



Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association Voice Coil



August 2026	mvara.w8qly@gmail.com	The Voice Coil - Volume 26-8
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Secretary	Rich Slutz KB8GAE
Treasurer	Nancy Brett KD8QNY



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VE	Mark Haverstock K8MSH

President's Corner

Hello Everyone!

Its wild that July is already gone, and before we know it so will August! It's that time of year where those iconic end of Summer festivals are starting to crop up, one being the St. Pat's Festival in Hubbard, which always signaled the approaching end of Summer Vacation for the local schools. Then of course the Canfield Fair is right around the corner as well! It's crazy how fast time flies when you're having fun! Speaking of fun, we have the annual Corn Roast coming up for this month's meeting in Boardman Park! If you've not been to it in the past I highly recommend you come by and enjoy all the good food and fun times with the club! Of course, there isn't much of a formal meeting due to this, so our next formal meeting is in September, with some

important motions that we'll be voting on, so be sure you've had a chance to read over them (they were sent out earlier in July). For those that are helping and/or in attendance at the Car Show on August 2nd, thank you for coming to support the club, I'm personally bummed that I'm out of town for it, but I'm glad to see the interest in the event as always! Well, that's in for me this month, see you all at the Corn Roast!

73s

**Ralph Streb - K8TCP
President, MVARA**

Upcoming MVARA Events

Date	Event	Location
August 2, 2026	Car Show Special Event Station	Boardman Park
August 13, 2026	MVARA Corn Roast	Boardman Park
August 22, 2026	Ohio QSO Party	On the Air

August Club Program

The MVARA annual Corn Roast will take place on Thursday August 13th at Boardman Twp. Park. It will be held at the Master's Pavilion, located on the west side of the park off Southern Blvd. All members and their families are encouraged to attend! We will eat dinner at about 6:30 pm, but you can arrive any time after 5:30 pm to help shuck the corn.

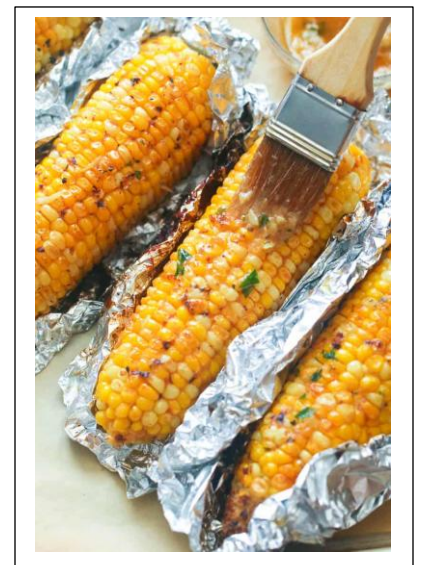
As in the past, the club will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, corn, beverages, and table settings. Those attending are asked to bring a **covered dish or dessert** to share (DON'T FORGET TO BRING A SERVING SPOON OR FORK FOR YOUR DISH!!).

If you have any questions, please contact Dean DeMain (W8YSU) @ 330-507-9295 or E-mail w8ysu@arrl.net

Directions will be available on W8QLY 146.745/R beginning @ 5:00 pm.

Hope to see you all there,

Dean DeMain
W8YSU
MVARA CORN ROAST CHAIRMAN



Special Event Station at the Car Show

One of our favorite events is happening soon. The Mahoning Valley Old Car Club show at Boardman Park, 375 Boardman Poland Rd, Boardman, OH. We will once again be setting up a special event station at the show along the entrance to the show. Not only do you get to be on the air, but you have a prime seat to see each car as they enter the park. Admission to the show is free so if you feel like a walk, there is lots to see.



As you enter the park from 224, there is a grassy area along the street shortly after the St. James Meeting House. The area is almost like an island, surrounded by streets on three sides. We park on the back side of the island and will have a Pop-Up Tent set up early on. We like to be on the air by 10:00am and will start setup around 8:30am. In addition to setting up the tent we will need help setting up our antennas. We plan to have two radios and two antennas. We ask everyone attending to

bring something for lunch to share. The show is August 2nd, c'mon down and get on the air with us.

Groups.io

This is a reminder that MVARA has a groups.io page we use to make announcements and discuss upcoming events and such. The page is available to all members of the club and can be found here:

<https://groups.io/g/mvara> and there is a subscribe link about midway down the page.

Mahoning County ARES Update

ARES Update

In the past few years severe weather has seemed to pass by the Mahoning Valley. The last few weeks have certainly ended that trend.

Within 3 weeks there have been two tornadoes and multiple major microbursts that have caused major damage to 40 plus square miles of Mahoning County. Mahoning County Amateur Radio Operators have been very busy with SkyWarn Nets and reporting weather related damage to the National Weather Service. Our SkyWarn Nets continue to demonstrate their value to the Weather Service and our communities.



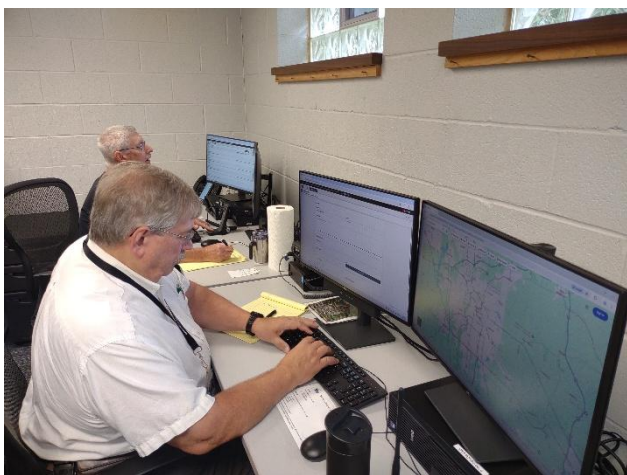
Mahoning County ARES has also been hard at work. ARES Operators spent a full day helping with Damage Assessment following the July 11th tornado and microburst that hit the Canfield and Boardman areas. A major storm also damaged a large part of Poland Township the following weekend of July 18th and another tornado damaged the east side of Youngstown and portions of southern Trumbull County.

ARES volunteers were activated for the week and a half cleanup effort that was a joint effort of Boardman, Canfield, Poland, State and Mahoning County involving township, county and ODOT personnel and vehicles. Our ARES members put in over 120 hours of volunteer communications for this effort handling messages at the Mahoning County Emergency Operations Center.

We want to thank all Amateur Operators that have worked in so many important roles to benefit our local communities in these weather-related emergencies. You demonstrate the best of what Amateur Radio is.

Mahoning County ARES has a lot going on. It's all happening because of you, our ARES Members. Thank you all for your commitment to serving our communities in times of need.

If you're interested in joining Mahoning County ARES, please visit our website www.mahoning-ares.org or email mahoning.ares@gmail.com .
Your ARES Leadership Team.



ARES working in the EOC during debris project

Antennas 101: Do You Really Need an Antenna Tuner?

By Mark Haverstock, K8MSH



There is nothing more misunderstood or misrepresented in the world of ham radio than the antenna tuner. According to many, they're an indispensable accessory for your ham shack and a cure-all for marginal antenna systems. Myths and rumors about tuners abound—some believe a good tuner will transform a wet noodle or bedsprings into usable antennas. However, the antenna tuner doesn't really tune an antenna. Its purpose is to match the radio's 50 ohm antenna connection to the antenna and coax, avoiding damage to the radio if a mismatch exists. Essentially, it keeps your rig happy and protected, even when your antenna system is not up to par.

Antenna tuners are valuable tools for many applications, but if you're looking for a well-matched antenna system, there are other choices that may better suit your needs. One option is to build a resonant antenna to match the frequencies you plan to use.

The Match Game

A resonant antenna is a multiple of a quarter wavelength at a desired frequency. As you remember from Ham Radio 101, a resonant antenna's length in feet is calculated using these simple formulas: $234 / \text{frequency in MHz}$ for a quarter-wave antenna, $468 / \text{frequency in MHz}$ for a dipole. For example, if you wanted to make a dipole resonant at the middle of the 40 meter band (7.150 MHz), its total length would be 65.45 feet. For more about resonant antennas, check out ARRL's Antenna Book.

Build or Buy—Your Choice

Dipoles: The dipole antenna is one of the most effective and inexpensive antennas. Using simple hookup wire and some insulators, you can build single band or multiple-band fan dipoles. DX Engineering has some durable 14 AWG insulated premium copper wire and dipole accessories that are a great option for constructing your DIY dipole. Ready-

made multiband dipoles are available from Alpha Delta, EAntenna, and Diamond. You'll also find compact rotatable dipoles from Comet and MFJ. Kits for making dipoles are available from DX Engineering from its own brand and other manufacturers such as Bushcomm.

Put your antenna in the air and connect some good-quality coax. Fine-tune it as necessary by adjusting the antenna's length. Chances are, your resonant dipole will be a very close match for your radio and provide reasonably good SWR readings. Remember: shorten the antenna to raise the resonant frequency; lengthen it to lower it. Hint: Cut your dipole lower than it needs to be at first. You can cut it shorter much more easily than lengthen it.

Resonant verticals. If you're cramped for space, resonant verticals might be your answer. They're good for DX, primarily because of their low takeoff angle. Hustler's BTV series antennas have been proven in the field since 1959 and provide multiple band operation. Butternut's HF series and HyGain's AV series also feature multi-band operation. These verticals need radials for optimal performance, or at a minimum, good ground.

Yagis, Cobwebs and Hex Beams. These are multi-element antennas generally built for the 20 meter bands and up, though there are some models that include 40 meters as well. They offer gain and directionality. Three-element tribanders (20/15/10 meters) have been popular for decades, including models like the Cushcraft A3S, DX Engineering DXE-3X10 Skyhawk, and Hy-Gain's TH-5MK2. Variants of these may include the WARC bands (30/17/12 meters).

Hex beams and spiders each contain two wire elements per band, spaced around a hexagonal or square support frame. They're lightweight and usually have a small turning radius. Examples include DX Engineering HEXX Beam Antennas and the MFJ-1836 Cobweb Antenna.

(Originally appeared in *On All Bands*, September 2019)

**Note that MFJ no longer makes antennas, but some dealers may still have some. Often, you can find them used at hamfests, QRZ swapmeet, Ebay and other online ham sales.*

New Life for MFJ Products

(Source: Linton News)

ITU Corporation Acquires Ameritron and Mirage RF Amplifier Brands from MFJ Enterprises (FREE ARTICLE)

By [Adam Wence](#)

Published: June 11, 2026, 12:00 pm

LINTON, Indiana – June 9, 2026 – ITU Corporation today announced the acquisition of two additional premier amateur radio and communications brands from MFJ Enterprises: Ameritron and Mirage RF Amplifiers and Electronics.



These are FCC registered and approved high-quality RF Amplifiers up to legal limit. In addition to amplifiers, Ameritron's lineup also includes antenna tuners, switching units, and several other electronic communication devices. This move expands upon ITU's earlier 2026 acquisition of the iconic Hy-Gain and Cushcraft antenna brands.

"These two additional product lines will be a very nice addition to ITU's portfolio of premier communication brands," said Dave Carpenter, President of ITU Corporation. "Martin Jue and I have become very good friends over the last few months. His trust in my team to carry on the legacy of these iconic international brands challenges us to continue improving the processes and quality across all four companies."



The manufacturing operations for Hy-Gain, Cushcraft, Ameritron, and Mirage are being consolidated and relocated from Starkville, Mississippi, to ITU Corporation's 15-acre facility in Linton, Indiana. The complex transition is well underway, with full product production scheduled to begin by the end of 2026.

Customers and enthusiasts can follow ongoing updates, product information, and transition details at [Hy-Gain.com](https://www.hy-gain.com).

Big Boy in Struthers

July 12th the Union Pacific Big Boy Locomotive stopped in Struthers as part of their Whistler Stop Tour of the United States. An estimated crowd of 20,000 spectators met in the center of Struthers. Many of our MVARA members helped the Struthers ROAR club with communications, displays, and a special event station.



Last Call!

From the Treasurer.

The Thank Yous have been sent - The Porta Pot and the Food bills have been paid. If you have any other Field Day expenses – generator gas, Zip ties and Velcro, stamps, etc. – hint, hint, please send an email to Nancy at nanceanne34@gmail.com - include the item and the cost.



Amateur License Refresher

The Amateur License Exams are updated on a rotating basis between the three license levels. In July the new Tech License Exam went live. It will be in use through June 30, 2030. It's probably been a while 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

E6A01

In what application is gallium arsenide used as a semiconductor material?

- A. In high-current rectifier circuits
- B. In high-power audio circuits
- C. In microwave circuits
- D. In very low-frequency RF circuits

E6A02

Which of the following semiconductor materials contains excess free electrons?

- A. N-type
- B. P-type
- C. Bipolar
- D. Insulated gate

E6A03

Why does a PN-junction diode not conduct current when reverse biased?

- A. Only P-type semiconductor material can conduct current
- B. Only N-type semiconductor material can conduct current
- C. Holes in P-type material and electrons in the N-type material are separated by the applied voltage, widening the depletion region
- D. Excess holes in P-type material combine with the electrons in N-type material, converting the entire diode into an insulator

General Pool

G1A09

Which of the following frequencies is within the General class portion of the 15-meter band?

- A. 14250 kHz
- B. 18155 kHz
- C. 21300 kHz
- D. 24900 kHz

G1A10

What portion of the 10-meter band is available for repeater use?

- A. The entire band
- B. The portion between 28.1 MHz and 28.2 MHz
- C. The portion between 28.3 MHz and 28.5 MHz
- D. The portion above 29.5 MHz

G1A11

When General class licensees are not permitted to use the entire voice portion of a band, which portion of the voice segment is available to them?

- A. The lower frequency portion
- B. The upper frequency portion
- C. The lower frequency portion on frequencies below 7.3 MHz, and the upper portion on frequencies above 14.150 MHz
- D. The upper frequency portion on frequencies below 7.3 MHz, and the lower portion on frequencies above 14.150 MHz

E6A01 (C)
E6A02 (A)
E6A03 (C)
G1A09 (C)
G1A10 (D)
G1A11 (B)

Swap & Shop

Baofeng UV-5Rs and accessories.

Two Baofeng UV-5R dual-band HTs, each with drop-in charger, earphone/mic with PTT. Very good condition.

\$15 for one, \$25 for both.

Mark, K8MSH mhaverstock52@gmail.com

Upcoming Contests and QSO Parties

Dave Fairbanks N8NB

Contests:

Source is contestcalendar.com

Many more activities online. These are recommended.

August 2026

+ 10-10 Int. Summer Contest, SSB	0001Z, Aug 1 to 2359Z, Aug 2
+ North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Aug 1 to 0559Z, Aug 2
+ ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest	1800Z, Aug 1 to 1800Z, Aug 2
+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Aug 8 to 2359Z, Aug 9
+ Maryland-DC QSO Party	1400Z, Aug 8 to 0400Z, Aug 9
+ 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Aug 10
+ ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	0900Z, Aug 15 to 0759Z, Aug 17
+ North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Aug 15 to 0559Z, Aug 16
+ NJQRP Skeeter Hunt	1700Z-2100Z, Aug 16
+ ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY	1800Z-2359Z, Aug 16
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	2300Z, Aug 16 to 0100Z, Aug 17
+ Hawaii QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 22 to 0200Z, Aug 24
+ Ohio QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 22 to 0400Z, Aug 23
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Aug 26
+ World Wide Digi DX Contest	1200Z, Aug 29 to 1200Z, Aug 30
+ U.S. Islands QSO Party	1200Z, Aug 29 to 0300Z, Aug 30
+ Kansas QSO Party	1400Z, Aug 29 to 2000Z, Aug 30

DX Information

Source is www.ng3k.com,

August			
2026 Aug05	2026 Aug10	Bahamas	By K9GY; 80-6m; CW; QRV for WAE CW
2026 Aug05	2026 Aug12	Aland Is	By DL1TAM DL5AXI DL5ARI DO6KD DL1STL DG0OCG; 160-10m, perhaps 6m; CW SSB FT8; holiday style operation

2026 Aug06	2026 Aug10	Aruba	By DL4MM; 160-6m; CW SSB + digital; QRV for WAEDC Contest (SO HP)
2026 Aug07	2026 Aug14	El Salvador	By WE9G as YS/WE9G fm EK53hl; 160-6m; mostly FT8 FT4 FT2, some CW SSB; QSL via Club Log OQRS
2026 Aug08	2026 Aug09	Tajikistan	By YL1ZF YL2KL; QRV for WAE DX CW, M/S; QSL via W0VTT
2026 Aug15	2026 Aug16	Namibia	By V51Q V51F V51WO; 80-10m; SSB CW FT8
2026 Aug15	2026 Aug22	Market Reef	By OH3JR as OJ0JR and OH2YL as OJ0YL; 80-10m; CW SSB FT8; QSL via Club Log OQRS
2026 Aug15	2026 Aug29	Franz Josef Land	By R7AL RW8A RW9JZ UA3QLC UA4Z RA4DX; 160-10m; CW SSB
2026 Aug18	2026 Aug29	Canary Is	By IZ1GDB as EA8/IZ1GDB fm Mogan, Gran Canaria; 40 20 15 10m
2026 Aug25	2026 Oct10	Namibia	By DK2WH fm nr Omaruru; 160-6m, incl 60m; QRV as V55Y in CQWW RTTY Contest
2026 Aug28	2026 Aug30	Liechtenstein	By Liechtenstein Radio Amateur Association ops; HF; SSB FT8 FT4

Follow/Like us at: <https://www.facebook.com/mahvalradio>

Website: The MVARA is on the web at www.mvara.org. It is the place to go for club events, classes, newsletters, VE exams, swap and shop, repeaters, history, documents, and contact information.

24/7 Club Connection: The MVARA is on groups.io at <https://groups.io/g/mvara>. Members are invited to hang out with us there and discuss any ham related topic that interest them such as, Club Activities, Parks on the Air, Solar Cycle 25, EmComm, Special Event Stations, Contesting, Public Service, and Swap and Shop. There is video on our website at <https://mvara.org/videos.html> that shows how to use and join the 24/7 Club Connection.

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: mvara.w8qly@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--you don't need to be an MVARA member. You can include a picture for your listing. Please submit your list to mvara.w8qly@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.

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. Contact Nancy, nanceanne34@gmail.com for details.

The club call is **W8QLY**; equipment operated under this call includes a two-meter voice repeater at 146.745 (-600, 110.9 PL).

Club email: mvara.w8qly@gmail.com

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

SKYWARN NET - 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.

Disclaimer

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 :-)