



July 2018
Volume 56, Issue 7

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The Voice Coil
Award-Winning Newsletter
of the Mahoning Valley
Amateur Radio
Association
Established 1919

The Voice Coil

Prez Sez

Field Day will be over by the time you're reading this. I hope everybody had a good time and you got to operate or did some logging.

The DMR system is up and running 443.250 rec, 448.250 tx. Some problems still to be solved but they're making progress. the system is all together.

Ten meters has been very active, so if you have that capability, make a few contacts. Most stations are using verticals, beams and long wires. I have been using 10 watts into 4 element beam with contacts in FL, AL, TX, PA and heard 6's, 7's, and few 0's. One of the hardest states for me has been WV.

They are hanging around 28.400 MHz, many running 100w or more. A lot of stations I have worked were running 100 watts or more.

This is hamfest season. Check your QST or the ARRL web sites. Also check pg. 3 of the Voice Coil for local ones being held during this month.

Summer is here so if you a project going, time to get busy. The days as you know are getting shorter, especially for those antenna projects.

This is your club! Get to the



know some of the newest members. Be sure to invite those who are interested in Amateur Radio to come and find out about our hobby.

Remember before keying up, always ask if the frequency is in use--then listen, listen, listen.

73,
Jim, WB8UJS

Next Meeting:

Thur. July 12, 7:00 PM
GOP Headquarters
meeting room. 8381
Market St., Boardman,
OH
(in Adamas Plaza)

Come early for dinner at
Bruno Bros. (in the Plaza),
for pizza, drinks, and
social time.

2018 Officers

President: Jim Stiffler, WB8UJS
Vice President: Andy Brincko,
WA8ZLK
Secretary: Becky Albrecht,
KD8SCF
Treasurer: Nancy Brett, KD8QNY
Trustees: Dean DeMain, W8YSU
Doug Sage, KB8TPG
Gene A. Boccia, WQ8H
Jerry Goddard, KC8EFO

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 members. A pro-rata discount for first time membership is available as well as special student and military discounts. 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

For License Classes and VE testing, Contact Wes Boyd, W8IZC, W8IZC@yahoo.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.

July Meeting

Our program for the July meeting will be a video presentation that Ward Silver, N0AX, did for the 2017 TAPR conference. It would be hard for a Ham not to have heard of Ward, he writes the very popular Hands-On Radio column for QST, he teaches at Contest University in Dayton, and in general is one of the leading voices in Ham radio.



TAPR (<https://www.tapr.org/>) is the Tuscon Amateur Packet Radio group. You may get from the name that they have been around for awhile and that their focus is in the digital realm. They started after a small group of hams attended an IEEE Computer Society meeting in Tuscon and decided Ham Radio needed more involvement with things digital. They state their goals as:

1. Support R&D efforts in the area of amateur digital communications.
2. Disseminate information on packet and digital communications
3. Provide affordable and useful kits for experimenters and hobbyists
4. Pursue and help advance the amateur art of communications
5. Support publications, meetings, and standards in the area of amateur digital communications.

Each year TAPR holds a national conference and the 2017 conference was in St. Louis. (The 2018 will be in New Mexico in September) During the conference they have many speakers and Ward did an update to a previous talk on the future of Ham Radio. This talk was an update he refers to as Ham Radio 2.0.

We will be watching clips from Wards presentation and discussing the points he makes and how they may apply to our future at MVARA. Hope you can join us July 12th for a look down the road with Ward Silver.

License Refresher (pg. 10)

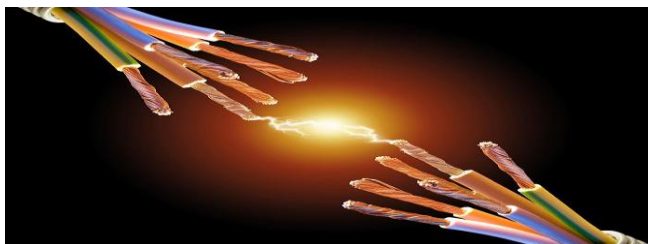
Answers:
E2A01 (C)
E2A02 (A)
G2B01 (C)
G2B02 (B)

Contact Us:

Email: mvara.w8qly@gmail.com

Snail-mail: MVARA, P.O. Box 1414,
Poland, OH 44514

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



Hamfest Calendar

07/08/2018 20/9 ARC Hamfest

Location: Austintown Senior Center, 112
Westchester Drive, Austintown, OH

Website: <http://20over9.org> **Sponsor:** 20/9
Amateur Radio Club **Talk-In:** 147.315 (PL 156.7)

Contact: Dotti O'Neil Meleski, KC8SYF,
PO Box 4006 Austintown, OH 44515 Phone: 330-
651-8420 **Email:** hamfest@20over9.org

07/21/2018 NOARSFEST

Location: Lorain County Community College
1005 North Abbe Road, Elyria, OH 44035

Website: <http://noars.net> **Sponsor:** Northern Ohio
Amateur Radio Society **Talk-In:** 146.70 (PL
110.9) **Contact:** Tom Porter , W8KYZ, 161
Herrmann Drive Avon Lake, OH 44012 Phone:
440-320-5523 **Email:** tporter161@oh.rr.com

07/14/2018 - NW PA Hamfest 2018

Location: Greene Township Municipal Building -
9333 Tate Road Erie, PA 16501 - **Website:**

<http://www.wattsburg-wireless.us/> - **Sponsor:**
Wattsburg Wireless Association - **Contact:** Neal
Proper, WB3EQC - 4039 Ridge Parkway Erie, PA
16510 - Phone: 814-882-2739 - **Email:**
nlproper@verizon.net

Current Activities

July Meeting:

Our program for the July meeting will be a video presentation that Ward Silver, N0AX, did for the 2017 TAPR conference. See article pg. 2 for more details

VE Testing:

Date: July 05 2018

Time: 6:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: Wesley Boyd
(330) 565-5129

Email: W8IZC@YAHOO.com

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Red Cross, 3530 Belmont Ave,
Youngstown OH 44505-1400

FD Wrap-Up Meeting:

The Field Day Committee is going to get together to discuss 2018 FD, the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly . We'll be meeting on Tuesday, July 10th, at Fernando's Wedgewood Pizza in BOARDMAN, on South Avenue, across from Sam's Club. Pizza at 6:00 pm. Meeting at 7:00 pm.

Current members of the committee and any interested MVARA members are invited to attend.

Centennial Committee:

The next meeting for the centennial committee will be Wednesday, August 29, 2018 at 7:00 pm

Boardman Library
7680 Glenwood Avenue
Boardman, Ohio 44512

If you plan to be there – please call/text 330-774-8501 or email kd8qny@zoominternet.net
Hope to see you there!
Nancy KD8QNY



21st Annual Streetscape Planting Day



What's This FT-8 Stuff Anyway?

FT8 — the latest digital bauble to capture the imagination of the Amateur Radio community — has been luring away many of those already using the popular JT65 “weak-signal” mode.

FT8 is included in a beta release of [WSJT-X](#), version 1.8.0-rc1. Among its biggest advantages is a shorter transmit-receive cycle, meaning quicker contacts. The [notes](#) for the “candidate” release say that FT8 offers “sensitivity down to -20 dB on the AWGN channel.” Contacts are four times faster than with JT65 or JT9, and an entire FT8 contact can take place in about 1 minute.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QoCngsKW9tc>

<https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjt.x.html>

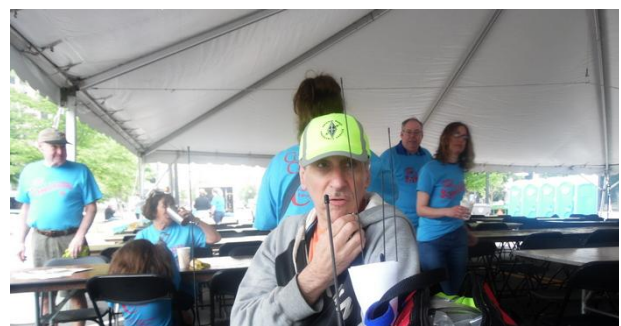
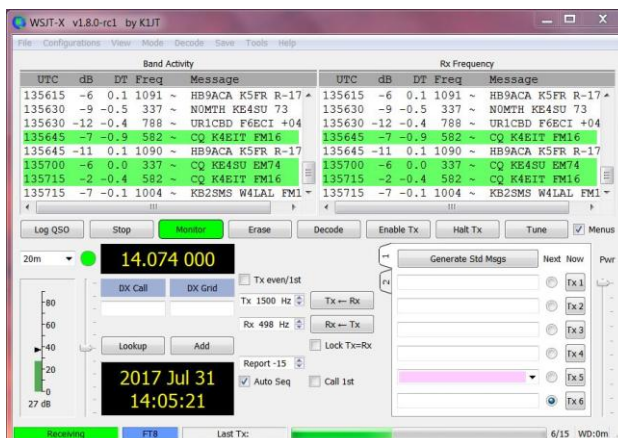
Seven Amateur Radio volunteers helped Youngstown CityScape coordinate the 21st Annual Streetscape Planting Day on Saturday, June 2, 2018. The beautiful weather was a plus as volunteers mulched, trimmed and planted throughout the City.

Communications was the name of the game — making sure that water, mulch, and garden supplies were at each location.

Wes W8IZC and Jamie W8DVS were stationed at the four corners of Wick Park; Rick KD8ZUN and Becky KD8SCF worked with volunteers at Smoky Hollow. Nancy KD8QNY walked West Federal and the John Young Memorial; and Frank WB8YHD and Scott KE4UHC were stationed in the Big Tent on East Federal - Frank as net control and Scott as back up and scribe.

At the end of the day — lunch was provided by downtown restaurants including the famous chocolate iced brownies!

Thanks volunteers for a job well done!
Nancy KD8QNY



NEW FIELD DAY SCORE MULTIPLIERS AND BONUS POINTS ANNOUNCED



By [WBØRUR](#), on the scene

NEWINGSTEAD, Vt. — In a last minute decision designed to encourage a wider variety of amateur radio operating styles and practices, the National Radio Retransmission Legion (NRRL) has announced a new set of “multipliers and bonuses” for Field Day.

“We believe these increased scoring opportunities will allow a wider and more diverse group of operators to participate in Field Day,” says Dr. Johnson Longville, Director of NRRL Contests and Promotional Outreach.

“While some of these may seem ever so slightly out of the norm, the League believes it is important to encourage participation through a variety of means. Recently, we implemented “non petroleum” power bonus, satellite QSO bonuses and several others. This is just a continuation of that on-going review and analysis.”

The new multipliers and bonus points are listed in the table below, along with common nicknames.

NICKNAME	POINTS	DETAILS
OSCAR MEYER Bonus	100 points	Operators eat nothing but bologna sandwiches for the duration of the contest
HOSTAGE Multiplier	2x score multiplier	All QSOs are made while blindfolded
FRUIT OF THE LOOM Bonus	150 points	Primary operator wears nothing but t-shirt and boxers
I JUST LEARNED TO TYPE Bonus	50 points	Logging operator uses one finger on the computer keyboard

NOW WE'RE COOKING Multiplier	2x score multiplier	CW Operators must roast a small chicken on the charcoal grill while making 10 QSOs
STAY OFF MY YARD Bonus	250 points	Yell at the neighbor kids while making a SSB transmission
THE AUSTRALIAN CRAWL Multiplier	4x score multiplier	All on-air operators must simultaneously drink a pint of Foster's
MONKEY SEE, MONKEY DO Bonus	100 points	One operator per transmitter must climb station's feedline.
THE DIGITAL INSPECTION, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN Multiplier	3x score multiplier	PSK31 /JT65 operators must live type all QSOs – NO MACROS
AND IT'S DEEP TOO! Bonus	50 points	Teach a class on building a camp-site latrine

###Hamhijinks



SPECIAL EVENT STATION TO MARK DEPARTURE OF MOTHER-IN-LAW



EAST YORKVILLE, Pennsylvania — A local ham will celebrate a family milestone next week as he activates a special event station using a 1×1 formatted call sign. Thomas LaFontana of Nottingham Township will use call sign W3M to celebrate the end of an extended visit by his mother-in-law.

“She’s been here since before Thanksgiving, for Pete’s sake,” says LaFontana. “I’ve endured about all I can stand.”

LaFontana’s mother-in-law has been sleeping in the guest room of his two story Tudor style home, which he shares with his wife, two kids and a Yaesu FT-1000MP.

“The guest room is next to the spare bedroom which houses my shack. Each evening when I get on the air and start working DX, she bangs on the wall and yells ‘BE QUIET WITH THAT CB GADGET!’ I’ve tried to explain to her the difference, but she won’t listen. It’s starting to grate on my nerves.”

The 52 year-old ham was forced to skip the November Sweepstakes, CQWPX and ARRL DX contests so he could spend “quality time” with the elderly woman, who is visiting from Bakersfield, Arizona.

“She sat around talking about how bad she had it during the Great Depression,” said LaFontana. “All I could think about were the QSOs I WASN’T making. That’s what I call a great depression!”

LaFontana says he’ll activate W3M on March 17, when he sees the taxi’s tail lights pulling away.

By [WBØRUR](#), on the scene

Field Day 2018





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.

Please Note: The Tech License Exam has been updated and took effect July 1, 2018. The new question pools are available in Beta form for the test and Amateurs are requested to notify the NCVEC of any errors they find.

Extra Pool

E2A01

What is the direction of an ascending pass for an amateur satellite?

- A. From west to east
- B. From east to west
- C. From south to north
- D. From north to south

E2A02

What is the direction of a descending pass for an amateur satellite?

- A. From north to south
- B. From west to east
- C. From east to west
- D. From south to north

General Pool

G2B01

Which of the following is true concerning access to frequencies in non-emergency situations?

- A. Nets always have priority
- B. QSOs in progress always have priority
- C. Except during FCC declared emergencies, no one has priority access to frequencies
- D. Contest operations must always yield to non-contest use of frequencies

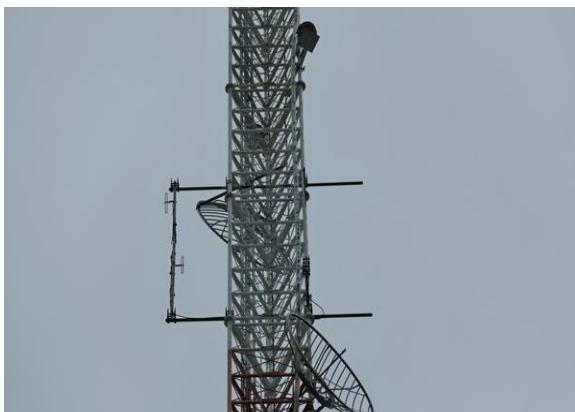
G2B02

What is the first thing you should do if you are communicating with another amateur station and hear a station in distress break in?

- A. Continue your communication because you were on the frequency first
- B. Acknowledge the station in distress and determine what assistance may be needed
- C. Change to a different frequency
- D. Immediately cease all transmissions

DMR DIGITAL CORNER

New digital repeater, 443.250, located on Simon Rd. Repeater is functional, but requires some mods to increase receiver sensitivity for best performance.



Thirteen Colonies Special Event

The annual Original 13 Colonies Special Event will mark its 10th anniversary this year. The event gets under way on July 1 at 1300 UTC and runs through July 8 at 0400 UTC.

Event Manager Kenneth Villone, KU2US, reports that 127,132 contacts took place during the 2017 13 Colonies event, down from 139,772 in 2016, owing in part to poor band conditions.

Special event stations with 1 × 1 call signs will represent the original 13 US colonies, plus bonus stations WM3PEN in Philadelphia and GB13COL in Durham, England. Each special event station will have its own QRZ.com profile page.

Participating stations try to contact all 13 Colony Stations plus the two bonus stations. Call signs and their respective states are K2A, New York; K2B, Virginia; K2C, Rhode Island; K2D, Connecticut; K2E, Delaware; K2F, Maryland; K2G, Georgia; K2H, Massachusetts; K2I, New Jersey; K2J, North Carolina; K2K, New Hampshire; K2L, South Carolina, and K2M, Pennsylvania.

Additional information is on the 13 Colonies website - <http://www.13colonies.net/>.

4th Of July Week - The Original 13 Colonies Special Event

MAY GOD BLESS AMERICA

10th Anniversary 2018

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS HONORING THE 13 ORIGINAL COLONIES, FREEDOM AND OUR MILITARY / VETERANS.

2009 2010 2011 2012 2013

K2A New York K2H Massachusetts

K2B Virginia K2I New Jersey

K2C Rhode Island K2J North Carolina

K2D Connecticut K2K New Hampshire

K2E Delaware K2L South Carolina

K2F Maryland K2M Pennsylvania

K2G Georgia

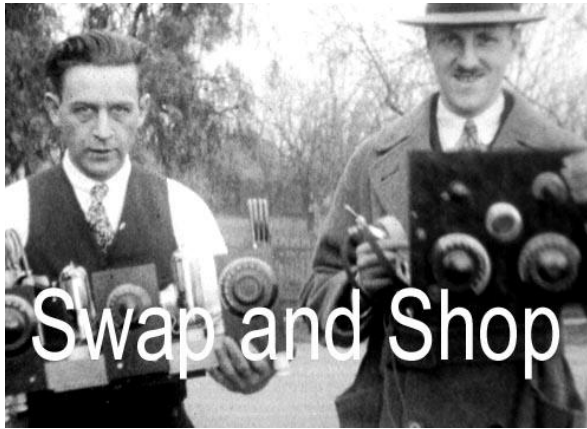
IN RECOGNITION FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS 4TH OF JULY WEEK - 13 COLONIES SPECIAL EVENT, THIS CERTIFICATE IS AWARDED TO MR: KU2US

13 CONTACTS ALL 13 COLONY STATES *CIZAN SWEEP*

73'

WM3PEN

KEN VILLONE KU2US-EVENT MGR. Ken Villone



- Color computer printers: 2 Canon, 1 Kodak
FREE to a good home
- RG8x or RG59U adapters for pl259, 5 for \$1.00
- Pyramid 30 amp power supply \$25.00
- Industrial 12 volt power supply, remote head,
adjustable voltage and current 40amp \$40.00
- 5000 watt generator on a cart \$250.00
- Assorted connectors for hardline 1/2, 7/8,
various styles \$5.00 each
- Older screwdriver antenna seems to work ok,
needs a little attention \$50.00

Contact Andy WB8HYO 330-442-7498

40-6m OCF Antenna—New

This is the same design that was used at Field Day this year on 40m and 10m SSB. Handles 150w PEP power, 66 ft. long. Does 40-20-10-6m without tuner, 15m and WARC bands with tuner. Quality construction with stainless steel hardware and premium 14ga DXE antenna wire w/nylon insulators. \$50.

Contact Mark, K8MSH, mh@zoominternet.net

Swap and Shop Policies

MVARA assumes no responsibility for transactions made or inaccuracies in ads. You are responsible for checking your ad and notifying us of any corrections. Swap and Shop listings are open to licensed Mahoning Valley Hams, based on space available. Please submit your list to mvara.w8qly@gmail.com AND mvaravoiccoil@gmail.com for placement in both *Voice Coil* and website.



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 be able to operate phone on some of the HF bands. Contact Mark, k8msh@arrl.net or Frank, wb8yhd@arrl.net.



Is the internet, millennials or FT-8 killing ham radio?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Amateur radio bloggers love to write about the demise of amateur radio. To wit, we have:

* K0NR's Is the Internet destroying amateur radio?

(<http://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/2017/11/internet-destroying-amateur-radio/>)

* N0SSC's Millennials are killing ham radio

(<http://n0ssc.com/posts/583-millennials-are-killing-ham-radio>)

* PE4BAS' Is FT-8 damaging amateur radio?

(<https://pe4bas.blogspot.com/2018/04/is-ft8-damaging-hamradio.html>)

* NZ0T's Did Joe Taylor K1JT Destroy Amateur Radio?

(<http://www.ei5di.com/jt.html>)



Of course, none of these posts are really saying that the internet, millennials, or FT-8 has killed amateur radio. What they are saying is that all of these are changing amateur radio as we know it. Well, duh, the way we live our lives changes every day. Why should amateur radio be any different?

For example, Bob, K0NR, discusses how the operation of remote stations is changing the game of DX. Can you really claim that you worked a DX station if you rented time on a super station? I've written about that topic, too (<https://www.kb6nu.com/dx-advisory-committee-wants-to-put-the-screws-to-remote-operation/>).

There has also been much written about how FT8 is changing the amateur radio game. One blog post (<https://ve7sl.blogspot.com/2017/10/160m-ft8-end-of-era.html>), talking about the effect of FT8 on 160m operation, even goes so far to say that this is the "end of an era." On DX World, the results of the poll, "FT8 – Damaging to Amateur Radio?" (<https://dx-world.net/yes-or-no-a-poll-on-ft8/>) show more than half of the respondents think that FT8 is damaging amateur radio.

I specifically used the word "game" in the previous two paragraphs because that's exactly what's changing. The physics of amateur radio certainly isn't changing. Our transmitters are still generating electromagnetic waves like they have been for decades, and on the HF bands, anyway, those radio waves are bouncing off the ionosphere just as they have been for more than the past 100 years.

What's changing is the human component. By that I mean what's changing is how we think people should participate in the hobby. The hams that are complaining that the internet or millennials or FT8 is killing amateur radio are really just complaining that people aren't participating in amateur radio the way they want them to participate.

Here's where we talk about millennials. In his blog post, Sterling, N0SSC, suggests that setting up remote stations is one way to engage young people. He writes, "I believe that remote operating, and other internet-assisted means of ham radio operation, are critical to youth engagement."

He's also big on an idea he calls "ham radio hackathons." He writes, "A hackathon isn't a coding competition. It's explained well in this Medium article (<https://medium.com/hackathons-anonymous/wtf-is-a-hackathon-92668579601>). It goes even further than that, not limited to coders and engineers, but open to thinkers, doers, philosophers, system engineers, math people, teachers, students, artists, stakeholders

...anyone with an interest in solving a problem with technology.”

I support both of these ideas, but I think that millennials (and, to be fair, it isn't just millennials we're talking about here, but any newcomers to the hobby) need to step up and get these things going. I don't think it's my job to try to get kids interested in amateur radio. I don't even know if that's really possible. What I can do, however, is be there to encourage and support kids (and anyone else that expresses a sincere interest in amateur radio).

For example, I'm not sure how fruitful it would be to set up my station to be remotely operable and then saying to some kids, "Hey, come and operate my station." What I think would be more fruitful is to say to a kid, "Hey, come help me set up my remote control station, so that we both can use it." Then, it turns into a learning situation, and we both gain from the exercise.

The same kind of thing has to happen with ham radio hackathons. The motivation has to come from the ground up, not the top down. I do hope that this idea gets off the ground, though, and I'm standing by, ready to support this effort however I can.

I think that millennials (I'm really getting tired of that term, by the way) need to grab the bull by the horns and take amateur radio in the direction they want it to go. Feel free to kill amateur radio as we know it. Make it better!

When he's not trying to figure out how to save amateur radio, Dan builds stuff, blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, teaches amateur radio classes, and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him about what you think is killing amateur radio at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Youth Team to be On the Air from Market Reef

*A team of young radio amateurs will be on the air from Market Reef Lighthouse as OJ0C, from **July 21 until July 28** and again from **August 18 until August 25**. The lighthouse is nearly at sea level, and waves have been known to cover the entire reef.*



The Finnish Lighthouse Society (FLS) and the Amateur Radio League of Finland (SRAL) in conjunction with OH-DX-Foundation (OHDXF) and DX University (DXU) have organized the first-ever International Youth at Sea (IYAS) cultural exchange-based radio activity, which could become a regular annual event. The 2018 youth team members are Nuuti, OH1UBO; Elias, OH2EP; Otava, OH3OT; Mikael, OH3UAF; Pieter, ON3DI; Florian, OE3FTA, and Ilie, YO3IMD — all 16 to 25 years old.

The young operators will be participating in daily workshops of safety and survival at sea in the remote lighthouse. In addition, they will become familiar with the latest digital modes and, most important, learning how operating the radio efficiently — providing OJ0C contacts and handling pileups. Their instructors are Martti, OH2BH; Henri, OH3JR, and Pasi, OH3WS. QSL OJ0C via OH3JR.

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 2018

+ RAC Canada Day Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Jul 1
+ 10-10 Int. Spirit of 76 QSO Party	0001Z, Jul 2 to 2400Z, Jul 8
+ IQRP Quarterly Marathon	0800Z, Jul 2 to 2000Z, Jul 8
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Jul 2
+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Jul 3
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 4
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Jul 4 and 1900Z-2000Z, Jul 4 and 0300Z-0400Z, Jul 5
+ NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1700Z-1800Z, Jul 5 (CW) and 1800Z-1900Z, Jul 5 (SSB) and 1900Z-2000Z, Jul 5 (FM) and 2000Z-2100Z, Jul 5 (Dig)
+ SKCC Sprint Europe	1900Z-2100Z, Jul 5
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Jul 6
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Jul 6
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 6
+ FISTS Summer Slow Speed Sprint	0000Z-0400Z, Jul 7
+ Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Jul 7
+ DL-DX RTTY Contest	1100Z, Jul 7 to 1059Z, Jul 8
+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Jul 7 to 2400Z, Jul 8
+ Marconi Memorial HF Contest	1400Z, Jul 7 to 1400Z, Jul 8
+ Original QRP Contest	1500Z, Jul 7 to 1500Z, Jul 8
+ PODXS 070 Club 40m Firecracker Sprint	2000Z, Jul 7 to 2000Z, Jul 8
+ 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Jul 9
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 11
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Jul 11 and 1900Z-2000Z, Jul 11 and 0300Z-0400Z, Jul 12
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Jul 11
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Jul 13
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Jul 13
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 13
+ FISTS Summer Unlimited Sprint	0000Z-0400Z, Jul 14
+ IARU HF World Championship	1200Z, Jul 14 to 1200Z, Jul 15
+ QRP ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint	2000Z-2300Z, Jul 15
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Jul 16
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 18
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Jul 18 and 1900Z-2000Z, Jul 18 and 0300Z-0400Z, Jul 19
+ NAQCC CW Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Jul 19
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Jul 20
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Jul 20
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 20

+ Russian Radio Team Championship	0700Z-1459Z, Jul 21
+ Trans-Tasman Low-Bands Challenge	0800Z-1400Z, Jul 21
+ Jakarta DX Contest 40m	1000Z-2200Z, Jul 21
+ DMC RTTY Contest	1200Z, Jul 21 to 1200Z, Jul 22
+ Feld Hell Sprint	1200Z-1359Z, Jul 21
+ North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Jul 21 to 0559Z, Jul 22
+ CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	1800Z, Jul 21 to 2100Z, Jul 22
+ SA Sprint Contest	2100Z-2259Z, Jul 21
+ RSGB Low Power Contest	0900Z-1200Z and 1300Z-1600Z, Jul 22
+ CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush	2000Z-2159Z, Jul 22
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Jul 25
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 25
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Jul 25 and 1900Z-2000Z, Jul 25 and 0300Z-0400Z, Jul 26
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, Jul 26
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Jul 27
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Jul 27
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 27
+ RSGB IOTA Contest	1200Z, Jul 28 to 1200Z, Jul 29
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Jun 29
+ ARS Flight of the Bumblebees	1700Z-2100Z, Jul 29

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						
2018 Jul01	2018 Jul10	Azerbaijan	4K	AD0PY Direct	US5WE 20180601	By DL7ZM 4K4K as 4K6/DL7ZM fm the Nasir al-Din al-Tusi Shemakhi Astrophysical Observatory (1500m asl, LN40hs); 6m; CW SSB FT8; 100w; 7 and 3 ele yagis; noise cancellation system
2018 Jul01	2018 Jul11	Turks & Caicos	VQ5Z	VE3IKV Direct	VE3IKV 20180326	By VE3IKV VE3MMQ; fm IOTA NA-002 (FL31vs); HF + 6m (50.107 CW beacon); CW SSB FT8 MSK144 JT65a; 100w; 8-el yagi 12.1dBd gain
2018 Jul01	2018 Jul14	Greenland	OX3LX	LotW	TDDX 20180601	By OZ1DJJ fm IOTA NA-018; spare time operation, more activity on weekends; QSL also OK via OZ0J
2018 Jul01	2018 Jul26	Papua New Guinea	P29RR	LotW	TDDX 20180619	By ZL1BQD; focus on 160 80m; mainly FT8; 20w; dipoles; spare time operation; QSL also OK via ZL1BQD direct (w/ 2USD) and eQSL

2018 Jul02	2018 Jul09	Iceland	TF	LotW	TDDX 20180430	By G0POT as TF/G0POT; QRP; SOTA activations; QSL also OK via G0POT (Buro or direct) and eQSL
2018 Jul03	2018 Jul17	St Pierre & Miquelon	FP	LotW	KV1J 20180227	By KV1J as FP/KV1J fm Miquelon I (IOTA NA-032); 160-6m; mainly SSB RTTY, some CW and FT8; QSL also OK via KV1J direct and Club Log
2018 Jul05	2018 Jul10	Alaska	KH7	VE1FA	VE1FA 20180607	By VE1FA as VE1FA/KH7 and VA1YL as VA1YL/KH7 fm Round I (IOTA NA-121, AO74oe); 7.150 and 14.260 MHz +/- QRM; SSB; 100w
2018 Jul07	2018 Jul14	Br Virgin Is	VP2V	N9DK	N9DK 20180326	By N9DK as VP2V/N9DK; 80-2m; all modes; offshore contacts not valid for DXCC
2018 Jul07	2018 Jul20	Georgia	4L NEW	RC5A	TDDX 20180628	By RC5A as 4L/RC5A; QRV for IARU HF Contest (mixed mode, high power); QSL OK via Buro or direct
2018 Jul11	2018 Jul22	Laos	XW4XR NEW	LotW	TDDX 20180628	By 3W3B; 40-6m; CW RTTY FT8; QSL also OK via E21EIC
2018 Jul13	2018 Jul17	Fiji	3D2	LotW	WJ2O 20180422	By WJ2O as TBD; 40-15m; CW; QSL also OK via N2ZN direct; dates approximate
2018 Jul13	2018 Jul20	Botswana	A25A	LotW	TDDX 20180414	By NJ0F; 80-10m; SSB CW RTTY FT8; hexbeam, vertical; QSL also OK via NJ0F and Club Log
2018 Jul14	2018 Jul21	Isle of Man	MD0XAL NEW	M0XAL	TDDX 20180622	By M0XAL fm Port Erin; 80 40 20 10m; holiday style operation
2018 Jul18	2018 Jul25	Vanuatu	YJ0GA	LotW	DXNews 20180227	By ZL3GA fm Efate I (IOTA OC-035); 80-6m; QSL also OK via ZL3GA (Buro or direct) and Club Log
2018 Jul18	2018 Jul31	Svalbard	JW100PUT NEW	SP3PET	TDDX 20180628	By SP3FGI and others fm Petuniabukta, Spitsbergen; 80 40 20 2m + 70cm; SSB FM; 100w; QSL OK via Buro or direct
2018 Jul19	2018 Jul24	Curacao	PJ2	LotW	DXW.Net 20180323	By KM4SII as PJ2/KM4SII; all bands; all modes; focus on digital for AS VK ZL; fm PJ2T station
2018 Jul19	2018 Jul31	Micronesia	V6J	JP3AYQ	JJ3PRT 20180504	By JA team fm Ta I (IOTA OC-253); 40-6m; SSB CW FT8 RTTY; focus on EU and NA; QSL also OK via eQSL

MILESTONES

Dave Faibanks, N8NB.

**#3 North America, #3 United States in
2017 World-Wide DX Contest SSB**



World Radiosport Team Championship 2018: The Other Ham Radio Event of the Summer

In about 2 weeks, some 60 two-person teams will take on the world and each other in World Radiosport Team Championship 2018 (WRTC 2018), in the Jessen-Wittenberg area of Germany. Held approximately every 4 years, WRTCs take place in conjunction with the 24-hour-long IARU HF Championship July 14 - 15, although WRTC teams are subject to additional rules specific to the competition. Several years of preparation and organization begun right after WRTC 2014 in New England have led to WRTC 2018, and a number of skills have been brought into play, including carpentry. A team of about 20 has been building WRTC boxes that will contain all equipment transported to individual sites.

"Everything that is needed on the site, including antenna materials, arrives packed in the box. Only the mast is transported separately," said Andreas "Paul" Paulick, DL5CW. "This ensures that nothing gets lost in transit in the vehicles." Paulick noted that the mast, antenna, tent, and generator accessories are bulky enough not to fall through the cracks, but that small items "tend to disappear."

Final antenna work also has been handled, with 65 rotators bolted to base plates and tested to make sure that they're working correctly. Guy sets for the masts are also complete. Organizers suggest the tension is building as July 12 approaches. Fourteen North American teams qualified for WRTC 2018, including WRTC 2014 defending champions Daniel Craig, N6MJ, and Chris Hurlbut, KL9A, from the US

Nearly all WRTC 2018 participants got into Amateur Radio as teenagers; a WRTC 2018 survey showed an average age of just over 13 when first licensed. Team Leaders were chosen from each region, based on 2 years of qualifying contest scores and have chosen a teammate for the event.

Wherever they're from, competitors must muster the stamina to sit at their radios for 24 hours straight if they want to finish on top. In Contact Sport, a narrative of WRTC 2014, author Jim George, N3BB, described the role that "extreme fatigue" played. "The final 4 hours were tough at every site," George wrote. Describing the operators at one site, he wrote, "The men couldn't keep their eyes open, were not able to concentrate, and had trouble pushing the right buttons on the radio and pressing the correct keys on the keyboard. Neither could sit any longer -- it was just too uncomfortable."

The 2018 IARU HF World Championship runs from July 14 at 1200 UTC to July 15 at 1200 UTC. These and other HQ stations count as multipliers in calculating IARU contest scores. One of the unique features of WRTCs is that operators around the world also can join in from home and become part of the event. Indeed, this is necessary for there to be an event! WRTC 2018 offers unique awards and prizes to operators who get on the air, contact the WRTC stations, and submit their log within six hours of the contest end (by 1800 UTC Sunday). Complete information is (or will be) at the above link, or for awards information, go directly to <https://tinyurl.com/y9q8tkwn>. (from ARRL)





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. Material received after the deadline will be used in the next month's VOICE COIL if it is still current and /or newsworthy.

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