



February 2019
Our 100th Year
Volume 57, Issue 2

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

The Voice Coil

Prez Sez

Hope this month finds everybody well.

We have started our 100th year, and there are going to be some special events in 2019. Several on-the-air stations, using the club call, W8QLY, will be operating on 20, 40 and 75 meters. Any club member that is interested in operating one these events should check the web sites for information (www.mvara.org, QRZ, or page 2 of the newsletter.)

Want to try something different? Everybody has 2 meter FM, so why not check into an informal net that meets every other Monday night about 8:00 PM. They meet on 147.525 FM simplex. This to see how many stations you can copy and how many can hear your station. The net runs about 30 minutes.

Just to let you know that the chairman of the GOP where we hold our meetings is stepping down We hope we can still use this facility, but it's possible we may need a new place to hold our meetings in the near future. We should start looking at other options.



Get on the air while the bands are down. Just because you don't hear any stations doesn't mean there is no activity.

Do the Breezeshooter's 10 meter contest this month and make some noise--you will not know unless you try.

73,
Jim

Next Meeting:

February 14, 2019
GOP Headquarters
meeting room. 8381
Market St., Boardman,
OH
(in Adamas Plaza)

Come early for dinner at
Bruno Bros. (in the Plaza),
for pizza, drinks, and
social time.

OPERATORS NEEDED

2019 Officers

President: Jim Stiffler, WB8UJS

Vice President: Wes Boyd,
W8IZC

Secretary: Becky Albrecht,
KD8SCF

Treasurer: Nancy Brett, KD8QNY

Trustees: Dean DeMain, W8YSU

Doug Sage, KB8TPG

Gene A. Boccia, WQ8H

Jerry Goddard, KC8EFO

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

For License Classes and VE testing,
Contact Wes Boyd, W8IZC,
W8IZC@yahoo.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.

Our first special events stations for the 100th anniversary will be on the air from Saturday, February 16, at 6pm local time until Monday, February 18 at 6pm local time. You can find information on the ARRL Site, <http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations> It should also be published in the February 2019 issue of *QST*.

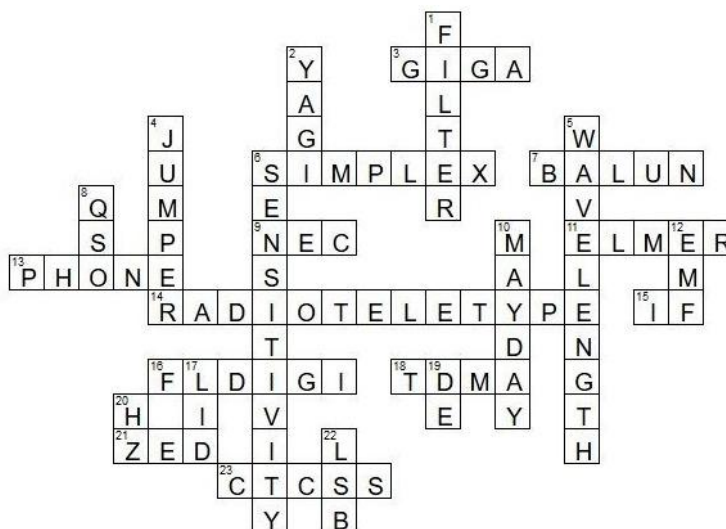
We need operators to be on the air. To make this easy for everyone, you can operate from your home station using the club callsign. For this event, we'll be operating 80, 40 and 20 meters phone.

Techs may team up with general/advanced/extra class club members if they want to operate for this event. We hope to add 10, 6, or 2 meters for events during the summer/fall when band openings are more likely.

If you're interested in operating for the event, please contact Mark, K8MSH, mh@zoominternet.net or Nancy, KD8QNY kd8qny@zoominternet.net to schedule times during the event weekend.

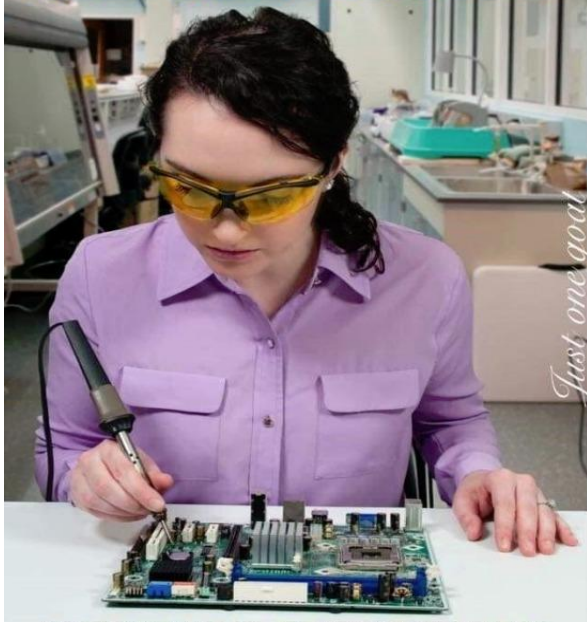
More detailed information including operating procedures, frequencies, and contact info for QSLs and certificates is located on page 5. We need your participation to make these special events stations a success!

Crossword answers:



License refresher answers: E3C01 (B), E3C02 (A), G4A01 (B), G4A02 (C)

HOW TO TELL WHEN THEY GET A MODEL FOR THE PHOTO INSTEAD OF A WORKER.



Current Activities

February 14: Club meeting, 7pm. Secrets of the PL-259 (see pg. 17)

February 16-18: W8QLY HF special event #1

Contact Us:

Email: mvara.W8QLY@gmail.com

Snail-mail: MVARA, P.O. Box 1414, Poland, OH 44514

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

Hamfest Calendar



02/17/2019 Mansfield Mid Winter Hamfest. **Location:** Richland County Fairgrounds, 750 North Home Road, Mansfield, OH 44901. **Website:** <http://W8WE.ORG> **Sponsor:** Intercity Amateur Radio Club **Talk-In:** 146.94 (PL 71.9) **Public Contact:** Danny Bailey , W8DLB, 70 Euclid Street Shiloh, OH 44878 Phone: 419-896-2165. **Email:** W8DLB113@gmail.com

04/13/2019 - 65th Annual Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club Hamfest - **Location:** Emidio & Son's Party Center - 48 East Bath Road - Cuyahoga Falls , OH 44221 - **Website:** <http://cfarc.org> - **Sponsor:** The Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club, Inc. - **Public Contact:** Pat Morrow, N8OQP - 627 Brewer Avenue Akron, OH 44305 - Phone: 234-206-0270 - **Email:** retired_guru@neo.rr.com

06/01/2019 - BreezeShooters Amateur Radio Club - **Location:** Big Butler Fairgrounds - 1127 New Castle Road - Prospect, PA 16052 - **Website:** <http://www.breezeshooters.org> - **Contact:** Cathy Heiles, KB3OYS - 134 Easley Road Pittsburgh, PA 15237 - Phone: 412-600-3846 - **Email:** kb3oys@breezeshooters.org

Events

BreezeShooters Ten Meter Ground Wave Contest

CW Contest.....: Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019 8:00 PM EST until 12:00 Midnight

Voice (AM,SSB,FM) Contest.....: Saturday, March 2, “ “

Digital (FT8, PSK, JY65, RTTY) Contest: Saturday, March 16, “ “

More info at: <https://wpa-arrrl.org/2017/breezeshooters-10-meter-groundwave-contest/>

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

W8QLY HF Special Event #1

It's year 100, and time to let the ham community know about our centennial celebration. Here's the information you need to know if you want to participate as an operator.

Time:

Feb 16-Feb 18, 2300Z-2300Z (6pm local time)

Operating Frequencies: 14.220, 7.220, 3.920

These are the phone frequencies we'll be using +/- 10KHz. You may need to move up or down to avoid interfering with other stations, but stay as close as possible to these frequencies. We'd prefer to have one station per band if possible. A sample script is listed below (feel free to adapt to your needs):

CQ call: *CQ, CQ, CQ this is W8QLY Centennial special event station. Whiskey Eight Queen Lima Yankee calling CQ special event.*

Response to call: *This is W8QLY celebrating our 100th anniversary as a radio club. Operator here is (your name) Your signal report is 59 (or appropriate report). If you'd like a QSL, look up our page on QRZ for details. 73 and thanks for the contact.*

QSL/Certificate Information

ALWAYS refer stations to our QRZ information page—ask them to do a callsign search for W8QLY rather than giving Internet or snail mail address over the air. There will be a link to a Google form on the page that will gather all the necessary information.

For your information, the link is: <https://www.qrz.com/db/w8qly>

Logging (a printable PDF log file is attached to newsletter)

We want to keep things as simple as possible. Please log the call, time/date and band (80m, 40m, 20m) for each contact. Keep a paper log (please write neatly). At the end of your time on the air, please tally the total number of contacts and on what band(s) they were made. Example: 42 on 80m, 34 on 20m. Turn in your logs and totals at the March meeting or mail to the club address: MVARA, P.O. Box 1414, Poland, OH 44514

Questions About the Event

If your contacts have questions about the event—ones you can't answer--refer them to our QRZ page. Here, they'll find some general information and a link to our email if they want to contact us.

Our Mission

Our mission during our four special events stations is to make as many contacts as possible on the air during our event and spread the word about our club and its 100th anniversary. Be positive and use your

Make Ham Radio a Habit

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Every week, I get an email newsletter from Penguin Random House called Signature. Signature includes links to articles about books and writing. Being a writer, I clicked on the link to "5 Good Writing Habits You Need to Learn Now." As I was reading the article, it occurred to me that the advice could also apply to amateur radio.



So, with apologies to the author, Lorraine Berry, here are five things you can do to make ham radio a habit:

1. To get on the air more, or to do more building, set up a time to do it. If you enjoy getting on the air or homebrewing, but never seem to be able to find the time to do it, you need to put it on your schedule. Set aside the time a couple of days, or a week, or even a month in advance, and you'll be more likely to do it. If you set up a regular time every week, pretty soon it will be a habit.
2. If ham radio is important to you, create an environment that encourages you to do ham radio. To make ham radio a habit, you really need a place that's set up to do ham radio. If you have to dig out and set up your equipment every time that you want to get on the air, you're just not going to do it. You need a "shack" that makes it easier for you to engage in the hobby. Richards, K8JHR, gave me some great advice back in 2012 on where and how to set up a shack (<https://www.kb6nu.com/building-a-new-shack/>).
3. Create temptations that reward you for your new habit of ham radio. For me, being able to make interesting contacts, or building some new gizmo, is reward enough, but you may want to reward yourself with a beer or some ice cream after an operating session.
4. Make it easy to do what you like to do. This is related to #4. Your shack should have everything you need to easily do whatever ham radio activities you enjoy doing. If you enjoy operating, then it should have a nice operating desk. If you enjoy building, then set it up so that all of your tools are readily accessible. The easier it is to do, the more likely it is that you'll do it. If you enjoy operating portable, then build up a kit that has all the stuff you need, and have it ready to go when you're ready to go.
5. Start with the Two-Minute Rule for new habits and continue from there. The "two minute rule" (<https://www.lifehack.org/articles/productivity/how-stop-procrastinating-and-stick-good-habits-using-the-2-minute-rule.html>) is a tool to help you overcome procrastination. The idea is to allot just two minutes to a task that you'd like to complete or a skill that you'd like to develop. It's a small commitment, but enough to get you started, and the idea is that once you're started on a particular task or project, continuing work on that task or project becomes a lot easier. Those two minutes could easily become a half hour or an hour once you've gotten the ball rolling.

Armed with this advice, I'm expecting you to be a more active ham in 2019. I'll be listening for you on 40m.

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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 one of the hosts of the No Nonsense Amateur Radio Podcast (NoNonsenseAmateurRadio.Com). His wife sometimes thinks that amateur radio has become too much of a habit for him.

LACK OF CASH NO PROBLEM FOR DXER



SIERRA BAY, WASHINGTON – A Lafayette Parrish amateur radio operator has a unique solution for his love of DX, but his lack of cash.

“I always wanted to travel the world setting up DXpeditions from rare and desirable locations. So this is the next best thing!” exclaims retired landscaper Arthur Gibbons.

Gibbons says his meager savings won’t allow global travel, so instead he’s devised an economical plan. “Each week,” says the avid DX-er, “I travel to a different ethnic restaurant and set up my portable QRP rig in the parking lot. My homemade HF antenna on top of the push-up pole sure radiates on all that asphalt!”

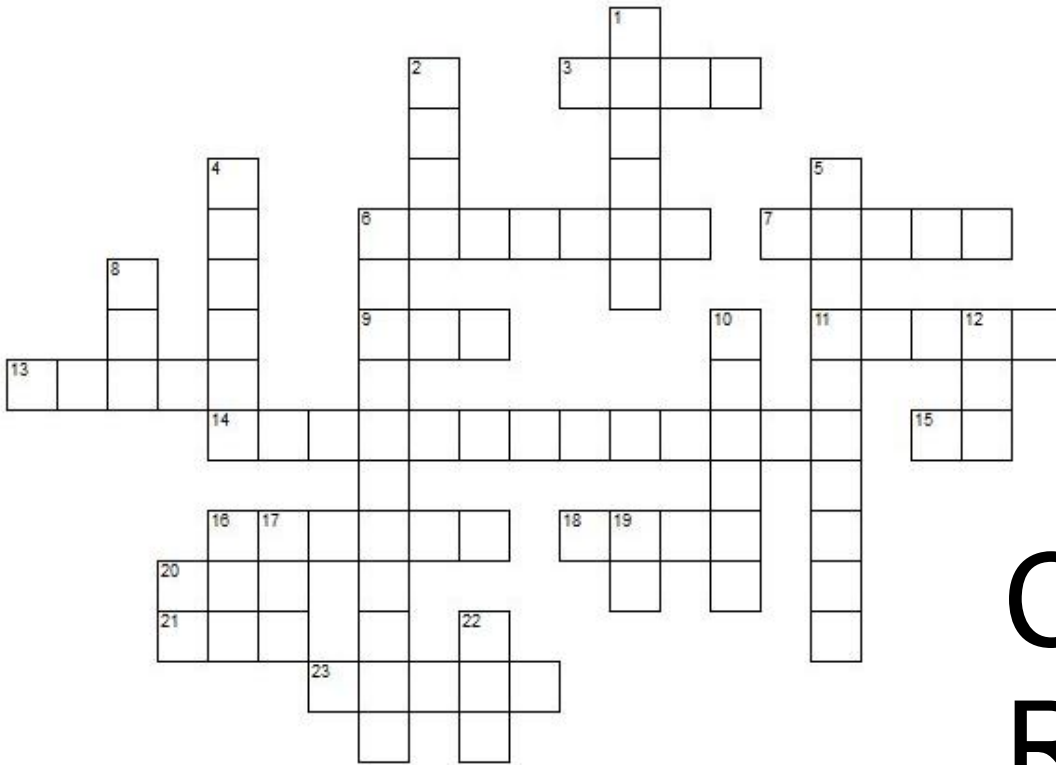
So far this month, Gibbons has operated from the “Isle of Sardinia” Italian restaurant, the “Taste of Baghdad” middle eastern restaurant and the “Nairobi Diner” east African eatery.

Look for Gibbons on 20 meter CW next week at “Roberto’s Taqueria (Wednesday) and “Our Wurst is Best” German restaurant (Friday).

By [WBØRUR](#), on the scene

HamHijinks.com

H A M



C R O S S W O R D

ACROSS

- 3 1,000,000,000
- 6 Receiving and transmitting on the same frequency
- 7 Balanced to Unbalanced
- 9 A set of guidelines governing electrical safety, including antennas.
- 11 Mentor To new Ham
- 13 Another name for voice communications
- 14 Radio signals sent from one teleprinter machine to another machine
- 15 The output frequency of a mixing stage in a Superheterodyne receiver
- 16 Fast Light Digital Modem Application
- 18 Time Domain Multi Access
- 21 A slang phonetic for Z instead of Zulu
- 23 Sub-Audible Tone System AKA PL

DOWN

- 1 Circuit Allows Some Signals to Pass Through and Reduces Others
- 2 The most popular type of amateur directional (beam) antenna
- 4 A small piece of wire used to connect two parts of a circuit
- 5 The distance a radio wave travels in one RF cycle
- 6 The ability of a receiver to detect weak signals
- 8 A conversation between two radio amateurs
- 10 From the French m'aidez
- 12 The voltage or pressure that causes electrons to move through an electrical circuit
- 17 Annoying Operator
- 19 From or this is
- 20 The Unit of Frequency
- 22 Use it on the 40M band and below

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>.

February 2019	
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Feb 1
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 1
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 1
+ Vermont QSO Party	0000Z, Feb 2 to 2400Z, Feb 3
+ 10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	0001Z, Feb 2 to 2359Z, Feb 3
+ Black Sea Cup International	1200Z, Feb 2 to 1159Z, Feb 3
+ F9AA Cup, CW	1200Z, Feb 2 to 1200Z, Feb 3
+ Mexico RTTY International Contest	1200Z, Feb 2 to 2359Z, Feb 3
+ FYBO Winter QRP Sprint	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 2
+ Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 2
+ AGCW Straight Key Party	1600Z-1900Z, Feb 2
+ British Columbia QSO Party	1600Z, Feb 2 to 0400Z, Feb 3 and 1600Z-2400Z, Feb 3
+ FISTS Winter Slow Speed Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Feb 2
+ North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 3
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 4
+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Feb 5
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 6
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 6
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Feb 6 and 1900Z-2000Z, Feb 6 and 0300Z-0400Z, Feb 7
+ UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Feb 6
+ NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1800Z-1900Z, Feb 7 (CW) and 1900Z-2000Z, Feb 7 (SSB) and 2000Z-2100Z, Feb 7 (FM) and 2100Z-2200Z, Feb 7 (Dig)
+ SKCC Sprint Europe	2000Z-2200Z, Feb 7
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Feb 8
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 8
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 8
+ CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	0000Z, Feb 9 to 2359Z, Feb 10
+ SARL Field Day Contest	1000Z, Feb 9 to 1000Z, Feb 10
+ Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint, CW	1100Z-1300Z, Feb 9
+ Dutch PACC Contest	1200Z, Feb 9 to 1200Z, Feb 10
+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Feb 9 to 2400Z, Feb 10
+ KCJ Topband Contest	1200Z, Feb 9 to 1200Z, Feb 10
+ YLRL YL-OM Contest	1400Z, Feb 9 to 0200Z, Feb 11
+ OMISS QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 9 to 1500Z, Feb 10
+ FISTS Winter Unlimited Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Feb 9
+ RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest	1900Z-2300Z, Feb 9
+ Balkan HF Contest	1300Z-1700Z, Feb 10

+ 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Feb 11
+ CQC Winter QSO Party	0100Z-0259Z, Feb 11
+ ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Feb 11 to 2359Z, Feb 15
+ NAQCC CW Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Feb 13
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 13
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 13
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Feb 13 and 1900Z-2000Z, Feb 13 and 0300Z-0400Z, Feb 14
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 13
+ PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint	0000Z-2359Z, Feb 14
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Feb 15
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 15
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 15
+ ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 16 to 2400Z, Feb 17
+ SARL Youth Day Sprint	0800Z-1000Z, Feb 16
+ Russian PSK WW Contest	1200Z, Feb 16 to 1159Z, Feb 17
+ Feld Hell Sprint	1900Z-2059Z, Feb 17
+ AWA Amplitude Modulation QSO Party	2300Z, Feb 16 to 2300Z, Feb 17
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Feb 18
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 20
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 20
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Feb 20 and 1900Z-2000Z, Feb 20 and 0300Z-0400Z, Feb 21
+ AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening	1900Z-2030Z, Feb 21
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Feb 22
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 22
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 22
+ CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	2200Z, Feb 22 to 2200Z, Feb 24
+ REF Contest, SSB	0600Z, Feb 23 to 1800Z, Feb 24
+ UBA DX Contest, CW	1300Z, Feb 23 to 1300Z, Feb 24
+ South Carolina QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 23 to 0159Z, Feb 24
+ NA Collegiate Championship, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 23 to 0559Z, Feb 24
+ North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 23 to 0559Z, Feb 24
+ High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z-1100Z, Feb 24 and 1500Z-1700Z, Feb 24
+ SARL Digital Contest	1400Z-1700Z, Feb 24
+ Classic Exchange, Phone	1400Z, Feb 24 to 0800Z, Feb 25 and 1400Z, Feb 26 to 0800Z, Feb 27
+ North Carolina QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 24 to 0059Z, Feb 25
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Feb 27
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Feb 27
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 27
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Feb 27 and 1900Z-2000Z, Feb 27 and 0300Z-0400Z, Feb 28
+ UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Feb 27
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 28

DX Operating Information

Dave Fairbanks N8NB

The Bouvet Dxpediton is still in the preparation process. You can follow at:

<https://www.rebeldxgroup.com/>.

Credit for the below information and further information on these operations and others can be found at the following website:

<http://www.ng3k.com>

February						
2019 Feb02	2019 Feb13	Costa Rica	TI5	LotW	AA1M 20181208	By AA1M as TI5/AA1M and W1USN as TI5/W1USN; HF; CW SSB, some digital, perhaps FM satellite; QSL also OK via AA1M, W1USN respectively (Buro or direct)
2019 Feb04	2019 Feb10	Bonaire	PJ4	LotW	TDDX 20181228	By WW4LL NN9DD as PJ4/WW4LL and PJ4/NN9DD, respectively; QRV for CQWW WPX RTTY using PJ4Z; QSL also OK via K4BAI, but LotW preferred
2019 Feb04	2019 Feb18	Vietnam	XV9	LotW	TDDX 20181224	By SP2FUD as XV9FUD and SP2GCJ as XV9ZT; CW SSB + digital; 500w; yagi; QSL also OK via SP2GCJ (Buro or direct)
2019 Feb07	2019 Feb18	Brunei	V84SAA	TBA	TDDX 20181221	By K1LZ JT1CO K1ZM KK1ZM PY5EG VK3FY LZ1NK KO8SCA S55M RN5M 9M6KOM RW9USA LZ2HM fm Istana Pantai, Tutong District; focus on low bands; verticals on 160 80m, 4-square on 40m; beachfront location
2019 Feb11	2019 Feb25	St Kitts & Nevis	V47KA	LotW	K1KA 20181115	By K1KA; @V47JA; 160-10m, perhaps 6m; focus on FT8 (not Fox-Hound); vertical; QSL also OK via K1KA direct
2019 Feb11	2019 Feb26	Macao	XX9D	LotW	TDDX 20180829	By XX9LT + 14 op DL/OZ team; 160-6m; CW SSB FT8 RTTY; focus on 160-40m for NA; QSL also OK via DL4SVA (DARC Buro or direct), see Web for full details
2019 Feb12	2019 Feb26	Jamaica	6Y	eQSL	DXW.Net 20190112	By G0RNU as 6Y/G0RNU; @6Y5NZ; HF; spare time operation
2019 Feb15	2019 Feb17	Ogasawara	JD1BLY	J15RPT	J15RPT 20190106	By J15RPT fm Chichijima I (IOTA AS-031); 630-6m; CW SSB + digital (630m will be JT9); QSL OK via JARL Buro or direct, also eQSL; Twitter updates
2019 Feb15	2019 Feb18	Monaco	3A	LotW	TDDX 20190109	By EA4NF as 3A/EA4NF; 20m; 5w; end-fed dipole; also satellite

2019 Feb15	2019 Feb22	El Salvador	YS2	KC0W Direct	KC0W 20181018	By KC0W as YS2/KC0W; 80-6m; CW; 1kw; phased verticals; focus on EU/JA
2019 Feb15	2019 Feb25	Burundi	9U4RI	M0KRI Direct	DXNews 20181130	By M0KRI (Gustave Dxpedition - Burundi); 40 30 20 17 15 10m; CW SSB PSK31; see link for QSL address
ARRL International DX Contest, CW (Feb 16-17, 2019) Check here for pericontest activity too.						
2019 Feb16	2019 Feb23	Gambia	C5DX	LotW	G4DJX 20190104	By G4DJX; 40-10m; CW; 100w; OCF dipole; spare time operation during school trip
2019 Feb16	2019 Mar05	Central Kiribati	T31EU	LotW	PA3EWP 20181016	By DL2AWG DL6JGN DJ9RR DM2AUJ DK5WL PA3EWP fm Canton I; 160-10m; CW SSB RTTY, some FT8; QSL also OK via DL2AWG (DARC Buro or direct) or Club Log
2019 Feb16	2019 Mar18	Vietnam	XV9YM <small>NEW</small>	LotW	DXNews 20190116	By DL3YM fm Ho Chi Minh City; 40-10m; CW; QSL also OK via DARC Buro and eQSL
2019 Feb19	2019 Mar06	Vietnam	3W9JF	EA5GL Direct	DXW.Net 20190111	By F6CTF fm Phu Quoc I (IOTA AS-128); mainly 80 40 20 17m; QSL also OK via eQSL
2019 Feb20	2019 Mar30	Senegal	6W7	ON4AVT	TDDX 20181220	By ON4AVT as 6W7/ON4AVT fm Warang; 40 20 10m; PSK CW SSB; 100w; holiday style operation
2019 Feb22	2019 Feb24	Puerto Rico	KP3RE	LotW	KP4RV 20181114	By KP4RV KP4VP KP3LR KP4RD fm Culebra I (IOTA NA-249); 80-10m; CW SSB FT8; 100w; delta loops, verticals; QSL also OK via Club Log
2019 Feb22	2019 Mar07	Chad	TT8RR	TBA	DXNews 20181115	By I1HJT I1FQH IW1ARB I2YSB IK2CIO IK2CKR IK2DIA IK2HKT JA3USA; CW SSB RTTY; TT8XX on FT8
2019 Feb22	2019 Mar10	Guadeloupe	FG	F6HMQ	TDDX 20190109	By F6HMQ as FG/F6HMQ and F6GWV as FG/F6GWV fm IOTA NA-102; holiday style operation; QRV for ARRL DX SSB
2019 Feb27	2019 Mar06	Galapagos	HD8M	LotW	DXNews 20180921	By WB2REM W2WCM HC5DX fm Santa Cruz I (IOTA SA-004); 160-6m; CW SSB + digital; QSL also OK via WB2REM and Club Log



Short on Space? Try a Long Wire

Frank Sole, WB8YHD

Like many in our Club I don't have the resources to put up a mega antenna farm. My station has two antennas. On two meters and 440 I've got one vertical antenna that covers both bands for local FM communications. Not great, but with my decent height above average terrain I do OK on local and surrounding repeaters as well as simplex operations.

My HF operation up until just recently also used just one antenna, a GAP Challenger. Being the financially efficient (cheap) ham I am, the Challenger was purchased second hand and lightly reconditioned before being put into service about 8 years ago. The Challenger is a half wave vertical that covers 80 through 10 meters and it's done some great service for me. I worked all states with it during the ARRL Centennial Sweepstakes year and that was fun. I've worked some modest DX and can hear most of what others hear. For my 100 watt station I can't complain.

I've felt that just one HF antenna was limiting my abilities so the search for an additional antenna has been in my thoughts over the last few months. I don't have 50 acres or 200 foot towers but my tree filled backyard that's about 100 X 100 foot does give me a few possibilities.

With the weather closing the past few weeks I was trying to come up with something quick and easy and remembered the first antenna my brother and I put up at my parents place when we were teenagers. We ran a single wire (actually we soldered a few wires together to make the length) about 120 feet from the peak of the house roof to a Choke Cherry tree in the back yard. It may have been about 20 feet off the ground at best. We built a tuner from a stock piece of coil and a variable capacitor roughly following a circuit we found in the ARRL Handbook.

It worked ! We heard all kinds of stations and worked many of them. That homebrew tuner was challenging to tune as I yelled from the attic where the tuner lived to my brother in the bedroom (got a few RF burns) to coordinate tuning. It was fun.

At my current QTH, the back yard is bordered on three sides by a 6 foot high board on board fence. That fence design has a space between the boards above the upper stringer of the fence. Could I put a "long wire" in that space? It really turned out to be very easy. Got a roll of insulated antenna wire and just unrolled and laid the wire in the space for the entire length of the wooden fence. The length ended up being about 300 feet of wire a grand total of 6 feet off the ground.

It worked ! So far with a 100 watt manual tuner, the wire out performs the GAP by two to five S units on many signals. Sometimes the GAP was better, other times the wire. That's typical as it depends a lot on the signal, propagation, etc. but now I have two antennas to work with. I've got some more experimenting to do with it and plan to put an auto tuner into service to save some "tune up time."

The point here is that we don't need acres to work this radio magic--just a wire. Used, 100 watt manual tuners are very inexpensive today and building one is even cheaper. Install a length of wire even a few feet off the ground and you're in business. Got to love the simplicity of this radio stuff.



Above: Fence antenna neatly hidden; Gap Challenger on left. Close-up of antenna wire placement.

Amateur Radio Applications Piling Up as Partial Government Shutdown Continues

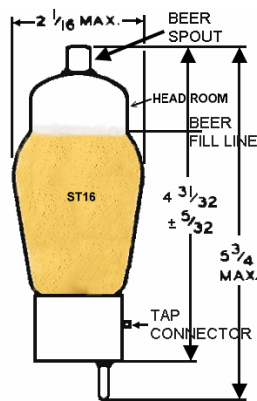
Volunteer Examiner Coordinators across the US are continuing to receive paperwork from Amateur Radio exam sessions held during the partial government shutdown. While it's still possible to access the Universal Licensing System (ULS) and file applications, the FCC is not processing individual, club, and exam session — new and upgrade — Amateur Radio applications. The FCC closed most operations on January 3, when available funding ran out. “Nothing’s moving until the FCC reopens,” said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. “ARRL VEC continues to enter exam session, individual, and club license data into the system while we wait for the FCC to reopen and normal agency operations to resume. We have approximately 1,600 applications and 125 exam sessions waiting in the queue to be processed. Everything’s in there ready to go.”

Somma stressed that, although license upgrade applications are still on hold, current FCC Amateur Radio licensees who have successfully upgraded and hold a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) may operate temporarily using the privileges of their new license class, until their new licenses are granted.

Even though it's not possible for the FCC to grant a new license, a license upgrade, a change of address or other modification, or a vanity call sign application, the Commission Registration System (CORES) remains functional to allow critical radio services to obtain FRNs and file applications during the shutdown. Registering a user name and logging into CORES is required to apply for and receive an FCC Registration Number (FRN). An FRN is a unique 10-digit identifier necessary to conduct business with the FCC and to manage existing FRNs. The FCC said that starting in March, users who already have an FRN from the legacy Commission Registration System will need to create a user name to continue managing their FRNs.

If an Amateur Radio license recently has expired or is about to expire, the licensee can apply for license renewal via the ULS and continue to operate while the FCC is closed. The filed application will remain in limbo until the FCC is back to work. Licensee who wait until the FCC reopens to apply then will have 2 days to submit a renewal application before the license is considered to have expired in the FCC

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.

Extra Pool

E3C01

What does the term ray tracing describe in regard to radio communications?

- A. The process in which an electronic display presents a pattern
- B. Modeling a radio wave's path through the ionosphere
- C. Determining the radiation pattern from an array of antennas
- D. Evaluating high voltage sources for X-Rays

E3C02

What is indicated by a rising A or K index?

- A. Increasing disruption of the geomagnetic field
- B. Decreasing disruption of the geomagnetic field
- C. Higher levels of solar UV radiation
- D. An increase in the critical frequency

General Pool

G4A01

What is the purpose of the "notch filter" found on many HF transceivers?

- A. To restrict the transmitter voice bandwidth
- B. To reduce interference from carriers in the receiver passband
- C. To eliminate receiver interference from impulse noise sources
- D. To enhance the reception of a specific frequency on a crowded band

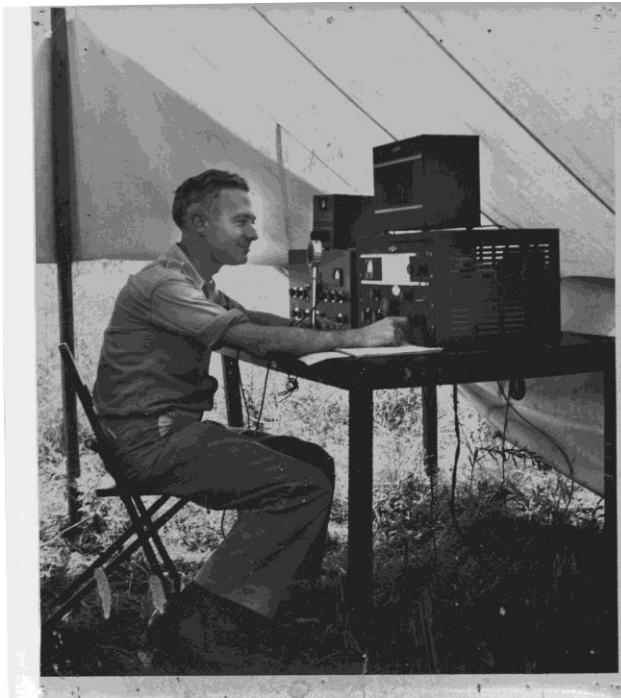
G4A02

What is one advantage of selecting the opposite or "reverse" sideband when receiving CW signals on a typical HF transceiver?

- A. Interference from impulse noise will be eliminated
- B. More stations can be accommodated within a given signal passband
- C. It may be possible to reduce or eliminate interference from other signals
- D. Accidental out of band operation can be prevented

MVARA - celebrating 100 years of amateur radio

Moments in History....
1953 Field Day



W8CQL Bob Beatty



Left to right: W8PS Marty Cornell, W8EJP Carl Schuller, W8PWH Angelo Ronci and W8CQL Bob Beatty



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





2 meter test at Gault Road Field Day Site.
W8EJP Carl Schuller, Gene Hall on extreme
right.



W8PS Marty Cornel - operating CW Tent 1953
FD at Jerome's Farm Route 304, West
Middlesex, PA June 20-21, 1953



SEEK TO CHECK INTERFERENCE

Amateurs Take Steps to Meet Situation Arising from Local Phone Stations

Steps toward elimination of interference by amateur radiophone stations here were taken by the Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Club after a protracted discussion at its regular meeting last night, held in the clubhouse near McKinley Heights.

The secretary was instructed to ask the American Radio Relay League, the national organization of amateurs, whether such a situation had arisen elsewhere, and if so what steps had been taken to meet it. The A. R. R. L. has been taking a very active interest in the question of amateur interference.

Meanwhile club members will put into operation a phone station using a technical device known as a master oscillator which it is believed will eliminate or greatly limit interference from the station. The statement was made that such a station can be operated on 80 meters without interference; club members will attempt to demonstrate this statement, and if the desired result is attained, it is expected that all amateur phone stations in Youngstown will adopt the same equipment.

The first test of the master oscillator station is to be made Wednesday night on the South Side.

A phone station is a transmitter sending out voice or music, as against the more usual type of amateur station, which sends out only telegraphic dots and dashes.

Members Differ

The meeting was the second to be devoted almost entirely to the question of amateur interference. It developed differences of opinion, with some members urging that the amateurs cannot afford to imperil the goodwill they have obtained among broadcast listeners through their work in clearing up electrical interference.

Other members pointed out that the amateur is specifically granted the legal right to operate a transmitting station, and that he is entitled to exercise that right, particularly since he may not transmit from eight to 10:30 p. m.

It was pointed out that the operator of a North Side phone station has gone even farther, staying off the air between six and 11 p. m., and offering to sign off if any broadcast listener notifies him of interference with a particular program which the listener wants to hear. This station, by the way, is being operated on a wavelength of 86 meters.

The operator himself said that the type of radio set used by the listener had a great deal to do with the amount of interference. He said many of the complainants were using receivers of an obsolete type, such as single-circuit regenerative sets.

Offer Defense

Many of the members expressed the wish that broadcast listeners be informed of the amateur's legal status, which is the same as that of a commercial broadcasting station except that hours of broadcasting are restricted. The amateur must pass an examination and obtain a license, just as the operator of a commercial station must pass tests and get a license.

They said that many amateurs have more than \$1,000 invested in equipment, and expressed the belief that broadcast listeners might be more willing to allow the amateurs a few hours on the air late at night if they understood better the contributions made by the amateurs to the progress of radio.

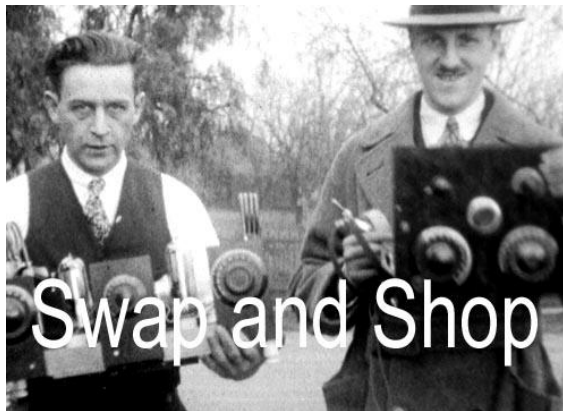
You did what to your PL-259?



If you gather 100 Amateurs together and ask how to install a PL-259, you will get 100 different versions. Do you put solder in the holes to the braid? Is soldered better than crimped? If installing on RG-8X is it better to uses an adaptor or buy PL-259's machined specifically for that cable? Teflon or Phenolic insulator? Silver or Nickel plated? Have you seen K3LR's method of soldering the braid?

If you have installed 1000's of 259's or never installed one, be sure to make the next MVARA meeting where we will explore everything you could possibly know about the 259 including video of K3LR teaching connector installation and live demonstrations. Dave N8NB will have the DX Engineering connector system on display, will demo their new style 259, and Jim WB8UJS, will lead us down the path to 259 perfection. Hope to see you there.





Swap and Shop

Estate Items—Contact Frank, WB8YHD,
youngshotdog@yahoo.com

20a 12v Homebrew supply	\$10
5 gal plastic gas can & spout	\$5
ARRL Ham Manual 1975	\$2
Bird Model 43 Watt meter no slug	\$150
B&K Precision PS-500 Prescaler	\$5
Devry Institute VTVM	\$5
Eico Mod 1064S variable bench supply	\$10
Fluke Mod 8030A Digital Multi Meter	\$10
Heathkit capacitor checker IT-11	\$75
Heathkit FET checker IT-121	\$20
Heathkit HW-2036 2mtr & pwr supply	\$20
Heathkit IM 5228 VTVM	\$5
Kenwood TM-241 mobile 2 meter xcvr	\$40
Realistic Pro-2005 400 chan scanner rcvr	\$40
Icom 02AT with batteries, mic, ant	\$20
Icom 02AT with batteries, mic, ant	\$20
Icom 2AT with batteries, ant	\$10
Icom 2AT with batteries, ant	\$10
Icom 4AT with batteries	\$10
Icom IC-756 Pro II service manual	\$10
Micronta VOM	\$5
Olson SWR & Power meter	\$5
Realistic HTX 202 2 meter HT	\$20
Timex Sinclair 1000 computer	\$15
WinRadio WR-G31DDC Excalibur SDR rcvr	\$500
Hewlett Packard 5381A freq counter	\$40
Daiwa CN-101L swr/pwr meter 1.8-150 mhz	\$45
Ten Tec Argonaut II	\$400
Kent Single Paddle CW key	\$100

65 Great Things About Ham Radio

25. How many of your non-ham friends have actually talked to someone in some remote place such as Cape Verde or the Seychelles?
 26. How many of your non-ham friends might have talked to an astronaut aboard the space station?
 27. How many of your non-ham neighbors might have a satellite uplink station in their basements—or in the palms of their hands?
 28. How many of your non-ham neighbors might have a TV studio in their garage?
 29. What other hobby group has designed, built, and had launched its own fleet of communication satellites?
 30. Where else can you play with meteors?
 31. Moonbounce
 32. Informal way to improve technical skills
 33. Informal way to improve communication skills
 34. Introduces a variety of career paths
 35. Offers unparalleled opportunities for career networking
 36. Opportunities for competition in contesting and foxhunting
 37. A good way to collect really cool postcards from around the world (despite the growth of electronic confirmations)
 38. Nearly endless variety of different things to do, on and off the air
 39. Hamfests
 40. Dayton
- (more to come)

ARES Net Notes



2019 has brought some changes and additions to ARES nets in Ohio and across the country.

- OHDEN. The Ohio Digital Emergency Network is a digital net that normally meets on Tuesday at 7:45pm. Band conditions have been poor and they have moved the net to Sunday at 3:00pm. They also announced the addition of a 160M net at the regular Tuesday time. Details are below:

Due to the continued long skip being experienced on 80 meters during the Ohio Digital Emergency Net(OHDEN) training sessions @2145 local time each Tuesday; OHDEN will temporarily go to Sunday afternoons at 3:00 - 4:00PM. Training will remain on the prime frequency of 3584.5KHz USB +1500Hz. Tests show that this time has much better propagation throughout the state and should allow the best propagation currently possible on 80-meter band.

At the same time, Eldon, W5UHQ is going to start an experimental Olivia /FT8 net on 1805.000 USB +1500 Hz during the normal time slot of 2145 – 2245 on Tuesdays. The objective of the 160-meter net will be to perform signal reports and check for traffic quality circuits on 160 meters from county to county and hopefully county to SEOC. Hopefully we can get more stations active on this frequency and as many county control stations as possible to try out their capability. Tests thus far have been great from border to border. These changes will be in effect from Jan 15 until March 12 (start of daylight savings time). These changes should allow all members interested in improving the 160-meter readiness of this critical statewide connection under all conditions of solar impacted propagation.

- Also announced for 2019 is a continuing net by FEMA aimed at testing/improving interoperability. The details were contained in a bulletin from ARRL:

ARLX001 Third Wednesday Monthly Communications Exercises Set

FEMA Region 10 will conduct monthly communications exercises (COMMEX) on the third Wednesday of each month, starting on January 16, 1730 - 1900 UTC. Amateur Radio operators are invited to take part. The intent of these exercises is to test and exercise interoperable communication (federal/state/local/tribal/Amateur Radio) during a major disaster in which the communication infrastructure is significantly damaged or destroyed.

FEMA Region 10 will use the call sign WGY910. Other stations associated with agencies and organizations that provide response support in accordance with the National Response Framework are encouraged to participate.

The COMMEX will use these "dial" or "window" frequencies on 60 meters - including 5,330.5 kHz, 5,346.5 kHz, 5,357.0 kHz, 5,371.5 kHz, and 5,403.5 kHz - as part of the exercise. The area of operation is the continental US.

Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Survey

Name	Call Sign
What license do you have?	Tech <input type="checkbox"/> General <input type="checkbox"/> Extra <input type="checkbox"/>
How old were you when you received your first license?	
10-20 <input type="checkbox"/> 20-30 <input type="checkbox"/> 30-40 <input type="checkbox"/> 40-50 <input type="checkbox"/> 50-60 <input type="checkbox"/>	
60-70 <input type="checkbox"/> 70-80 <input type="checkbox"/>	
What year(s) did you get your license?	
When does your ARRL member expire?	
Why did you get your license?	
Did someone mentor you? Who?	
Do you listen or participate in local nets? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Are you involved in ARES -Amateur Radio Emergency Services?	
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you take your radios with you on vacation?	
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

Thank you – please email your responses to mvara.w8qly@gmail.com
or mail to MVARA - P.O. Box 14141, Poland, Ohio 44514

Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association - 2019 Membership

Date: _____

Name: _____ Call: _____

Spouse: _____ Call: _____

Mailing Address _____ City: ___ State: ___ Zip: ___

Home Phone # _____ Cell # _____

Email: _____
 (The MVARA Voice Coil, the club newsletter, will be emailed to this address)

ARRL member? *Yes* *No*

Do you want the following to be included in the membership list available to all members?

Name and Call *Yes* *No*

Address *Yes* *No*

Phone *Yes* *No*

Email Address *Yes* *No*

Membership

Renewal *New Member* Single membership \$20.00 \$ _____

Renewal *New Member* Additional family members, \$10.00 each \$ _____


W8OLY Repeater Support

\$12.00 Basic Support Donation \$ _____

\$50.00 Gold Level Support Donation \$ _____

\$ _____ Other Support Donation \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

 **Make checks payable to: Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association.**
Please bring this form and your payment to the next meeting or mail to:
MVARA, P.O. Box 14141, 125 West McKinley Way, Youngstown, Ohio 44514

THE LAST WORD

Being a part of the MVARA is about fellowship. We are all part of the Club. What does that really mean? Of course there are events like Field Day, public service operations, great programs at meetings and more, but what is it that brings us together? Our enjoyment of this thing called Ham Radio of course, but we could enjoy that by ourselves in our shacks. Coming together with others is an important part of being “in the Club”.

Coming together with others is fun, we learn new things and we have an experience we couldn't have just sitting in our shacks and being on the radio. Being together is important. How we treat each other when we come together is just as important. It's really very simple, in a great Club like the MVARA we grow and get better when we apply the Golden Rule, treat others as we would like to be treated. We learned that at a very young age. We could call it the MVARA Rule--treating other members as we would like to be treated. One on one, day in day out, that's what makes our Club great.



Follow/Like us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/mahvalradio>

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.

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