The Ragchewer

January 2024

Ohio Section

K8QIK=The "Voice" of Amateur Radio in Fairfield County

Lancaster-Fairfield County's Amateur Radio Club since 6-3-1959

Club Meetings:

1st Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM. Location: **EMA building 240 Baldwin Dr, Lancaster, OH 43130**.

Nets:

MONDAY

NEWSLINE: 8:00pm
CLUB NET at 9:00pm
Monday AM Net at 9:00am
147.03 MHz (+.6)
146.70 MHz (-.6) Alt. Freq.

Packet:

BBS 145.53MHz
K8QIK-1 BBS
K8QIK-2: Ohio53

Weather Spotter/ARES Net:

146.700 Repeater with 94.8 Hz tone Monday at 7:00 Pm

GMRS REPEATER

Transmits on 462.70 MHz
Receives on 467.70 MHz
PL code 77Hz

FACEBOOK LINK

Club Facebook Link

www.k8qik.org

ARRL Membership

When you join the ARRL, or renew your membership through the club, we retain $15 for each new membership OR lapsed membership (of two years or more), and we retain $2 for each renewal. Please support our club, it doesn't cost any more. Send or give all paperwork to Treasurer with your money.

Free Swap and Sell

If you have anything ham radio related, you can swap it or sell it here. List your items for free. Give a price and how to contact you. Send the list to Webmaster@K8QIK.ORG or Ragchewer Editor at ragchewerk8qik@sbcglobal.net

HAMFESTS

To find a convention or hamfest near you, click here

Special Event Stations

http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations

2023 Officers

President:
Mary Travis, KD8EEI

Vice President:
Robert Northrup, KC8PSW

Secretary:
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Treasurer:
Guy Ingram, W8AGI

Trustee:
John Hilliard, W8OF

Station Engineer:
John Hilliard, W8OF

Volunteer Examiner:
Robert Northrup, KC8PSW

Trainer:
Tim Lentz, KD8QCA

Activities Manager:
Mark Urbine, KC8TUW

Public Relations:
Jim Mills, KE8IID

Safety Officer:
Mark Urbine, KC8TUW

Web Master:
Walter Callahan, W8ALT
webmaster@k8qik.org

News Editor:
Ralph Howes, W8BVH
ragchewer@sbcglobal.net

January Ø4, 2Ø24 Meeting Minutes

At 7:00 p.m., Mary called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 13 members plus 5 members via Zoom for a total of 18 members.

Steve Anderson KD8JLA- Zoom	Guy Ingram W8AGI	Robert Northrup KC8PSW
Walt Callahan W8ALT- Zoom	Paul Kidwell W8PDK	David Nowocin WB9PXH
Paul Flautt KB8CMW	Tim Lentz KD8QCA	Scott Snoke WD8IXO
Eric Fox KE8BZZ	Devon Marshall	Mary Travis KD8EEI
John Hilliard W8OF	KE8CVP- Zoom	Mark Urbine KC8TUW
Ralph Howes W8BVH- Zoom	Lowell Miller W8QIY	Art Wilson W8NQ- Zoom
	Jim Mills KE8IID	

Secretary:

Minutes were posted in Ragchewer and motion to approve made by Jim KE8IID and seconded by Paul KB8CMW. All were in favor.

Treasurer:

GuyW8AGI, gave the Treasurer report. Jim KE8IID made motion to approve treasurer's report and seconded by Tim KD8QCA. All were in favor.

V.President:

Robert KC8PSW had nothing new to report.

Trainer:

Tim KD8QCA no report.

Volunteer Examiner:

Robert KC8PSW reported the following for testing in 2023: 40 total; 13 Technicians; 10 General; and 3 Extras.

Monday Night Net Control:

The following people volunteered to run the net: Jan. 8th Robert KC8PSW; Jan. 15th Guy W8AGI; Jan. 22nd Kevin KB8KSX; and Jan. 29th Mark KC8TUW. (Mark added Kevin and will check him and if he can't Mark will cover.)

Station Engineer:
John W8OF reported on what is happening on waterworks hill with the State with their new building and generator. John had pictures which were shown of the changes taking place. John also mentioned in the spring with help of Matt the club will be installing packet antennas so there can be a pathway from W.V, to Athens to us and up to Johnstown and it will be at the higher speed.

Safety Officer
Mark KC8TUW had a short safety note: If you are not feeling well, do not go out around other people because you could have COVID and pass it on to other people without knowing. Use common sense when not feeling up to par.

Activities Manager:
Mary thanked Mark for setting up the Christmas party and purchasing the gifts. Everyone was very pleased with the selection of door prizes. Eric KE8BZZ won radio donated by Kevin KB8KSX.

Mark KC8TUW, suggested another fox hunt in the spring. A show of hands indicated 6 members are interested. Anyone interested in making a yagi antenna, please contact Mark. Mark will try to schedule one for March and this time he thinks it would be good to do county wide.

John W8OF reported that he and Steve KD8JLA will be attending the next council meeting where the ordinance will be approved for the Club to have use of the former City building on waterworks hill. John also stated that he and Ralph W8BVH, are working on an article about our new building which will be sent to the Ohio section for newsletter and QRZ magazine.

Webmaster:
Walt gave an update on what he has been working on for our new website. He has worked with Jon KC8RUI to get the google workspace transferred and he will set it up so Mark KC8TUW, can have access to club calendar to add events, etc. Also working on getting registration for testing via website and as someone registers Robert KC8PSW will get a notification. Walt has set up with Linode for $5.26 per month which will be paid by the club. In addition, he is working with John KC8RUI to get the domain names with go daddy transferred to club for payment. Jon KC8RUI has been paying the bill for these.

Walt stated you can send an email to wemaster@k8qik.org to get your initial sign-in for the member section of the website.

Mary KD8EEI asked the members what they thought about doing Zoom meetings for February and March, since we have officers and members who will be in warmer climate, and then start back up with meetings at EMA in April. No one spoke up against this idea. Robert will notify EMA of this change since we have the building reserved for Feb. & March.

Mark KC8TUW attended an exercise conducted by Devon KE8CVP related to a severe weather incident involving not allowing EMS transport. The exercise identified a communication gap with some agencies. Devon stated this is the reason for functional exercises to see what works and what needs improvement.

Several people had questions for Devon on their concern if the internet goes down and the MARCS system cannot function. Members do not feel this is being addressed by ARES and EMA. Devon assured everyone that EMA does know the function of Ham radio operators in an actual disaster and how they will be needed. Devon is working on setting up quarterly ARES meetings for our members to participate in actual staged events where members can make sure their equipment is in working order and ready if called upon to assist in community need. Currently Devon holds an ARES weather spotter training net on Monday nights at 7 p.m. on repeater 146.70.

Paul W8PDK made motion to adjourn and seconded by Paul KB8CMW. Meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Mary Travis, Acting Secretary.

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<u>Currently</u> the K8QIK Radio Club in Lancaster, Ohio installed a GMRS repeater that transmits on 462.70 MHz and receives on 467.70 using PL code 77Hz. The repeater is located on a 60-foot tower at a ground elevation of 1,100 on the north end of the city. Range has been exceptionally good with hand-held coverage to most of the county. The repeater is open to anyone that has a current GMRS license and uses it to identify themselves every 15 minutes of use.

***John*, W8OF**
Station Engineer

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** Monthly Club Breakfast **

Location: ***Frisch's Big Boy at the mall***
Lancaster, Ohio 43130

Time: 9-11 am; **3rd Saturday** of each month.

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The Lancaster and Fairfield County Amateur Radio Club (LFCARC)

Exam sessions will be at the Fairfield County EMA, 240 Baldwin Dr in Lancaster Ohio, 43130, ***on the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 am***. Please visit our website at http://www.k8qik.org for exam dates on our calendar and navigate to our Learning Center/Taking the Exam link for information and requirements. Our VE team looks forward to serving the Amateur Radio community in Central Ohio and across our nation. We have an experienced team that has tested candidates from Alaska, Florida, Texas and points in between!

Contact me at ve_testing@k8qik.org to register.

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License Renewal Help

ARRL has produced a helpful video in September about license renewal. It had 4000 views in the first 4 days. Titled "How to RENEW your FCC Amateur Radio License", it takes you through a step-by-step process of renewing and covers all of the new requirements for filing. Click here to view. Better yet, have your club renew your license and help the club's finances at the same time.

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PLEASE NOTE: The Weather Spotters net will now include the ARES group also. The net will now be called The Weather Spotter/ ARES net and will continue on 146.700 Repeater with 94.8 Hz tone Monday at 7:00 Pm. Also note the time is 7:00pm not 7:30.

Want to know where to go to get the courses you need? It's all Right Here!

- Ohio EMA Training Calendar
- Login to the DPS Training Campus
- Create a new account on the DPS Training Campus

NOTE:

- Most courses are in-person but some course may be hosted virtually (this will be noted).
- Seats available listed are as of the release of this update and will change quickly.
- All classes will be posted on the DPS training campus at least 60 days prior to the start of the course.
- Please read the Training Policy & Catalog for more information on Ohio EMA trainings.

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From the Technical Coordinator

Jeff Kopcak – K8JTK TC
K8JTK@arrl.net

Hey gang,
Finally, a step in the right direction allowing ham radio to modernize - being able to use and develop new data communication methods and have greater flexibility encouraging experimentation. Last month, an announcement from the ARRL recapped a ruling made by the FCC to amend the Amateur Radio Service rules. Commissioners voted unanimously to remove the symbol rate (baud rate) restriction replacing it with a 2.8 kHz bandwidth limit on the HF bands. Émile Baudot was an engineer and inventor of the first means of digital communication called the Baudot code in 1870. Instead of using dots and dashes as used in Morse Code, he invented a system of bits to represent each character when transmitting messages over a telegraph line. The "baud" unit was named after him. Baud is the

number of symbols transmitted per second across a medium. Baudot's system allowed for multiple transmissions over a single line.

In modern electronics and computing, baud is often associated with serial communication. Most of us remember or have used serial ports. Stating a serial port operates at "9600 baud" means that serial port can transfer up to 9600 bits per second.

Telephone modems, such as those used to access BBS' and early Internet, had baud rates that matched bit rates. As technology developed and faster communications were demanded, modems used multiple signaling events. The V.32 ITU-T standard allowed for data transfers at 9.6 kbit/s or 4.8 kbit/s at 2,400 baud. This means there were 4 or 2 signaling events respectively occurring at 2,400 baud to achieve the transfer rate.

In their decision, the FCC stated "baud rate limits were adopted in 1980, when the Commission amended the rules to specify ASCII as a permissible digital code. The Commission adopted the limits so that ASCII signals would occupy no more spectrum than traditional radioteleprinter signals associated with the use of Baudot code (FCC Amends Amateur Radio Rules for Greater Flexibility)."

Hams are (for the time being) limited to 300 bauds on the 2200m-12m bands. 1200 bauds on 10m. 19.6 kilobauds on VHF (6 & 2m) not exceeding 20 kHz. 56 kilobauds not exceeding 100 kHz on 220 and 440. A symbol rate is not specified for 33cm and above (97.305).

The ARRL's petition asked the commission to delete all references to a symbol rate and establish a bandwidth limit of 2.8 kHz for data emissions below 29.700 MHz (2200 and 630-meter excluded). FCC commented that amateur radio can still play a vital role in emergency communications, but is hindered by current baud rate limitations. This ruling removes the old standard of 'how much data can be sent per second' replacing it with 'how much data can be packed into 2.8 kHz of RF spectrum' on the HF bands.

2.8 kHz occupies the same bandwidth as common side-band (voice) signals seen on HF bands. Even though sections permit wider transmissions (AM, FM in portions of 10m), the limit is imposed uniformly across all HF bands. 2.8 kHz was decided upon because placing the limit below 2.8 would preclude some modes that are already legal.

Radios that do not have a specific "digital" mode setting use SSB when transmitting digital signals from a computer or other device. Radios capable of SSB can be used when newer data modes are made available if offered in a traditional sound card configuration and the radio doesn't have a hard roll off at 2.7 kHz that cannot be adjusted. Newer ICOM radios (like the 7300) and Software Defined Radios can transmit full bandwidth. Offerings may decide to use standalone hardware or a modem with the assistance of a computing device to transmit and receive signals.

The ruling did not change anything else. Only symbol rates below 29.7 MHz are affected. 6m and up are unaffected and remain at the symbol rates published in Part 97. The commission proposes removing baud rate restrictions in favor of bandwidth limits on MF, VHF, and UHF too. Band plans and sub-bands remain the same. Digital portions remain digital portions, voice remains voice. Band plans are not something the FCC rules on either. Band plans are typically established by

Pactor 4 Radio Modem (landfallnavigation.com)

gentleman's agreement among hams. 2.8 kHz is a maximum. A single PSK or FT8 signal is not going to start utilizing all 2.8 kHz – though some operators act like it. Stations must still set audio levels correctly to reduce digital splatter from their station.

The ARRL previously stated they are in favor of bandwidth limits on other bands but wanted to review limits that might be imposed. I believe it gets tricky with modes of varying bandwidths. For example, many would probably say most popular on the 2m band is FM, including repeaters. There are 2m SSB sub-bands too. 6m is similar with the low-end being DX windows and the upper end being largely FM and repeaters. Could there be multiple limitations implemented per band? DX windows get a 2.8 kHz limit while FM portions are limited to 15 or 20 kHz? Maybe. One problem with this theory, existing permitted legal bandwidths (e.g.: 100 kHz) would be excluded. These and other considerations are likely being reviewed by the ARRL.

An immediate effect of the bandwidth ruling permits later PACTOR modes. In nearly every hurricane or disaster where hams are involved with emergency communications, the FCC would grant a waiver allowing greater than 300 baud transmissions. This temporarily allowed PACTOR III & IV transmissions, which are faster and more reliable than other modes. No more symbol rate waivers will be needed. I'm noticing more Winlink RMS stations in the U.S. listing 2750 Hz VARA HF. There was some question whether 2750 is legal under existing rules in the U.S. and these new listings could be in anticipation of the upcoming changeover.

PACTOR-III has a "data rate of up to 3600 bits per second and a symbol rate of 100 bauds" while PACTOR-IV is "capable of a data rate of 5800 bits per second … [at] a symbol rate of 1800 bauds (Amateur Baud Rate NPRM)." PACTOR-III would be permitted. PACTOR-IV, which does not occupy anymore bandwidth than PACTOR-III, is prohibited and not spectrally efficient.

The new rules go into effect 30 days after publication in the Federal Register. The document was published on December 7, 2023 with amended Part 97 rules. The new Part 97 HF bandwidth rules go into effect January 8, 2024!

Thanks for reading and 73… *de Jeff – K8JTK*

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ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program

The ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program, in effect since April 19, 2022, will cover the one-time $35 application fee for new amateur radio license candidates younger than 18 years old for tests administered under the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) program.

"We are thrilled that we are able to provide this opportunity to our youth candidates," said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM.

The $35 Federal Communications Commission (FCC) application fee will be reimbursed after the ARRL VEC receives the completed reimbursement form and after the new license has been issued. The reimbursement check will be mailed to the fee payer. Also, candidates younger than 18 years old would pay a reduced exam session fee of $5 to the ARRL VEC team at the time of the exam. The $5 fee is for all candidates under the age of 18, regardless of the exam level taken. Proof of under 18 status is required at the session.

The ARRL Board approved the Youth Licensing Grant Program at its July 2021 meeting in Hartford, Connecticut, expanding on the scope of the original motion proposed by ARRL Southeastern Division Director Mickey Baker, N4MB.

The Board believes the recruitment and training of young amateur radio operators is a necessary and proper mission of the ARRL and subsidization of the $35 fee will reduce the number of new amateurs that would otherwise be lost from these groups. Initially the new program would serve up to 1,000 new license applicants under 18 years old. The program length is indefinite; it may be renewed or terminated by the Administration and Finance Committee or by the Board of Directors.

Visit the ARRL website for the program instructions and reimbursement form at www.arrl.org/youth-licensing-grant-program.

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New General Class Question Pool Released, Effective July 1:

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee has released the 2023 - 2027 General Class FCC Element 3 Syllabus and Question Pool to the public. The new Question Pool is effective for Element 3 exams administered on or after July 1, 2023. The current General question pool, released in 2019, is valid until June 30, 2023. (ARRL story)

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From the Section Emergency Coordinator Bret Stemen – KD8SCL EC
KD8SCL@gmail.com

Net Control Station:

Most of you know what an NCS (Net Control Station) is, new hams may not and should. I feel that it's important for everyone to know how to run the local net. This could be a club net, weekly ARES practice net or a severe weather net.

Here is a brief history of my experience with net control. I was first licensed in April 2012 and had joined the local ARES group, June 2012 the Derecho storm was moving into Oh and the local EC had activated our severe weather net for the county ahead of the storm, had taken check-in's before the storm and any warnings were issued. Then the warnings wer issued and the next thing I knew was my power started going flickering on and off. I reported this to NC and then my power went out completely, I was able to get on back-up power within a few minutes and got my radio back into operation. As the storm was moving east through my county, members were reporting that their power was flickering and some c them were stopped mid-sentence as their power had gone out.

This is when I took over as net control as I was one of few that was back on the air, I h very little experience as NC, I learned by listening to the local nets and had not run a

net before. This was “trial by fire” and I ended up running the net for several hours throughout the night. I was later asked to be “Net Manager” for the local ARES group.

This is why I feel strongly that all members should be able to run a local net no matter it’s a local club net, ARES net or a severe weather net, when it comes to severe weather net, you never know if the net manager, EC or AEC is out of the county or running persona errands and is away from the radio and is unable to start a net. In many counties, the local EM Director relies on our reports (if any) about the storm that is moving through your county as well as the NWS.

Most counties and clubs a “Net Script” that can be downloaded from their website or passe along, all you would have to do is to read the script and record your check-ins or have a “Alternate Net Control” to record the check-ins for you. Some counties have a regular ARE Nets, this is when you can practice being an NC for your local group. If you don’t know t repeater codes to put the repeater into “net node”, someone on the net may be able to active or put the repeater into net mode for you. It’s that simple. If you already participate on a local net, then you already know how the net operates, practice, practic practice, is the only way for you to be comfortable to run the net. I realize that the first time you are NC, it can be nerve racking and you are nervous, my best advice is to relax, take your time and don’t be afraid to say “Net Hold” until you get caught up or ha a question about a check-in that you may not have gotten the suffix or complete call sign due to multiple check-ins at the same time, pause for few seconds in between check-ins in case there is someone else trying to check-in. After the closing of the net, you may be given tips on how to improve your operation as NC.

Something to remember, everyone runs the net differently and even though you may be reading/following the script that you were given. Sometimes the NC may improvise or go of script a little. I don’t think this is a big issue as long as you keep it as professional and friendly as possible to keep the net moving along.

Alternate Net Control:

Alternate Net Control is also important, the ANC is a back-up to the NC and may be the on to record the check-ins using computer software, website or plain paper and at the end of the net, the ANC should give/send a copy to the NC. On extended emergency nets, the ANC m have to become NC in the event the NC operator needs to take a break or even rotate out.

These are a few things that I personally have experienced. Be sure to check with your loc net manager (ARES or Club), each county and or clubs have different ways of running their nets. Some ARES groups may recommend that you are net control trained.

Don’t be afraid to step up and offer to help and train, you never know when you may be needed to start an emergency net or club net. This is how we learn, by doing.
***Thank you to all your participation and support*.**

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From the Section Traffic Manager

David Maynard,
WA3EZN – STM
wa3ezn@att.net

ARRL Straight Key Night 2024

By the time you read this you will have missed the ARRL Straight Key Night (SKN) that was held on January 1, 2024, from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC. Many hams look forward to SKN as one of the highlights of their operating year.

ARRL Straight Key Night (SKN) is January 1, 2024, from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC. More information is available at www.arrl.org/straight-key-night.

A Straight Key Night Story:
By Dan Henderson, N1ND

In my early days in amateur radio, I was privileged to have three top-flight Elmers. Each shared with me new interests and enthusiasm for different parts of the hobby. The first, Col. Frank, WB4JMG, was special because we shared the same birthday and he taught me most of what I learned in those early days about electronic theory. The second Elmer, Everest McDade, W4DYW, was special because our families were so close – and as he was my principal mentor for on-the-air operations, especially CW traffic nets.

Unless your Elmer was one of your parents, you probably can't say what my third Elmer would say about our relationship. Dr. Mac, WA4VNV (later N4IX), would say he knew me my entire life. Not only was he a dedicated amateur operator – he was my mother's OBGYN (the man who literally "delivered me" to the world) -- then in later years he helped me find the world of amateur radio.

I had been attending club meetings with the old Asheville Radio Club for months before I was first licensed (Asheville RC later merged with the Buncombe County VHF Society to form the Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society). Being the precocious teenager that I was, I jumped in with both feet. In mid-1971 I agreed to take over as editor of the Asheville RC's monthly newsletter, known as "Smoketest from Dr. Mac." He agreed to help me as a regular contributor, but slyly with one caveat–he would only provide news stories for me for the newsletter if I would copy them over the air using CW, since I was only a Novice and had no phone privileges during those

years.

I accepted his offer, and began two years of almost daily QSOs on 3725 KHz– because that was one of the few crystals I had for my Heathkit HW-16 (a rig that Col. Frank had been commissioned by my parents to build for my Christmas present in 1970). It was a unique experience, yet one which served to continue building what became my passion for Morse code. In later years I would follow in Dr. Mac's footsteps once again when I became the ARES EC and RACES Radio Office for my county (but that's a topic for another article).

Between the efforts of my three Elmers, my CW speed quickly increased from the nervous 5 WPM necessary to earn my license to being able to conduct a coherent rag chew in the 25-30 WPM range. And the mantra of all three was simple – If you want to be competent in CW, you have to use it.

So each year from 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC PM on January 1st, I now have the chance to pay a small bit of homage back to my Elmers - via the opportunity to participate in the annual ARRL Straight Key Night (SKN). This 24-hour event is not a contest; but rather it is a day dedicated to celebrating our CW heritage. Participants are encouraged to get on-the-air and simply make enjoyable, conversational, QSOs. There are no points scored, and all who participate are winners.

In the decade since I wrote my first SKN announcement for QST, I have seen a marvelous metamorphosis occur. The number of entries has grown almost every year, even with the elimination of CW as a licensing requirement in the US. Participants have also used this popular annual event for more than just demonstrating their prowess while pounding a brass key. Numerous participants use SKN to test and "show off" their vintage equipment. Some will plug in their old CW "bugs'' and join in the event. The common bond for all of them is to have fun in a more relaxed CW-enriched setting. You will even find CW enthusiasts do get on just to enjoy the rag chewing. That's the purpose of this popular operating event after all, so don't get hung up about the equipment you use.

When participating in SKN, instead of sending RST, before sending the signal report, also send the letters "SKN" to indicate your participation, and to clue in passers-by who may be listening (alerting them that SKN is still going strong). After SKN, send the Contest Branch a list of the stations you contacted, plus your vote for the best fist you heard (it doesn't have to be one you worked). Also, include your vote for the most interesting QSO you had or that you monitored.

Don't forget to post your comments and any interesting photographs from your SKN adventure to the ARRL Contest Online Soapbox. Entries should be emailed to the Contest Branch at StraightKey@arrl.org or may be sent via regular mail to ARRL - SKN, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. The Soapbox becomes an online album of stores and photographs to share with others.

OHIO SINGLE SIDEBAND NET

Morning session	10:30 AM	3972.5 KHz	every day
Afternoon session	4:15 PM	3972.5 KHz	every day
Evening session	6:45 PM	3972.5 KHz	every day

OHIO HF CW TRAFFIC NETS

HF CW NETS	NET TIMES	FREQUENCY	NET MANAGERS
Buckeye Early	6:45 PM	3.580	N2LC
Buckeye Late	10:00 PM	3.590	WB9LBI
Ohio Slow Net	6:00 PM	3.53535	N2LC

All CW net frequencies plus or minus QRM

OHIO LOCAL VHF FM TRAFFIC NETS

VHF NETS	NET TIMES	FREQUENCY	NET MANAGERS
BRTN	Monday, Thursday Saturday 9:30 PM	145.230 PL 110.9	KD8GXL
COTN	7:15 PM DAILY	146.970 PL 123.0	KV8Z
TCTTN	9 PM Sun, Tues, Fri	147.015 PL 110.9	WB8YYS
TATN	8:00 PM DAILY	146.670 PL 123.0	WG8Z

OHIO VHF TRAFFIC NETS

BRTN Burning River Traffic Net serving Cleveland and North Central Ohio

COTN Central Ohio Traffic Net serving Columbus and Central Ohio

TATN Tri-State Amateur Traffic Net

TCTTN Tri-County Traffic and Training Net serving Northeast Ohio

Why Morse Code?

If I can talk FM on two meters, or SSB on HF, why should I be concerned at all about Morse Code, also known as CW (Continuous Wave).

Find out below.

Many newcomers exploring ham radio, also known as amateur radio, are discouraged by the need to learn morse code. In the United States, that requirement to know morse code to get an amateur radio license was dropped in 1991, and completely removed in 2007.

Morse Code used to be required as an entry requirement to HF (High Frequency or Shortwave) ham communications. The entry level speed was 5 words per minute (WPM). That speed is slow enough to learn the basics, get on the air, and increase your speed through practice. (Yes, I started as a Novice way back when at 5 WPM, and can comfortably copy about 13 WPM (often copying the text in my head without the need for scratch paper), although I want to raise that proficiency much higher.)

I thought I'd want to get enough code speed to get on SSB voice. I did that, but discovered something I didn't expect. Sometimes, the band was so poor that I couldn't hear a signal voice contact on SSB. But, when I tuned down to the Morse code CW portion of the band, lo and behold, there were CW contacts going on. I learned that Morse code needs only about a tenth of the power of SSB to make a contact. Or, stated another way, if you use Morse code, it's like getting an amplifier for your transmitter for free! That's what renewed my love for CW! Believe me, there are days you'll be desperate for a contact, and you simply can't beat Morse code!

A short history of Morse code

Morse code was invented by_Samuel Morse (1791-1872). Originally, it was developed for telegraphers. It was a new method where each letter was represented by a set of long and short pulses of sound. Samuel Morse formed the original morse code by counting the letters from the local newspaper. Then he assigned the most common letters a faster "key", for faster transmission.

Morse's original code was not the same as the one in use today, as it included pauses as well as dahs and dits. An international version was established in 1851 in Berlin.

https://www.britannica.com/biography/Samuel-F-B-Morse

I hope everyone had a happy and safe Christmas. With the gasoline prices in Ohio being what they are, the news reports were all saying how many millions of Americans were going to be on the road. Here in Hilliard and Columbus we had no snow but from what I understand the northern sections of the state like Cleveland may have had some snow to deal with. I can’t prove that they did because I stayed home for Thanksgiving.

You can still read back OSJ issues on the website_www.arrl-ohio.org. While on the subject you should check out this website often as Tom does a good job and frequently changes his survey questions. There are also many reports for all of the Ohio Cabinet, more news and valuable links. And by the way, if you had to go to the website to read these issues of the OSJ, Tom sends the Ohio Section Journal out by email every month. If you are not getting it in your emails send Tom an email (tomsly29@gmail.com) so he can include you when sending the Journal.

From the reports I am hearing the Ohio Section SET went well. The OSSBN reports that the traffic count was up but the participation was down. If you club or group participated don't forget to send in your reports to the ARRL and send me a copy also.

Morse code was invented by Samuel Morse (1791-1872). Originally, it was developed for telegraphers. It was a new method where each letter was represented by a set of long and short pulses of sound. Samuel Morse formed the original morse code by counting the letters from the local newspaper. Then he assigned the most common letters a faster "key", for faster transmission.

Morse's original code was not the same as the one in use today, as it included pauses as well as dahs and dits. An international version was established in 1851 in Berlin.

For many of today's hams there was no choice; obtaining a ham license required learning Morse code. Five words a minute was the requirement for the entry level Novice license and also for the renewable, but VHF only, Technician ticket. A General or Advanced class required 13 wpm and it was 20 wpm for an Extra.

Morse Code used to be required as an entry requirement to HF (High Frequency or Shortwave) ham communications. The entry level speed was 5 words per minute (WPM). That speed is slow enough to learn the basics, get on the air, and increase your speed through practice. (Yes, I started as a Novice way back when you had to copy 5 WPM, and was later comfortable coping about 13 WPM to get my general license.

I thought I'd want to get enough code speed to get on SSB voice. I have discovered something the bands are so poor that I couldn't hear a single voice station on SSB. But, when I tuned down the band to the Morse code CW portion of the band, lo and behold, there were CW contacts going on. I've learned that Morse code needs only about a tenth of the power of SSB to make a contact. Or, stated another way, if you use Morse code, it's like getting an amplifier for your transmitter for free!

Many newcomers exploring ham radio were discouraged by the need to learn morse code. In the United States, that requirement to know morse code to get an amateur radio license was dropped in 1991, and completely removed in 2007.

If you are not a CW operator or are a little rusty you can learn or practice morse code. I know I passed the 13 WPM test before the FCC some years ago but am really rusty now. To help everyone out I have looked up some websites with helpful information, programs and practice sessions to help you master CW. Although I cannot endorse any one program or source you can try one of these links or do an internet search for more information. I will say that the ARRL MP3 practice files can be loaded on a laptop or other device and taken with you for practice sessions. **Code practice text** is from the pages of QST magazine, the League's membership journal. The source is given at the beginning of each practice session and alternate speeds within each session. The text for each session is also available to download.

Publications and instruction:

Tips for Learning Morse Code:
http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Morse/LearningMorseCode.pdf

CW MANUAL: http://www.fistsna.org/pdfdocs/A%20BASIC%20CW%20OPERATING%20MANUAL.pdf

So, You Want to Learn Morse Code: http://www.qsl.net/n1irz/finley.morse.html

Just Learn Morse Code: http://www.justlearnmorsecode.com/

Other Resources

ARRL Training Courses, Aids and Apps - http://www.arrl.org/learning-morse-code

FISTS CW Club: http://fists.co.uk/resources.htm

Daily Morse Code Practice QST Source by ARRL http://www.arrl.org/code-practice-qst-source

Ron Hashiro CW Web Site https://www.qsl.net/ah6rh/am-radio/morse/

W1AW Code Transmissions

Frequencies are 1.8025, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675 and 147.555 MHz.

Slow Code = practice sent at 5, 7-1/2, 10, 13 and 15 words per minute (wpm).

Fast Code = practice sent at 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 wpm.

Code practice text is from the pages of QST magazine, the League's membership journal. The source is given at the beginning of each practice session and alternate speeds within each session. For example, "Text is from November 2010 QST, pages 9 and 81," indicates that the practice session's plain text is from the article on page 9 and its mixed number/letter groups are from page 81.

Code bulletins are sent at 18 wpm.

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

You can also find W1AW code practice online, in MP3 format.

W1AW Qualifying Runs are sent on the same frequencies as the Morse code transmissions.

I hope this inspires you to at least give morse code a try. You may like it and have lots of fun. Remember you do not have to have the greatest new transceiver to use morse code. And when you learn how to do it there are three CW traffic nets in Ohio and many more around the country for you to test your skills. Look for one of these nets and have fun

Here is some useful information for sending radiograms outside the US.

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: AFA5XF <raygun@roadrunner.com>
To: David Maynard <wa3ezn@att.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at 05:30:10 PM EST
Subject: DTN international addressing

Dave,
I recently handled a piece of traffic going to Mexico, and got corrected on the addressing. I thought you may be interested, so here it is.

-------- Forwarded Message --------

Subject: RE: Traffic for Puerta Vallarta

Date: Tue, 19 Dec 2023 12:41:46 +0000

From: Ron W2AH <W2AH@outlook.com>

To: RayWebb <raygun@roadrunner.com>

I'm not aware of a formal guide for International DTN addressing, but generally, with the exception of Canada, you would address it with (CALLSIGN @ - Alpha-3 ISO Code for the country) (note: you must include the hyphen before the ISO code). **All the Country Codes can be found here:** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_3166-1_alpha-3
So as an example, a common one is Peter – DL4FN.. addressing to him would be DL4FN@-DEU
Canada is a little different as we can address to the provinces (ON, NS, etc) … so their addressing would be (Postal Code @ NTS Two character abbreviation of Canadian province).
So, as an example, a common one in Canada is Glenn Killam – VE1IJ… addressing to him would be B0W2J0@NTSNS
Hope this helps.
73 – Ron W2AH
From: RayWebb <raygun@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 8:47 PM
To: Ron W2AH <W2AH@outlook.com>
Subject: Re: Traffic for Puerta Vallarta

Thanks Ron. Where can I find info on international addressing for dtn ?
Sent from my iPad

On Dec 18, 2023, at 7:24 PM, Ron W2AH <W2AH@outlook.com> wrote:

Ray,
Just an FYI… I modified the addressing on your traffic on DTN to Puerta Vallarta as 48300@NTSJA was not a valid send to address.

The DTN addressing was changed to KK7KKP@-MEX.
73 – Ron W2AH

Wishing you all the best for 2024,
73 for now,
David WA3EZN
Ohio Section Traffic Manager

**

Print an Official or Unofficial Copy of Your Amateur Radio License

(By Anthony Luscre, K8ZT)


UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE

KEJGK

John Q. Amateur
123 Maple Avenue
Anytown, State 00000

FCC Registration Number (FRN): 0000000000

Special Conditions / Endorsements

NONE

Grant Date	Effective Date	Print Date	Expiration Date
00/00/2000	00/00/2015	00/00/2000	00/00/2025

File Number	Operator Privileges	Station Privileges
0000000000	Advanced	PRIMARY

THIS LICENSE IS NOT TRANSFERABLE

John Q. Amateur

(Licensee's Signature) FCC 660 – May 2005

As of February 17, 2015, the **FCC no longer routinely issues paper license documents** to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The Commission has maintained for some time now that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System (ULS). The FCC will continue to provide paper license documents to all licensees who notify the Commission that they prefer to receive one.

Licensees also will be able to print out an official authorization — as well as an unofficial "reference copy" — from the ULS License Manager. I've created a set of instructions on how you can request an **"official" printed copy of your license*** Click here to download the instructions

**

A Christmas Message from our Great Lakes Division Director (elect)

The holidays are always a special time for me. I have great memories of me and my dad going out on the first Saturday of December to my uncle's tree farm in Perrysville and cutting down the best tree we could find. My dad would always haggle over what he felt the tree was worth with my uncle, but eventually they would settle on a price, and we'd load it up on a toboggan where the tree and I would get a free ride back to the car. Then it was time to get the twine out and tie it to the top of the car. Wow, this brings back some wild memories for sure. I remember one year the twine broke and the tree went flying down the road! We'd eventually get it home, and dad hung it from the rafters of the garage and let the snow and road salt melt off of it before we tried to bring it through mom's kitchen door. I do remember one year when the tree just didn't fit, but my dad, being a carpenter and a Navy "Seabee", always had his trusty saw at the ready. Now, if you didn't know, the motto of the Navy Seabee's is "Can Do.." and boy, did my dad ever live up to that motto. He would cut this limb and then that one and eventually we got it in the house. Now when we went to set it up it looked rather funny with some limbs missing, but again, my dad had the answers. He drilled a few holes in the trunk and shoved those cut limbs into the holes and voila, we had the best-looking tree in the neighborhood.

My dad spent hours rigging up the lights on the tree and every year we went through a box or two of fuses because he'd load up one outlet with 10 dozen strings of lights! I'm reminded of this every time I watch "A Christmas Story" with Ralphy's dad doing that very same thing! Yes, those were great times for sure.

I'm sure that most of you have great memories of your folks just like me. My dad passed away just about 30 years ago now and there's not one day that doesn't go by that I don't think about those great times that we had together, especially those special times around the holidays.

So, from my family to yours, Janie and I wish you the very best for 2024. May your glass always be full, and your amateur radio family be close.

73,

Scott, N8SY
Great Lakes Division Director (elect)
n8sy@arrl.org

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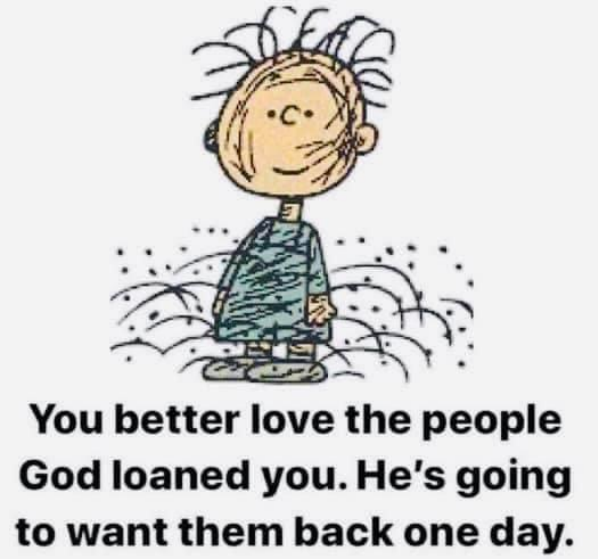
As always, we want to thank the ARRL, QST, ARRL Ohio Section Manager, and, their contributors and also the Scioto Valley ARC, Hillsdale Michigan Amateur Radio Club, Highland ARA for their contributions to our newsletter.



Lancaster-Fairfield County ARC
P.O. Box 3
Lancaster, OH 43130
Website: www.k8qik.org

"64 years of continuous service to our community"