has made the program a success and available to a wide geographical range.

“Zoom meeting video lends itself to handling three candidates per session, and each requires three VEs,” Speroni explained. “The 1:1 ratio of candidates to VEs makes planning important. Fortunately, the team of 15 VEs has volunteers from Oahu, Maui, the Big Island, California, and the Pacific. Often, hams from Okinawa and Guam are helping license and upgrade hams in Hawaii.”

Speroni said it looks like testing opportunities for Hawaii residents will continue to be needed for a while longer. He explained, “Remote video testing is available, and all are welcome to **register** for a test.” The team offers **information** on how testing is conducted.

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**The COVID-19 pandemic has affected licensing numbers as well as testing protocols.** ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, reports that through the end of July, overall FCC license activity was down by 15% compared to the same period last year. New amateur licenses are down by 12% so far in 2020, with 15,849 new licensees compared to 17,947 in 2019. “Upgraded licenses are down by a staggering 23% — 6,501 versus 4,984,” Somma said. “The year-end prediction of 7,500 upgrades is much lower than in previous years, which have averaged around 9,500.”

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On the other side of the US, Rhode Island Section Manager and VE Bob Beudet, W1YRC, reports his club, the Blackstone Valley Amateur Radio Club, conducted a “pandemic-compliant” test session on August 8.

“Our governor in Rhode Island has directed citizens not to congregate in groups greater than 15 outdoors,” Beudet said, estimating that group size remained at around that number at any given time as candidates arrived and left. “Some came early and left as new people arrived,” he said. “Also, we were rather widely spread out in the parking lot of Our Saviour’s Parish Polish National Catholic Church in Woonsocket.” Everyone wore masks and observed appropriate social distancing. The VEs grading and processing applications were also spread widely apart. “We planned to keep applicants a car width apart from one another, but many applicants came in rather large trucks,” Beudet recounted. “That changed our parking pattern a little.”

The session accommodated one candidate who was severely vision impaired and successfully upgraded to a General-class license, with a VE reading the questions and recording his answers.

— *Thanks to Joe Speroni, AH0A, and Bob Beudet, W1YRC*

# Loosen Your Load - Dummy

--Dave, KD8NZF

Here's a quick and easy Dummy Load Project. It makes use of Flange Mount RF Resistors.

These high power RF resistors are typically used for construction of RF amplifiers, combiners and filters. The resistors have only one lead and the other lead is connected to the flange which is bolted to a heatsink. You may note the value notation used on these parts. It's a system used in Europe and Asia for some time, that eliminates the use of decimal points. Instead of a decimal point, the letter, R, K, or M is substituted. The thinking is that when printing code on parts or on schematic prints, its easy for the decimal not to print or a random spot to be mistaken for a decimal point. Looking at the large resistor on the left, it has a value of 50.0 ohms. So a resistor with value of  $4.7\text{K}\Omega$  would be written as  $4\text{K}7\Omega$ .

OK, so back to the project. The resistors have high power ratings and are available inexpensively with ratings as high as 1000W. For this project let's look at a 250W version. A 250W resistor is about \$12.

These resistors will handle their rated load only when mounted to a heat sink. If you want to use a 100W or 150W resistor, you can probably get by with the heat sink from an old computer microprocessor. For the higher ratings it will take a bigger heat sink like the one shown here. If you don't have one in your junk box, they can be found on Amazon and Ebay under \$10.

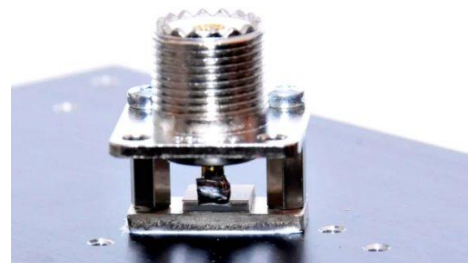
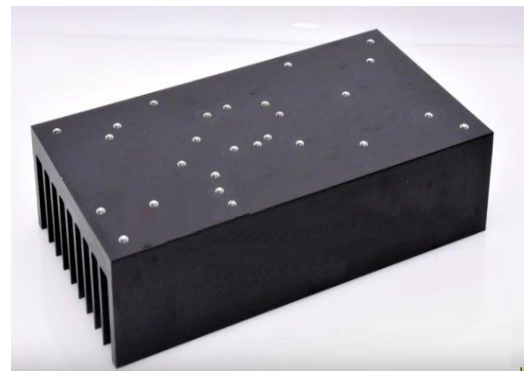
These are the two big ticket items in the project, from here all we need is some misc hardware and a SO-239 connector.

The resistor is mounted to the heat sink (yes you need to use heat sink grease between the resistor and sink). Then attach the SO-239 on spacers (again old computer parts) and solder the center lead of the 239 to the center lead of the resistor.

When it's all said and done it should look as shown. >>>

For a step by step video check here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8GwnZ7ebY7Y>





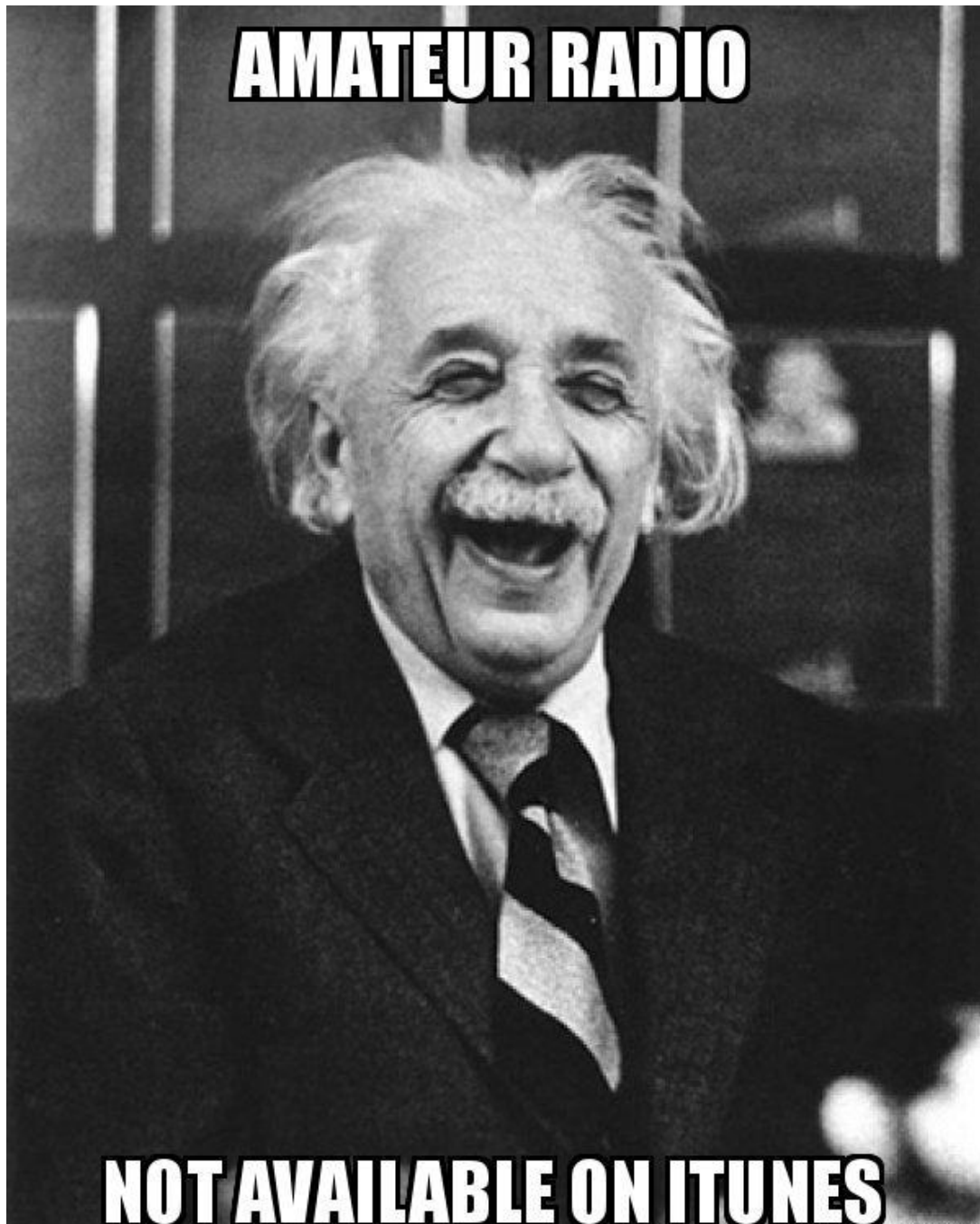
And for parts check here:

<https://www.pcs-electronics.com/power-resistors-p-2617.html?osCsid=55146aa6e487fbcee35e10a0a545bdd9>

While you are at it, there is a lower power version (150W) that uses a cast aluminum mini box as the heat sink and makes a real slick package. You can find it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGtmSS0V4V0>

If there are several folks interested, we could put together a group order and do a building session.



# 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 took effect July 1, 2020.

## Extra Pool

E1C01

What is the maximum bandwidth for a data emission on 60 meters?

- A. 60 Hz
- B. 170 Hz
- C. 1.5 kHz
- D. 2.8 kHz

E1C02

Which of the following types of communications may be transmitted to amateur stations in foreign countries?

- A. Business-related messages for non-profit organizations
- B. Messages intended for users of the maritime satellite service
- C. Communications incidental to the purpose of the amateur service and remarks of a personal nature
- D. All these choices are correct

## General Pool

G4A01

What is the purpose of the “notch filter” found on many HF transceivers?

- A. To restrict the transmitter voice bandwidth
- B. To reduce interference from carriers in the receiver passband
- C. To eliminate receiver interference from impulse noise sources
- D. To enhance the reception of a specific frequency on a crowded band

G4A02

What is one advantage of selecting the opposite, or “reverse,” sideband when receiving CW signals on a typical HF transceiver?

- A. Interference from impulse noise will be eliminated
- B. More stations can be accommodated within a given signal passband
- C. It may be possible to reduce or eliminate interference from other signals
- D. Accidental out-of-band operation can be prevented

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>.

## September 2020

+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Sep 1
+ QCX Challenge	0300Z-0400Z, Sep 1
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Sep 1
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 2
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Sep 2
+ VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	1700Z-2000Z, Sep 2
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1900Z-2000Z, Sep 2
+ UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Sep 2
+ G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest	2300Z, Sep 2 to 2300Z, Sep 4
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	0300Z-0400Z, Sep 3
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Sep 3
+ NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1800Z-1900Z, Sep 3 (CW) and 1900Z-2000Z, Sep 3 (SSB) and 2000Z-2100Z, Sep 3 (FM) and 2100Z-2200Z, Sep 3 (Dig)
+ SKCC Sprint Europe	1900Z-2100Z, Sep 3
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Sep 4
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 4
+ CWops CW Open	0000Z-0359Z, Sep 5 and 1200Z-1559Z, Sep 5 and 2000Z-2359Z, Sep 5
+ Russian RTTY WW Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Sep 5
+ All Asian DX Contest, Phone	0000Z, Sep 5 to 2400Z, Sep 6
+ Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0600Z-0629Z, Sep 5 and 0630Z-0659Z, Sep 5 and 0700Z-0729Z, Sep 5 and 0730Z-0800Z, Sep 5
+ RSGB SSB Field Day	1300Z, Sep 5 to 1300Z, Sep 6
+ Colorado QSO Party	1300Z, Sep 5 to 0400Z, Sep 6
+ IARU Region 1 Field Day, SSB	1300Z, Sep 5 to 1259Z, Sep 6
+ IARU Region 1 145 MHz Contest	1400Z, Sep 5 to 1400Z, Sep 6
+ AGCW Straight Key Party	1600Z-1900Z, Sep 5
+ PODXS 070 Club Jay Hudak Memorial 80m Sprint	2000Z, Sep 5 to 2000Z, Sep 6
+ WAB 144 MHz QRO Phone	1000Z-1400Z, Sep 6
+ Tennessee QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 6 to 0300Z, Sep 7
+ RSGB 80m Autumn Series, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Sep 7
+ MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint	2300Z, Sep 7 to 0300Z, Sep 8
+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Sep 8
+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Sep 8
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Sep 8
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 9
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Sep 9
+ VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	1700Z-2000Z, Sep 9
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1900Z-2000Z, Sep 9
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	0300Z-0400Z, Sep 10
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Sep 10

+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Sep 11
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 11
+ FOC QSO Party	0000Z-2359Z, Sep 12
+ ARRL EME Contest	0000Z, Sep 12 to 2359Z, Sep 13
+ WAE DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Sep 12 to 2359Z, Sep 13
+ SARL Field Day Contest	1000Z, Sep 12 to 1000Z, Sep 13
+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Sep 12 to 2400Z, Sep 13
+ Ohio State Parks on the Air	1400Z-2200Z, Sep 12
+ Texas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 12 to 0200Z, Sep 13 and 1400Z-2000Z, Sep 13
+ Russian Cup Digital Contest	1500Z-1859Z, Sep 12 and 0600Z-0959Z, Sep 13
+ Alabama QSO Party	1500Z, Sep 12 to 0300Z, Sep 13
+ ARRL September VHF Contest	1800Z, Sep 12 to 0300Z, Sep 14
+ North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 13
+ Swiss HTC QRP Sprint	1300Z-1900Z, Sep 13
+ 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Sep 14
+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Sep 15
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Sep 15
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 16
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Sep 16
+ RSGB 80m Autumn Series, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Sep 16
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1900Z-2000Z, Sep 16
+ NAQCC CW Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Sep 17
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	0300Z-0400Z, Sep 17
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Sep 17
+ BCC QSO Party	1930Z-1959Z, Sep 17 (CW) and 2000Z-2029Z, Sep 17 (SSB) and 2030Z-2059Z, Sep 17 (RTTY)
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Sep 18
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 18
+ AGB NEMIGA Contest	2100Z-2400Z, Sep 18
+ Collegiate QSO Party	0000Z, Sep 19 to 2359Z, Sep 20
+ ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	0600 local, Sep 19 to 2400 local, Sep 20
+ SARL VHF/UHF Digital Contest	1200Z, Sep 19 to 0800Z, Sep 20
+ All Africa International DX Contest	1200Z, Sep 19 to 1200Z, Sep 20
+ Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW	1200Z, Sep 19 to 1200Z, Sep 20
+ SRT HF Contest SSB	1300Z, Sep 19 to 1300Z, Sep 20
+ Iowa QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 19 to 0200Z, Sep 20
+ QRP Afield	1500Z-2100Z, Sep 19
+ Wisconsin Parks on the Air	1600Z-2300Z, Sep 19
+ New Jersey QSO Party	1600Z, Sep 19 to 0359Z, Sep 20
+ New Hampshire QSO Party	1600Z, Sep 19 to 0400Z, Sep 20 and 1600Z-2200Z, Sep 20
+ Washington State Salmon Run	1600Z, Sep 19 to 0700Z, Sep 20 and 1600Z-2400Z, Sep 20
+ Feld Hell Sprint	1800Z-1959Z, Sep 19
+ North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 20
+ BARTG Sprint 75	1700Z-2059Z, Sep 20
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	2300Z, Sep 20 to 0100Z, Sep 21
+ 144 MHz Fall Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Sep 21
+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Sep 22

+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Sep 22
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Sep 23
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 23
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Sep 23
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1900Z-2000Z, Sep 23
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	0300Z-0400Z, Sep 24
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Sep 24
+ RSGB 80m Autumn Series, Data	1900Z-2030Z, Sep 24
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Sep 25
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 25
+ CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Sep 26 to 2400Z, Sep 27
+ Maine QSO Party	1200Z, Sep 26 to 1200Z, Sep 27
+ AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1400Z-1700Z, Sep 26 (144) and 1700Z-1800Z, Sep 26 (432)
+ QCX Challenge	1300Z-1400Z, Sep 28
+ QCX Challenge	1900Z-2000Z, Sep 28
+ RSGB FT4 Contest Series	1900Z-2030Z, Sep 28
+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Sep 29
+ QCX Challenge	0300Z-0400Z, Sep 29
+ RTTYOPS Weeksprint	1700Z-1900Z, Sep 29
+ 222 MHz Fall Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Sep 29
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 30
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Sep 30
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1900Z-2000Z, Sep 30
+ UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Sep 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>

September						
2020 Sep04	2020 Sep18	<b>Malta</b>	<b>9H3TI</b>	DL2AAZ	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200713	By DL2AAZ fm San Lawrence (JM75cb); 40-6m; SSB CW; holiday style operation; QSL B/d
2020 Sep06	2020 Sep17	<b>Albania</b>	<b>ZA</b>	OE6TQG	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200218	By OE6TQG as ZA/OE6TQG fm Lake Shkodral; all bands; all modes; 100w; dipole; QSL OK B/d or eQSL
2020 Sep08	2020 Oct02	<b>Liechtenstein</b>	<b>HB0</b>	Home Call	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200713	By DL5YM as HB0/DL5YM, DL5YL likewise fm Masescha; 160-6m; CW, some SSB RTTY
2020 Sep15	2020 Sep23	<b>Faroe Is</b>	<b>OY</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 2019123	By DL2AQI as OY/DL2AQI and DL4APJ as OY/DL4APJ; 80-10m; SSB + digital; QSL also OK via DL4APJ (B/d)
2020 Sep24	2020 Sep27	<b>Svalbard</b>	<b>JW</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20200710	By LB1QI as JW/LB1QI fm IOTA-EU026; 160-6m; CW SSB; @JW5E; QSL via LB1QI, Club Log OQRS
<b><a href="#">CQ WW DX Contest, RTTY</a> (Sep 26-27, 2020) Check here for pericontest activity too.</b>						
2020 Sep28	2020 Oct17	<b>Niue</b>	<b>E6AM</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20200403	By LZ1GC LZ1PM; 160-10m; CW SSB RTTY FT8; QSL via LZ1GC OQRS, Buro, or direct

2020 Sep28	2020 Oct17	Niue	E6AM	LoTW	<a href="http://DXW.Net">DXW.Net</a> 20200403	By LZ1GC LZ1PM; 160-10m; CW SSB RTTY FT8; QSL via LZ1GC OQRS, Buro, or direct
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## Ham Trivia

Which of the following musicians is NOT or was NOT an Amateur Radio (HAM) Operator?

- Jim Croce
- Joe Walsh
- Ronnie Milsap
- Alice Cooper

-Alice Cooper. Ronnie Milsap holds the callsign WB4KCG, Joe Walsh holds the callsign WB6ACU, and Jim Croce was WN3OQW.

Gerson Strassberg, WA2JXX invented this item which no self-respecting geek would have been without. Now, you could probably only find one on e-bay. What is it?

-Plastic Pocket Protector. If you've never seen one, it was designed to slip into your shirt pocket and hold your ink pens. Geek fashion dictated that you not only have a plastic pocket protector, but also have multiple pens tucked into it.

## SWAP & SHOP

-I have 2 Astron power supplies, RS-35M for sale. \$100 each or best offer.  
Randy, W3PCF. CONTACT ME AT: [TANKER60@gmail.com](mailto:TANKER60@gmail.com)

-One Cushcraft™ R8 Vertical antenna, complete. For 40, 30, 20, 17, 12, 10 and 6 meters. Self-standing with built in counterpoise; it does not require or use radials. This antenna is from the estate of Msgr. John Ashton K8ISF. Proceeds of Sale will be a charitable donation to the Oblate Sisters of Liberty township, whose ministry is the care of retired clergy and religious brothers of the Youngstown Diocese.

The antenna sells new for just under \$600.00 today and is approximately 10 years old, and in great shape. Asking \$235.00. Includes three (3) copies of the assembly and installation manual. Please, contact Andy, WA8ZLK at 330-774-1108 or via e-mail at: [ajaybee92@gmail.com](mailto:ajaybee92@gmail.com)

# New Contest for Portable Stations to Debut in October

A new amateur radio contest for portable operators — the Fox Mike Hotel Portable Operations Challenge (**POC**) — will debut October 3 – 4. The event is aimed at leveling the competitive playing field between fixed stations and portable stations. **Scoring** for the POC, based upon a kilometers-per-watt metric, will be handicapped in favor of the portables. The contest is the brainchild of Frank Howell, K4FMH. Sponsors include *National Contest Journal* (**NCJ**) — an ARRL publication — but the POC will not be an official *NCJ* or ARRL contest.

“*NCJ*’s role is to encourage hams who don’t contest to give it a try,” *NCJ* Editor Dr. Scott Wright, K0MD, said. “It will encourage activity by operators who are limited by real estate and do not have a full-blown contest station. Events like this stimulate more interest in contesting, and this will have an international scope to give chances to snare some new DXCC entities.”

Other sponsors include the UK DX Foundation (**CDXC**), the Hellenic Amateur Radio Association of Australia (**HARAOA**), and the South African Radio League (**SARL**).

“I think the [POC] steering committee, consisting of both veteran DX contest participants and some of the best portable operators in the world, has come up with something worth giving a go,” Howell said. “With this scoring metric, it’s more about radiosport than radio gear.”

According to the **contest rules**, scoring will be calculated using the distance between stations (Maidenhead grid squares) in kilometers divided by power output in watts. Fixed (QTH) stations will compete against portable (P) stations on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Allowable modes include phone, CW, and digital. For the 2020 event, the number of transmitters concurrently in use will be restricted to two.

Portable stations may not make use of permanently installed amateur radio equipment or facilities but may use ac mains power. The exchange is call sign, station class (P or Q), consecutive serial number, and four-character grid square.

Contact **Howell** for more information.



## 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***

"If plan A doesn't work, the alphabet has 25 more letters — 204 if you're in Japan." — Claire Cook



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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.

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