Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association Voice Coil

August 2025	mvara.w8qly@gmail.com	The Voice Coil - Volume 25-8

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President's Corner

I must brag one more time that you guys and gals are the best. You totally kicked it for field day once again and it looks like this will be the best year we have ever had. There were 2,581 total contacts. Resulting with all our total extra points and we turned in a score of 10,286. The best score that we have ever got. You folks should be proud. I know that I am.

Election will be here before we know it and there is a position that needs to be filled. I am termed out and cannot serve another two years. Someone needs to step up and take the position. There are a few other positions to be filled, one is the secretary and two

trustees. If you're interested in any of the positions, please see me.
Scott, KE4UHC

Upcoming MVARA Events

Date	Event	Location
August 3, 2025	Olde Car Show Special Event	Boardman
August 14, 2025	MVARA Corn Roast	Boardman

August Club Program

The MVARA annual Corn Roast will take place on Thursday August 14th in Boardman Twp. Park, It will be held at the Master's Pavilion. This is located on the west side of the park off of Southern Blvd. All members and their families are encouraged to attend! We will eat dinner at about 6:30 pm, but you can arrive anytime after 5:30 pm to help shuck the corn.

As in the past the club will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, corn, beverages, and table settings. Those attending are asked to bring a ***covered dish or dessert*** to share (DON'T FORGET TO BRING A SERVING SPOON OR FORK FOR YOUR DISH!!).

Also, at this year's event there will be a special presentation you don't want to miss!

If you have any questions please contact Dean DeMain (W8YSU) @ 330-507-9295 or E-mail w8ysu@arrl.net

Directions will be available on W8QLY 146.745/R beginning @ 5:00 pm.

Hope to see you all there,

Dean DeMain
W8YSU
MVARA
CORN ROAST CHAIRMAN

Special Event Station at the Car Show

One of our favorite events is happening soon. The Mahoning Valley Old Car Club show at Boardman Park, 375 Boardman Poland Rd, Boardman, OH. We will once again be setting up a special event station at the show along the entrance to the show. Not only do you get to be on the air, but you have a prime seat to see each car as they enter the park. Admission to the show is free so if you feel like a walk, there is lots to see.

As you enter the park from 224, there is a grassy area along the street shortly after the St. James Meeting House. The area is almost like an island, surrounded by streets on three sides. We park on the back side of the island and will have a Pop-Up Tent set up early on. We like to be on the air by 10:00am and will start setup around 8:30am. In addition to setting up the tent we will need help setting up our antennas. We plan to have two radios and two antennas. We ask everyone attending to bring something for lunch to share. The show is August 3rd, c'mon down and get on the air with us.

Field Day 2025 Wrap Up

Rich, KB8GAE, sent along the following summary for Field Day 2025.

Field day 2025 got off to an early start. Scott KE4UHC suggested to beat the 90 degree heat we begin putting up antennas at 7am on Friday. I thought it would be 9am before 4 people showed up but to my surprise, we had 2 full crews going before 8am. Scott's suggestion was a good one as the antennas were up and the coax weather proofed before 3pm when a gully washer of a thunderstorm came thru and it rained hard for 45 minutes. We had fantastic support and thanks to all who came out to help.

The ARRL encourages certain Field Day activities by awarding bonus points for them. MVARA was able to qualify for many of them. I would like to recognize and thank the following members for their work in this area, with apologies to anyone I may overlook. 100 points for setup in a public location Scott KE4UHC, 100 points for media publicity Frank WB8YHD, 100 points for an information booth Mike K8PRR, 100 points for a message to the section manager Dave KF8BFD, Joe N8SEJ, Rob KE8OKO, and Ed KE8NSW , 100 points for originating 10 message from the Field Day site Dave KF8BFD, Joe N8SEJ, Rob KE8OKO, and Ed KE8NSW, 100 points for a copy of the W1AW field day message Dave KD8NZF, 100 points for an educational activity Mark K8MSH (Remote Operating), 100 points for a Safety Officer Scott KE4UHC, 100 points for natural power Frank WB8YHD, 100 points for social media Mike K8PRR, and 50 points for submitting our score via the web Rich KB8GAE, and 100 points for a visit by a served agency Nancy KD8QNY, 100 points for visit by a government official Al KE8ADY. That adds up to 1,250 points. Way to go MVARA!

Many people on the Monday night net said that the food is the best part of Field Day. Saturday lunch was Westgate Pizza, always a favorite. Dinner was a delicious cookout of

burgers and dogs along with a wide array of delicious side dishes and desserts. My favorite is breakfast. The French toast, eggs, bacon, sausage, and hash browns were all excellent. Thanks to the food crew of Dean, W8YSU, and Joe N8SEJ and thanks to everyone else who contributed by bringing something.

Kudos to Joe N8SEJ, and everyone who helped with infrastructure. It is easy to overlook the great job they do such as keeping the generators full of gas & running. Thanks to Mark K8MSH for all he has done building antennas, chokes, and researching and purchasing club equipment like band pass filters and coax. Atta boy to Ralph K8TCP for setting up the network and getting us started on time. Once again, we displayed a heat map of the USA along with stats and a leader board. Very cool eye candy on the big screen monitor they brought out!

Band conditions were fair. We made some changes to our antenna layout that improved our effectiveness. This is the first year at the farm where we had no stations interfering with each other. For CW/Digi we ran a 40-meter dipole rather than a vertical and worked 784 QSOs which is 284 more than last year. Overall, we worked 2,581 QSOs which was 106 less than last year. A great job for mediocre band conditions. 40 meters again was the money band where we worked 1,543 Q's or 60% of our total.

Visitors to the information booth kept Mike K8PRR busy. ARRL officials included Great Lakes Director Scot N8SY and Ohio Section Manager Tom Sly WB8LCD who gave the club a beautiful American flag. We were also visited by Youngstown Mayor Tito Brown.

The big news this year is how good we did with digital. Ed KE8NSW, AL KE8ADY, and Ralph KE8TCP and his posse KC1KBF, KE8VUF, and N8JWS knocked it out of the park working 560 contacts. 230 more than our previous best in 2023.

Dave KF8BFD and Joe N8SEJ composed a message to the section manager and 10 additional messages to be sent from the farm via the National Traffic System to earn the club 200 bonus points. They worked with Rob KE8OKO and Ed KE8NSW to transmit the messages to the local KE8OKO-4 winlink node which relayed the messages to the NTS via the internet. This confirmed our ability to use Winlink to send formal messages when there is no other local infrastructure available. Hats off to all!

Any year we are over 1,000 contacts on sideband is a good one. This year we put 1,044 SSB QSOs in the log. Our 4th best from the farm. Way to go guys and gals!

For the first time in years Karl ND8DX was not our top operator, that honor goes to Rich KB8GAE whose 691 CW Qs edged out Karl's 618 SSB Qs.

Four different operators KB8GAE, N8NB, W4ZIP, and WB8YHD set a new record for CW contacts. This year's 977 was 65 more than last year's 912. Outstanding!

We ran our first ever SO2R (Single Operator 2 Radio). In the wee hours of the morning KE8ADY ran FT8 simultaneously on 2 stations. That is thinking outside the box. Way to go Alan!

If you were able to participate in Field Day 2025 you were once again part of an epic

historic effort! The good old days are most definitely right now!

Here are the numbers:

Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
80	55	133	210	398	15
40	642	759	142	1,543	60
20	241	107	60	408	16
15	39	39	25	103	4
10	0	6	90	96	4
6	0	0	33	33	1
Total	977	1,044	560	2,581	100

21 operators made 2,581 qso's for 8,236 points. Add that to 800 points for running 8 transmitters and 1250 bonus points and our preliminary score is 10,286. The first time ever we are north of 10K. Well done MVARA!

Our best score in the past was 9,968 last year. This year we worked 106 less Qs but our score is higher because we got 65 more on CW and 230 more on Digi and they are worth 2 points apiece. Congrats to all on an amazing effort.

Last year our score was lower at 9,968. We placed 3 out of 9 stations in the 8a class and 42nd overall out of 4,319 entries (top 1%). We will know in December how we rank this year.

2025 Field Day is history, and it is on to 2026. Hope to see you all there!

Rich KB8GAE

PS: BCNU at Winter Field Day

Mahoning County ARES Update

If You're Interested, Now is the Time

Now is the time to get moving if you're interested in being part of the Mahoning County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) Activation for the 2025 Canfield Fair. Everyone in the County knows how big and fun the Fair is every year. What most don't realize is that it requires a great deal of communications to put the Fair on every year. That's what Amateur Radio Operators do best.

This is a BIG FAIR, and it needs a big communications group. Mahoning County ARES is up to the challenge.

The 2025 ARES Fair activation will be for the full 6-day run of the Fair. That means we need more EMA Qualified members to cover the shifts. Member admission to the Fair will be free. Shifts will be short. It's a great way to serve our community.

All Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) Members that are interested in participating in the 2025 ARES Canfield Fair activation need to make sure they get their EMA Qualifications completed. The 2025 Canfield Fair is just a little over a month away and that gives plenty of time to complete EMA qualifications. Consult your ARES Task Books. The five (5) required ICS Courses are easy to complete in a relatively short period of time. You can do them at your own pace.

Remember, Now is the Time.

If you're not yet a member of Mahoning County ARES now is a great time to consider joining. ARES Task Books and Member Applications are available at the Mahoning County ARES Website.

www.mahoning-ares.org

Mahoning ARES needs members for the Canfield Fair Activation. Please try to help out.

Your ARES Leadership Team

My First MVARA Field Day

Neil Bayliss

What I think I will experience and what I actually experience are usually entirely different animals. For this, I'm thankful. The latest to solidify this outcome is Summer Field Day 2025. I had envisioned that FD was a couple of quick deployment antennas, rigs running on battery and solar power, and a lot of cloud warming simulated emergency comm setups. It was some of this, but more.

I am a reborn amateur, not new by any means. I got my novice ticket at 13 years old and after a brief layoff since 1989, I tested for my technician and geared up again to get back on the airwaves. In 1989, out in the Pennsylvania countryside, my father had a nice shack of tube gear (HW-101) and a couple dipoles - maybe the beam was still out there when I got on the air, but I don't remember. In any event, my pop and I went to ham fests, worked on the gear, and checked the tubes at Ross Radio's ancient commercial tube tester.

Testing for the tech opened a new world of radio since I had learned CW on my ARRL cassette tapes on my bedroom floor. FT8, POTA, SSTV, WARC and VarAC? What the heck is this? Add to this that everybody seems to be talking about SDR and HAM2K and it was overwhelming for a minute. Without the internet and YouTube, I would never be able to read enough about these acronyms and modes to find my way.

I was fortunate to find the club early after my upgrade and beginning to make contacts and explore some of the modes on my new rig. When I read the newsletter and heard about the setup of FD, I was going to make sure to check this out action. I followed the notices and back and forth about the antenna farm setup and timeline of the day in the weeks following up to FD weekend and when the volunteer call came, I wanted to be engaged with the setup.

At the MetroParks Farm after my morning swim I could see a good deal of activity already going on when I pulled into the parking lot. I thought, "Wow. This is pretty cool." My mind didn't grasp the magnitude of the completed antenna farm or the work involved in putting all of this up. I somehow got involved with Ed setting up a homebrew 6m dipole. I think I was drawn to this little thing and the clean build that showed some nice attention to detail compared to some of my dad's homebrew that end up looking like the pile of spare parts and scrap that it is built from. Very nice work, Ed. He explained all his setup and the build to me as we worked to set this antenna up. Ed also showed me the taunt hitch knot I had long forgotten about from Boy Scouts in the '80s. Fortunately I used that knot about 50 more times that day and it won't soon be forgotten now.

Shortly after this setup, Rich and Frank absorbed us into their crew to set up more dipoles and masts about the property. A 40m dipole here, another there. With a break to talk to some people walking by about the setup and what FD is in 50 words or less. At the back of the property our group guyed a couple more military surplus masts for yet another dipole and a particularly interesting 80m antenna I had never heard of one called the "horse fence antenna" or something like that. It is quite literally made of 2 strands of electric horse fence that has 4-6 radiator lines woven into a 4-5" wide ribbon and some angle aluminum center-

fed. So, another lesson learned and the last antenna we set up for the day. Just in the nick as the thunderheads were forming off to the western horizon this mid-afternoon.

Saturday was another sweltering day full of sunshine and humidity and a bit of anticipation waiting for the official transmit start time. I planned on making a number of FD contacts from my home station when the bands lit up at go time. I was caught up on my usual about the house weekend jobs and sat down to rack up some QSO's. As a technician I have limited options and actually have fallen in love with CW since getting back on the air. With the up and down of band conditions and the erratic solar activity lately I am usually bouncing around 40m or 15m as conditions seem to be ever changing the weeks leading up to FD. On 40m I wheeled around the band, and I never heard anything like this even from the first couple of contest weekends I had heard in late spring. I mean there were thousands of different CW tones piling up all over the band! I shut it off and walked away overwhelmed and shell shocked.

About a half an hour later, determined, I sat down to become a part of the fracas and just see if I could get at least one contact. A confession. I found out after the fact that there is a protocol for these contacts. Call. RST. State. Something like this. I just banged out my call, a friendly "tx frm OH" with a RST and maybe watts or whatever else like a basic QSO and was either engaged or 'R. R." and dismissed by the station. Since then, I've tried to be better at learning the protocols. This week is the 13 Colonies Special Event and I'm trying to be a better operator (although I have just found out that they call certain regions at times; I'm certain I've made a few more RF enemies this week too). I believe I ended the short time on the air FD afternoon with 3 unique FD stations in the log. I am pleased with this and overall happy with my CW ops progression. We really have a wonderful hobby, and I can't thank everyone on the air for their help and patience.

I left my QTH to head back to "the barn" to see just what the MVRR operation was like. When I first learned when FD was this year, I thought this was more about emergency communications and public visibility and education. What I found was an interesting hodge podge of setups with the clubs in the Mahoning Valley area and across North America. The MVARA FD for 2025, my first and I have no idea what past FD setups were like, appears to be heavily contest dominant. The setup in the barn was wildly impressive. 20m SSB, FT8, CW, a remote computer controlled FlexRadio setup presentation, the general info canopy, and the smell of a potluck dinner were ongoing with about 15-20 members milling about. I was pleasantly surprised at the turnout and expected just a few people.

The barn was expertly laid out with a large monitor that could show states worked, overall QSO stats, and contacts by callsign. Full use of the floor space was utilized.

I had no idea that FD had become such a contest of sorts. I still thought this was all about rapid deployment, close contact, emergency comms. I figured that most of the QSOs were FD to FD stations to describe setup and rag chew a bit about the station and how a club or region was prepared to handle a disaster of some kind. From what it appears, there are many clubs that focus on emergency communication setups, others that focus on the contest spirit and points systems now assigned to FD, and others that are more about public visuals and education about amateur radio. As with all aspects of the sport of amateur radio, there is no wrong way to field day. All of these field systems can and would

be deployed as portable if the situation arose to help in a time of national need. That seems to unfortunately be proven more often than we would like in the past number of months with Hurricane Helene up to the latest tragedy only a little over a week after field day in the deadly flooding of Texas.

I am looking forward to being a bigger part of FD and other mobile events in the future as we plan as a group. I would like to see an additional focus on or maybe a public demonstration of the ability and use of amateur radio in public service - to the public on FD weekend. The few passersby that I talked to on Friday and Saturday were very interested in the antenna set up and operations of the club and there could be an opportunity for further outreach. Until our next FD, I'll be working on my CW and mobile operating as well as considering more ways to help the group put on an even better show.

Meet Our New Member, Michael McNamara KB8OTK

Well, I've been a ham since my 18th birthday in March 1993. My Novice license actually arrived in the mailbox on my birthday. Radio has been a big part of my life since then. Radio was something I could do when I was too sick to go to school or play any sports. Somehow that has come full circle now that my doctors have forced me to retire due to chronic health issues.

I moved to Mahoning County in May 2024. My mom's side of the family is Youngstown native. I was born in Warren, then when I was 2 my parents moved the family to Canton. I lived in Canton until I moved here. I have experienced many different aspects of ham radio but there are so many more things I haven't experienced yet. Amateur radio is a hobby that always has something new to learn and experience. I really enjoy the community service aspect of working public events. As a former firefighter and EMT, I am very interested in becoming a SkyWarn member. I like to be out in the chaos of severe weather events. (Hey Dean – Another Volunteer for Your Group)

Another aspect of radio I am working on getting into is POTA/ SOTA activations. I've been slowly building the mobile station which has some form of use on every band from 160M to 70cm, including 220 FM. I just need a good screwdriver antenna for the HF bands. All of the mobile mounts can be converted to UHF mounts if I ever deploy dipoles or other portable antennas. No need to pull out the radios to access the backs to change coax. It's always a work in progress.

For the QTH I have a basic setup. Kenwood TS2000 or TS 480 in use with an Acom 1000 amplifier. I do run a stand alone APRS digipeater that eventually I'd like to make into an I GATE. Antennas at home are just a 204 ft G5RV horizontal that runs north/ south. Also a HyGain SPT500 that is meant for 10M but it tunes nicely from 30-6M. For the VHF/UHF I use a Diamond X510 vertical on a duplexer to be able to run APRS/ 2M from a Kenwood TMD710A paired with a Yaesu FTM3207 for UHF.

Mobile radios include: Kenwood TS480 HF/6M. Kenwood TMD710G on APRS/ VHF. TYT 9000 on 220 FM. Yaesu FT7900 for UHF.

As a joke, I've told others that I have melted more solder with RF than I have with an iron. Occasionally I find breaking points in radios, coax and antennas.

Since getting back on the air July of 2024, I logged 27,000+ qso up until the end of the year. This year since January 1st, I have logged 14,320 entries as of today. (Karl – grab him while you can!) So, since I was forced to retire for a 2nd time, radio has become my most productive aspect of life. There is just so much to do and experience in radio, there is something for everyone.

So, I shall see you at the next club meeting. Thank you for welcoming me to the Ham Radio Family of Mahoning County. I look forward to learning from others and maybe I can share knowledge that someone else could use.
73's de KB8OTK Michael McNamara

Does your HT Have Low-T?

Mark Haverstock K8MSH

It's time for the weekly club net, and you're ready to check in on the local repeater. With HT in hand, you confidently press the PTT button. "This is KE8ABC, Homer, in Springfield." Net control responds with "I heard a KE something. Try again." After several more tries, no luck. Disappointed, you set your radio on the table and listen to the rest of the check-ins. So, what's going on?

Perhaps your HT is suffering from low-t (low transmit). How do you improve its performance?

Supercharging the Duck

Almost any antenna works better than the 6-inch rubber duck that comes with most handhelds. Short, flexible antennas are safer when working in close quarters around people and are durable. They're a good choice for dual-band transceivers but are usually optimized for one band and only acceptable on the other.

The National Bureau of Standards tests of Public Safety high band and amateur 2-meter antennas show that a rubber duck has negative gain of up to -5dB compared to a 19-inch quarter wave antenna held at face level. Due to the design of the factory installed HT antenna, you are effectively missing half of the antenna. A rubber duck is only one leg of vertical dipole—a short, loaded, lossy one.

So, where's the other half? Your body acts as the ground when using a handheld radio. By holding the radio, you are capacitively coupled to the radio and make the other leg of the antenna. Of course, you aren't a very good ground system.

A simple way to improve the efficiency of your handheld's antenna is attaching a counterpoise to the radio to be a better ground. There is a product called a rat tail/tiger tail designed for this purpose, but you can easily homebrew your own by attaching piece of wire about a quarter wavelength long to the radio's case. The dangling wire isn't pretty, but it will noticeably boost your signal. Figure 1 shows how this is constructed. Use stranded insulated wire about 19 inches on 2m and 6.5 inches for 73cm.

Fig. 1 HT tail counterpoise

Size Matters

To increase your range, consider an aftermarket antenna. There are many choices, including larger rubber ducks, telescoping antennas, and mobile antennas. All are larger, likely closer to ¼ wavelength, and some even include provisions for a counterpoise or ground.

Telescoping antennas like the Smiley Super Stick II add length and can collapse to under 7 inches. They're available with models that include either SMA male, female or BNC connectors.

Diamond SRH77CA antennas have a 15-inch flexible radiator in SMA male, female or BNC connectors. For mobile use, Diamond MR77 20-inch antenna with magnetic mount gets your antenna out of the car and onto the roof. You can also choose just about any mobile VHF/UHF antenna and add the magnet mount/cable connections.

A ¼ wave mag mount antenna is typically used on a vehicle, but can also be used portable or even at home with a suitable improvised ground. A metal filing cabinet, refrigerator, window air conditioner, balcony railing, pizza pan or other large metal object can work as well.

If you really want to be heard from home, use an outdoor antenna—or hide one in the attic. A DIY vertical dipole can be built for less than $10 and installed just about anywhere—see Figure 2. Encase inside ½" a PVC pipe to weatherproof. Not a maker? The Arrow GP 144/440 ground plane kit and Comet GP-1 base vertical are inexpensive options.

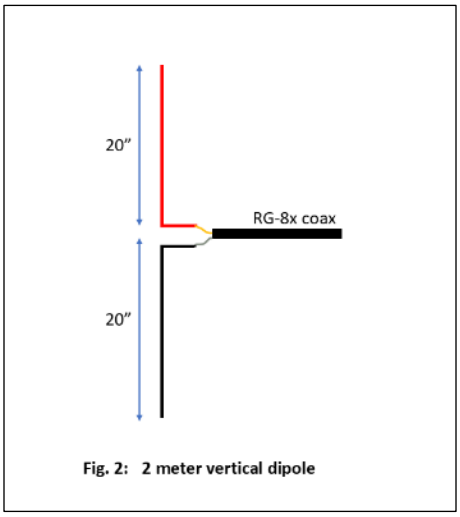

Fig. 2: 2 meter vertical dipole

No matter which you choose, keep the coax run as short as possible to minimize power losses. Use a good quality coax like DXE RG-8x for short runs, RG-8 for longer runs.

Location, Location, Location

Getting a better signal from your HT often depends on how and where you hold it. Handheld radios are built for portability, so everything about them is a compromise. The first step in getting a better signal is to get the radio off your belt and hold it at face level.

When you use a VHF/UHF hand-held radio, the signal will fluctuate as you move around, depending on the position of the antenna, your body and things around you. Signals may be stronger near a window, when facing the repeater or just in a different spot. Moving a few feet can make a big difference, especially indoors. Repositioning can help transform a signal from barely intelligible to clear and concise copy.

Height above ground improves signal, since 2m/70cm bands are line of sight. Go upstairs or move to higher ground to help your signal.

Charge!

HTs typically can transmit at a maximum of 5 watts—some do more. But this is based on a fully-charged battery. How many of us actually remember to regularly charge our HT batteries? Make it part of your weekly routine so you're not caught with a weak battery.

Do you know how to check/change the output power settings? For example, the Yaesu FT-65R has three settings: 5W, 2.5W, 0.5W. Increase the power as needed to compensate for a weak signal.

In Your Face

Sometimes, I've seen some hams absent-mindedly hold their radio horizontally with the microphone covered up, or worse yet, talking into the back of their radio. Not only does a covered mic muffle the audio, but with the antenna in a horizontal position, your signal becomes horizontally polarized. HTs and repeaters use vertical polarization. The difference in polarizations can cause several dB of signal loss.

Keep the microphone close to your mouth, about 3 inches or so, and speak in a normal voice. Screaming into the mic doesn't improve your signal. Instead, it will cause overmodulation and distortion.

Boosting Low-T

Notice that we didn't mention adding an amplifier or buying a 50W radio. Your HT is sufficient for local communications through a local repeater—all it may need is a little boost. Pick the solution that best fits your operating habits and needs.
(This article originally appeared in *On All Bands*, June 2023)

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

E3A01
What is the approximate maximum separation measured along the surface of the Earth between two stations communicating by EME?
A. 2,000 miles, if the moon is at perigee
B. 2,000 miles, if the moon is at apogee
C. 5,000 miles, if the moon is at perigee
D. 12,000 miles, if the moon is "visible" by both stations

E3A02
What characterizes libration fading of an EME signal?
A. A slow change in the pitch of the CW signal
B. A fluttery, irregular fading
C. A gradual loss of signal as the sun rises
D. The returning echo is several hertz lower in frequency than the transmitted signal

General Pool

G7A01
What is the function of a power supply bleeder resistor?
A. It acts as a fuse for excess voltage
B. It discharges the filter capacitors when power is removed
C. It removes shock hazards from the induction coils
D. It eliminates ground loop current

G7A02
Which of the following components are used in a power supply filter network?
A. Diodes
B. Transformers and transducers
C. Capacitors and inductors
D. All these choices are correct

E3A01 (D)
E3A02 (B)
G7A01 (B)
G7A02 (C)

Upcoming Contests and QSO Parties

Dave Fairbanks N8NB

Source is www.contestcalendar.com
August 2025

+ Weekly RTTY Test	0145Z-0215Z, Aug 1
+ 10-10 Int. Summer Contest, SSB	0001Z, Aug 2 to 2359Z, Aug 3
+ ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest	1800Z, Aug 2 to 1800Z, Aug 3
+ North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Aug 2 to 0559Z, Aug 3
+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Aug 5
+ CWops Test (CWT)	1300Z-1400Z, Aug 6
+ VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	1700Z-2100Z, Aug 6
+ Weekly RTTY Test	0145Z-0215Z, Aug 8
+ Maryland-DC QSO Party	1400Z, Aug 9 to 0400Z, Aug 10
+ Kentucky State Parks on the Air	1400Z-2200Z, Aug 9
+ 50 MHz Fall Sprint	1800Z-2200Z, Aug 9
+ NCCC 55th Anniversary Fiesta	1900Z, Aug 9 to 0300Z, Aug 10
+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Aug 12
+ ARRL EME Contest	0000Z, Aug 16 to 2359Z, Aug 17
+ North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Aug 16 to 0559Z, Aug 17

+ ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY	1800Z-2359Z, Aug 17
+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Aug 19
+ NTC QSO Party	1900Z-2000Z, Aug 21
+ Hawaii QSO Party	0400Z, Aug 23 to 0400Z, Aug 25
+ Ohio QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 23 to 0400Z, Aug 24
+ U.S. Islands QSO Party	1200Z, Aug 30 to 0300Z, Aug 31
+ World Wide Digi DX Contest	1200Z, Aug 30 to 1200Z, Aug 31
+ Colorado QSO Party	1300Z, Aug 30 to 0400Z, Aug 31
+ Kansas QSO Party	1400Z, Aug 30 to 0200Z, Aug 31 and 1400Z-2000Z, Aug 31

DX Information

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Source is www.ng3k.com

August					
2025 Aug02	2025 Aug08	Ogasawara	JD1BRC	JH7CSU	OPDX 20250605
2025 Aug02	2025 Aug10	Mayotte	TO3K	LoTW	DXW.Net 20250613
2025 Aug03	2025 Aug18	South Cook Is	E51KEE	LoTW	DXW.Net 20250623
2025 Aug04	2025 Aug13	St Kitts & Nevis	V47JA NEW	LoTW	W5JON 20250810
2025 Aug08	2025 Aug11	Br Virgin Is	VP2V	LoTW	TDDX 20250626
2025 Aug15	2025 Aug29	Greeland	OX	DL6YYM (B/d)	DXW.Net 20250705
2025 Aug16	2025 Aug23	Guatemala	TG4	LoTW	KT8X 20250627
2025 Aug17	2025 Aug25	Dodecanese	SV5	LoTW	OPDX 20250625
2025 Aug18	2025 Aug22	Palau	T8	LoTW	DXW.Net 20250425
2025 Aug18	2025 Aug23	Chile	3G1P	Club Log OQRS	TDDX 20250520

Swap & Shop

4BTV Hustler Vertical with Tilt-Mount. 4-band HF vertical for the 10, 15, 20, and 40-meter bands. They can also be upgraded to operate on 75 or 80 meters (optional.) These antennas perform well in restricted space areas, only 21.5 ft height. Radial wires should be used for best performance.

Precision-cut tilt mount is made from 3/16 in. 304 stainless steel, and includes stainless saddle clamps, wing nut knobs. Installation requires 1.5-2 inch diameter heavy-duty ground mounting pipe (not included.) Handy for working on antenna or hiding from HOA in the daytime.

Includes 4BTV kit, tilt plate with optional accessories, antenna connection pigtail w/so-239 connection, original Hustler and DXE high-performance installation guide. Current retail price for all these items is more than $450 total. Sold only as a set. Yours for $145, cash. Local pickup ONLY. Mark, K8MSH **Email: mh@zoominternet.net**

Follow/Like us at: 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** 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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