



November 2018
Volume 56, Issue 11

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

The Voice Coil

Prez Sez

It's that time of the month and I hope everyone is well and hamming it up.

Next month's club meeting for the most part will be nominations for vice president, treasurer, and two trustees, followed by the vote for these positions.

To qualify, you must have been a member for two years to be nominated for vice president and treasurer, one year for trustee. If you would like run for one of these offices, you must be present to accept or decline the nomination. Officer's terms are for two years, starting January 2019 to December 2021.

Have you been working any of the bands? There have been a lot of Europe, South America and some rare DX stations listed on QRZ, but most were difficult to hear.

VHF SSB is starting come alive with the cooler weather as most ham's hang on the radio more. Some good places to look on SSB are 144.200, 144.205, and 144.185. These seem to popular in the mornings from about 7am to about 10am.

If you have a SSB rig that covers two meters, you might be able to work out to about 60 to 100 miles with 25 watts. Give it a try and you might be surprised. I have my radio on 144.205, mostly in the morning.



If you're on 2m SSB give me call.

Want show your club pride? Contact Mike (K8PRR). He has the order forms for shirts and other club wear with the new 100th anniversary logo on them. Get in touch with Mike he will give all the information.

73,
Jim, WB8UJS

Next Meeting:

Thur. Nov. 8, 7 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.

November Program

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 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

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.

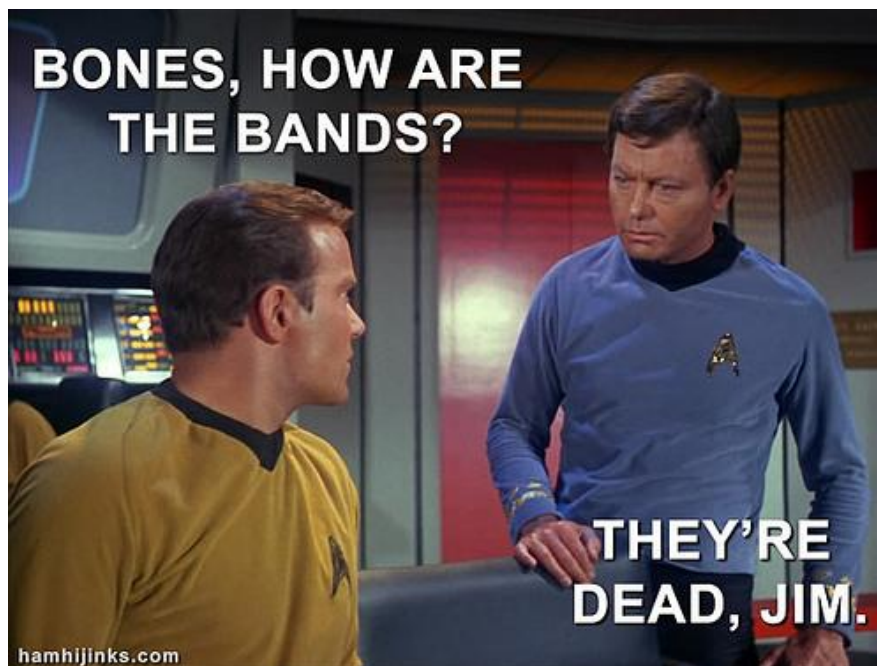
ARES NET- First and third Mondays
of each month at 8:30 PM on 146.745
MHZ; prior to the Monday Night Net.

*This month, our speaker
will be Bruce Gibson,
K3BEG, speaking about
APRS. When you hear
APRS, you probably think
about a system of tracking
hams as they travel
throughout the world. It
does do that, but there is
more to it and Bruce is an
expert at APRS.*



APRS was developed in the late 1980s by Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, a senior research engineer at the United States Naval Academy. APRS was originally known as the Automatic Position Reporting System but was later changed to the Automatic Packet Reporting System.

In addition to working with APRS, Bruce is the Section Youth Coordinator for the Western PA ARES Section. Bruce is also interested in Radio Ballooning and recently hosted a WPA Section event featuring a long distance launch that reached an altitude of over 20 miles above the earth and was tracked on the internet via APRS.



License Refresher Answers: E2E01 (B), E2E02 (A),
G3A01 (A), G3A02 (B)

Christmas Party

MVARA's Christmas Party will be held in the banquet room at the Bedford Hills Golf Course, 713 Bedford Rd, Lowellville, OH 44436.

The party is December 13, 2018 and we meet at 6:30pm. We will be ordering from the menu and there will be a cash bar. The average meal cost is about \$15.00.

The traditional MVARA gift exchange will continue this year, if you will be participating, please bring a gift valued at \$10 or less to exchange.

We need to let the restaurant know how many are coming – if you plan to attend please email mvara.w8qly@gmail.com or phone/text to 330-774-1287.

Current Activities

November 1st, VE session at Red Cross, 3530 Belmont Avenue, Youngstown. Doors open at 6:30pm. Testing begins at 7pm.

November Meeting: Program on APRS by Bruce, K3BEG. Nominations for vice president, treasurer, 2 trustees, followed by the election.

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



11/04/2018 WACOM 2018 Hamfest. **Location:** Printscape Arena. 114 Southpointe Boulevard Canonsburg, PA 15317. **Website:** <http://www.wacomarc.org/hamfest.html> **Sponsor:** Washington Amateur Communications. **Talk-In:** 147.39 (N), 147.315 (S), 146.79 (E), 145.25 (W) - All PL 131.8 **Public Contact:** Bud Plants , N3TIR, 236 Chambers Ridge Road West Alexander, PA 15376 Phone: 724-350-6745 **Email:** bud@n3tir.com

01/27/2019 Tusco ARC Hamfest. **Location:** Wallick Auctions, 965 North Wooster Avenue Strasburg, OH 44680. **Website:** <http://www.tuscoarc.org> **Talk-In:** 146.730- (no PL tone) **Public Contact:** Janice Green , KB8YDK, 32210 Norris Road Tippecanoe, OH 44699 Phone: 740-922-4454 **Email:** k8wfn@tusco.net

02/17/2019 Mansfield Mid Winter Hamfest. **Location:** Richland County Fairgrounds, 750 North Home Road, Mansfield, OH 44901. **Website:** <http://W8WE.ORG> **Sponsor:** Intercity Amateur Radio Club **Talk-In:** 146.94 (PL 71.9) **Public Contact:** Danny Bailey , W8DLB, 70 Euclid Street Shiloh, OH 44878 Phone: 419-896-2165. **Email:** W8DLB113@gmail.com

Know of any regional events that should be included in the Voice Coil? Send the information to: MVARAVoiceCoil@gmail.com

Boy Scout Radio Merit Badge Class



Where do new hams come from? Maybe they come from sessions like these.

On October 20, more than 32 scouts attended the radio merit badge session at Camp Stambaugh. In this one-day session, they learned about basic radio theory, communications and got an introduction to ham radio as well—including some air time and an opportunity to participate in JOTA (Jamboree On The Air).

At the end of the session, there were plenty of questions, including how to get an amateur radio license

MVARA instructors/participants included Frank Sole, WB8YHD, Joe Vasko, N8SEJ, Dave Brett, KD8NZF, Scott Wilton, KE4UHC, Mark Haverstock, K8MSH, Mike McCleery, K8PRR, Roy Dyckman, KD8JMO, Rick Albrecht, KD8ZUN, and John Morris, KE8IPD.

The 20/9 Club of Austintown and Western Reserve Amateur Radio Club provided two station setups so Scouts and other visitors could get on the air.



Interpreting Solar Data

You keep seeing these solar propagation reports on QRZ and other websites, but how do you make sense of them, especially when you want to know how solar activity will affect your HF operation? After all, why get on the air when the bands are dead.

Here's how to translate this information:

-A Index: Low is good, with propagation conditions better when it is 15 or lower. It represents overall geomagnetic condition of the ionosphere over a given 24 hour period.

-K Index: Low is good, with propagation conditions better when it is 3 or lower. The K index measures the variation of the Earth's magnetic field every 3 hours and is compared to what are "quiet day" conditions.



-SFI (Solar Flux Index): Low values indicate that the maximum useable frequency will be low and overall conditions will not be very good, particularly on the higher HF bands. Conversely, high values generally indicate there is sufficient ionization to support long-distance communication at higher-than-normal frequencies.

-X-Ray : Solar X-Ray emissions will cause shortwave fadeout. Classification from weak to strong X-Ray emissions : A, B, C, M, X. During a solar X-ray outburst, the lower frequencies are the first to suffer, with subsequent fading up the frequency spectrum over a short period (usually less than a hour). Signals crossing daylight paths will be the most affected (obviously as X-Rays come from the sun).

-MUF (Maximum Usable Frequency): NOAA (Boulder, CO) reported value from 0-100MHz. Provides the maximum usable frequency in MHZ at one of 11 locations worldwide, updated every 15 min. There is also a colored bar chart available.

-Solar Flare Probability: Reports percent solar flare probability in the next 24 hours. Solar flares can cause major changes to ionospheric radio propagation, often disrupting them for hours or sometimes days.

-If you cannot hear signals there may be nothing wrong with your receiver or antenna. To see if a fadeout has occurred go to <http://www.solarham.net/xray.htm>



ARRL president suggests that we “re-brand” amateur radio

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

This Week in Amateur Radio recently reported (<https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/this-week-in-amateur-radio/e/51325707>) on a speech given by ARRL president, Rick Roderick, K5UR, at the 60th annual West Virginia State ARRL convention held August 25th at WVU Jackson’s Mill Conference Center. Here are some things that he had to say:



“Are we even relevant anymore as ham radio operators? Well, let’s see: We’re world communicators. We provide public service. We help in emergencies and disasters. We help save lives. We talk to the jungles of Africa...to the beaches of the South Pacific. We bounce signals off the moon. We talk to astronauts. We promote technology. We do positive things. So absolutely—we are relevant.

“We’ve got to accept change and we’ve got to adapt if we’re going to bridge that gap to that next generation. So the question that I have here that I have challenged my colleagues at ARRL with is this: is it time to rebrand ham radio? Maybe we need to rebrand the American Radio Relay League. That’s a pretty profound statement.”

Of course, I agree with K5UR on this and said so myself (<https://www.kb6nu.com/are-we-amateurs-or-what/>) several years ago. Unfortunately, according to the report, he retreated to the same old ideas that the ARRL has been spouting for years:

“Well I think we ought to get out there and stir things up. That’s what I think we ought to do. I think you ought to go back and rejuvenate your club. Over the next year, get somebody into ham radio. The second thing I want you to do...I want you to help a ham that needs your help. And the third thing I want you to do is—if you’re not a member of the American Radio Relay League, you need to join today...because you know that whether you like us or not, we’re all you’ve got; ain’t nobody else in Washington DC helping us. I want you to ask yourself this question: don’t you think it’s time to give something back? Now I believe as a group, if we all did that we’ll make a difference in this hobby as we go forward. Be a champion of ham radio. Let’s work together and get it done. Thank you very much.”

I’d like to challenge K5UR and the ARRL to really stir things up. There are lots of us out here giving back by teaching classes, conducting exam sessions, and helping hams get on the air. That’s not the problem.

What we need from the ARRL is real leadership, not just talk. Exhorting the troops is only going to go so far. For most hams, amateur radio is only a hobby, and they do what they can. It’s really up to the ARRL to provide the leadership that ties it all together and provide the framework that will allow us all to be successful.

Saying, “Whether you like us or not, we’re all you’ve got; ain’t nobody else in Washington DC helping us” doesn’t really cut it. You have to show people that you’re really making a difference, not just say you are.

When he's not giving the ARRL the benefit of his opinions, Dan blogs about amateur radio, writes exam study guides (www.kb6nu.com/study-guides), and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him your thoughts about the ARRL at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Ham Humor from Hamhijinks

NEW MODE HELPS HAMS LOOK FOR LOVERS



HORSESHOE LAKE, WISCONSIN — Local ham radio operator and self-avowed bachelor Giani Balboa says his latest creation will revolutionize the lonely hearts of the hobby.

The prize winning tailor (his garment making took 1st place at the 2004 Cumberland County Fair) has developed a new digital software format designed for the amorous ham.

“I call it FT-88s,” says Balboa. “It will whisper your call sign to hams of the opposite gender and you’ll be making contacts in no time!”

Designed to run on a home computer, the software comes in both “male” and “female” versions.

Transmitting on a 15 second cycle, the male FT-88s client includes several preset messages including:

- HOW YOU DOIN’?
- DO YOU COME HERE OFTEN?
- DO I KNOW YOU FROM SOMEWHERE?
- WHAT’S YOUR (CALL) SIGN?

Female version, preformatted messages include:

- NO COPY; I HAVE OTHER PLANS
- SORRY, I HAVE TO WORK DX LATE
- I’VE SEEN BIGGER SIGNALS

Balboa says the software will exchange the “kissing emoji” with the correct keystrokes.

He adds that third-party software will allow you to swipe left for logging to HRD log and swipe right for logging to AC Log.

Talking to reporters while exercising at his home gym/hamshack, he says QSOs will be digitally signed automatically and transferred to both NRRL’s Logbook of the Globe and www.hothamradiooperators.com.

No Baofengs Allowed?

The FCC has issued a broad warning to importers, retailers and users of certain "lowcost two-way VHF/UHF radios that do not comply with the FCC's (equipment certification) rules ... and are frequently imported into the United States." These include some brands and models that are popular among hams. The FCC points out that devices that operate "only on frequencies that the FCC has allocated for use by Amateur Radio Service licensees, it does not require FCC equipment authorization, and an amateur licensee may use his or her license to operate such radios." However, the same paragraph notes that "(i)f a two-way VHF/UHF radio is capable of operating outside of the amateur frequency bands, it cannot be imported, advertised, sold, or operated within the United States without an FCC equipment certification." (emphasis added).

This leaves hams in a quandary – the traditional FCC view on radios capable of operating outside the amateur bands has been that they're OK for hams to use within the amateur bands and on authorized frequencies outside the ham bands, such as those used for MARS (Military Auxiliary Radio System) operation. This new memo, however, suggests that no one, including hams, may legally use these radios at all, if they are capable of operating outside the ham bands. The ARRL says it is in discussions with FCC enforcement officials to try to clarify the situation.

The rule is not new, and you are only caught in the middle if you did not pay attention when you bought your rig. There are "export" models which are not certified with the FCC that are legal in other countries and therefore sold online. There are often copies of the same radio that IS certified. The onus is in the amateur to make sure the radio he/she buys is certified by the FCC. Example:

NOT Certified: [\\$31](https://www.amazon.com/BaoFeng-UV-82L-Radio-Dual-136-174-Portable/dp/B00F4OOMQ0/ref=sr_1_4?s=wireless&ie=UTF8&qid=1540400419&sr=1-4&keywords=uv-82)



Certified: [\\$55](https://www.amazon.com/BaoFeng-UV-82C-Dual-Band-Transceiver-Earpiece/dp/B00JIHLNE)

If you are operating an HT that does not have an FCC number on the back, the radio is illegal for you to operate in the country. Also, if you are operating that illegal radio, you are putting your ham license in jeopardy. If you tried to save money and bought the \$31 dollar model, you wasted your money. The FCC is not putting hams "in the middle", it's the online retailers that sell both, and expect the ham consumer to buy the right model. Since the internet doesn't have an address and the distributors are typically overseas, the online vendors on eBay or Amazon offer them to the world, and leave you to sort it out. Baofeng just sits back and collects the revenue. They haven't broken any laws. Caveat Emptor.

From CQ Amateur Radio (<http://cqnewsroom.blogspot.com/>)

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>.

November 2018

+ NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1800Z-1900Z, Nov 1 (CW) and 1900Z-2000Z, Nov 1 (SSB) and 2000Z-2100Z, Nov 1 (FM) and 2100Z-2200Z, Nov 1 (Dig)
+ SKCC Sprint Europe	2000Z-2200Z, Nov 1
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Nov 2
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 2
+ Jakarta RTTY Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Nov 3
+ IPARC Contest, CW	0600Z-1000Z, Nov 3 and 1400Z-1800Z, Nov 3
+ Ukrainian DX Contest	1200Z, Nov 3 to 1200Z, Nov 4
+ ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	2100Z, Nov 3 to 0300Z, Nov 5
+ IPARC Contest, SSB	0600Z-1000Z, Nov 4 and 1400Z-1800Z, Nov 4
+ EANET Sprint	0800Z-1200Z, Nov 4
+ High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z-1100Z, Nov 4 and 1500Z-1700Z, Nov 4
+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Nov 6
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 7
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Nov 7 and 1900Z-2000Z, Nov 7 and 0300Z-0400Z, Nov 8
+ UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Nov 7
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Nov 9
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 9
+ WAE DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Nov 10 to 2359Z, Nov 11
+ PODXS 070 Club Triple Play Low Band Sprint	0000Z, Nov 10 to 2359Z, Nov 12
+ 10-10 Int. Fall Contest, Digital	0001Z, Nov 10 to 2359Z, Nov 11
+ JIDX Phone Contest	0700Z, Nov 10 to 1300Z, Nov 11
+ SARL VHF/UHF Analogue Contest	1000Z, Nov 10 to 1000Z, Nov 11
+ OK/OM DX Contest, CW	1200Z, Nov 10 to 1200Z, Nov 11
+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Nov 10 to 2400Z, Nov 11
+ CQ-WE Contest	1900Z-2300Z, Nov 10 (CW/Digital) and 0100Z-0500Z, Nov 11 (Phone) and 1900Z-2300Z, Nov 11 (Phone) and 0100Z-0500Z, Nov 12 (CW/Digital)
+ AWA Bruce Kelley 1929 QSO Party	2300Z, Nov 10 to 2300Z, Nov 11 and 2300Z, Nov 17 to 2300Z, Nov 18
+ 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Nov 12
+ RSGB 80m Autumn Series, Data	2000Z-2130Z, Nov 12
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 14
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Nov 14 and 1900Z-2000Z, Nov 14 and 0300Z-0400Z, Nov 15

+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Nov 16
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 16
+ YO International PSK31 Contest	1600Z-2200Z, Nov 16
+ SARL Field Day Contest	1000Z, Nov 17 to 1000Z, Nov 18
+ LZ DX Contest	1200Z, Nov 17 to 1200Z, Nov 18
+ All Austrian 160-Meter Contest	1600Z, Nov 17 to 0700Z, Nov 18
+ REF 160-Meter Contest	1700Z, Nov 17 to 0100Z, Nov 18
+ Feld Hell Sprint	1900Z-2059Z, Nov 17
+ RSGB 2nd 1.8 MHz Contest, CW	1900Z-2300Z, Nov 17
+ ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	2100Z, Nov 17 to 0300Z, Nov 19
+ Homebrew and Oldtime Equipment Party	1300-1500Z, Nov 18 (40m) and 1500-1700Z, Nov 18 (80m)
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Nov 19
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 21
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Nov 21 and 1900Z-2000Z, Nov 21 and 0300Z-0400Z, Nov 22
+ RSGB 80m Autumn Series, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Nov 21
+ NAQCC CW Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Nov 22
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Nov 23
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 23
+ CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Nov 24 to 2400Z, Nov 25
+ ARRL EME Contest	0000Z, Nov 24 to 2359Z, Nov 25
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Nov 28
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 28
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Nov 28 and 1900Z-2000Z, Nov 28 and 0300Z-0400Z, Nov 29
+ UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Nov 28
+ RSGB 80m Autumn Series, CW	2000Z-2130Z, Nov 29
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Nov 30
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 30
+ ARRL 160-Meter Contest	2200Z, Nov 30 to 1600Z, Dec 2

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>

November						
2018 Nov01	2018 Nov30	Sri Lanka	4S7KKG	LotW	425DXN 20181019	By DC0KK fm IOTA AS-003; mainly CW and digital; QSL also OK via Club Log; operation to continue until Apr 1, 2019
2018 Nov03	2018 Nov06	Christmas I	VK9XQ	DF8AN	DXW.Net 20180327	By DF8AN; 160-6m; CW + digital (incl FT8); QSL OK via DARC Buro or direct + eQSL (late)

2018 Nov03	2018 Nov13	Madagascar	5R8UP	OE7AJH	DXNews 20181005	By OE7AJH OE7KUT fm IOTA AF-013; 40-10m, perhaps 80m; CW SSB; mainly local mornings and evenings
2018 Nov03	2018 Nov25	St Lucia	J68GU	Club Log	TDDX 20181005	By DL7VOG; HF; CW RTTY FT8, SSB on request; QRV for WAE RTTY and CQWW DX CW; QSL also OK via DL7VOG (DARC Buro or direct)
2018 Nov05	2018 Nov09	Liberia	EL	LotW	DXW.Net 20180831	By EL2EF MM0NDX MM0OKG as EL2EL/4 fm Telengbe I (new) (IOTA AF-111); mainly 40-17m, but will check propagation on other bands; mainly SSB, some CW FT8; QSL also OK via Club Log
2018 Nov05	2018 Nov30	Madagascar	5R8IC	Club Log	TDDX 20181015	By F6ICX fm Sainte-Marie I (IOTA AF-090); mainly CW, perhaps RTTY BPSK SSB; 100w; Hexbeam, wires; QSL OK via F6ICX direct; holiday style operation to continue until February 2019
2018 Nov06	2018 Nov09	Cocos Keeling	VK9CH	DF8AN	DXW.Net 20180327	By DF8AN; 160-6m; CW + digital (incl FT8); QSL OK via DARC Buro or direct + eQSL (late)
2018 Nov06	2018 Nov20	Barbados	8P9AE	LotW	DL7DF 20170907	By DK1BT DL4WK DL6SAK DL7KL DL7UFR SP3CYY; CW SSB + digital; verticals, loops, Spiderbeam; QSL also OK via DL7DF (DARC Buro or direct)
2018 Nov07	2018 Nov14	St Kitts & Nevis	V47FWX	M0URX	DXW.Net 20180718	By G0FWX fm St Kitts; holiday style operation
2018 Nov09	2018 Nov17	Christmas I	VK9XQ	DF8AN	DXW.Net 20180327	By DF8AN; 160-6m; CW + digital (incl FT8); QSL OK via DARC Buro or direct + eQSL (late)
2018 Nov11	2018 Nov25	Guadeloupe	TO40R	LotW	TDDX 20181016	By Radio Club Guadeloupe (FG4KH) members; HF
2018 Nov15	2018 Nov30	Minami Torishima	JD1	JA8CJY	TDDX 20180918	By JG8NQJ as JG8NQJ/JD1 fm Marcus I; 20 17m; CW RTTY Satellite; 50w; HB9CV; spare time operation; begin date uncertain; to continue until mid February 2019

2018 Nov16	2018 Nov27	Tonga	A35EU	LotW	GM4FDM 20181005	By PA3EWP GM4FDM PA4WM EI5IX; 160-10m; CW SSB RTTY, some FT8; focus on EU; high power; VDAs, verticals, inv L; QSL also OK via GM4FDM direct (w/ SAE + \$3) or Buro and Club Log
2018 Nov17	2018 Nov23	Iran	EP6RRC	R7AL	DXNews 20181005	By R7AL RA1ZZ RK8A RW5D RZ3K UA3EDQ UA1ZZ EP2LMA fm Shif I (IOTA AS-189); 160-10m; CW SSB FT8; 3 stations; VDAs, GPs, W3DXX, EWE
2018 Nov17	2018 Nov23	Montserrat	VP2MUW	LotW	DXNews 20180415	By M0VFC M0BLF M0WUT; 80-10m; CW SSB; QSL also OK via Club Log
2018 Nov17	2018 Dec08	Sint Maarten	PJ7AA	LotW	TDDX 20170818	By AA9A; 80-10m, incl 60; CW SSB + digital; Buddipole; QSL also OK via AA9A
2018 Nov18	2018 Dec02	Vietnam	XV9D	LotW	RM2D 20181001	By RM9D; 40-10m, perhaps 80m; QSL also OK via RM2D direct
2018 Nov19	2018 Nov25	Micronesia	V63PSK	Club Log	JA1FMN 20180921	By JA1FMN fm Weno I (IOTA OC-011); 40-15m; FT8 JT65; after 09z; holiday style operation
2018 Nov19	2018 Nov26	Micronesia	V63DX	LotW	JA7HMZ 20181007	By JA7HMZ fm Pohnpei (IOTA OC-010); 160-10m; focus on 160m FT8 for Europe; QSL also OK via JA7HMZ direct
2018 Nov19	2018 Nov28	Anguilla	VP2	LotW	OPDX 20180827	By KE1B as VP2EAQ and W6NN as VP2EAR; 40-10m; CW SSB RTTY FT8; holiday style operation; QSL also OK via KE1B Buro and Club Log
2018 Nov22	2018 Dec07	Ogasawara	JD1 <small>NEW</small>	LotW	DXNews 20181022	By JH1HHC as JD1BPH and JI1CRM as JI1CRM/JD1 fm Komagari, Chichijima I (IOTA AS-031); 160-6m; CW SSB RTTY FT8; QSL also OK via JH1HHC and JI1CRM respectively
CQ WW DX Contest, CW (Nov 24-25, 2018) Check here for pericontest activity too.						
2018 Nov25	2018 Dec02	East Timor	4W <small>NEW</small>	LotW	TDDX 20181024	By DS3EXX as 4W/DS3EXX fm IOTA OC-148; HF; QSL also OK via DS3EXX
2018 Nov26	2018 Dec03	East Timor	4W <small>NEW</small>	HL1AHS	DXNews 20181026	By HL1AHS as 4W/HL1AHS; HF; SSB CW FT8
2018 Nov26	2018 Dec06	Nicaragua	YN		DXNews 20180415	By RM0F as H7/RM0F, R4WAA RZ3FW RC5A likewise, also YN4RRC fm Big Corn I (IOTA NA-013); 160-10m; CW SSB

2018 Dec07	St Martin	FS	See Web	TDDX 20180420	By K9NU W9ILY W9MK FS4WBS K9EL as FS/home_call; 160 80m focus; will try to include FT8 in fox/hound mode; high power
2018 Dec10	Montserrat	VP2M	See Info	TDDX 20180822	By K7NM WM7Z NS7K AC7ZN as VP2MLB VP2MSA VP2MSK VP2MZN respectively; 160-6m; CW SSB PSK FT8 RTTY; QRV as multiop for ARRL 160m Contest using VP2MSK (LotW and Club Log OK); QSL as per qrz.com; exact begin and end unclear

From the Affiliated Club Coordinator

Tom Sly, WB8LCD - ACC tomsly29@gmail.com

This is the time of year that most clubs are having their election of officers for the upcoming year. It would be nice if we had lots of younger hams (20 – 50 years old) who were interested in taking those positions, but, they're just hard to come by. We have to do a better job of recruiting younger members to the hobby! In the meantime, those of us in the 50's and 60's needs to step up and take the leadership positions. (Don't get me wrong here, if your club does have younger members, and they can and are willing to do the work, get them busy!) One thing that really aggravates me is the guy who really does not want the job but says "I'll do it if no-one else will."



While this guy is well meaning and doesn't want to let his friends down, he really doesn't have the right attitude to do the position justice, and usually doesn't. Another thing that aggravates me is the guy who wants the position, so he can have the title and a special badge to wear. He's not really interested in doing the work.

I know that most of you that run for club office are good guys (and gals – I don't mean to be leaving anyone out) and really want to do the best for the club. Here are a few things that I think are important basics for all club officers: First and foremost, you need to be at the club functions! That means the main monthly meeting, committee meetings, club activities, nets, operating events..... yeah, in an active club that can be a lot of activities. But if the club members see that it's not important or interesting enough for the officers to participate in, why should they? Now that your club officers are at all of your functions, they should be responsible for creating a warm and welcoming culture among the members. Everyone should be personally welcomed to anything that is going on and made to feel like they are appreciated for being there and most importantly that they are a part of something. If you've ever been "the odd man out" at something, you know what I am talking about. This really does not take a lot of extra effort for the good it will do.

For the outgoing administration: try to have a couple of months planned into the next year. If you get elected in November or December, take office in January, and are responsible for meetings and activities as of 1/1/20++, it's hard to get off to a good start. Try to leave a couple months for the new officers to get into the flow of the club and make the contacts necessary to get things moving. And, be supportive of the new officers! I've asked you to be an active part of the club while you've been officers, but please, don't disappear as soon as someone else takes over. They need your support.

In January of 2017, I took over as the secretary of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) for the prior secretary who needed to leave due to taking care of aging parents. I stepped in on a “temporary” basis, until a suitable replacement could be found. Not having been club secretary previously, I have to say that it is a pretty important and demanding position! But so is the treasurer, the trustees, the president and the vice-president positions. Your officers give a lot of their own personal time, energy, and yes – cash, for the benefit of the club and its members. PCARS has just had a new person volunteer for the job as secretary (in PCARS secretary is an appointed position, not an elected position). There’s a lot to learn when taking over a new position. Sure, there will be a few bumps getting started, but, given time and support, he will be an awesome club secretary.

I’ve always lived by the idea that no matter what the endeavor, you can beat 70-80% of the competition just by showing up and being on time. Sad but true. But, if you want to make to the top, that last 20-30% is going to be a real dog fight! I hope that those of you running for club offices will take a look at where you stand with life, ham radio and your club. Have you got the fight in you? I know you do. To the membership of our clubs: you’ve got some responsibilities too. First and foremost, show up! Your club officers put a lot of time and effort into planning meetings and events. Every time you’re a “no-show” they have to wonder to themselves why bother? Same thing with helping out. The club officers can’t do everything – give them a hand. An occasional “attaboy” wouldn’t hurt either. Give it some thought. YOU might make a pretty good club officer! If everyone in the club works together, taking the attitude that they are not going to let anyone in the club fail, you will have an outstanding club.

Finally, as I said, I am no longer the secretary at PCARS! That frees up a pretty big block of time for me. I will be traveling across OH visiting as many of you as I possibly can. I hope to have a chance to meet you all in person and seeing your club operations first hand.

73, Tom Sly WB8LCD

Surfin’: Short Bits

By Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU
ARRL Contributing Editor

This week, Surfin’ is full of short stuff that is not big enough to be tall stuff.

Ham Radio on Highway Patrol

“Radioactive,” the ham radio episode of the 1955 television series [Highway Patrol](#) is now available for viewing on [Hulu](#) (thanks to Mark Thompson, WB9QZB, for the heads-up.)

Old Red Head’s QSL Card Unearthed

While on the topic of old television shows, remember [Arthur Godfrey](#), K4LIB? Well, Bob Green, W8JYZ, e-mailed me that he recently discovered one of the “Old Red Head’s” QSL cards before he was K4LIB.

Bob wrote: “Last month, while sorting some old cards from my collection ‘Old QSL Cards from the Past,’ I found a 1929 Coast Guard QSL card signed by Arthur M. Godfrey, “Red.” He was stationed at the old Curtis Bay Yard near Baltimore and made this contact to W1RP on July 17, 1929. He also wrote on the corner of the card his new call sign.”

You can see the QSL for yourself [here](#) on Bob’s [Old QSL Cards Web site](#).

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

E2E01

Which type of modulation is common for data emissions below 30 MHz?

- A. DTMF tones modulating an FM signal
- B. FSK
- C. Pulse modulation
- D. Spread spectrum

E2E02

What do the letters FEC mean as they relate to digital operation?

- A. Forward Error Correction
- B. First Error Correction
- C. Fatal Error Correction
- D. Final Error Correction

General Pool

G3A01

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

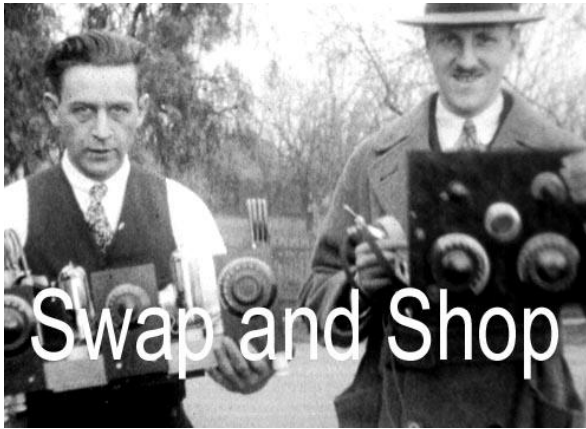
- A. Higher sunspot numbers generally indicate a greater probability of good propagation at higher frequencies
- B. Lower sunspot numbers generally indicate greater probability of sporadic E propagation
- C. A zero sunspot number indicate radio propagation is not possible on any band
- D. All of these choices are correct.

G3A02

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 page 2)



(-----no listings this month-----)

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. Ads will run for two consecutive issues unless notified otherwise.

MAHONING COUNTY FALL SKYWARN TRAINING

You do not have to be an amateur radio operator to attend this training!

Date: November 14, 2018

Time: 5:30 pm sign-in 6:00 pm training

Location: Boardman United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 6809 Market St., Boardman, OH 44512

For more information or directions, please contact: Dean DeMain W8YSU @ 330-788-4271 or Doug Sage @ 330-717-8036

Directions also available at www.mahoningskywarn.com

A net will be on 146.745 repeater beginning at 5 PM for information and directions on the day of the training.



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.





Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association 2019 Membership

Name: _____ Call: _____

Spouse: _____ Call: _____

Mailing Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone # _____ Cell # _____

Email: _____
(The MVARA Voice Coil, the club newsletter, will be emailed to this address)

ARRL member? **Yes** **No**

Do you want the following to be included in the membership list available to all members?

Name and Call	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Phone	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Email Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Membership

-Single Membership \$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	\$ _____
-Additional Family Members \$10.00 each	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	\$ _____

W8QLY Repeater Support

\$12.00	Basic Support Donation	\$ _____
\$50.00	Gold Level Support Donation	\$ _____
\$ _____	Other Support Donation	\$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

***Make checks payable to: Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association.
Please bring this form and your payment to the next meeting or mail to:
MVARA, P.O. Box 14141, 125 West McKinley Way, Youngstown, Ohio 44514***

THE LAST WORD

“One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say.” --Bryant H. McGill



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<https://www.facebook.com/mahvalradio>

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.

The *VOICE COIL* is published by the MVARA. All material contained herein is considered the opinion of the author and not necessarily that of the MVARA. Announcements of events are for informational purposes and do not necessarily constitute an endorsement by the MVARA. No responsibility for accuracy is assumed by the editor or newsletter staff. Typos are included for the entertainment of those who enjoy looking for them and should be reported immediately to any nearby MVARA member :-)