



March 2020  
Our 101<sup>th</sup> Year  
Volume 58, Issue 3

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*Website:*

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

**The Voice Coil**  
**Newsletter of the**  
**Mahoning Valley Amateur**  
**Radio Association**  
*Established 1919*

# The Voice Coil

## Prez Sez

This month's article was going to be on the Orlando Hamvention and hamfests in general--and how my mother should NEVER give me her credit card and say, "Buy whatever you want dear." That's a dangerous thing to do when I'm going to a hamfest. It's not like I can tell her it was only \$100. Right?

Like I told Cindy, I paid for it. Hopefully she doesn't sell all my toys when I'm dead for the prices I told her I paid for them. I did call Mom before I spent the money.

This month's article is going to be on loss to the hobby and what can we do to fix that. We can never fix loss with the passing of a great friend and ham Ray Lashure. He and his dedication to the hobby will be missed.

Ray's wife Marilyn told of one story that Ray was running net control for something and he was in his room for about 8 to 10 hours and all he would let her bring him is coffee. The only breaks he would take were to go to the bathroom.

How do we get more people involved in this wonderful hobby? How do spread our excitement about ham radio to others? We can't go out and bang them on the head with a microphone and make them like ham radio.



The other day I was on my way somewhere and I was listening to a young man talking to Fred, WB8LVP, and a few others. Turns out this young man was 11 years old. Had learned about Ham Radio in school and had earned his license. This young man was not only a ham--he was an extra class. Not only that, but he had talked his parents into getting licensed. Mom was a tech and Dad was a general. They were installing their first radio in the car and were trying it out.

What does it take to generate the same level of excitement in ham radio that this young man has?

--Continued pg. 2

### Next Meeting:

March 12 at 7pm, GOP  
Headquarters, 8381  
Market St., Boardman  
(Adamas Square  
Plaza)

### 2019 Officers

President: Scott Wilton, KE4UHC  
Vice President: Dave Brett,  
KD8NZF  
Secretary: Mike Malarky, W8IWD  
Treasurer: Nancy Brett, KD8QNY  
Trustees: Dean DeMain, W8YSU  
Bryan Bartzi, KF8G  
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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## Prez Sez . . .

Ham Radio got away from me for a long time, a loooooong time. But I'm back, I'm excited again and I know you can be too. Let's get the excitement back together. Let's do everything we can to promote our hobby.

## HAMS NEEDED!!!!

Hams are going to be needed for the Mill Creek Distance Classic Half Marathon on Sunday March 22<sup>ND</sup>. The Local Amateur Radio Community has been asked to assist with communications for the event by the Youngstown Roadrunners Club.

The details are as follows:

Date: Sunday March 22nd, 2020  
Time: 8:15 am on course (race starts @ 8:45 & 9:00am)  
Location: Fellows Riverside Gardens, Davis Center  
(Mill Creek Park)  
Freq: 146.745 / rpt.

For more information please contact:  
Dean DeMain (W8YSU) @ 330-788-4271 OR E-MAIL  
[w8ysu@arrl.net](mailto:w8ysu@arrl.net)



**February Meeting**—John Portune, W6NBC, joins the MVARA meeting via video conferencing. Topic: mobile antenna placement.

**Refresher Answers:** E6B01 (B), E6B02 (D), G2C01 (D), G2C02 (A)

## Current Activities

**Mar. 12** Monthly meeting at 7pm, GOP Headquarters, 8381 Market St., Boardman. Program by Andy, WB8HYO, on doing mobile radio installations.

**March 21** MVARA Lou Malice, WA8PKN, 2 Meter contest. Details pg. 9.

**Contact Us:**

Email: [mvara.W8QLY@gmail.com](mailto:mvara.W8QLY@gmail.com)

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

Meeting ideas/ suggestions? Contact Dave, KD8NZF, [KD8NZF@zoominternet.net](mailto:KD8NZF@zoominternet.net)

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## Hamfest Calendar



**03/14, 15/ 2020 - Toledo Hamfest, ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention - Location:** Owens Community College - 30335 Oregon Road - Perrysburg, OH 43551 - **Website:** <http://www.tmrahamradio.org> - **Contact:** Rob Hall, KV8P - 8751 Oak Valley Road Holland, OH 43528 - **Phone:** 419-345-5759 - **Email:** [kv8p@kv8p.com](mailto:kv8p@kv8p.com)

**04/11/2020 66th Annual Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club Hamfest - Location:** Emidio & Sons Party Center, 48 E. Bath Road, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221 **Website:** <http://www.cfarc.org/hamfest.php>  
**Talk-In:** 147.270+, 444.850+ - (PL 110.9) **Public Contact:** Pat Morrow , N8OQP P.O. Box 614 Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44222, **Phone:** 234-206-0270  
**Email:** [hamfest2020@cfarc.org](mailto:hamfest2020@cfarc.org)

**05/15, 16, 17/ 2020 Dayton Hamvention** Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center, Xenia, OH.  
[info@hamvention.org](mailto:info@hamvention.org). P.O. Box 964, Dayton, OH. **Phone:** (937) 276-6930. **Tickets:** <https://hamvention.org/purchase-tickets/>

**Know of any regional events that should be included in the Voice Coil?** Send the information to: [MVARAVoiceCoil@gmail.com](mailto:MVARAVoiceCoil@gmail.com)

# Who Says Homebrewing is Dead?

by Dan Romanchik, kb6nu

Who says homebrewing is dead? See these two recent reddit posts:

[-A 21st Century Novice Station](#)

[-Radioberry – the pocket sized open source HF Trx based on the Raspberry Pi! Fantastic performance!](#)



The 21st Century Novice Station is a home brew transmitter, keyer and tx-rx switch mated up to an SDRPlay receiver. When I asked about the T/R switch, the OP replied,

*The schematics are all on my blog [robs-blog.net](#), the tx rx switch is actually 2 relays, one cuts the tx line and the 2nd switches tx to rx. I have some LO leaking though and into the receiver, hence the 2nd relay. The setup is not all that practical.*



To which another guy replied,

*Cool setup! At the 5W level you can also use 1N4007 diodes as T/R switches (since they have a 'sort-of' PIN structure) to good effect. A little quieter than the relays.*

I found [an example](#) of T/R switch circuit using 1N4007 diodes on the Ham Electronic Homebrewer blog.

## Radioberry

The Radioberry is a Raspberry Pi hat that can be plugged into a Raspberry pi, forming a Software Defined Radio (SDR). It has the following features:

- Based on the open source Hermes SDR Architecture
- Can run multiple receiver slices (based on firmware)
- approx. 20 mW output
- Supports remote sdr operation via emulator mode
- Cost effective ( ~100usd )



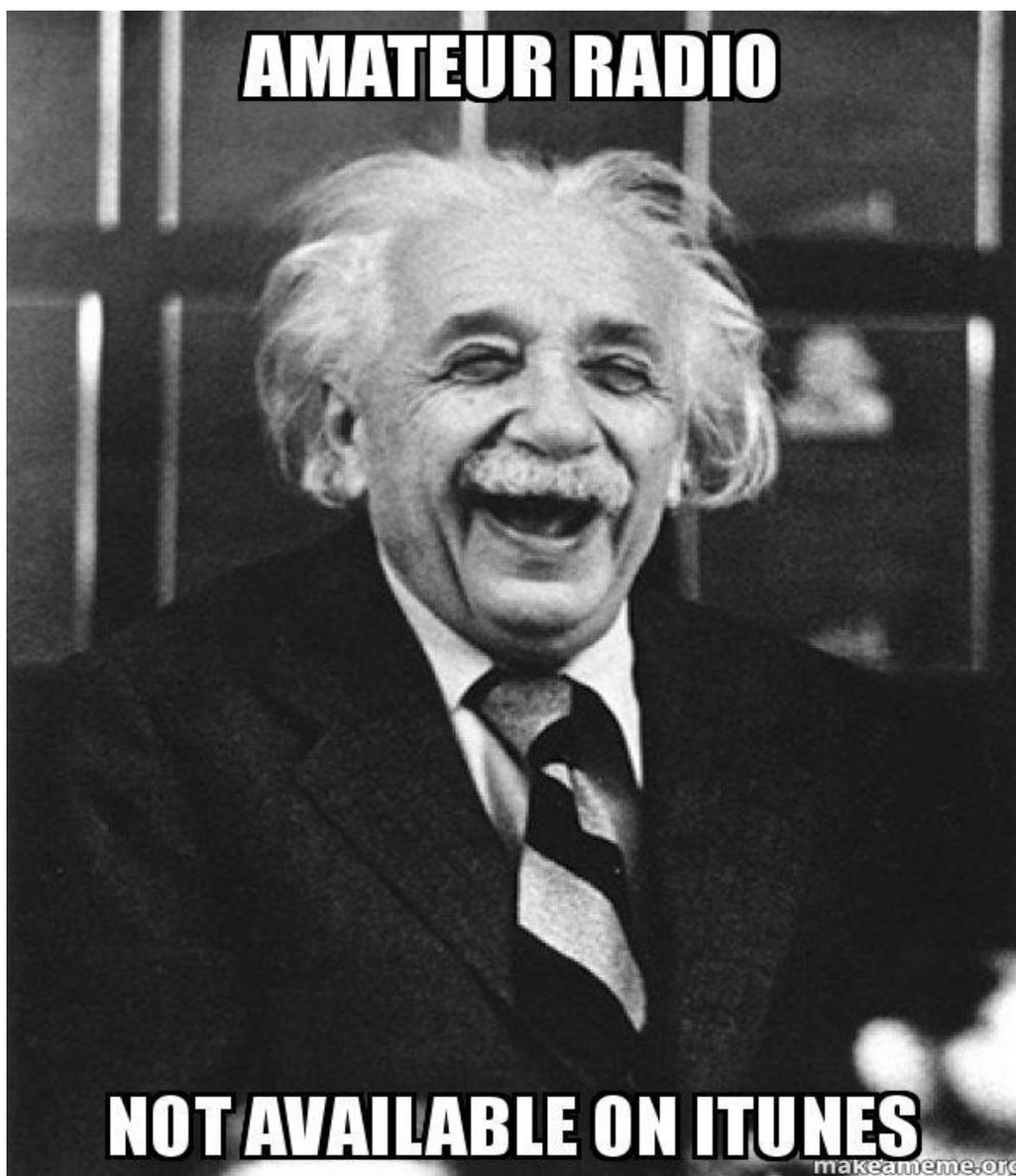
[The project wiki](#) has a few more details:

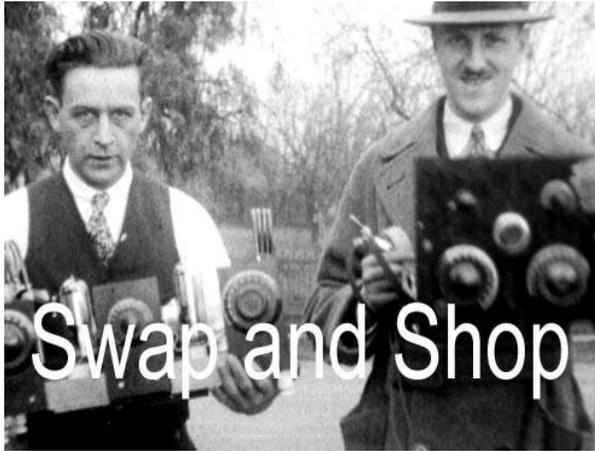
- The Radioberry uses an Analog Devices AD9866 which is a 12-bit broadband modem mixed signal front end that has been repurposed as a direct down conversion (DDC) and direct up conversion (DUC) SDR transceiver covering 0-30 MHz
- The Radioberry uses an Intel Cyclone 10LP FPGA, supporting the 10CL16 and 10CL25. The firmware will be loaded via the raspberry pi.
- Power supply for the radio card is provided by the raspberry pi.

According to the designer, the project will be in continual beta status. [All documentation](#) can be found on github.

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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).*





- 1---ALPHA DELTA: dx-40
- 2---PAR ELECTRONIC: ef-30
- 3—IMD METER (kk7uq): w/ps & mnl
- 4---TRUE TALK (wa2nan): g5rv w/coax & ll
- 5---MAXCON: ocf-3k80 w/isltr
- 6---PALSTAR: at1kp trr w/mnl
- 7—YAESU sp-101b speaker

Contact Ken, KC8Y. Email [cct66000@gmail.com](mailto:cct66000@gmail.com)

Call Dave Fairbanks, N8NB, at 330-501-5031 if interested in these:

**1. Palstar AT-2K Antenna Tuner. 6 months old. Like new.**

The AT2K matches dipoles, center fed doublets, Verticals, end-fed wire, delta loops, beams, Windoms, Inverted Vees, and many more antenna types.

It features a 6 position antenna selector switch. In addition, the Peak/Peak Hold metering from the PM2000A has been incorporated into the AT2K. Forward power metering is in two ranges, 300 and 3,000 watts. Standing Wave Ratio measurements are displayed with this illuminated cross-needle meter. SWR is read directly from the meter face where the Forward and Reverse needles cross.

Like new 6 mos. old. \$485.

**2. HA8KF Magnetic Keyer Paddle**

Iambic keyer with red paddles and large metal

base. It features a solid brass polished hub with unique machining markings, mounted on a heavy steel base with a variegated black powder coating. It is pre-wired with a ¼ in. phone plug (6.35mm male TRS). Hand-made in Hungary to bring "easy-to-send" CW joy to your shack. New. \$200.

**3. BaoFeng UV-5R Dual Band Two Way Radio**

128 Channels 50 ctcss and 104 CDCSS dual-band display, Dual Freq. Display, dual-standby, a/B band independent operation | High/low TX power selectable: busy Channel lock-out(bclo). Tri-color background light selectable: 0-9 grades vox selectable | FM radio (65.0Mhz-108.0MHz) | large LCD display. Keypad Lock: channel step: 2.5/5/6.25/10/12.5/25Khz | voice Companding: 50 ctcss/ 104DCS coder & tone searching. Emergency alert: 25Khz/12.5Khz switchable | LED flashlight: high/low RF power switchable New in unopened box, \$25.

**4. Drake 2B receiver and 2BQ q multiplier/speaker.**

Antique ham band receiver and speaker q multiplier. Works great for its age. Cabinets need repainted but ok. \$235.

**Jetstream Wattmeter 1.6-200MHZ**



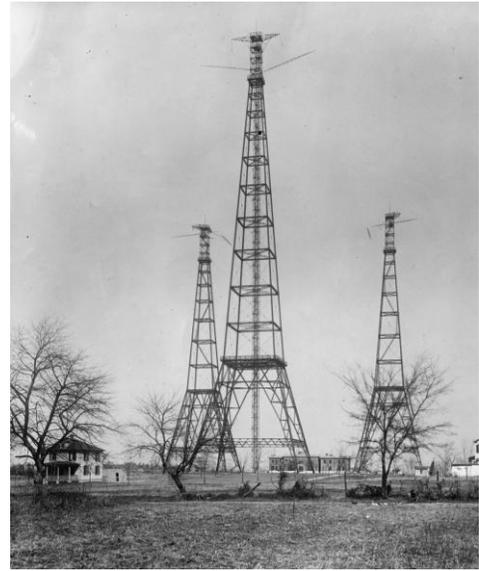
Very Good condition--frequency range: 1.6-200 MHz Input impedance: 50 ohms Power scales: 20, 200 and 2kw. Measures AVG and PEP Power. Includes meter, original box. \$50 (also posted on QRZ—subject to prior sale)

Contact Mark, K8MSH, mh@zoominternet.net

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

# Strange Stations

Numbers stations are shortwave radio stations that have dumfounded listeners for years. These mysterious stations are broadcasted worldwide and transmit seemingly random codes, phrases and other messages that can't be decoded by untrained listeners. They can appear out of nowhere and disappear just as quickly. Confusion about their purpose has led many to believe that they're related to intelligence agencies. Read about these three and judge



## The E9 Magnetic Fields Station

Each transmission from this station began with a rendition of composer Jean Michel Jarre's "Overture Apregiator." From there the statement "Forty Four D" was repeated twice, followed by the statement "Again, Again." Each transmission then ended with a repeat of the [same song](#). Both of the statements were spoken in Arabic. Though this station is now inactive, a lot of fabulous folk lore still surrounds it. Many believe that the origin of the station was an [Algerian Intelligence organization](#).

## The Backwards Music Station, aka Whalesong

The [Backwards Music Station](#) has been picked up by international short-wave listeners for decades. Ironically, it doesn't actually play backwards music, nor does it play whale songs. However, typical reports from listeners have likened the sounds to whale mating calls or records played backwards. No one knows for sure who's responsible for the station, but there are a few [working theories](#). Some believe that the radio signals originate from U.S. naval bases on the southern coast. This is because the frequencies are similar to naval frequencies, and some reports have speculated that the station is in Virginia Beach, Jacksonville or Florida. Others believe that the radio signals originate from England, where the frequency strength is relatively strong. The third theory is that the Whalesong signals are actually transnational communications that employ LINCOMPEX. LINCOMPEX is a unique form of signal communications employed by both defense and commercial industries. Regardless of the origins you can have a listen [here](#).

## Yosemite Sam Station

This station has only been in operation since the early 2000s. Each broadcast starts and ends with repeated recordings of cartoon character [Yosemite Sam](#) saying "Varmint, I'm a-going to b-b-b-bloooow yah t'smithereens!" Like clockwork, the Yosemite Sam station starts every seven seconds following the top of the hour. The transmission is then followed by a data burst that is repeated in ascending order over four different frequencies, and 10 seconds go by before the repeat of the transmission. The complete process takes around [two minutes](#). The purpose and origin of the station are [unknown](#), but you can listen to it [here](#).

(Mike Brown, <https://www.toptenz.net/10-creepy-radio-transmissions.php>)

# IOT – The Internet of Things

There has been a lot of hub-bub the last 15 years or so about the Internet of Things. The concept is simple, connect many of the everyday devices we use to the internet. So if you get a new Fridge, you may get one that can send your phone a list of food you need. You have undoubtedly seen the TV ad for the couple driving home that gets a text to the effect Mom is early for her visit to them. From their car they turn on the house lights, turn up the temperature, start the coffee, etc.

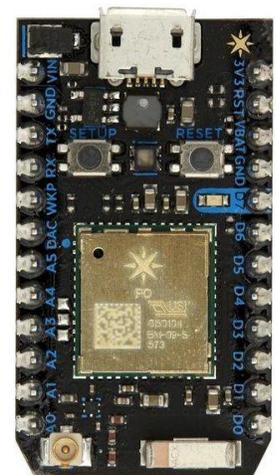


Pretty cool. Well until the bad guys find the loopholes. Maybe you also saw the news item on the security update to the Ring Video Doorbell. Hackers had invaded the system and could observe families in their homes. Every new bit of technology also brings new problems.

Ok, that's interesting, but I thought this was a Ham Radio Newsletter! All right try this. You have a directional HF antenna and are working on the DXCC award. You use the popular spotting sites to find your missing countries and pretty much figure if you can hear em you can work em. So you copy the call sign from the cluster, enter it in some software that goes to the internet and looks up the call, pulls the latitude and longitude from the look up, shows the DX on a map, computes the azimuth from your station to the DX, and rotates your antenna to the correct angle for the DX.

Far fetched? No, its here now. Matter of fact chores like this are becoming easier every day and the equipment to do it is getting to the everybody can afford it range. For the given example, the look up has become common place. Anybody doing contesting will recognize that information is readily available from beacons and clusters. What might be unusual is having your antenna rotor connected to the internet, but even that is not that rare.

What is rare is that the IOT is moving so quickly that low cost experimenters' boards are now available. If you have played around with Arduino or Raspberry Pi, you are already on board to be able to set up IOT. One example is from the folks at Particle. Check [www.particle.io](http://www.particle.io) and look at the Particle Photon board pictured here. The board is around an inch or so long, is programmed very similar to what is done with Arduino, features built in Wi-Fi, usb port, comes connected to the Cloud, has 1MB of flash memory, and is FCC certified. Oh yeah, \$19.95 from the manufacturer, under \$15 from Amazon or Ebay.



Lots of information on the Particle.io site and also from AdaFruit. What could you do in your station if your hardware was Internet connected? How easy does remote control of your rig become? How about repeater monitoring and control?

## FCC Invites Comments on 5.9 GHz Proceeding

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The FCC has invited comments on a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* in **WT Docket 19-138**, which said the FCC would take “a fresh and comprehensive look” at the rules for the 5.9 GHz band. The FCC proposes to make 5.850 – 5.895 GHz available for unlicensed operations and to authorize transportation-related communication technologies to use 5.895 – 5.925 GHz. The FCC is not proposing to delete or otherwise amend the 5-centimeter secondary amateur radio allocation at 5.650 – 5.925 GHz, part of which includes the 75 megahertz under consideration. Comments are due by March 6, and reply comments are due by April 6.

ARRL will be filing comments supporting no change to 5.850 – 5.925 GHz for amateurs, as included in the FCC proposal.

## MVARA 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](mailto:mvara.W8QLY@gmail.com)

## Mahoning Valley Two Meter Contest

The MVARA is excited to announce the Mahoning Valley Two Meter Contest Saturday March 21, 2020 from 7:00 to 10:00 pm. We thought it would be fun to see if valley hams would enjoy shaking off the winter doldrums by getting on the air for a local contest. It will be an opportunity to talk to old friends and make new ones.

Old timers may remember participating in the Lou Malice Memorial Contest years ago. The MV 2 Meter Contest will be a similar two meter simplex contest. Stations will simply exchange grid squares as defined in the contest rules. The contest format will allow participants to evaluate their stations simplex capabilities. This information could be valuable in an emergency.

No 100 watt base station, no problem. There will be a low power category of 5 watts or less and a high power category of greater than 5 watts so everyone will have a level playing field. Awards



# 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>.

## March 2020

+ NSARA Contest	1200Z-1600Z, Mar 1 and 1800Z-2200Z, Mar 1
+ SARL Hamnet 40m Simulated Emerg Contest	1200Z-1400Z, Mar 1
+ North Carolina QSO Party	1500Z, Mar 1 to 0059Z, Mar 2
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 2
+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Mar 3
+ AGCW YL-CW Party	1900Z-2100Z, Mar 3
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Mar 4
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 4
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Mar 4 and 1900Z-2000Z, Mar 4 and 0300Z-0400Z, Mar 5
+ UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Mar 4
+ NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1800Z-1900Z, Mar 5 (CW) and 1900Z-2000Z, Mar 5 (SSB) and 2000Z-2100Z, Mar 5 (FM) and 2100Z-2200Z, Mar 5 (Dig)
+ SKCC Sprint Europe	2000Z-2200Z, Mar 5
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Mar 6
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Mar 6
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 6
+ Novice Rig Roundup	0000Z, Mar 7 to 2359Z, Mar 15
+ ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 7 to 2400Z, Mar 8
+ Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0600Z-0629Z, Mar 7 and 0630Z-0659Z, Mar 7 and 0700Z-0729Z, Mar 7 and 0730Z-0800Z, Mar 7
+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Mar 7 to 2400Z, Mar 8
+ Open Ukraine RTTY Championship	1800Z-2059Z, Mar 7 (Low Band) and 2100Z-2359Z, Mar 7 (Low Band) and 0800Z-1059Z, Mar 8 (High Band) and 1100Z-1359Z, Mar 8 (High Band)
+ UBA Spring Contest, CW	0700Z-1100Z, Mar 8
+ WAB 3.5 MHz Phone/CW	1800Z-2200Z, Mar 8
+ 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Mar 9
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Mar 11
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 11
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Mar 11 and 1900Z-2000Z, Mar 11 and 0300Z-0400Z, Mar 12
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 11
+ AWA John Rollins Memorial DX Contest	2300Z, Mar 11 to 2300Z, Mar 12 and 2300Z, Mar 14 to 2300Z, Mar 15
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Mar 13
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Mar 13
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 13
+ YB DX RTTY Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Mar 14
+ RSGB Commonwealth Contest	1000Z, Mar 14 to 1000Z, Mar 15

+ South America 10 Meter Contest	1200Z, Mar 14 to 1200Z, Mar 15
+ SARL VHF/UHF Analogue Contest	1200Z, Mar 14 to 1000Z, Mar 15
+ F9AA Cup, SSB	1200Z, Mar 14 to 1200Z, Mar 15
+ AGCW QRP Contest	1400Z-2000Z, Mar 14
+ Oklahoma QSO Party	1500Z, Mar 14 to 0200Z, Mar 15 and 1400Z-2100Z, Mar 15
+ Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Mar 14 to 1500Z, Mar 15
+ EA PSK63 Contest	1600Z, Mar 14 to 1600Z, Mar 15
+ TESLA Memorial HF CW Contest	1800Z, Mar 14 to 0559Z, Mar 15
+ QCWA QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 14 to 1800Z, Mar 15
+ Idaho QSO Party	1900Z, Mar 14 to 1900Z, Mar 15
+ QRP ARCI Spring Thaw SSB Shootout	2200Z-2300Z, Mar 14
+ North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 15
+ UBA Spring Contest, 2m	0700Z-1100Z, Mar 15
+ Wisconsin QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 15 to 0100Z, Mar 16
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Mar 16
+ Bucharest Digital Contest	1800Z-2059Z, Mar 16
+ CLARA Chatter Party	1700Z, Mar 17 to 1700Z, Mar 18 and 1700Z, Mar 21 to 1700Z, Mar 22
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Mar 18
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 18
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Mar 18 and 1900Z-2000Z, Mar 18 and 0300Z-0400Z, Mar 19
+ NAQCC CW Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Mar 19
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Mar 20
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Mar 20
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 20
+ BARTG HF RTTY Contest	0200Z, Mar 21 to 0200Z, Mar 23
+ Russian DX Contest	1200Z, Mar 21 to 1200Z, Mar 22
+ Louisiana QSO Party	1400Z, Mar 21 to 0200Z, Mar 22
+ Virginia QSO Party	1400Z, Mar 21 to 0400Z, Mar 22 and 1200Z-2400Z, Mar 22
+ AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1400Z-1700Z, Mar 21 (144) and 1700Z-1800Z, Mar 21 (432)
+ Feld Hell Sprint	2000Z-2159Z, Mar 21
+ UBA Spring Contest, SSB	0700Z-1100Z, Mar 22
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Mar 25
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Mar 25
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 25
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Mar 25 and 1900Z-2000Z, Mar 25 and 0300Z-0400Z, Mar 26
+ UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Mar 25
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 26
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Mar 27
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Mar 27
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 27
+ FOC QSO Party	0000Z-2359Z, Mar 28
+ CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 28 to 2359Z, Mar 29
+ QCX Challenge	1300Z-1400Z, Mar 30 and 1900Z-2000Z, Mar 30 and 0300Z-0400Z, Mar 31

# 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>

March							
2020 Mar03	2020 Mar06	<b>Vanuatu</b>	<b>YJ0NC</b>	See Info	AA4NC 20191213	By AA4NC AA4VK as TX4N and TX4VK; 160-10m; CW FT4 FT8 SSB; 100w; holiday style operation; QSL TX4N via EA5GL and TX4VK via AA4VK direct	
2020 Mar04	2020 Mar15	<b>Zambia</b>	<a href="#">9J2LA</a>	M0OXO	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20190514	By LA3BO LA3MHA LA8OM LA9KKA LA9VPA LB8DC DK6SP OE5CWO OE7PGI SM6CPY; 160-6m; CW SSB FT8, some RTTY	
2020 Mar04	2020 Mar16	<b>Djibouti</b>	<a href="#">J2</a>	LoTW	DL7DF 20191217	By DJ6TF DK1BT DL4WK DL6SAK DL7BO DL7DF DL7UFR SP3DOI fm LK11px; 160-10m; CW SSB + digital; 4 stations; QSL also OK via DL7DF (B/d)	
2020 Mar06	2020 Mar13	<b>Antigua</b>	<b>V26FP</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20191130	By IW2NEF fm IOTA NA-100; HF; SSB + digital; QSL also OK via Club Log OQRS and IK2DUW direct	
<b>ARRL International DX Contest, Phone</b> (Mar 7-8, 2020) Check here for pericontest activity too.							
2020 Mar07	2020 Mar13	<b>Antigua</b>	<b>V26FP</b>	IK2DUW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200103	By IW2NEF fm Jolly Harbour (IOTA NA-100); 40-10m; SSB FT8	
2020 Mar08	2020 Apr09	<b>Barbados</b>	<b>8P6DR</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20200106	By G3RWL; 80-10m; CW; QSL also OK via Club Log OQRS (preferred) or G3RWL direct	
2020 Mar09	2020 Mar18	<b>Rodrigues I</b>	<b>3B9</b>	Club Log OQRS	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20191216	By F8AAN as 3B9AN or 3B9/F8AAN; HF; 100w; mainly nighttime; holiday style operation; QSL also OK via F8AAN direct	
2020 Mar10	2020 Mar25	<b>Swains I</b>	<b>W8S</b>	TBA	PA3EWP 20190922	By international team fm Swain I (IOTA OC-200); HF; CW SSB FT8 RTTY; 4 stations, 2 camps	
2020 Mar14	2020 Mar15	<b>Belize</b>	<b>V31GX</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20191203	By G4SGX for BERU Contest; QRV after contest, mainly 160m	
2020 Mar18	2020 Apr03	<b>West Kiribati</b>	<a href="#">T30ET</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">OPDX</a> 20190630	By 5B4ALX fm Tarawa (IOTA OC-017); 160-6m; CW SSB FT8 RTTY; QSL also OK via Club Log OQRS	
2020 Mar23	2020 Apr03	<b>Ivory Coast</b>	<a href="#">TU2R</a>	LoTW	ON4EI 20191103	By ON7TQ ON4EI ON1DX ON6KX fm Abidjan; 160-10m; CW SSB RTTY FT4 FT8; QSL via <a href="#">ON1DX Buro or OQRS via PayPal</a>	

# Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association - 2020 Membership

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Family : \_\_\_\_\_ 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*    Expiration Month & Year \_\_\_\_\_     *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    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## W8QLY 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***

# AREA HAM USES ALL CAPS TO MAKE POINT



By [K5KVN](#), on the scene

**OMAHA, NEBRASKA** — A local ham radio operator is feeling euphoric after making his point in an online forum in a very strong way.

“I got through to them,” says Mike Yuness. He was browsing a popular amateur radio forum that focuses on radio frequency propagation through Earth’s magma when he saw a thread that he thought was “going off the rails.”

“It was a mess and I had to assert my authority on the subject matter with a radical approach. My reply in all caps and strategically bolded text got their attention,” he says.

Asked if he’ll do it again, he says, with authority “YES I WILL.”

### HamHijinks.com

I come home in the morning light  
My mother says, "When you gonna get your radio shack right?"  
Oh mother dear we're not the fortunate ones  
And Hams, they wanna have fun  
Oh Hams just want to have fun

The phone rings in the middle of the night  
My father yells, "Hey theres a pile up in Lithuania tonight!"  
Oh daddy dear, you know you're still number one  
But Hams, they wanna have fun  
Oh Hams, they wanna have fun



# Amateur License Refresher

Dave Brett, 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

E6B01

What is the most useful characteristic of a Zener diode?

- A. A constant current drop under conditions of varying voltage
- B. A constant voltage drop under conditions of varying current
- C. A negative resistance region
- D. An internal capacitance that varies with the applied voltage

E6B02

What is an important characteristic of a Schottky diode as compared to an ordinary silicon diode when used as a power supply rectifier?

- A. Much higher reverse voltage breakdown
- B. Controlled reverse avalanche voltage
- C. Enhanced carrier retention time
- D. Less forward voltage drop

## General Pool

G2C01

Which of the following describes full break-in telegraphy (QSK)?

- A. Breaking stations send the Morse code prosign "BK"
- B. Automatic keyers, instead of hand keys, are used to send Morse code
- C. An operator must activate a manual send/receive switch before and after every transmission
- D. Transmitting stations can receive between code characters and elements

G2C02

What should you do if a CW station sends "QRS?"

- A. Send slower
- B. Change frequency
- C. Increase your power
- D. Repeat everything twice

(Answers pg. 2)

## ***THE LAST WORD***

“A mentor is someone who sees more talent and ability within you, than you see in yourself, and helps bring it out of you.” **Bob Proctor**



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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](mailto: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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