



May 2020
Volume 58, Issue 5
Our 101st Year

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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

Coronavirus or Covid-19, which ever you prefer to call it, still has its grip on the world. Events of all kinds continue to be canceled. For ham radio enthusiasts, that means hamfests all over the country (and I assume all over the world) have been cancelled.

I feel lucky that I made it to Hamcation in Orlando in February not long before the virus reared its ugly head and quarantined us basically to our homes.

Hamvention is the first big casualty in the ham world. It's the biggest hamfest in the world--if you can't find it there it probably isn't made. This year, I'll miss hanging out get to hang with a couple of buddies of mine. We've been friends for close to 40 years now. When we get together it's just like we were in high school again, except we have more money, better cars, homes and replacement body parts.

I don't know about you but I'll really miss all the local hamfests and I was really looking forward to going to Hamvention—and also the stopover at Mike's for breakfast to talk about stuff we saw or should have bought.

Unfortunately hamfest sponsors lose all those entrance fees, and table fees. The people selling stuff are losing too, and have to store all their stuff until the next time.

It's so easy to pick up the phone or



on the old inter-web and order it. If you're willing to pay for it you can have it tomorrow or the next day.

But if you're like me, I like to spin the dials-- if you know what I mean. That's why if I want something I wait until the big hamfests so I can go and play with whatever it is I want before I buy it.

Like every other business or industry out there our hobby is going to be effected but how? I guess we will have to wait until the

(continued page 2)

Next Zoom Meetings:

May 5: Hamvention QSO Party presentation by Tim Duffy. 7:30 pm

May 14: Virtual tour of VOA Museum. Time to be announced.

2020 Officers

President: Scott Wilton, KE4UHC
Vice President: Dave Brett, KD8NZF
Secretary: Mike Malarky, W8IWD
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Bryan Bartzi, KF8G (2)

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.

hamfests get going again. I'm sure it will be a while before we
start seeing hamfests like there were before the virus.

I'm afraid we are going to be affected by this virus for a long
time and we will measure life before and after the virus. Your
club and its officers are doing their best to think outside the box
to keep the club going keep all of you involved. Here's what's
coming up.

May 5th at 7:30 PM Tim Duffy will be giving a Zoom
presentation on Hamvention QSO Party. This not a normal
night but it was the only time we could schedule Tim.

May 30th at 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM we will be having the Lou
Malice Memorial 2 meter contest. We will be only having
home stations and high and low power. There will be NO
ROVER category this time. We don't want anyone out there
with the possibility of getting sick. Folks, please be careful out
there. Wear a mask and for heaven's sake wash your hands
often.

2020 CTU Online



Tim Duffy, K3LR has announced that Contest University will be
held this year, and anyone can participate.

I am pleased to announce that Contest University USA 2020 will
be held on-line via Zoom on Thursday May 14, 2020. CTU 2020
is free.

The CTU course outline is posted here

<https://www.contestuniversity.com/course-outline/>

Connection details to the CTU Zoom bridge will be posted on the
Contest University one week ahead of CTU. CTU 2020 will be
recorded for easy viewing any time after May 14 and the slide
decks will be posted on the CTU website as well.

At the end of CTU 2020 Dave, K3ZJ from CQ Magazine will
present the 2020 CQ Contest Hall of Fame awards – live on the
Zoom bridge.

73,
Tim K3LR
Contest University Chairman
<http://contestuniversity.com>

Refresher Answers: E6D01 (A), E6D02 (A), G2E01 (D)
G2E02 (B)

Current Activities

May 5: Zoom presentation on Hamvention QSO Party by Tim Duffy, 7:30 PM. Login info to follow by email.

Status of VE session originally scheduled May 5: Plans are still indefinite. The Library is currently closed and we are looking at the possibility of curb service testing in vehicles either at the Library parking lot or some other location (weather permitting). This is for the safety of VEs and participants to maintain social distancing. We will notify the membership by email as soon as we have information. Reservations only –NO walk-ins. Numbers will be limited to comply with Gov. DeWine's policies.

May 14: Virtual tour of VOA Museum. Login info to follow by email.

May 30: Lou Malice Memorial 2 meter contest, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

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



Due to the coronavirus epidemic, there are no hamfest listings.

Hamvention QSO Party

The Dayton Hamvention for 2020 has been cancelled. The World Wide Radio Operators Foundation, in cooperation with the Hamvention organizers, wanted to create a fun way for people to celebrate the Hamvention experience over the air – the Hamvention QSO Party.

This event is in memory of Ron, W8ILC, who became a silent key just two days after the Hamvention 2020 cancellation announcement. Ron had attended every Hamvention since the beginning.

On Saturday, May 16, 2020, we'll celebrate the Dayton Hamvention by working as many Amateur stations as possible during the QSO Party period. The event will run 8 AM to 8 PM EDST (1200 to 2400 UTC), May 16, 2020. For more details visit: <https://wwrof.org/hamvention-qso-party/>

Remote Testing: a Contrary Opinion

by [Dan KB6NU](#)

Remote license exams have been a hot topic lately. I've blogged about it, the ARRL reports that [remotely administered testing is promising](#), and the [W5YI VEC in conjunction with HamStudy.Org](#) has also conducted some remote testing. I think that it's safe to say that before long remote testing will be widely available.



Not everyone is thrilled by this idea. Jeff, KE9V, tweeted the following yesterday:

Not a fan of remotely administered tests. It puts even more distance between newcomers and other hams, mentors, and clubs. I doubt it will cease when life goes back to normal so this feels like yet another self-inflicted wound. [arrrl.org/news/remotely-...](#) #hamradio

He's got a point. I think that [we already have a problem mentoring the next generation of hams](#), and going to remote testing is only going to exacerbate this problem. The flip side, of course, is that this is inevitable. I replied:

That's certainly a concern, but it's been my experience that many, if not most, new hams don't take advantage of mentors and clubs anyway. Whether for good or ill, they're getting their mentoring from YouTube, reddit, and other online forums, or just foregoing it altogether.

Jeff went on to say, "I get that, but ceding this function renders local radio clubs a little more unnecessary, and most are in a tenuous position as it is." Jeff is right on again, but the saying, "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink" comes to mind. Even with local testing, most newcomers don't attend local radio club meetings or take advantage of the mentoring that club members could provide. For example, I offer to help every single student that attends my one-day Tech classes. and over the past dozen years or so, I've had hundreds of students. My guess is that less than 10 percent of them have ever asked for help.

I still think it's time for remote testing, but Jeff's point is well-taken. There are lots of good YouTube videos on different amateur radio topics, but I don't think any of them are designed to help a newcomer discover what he or she might like best.

I hope the VE teams that do remote testing will at least point the newcomers at some resources to help them get into amateur radio. Hopefully that would include links to the ARRL's Find a Club page so that they could find some one-on-one help, if they need it or want it. And, it might be time for the ARRL to actually get serious about a mentoring program. Many folks do just fine on their own, but I'd guess that many more would benefit by having hams they can rely on for advice and a helping hand.

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](#)).

The Voice of America

When face to face meetings came to a halt recently, we were left scrambling to fill in the holes with mostly online resources. The Voice of America National Museum has come to our rescue for the May Meeting. The National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting is in the former Bethany Station located in West Chester, OH, between Dayton and Cincinnati.



Joe Molter, N8IDA, President of the West Chester Amateur Radio Association will present via Zoom for our May 14th meeting. The WCARA club is instrumental in maintaining the museum and Joe has done many presentations about the museum. Joe retired as the Commanding Officer of Cleveland Division of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps after 18 years and retired a second time as a medical researcher from Case Western Reserve University. Please mark your calendar for May 14 to join us on Zoom and learn about the VOA.

CQ, CQ Hamvention

Hamvention has been cancelled this year, but a group of energetic Hams have already come up with an alternative activity – The Hamvention QSO Party. K3LR, Tim Duffy, is heading up the event and has agreed to talk with us about it in a Zoom Meeting. We will get together on May 5, at 7:30pm on Zoom. This meeting is specifically about the event and Scott will be sending the meeting link shortly if he has not already.

SkyWarn Training

Are you interested in Skywarn training?

The National Weather Service in Cleveland has a Skywarn training video on YouTube. You can view it at www.mvara.org or www.mahoning-ares.org.

For additional information on Skywarn, contact Dean DeMain, W8YSU, Mahoning County Skywarn Coordinator
W8YSU@ARRL.NET



ARRL Announces New Benefits for Members

ARRL members will now receive digital access to four ARRL magazines beginning with their May/June issues. Joining *QST* and *On the Air* magazines on a digital platform will be the bimonthly editions of *QEX* -- *The Forum for Communications Experimenters* and *NCJ* -- *National Contest Journal*. *QEX* includes articles, columns, and other features ranging from construction projects to more advanced technical information in radio theory and practice. *NCJ*, published since 1973, targets radio amateurs active in radiosport. *NCJ* includes scores, technical articles, contributions from top contesters, and advice for beginners and seasoned radiosport enthusiasts alike.

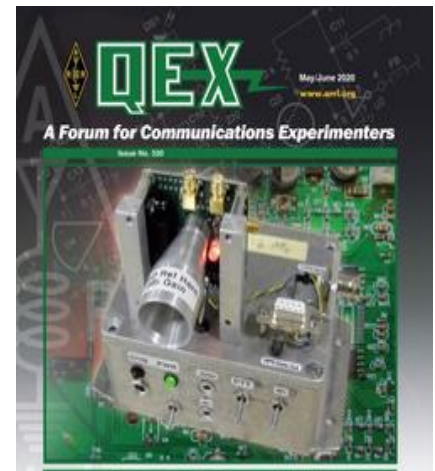
"Feedback from ARRL members and our readership surveys has shown that our magazines are one of the most valued member benefits," said ARRL Publications Manager Steve Ford, WB8IMY. "Our investment in digital access provides another channel through which we can deliver content to our members across the expanse of interests and activities in amateur radio. All members can enjoy specialized content and a high-quality reading experience whether at their desk or on the go. Offering this suite of digital magazines is an opportunity for us to give members more of what they want while adding value to ARRL membership."

ARRL's digital magazine editions provide replicas of the printed editions with added functionality, allowing users to fully search issues, enlarge pages, share articles, and more. The free *ARRL Magazines* app also supports downloading complete issues onto your mobile device or tablet for offline reading.

Members who have elected to receive a printed *QST* or *On the Air* as part of their membership benefits will continue to have this service. Members may not substitute a print subscription of *QEX* or *NCJ* as their delivered magazine member benefit. Print subscriptions of *QEX* and *NCJ* will continue to be available at additional cost for those who want to receive them.

All four magazines are easily accessed through any web browser from [members-only links](#). The free *ARRL Magazines* app is available for iOS and Android in the Apple App Store and Google Play. If you're already an ARRL member and previously created an **arrrl.org** website account, your username and password will provide you access to the digital editions, whether online or in the app. Members who have not previously registered will need to [create a new account](#). If you've forgotten your password, visit www.arrrl.org/forgot-password, or email circulation@arrrl.org for assistance.

Previous and prospective members can [join ARRL](#) and take advantage of this and other membership benefits.



CQ MVARA

Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 30, 2020, 1:00pm to 4:00pm, for the Mahoning Valley Two Meter Contest. All interested amateurs are invited to join in for a FM Simplex Grid Square Contest covering Trumbull, Mahoning, and Columbiana Counties.

The object is to work as many different stations in as many different grid squares as possible. No 100 watt base station, no problem! The contest has a QRP category for 5 watts or less and a high power category of greater than 5 watts so everyone will have a level playing field. There will be certificates awarded to the highest scoring QRP Power Fixed and High-Power Fixed stations. We currently are not including Rover stations, pending changes in the stay at home orders from the state.

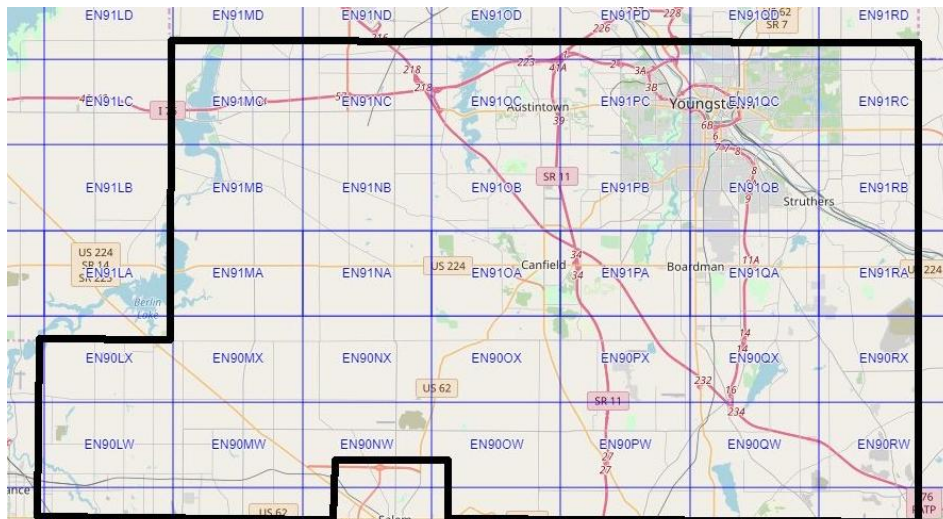
This contest is dedicated to the memory of pioneer Valley ham Lou Malice WA8PKN whose dedication to amateur radio touched the lives of all of us. Even if you never had the pleasure of knowing Lou you are still part of his legacy. Chances are good that the hams who inspired and encouraged you to become part of amateur radio were, themselves, inspired, encouraged, and trained by Lou.

The short version of the rules:

1. Mode and Frequencies: All contacts must be made on **SIMPLEX** using FM voice mode and confined to the frequency ranges 146.400 to 146.505, 146.535 to 146.595 and 147.400 to 147.585 defined by the ARRL bandplan as simplex frequencies. In Ohio FM simplex is often channelized in 15 Khz steps to avoid adjacent channel interference. Please use the frequencies on the 2 Meter FM Simplex Frequencies page available on the MVARA website. Do not use the FM calling frequency of 146.520. **NO CONTACTS MAY BE MADE THROUGH REPEATERS.**

2. Exchange: Each station will give their call and the six character maidenhead grid square they are operating from as shown on the contest maps available on the MVARA website. If your grid square is not on the maps you can find it by putting your call sign into www.qrz.com and clicking the detail tab or use the grid locator at www.qrz.com/gridmapper.

3. QSO: To be valid a contact (QSO) must contain a unique call sign and grid square combination. For complete contest rules and operating aids please check the website here: <http://mvara.org/Mv2mc.html>



***HAM HUMOR:* HAM RADIO Q&A**

Got ham radio questions? We've got answers of some sort! Submit your question to noiseblankers@gmail.com and our crack team of researchers will post answers here. Click on the questions to reveal the answers.*

**Researchers could mean one or any of the following: PhD students, our plumber or no-code Technicians.*

Dear Ham Hijinks...

Q: "What's the best frequency to operate on 40 meters? Sincerely, New Op"

A: Dear New Op, probably a couple times a week! 73

Q: "I want to erect a dipole with two 82 foot legs on my 100 foot lot. Any suggestions? Sincerely, Land Locked"

A: Dear Land Locked, buy a vertical! 73![/toggle]

Q: "Newly licensed Technician here! I got this sharp Yaesu VX-3R HT and it works great into the local VHF repeater. Thing is, these guys are kinda boring. Is this the best ham radio has to offer? With hope, Bored to Silence"

A: Dear Silence, we hope we didn't mislead you. Yes, it's the best we have. You might try buying more radios, to make yourself feel better, like us. 73

Q: "I got a Baofeng UV5R for my wife. How did I do? Thanks, Betrothed in Bedford."

A: Dear Betrothed, sounds like a good trade! 73

Q: "My neighbor says my new off-center-fed dipole is ugly. What should I do? Sincerely, Sensitive Receive."

A: Dear Sensitive, We heard your neighbor said your hair was ugly, too. Going to the barber tonight? Of course not! Carry on, OM

Q: "I've always wanted to be a policeman. Sometimes I walk outside and yell 'UP! UP! UP!' at cars. Where do I apply? Thanks, Brainless in Seattle."

A: Dear Brainless, Sounds like you're already on the job! Now go to the lower end of 20m phone and get those DX chasers transmitting UP where they belong! 73

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

E6D01

How many turns will be required to produce a 5-microhenry inductor using a powdered-iron toroidal core that has an inductance index (A L) value of 40 microhenrys/100 turns?

- A. 35 turns
- B. 13 turns
- C. 79 turns
- D. 141 turns

E6D02

What is the equivalent circuit of a quartz crystal?

- A. Motional capacitance, motional inductance, and loss resistance in series, all in parallel with a shunt capacitor representing electrode and stray capacitance
- B. Motional capacitance, motional inductance, loss resistance, and a capacitor representing electrode and stray capacitance all in parallel
- C. Motional capacitance, motional inductance, loss resistance, and a capacitor representing electrode and stray capacitance all in series
- D. Motional inductance and loss resistance in series, paralleled with motional capacitance and a capacitor representing electrode and stray capacitance

General Pool

G2E01

Which mode is normally used when sending RTTY signals via AFSK with an SSB transmitter?

- A. USB
- B. DSB
- C. CW
- D. LSB

G2E02

How can a PACTOR modem or controller be used to determine if the channel is in use by other PACTOR stations?

- A. Unplug the data connector temporarily and see if the channel-busy indication is turned off
- B. Put the modem or controller in a mode which allows monitoring communications without a connection
- C. Transmit UI packets several times and wait to see if there is a response from another PACTOR station
- D. Send the message, "Is this frequency in use?"

Answers pg. 2

Saved by the Bel

Dave, KD8NZF

In Electronics and Amateur Radio we commonly use decibels (db) for measuring power lost or gained. But just where did that come from and how do you use it?



According to the Encyclopedia Britannica (Yes – it still exists!) the term bel is derived from the name of Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone. The unit decibel is used because a onedecibel difference in loudness between two sounds is the smallest difference detectable by human hearing.

Since Alex was concerned with transporting audio across wires, it's not much of a stretch to see how db's also came to be used for measuring signal power on phone lines. When developed for measuring sounds, the db was defined as $10 \cdot \log(S1/S2)$ where S1 and S2 are two sounds. It uses the mathematical function log, because our ears are not linear – they don't respond equally to changes in sound pressure – they respond logarithmically. It has since evolved to be used in measurements comparing all sorts of values. Usually our use is in measurements across our coax and we use the formula $10 \cdot \log(\text{power } 1 / \text{power } 2)$. Power 1 & 2 are just two power measurements to be compared, like power in and out of a cable.

Fortunately, we don't have to whip out a calculator to understand a few of the common db relationships. For instance, 3db is a doubling or halving of the power depending on if power 1 is larger or smaller than power 2. If power 1 is 2W and power 2 is 1 watt, that is a 3db increase. 10db is a ratio of 10, 20db is ratio of 100, 30 db is ratio of 1000, etc. If you just remember these 4, you can pretty well estimate most relationships. Suppose P1 is 4W and P2 is 1W. If you doubled the 1W you would have 2W and if you double the 2W you have 4W, so it was two 3db changes or 6db.

DXEngineering specs their RG-8X cable to have a loss of 1.4db/100 ft at 30Mhz. If you were using 200 ft, that would be 2.8db loss – pretty close to 3db – about half your power lost in the cable! 200' is a long cable and 30Mhz is an extreme for this style of cable, when you use it at lower frequencies, for instance in the 40M band, around 7.2Mhz, the loss drops to only about .7db/100'. If you want to have some fun comparing cable types and losses, check out the calculator at:

https://www.qsl.net/co8tw/Coax_Calculator.htm

(Editor's note: Bell had several daughters who he credits with providing support and inspiration for his scientific pursuits. Their names were Anna Bell, Jezi Bell, and Dora Bell. He also valued the companionship of his loyal dog, Taco.)

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>.

May 2020

+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, May 1
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, May 1
+ AGCW QRP/QRP Party	1300Z-1900Z, May 1
+ RSGB Hope QSO Party	1430Z-1600Z, May 1 (CW)
+ Araucaria World Wide VHF Contest	0000Z, May 2 to 1600Z, May 3
+ 10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	0001Z, May 2 to 2359Z, May 3
+ RCC Cup	0300Z-0859Z, May 2
+ SBMS 2.3 GHz and Up Contest and Club Challenge	0600 local, May 2 to 2359 local, May 3 (cancelled due to COVID-19)
+ Microwave Spring Sprint	0800-1400 local, May 2
+ ARI International DX Contest	1200Z, May 2 to 1159Z, May 3
+ 7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 2 to 0700Z, May 3
+ Indiana QSO Party	1500Z, May 2 to 0300Z, May 3
+ RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint	1600Z-1959Z, May 2
+ FISTS Spring Slow Speed Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, May 2
+ Delaware QSO Party	1700Z, May 2 to 2359Z, May 3
+ New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 2 to 0500Z, May 3 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 3
+ RSGB Hope QSO Party	0830Z-1000Z, May 4 (FT4)
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, May 4
+ MIE 33 Contest	2300Z, May 4 to 0300Z, May 5
+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Jun 5
+ RSGB Hope QSO Party	1000Z-1130Z, May 5 (SSB)
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, May 6
+ RSGB Hope QSO Party	1130Z-1300Z, May 6 (CW)
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, May 6 and 1900Z-2000Z, May 6 and 0300Z-0400Z, May 7
+ UKEICC 80m Summer Series	1800Z-1900Z, May 6
+ RSGB Hope QSO Party	1300Z-1430Z, May 7 (RTTY)
+ NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1800Z-1900Z, May 7 (CW) and 1900Z-2000Z, May 7 (SSB) and 2000Z-2100Z, May 7 (FM) and 2100Z-2200Z, May 7 (Dig)
+ SKCC Sprint Europe	1900Z-2100Z, May 7
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, May 8
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, May 8
+ RSGB Hope QSO Party	1430Z-1600Z, May 8 (SSB)
+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, May 9 to 2400Z, May 10
+ SARL VHF/UHF Digital Contest	1200Z, May 9 to 0800Z, May 10
+ CQ-M International DX Contest	1200Z, May 9 to 1159Z, May 10
+ VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	1200Z, May 9 to 1200Z, May 10
+ Arkansas QSO Party	1400Z, May 9 to 0200Z, May 10
+ FISTS Spring Unlimited Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, May 9
+ 50 MHz Spring Sprint	2300Z, May 9 to 0300Z, May 10
+ WAB 7 MHz Phone/CW	1000Z-1400Z, May 10
+ 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, May 11

+ RSGB Hope QSO Party	0830Z-1000Z, May 11 (CW)
+ RSGB Hope QSO Party	1000Z-1130Z, May 12 (FT4)
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, May 13
+ RSGB Hope QSO Party	1130Z-1300Z, May 13 (SSB)
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, May 13 and 1900Z-2000Z, May 13 and 0300Z-0400Z, May 14
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, May 13
+ RSGB Hope QSO Party	1300Z-1430Z, May 14 (CW)
+ UKEICC 80m Summer Series	1800Z-1900Z, May 14
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, May 15
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, May 15
+ RSGB Hope QSO Party	1430Z-1600Z, May 15 (RTTY)
+ UN DX Contest	0600Z-2100Z, May 16
+ NZART Sangster Shield Contest	0800Z-1100Z, May 16 and 0800Z-1100Z, May 17
+ Portuguese Navy Day Contest	0900Z, May 16 to 1700Z, May 18
+ Hamvention QSO Party	1200Z-2400Z, May 16
+ Aegean RTTY Contest	1200Z, May 16 to 1200Z, May 17
+ His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	1200Z, May 16 to 1200Z, May 17
+ Feld Hell Sprint	1600Z-1759Z, May 16 and 2000Z-2159Z, May 16
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	1900Z-2400Z, May 17
+ RSGB FT4 Contest Series	1900Z-2030Z, May 18
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, May 20
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, May 20 and 1900Z-2000Z, May 20 and 0300Z-0400Z, May 21
+ UKEICC 80m Summer Series	1800Z-1900Z, May 20
+ NAQCC CW Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, May 21
+ QRP Minimal Art Session	1600Z-2200Z, May 21
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, May 22
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, May 22
+ EU PSK DX Contest	1200Z, May 18 to 1200Z, May 19
+ Baltic Contest	2100Z, May 23 to 0200Z, May 24
+ Day of the YLs Contest	0001Z, May 24 to 2359Z, May 25
+ QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint	0000Z-0100Z, May 25
+ QCX Challenge	1300Z-1400Z, May 25 and 1900Z-2000Z, May 25 and 0300Z-0400Z, May 26
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, May 27
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, May 27
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, May 27 and 1900Z-2000Z, May 27 and 0300Z-0400Z, May 28
+ UKEICC 80m Summer Series	1800Z-1900Z, May 27
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	1900Z-2030Z, May 28
+ PODXS 070 Club Three Day Weekend Contest	0000Z, May 29 to 2359Z, May 31
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, May 29
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, May 29
+ Feld Hell Sprint	0000Z-2359Z, May 30
+ CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z, May 30 to 2359Z, May 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>

May						
2020 May04	2020 May12	Maldives	8Q7KB	LoTW	TDDX 20190912	By DL2SBY fm Meedhupparu; 80-6m; SSB CW + digital; inverted vee; QSL also OK via DL2SBY direct; logs will be uploaded to Club Log
2020 May07	2020 May11	Guernsey	GU75LIB	GU8ITE	GU0SUP 20200403	By GU0SUP + others fm St Peter Port; HF, perhaps 2m 70cm; all modes; 75th anniversary of the Liberation of Guernsey; QSL OK via Buro or direct
CQ WPX Contest, CW (May 30-31, 2020) Check here for pericontest activity too.						

WA7BNM to The Rescue

If you enjoy Contesting or working QSO Parties, you have likely used the Contest Calendar produced by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. But maybe you don't know the extent of Bruce's contributions to Amateur Radio. The photo gives a little hint as Bruce, in the center, receives the 2019 CQ Contest Hall of Fame Plaque at the Contest Dinner during Hamvention last year.



The presenters with Bruce are David Siddall, K3ZJ, and Dick Norton, N6AA. (K3ZJ is a Life Member of the ARRL and ARRL's Washington Counsel. He also is CQ Magazine's Contesting Editor, a life member of AMSAT-NA, and a member of the Radio Club of America (RCA). And yes, N6AA is that N6AA that was at the center of all the brew-ha that swirled around the ARRL Board in 2017 and 2018.)

If you are not familiar with the Contest Calendar, you can check it out here:

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/index.html> . At the website you can choose to see the events coming up in the next 8 Days or 12 Months, a perpetual calendar of events, a listing of all the State QSO parties, and calendars of just CW or QRP events among others. As I write this I am using the 8 day calendar to check out the QSO parties for the weekend of April 11 & 12. From the calendar I find there are three state parties running this weekend, New Mexico, North Dakota, and Georgia. In a concise listing I can get the operating hours, the exchange, and a link to the rules for each. I usually like to check the rules pages, but with the info in the calendar I could start working the party.

And now Bruce is helping MVARA. Although we had to postpone the MVARA 2M contest, sooner or later it is going to happen. Rich, KB8GAE, did the paperwork for the contest for the club, including written rules, grid maps, paper log forms, and a spreadsheet for those comfortable with such things. Rich relied heavily on documents from the last contest, twenty some years ago. A lot has changed since then, and Rich asked for input on updating our setup. One of the changes was to use Maidenhead Grid Squares for reporting your location. Another was to encourage the use of Cabrillo files for log reporting. Cabrillo has become the standard for contests and QSO parties and makes it much easier for the club to decipher the logs.

The rub is not everyone is set up to create a Cabrillo file. If you use logging software it may be included, but not everyone does that either. So we got in touch with Bruce and he agreed to create an online form just for our club that will allow us to enter our contacts and automatically email a Cabrillo file to our club email. Pretty darn cool!

More information on the Maidenhead Squares and Bruce's form will be coming soon.

Swap and Shop

1. Drake 2B receiver and 2BQ q multiplier. Antique ham band receiver and speaker q multiplier. Works great for its age. Cabinets need repainted but ok. \$235.

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. \$190.

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, \$20.

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

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 tnr w/mnl
7---YAESU sp-101b speaker
Ken.....KC8Y Email... cct66000@gmail.com

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

Got Pictures/Video?



If you didn't get to participate when the MVARA joined the Boy Scouts to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of Camp Stambaugh, be sure and check out the audio visual presentation of the on our home page at www.mvara.org You'll feel like you were part of the festivities.

The MVARA can use your pictures and videos of club activities. We would love to have pictures and or video of JOTA, the Christmas Parade, Santa Net, etc. You can submit an edited video file to us or we can put together and edit your raw files. Email your pictures to MVARAVoiceCoil@gmail.com. Video files will be too large to email, so contact Dave kd8nzf@zoominternet.net or Rich kb8gae@yahoo.com to make file transfer arrangements.



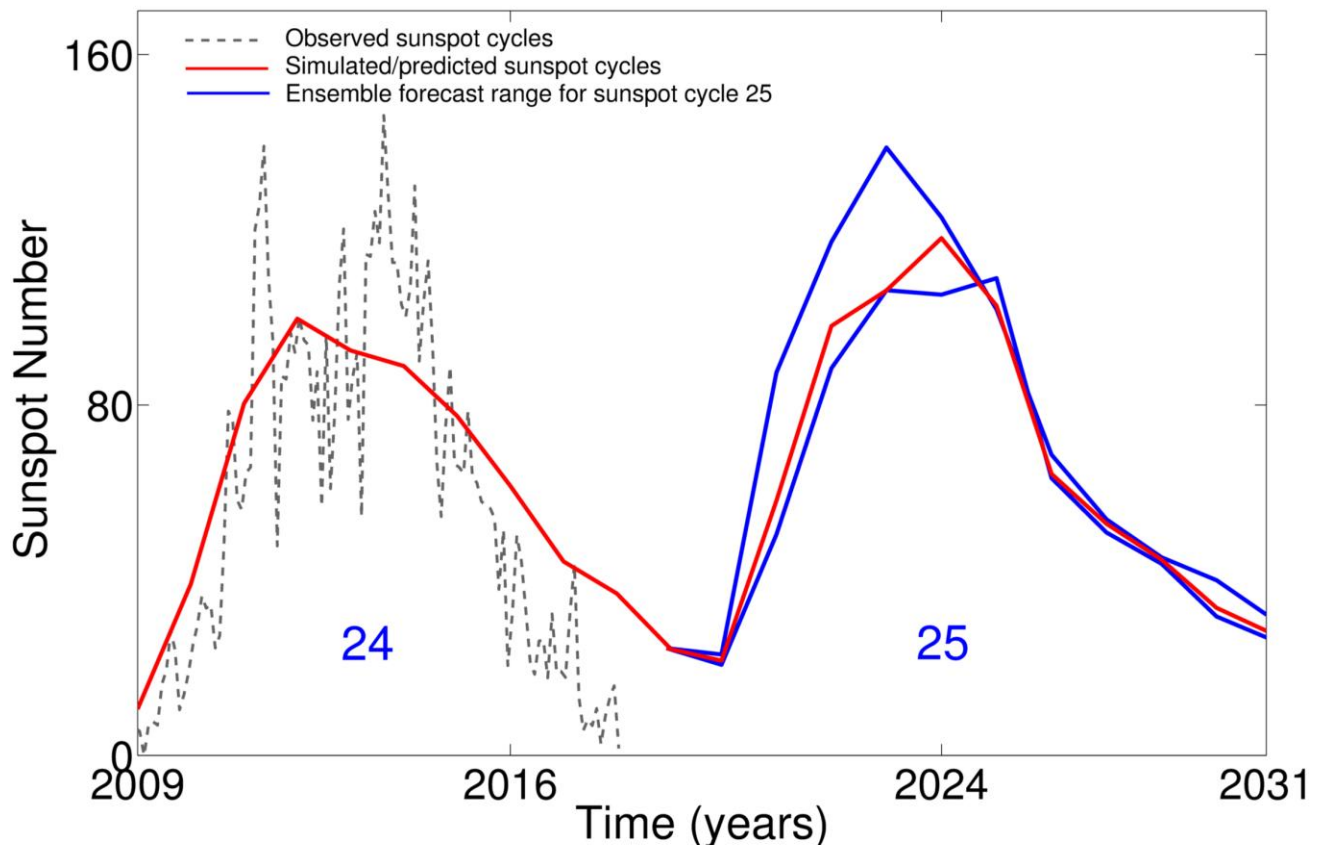
NOAA Updates Solar Cycle 25 Prediction

Frank Donovan, W3LPL, notes that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC) has published its official updated prediction of Solar Cycle 25 in new, interactive **Solar Cycle Progression graphs**. The updated prediction is based on the results of NOAA's Solar Cycle 25 Prediction Panel.

“SWPC forecasts a solar maximum between 105 and 125, with the peak occurring between November 2024 and March 2026,” Donovan said. “There is broad consensus that solar minimum is ongoing this year — or may have already occurred — and that Cycle 25 will have no major change in the level of solar activity compared to Cycle 24.”

As Donovan explained, for many years the SWPC's solar cycle predictions have used the Royal Observatory of Belgium's International Sunspot Number. SWPC's official solar cycle prediction now uses the SWPC sunspot number. The International Sunspot Number is typically about one-third lower than the SWPC sunspot number.

“While this is SWPC's official Cycle 25 prediction, it's important to note there is still divergence among various forecasting methods and members of the space weather forecasting community,” Donovan said. “Most forecasts and forecasters agree that the Cycle 25 peak is likely to be within $\pm 20\%$ of Cycle 24 and is likely to occur between 2024 and 2027.”



MC ARES Update for April 2020

New AEC. The recent passing of Ray, K8NVY, left MC ARES with a big set of shoes to fill. We are pleased to announce Bob Kramer, KE8HHH, has picked up for Ray. Bob is a member of the Western Reserve Amateur Radio Club and will be our contact point for the WRARC. Our four MC ARES AEC's, listed below, give us members from each of the local clubs. You can reach us via our MC ARES email, mahoning.ares@gmail.com, which is automatically forwarded to each of us

Dave Brett, EC
Mike Joseph, AEC
Bob Kramer, AEC
Rich Slutz, AEC
Frank Sole, AEC

April 4th we ran a MC ARES net from 9-10:00am. This net was in conjunction with the Ohio statewide nets between 11:00am and 1:00pm and the WPA ARES SET running throughout the day. Our new AEC ran the net and had a busy morning, taking 38 check-ins, as well as gathering information on user's equipment such as their ability to work off grid.

Training Reminder. Part of being prepared is to continually upgrade our Knowledge and Skills. There are a variety of no cost resources available to keep us up to speed, such as these ARRL online courses:

[EC-001: Introduction to Emergency Communication+](#)
[EC-016: Public Service and Emergency Communications Management for Radio Amateurs+](#)
[PR-101: Public Relations 101 for Radio Amateurs](#)

Several of the courses have prerequisites from the FEMA ICS series.

Connect Reminder. In 2019 ARRL approved a new updated plan for ARES. You can find the plan on the MC ARES website: <http://www.mahoning-ares.org/> . One part of the plan is the creation of the Connect website that acts as a central resource for volunteers to see ARES activities throughout the country, sign up for events, and record hours volunteering. All MC ARES are encouraged to register on Connect. Instructions for registering are on the Ohio ARES website here: http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/connect/ares_connect_directions.pdf

THE LAST WORD

“Humor can make a serious difference. In the workplace, at home, in all areas of life – looking for a reason to laugh is necessary. A sense of humor helps us to get through the dull times, cope with the difficult times, enjoy the good times and manage the scary times.”

– Steve Goodier



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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

Swap and Shop listings are open to all licensed Mahoning Valley Hams, based on space available—you don't need to be an MVARA member. Please submit your list to mvara.w8qly@gmail.com **AND** mvaravoicecoil@gmail.com for placement in both *Voice Coil* and website. MVARA assumes no responsibility for transactions made or inaccuracies in ads. You are responsible for checking your ad and notifying us of any corrections. Ads will run for two consecutive issues unless notified otherwise.

Disclaimer

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