



Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association

Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association Voice Coil



April 2025

mvara.w8qly@gmail.com

The Voice Coil - Volume 25-4

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President's Corner

Ed Newson asked, and you guys answered - it looks like we're going to have a foxhunt. First, we are going to be building some directional tape measure antennas. We have a few things going on the next few months, but we are going to try and put the antenna build early in May and then we will do the foxhunt at the beginning of June. I don't have dates just yet but as soon as I do then I will let all of you know.

The other things we have coming up is our boot camp and we will be doing that in May also. We have done it twice now and it has been a big success in the past so we're going to do it again. Then we have the big event in June and I do know the dates for that and that is Field Day and the dates for that are

June 27th and 28th. We will also be out at the farm on June 26th for antenna set-up.

Scott Wilton, MVARA President

Upcoming MVARA Events

Date	Event	Location
April 10, 2025	MVARA Meeting	Boardman

April Club Program

Our program for the April club meeting is MVARA Speed Dating. This idea came from our recent new member, Renee KF8BEI. Of course she originally described it as old/new ham group meeting, but we needed to give it a weird twist, and voila, Ham Speed Dating.

We have been fortunate to have many new hams join MVARA in 2024 and 2025, but with that comes the responsibility to help them find their niche in Amateur Radio. That's what this meeting will be about. We will divide the room up into half a dozen tables, each table will have at least one experienced ham assigned initially. The rest of us will pick a table to join the conversation. The assigned Ham's job is to get things rolling by talking a little bit about what they enjoy in Ham Radio or describing their station, and so on. (This should be a real problem – getting a Ham to talk about their Station!) At the end of 10 minutes or so, we swap tables and start again. We will wrap up by asking members if they picked up anything new?



MVARA 2025 Renewals Are Open

Yep, it's time to renew your membership with MVARA. You can renew in person at the January meeting or online with PayPal. A fillable PDF is on the website here with details:

<https://www.mvara.org/mbrshpfrm/2025%20Membership%20Form.pdf>



The YSU STEM College will host a free Radio Day event for 5th thru 8th grade students on Saturday, April 26th at the Williamson Innovation Park in Canfield. Students attending will examine how radios work, learn different ways in which radios are used in today's world and get an introduction to the electromagnetic spectrum through fun, hands-on activities. Activities will include Morse Code and tuning in radio signals from around the world and even making two-way contacts using Amateur Radio.

Students must both register and complete a waiver to attend. Both forms and more information can be found at:

<https://academics.yсу.edu/stem-blog/radio-day-williamson-innovation-park>

Please encourage any young person you know in 5th thru 8th grades to attend this great one day YSU program. It's free of charge.

Mahoning County ARES Update

Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) in Mahoning County started 2025 with a well-attended All Hands Meeting in February. The meeting featured a short review of County ARES activities in 2024 and plans for 2025.

The major topic of the meeting that morning was the debut of the Mahoning County ARES Task Book. ARES in the County has localized the excellent ARRL ARES Task Book and is using it to develop and track all future ARES Training in the County. The Task Book is a great tool for your self-paced journey into Emergency Communications.

If you're already a Mahoning County ARES Member you should have received a March 3rd email outlining the steps to get your own ARES Task Book. If you can't find the email, just let us know at mahoning.ares@gmail.com and we'll resend it to you.

If you're not yet a member of Mahoning County ARES you can find an application form at the County ARES Web Site, www.mahoning-ares.org under the "Membership" tab at the top of the page. All County Amateur Radio Operators interested in emergency communications are encouraged to join. There is no cost or fee involved.

This year Mahoning County ARES will again be assisting County EMA and Canfield Fire and EMS with communications at the Canfield Fair. Both EMA and Canfield Joint Fire were very happy with ARES services at the Fair last year and are looking forward to expanding coverage for this year's Fair. We hope to have as many ARES Members as possible working this important County event in 2025.

If you're a Mahoning County ARES Member stay up to date on the ARES emails and try to make as many meetings, training sessions and drills as you can this year. For those wishing to join our local ARES get your application in and we'll be happy to put you on the mailing list.

Your ARES Leadership Team



Shhhh – Just WSPR

March 8th, 2014, Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 disappeared. To date there have been a few remnants of the aircraft washed up on Indian Ocean islands, but the bulk of the aircraft has not been found, and now Amateur Radio is helping try to reconstruct where it may have gone down.

WSPR, Weak Signal Propagation Reporter, is currently part of the WJST-X package created at Princeton by Joe Taylor, K1JT. WSPR is a program used to test the propagation paths of RF signals between amateur radio operators using a narrowband digital transmission protocol. The simple description is that WSPR is a large group of Amateurs that monitor WSPR transmissions all over the world. When they receive a properly decoded message, they automatically upload the message to the WSPR Database along with location information for the receiver. In practice, Amateurs send a WSPR message and then check the database to see where it was received, thereby getting a worldwide signal report to check their station performance.

The WSPR Database currently holds over 6 million records of these XMT/RCV connections. Now there is a group using the records in the database to help track the flight of MH-370 with the hope of locating the wreckage. The group refers to their technique as Post Processing the records. It was discovered long ago that Radio Waves reflected from large objects could be used to track them. RADAR stands for Radio Detection and Ranging. Now it has been discovered that anomalies in the WSPR signals are created when an Aircraft flies through the transmission. WSPRnet reports the Signal to Noise Ratio (SNR) referenced to a 2,500 Hz bandwidth of the received signal; typical values are -30 dB to +20 dB. WSPRnet also reports the received frequency; typical values are around the center frequency for the selected band. A temporary change in the SNR or received frequency by more than 0.75 of a standard deviation (SD) measured over a ± 3 hour time period can be caused by an aircraft crossing the propagation path.

The group is searching the WSPR database to detect the anomalies and correlate them to the time frame of the flight. They have constructed a flight path from the research and recommended search areas not previously considered. You can find more information at these links:

<https://www.mh370search.com/category/wspr/>

<https://www.mh370search.com/2024/02/15/wspr-aircraft-tracking/>



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<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=31863004>

Amateur License Refresher

It's probably been a while 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

E2B01

In digital television, what does a coding rate of 3/4 mean?

- A. 25% of the data sent is forward error correction data
- B. Data compression reduces data rate by 3/4
- C. 1/4 of the time interval is used as a guard interval
- D. Three, four-bit words are used to transmit each pixel

E2B02

How many horizontal lines make up a fast-scan (NTSC) television frame?

- A. 30
- B. 60
- C. 525
- D. 1080

General Pool

G5B01

What dB change represents a factor of two increase or decrease in power?

- A. Approximately 2 dB
- B. Approximately 3 dB
- C. Approximately 6 dB
- D. Approximately 9 dB

G5B02

How does the total current relate to the individual currents in a circuit of parallel resistors?

- A. It equals the average of the branch currents
- B. It decreases as more parallel branches are added to the circuit
- C. It equals the sum of the currents through each branch
- D. It is the sum of the reciprocal of each individual voltage drop

E2B01 (A)
E2B02 (C)
G5B01 (B)
G5B02 (C)

Meet Our New Members

We recently started this section to introduce our new members and it has been well received, so we will continue it in each edition of the Voice Coil. We asked new members to give us a little background information and what they would like to see at the club in 2025. If you are a recent member and we missed emailing you, please drop us a note at mvara.w8qly@gmail.com.

This month we are re-introducing Mike Malarky. Mike had been a member of MVARA for several years but had to step away. Before he left Mike was even our Secretary.

Hey everybody. I'm Mike, W8IWD. Certainly not new, (licensed 2019) but went sort of MIA for a while. Work, Military Duties, and life in general gets in the way sometimes. I really missed Radio and made it a point to jump back in.

HF is my biggest interest. I always have 2m on but work a lot of HF when I have the time. Really enjoy contests and giving POTA operators contacts. I would love to see more remote activities. I'm well set up for that. Not a huge talker lol. I do have a 2m in my truck at work and a Dually I finally got in my car. Will re-familiarize myself with learning everyone's call signs and get back on more. See you around and on the air. 73.

Upcoming Contests and QSO Parties

Dave Fairbanks N8NB

Contests:

Source is contestcalendar.com

April 2025

+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Apr 1
+ QCX Challenge	0300Z-0400Z, Apr 1
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Apr 2
+ Phone Weekly Test	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 2
+ A1Club AWT	1145Z-1300Z, Apr 2
+ CWops Test (CWT)	1300Z-1400Z, Apr 2
+ Mini-Test 40	1700Z-1759Z, Apr 2
+ VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	1700Z-2100Z, Apr 2
+ Mini-Test 80	1800Z-1859Z, Apr 2
+ CWops Test (CWT)	1900Z-2000Z, Apr 2
+ Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	0000Z-0100Z, Apr 3 and 0200Z-0300Z, Apr 4
+ NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1800Z-1900Z, Apr 3 (CW) and 1900Z-2000Z, Apr 3 (SSB) and 2000Z-2100Z, Apr 3 (FM) and 2100Z-2200Z, Apr 3 (Dig)
+ NCCC FT4 Sprint	0100Z-0130Z, Apr 4
+ Weekly RTTY Test	0145Z-0215Z, Apr 4
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 4
+ K1USN Slow Speed Test	2000Z-2100Z, Apr 4
+ Georgia State Parks on the Air	1200Z, Apr 5 to 2359Z, Apr 6
+ EA RTTY Contest	1200Z, Apr 5 to 1200Z, Apr 6
+ Florida State Parks on the Air	1400Z-2200Z, Apr 5 and 1400Z-2200Z, Apr 6
+ Missouri QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 5 to 0400Z, Apr 6 and 1400Z-2000Z, Apr 6
+ Mississippi QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 5 to 0200Z, Apr 6
+ Louisiana QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 5 to 0200Z, Apr 6
+ George Batterson 1935 QSO Party	2300Z, Apr 5 to 0300Z, Apr 7 and 2300Z, Apr 12 to 0300Z, Apr 14
+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Apr 8
+ VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	1700Z-2100Z, Apr 9
+ Mini-Test 80	1800Z-1859Z, Apr 9
+ QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party	0000Z-0600Z, Apr 12
+ OK/OM DX Contest, SSB	1200Z, Apr 12 to 1159Z, Apr 13
+ Texas State Parks on the Air	1300Z, Apr 12 to 1259Z, Apr 13
+ New Mexico QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 12 to 0200Z, Apr 13
+ North Dakota QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 12 to 1800Z, Apr 13

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+ Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 12 to 0359Z, Apr 13 and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 13	
+ ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB	1800Z-2359Z, Apr 13	
+ 144 MHz Spring Sprint	2300Z, Apr 14 to 0600Z, Apr 15	
+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Apr 15	
+ VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	1700Z-2100Z, Apr 16	
+ ES Open HF Championship	0500Z-0859Z, Apr 19	
+ Worked All Provinces of China DX Contest	0600Z, Apr 19 to 0559Z, Apr 20	
+ Dutch PACCdigi Contest	0700Z to 1900Z, Apr 19	
+ QRP to the Field	0800-1800 local, Apr 19	
+ CQMM DX Contest	0900Z, Apr 19 to 2359Z, Apr 20	
+ Nebraska QSO Party	1100Z to 2259Z, Apr 19	
+ Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 19 to 0400Z, Apr 20	
+ Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 19 to 0500Z, Apr 20 and 1200Z-1800Z, Apr 20	
+ Quebec QSO Party	1200Z-2200Z, Apr 20	
+ 222 MHz Spring Sprint	2300Z, Apr 22 to 0600Z, Apr 23	
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Apr 23	
+ Phone Weekly Test	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 23	
+ 10-10 Int. Spring Contest, Digital	0001Z, Apr 26 to 2359Z, Apr 27	
+ Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 26 to 0159Z, Apr 27 and 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 27	
+ 432 MHz Spring Sprint	2300Z, Apr 30 to 0600Z, May 1	

DX Information

Dave Fairbanks N8NB

Source is www.ng3k.com,

April					
2025 Apr01	2025 Apr07	Surinam	PZ5IP	PY8WW OQRS	OPDX 20250212
2025 Apr02	2025 Apr10	Ogasawara	JD1	Auto Buro	DXW.Net 20250225
2025 Apr03	2025 Apr10	Maldives	8Q7EF	LoTW	OPDX 20250111
2025 Apr08	2025 Apr17	Ogasawara	JD1	LoTW	OPDX 20250308
2025 Apr09	2025 Apr15	French Polynesia	TX7XG	LoTW	TDDX 20240923
2025 Apr10	2025 Apr27	Br Virgin Is	VP2VI	LoTW	DXW.Net 20250225
2025 Apr11	2025 Apr13	Palau	T88PB NEW	JA0JHQ	DXW.Net 20250313

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2025 Apr16	2025 Apr23	Palau	T88UW	LoTW	OPDX 20250208
2025 Apr17	2025 Apr27	Bonaire	PJ4CB	LoTW	OPDX 20241129
2025 Apr18	2025 Apr20	East Kiribati	T32AZ	KH6QJ (B/d)	TDDX 20250221
2025 Apr18	2025 Apr26	Galapagos	HD8G	LoTW	DXW.Net 20240609
2025 Apr19	2025 Apr21	Marquesas	FO <small>NEW</small>	F4LYI	DXW.Net 20250313
2025 Apr19	2025 May02	Gambia	C5	LoTW	DXW.Net 20241227
2025 Apr21	2025 Apr25	Marquesas	FO <small>NEW</small>	F4LYI	DXW.Net 20250313
2025 Apr22	2025 May01	Tanzania	5H1KB <small>NEW</small>	LoTW	DXW.Net 20250315
2025 Mar24	2025 Apr03	Vanuatu	YJ0CA <small>NEW</small>	VK2YUS	425DXN 20250315
2025 Apr25	2025 Apr28	Thailand	E28AM/p	LoTW	OPDX 20250227
2025 Apr25	2025 May07	Austral Is	TX9A	DK8ZZ	DXW.Net 20240927
2025 Apr26	2025 Apr30	French Polynesia	FO <small>NEW</small>	F4LYI	DXW.Net 20250313

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

Website: The MVARA is on the web at www.mvara.org. It is the place to go for club events, classes, newsletters, VE exams, swap and shop, repeaters, history, documents, and contact information.

24/7 Club Connection: The MVARA is on groups.io at <https://groups.io/g/mvara>. Members are invited to hang out with us there and discuss any ham related topic that interest them such as, Club Activities, Parks on the Air, Solar Cycle 25, EmComm, Special Event Stations, Contesting, Public Service, and Swap and Shop. There is video on our website at <https://mvara.org/videos.html> by Dave KD8NZF that shows how to use and join the 24/7 Club Connection.

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: mvara.w8qly@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--you don't need to be an MVARA member. You can include a picture for your listing. Please submit your list to mvara.w8qly@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 we are notified otherwise.

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 members. Contact Nancy, nanceanne34@gmail.com for 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 - 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.

Disclaimer

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