

The Ragchewer

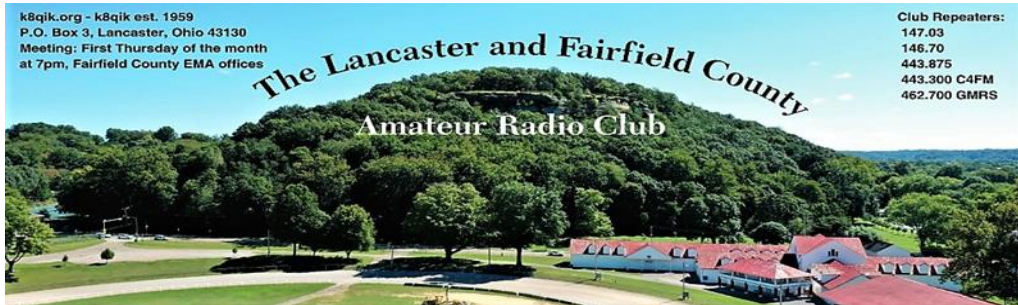


[Philadelphia Museum of Art](#)

March 2026



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



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 Net:

146.700 Repeater with 94.8 Hz tone Monday at 7:30 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>

2026 Officers

President:

Mark Urbine, KC8TUW

Vice President:

Eric Fox, KE8BZZ

Secretary:

Mary Travis, KD8EEI

Treasurer:

Guy Ingram, W8AGI

Trustee:

John Hilliard, W8OF

Station Engineer:

John Hilliard, W8OF

Volunteer Examiner:

Walter Callahan, W8ALT

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

March 5, 2026 Meeting Minutes



At 7:00 p.m., Mark called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 10 members, 5 on zoom for a total of 15. One guest Wayne Cassidy.

One application for 1st review Wayne Cassidy KF8FHJ and 2nd review Rick Osborn, KF8DEI.

Steve Anderson W8JLA Zoom	John Hilliard W8OF	Robert Northrup KC8PSW
Stanley Boch KD8QVS	Ralph Howes W8BVH Zoom	Scott Snoke WD8IXO
Paul Bohn KE8WGZ Zoom	Guy Ingram W8AGI	Kevin Steel KB8KSX Zoom
Walt Callahan Jr. W8ALT	Jackson, Patricia KF8CNB	Mary Travis KD8EEI
Eric Fox KE8BZZ	Paul Kidwell W8PDK Zoom	Mark Urbine KC8TUW

Motion made by Walt W8ALT to approve Rick Osborn KF8DEI for membership, seconded by Stanley KD8QVS. All were in favor.

Minutes were posted in Ragchewer and motion to approve by Guy W8AGI and seconded by Robert KC8PSW. All were in favor.

Guy gave the Treasurer report. Robert KC8PSW made motion to approve treasurer's report and seconded by Stanley KD8QVS. All were in favor.

No Volunteer Trainer report since Tim was absent.

Walt W8ALT reported there were seven applicants for February test. Five took Tech and four passed and one failed, two passed General. There are two people scheduled for March.

The following people volunteered to run the net: March 9th Guy W8AGI; March 16th Eric KE8BZZ; March 23rd Paul W8PDK; and March 30th Paul W8PDK.

John W8OF reported on the Stoutsville repeater and there was lots of discussion regarding whether we wanted to purchase some additional equipment, etc. John stated he is sure they will want our club to mow the grass if we are going to continue using this site. It was decided to table this until the next meeting when we have more information.

Walt W8ALT reported that he has all the nets posted on the calendar for the year.

Mark KC8TUW asked everyone to remember if you hear something, see something, say something. This is important with the security threats that are taking place even at our local high school.

Mark KC8TUW reported he attended the first 4th of July parade meeting and the Amateur Radio Club will be volunteers for 13 spots on the parade route.

There was discussion on how we wanted to proceed with 6 vests which were left over from Christmas party and it was decided we would have Bowman Shoe Repair on S. Columbus Street sew on the Club patches for 8 vests and they would be handed out to volunteers who do not have vests for the parade and turned in to Mark at the end of each parade. Stanley KD8QVS made motion to spend \$80 for 8 vests and seconded by Robert KC8PSW. All were in favor.

Mark KC8TUW mentioned he has tried to contact John Dolske K9ULO to see if we are going to have the Coon Hunters place for Field Day in June. He has not heard from him but will continue to contact him.

Robert KC8TUW asked John status of GMRS repeater and John W8OF reported that nothing can be done until the weather gets better and he can get up on the hill to see what the problem is with this repeater which he purchased and installed for the club use.

Mark KC8TUW stated that maybe Schmeck Park on Basil Road in Baltimore might be a sight for an activity with club. Eric stated they hold a community event every year in the summer and maybe we could coordinate with the committee on offering our services so people would get to know what Amateur Radio is all about and get some new members.

Mary KD8EEI had suggested to Mark that maybe we could do a 147.555 simplex net for new members to experience use of their equipment, etc. Mark said the club will look into setting something up in the future.

Mark KC8TUW brought up possible Fox Hunt at Slate Run either on April 11, 18 or 25th. Paul W8PDK is going to check with person he knows and get back to us so we can publicize which date. Mark still has equipment to build antennas for any new people who are interested.

Eric KE8BZZ said the swap meet in Baltimore would have to be later in the year once he has had an opportunity to check on availability of facility, he is thinking about holding it at. The facility is The Grove Community Church, 3420 Blacklick Eastern Rd. NW, Baltimore OH.

Guy W8AGI made motion to adjourn, seconded by Robert KC8PSW. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Mary Travis, KD8EEI

Secretary

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Currently 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

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 which has tested candidates from Alaska, Florida, Texas and points in between!

Contact me at ve_testing@k8qik.org to register.

Print an Official or Unofficial Copy of Your Amateur Radio License
(By Anthony Luscre, K8ZT)

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](#)



Need ideas or a place to discover those billions of other things in ham radio? The ARRL has [four online publications](#) (or in some cases print):

- [QST](#) – monthly publication including news, reviews, technical tips, and projects
- [On The Air](#) – for beginners and experts alike covering a wide range of operating interests and topics
- [QEX](#) – bimonthly technical publication featuring experimentation, technical articles, and columns for hams and radio professionals
- [NCJ](#) – bimonthly contesting journal with hints, stats, scores, and QSO parties

Current ARRL members have access to the latest issues online through the links above or can [search past articles](#). Non-members can find these resources on the ARRL Periodical DVD available for the last couple years via the store (under [Station Resources](#)), try the local library, or ask a member to borrow theirs

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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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Estate Planning for Hams (What happens to all your stuff?)

August is National Make-a-Will month. Some estimates show that nearly two-thirds of Americans don't have a plan. For some, it's procrastination. Others don't know where to start. "So many times we hear from the family of a Silent Key who are overwhelmed with what to do with a lifetime worth of amateur radio gear," said ARRL Director of Development Kevin Beal, K8EAL. "Simply thinking through what needs to be done ahead of time can prevent the stress on our loved ones after we are gone."

ARRL this week held a webinar, hosted by Beal and Dino Papas, KLØS, to discuss the first steps of planning. "It is something that, unfortunately, doesn't get a lot of attention. The bottom-line up front is, 'what happens to all our beloved ham gear when that inevitable day comes along that we become a Silent Key?'... Unfortunately, that day may arrive unexpectedly – so we need to prepare ahead of time to make it as simple as possible for our families," said Papas.

On the ARRLHQ YouTube channel, you can see a replay of the 52-minute presentation, along with the question-and-answer section at the end. "Your station is an asset, just like anything else you've built and put resources into. Deciding now what happens when you become a Silent Key can help solidify your legacy to ham radio," said Beal. The ARRL Legacy Circle recognizes the generosity of individuals who have planned support for ARRL through wills, trusts, life insurance gifts, and other ways. The ARRL Legacy Circle ensures that ARRL and amateur radio will continue to thrive for generations to come.

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Well, March is coming in like a lion! Lots of rain is forecasted for the first week, but the temperatures are on the rise and that's a good sign the spring is

around the corner and I am looking forward to the warmer temperatures. I need to get out to do some yard clean up and antenna work that need to be done. March is also filled with activities such as Spring Forward (don't forget to set your clocks forward on the 8th.), St. Patricks Day as well as several hamfests. Be sure to check out the Ohio Section Hamfest schedule section below.

The Ohio HF Net is BACK! The SARGE is back to it's normal operation on Tuesday evenings at 19:00 on 3.902 +/-, Hope to heare you on the net.

Year of the Club:



I just want to remind everyone that ARRL's [Year of the club 2026](#) is underway. It would be a great time to submit a photo of your club, a brief history, include the date the club started and membership size and the club's biggest accomplishment and a website if you have one. I may include your club in the coming months of the OSJ. I will be featuring a club or two every month.

Please send your club's information as a PDF or Word docx.

Send your club's information to, kd8scl@arrl.org

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From the Technical Coordinator

Jeff Kopcak - K8JTK TC

K8JTK@arrl.net

Hey gang,

What is AREDN mesh? [AREDN](#) stands for Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network. As most things in ham radio, the E stands for Emergency. It aims to use low-cost, off the shelf, wireless equipment and access points to create an ad hoc high-speed, self-discovering mesh network. Our previous TC, Jim - W8ERW (SK) encouraged me to give mesh a try. Full disclosure: I've supported AREDN through donations.

Amateurs radio operators use voice communication to pass messages and standard ICS forms for serviced agencies. Voice communication, while reliable, is slow and prone to errors. Today, digital transmissions are common. Digital offers additional benefits of being able to disseminate information over a wider area to more people and verify proper receipt using hash verification or receiver auto-reply. Messages are passed using digital technologies such as AX.25/APRS packet, HF and VHF/UHF digital (Pactor, NBEMS, FLDigi), Winlink, and others.

Those tools have their benefits and advantages. They're not high-speed, high-bandwidth, and don't offer real time communication. You can't have a full duplex phone conversation over any of those technologies because they don't have the speed or bandwidth to sustain a voice conversation in real time. That is where AREDN aims to fill the gap using FCC Part 97 frequency bands to send digital data between devices over standard IP (Internet Protocol) networks.

Some describe AREDN as the amateur radio version of the Internet though it's not intended to connect people to the Internet. It's also not dependent on the Internet being up and working. Intent is to have intranet-type applications needed to facilitate communication during an emergency or community event. Intranets share information and systems internally often to the exclusion of outsiders. An internal company portal is an example of this. Applications and services served on mesh networks can be E-mail, chat, phone service, Active Directory, document sharing, file transfer (Web, FTP, SMB, NFS) video conferencing, repeater linking (DMR, D-STAR, AllStar), weather stations, application servers, databases, Winlink, and video streaming - among others.



As ham radio operators, we have access to additional spectrum in and around existing Wi-Fi bands. Using off-the-shelf commercially available hardware designed for this spectrum increases flexibility and decreases cost. AREDN firmware reprograms these devices to be ham radio transmitters.

Part 97 spectrum available is often shared with unlicensed devices.

- 900 MHz: channels 4-7 are shared
- 2.4 GHz band: 10 available channels, 8 are shared
 - Channels -2 (2.397) and -1 (2.402) are exclusively for amateur radio use in the US
- 3.4 GHz band: secondary allocation on channels 76-89 - subject to removal at any time
- 5.8 GHz: channels 131-184 are shared with unlicensed devices, DFS & radar (avoid), and other services

On 3.4, channels 90-99 were removed in 2022. [Dynamic Frequency Selection](#) (DFS) is a way for Wi-Fi to co-exist with radar installations (airports, military, weather). When a radar pulse is detected, the frequency must be vacated by the access point. It is best to avoid DFS frequencies for mesh and regular Wi-Fi.

The predecessor to AREDN was the [Broadband-Hamnet HSMM-Mesh](#) (BBHN, High Speed Multimedia) project started in 2010. Information and downloads are still available for supported devices though development has been abandoned. If BBHN could connect to an AREDN device, they can't anymore due to recent protocol changes. If you have a BBHN network and want to keep it, you'll need to keep using devices of that vintage. By now most have migrated to AREDN.



BBHN started with the classic blue box **Linksys “blue box” WRT54GL (Ars Technica)** routers (due to their appearance) originally released in 2003. Otherwise known as the Linksys WRT54G/GL/GS line of hardware. Despite being old enough to drive, these devices are still used and sought after, due to their reliability, longevity, and hack-ability fostered by an open-source community of third-party firmware. Third-party firmware such as DD-WRT, OpenWRT, Tomato, and BBHN. Some Ubiquiti devices were supported such as the Bullet, NanoBridge, NanoStation, and Rocket. The M2, M5, and M9 device designations indicated which bands it covered, 2.4, 5 GHz, and 900 MHz. Since 2015, AREDN, the successor to BBHN, is actively developing firmware for quite a large [number of devices](#). AREDN supported devices are manufactured by MikroTik, Ubiquiti, TP-Link, GL.iNet, and virtual machines using VMware ESXi, Proxmox VE, and Unraid. The device I picked up a few years ago is the [MikroTik hAP ac lite](#) (MikroTik RouterBOARD 952Ui-5ac2nD - because why not have two names for one device). Replacing the stock firmware (firmware provided by the manufacturer) with AREDN was pretty straight forward following [the documentation](#), though I've done similar processes with blue box and Asus routers. If you've done something similar or replaced firmware on Cisco devices using TFTP, you'll be fine. If you're super worried about bricking devices, it would be best to have someone offer help or have a firmware flashing day at a club or Emcomm meeting. Replacing (or flashing) firmware with AREDN firmware only needs to be done once per device. Subsequent updates are handled through the included updater.

As of February 2026 – AREDN has dropped support for 32 MB RAM Ubiquiti devices (listed under “Sunset Devices” on the devices page). A fork called [AREDN+tiny](#) is available by K3PGM since those devices still have a lot of life left. 64 MB RAM is the new minimum due to use of newer routing protocols.



My current mesh device. MikroTik hAP ac lite/MikroTik RouterBOARD 952Ui-5ac2nD (MikroTik)

points using a separate SSID/network name and password for mesh LAN access. Mesh requires Line-of-Sight (LOS) to other nodes. A large area deployment requires nodes, or at least the antennas, to be above the tree line or shoot the signal between the trees. Nodes at ground level, where people have their modem/wireless access point for their home internet, will not be able to reach other nodes. Might work if higher-profile nodes/antennas are very close by. Ground level nodes are referred to as “in the shack” nodes. In small area setups like those in a parking lot of an event or Field Day site don’t require high profile nodes.

There are tools to map LOS, some estimate signal strength and expected throughput. Ubiquiti used to have a straight forward tool, it’s now more about pushing their devices. A simple one like the [RF Line of Sight](#) tool shows elevation between two points. A red line in the elevation map means communication won’t work while a green line suggests that communication is possible. Unfortunately, the tool uses Canadian measurement units so some [conversion](#) will be needed to/from freedom units.

Though mesh serves a purpose in ham radio. In real networking deployments, mesh is considered evil. Not that the technology itself is the problem but there are significant takeoffs using mesh. In infrastructure systems, those being enterprise deployments, private wide-area wireless deployments, and my home networks, mesh is not used. Each access point is backhauled to a (core) network switch. This can mean long runs of cable through walls where conduit may not be available to easily run

Not ALL hardware made by a manufacturer is supported by AREDN. I have a bunch of MikroTik and Ubiquiti devices used in my home networks. Widely popular ecosystems like Ubiquiti UniFi or TP-Link Omada devices are used many home labs, home network, self-hosted environments, or enterprise installations. None of these devices have AREDN firmware options. Those devices could be configured as access points to the mesh using networking standards. An example would be deploying Wi-Fi access points in multiple rooms of an EOC for client access to the mesh network. Another option, if the EOC will allow and the network person knows what they’re doing, trunk the mesh to their existing access

wire. When access is needed to remote buildings or areas, point-to-point links are used.

Dual band AREDN devices, such as the hAP, use one wireless band to establish the mesh and the other for LAN devices. If the mesh is configured on 2.4 GHz, client devices need to use 5 GHz for the Local Area Network. If the mesh is configured on the 5 GHz side, client devices must use 2.4 for LAN (e.g.: smart phones and laptops).

900 MHz	Channel	4	5	6	7
	Ctr Freq	907	912	917	922
	Status	Shared with US unlicensed			

You are responsible for using frequencies, channels, bandwidths, and power levels that comply with your country's amateur radio license requirements.

2.4 GHz	Channel	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8*
	Ctr Freq	2.387	2.392	2.397	2.402	2.407	2.412	2.417	2.422	2.427	2.432	2.437	2.442	2.447
	Status	non-US only		Unshared		Cannot Use	Shared with US unlicensed							

* Only 5 MHz channel width is available on channel 8

3.4 GHz	Channel	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89
	Ctr Freq	3.380	3.385	3.390	3.395	3.400	3.405	3.410	3.415	3.420	3.425	3.430	3.435	3.440	3.445
	Status	US Amateur operations remain on a secondary basis but are subject to removal at any time by FCC notice*													

* per FCC 20-138 IV-E-69

5.8 GHz	Channel	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148
	Ctr Freq	5.655	5.660	5.665	5.670	5.675	5.680	5.685	5.690	5.695	5.700	5.705	5.710	5.715	5.720	5.725	5.730	5.735	5.740
	Status	Shared with US unlicensed indoor/outdoor DFS & Radar Avoidance																	
		149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166
		5.745	5.750	5.755	5.760	5.765	5.770	5.775	5.780	5.785	5.790	5.795	5.800	5.805	5.810	5.815	5.820	5.825	5.830
		Shared with US unlicensed indoor/outdoor																	
		167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184
		5.835	5.840	5.845	5.850	5.855	5.860	5.865	5.870	5.875	5.880	5.885	5.890	5.895	5.900	5.905	5.910	5.915	5.920
		...Shared with Unlicensed			Shared with US unlicensed mainly indoor										Shared with Intelligent Transportation System				

Amateur Radio and Wi-Fi frequencies, mostly US (AREDN)

access point for LAN access.

Though AREDN delivers significant speed increases over technologies mentioned earlier, mesh will not deliver real-world maximum speeds or bandwidth. Mesh is about coverage whereas infrastructure systems are about speed and bandwidth. Mesh aims to increase coverage by attempting to overcome the minefield of Wi-Fi connectivity issues including reflection, refraction, attenuation, and interference. It is for those reasons some ham groups will deploy their own private point-to-point wireless network in place of or in addition to a mesh deployment.

This is the first in a series of upcoming articles on AREDN, mesh, and networking. There is a lot of flexibility using standard networking protocols while meshing them with ham radio.

Thanks for reading and 73... de Jeff - K8JTK

client devices are dual band (2.4 & 5 GHz) at this point, but many IoT devices are only 2.4. A way to work around this issue is to use two nodes like a long/short haul outside node and an in the shack node or a separate

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Assistant Section Manager

Anthony Luscre, K8ZT - SYC

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W1AW/Portable

One aspect of the ARRL America250 Worked All States will be week-long activations of portable W1AW/portable stations in all 50 states, generating on-air activity to achieve this unique WAS Award. For this operating event, ARRL will provide a listing of all W1AW/portable stations, who will each operate for 7 days (from a Wednesday [UTC] through the following Tuesday) for 2 separate weeks in year (an early week between January and July, and a late week between July and December). A few weeks will be listed as W1AW/portable weeks due to contests and ARRL Field Day. The [complete list is available at this link](#).



Ohio's W1AW/8

W1AW/8 Ohio will be on the air for two weeks:

- 05/6/2026- Starts 00:01 UTC Wed, May 6th to 23:59 Tues, May 12th (EST- 7 PM Tues, May 5th to 7 PM Tues, May 12th)
- 08/12/2026- Starts 00:01 UTC Wed, Aug 12th to 23:59 Tues, Aug 18th (EDT- 8 PM Tues, Aug 11th to 8 PM Tues Aug 18th)

The W1AW/8 activation will take place on 2200 Meters LF through all of HF (excluding 60 Meters) and VHF/UHF using CW, Phone and Digital (FT8/FT4, RTTY, etc.) modes.

If you would like to apply to operate during the May week, using the special callsign, you must meet a few guidelines and agree to follow a few rules:

- Currently valid FCC Amateur Radio license (all license classes are welcome to operate, within their allocated frequencies/modes)
- Operate from a location within the state of Ohio

- Agree to:
 - Follow all US Amateur Radio rules and licensing class restrictions (**operate only on frequencies and modes allowed by your personal Amateur Radio License**)
 - Follow the [Radio Amateur's Code](#) and the [Considerate Operator's Guide](#) and other accepted Amateur Radio Etiquette. Remember, you are representing the ARRL and the Ohio Section
 - Accurately log all contacts using computer logging software
 - Export an ADIF file of all contacts and submit it in a timely fashion via email to **Anthony Luscre, K8ZT (k8zt73@gmail.com)**

If you meet the above requirements, you can **apply by submitting an online form-** tiny.cc/w1aw8-app. If accepted, you will receive a confirmation email. Later, you will receive complete operating information and access to an online schedule of time slots. A pre-event training session will be held via Zoom, and if needed, assistance will be provided on setting up computer logging software.

If you are interested in making contacts with W1AW/8 Ohio during the week, an online schedule will be available before and during the event.

That's it for this month for me; I hope to work you on the air soon, maybe as W1AW/8 OH!

I do have a bonus for you in the following article about Amateur Radio and Scouting from Shawn KE8BBC and the Dan Beard Council Radio Scouting Committee

73,
Anthony, K8ZT (k8zt@arrl.net)

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From the Section Emergency Coordinator

Mat Nickoson - KC8NZJ, SEC

kc8nzj@outlook.com



DMR for Emergency Communications

For a long time now I've been a supporter of DMR. Digitally linked modes of communication like DMR, P25, and YSF (not to be confused with C4FM which is not a mode, but is the digital modulation type also used in P25) do have a place in emergency communications even though they utilize the internet.

In 2016, multiple ARES groups across the state were activated to assist with the Republican National Convention in Cleveland. We were activated as a means of backup communications linking the Cuyahoga County EOC, Cleveland American Red Cross, Akron American Red Cross, and Ohio EMA in Columbus. The main concern during this activation was overwhelming local MARCS and GCRCN sites because of the influx of radios from outside of the area, as well as cell phone difficulties due to the increased number of phones in a small area. Thankfully, we didn't have any issues due to an outstanding communications plan put together by the GCRCN system manager which utilized a combination of simplex conventional channels as well as portable TOWs (Tower on Wheels).

Although we didn't have the DMR infrastructure in place during the RNC that we have now, it would have proven to be a very effective means of communication between the various sites.

One thing that was never high on the list of communications failures during the RNC was the internet. The fact is that the internet is an extremely robust and reliable network. Can it fail? Absolutely. Has it failed in the past? Yes, multiple times. Does that make it a no-go for all emergency communications? Absolutely not. Should we replace HF with DMR? Absolutely not. But both should be accessible. After all, solar activity wipes out reliable HF comms far more often than the internet fails. We need to think of our different means of communications as "tools in a toolbox". We have many tools at our disposal such as repeaters, simplex, VHF, UHF, HF, Winlink, and yes, the internet.

Think of a regular toolbox, and how many ways you can screw in a screw. You can of course use a hand screwdriver, or you can use a corded drill with a bit in it, a battery powered drill with a bit in it, or an impact driver with a bit in it. Now, I don't know about you, but if I had all those tools in my box, I would use the battery powered impact. It's quick, easy, and designed for the purpose. What I wouldn't do is leave the power tools at home because "they might not work when I need them most". The same goes for communications. It's important that we have multiple tools that both compliment and take the place of each other, and that we understand both the capabilities AND the limitations of each. But it's more important that we don't let the fear of something failing prevent us from enjoying its convenience when it's available.

Several of my goals for 2026 surround the use of DMR. Some of the ideas that I'm currently working on and considering are:

- Getting a reliable permanent DMR station set up at the Ohio EOC
- Promoting the Ohio ARES talk group 31395 to DMR repeater owners around the state
- Creating a monthly ARES net on 31395 for ARES members around the state to practice accessing their local DMR repeaters

- Ensuring that we have policies in place to dictate what kinds of wide area incidents warrant the use of DMR versus local unlinked repeaters, talk groups, or simplex so we don't unnecessarily tie up resources across the state for an incident covering a small area

With a little bit of work and discussion, I think that DMR can be another viable "tool" available to us.

I would be happy to hear YOUR comments about what YOU would like to see from ARES. Feel free to visit the Ohio ARES site <https://arrl-ohio.org/ohio-ares/> and click "contact me" or utilize the contact form at www.n8esg.org and check out what we have going on in the Cleveland area while you are there.

Mat KC8NZJ

**

Ohio Section Nets

If you have traffic you need to move, take it to a VHF net or if it is going out of Ohio you can also take it to the OSSBN. Here is WHERE TO FIND AN HF OR VHF TRAFFIC NET IN OHIO

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 MHz	N2LC
Buckeye Late	10:00 PM	3.590 MHz	WB9LBI
Ohio Slow Net	6:00 PM	3.53535 MHz	N2LC

All CW net frequencies plus or minus QRM

OHIO LOCAL VHF TRAFFIC NETS

VHF NETS	NET TIMES	FREQUENCY	NET MANAGERS
BRTN	Monday, Thursday Saturday 9:30 PM	145.230 MHz PL 110.9	KD8GXL
COTN	7:15 PM DAILY	146.970 MHz PL 123.0	KV8Z

NWOATT	Mon, Tue, Thu, Sat at 07:30 PM	147.375 MHz PL 103.5	KE8VJP
ODMR	Monday 8:30 PM	TG 3139	WB8YYS
TCTTN	9 PM Sun, Tues, Fri	147.015 MHz PL 110.9	WB8YYS
TATN	8:00 PM DAILY	146.670 MHz PL 123.0	K8KRA

BRTN - Burning River Traffic Net (serving the Cleveland area and all North Central Ohio)

COTN - Central Ohio Traffic Net (serving Columbus and Central Ohio)

NWOATT - Northwest Ohio ARES Traffic and Training Net (serving Northwest Ohio)

ODMR - Ohio DMR Net (serving Ohio)

TCTTN - Tri-County Traffic and Training Net (serving Northeast Ohio)

TATN - Tri-State Amateur Traffic Net (serving Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana)

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Dan Beard Council Radio Scouting Committee

Troop 674 Radio Demo Day - March 3, 2026

Church of the Savior - Cincinnati, Ohio

On the evening of March 3, 2026, the Dan Beard Council Radio Scouting Committee (RSC) rolled into Montgomery's Troop 674 with antennas, radios, and a lot of enthusiasm. About 30 Scouts and 6 adult leaders gathered at the Church of the Savior in Cincinnati for what started as a regular troop meeting and turned into a STEM night on the radio. Running under the Scouts on the Air and call sign K2BSA/8, the RSC team

set up three radio stations and spent the next hour getting every Scout on the air - talking to people across the region, across the city, and right across the gym.

The format was simple and it worked well. Scouts rotated through three stations every fifteen minutes, each one showing off a different side of amateur radio. The gear alone turned heads - military-style hard cases popped open to reveal HF rigs running off portable battery packs, handheld VHF radios crackled with local traffic, and FRS walkie-talkies got passed around for a tactical challenge game that had the whole campus buzzing.



One of the real highlights of the night was how many people from the ham radio community “showed up” to support the event. The Queen City Emergency Net (QCEN) jumped in at the last-minute and allowed the scouts to use their club repeater and they had operators checking in all evening. Robert Overstreet and the Milford Amateur Radio Club (MARC) were supporters as well. On the HF station, Scouts made real contacts with W8TDA (Kitty Hevener), KE8TDE (Ben), W8NFM (Bob), KB9ORF (Roy), K9CVO (Ken), KB7PKD (Mark), N8JMV (Rob), Scott Harshman, Ken Castille, Jay Wysong, John Christopher, and Adam Stone - all volunteers who parked on frequency just to talk to a Scout. Bill Stearns (NE4RD) from K2BSA and Kirk Musselman (K9MSG) from Scouts on the Air were also key in making the whole thing happen. And in a pretty special moment, Michael (N2HTE) shared that he was an alumnus of Troop 674 - although his Troop 674 was in West Seneca, NY.

Troop 674 was a great host and a great group to work with. The energy from the Scouts and their leaders made the whole night click. For the RSC, this is exactly what the committee was built to do - get radios in the hands of young people and show them that amateur radio is alive, relevant, and a lot of fun. Next up, the team is already looking at tightening up the format - smaller patrol groups, a real-time contact map, and a more polished frequency plan.

Is your pack or troop interested in hosting a radio demo? The Dan Beard Council Radio Scouting Committee is actively looking to bring this experience to more Scout units across the Dan Beard Council. We'll bring the gear, the operators, and the fun - you just bring the Scouts. Reach out to us on Facebook at [facebook.com/profile.php?id=61585942053513](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61585942053513) or drop us an email at ke8bbc@arrl.net and let's get your unit on the air!

Two big events are coming later this year. Be sure to mark your calendar for **Summer Field Day on June 26-27** and **Jamboree on the Air**, the largest scouting jamboree in the world, on **October 16-18**.

[The Three Stations](#)

Station 1: HF - Talking Across the Region (40 Meters SSB)

The HF station was the centerpiece of the night. Jocelyn (KD8VRX) ran it under K2BSA/8 on 40 meters SSB, and Scouts took turns at the mic making real contacts with operators across the region - some hundreds of miles away. Scouts spoke with operators as far away as Texas and Georgia, and plenty of hams here in Ohio. They spoke to former scout masters, a Taekwondo instructor and even an Eagle Scout.



Station 2: VHF - Connecting Across Cincinnati (2 Meters FM)



Kurt (AD8ML) ran the VHF station connected to the local QCEN 2-meter repeater (located at the Cincinnati Red Cross building), where Scouts spoke with hams across Cincinnati who had tuned in to say hello. If HF is the big show, VHF is where you realize just how much radio activity is already happening all around you. Scouts got a quick lesson on how repeaters work and why that matters.

Station 3: FRS/GMRS - Tactical Radio Challenge Game



Michael (N2HTE), Lance (KF8EEM), and Adam (KF8EKW) ran the FRS/GMRS station, and this one was loud in the best way. Each mini patrol got a tactical call sign, radios went in hands, and the Radio Roulette challenge kicked off - net control issuing movement orders, teams responding and relaying across the church. It was competitive, it was chaotic in stretches, and the Scouts loved it. It's also a natural bridge to Option E of the newly updated 2026 Radio Merit Badge requirements, which now formally recognizes FRS/GMRS as a valid path into radio communications for Scouts.

Event Photos:





Troop 674 Scouts and RSC team at the close of the event.

Thank You to Our Supporters

Big thanks to everyone who made Tuesday night happen - you made a real difference for these Scouts:



And of course, all the hams:

W8TDA Kitty, KE8TDE Ben, W8NFM Bob, KB9ORF Roy, K9CVO Ken, KB7PKD Mark, N8JMV Rob, Scott Harshman, Ken Castille, Jay Wysong, John Christopher, Adam Stone, and all the stations we missed!

Organizations & Key Individuals

- Queen City Emergency Net (QCEN) - qcenorg.wordpress.com
- Milford Amateur Radio Club <https://milfordhamradio.org/>
- K2BSA - Bill Stearns (NE4RD) - k2bsa.net
- Scouts on the Air - Kirk Musselman (K9MSG) amateurradioevents.com/scoutsontheair
- Troop 674 host venue - Church of the Savior - cos-umc.org
- Troop 674 Scoutmaster - Ernie Wallace

Special thanks to on-site amateur radio operators of the DBC Radio Scouting Committee: Jocelyn KD8VRX, Adam KF8EKW, Kurt AD8ML, Shawn KE8BBC, Lance KF8EEM and Michael N2HTE.

From the Affiliated Clubs Coordinator

Terry Windsor, KI8N

ki8n.tw@gmail.com



Spring is upon us and just as old sayings go, March came in like a lion and with all hopes will leave like a lamb. I have a couple of ham radio related outdoor antenna tasks to work on. I have been without a dual band antenna for the radio in the shack all winter since we took down the TV antenna tower last October that was against the house where it was previously mounted. I have a repurposed eave mount and new coax for the antenna now I just need the weather and ambition to coincide with the effort.

With nearly three months of this year gone, there are still quite a few Ohio Affiliated clubs that have not completed their annual reports for 2026. Please take a few minutes to update your information at <http://www.arrl.org/find-a-club>. If you need assistance accessing your club's information, please let me know and I will be happy to answer any questions.

In your club meetings you may want to let fellow members know about making address and email changes to their FRN. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted changes

to its rules effective February 5, 2026 to require that every holder of an FCC Registration Number (FRN) update their contact information in the [CORES](#) system (email and postal addresses) within ten business days of a change.

If your FRN information is current and has not changed, no immediate action is required, but you must adhere to the 10-day rule for future changes. It is recommended to periodically check both the [CORES](#) and [License Manager Systems](#) to ensure contact information is accurate, even if no changes have occurred. Everyone should be aware of the amateur rules in sections 97.21 and 97.23 that state a license may be suspended or revoked "if FCC correspondence is returned as undeliverable because of an incorrect address/email."

FCC Tutorial on updating FRN information:

<https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/html/Update FRN Information.htm>

Just a quick question regarding your club equipment and liability, is your club insured? The ARRL administers ham radio and related equipment and club liability insurance through RISK strategies. If you are not covered then it may be time for your directors / officers to check out this link: <https://www.arrlinsurance.com/>. It wouldn't take much for a club to suffer a large financial burden if equipment were damaged or stolen or personnel were injured. I have had this insurance on my personal equipment for several years and three years ago I filed a claim. A tornado went through the back of our property and damaged my tower and tri beam antenna. The policy paid for a replacement rotator and shelf, new elements for the antenna, and coax.

Just a reminder, one of the resources on the Ohio ARRL section web page is a list of speakers and topics that these hams are will to present at your club meeting. If you are looking for someone to present at a club meeting, contact the individuals on the list via email or call them regarding setting up a date/time. <https://arrrl-ohio.org/ohio-section-speakers-bureau/>. You can also contact me if you need assistance.

Lastly, it is time to ensure your club officers are working on reporting the club's 2025 Federal IRS taxes (my home club files an online IRS form 990-N) and if applicable the State of Ohio Attorney General's charitable registration system.

I found and like this quote from Charles Dickens regarding our soon to be spring season. "It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold, when it is summer in the light and winter in the shade." Stay "Radio-Active" and Ham It UP!

73

Terry, KI8N

**

Win a Yaesu FT-991A



The Alliance ARC is again raffling a HF Rig
Tickets are now on sale.

The winning ticket will be drawn on Wednesday, July 8th, 2026

Winner need not be present to win

For more information, or to purchase tickets, please go to

https://www.w8lky.org/fundraisers/hf_rig_raffle/

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Important Links

ARRL Home: www.arrl.org

Find an ARRL Affiliated Club: www.arrl.org/clubs

Find your ARRL Section: www.arrl.org/sections

Find a License Class in your area: www.arrl.org/class

Find a License Exam in your area: www.arrl.org/exam

Find a Hamfest or Convention: www.arrl.org/hamfests

Email ARRL Clubs: clubs@arrl.org

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ARRL Call for Technical Manuscripts

Call for Manuscripts: Share your technical insights on your Field Day setups. QST invites submissions of technical manuscripts from licensed amateur radio operators for upcoming issues focused on **ARRL Field Day operations**. We're looking for educational, how-to pieces that help fellow hams improve their setups, strategies, and technical know-how.

What We're Looking For:

- Technical solutions for Field Day operations—power, antennas, logging, digital modes, etc.
- Integration of new technologies (e.g., SDR, mesh networking, solar power) in field scenarios.
- Examples of how the popularity of Parks on the Air (POTA) portable activations has changed your approach to setting up Field Day stations.
- Examples of how portable antennas and LiFePO batteries have replaced base station antennas and generators.
- Manuscripts should have a strong “how-to” component. Tell us what you did, but more importantly, tell us how you did it.

Submission Guidelines:

- **Audience:** Licensed amateur radio operators.
- **Length:** 1,000 –1,800 words, plus high-resolution images with caption and photo credit information (name and call sign of photographer).
- **Tone:** Educational and collaborative—share what works!
- **Format:** Plain text or Word document.
- **Deadline:** January 31, 2026
- **Submit to:** gst@arrl.org

Why Contribute? Your article could be published in *QST*, ARRL’s membership journal, which reaches thousands of fellow amateurs across the country and beyond. It’s a great way to give back to the community and inspire others with your experience.

That's all for this time. Remember to send contesting-related stories, book reviews, tips, techniques, press releases, errata, schematics, club information, pictures, stories, blog links, and predictions to contest-update@arrl.org.

73, Paul, N1SFE

A drawing from 1930, depicting the future of communication



Ohio Hamfests

2026

03/08/2026 - [Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society Winter Hamfest](#)

Location: Elyria, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society

Website: <https://www.noars.net/hamfests/winter-hamfest/>

[Learn More](#)

03/15/2026 - [Toledo Mobile Radio Association Hamfest and Computer Fair](#)

Location: Perrysburg, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Toledo Mobile Radio Association

Website: <http://www.w8hhf.org>

[Learn More](#)

04/11/2026 - [Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club 70th Hamfest](#)

Location: Cuyahoga Falls, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Website: <https://www.cfarc-hamfest.org>

[Learn More](#)

04/25/2026 - [Tusco Amateur Radio Club's 2026 Hamfest, Computer & Electronics Show](#)

Location: Dover, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Tusco Amateur Radio Club W8ZX

Website: <http://www.w8zx.net/hamfest>

[Learn More](#)

04/26/2026 - [Athens Hamfest](#)

Location: Athens, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Athens County Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://ac-ara.org>

[Learn More](#)

05/02/2026 - [Lucas County ARES Hamfest](#)

Location: Toledo, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Lucas County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc.

Website: <http://WWW.LUCASARES.ORG>

[Learn More](#)

<p>5/14/2026 - 05/17/2026 Four Days In May Location: Fairborn, OH Type: ARRL Convention Sponsor: QRP Amateur Radio Club International Website: http://qrparci.org/fdim Learn More</p>	<p>06/06/2026 - FCARC SummerFest Location: Delta, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club Website: https://k8bxq.org/hamfest Learn More</p>
<p>07/11/2026 - 2026 Mansfield Mid Summer Trunkfest Location: Mansfield, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Intercity Amateur Radio Club Website: http://w8we.org Learn More</p>	<p>07/19/2026 - Van Wert Hamfest Location: Van Wert, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Van Wert Amateur Radio Club Learn More</p>
<p>08/01/2026 - Columbus Hamfest Location: Grove City, OH Type: ARRL Convention Sponsor: The Aladdin Shrine Audio Unit Website: http://www.columbushamfest.com Learn More</p>	<p>08/15/2026 - Cincinnati HamfestSM, ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention Location: Owensville, OH Type: ARRL Convention Sponsor: Milford Amateur Radio Club Website: https://cincinnatihamfest.org/ Learn More</p>
<p>08/16/2026 - Warren Hamfest Location: Cortland, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Warren Amateur Radio Association Website: http://w8vtd.com/hamfest Learn More</p>	<p>09/27/2026 - Cleveland Hamfest Location: Berea, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Hamfest Association of Cleveland Website: https://www.HAC.org Learn More</p>
<p>10/10/2026 - Williams County ARA Hamfest Location: Montpelier, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: WCARA Website: http://ka8ofe.weebly.com Learn More</p>	

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New Facebook Group

The **ARRL Ohio Section** has a new **Group Page** on **Facebook**. You are invited to join this public group. Group members will be able to post local club activities, share technical or operating information, announce Amateur Radio Licensing Classes and or VE Testing. You can also ask questions of other group members, share operating experiences, etc. You can post pictures of Ham Radio Activities and Events. We especially welcome Ohio Amateur Radio Clubs to share meeting dates, presentations, activities, etc.

You do need a Facebook account to join. If you already have one visit www.facebook.com/groups/oharrlsection to join the group. Answer the short questionnaire and your membership in the group should be confirmed in a day or so. You can then start posting to the group.

If you do not have a Facebook account you will first need to sign up for a free account. If you are hesitant to join Facebook, because you have heard horror stories about social media, you are able to limit your activities to just membership of this or other similar groups. Some people choose not to use Facebook for privacy concerns, while others may find it time-consuming, distracting, or simply not interesting, but you can choose your own personal activity and involvement level. Facebook's privacy settings allow users to control who can see their posts, profile information, and other content, as well as who can find and contact them. Users can manage these settings through the "Settings & Privacy" menu and "Privacy Checkup". Key areas to review include who can see your posts, who can send you friend requests, and who can look you up using your email or phone number. Additionally, users can limit who can see their past posts and control ad preferences. You can control a variety of privacy and other settings for your account, including "[Stopping people from posting on your Facebook profile](#)" and "[Manage the About section of your Facebook profile](#)".



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I-Com America Named Official Sponsor of the ARRL Year of the Club

02/26/2026

Newington, CT – ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® is pleased to announce that Icom America is the Official Sponsor of the ARRL Year of the Club, supporting the initiatives that spotlight and strengthen ARRL Affiliated Clubs throughout 2026.

The ARRL Board of Directors designated 2026 as the ARRL Year of the Club, recognizing the essential role that local amateur radio clubs play in building community, mentoring new operators, and delivering public service at the grassroots level. This nationwide focus celebrates clubs as engines of civic engagement and increases public awareness of the Amateur Radio Service through local connections across the United States.

“Amateur radio clubs are the backbone of the hobby,” said Ray Novak, N9JA, Senior Sales Manager at Icom America. “Icom works closely with them to support education, growth, and engagement. Strong clubs create strong communities, and Icom is proud to support them.”

Supporting Clubs On the Air and Beyond

ARRL has emphasized the broader impact of the initiative. “The Year of the Club places a spotlight on the vibrant community of radio clubs,” said ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA. “By investing in clubs, Icom and ARRL are reinforcing the local foundation of amateur radio—where mentorship begins, technical skills are shared, and public service takes root,” said Minster.

Through its sponsorship, Icom is supporting content that highlights the work of radio clubs in *QST*, ARRL newsletters and publications, and through resources and activities designed to help clubs thrive.

As part of ARRL’s broader 2026 activities, ARRL has launched the America250 Worked All States (WAS) operating event, a year-long on-air activity encouraging amateur radio operators worldwide to make contact with all 50 US states in honor of America’s 250th anniversary. Radio clubs are participating and supporting a special endorsement for operators who contact ARRL Affiliated Clubs in all 50 states during the year. In addition, clubs and hamfests are hosting W1AW/portable activations in all 50 states, creating another endorsement opportunity for participants.

ARRL also announced that the theme of 2026 ARRL Field Day, held June 27–28, will be “Amateur Radio: A National Resource.” Since 1933, Field Day has been the largest on-the-air operating event in North America, showcasing amateur radio’s readiness to provide resilient communications in times of need while engaging the public through hands-on demonstrations and community outreach. This year’s Field Day will emphasize club participation and the use of club call signs.

For more information about the ARRL Year of the Club, the America250 Worked All States operating event, and 2026 ARRL Field Day, visit www.arrl.org.



Final... Final

The Ohio HF Net has resumed on Tuesday March 3rd at 19:00 on 3.902 +/-

Now it’s time to start figuring out which hamfests to get to in 2026. I’m going to start early on this one, and yes, I’ve already bought my tickets for HAMVENTION 2026! If you’ve never been there or you’re a new Ham – GET THERE! It will definitely give you a different perspective on Amateur Radio. There are a couple BIG Fests worth

going to if you can make it, but this one is right in our own back yard! I'll look forward to seeing you there and at many other Fests and Events throughout the Ohio Section this year!

Share the Magic of Radio!

73,

From the Ohio Section Manager



Bret Stemen, KD8SCL

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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.

