



August 2019
Our 100th Year
Volume 57, Issue 8

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Website:

<http://www.mvara.org/>

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

The Voice Coil

Prez Sez



There are a few festivities that are going on in the next few months. The MVARA picnic on the night at Boardman park. If you need more information contact, Dean (W8YSU).

Members of the MVARA will also participate in the Car Show at Boardman park, Dave Salmen (WB8IBA) for more info.

The local Boy Scout council is celebrating their 100th anniversary along with our 100th in September. We will be setting up a station at Camp Stambaugh and let scouts get some on-the-air experience.

To participate in the scouting event there are a few requirements. To be a volunteer you must go to <http://my.scouting.org/> Youth Protection Training. Next, go to <http://gtcbsa.org/manatoc/stambaugh-100.html> to register.

There will no parking at Camp Stambaugh,--everybody will be bussed in.

There is also a \$25 fee to participate, which includes a bag lunch and transportation. Contact Scott Wilton, KE4UHC, if you can volunteer or need more information.

Don't forget the club dinner October 5th, for our 100th anniversary. Tickets are \$22 each, contact Nancy (KD8QNY).

So for now 73,
Jim WB8UJS



Next Meeting:

August 11, 2019,
6:30 pm

Annual Club Picnic
Boardman Park

Bring a dessert or
dish to share

2019 Officers

President: Jim Stiffler, WB8UJS

Vice President: Wes Boyd,
W8IZC

Secretary: (position open)

Treasurer: Nancy Brett, KD8QNY

Trustees: Dean DeMain, W8YSU

Gene A. Boccia, WQ8H

Jerry Goddard, KC8EFO

Mike McCleery, K8PRR

Newsletter Editor: Mark
Haverstock, K8MSH

Awards Manager: Dave Fairbanks,
N8NB, 330.759.6993, 4770 Logan
Ave. Youngstown, OH 44505

The Mahoning Valley Amateur
Radio Association, Inc, meets the
second Thursday of every month.
Location and time are subject to
change. Dues are \$20.00 per year,
\$10.00 each for additional family
member. Contact Nancy,
kd8qny@zoominternet.net for
membership details.

The club call is **W8QLY**;
equipment operated under this call
includes a two meter voice
repeater at 146.745 (-600, 110.9
PL). Club email:
mvara.w8qly@gmail.com

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

SKYWARN NET - First
Wednesday of the month at 8:30
PM on 146.745 MHz as weather
warrants.

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



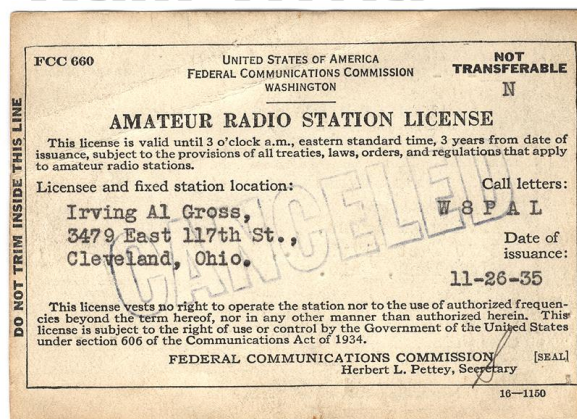
The MVARA annual Corn Roast will be Thursday August 8th in Boardman Twp. Park, It will take place at the Master's Pavilion. This is located on the west side of the park off of Southern Blvd. All members, non-members and their families are encouraged to attend! There is a playground for the kids to use right next to the pavilion!

We will eat dinner at about 6:30 pm, but you can arrive anytime after 5:30 pm to help shuck the corn. As in the past the club will provide the hamburgers, hotdogs, corn, beverages, and table settings. Those attending are asked to bring a **covered dish or dessert** to share (DON'T FORGET TO BRING A SERVING SPOON OR FORK FOR YOUR DISH!!). If you have any questions please contact Dean DeMain (W8YSU) @ 330-788-4271 or e-mail w8ysu@arrl.net

Directions will be available on W8QLY 146.745/R beginning @ 5:00 pm. Hope to see you all there,

Dean DeMain, W8YSU, Corn Roast Chairman

Ham Trivia



This amateur license is an example of the first ones issued by the FCC after its creation in 1934.

Interestingly, Al Gross (W8FAL) is known as “the father of CB radio,” being the first to manufacture CB radios in the late 1940s.

License refresher: E4E01 (A), E4E02 (D), G1A01 (C) [97.301(d)]
G1A02 (B) [97.305]

Current Activities

Sunday, August 4: Cars in the Park at Boardman Park, 9-5. MVARA will be operating special events station at the show. Contact Dave, WB8IBA@yahoo.com, if you plan to come.

Thursday, August 8: MVARA Corn Roast, 5:30 pm-? Masters Pavilion, Boardman Park.

Wednesday, September 4: VE Testing, Boardman Library, 6:30 pm.

Thursday, Sept. 12: Club meeting, 7pm.

Sat./Sun., September 21, 22: 100th Anniversary celebration, MVARA and Boy Scouts

Contact Us:

Email: mvara.W8QLY@gmail.com

Snail-mail: MVARA, P.O. Box 14141, Poland, OH 44514

Meeting ideas/ suggestions? Contact Dave, KD8NZF, KD8NZF@zoominternet.net

Hamfest Calendar



08/03/2019 - Columbus, Ohio Hamfest - **Location:** Aladdin Shrine Center - 1801 Gateway Circle - Grove City, OH 43123 - **Website:** <http://www.columbushamfest.com> - **Public Contact:** John Lehman, K8PJ - 7415 Hagerty Road Ashville, OH 43103 - **Phone:** 614-571-5179 - **Email:** k8pj.john@gmail.com

08/10/2019 DX Engineering Hamfest - **Location:** DX Engineering, 1200 Southeast Avenue, Tallmadge, OH 44278 **Website:** <https://www.dxengineering.com/DXEFest> **Sponsor:** DX Engineering **Type:** ARRL Hamfest **Talk-In:** 146.985 **Public Contact:** Teri Grizer , K8MNJ, 1200 Southeast Avenue Tallmadge, OH 44278 **Phone:** 330-630-7520 **Email:** tgrizer@dxengineering.com

09/08/2019 Butler County ARA Swapfest - **Location:** Unionville Fire Department. 102 Mahood Road Butler, PA 16001 **Website:** <http://w3udx.org> **Sponsor:** Butler County Amateur Radio Association **Talk-In:** 147.36 (PL 131.8) **Public Contact:** Joseph Sciulli , N3WH, 1020 Bonniebrook Road Butler, PA 16002, **Phone:** 412-337-1687 **Email:** n3whjoe@gmail.com

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

Can you copy at 20 words per minute by hand?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

About a month ago, this email from the ARRL was sent to the CWOps mailing list:



From: Fusaro, Norm W3IZ
[\[mailto:w3iz@arrl.org\]](mailto:w3iz@arrl.org)
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2019 4:00 PM
Subject: W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate

Greetings Morse Code Enthusiasts.

I have some exciting news that I want to share with you! The ARRL has reinvigorated the W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate program. Several things have changed beginning with our new sponsor, Vibroplex, a legend in Morse telegraphy equipment. If you see Scott Robbins W4PA and the Vibroplex team at a hamfest or convention please be sure to thank him for his support. The Vibroplex logo will appear on the newly designed certificates (see below) and in the award recipient page that will appear every month in QST.

That's right, each month in QST we will publish the most recent recipients of the W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate, beginning with all the 2019 recipients. As a bonus, we are sending all the 2019 CPC holders a new certificate at no cost to replace their older style award.

The award is available to anyone who copies one solid minute of code during the qualifying runs. Complete program details can be found on the web at <http://www.arrl.org/code-proficiency-certificate>.

And to make the award available to more people we will double the number of opportunities to copy the CW text. Beginning September 2019, the qualifying runs will increase from twice per week to four times per week.

I am sharing this advanced notice with the Morse code clubs so that you can share it with your members. I have attached PDF files of the new certificate and the announcement that will appear in August QST, available in digital format July 8. I hope you are as excited about this as I am.

In closing, I want personally thank all of you who promote the use and proficiency of Morse code on the air waves and ask that you challenge your club members to submit their copy for the W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate.

73,

Norm Fusaro, W3IZ
Director of Operations

Almost immediately after I posted this to my blog (at KB6NU.Com), my friend, Paul, KW1L, replied, “How does one copy legibly at 40 wpm?” When I replied, “Typing,” he countered, “On page 98 of the July 2019 QST, it says, ‘Legibly copy at least 1 minute of text by HAND...’”

To this, I replied, “Well, I guess you and I are both screwed then. I can’t copy by hand at 20 wpm, and it’s really not worth it to me to practice and get that fast. I’m guessing that I’m not alone in this regard. The upshot is that the ARRL is going to be sending out a lot fewer of these Vibroplex certificates than they think.”

I then emailed W3IZ for a clarification. He shot back, “By hand is to mean not using a code reading machine.” I suggested that he clarify this, both on the ARRL website and in QST. Of course, they haven’t yet taken my suggestion, and the website still reads, “Copy one of W1AW’s qualifying runs and submit one minute of solid copy (legible).”

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the “No Nonsense” amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and is one of the presenters the ICQPodcast (ICQPodcast.Com). Feel free to reply to his CW CQs at any speed you so choose.

NOTE: You can find an image of the new certificate at <https://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2019-Code-Proficiency-Certificate-Vibroplex-768x597.jpg>

Logbook of The World Adds FT4 for Digital Worked All States (WAS) Award Endorsements

ARRL’s Logbook of The World has been updated to embrace FT4 contacts for the Digital Worked All States award — one of many digital WAS Endorsements. This follows the WSJT-X Development Group’s July “general availability” release of WSJT-X 2.1.0. No other endorsements are under consideration at this time.

LoTW users are currently able to upload all FT4 contacts they have made. While the FT4 Digital WAS Award Endorsement functions are now active, award processing and fulfilment remain pending the availability of the new endorsement sticker. Watch ARRL News for this and other updates.

St. Paul Island DXpedition Start May Be Delayed Slightly

An instrument failure on the helicopter that was scheduled to fly on July 29 from New York to Nova Scotia could delay the full operational setup of the **CY9C St. Paul Island DXpedition**.

“However, every effort will be to begin operations as soon as possible, perhaps with a partial setup on Wednesday,” Randy Rowe, N0TG, said.

Three vehicles loaded with equipment and supplies departed from different locations on their way to Dingwall, Nova Scotia, the staging area for helicopter transport to St. Paul Island.

The CY9C DXpedition by Murray Adams, WA4DAN, and six others, will run from July 31 until August 8. All operations will be from the Northeast Island. An advance team will fly to the island first in order to erect tents.

MOMENTS IN MVARA HISTORY

This article was published in the Vindicator in 1979, 40 years ago. You may recognize some names.

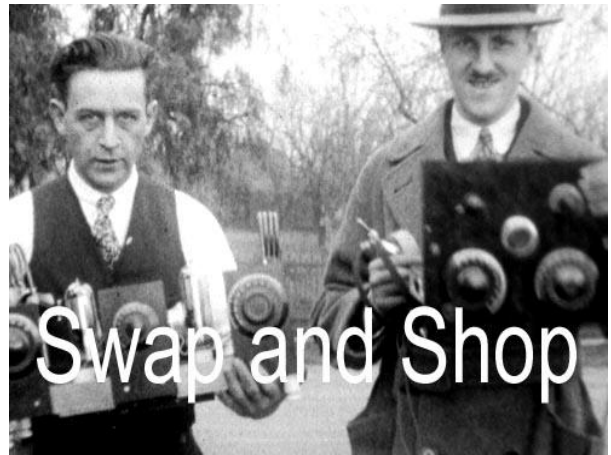
Castronovo Heads Amateur Radio Group

Frank Castronovo has been elected president of the Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association.

Other officers are: John Lyden, vice president; Andy Brinko, secretary, and Bill Unger, treasurer. John Kizar and Ray Smith were elected to the board of trustees and Samuel Miller was named editor of the club's newspaper.

Plans were discussed for club activities such as guest speakers, films and visits to local industries. Other activities include the annual field day in June where club members participated in Emergency Simulation Day.

The club also takes part in the March of Dimes' Walk-A-Thon and International Peace Race where members direct foot traffic, assist in emergencies and provide progress reports.



Kenwood Transceiver

For Sale- Kenwood TS440s. Microphone, power cable, and Service Manual included. Works great. Just need to sell to finance other projects.

\$350 to
Club members or friends. 937-602-7356
jmmalarky@icloud.com

Swap and Shop information/policies are listed on the last page of the newsletter.

Station Loaner Program

If you're a new ham/newly upgraded and want to get on the HF bands, MVARA has a loaner program for club members. The club has two complete stations with radio, power supply, microphone, CW key, and antenna tuner. All you need to do is supply your own coax, antenna, and keep the equipment in good condition while you have it.

Loan period is up to 6 months. However, you will be responsible for returning the station temporarily for use during Field Day weekend in June.

With the new ARRL proposal, it looks like even Tech class amateurs may soon have more phone privileges on some of the HF bands. Contact MVARA at our email address:
mvara.W8QLY@gmail.com

2019 Field Day Numbers

29 MVARA members and 28 visitors came out to Field Day. It is wonderful to see such a high level of participation by the club.

The ARRL encourages certain Field Day activities by awarding bonus points for them. The MVARA was able to qualify for many of them. I would like to recognize and thank the following members, for their work in this area, with apologies to anyone I may overlook.

600 points for 100% emergency power, 100 points for setup in a public location Frank WB8YHD; 100 points for media publicity Frank WB8YHD; 100 points for an information booth Mike K8PRR, with help from Nancy KD8QNY on the sign in sheet, 100 points for a copy of the W1AW field day message Dave KD8NZF, 100 points for 5 natural power QSOs Frank WB8YHD, 100 points for visit by a served agency, 100 points for an educational activity, 20 points youth participation Allie Morris KE8IZL, 100 points for a Safety Officer Frank WB8YHD, 100 points for social media Mike K8PRR, and 50 points for submitting our score via the web Rich KB8GAE. That adds up to 1570 bonus points. Way to go MVARA!

Band conditions were unusual as forty meters was not the money band. Twenty meters ruled with 342 QSOs worked on 20 vs 189 worked on 40. It will be interesting to see how others did when we get the results in December. Here are the numbers:

Total Contacts by Band and Mode

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
80	0	170	2	172	24
40	40	133	16	189	26
20	72	270	0	342	48
15	1	0	0	1	0
10	0	2	0	2	0
6	0	12	0	12	2
Total	113	587	18	718	100



14 different operators made 718 QSOs for 1,698 points. Add that to 1570 bonus points and our claimed score is 3268. Well done MVARA!

Last year our score was a higher at 6706. We placed 6th out of 35 stations in the 6a class and 114th over all out of 2,902 entries. Our score was down this year due to some of our experienced CW operators not being able to attend. We will know in December how we rank this year.

2019 Field Day is history and it is on to 2020. Hope to see you all there!

Rich, KB8GAE

Contest and Special Event Operating Information

Dave Fairbanks N8NB

Data below as well as more information courtesy of the following website:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>.

August 2019

+ NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1700Z-1800Z, Aug 1 (CW) and 1800Z-1900Z, Aug 1 (SSB) and 1900Z-2000Z, Aug 1 (FM) and 2000Z-2100Z, Aug 1 (Dig)
+ SKCC Sprint Europe	1900Z-2100Z, Aug 1
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Aug 2
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Aug 2
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Aug 2
+ 10-10 Int. Summer Contest, SSB	0001Z, Aug 3 to 2359Z, Aug 4
+ European HF Championship	1200Z-2359Z, Aug 3
+ WAB 144 MHz Low Power Phone	1400Z-1800Z, Aug 3
+ North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Aug 3 to 0559Z, Aug 4
+ ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest	1800Z, Aug 3 to 1800Z, Aug 4
+ SARL HF Phone Contest	1400Z-1700Z, Aug 4
+ G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest	2300Z, Sep 4 to 2300Z, Sep 6
+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Aug 6
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Aug 7
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Aug 7 and 1900Z-2000Z, Aug 7 and 0300Z-0400Z, Aug 8
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Aug 9
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Aug 9
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Aug 9
+ WAE DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Aug 10 to 2359Z, Aug 11
+ QRP ARCI European Sprint	0800Z-1100Z, Aug 10
+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Aug 10 to 2400Z, Aug 11
+ Maryland-DC QSO Party	1400Z, Aug 10 to 0400Z, Aug 11
+ 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Aug 12
+ MMonVHF/DUBUS 144 MHz Meteorscatter Sprint Contest	1200Z, Aug 12 to 1159Z, Aug 14
+ NAQCC CW Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Aug 14
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Aug 14
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Aug 14 and 1900Z-2000Z, Aug 14 and 0300Z-0400Z, Aug 15
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Aug 16
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Aug 16
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Aug 16
+ SARTG WW RTTY Contest	0000Z-0800Z, Aug 17 and 1600Z-2400Z, Aug 17 and 0800Z-1600Z, Aug 18
+ ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	0600 local, Aug 17 to 2400 local, Aug 18
+ Russian District Award Contest	0800Z, Aug 17 to 0800Z, Aug 18
+ Keyman's Club of Japan Contest	1200Z, Aug 17 to 1200Z, Aug 18
+ Feld Hell Sprint	1600Z-1759Z, Aug 17
+ North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Aug 17 to 0559Z, Aug 18
+ CVA DX Contest, CW	2100Z, Aug 17 to 2100Z, Aug 18
+ SARL HF Digital Contest	1400Z-1700Z, Aug 18
+ NJQRP Skeeter Hunt	1700Z-2100Z, Aug 18

+ ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY	1800Z-2359Z, Aug 18
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Aug 19
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Aug 21
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Aug 21 and 1900Z-2000Z, Aug 21 and 0300Z-0400Z, Aug 22
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Aug 23
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Aug 23
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Aug 23
+ Hawaii QSO Party	0400Z, Aug 24 to 0400Z, Aug 26
+ ALARA Contest	0600Z Aug 24 to 0559Z, Aug 25
+ SCC RTTY Championship	1200Z, Aug 24 to 1159Z, Aug 25
+ W/VE Islands QSO Party	1200Z, Aug 24 to 0300Z, Aug 25
+ YO DX HF Contest	1200Z, Aug 24 to 1200Z, Aug 25
+ Kansas QSO Party	1400Z, Aug 24 to 0200Z, Aug 25 and 1400Z-2000Z, Aug 25
+ YARC QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 24 to 0359Z, Aug 25
+ Ohio QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 24 to 0400Z, Aug 25
+ CVA DX Contest, SSB	2100Z, Aug 24 to 2100Z, Aug 25
+ 50 MHz Fall Sprint	2300Z, Aug 24 to 0300Z, Aug 25
+ SARL HF CW Contest	1400Z-1700Z, Aug 25
+ QCX Challenge	1300Z-1400Z, Aug 26 and 1900Z-2000Z, Aug 26 and 0300Z-0400Z, Aug 27
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Aug 28
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Aug 28
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Aug 28 and 1900Z-2000Z, Aug 28 and 0300Z-0400Z, Aug 29
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Aug 30
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Aug 30
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Aug 30
+ Hiram Percy Maxim Birthday Celebration	0000Z, Aug 31 to 2359Z, Sep 8
+ World Wide Digi DX Contest	1200Z, Aug 31 to 1200Z, Sep 1
+ UK/EI DX Contest, SSB	1200Z, Aug 31 to 1200Z, Sep 1
+ Colorado QSO Party	1300Z, Aug 31 to 0400Z, Sep 1

Contesting (also known as radiosport) is a competitive activity pursued by amateur **radio** operators. In a **contest**, an amateur **radio** station, which may be operated by an individual or a team, seeks to contact as many other amateur **radio** stations as possible in a given period of time and exchange information.

[Contesting - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contesting)
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contesting>



Champions of the 2002 [World Radiosport Team Championship](#) (WRTC), Helsinki, Finland.

DX Operating Information

Dave Fairbanks N8NB

Credit for the below information and further information on these operations and others can be found at the following website: <http://www.ng3k.com>

August						
2019 Aug01	2019 Sep01	Ecuador	HC2	LoTW	IZ1HGP 20190604	By IZ1HGP as HC2/IZ1HGP fm Isidro Ayora Finca, Guayas; 160-6m; 1kw; yagi, vertical, wires; QSL also OK via IZ1HGP
2019 Aug01	2019 Aug10	Lord Howe Is	VK9APX	AI5P	TDDX 20190625	By AI5P as FO/AI5P; 40-17; CW FT8; holiday style operation
2019 Aug03	2019 Aug17	Aland Is	OH0UDG	LoTW	TDDX 20190513	By DK3BK DO5JD DK3CKM; 80-6; CW SSB + digital; Spiderbeam, vertical, dipole; QSL also OK via M0OXO OQRS
2019 Aug03	2019 Aug17	Madagascar	5R8PX	LoTW	IZ2DPX 20190321	By 5R8PX fm Nosy Be I; HF; SSB + digital; QSL also OK via IK2DUW/HE9ERA (Buro or direct)
2019 Aug06	2019 Aug18	Maldives	8Q7GB	LoTW	DXW.Net 20190514	By IZ2DLV fm Nika I; 80-15m; CW SSB FT8; holiday style operation
2019 Aug08	2019 Aug12	Madeira	CR3EE	OZ2I	OZ2I 20190605	By OZ2I fm IM12mt; QRV for WAE CW, SOAB, low power
2019 Aug10	2019 Aug18	St Pierre & Miquelon	TO5M	LoTW	DD5ZZ 20190625	By VO1IDX DJ6GI DM4IM DD5ZZ fm L'Ile aux Marins; 160-6m; CW SSB FT8, perhaps RTTY, FM satellites
2019 Aug17	2019 Aug24	Market Reef	OJ00	OE1ZKC	425DXN 20190614	By DS4EOI JE6HIB JH4RHF W5XU; HF; QRV for International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend
2019 Aug23	2019 Sep02	Solomon Is	H44	LoTW	TDDX 20190625	By DL2GMI as TBA fm Malaita (IOTA OC-047); 80 40 20 15 10m, perhaps 6m; SSB FT8, some RTTY; QSL also OK via DL2GMI (DARC Buro or direct)
2019 Aug31	2019 Sep17	Burundi	9U3TMM	LoTW	DXW.Net 20190409	By IV3TMM fm Bujumbura; 60-6m; FT8 SSB RTTY; 1st 60m activation fm Burundi; holiday style operation



HAM HUMOR: LOCAL HAM CONFUSES TRICK-OR-TREATERS



By [K5KVN](#), on the scene

NEW BLIGHTON, N.H. — Trick-or-Treaters in the southside neighborhood of Burlington aren't sure if they received a trick or a treat last night from one local man.

Parents say they didn't know what to make of the objects in their bags.

"My son came home with a walkie talkie and I'm like 'what is this?!' I still don't understand what it does," said Becky Juang, a parent in the neighborhood.

Ben Wagonroth, the man responsible, says he can explain. "Halloween totally caught me off guard. I only had ten Glucerna Nutrition Bars in the house and I gave those out in about five minutes."

Wagonroth, a self-proclaimed "tinkerer" and ham radio operator says he felt he had to give something to the kids that rang his doorbell. "I remembered I had a huge box of Beofengs, so I dumped those into a bowl and handed them out, batteries included," said Wagonroth.

"Those things were CHEAP, about the cost of a large candy bar, and I picked up a bulk order online last month. You know, just to have them around," he said.

Parents and kids had peculiar looks on their faces when he placed them in their bags. He said one small child cried and a pair of teenagers threatened to "toilet paper" his trees after receiving the strange items. "One kid, though, really liked the flashlight on the top of the radio," he said.

He says he'll be better prepared with candy next year, and already has plans to build a scarecrow out of a Collins S-Line and a front-yard cemetery that includes crosses made from sections of Rohn 45 covered with black bed sheets.

[hamhijinks.com](#)

From the Affiliated Club

Coordinator

Tom Sly, WB8LCD – ACC
tomsly29@gmail.com



The Human Side of the Hobby Ham Radio is basically a technical hobby. It's all about the art and science of sending and receiving information via electromagnetic waves. Amateur Radio operators are, for the most part, very adept at the technical side of the hobby. We have hundreds of books explaining every aspect of the technical side of the hobby.

Sometimes “high tech” can be a bubble that we immerse ourselves in, to the exclusion of our fellow club members’ “human needs.” In looking at the Mission Statements of many Amateur Radio Clubs, I see lots of mentions of building members knowledge and proficiency in the technical aspects of the hobby, but I see very little mention of the support of the human needs of the membership. One club’s mission statement includes the line “To promote radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency, for the betterment of Amateur Radio.” That’s about it.

Going back in history, our high-tech world has not portrayed as a very friendly place to be. Think back to George Orwell’s 1984, or the major film debut of George Lucas – THX 1138. Harrison Ford in Blade Runner. Woody Allen’s Sleeper (no – forget that one)... Our high-tech world has been given a pretty bleak outlook! The one thing missing from almost all of these portrayals is human interaction and relationship. These predictions are becoming our reality. People seem to avoid the whole, big beautiful world around them so they can keep their concentration on their little screen in front of them.

Perhaps this is an opportunity for our Amateur Radio Clubs! What if we decided that our clubs could be a place where in addition to all of the technical aspects of our hobby, our clubs would take the effort to also meet some of the human needs of our members?

Would our hobby grow faster if we became a place which was not only high tech but also high touch? It would certainly set us apart from the rest of the world. And it wouldn't have to be any great expenditure of either time, money or effort. The actions that provide the human touch are all basically simple and free! The hard part is putting other people first when it comes to your relationship with them. I've belonged to a club where the President was almost always one of the last ones to arrive for a meeting. He made a grand entrance and was chatted up by the elite members of the club. It was all about him. I've always felt that the President of a club (along with the other officers) should be the first ones to show up at the meeting so that they can personally welcome the other club members as they arrive. That one action will do more than you could ever imagine boosting the morale of the membership. But you've got to be careful to make sure you include everyone in that – sometimes the one's you like the least are the one's who can benefit from your attention the most! Try it, do it for several months in a row. You might be surprised at the results.

Now, as a member of a club, you too can participate in this exercise. We talk about Elmering new hams, why not Elmer everyone by helping them participate in the fraternalism that Ham Radio was once known for?

I know I've mentioned this story before, but I was first licensed in 1967 when I was 14 years old. My neighbor – Mr. Hillman – W8FZS, was my inspiration and Elmer into the hobby. I was brought up that respect of my elders was important. I always addressed Mr. Hillman as Mr. Hillman. But, the day I got my ticket (WN8AAB) he stopped me and told me that I should address him as Stan now, because we were both hams. That was probably one of the most significant moments in my ham radio experience. I was made to feel that I was a part of something. And that feeling has never left me! It was a significant Human Touch.

Who “rag chews” anymore? Most of our operating is checking into nets, quick Q's for contest points, busting through a pile up just to hear 59 from a rare one. We've even got modes where we can make contacts almost with no human contact! We may net even need to be present in the shack at the transmitter. Where's the human touch in that? Let's do some rag chewing both on and off the air. I've met a whole lot of really interesting people in my years as a ham. It's one thing to read what they've done in a technical article in some magazine, but it's a wholly different experience to get to know someone personally. You might have to step outside of your comfort zone but if you do you will usually be rewarded with an outstanding personal experience! A human touch.

We want to bring people into our hobby. We NEED to bring people into our hobby if we wish it to continue into the future. Our clubs can be the first or second contact that most people will ever have with our hobby. We've got to let them know that even though they are a rank beginner (Novice?) that they are welcome to join with us and learn with us. Why will they ever want to join us if we don't make them feel welcome and that they too can be a part of something fun and interesting? No-where here do I advocate dropping the hi-tech aspect of our hobby. It's that hi-tech that makes the magic possible. But, to survive into the future and to entice others to join us, we have to appeal to others with a human touch. Let's make Amateur Radio a hobby that is HiTech, Hi-Touch. I don't want to live in an Orwellian future! That's it for now. Let me know what's on your mind.

73, Tom WB8LCD



Major WSJT-X Upgrade Boosts FT4 into “a Finished Protocol for HF Contesting”

The [WSJT Development Group](#) has announced the “general availability” release of *WSJT-X* version 2.1.0. This major upgrade formally introduces FT4 as a finished protocol for HF contesting. *WSJT-X* version 2.1.0 supplants any “release candidate” (beta) versions, and users should discontinue using any beta versions of the software. The latest edition of the popular digital software suite also includes improvements and bug fixes in several areas, including FT8. The list includes:

- FT8 waveform generated with GMSK, and fully backward compatible
- User options for waterfall and spectrum display
- Contest logging
- Rig control
- User interface
- UDP messaging for inter-program communication
- Accessibility

The WSJT-X Development Group is providing a separate *WSJT-X* version 2.1.0 installation package for 64-bit Windows that offers significant improvements in decoding speed.

A detailed list of program changes since *WSJT-X* version 2.0.1 is included in the cumulative [Release Notes](#). Upgrading from earlier versions of *WSJT-X* should be seamless, with no need to uninstall a previous version or to move any files.

[Installation packages](#) for Windows, Linux, and Macintosh are available.

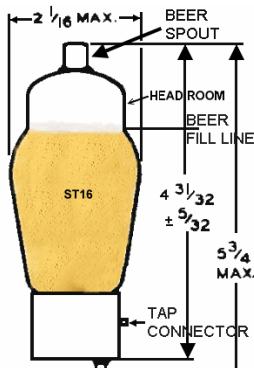
WSJT-X is licensed under the terms of Version 3 of the GNU General Public License (GPL). “Development of this software is a cooperative project to which many Amateur Radio operators have contributed,” said Joe Taylor, K1JT, for the WSJT Development Group. “If you use our code, please have the courtesy to let us know about it. If you find bugs or make improvements to the code, please report them to us in a timely fashion.”

Some users have reported a low audio level to the transmitter when using the 64-bit Windows version, which required greatly increasing the sound card Playback device used to feed audio to the transmitter.

Visit the [FT8/FT4/JT9: WSJT 2-Way Narrow Modes for Amateur Radio](#) Facebook page for additional information.



Amateur License Refresher Dave, KD8NZF



It's probably been awhile since you took your Amateur License exam. Here are a few sample questions from the current question pools just to keep those synapses firing. *Please note the General questions are from the new General Question Pool that was effective July 1, 2019.*

Extra Pool

E4E01

Which of the following types of receiver noise can often be reduced by use of a receiver noise blanker?

- A. Ignition noise
- B. Broadband white noise
- C. Heterodyne interference
- D. All of these choices are correct

E4E02

Which of the following types of receiver noise can often be reduced with a DSP noise filter?

- A. Broadband white noise
- B. Ignition noise
- C. Power line noise
- D. All of these choices are correct

General Pool

G1A01

On which HF/MF bands is a General class license holder granted all amateur frequency privileges?

- A. 60 meters, 20 meters, 17 meters, and 12 meters
- B. 160 meters, 80 meters, 40 meters, and 10 meters
- C. 160 meters, 60 meters, 30 meters, 17 meters, 12 meters, and 10 meters
- D. 160 meters, 30 meters, 17 meters, 15 meters, 12 meters, and 10 meters

G1A02

On which of the following bands is phone operation prohibited?

- A. 160 meters
- B. 30 meters
- C. 17 meters
- D. 12 meters

Answers pg. 2

THE LAST WORD

I need a better antenna -- to radiate a better signal -- to talk to more people -- about antennas!



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The ***VOICE COIL*** is the monthly publication of the Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc. (MVARA) and is intended to present news, issues and opinions of interest to MVARA members and the Amateur Radio Community. We encourage contributions of articles, letters to the editor, etc. and welcome newsletter exchanges with other clubs from around the country and around the world. Permission is granted to reprint material contained herein as long as proper credit is given to this newsletter and the author. Ideas for and contributions to the VOICE COIL should be submitted to:

MVARAVoiceCoil@gmail.com

Submissions must be received **no later than the 24th** of the month prior to the month of issue, unless otherwise specified. **Submissions should be in MS Word format or ASCII text—no PDF, please!** Material received after the deadline will be used in the next month's VOICE COIL if it is still current and /or newsworthy.

Swap and Shop Policies

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