

The Ragchewer

Ohio State Parks On The Air



OSPOTA is September 6, 2025 (<https://ospota.org/>)

August 2025



**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>

2025 Officers

President:

John Hilliard, W8OF

Vice President

Eric Fox, KE8BZZ

Secretary:

Mary Travis, KD8EEI

Treasurer:

Guy Ingram, W8AGI

Trustee:

John Hilliard, W8OF

Station Engineer:

John Hilliard, W8OF

Volunteer Examiner:

Walt Callahan, W8ALT

Trainer:

Tim Lentz, KD8QCA

Activities Manager:

Mark Urbine, KC8TUV

Public Relations:

Jim Mills, KE8IID

Safety Officer:

Mark Urbine, KC8TUV

Web Master:

Walter Callahan, W8ALT
webmaster@k8qik.org

News Editor:

Ralph Howes, W8BVH
ragchewer@sbcglobal.net

Minutes of August 7, 2025 Meeting



At 7:05 p.m., John called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 11 members, 3 on zoom and two guests from Dallas TX Melinda Keister W85MEL and Robert Keister WZ5V total of 16.

Two applications for 1st review Larry Larson, KF8EJV and Mark Rudolph KD8ALT.

Steve Anderson W8JLA Zoom	Ralph Howes W8BVH Zoom	Charlie Snoke N8KZN
Paul Bohn KE8WG	Guy Ingram W8AGI	Connie Snoke N8LPD
Walt Callahan W8ALT	Patricia Jackson KJ8CXB	Scott Snoke WD8IXO
John Hilliard W8OF	Tim Lentz KD8QCA	Mary Travis KD8EEI
	Lowell Miller W8QIY Zoom	Mark Urbine KC8TUW

Minutes were posted in Ragchewer and motion to approve by Walt W8ALT and seconded by Tim KD8QCA. All in favor.

Guy gave the Treasurer report. Tim KD8QCA made motion to approve treasurer's report and seconded by Walt W8ALT. All in favor

Tim stated he had one person for class and did it in 4 days. Person was very knowledgeable of electronics, etc. so helped and Tim felt like it was more of a review than a class. Person has not taken his test as far as Tim knows.

Walt W8ALT reported no one for testing this month.

Walt W8ALT reported new website is up and running and members can sign in with email on file with treasurer and then they will receive an email so they can sign in and reset password.

The following people volunteered to run the net: August 11th Mark KC8TUW; August 18th Kevin KB8KSX; August 25th Mark KC8TUW and September 1 Guy W8AGI.

Ralph had nothing new to report.

John W8OF presented a letter to the club resigning as Station Engineer and we are asking for a member to come forward and fill this very important position in the club. John has done it for the last 55 years and we owe a lot to him for all the volunteer hours he has put in to keep the equipment up and running and on the air. A big thank you to John. (pdf attached outlining the full position).

Mark KC8TUW stated he would work with the high school once they are back in session to see if they would like the club to do a presentation to students about amateur radio to see if we can get more young

students interested and possibly get a club set up at the school. In addition, Mark will see if we could use the school parking lot to hold a member event.

There was discussion on how to get more members to the meetings. Walt W8ALT suggested we try to have ideas of presentations such as antennas, DXing, contest programs and what they are about, how to program radio or just basic radio operation, etc. We could ask members what field they were comfortable in presenting and have the months established ahead of time so the subject could be posted on our website for people to see. Robert WZ5V stated they do this and work with Boy Scouts for Jamboree on the Air in October and with getting their merit badges. Eric KE8BZZ was not at the meeting but maybe he would be interested in heading up this type of program.

John W8OF asked the secretary to send an to prepare and email to all members in good standing asking for volunteers for the President, Vice President, Secretary, treasurer and Activity Manager for the coming year. All responses must be returned via email prior to the September meeting.

Lowell W8QIY informed the club that he had lost his wife on July 5th and we expressed our deep sadness to Lowell since no one was aware of his loss.

Mark KC8TUW made motion to adjourn, seconded by Tim KD8QCA. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Mary Travis, 8KD8EEI
Secretary.



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, Station Engineer

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.

**** Monthly Club Breakfast ****



NEW Location: **Scramblers**

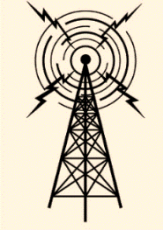
1377 Ety Rd, Lancaster, OH 43130 (across from Panera's)

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

Next breakfast is [6-21-25.] in Lancaster.

- *We will have our club breakfast at Scramblers in Pickerington, OH once per Quarter. (Same time) We will remind you prior to the Pickerington Breakfast. This is to share the driving with some of our members in the Pickerington area.*

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.

CQ CQ CQ de WB8LCD

If you haven't seen it already, ARRL will be announcing that 2026 will officially be proclaimed as the Year of the Amateur Radio Club. This is in recognition of the fact that most of the Growth that occurs in our ranks comes from the Local Clubs. Most of the Fun and Activities that occur in Amateur Radio comes from the creativeness of

Local Clubs planning the events and activities that will occupy their members over the course of a year. Most of the learning and growth of experience and individual knowledge on an individual basis comes from the members interactions with their Local Clubs programs and the other members of the Club. Amateur Radio Clubs are the core of our hobby, and the reason we will Not Go Away! In fact, our clubs will enable our hobby to grow, prosper and maintain the rich heritage of Amateur Radio in our world.

News Flash: The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) does not have some magic elixir or wand that they can wave and make this happen. But, the ARRL can, and needs to be, a motivator, facilitator, and supporter of the Local Clubs that make up our hobby! But it's up to US - Local Clubs, club members and individual Hams - to make it happen. Some of us "old timers" AKA OM's are going to have to wake up, get moving and be an active participant in the hobby, *especially in the Local Club!* Some of you folks in the middle (let's say 30-65) are going to need to help us, and the young folks get to where we need to be (driving- especially after dark!) and possibly with the financial piece of being a successful local club. And you younger folks, you're going to need to spread the gospel of Ham Radio to your friends and get them off their cellphones and on the air! That's a lot, but we can all do it! Especially if we work together.

One of the first things we need to clean up is our public presence. Let's first look at our clubs record with ARRL. I've asked Terry - KI8N, our OH Section Affiliated Clubs Coordinator (ACC) to make contact with all OH Section clubs that are currently listed. This is to confirm your continued existence. If your club no longer exists, I'll be asking that it be removed from the ARRL Club listing, or in some other way notated, that the club is NOT an ACTIVE CLUB! ARRL is quite possibly the first place where someone outside of the hobby will be directed to find out more about local clubs in a prospective hams area. If they spend too much going down "dead-ends" they'll probably lose interest and move on. And tell everyone that Amateur Radio is DEAD. We can't let that happen. After that is accomplished, your club will need to do the same on all their Social Media sites. Making sure that they are found by those looking and full of useful, accurate and timely information. You'll also want to go back in time and remove any old, unused sites that turn up in a Google search. Again, dead ends are our worst enemy! If they can't find us, they'll give up quickly.

Here's ANOTHER News Flash: The scammers and the spammers already have your email address and phone number. If you want to be found, you have to make it easy to find you! If you screen your calls, texts, or emails, make sure you get back to them, sooner rather than later.

That's a lot, and we'll have a lot more, but that's a good start. Make sure your club is ready to go on January 1, 2026 and not scrambling to catch up!

Field Day weekend was Fantastic! I didn't get to as many sites as I would have liked to (it's impossible in Ohio!) but I did see a bunch of really good set-ups with ops who were kickin it! I'm hoping to see a whole bunch of OH Section stations in the "Winners Listings". The folks at ATARA always seem to have a lot going on and they

were one of the sites I stopped at. Talking to Diane - KE8HLD - she was telling me about all the things they do with the STEM trailer they obtained in the first round of Club Grants. Apparently, you can do a lot with Grants, especially if you look to other areas for grants. From Diane:

Rewards of Grant Writing - A Great Resource

Has your club ever come up with a great idea but lacked the resources for it? Have you considered writing a grant to fund your project? Grants are a great resource for amateur radio clubs. My club, ATARA, has received funding from three grants and is working on applying for two more grants. With these funds we have provided STEM education for local youth, radios for training, and a STEM trailer focused on amateur radio. Without grant funds, these projects might not have happened.

How do you find grants? Most radio clubs know about ARRL and ARDC grants, however, there are other grants opportunities. Search online for local community grants such as foundation grants and local businesses. AEP and South Central Power award grants. When finding a grant, check to see if your project aligns with the grant's mission and goals. For example, the grant focus is on STEM education for children. Does the grant only accept non-profit organizations?

Most grants are awarding funds for a specific project and that project should align with the grant's goals. ATARA wrote a grant for Project FOTA, Fair on the Air. The grant provided funding for a Plinko game with STEM related prizes and the materials for the youth to make paper circuits. Your project should have a positive impact on your community. I have found that STEM education is a focus with many grants. Can your project be multi-focused that includes education? If your club needs radios, can you use those radios to educate and inspire youth?

When your club decides to apply for a grant, it is helpful to form a grant writing committee, this way you can share ideas and the work load. Create a detailed budget for your project. How will you evaluate the success of your project? Does the grant want a summary upon completion of your project?

Create an awesome project and write that grant, you might be pleasantly surprised when you receive the award!

Thanks Diane. Some great advice there. There are actually *a lot* of companies and businesses who will offer grants. Just as an example, any business in any industry might offer a grant and present it through a local office / division. From my own experience, many insurance companies and financial services companies offer community grants, and they like to see them come in supported by their local agents. It's a plus for the company, a plus for their local agents, and a plus for the organization applying for the grant. Remember, if you don't ask, the answer is *always NO*.

Share the Magic of Radio.

73,



ARRL Files Comments to Protect 70-Centimeter Amateur Band

07/22/2025

[ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®](#) has filed comments with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to oppose part of an application that would impact the 70-centimeter amateur band for telemetry, tracking and command (TT&C) of satellites. The application, from AST & Science, LLC (AST), requests “unprecedented authorization to 430-440 MHz for a constellation totaling 248 satellites to communicate with five ground stations using up to five channels with up to 256 kHz bandwidth.”

[READ ARRL'S FULL COMMENTS](#) [PDF]

The formal opposition, filed by ARRL's Washington Counsel, asserts that the permission AST seeks to use the 430 - 440 MHz band “should be denied because AST does not demonstrate need for TT&C spectrum beyond that available within existing allocations.”

The filing goes on to highlight just how unprecedented the request is:

The Requested Spectrum Is Not Allocated for the Requested Purpose

The 430 - 440 MHz band is not allocated domestically or internationally for the requested space-to-Earth and Earth-to-space satellite TT&C operations. As others already have noted in this proceeding, signals in this band from AST's current 5-satellite constellation have been observed throughout the world, including in the United States, notwithstanding that the satellites are authorized to communicate only with five ground stations well outside the United States. From the operations by the current five satellites, it appears that the satellites at times have transmitted continuously in the 430 - 440 MHz band throughout their orbit, not just when in communication with one of the authorized ground stations. This activity defeats the purpose of preventing interference in the United States by limiting operations in this band to ground stations distant from the United States. Authorizing an additional 243 satellites to use this band, which would result in multiple satellites over the U.S. at all times, would effectively usurp this band's allocated use.

The 70-centimeter band is also used in emergency communications. As recently as early July, ARRL volunteers serving in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) made headlines for [providing critical communications in flood-ravaged areas of the Texas Hill Country](#). Allowing the 70-centimeter band to become overrun with TT&C operations could impact the ability for the Amateur Radio Service to be used in future disasters. “TT&C operations in the 430 - 440 MHz band are capable of causing harmful interference to radio amateur communications, including to amateur satellites operating in the 435-438 MHz subband,” the comments state.

The comments go on to outline why the application would be non-compliant with the ITU Radio Regulations Treaty.

Reply comments to the application are due by August 5, 2025. ARRL will continue to promote and protect amateur radio spectrum.



Take Part in HamSCI's Meteor Scatter QSO Party

The Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation (HamSCI) is preparing for a series of upcoming meteor scatter (MS) experiments. Operating will take place during two well-known meteor showers: Perseids, August 11 - 12, 0000 to 2400 UTC, and Geminids, on December 12 – 13.

HamSCI

This is a combination “special event and contest” to generate contact data during meteor scatter events using the 6- and 10-meter bands. Ten meters has been used infrequently for meteor scatter study due to past symbol rate limits. However, with recent changes in Federal Communications Commission rules, WSJT-X/MSK144 protocols may now be used on HF bands.

Data will be collected from both bands during the scheduled times in August and December, and will be analyzed offline, using both PSK Reporter raw data and operator contact logs from WSJT-X. User data, including both logged contact and received reports, are necessary for valid experimental analysis. The latter can be provided by any receive system reporting on MSK144 through PSK Reporter.

Operators are needed now to be active (i.e., CQ-) on MSK144; or passive, if possible, reporting via PSK Reporter as “monitors.” The best times are early morning hours prior to 10 meters opening to F2 propagation. Meteor scatter propagation occurs well below F2 and is supported in or near the E layer where the meteor ionization tracks occur.

Saturday mornings are being used regularly to announce and coordinate 10-meter contacts using [Ping Jockey Central](#). Announcements are also made on the Front Range Six Meter [groups.io](#) due to the substantial number of meteor scatter operators in that group.

To be successful, both active and passive operators are needed. The upcoming August meteor shower is an excellent time to set up your equipment and join with other operators preparing for the events. At a later date, the HamSCI team will be collecting operator contact information.

Contest rules can be found at www.hamsci.org/msqp and a description of the HamSCI Meteor Shower QSO Party - 2025 at hamsci.org/msqp-poster.

HamSCI serves as a means for fostering collaboration between professional researchers and amateur radio operators. For more information about HamSCI and to join the mailing list, visit www.hamsci.org.

Grant Amateur Radio Club - New Release

Subject: Upcoming Hamfest

The Grant Amateur Radio Club is again hosting the Georgetown Hamfest. This one-day event will be November 8, 2025 at 8AM. It will be located at the same location as recent years which is ABCAP Building, 406 West Plum St. Georgetown, Ohio 45121. Everyone is Welcome. Admission: \$5.00. No Limit on tickets, the more tickets you buy the better chance of winning a prize! Main Door prize is a \$600 gift Certificate from R&L Electronics. Amateur radio license testing will be conducted during the hamfest with assistance from Highland ARA.

The table setup is 6AM day of the event. Talk in frequency is: 146.730 PL 162.2hz For more information you can contact Ken Klosterman at 513-515-6726 / KD8FKU@gmail.com or check out the club webpage (<https://grantamateurradioclub.yolasite.com>) Hope to see you there. Where amateur radio friends meet!

License test section:

Grant Amateur Radio Club will be conducting testing during their Hamfest on November 8, 2025, with assistance from Highland ARA. For more information you can contact Ken Klosterman at 513-515-6726 / KD8FKU@gmail.com or check out the club webpage (<https://grantamateurradioclub.yolasite.com>)

John Myers, WG8X, recently posted the list of the Ohio State Parks that qualify for activation during the upcoming September 6 Ohio State Parks on the Air. This year sees the first activation of Ohio's newest state park, Great Council, which is between

Xenia and Yellow Springs. As of the date of this writing, 23 parks indicate potential OSPOTA activity. However there are many parks within the South 40 Region indicating no activity. So why not go to the list of state parks on the www.ospota.org website to find a nearby state park and plan on going to it and make some contacts. Plus the event this year reintroduces a revised version of the "Rover" type operation as well as CW. But no digital contacts are allowed. With all the interest in POTA and OSPOTA the day offers a great opportunity to put a lot of contacts in the log, make a lot of



park chasers happy and spend some quality time in the great outdoors. Then let the world know by listing it on the www.ospota.org Planned Activations page. And since the activity is rather low key, it is an excellent opportunity to introduce new hams or those unsure about contest operating the chance to experience being the hunted and not a hunter.

Another operating activity is one that is short in duration but growing in popularity. It is the Ohio QSO Party and it will hit the airwaves on August 23 from noon until midnight. Personally I have participated in this event almost every year since it started. My goal each time is to see how many of Ohio's 88 counties I can work. I believe the best ever done was seventy something. All 88 counties showed 2024 activity compared to 85 counties in 2023. Last year saw the sponsoring **Mad River ARC** receive 402 logs showing 41,941 contacts made. In 2023 369 logs containing 37,731 contacts were received. It's a known fact most hams do not take the time to submit a log, therefore the actual number of contacts for the event is unknown. It's a fun activity and since many of the counties in the South 40 coverage region have small amateur radio populations, if you happen to live in one of those you might find yourself very popular with the County Hunter hams looking for you. As Mikey says "Try it. You might like it!"

Is your club or group having a hamfest, test session or another type of activity that is not listed and you are wishing for some publicity? Or you have done something that is rather unique? If so please forward the information to the South 40 and we will be glad to share it with this newsletter's several thousand readers.

Until next time, let's stay safe, happy and radio active. Plus support your local club.



CONTEST CORNER

Below is a list of upcoming contests in the "Contest Corner". I think this is important for someone who is trying to move up the DXCC ladder since entities that are on the rarer side and easiest to work in contests. Some of my best "catches" have been on the Sunday afternoon of a contest when the rarer entities are begging for QSOs. Of course, the gamble is that if you wait until Sunday, conditions may change, or they simply won't be workable. However, it is not a bad gamble. Of course, why not work the contest and have some fun!

Please send me an email if you need any details on this topic or anything else that was mentioned.

A major contest this month is the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) Islands on the Air (IOTA) Contest, July 26 at 1200 UTC to July 27 at 1200 UTC.

Created in 1993, this event now attracts thousands of participants, both island activators and chasers. Full details, including the official rules, are on the RSGB website. Known activations appear in this and past issues of The Weekly DX and on the NG3K website. Again, good luck to all participants!

Let me know if you participate and how you do.

Until next week, this is Bill, AJ8B saying 73 and thanks to my XYL Karen for her love and support. I Hope to hear you in the pileups! Have a great DX week!

Contest	Start Date	End Date
North American QSO Party - RTTY	7/19/2025	7/20/2025
10-10 Intl. Summer Contest, SSB	8/2/2025	8/3/2025
WAE DX Contest - CW	8/9/2025	8/10/2025
Maryland-DC QSOP	8/9/2025	8/10/2025
North American QSO Party - SSB	8/16/2025	8/17/2025
Hawaii QSOP	8/23/2025	8/24/2025
Ohio QSOP	8/23/2025	8/24/2025
Kansas QSOP	8/30/2025	8/31/2025
Colorado QSOP	8/30/2025	8/31/2025
World Wide Digital DX Contest	8/30/2025	8/31/2025

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

DX This Week - #340

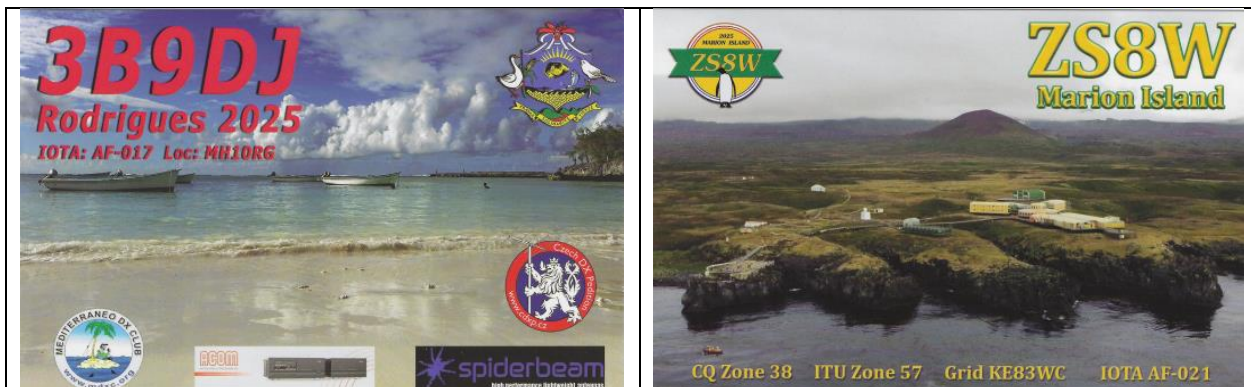
Bill - AJ8B (thedxmentor@gmail.com / www.aj8b.com)

Each week I try to focus on those entities that will be available in the next 7 days. There is so much data to sift through that I thought a focus on the next week might be helpful. Here is what you should find QRV when you tune the bands.



I received an email asking about the “word of the week”. Three years ago, when I was honored to have been asked to join this podcast, I started with a DX word of the week. The email asked that I returned to that, and I will! Thanks Bob, K8CAA, for sending that email to me.

The DX word of the week is Band Slots. DXers are heard to use this term frequently and it certainly is helpful to know what they are referring to. The term band slot is used to indicate how frequently a ham has confirmed a particular entity. Not how many times they have worked an entity, but on how many bands they have confirmed it. For instance, you might confirm Romania (YO) once on 20 meters. That would be one band slot for YO. However, over time, you may also confirm Romania on 10,15,17, and 40 meters. This would be 4 NEW bands slots for Romania for a total of 5. Many hams use a chart, or their logging program, to indicate whether they need a particular entity on a particular band. In this case, the next time Romania is available on 12 or 160 meters, I will get notified that Romania is available on that band. Totaling all the band slots gives an indication of how much DX an operator has been worked. I would say that 1,500 to 2,000 is typical while 3,000+ is very “rare air” indeed. Howard, N8HO, sent the 2 QSL cards that he received. Below you can see 3B9DJ from Rodrigues Island and ZS8W from the Marion Islands. Thanks Howard! What did you receive?





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



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.



The **Hocking Valley ARC**'s Fox was running recently in Hocking County and for Phil Stanley, W8NZB, it took only 38 minutes for him to bag it. The **Highland ARA** has recently acquired a fox hunting set up. So look for some fox hunting news from that part of the region in the future.

Scioto Valley ARA President Jesse Stanley, KD8CHP, reported a good turnout on the 3rd for their annual Portsmouth Ribber social gathering. He reports suggestions are to repeat it later in the year.

Jennifer and Michael Bailey (N8JEN and N8MRB) inform us that **Portsmouth RC**'s Gary Caldwell, WX8G, made an outstanding 2,704 contacts during the recent Lewis and Clark Trail on the Air operating event. He placed third and was only exceeded by two operators from Nebraska.



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.



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



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.

Ohio Hamfests

2025

08/16/2025 - [Portsmouth Radio Club 2025 Hamfest](#)

Location: New Boston, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: ARRL, Jett Fire Equipment, Shawnee Computer and More

Website: <http://www.portsmouthradioclub.com>

[Learn More](#)

08/17/2025 - [Warren Hamfest](#)

Location: Cortland, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Warren Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://w8vtd.com/hamfest>

[Learn More](#)

08/30/2025 - [Athens Trunkfest](#)

Location: Athens, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Athens County Amateur Radio Association

Website: <https://www.ac-ara.org/>

[Learn More](#)

09/07/2025 - [Findlay Hamfest](#)

Location: Findlay, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Findlay Radio Club

Website: <http://w8ft.org>

[Learn More](#)

09/13/2025 - [Swap Meet / Hamfest](#)

Location: Toledo , OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Lucas County ARES

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

[Learn More](#)

09/28/2025 - [Cleveland Hamfest](#)

Location: Berea, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Hamfest Association of Cleveland

Website: <https://www.hac.org>

[Learn More](#)

10/04/2025 - [Northwest Ohio Amateur Radio Club \(NWOARC\) Hamfest](#)

Location: Lima, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Northwest ARC

Website: <http://www.nwoarc.com>

[Learn More](#)

10/11/2025 - [Williams County ARA Hamfest](#)

Location: Montpelier, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Williams County ARA

[Learn More](#)

11/02/2025 - [2025 MARC Hamfest at MAPS](#)

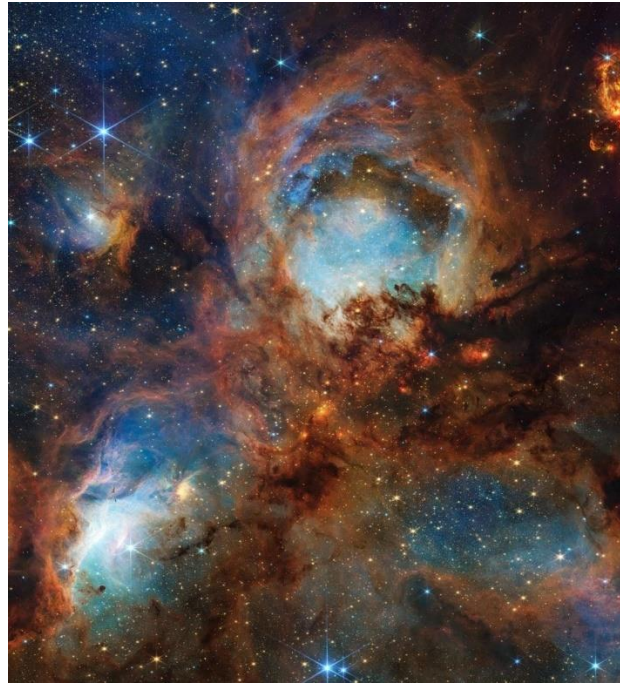
Location: N. Canton, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Massillon ARC

Website: <http://www.w8np.net>

[Learn More](#)



To celebrate its third year of revealing stunning scenes of the cosmos in infrared light, NASA’s James Webb Space Telescope has “clawed” back the thick, dusty layers of a section within the Cat’s Paw Nebula (NGC 6334).

“Three years into its mission, Webb continues to deliver on its design—revealing previously hidden aspects of the universe, from the star formation process to some of the earliest galaxies,” said Shawn Domagal-Goldman, acting director of the Astrophysics Division at NASA Headquarters in Washington. “As it repeatedly breaks its own records, Webb is also uncovering unknowns for new generations of flagship missions to tackle. Whether it’s following up on the mysteries of dark matter with NASA’s nearly complete Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope or narrowing our search for life to Earth-like planets with the Habitable Worlds Observatory, the questions Webb has raised are just as exciting as the answers it’s giving us.”

The progression from a large molecular cloud to massive stars entails multiple steps, some of which are still not well understood by astronomers. Located approximately 4,000 light-years away in the constellation Scorpius, the Cat’s Paw Nebula offers scientists the opportunity to study the turbulent cloud-to-star process in great detail.

JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE

Ohio Section Cabinet

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