



Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association

# Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association Voice Coil



March 2026

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The Voice Coil - Volume 26-3

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## President's Corner

Happy March everyone!

I hope everyone has been enjoying the fish dinner season and are looking forward to the continued slightly warmer weather we've been getting. I personally had some damage from the extreme cold we had this season, so the warmer weather has been a nice change to get some minor housekeeping done. Congratulations to Karl, ND8DX and the operators that worked last years IARU HF World Championship contest on scoring 1st in the Ohio section, 3rd in Zone 8 and 4th place W/VE! For those of you that aren't aware, Karl participates in many contests throughout the year, and has routinely opened his shack to those interested in contesting within the hobby. If you're interested in operating during a contest, reach out to him at one of our meetings, he also mentions the contests he's operating during the Monday night nets! See you all at the next meeting!

**73s Ralph Streb - K8TCP President**

## Upcoming MVARA Events

Date	Event	Location
March 12, 2026	MVARA Meeting	Boardman
March 18, 2026	Tech Class	Online

## March Club Program

For March we will be joined by Walt, K4OGO, who will Zoom into our meeting. Walt produces the Coastal Waves & Wires YouTube channel full of antenna reviews and construction projects. You can check it out here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@COASTALWAVESWIRES> A

quick peek at the link showed his latest video: **Beach DX**

**with a Modified Vertical Spoolenna.** Portable antennas have become very popular with the rise in operations like POTA and Spoolenna makes an antenna wound on a spool. (pretty clever given their name, eh)



You may better know him as Salty Walt, author of **SALTY WALT'S PORTABLE ANTENNA SKETCHBOOK** published by ARRL. His book features design details on 15 antennas he developed for his Beach DX efforts. Two of his recent YouTube releases are Understanding Long Path & Short Path HF DX Radio Signals and -8 Degree HF Portable at the Beach - Turning a Mistake into a Win. Walt describes his interests as travel to coastal destinations chasing the magic of radio.

## Groups.io

This is a reminder that MVARA has a groups.io page we use to make announcements and discuss upcoming events and such. The page is available to all members of the club and can be found here:

<https://groups.io/g/mvara> and there is a subscribe link about midway down the page.

## MVARA Interview in the Vindicator and video on CNN

The Vindicator published an article on our week at Hilltop Elementary. You can find it here:

<https://www.vindy.com/news/local-news/2026/02/canfield-students-connect/>

CNN also did a news bit about the contact and you can find it on YouTube here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5eCM\\_daxwPE&t=48s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5eCM_daxwPE&t=48s) The video starts with other news, the contact starts about 1:58 into the video.



## On The Air Live Offers Learning Opportunities for ARRL Members

The monthly *On the Air Live* offers a monthly opportunity for hams to receive instructional content each month from ARRL Education Specialist Wayne Greene, KB4DSF. Wayne provides a monthly topic that is related to various capabilities, practices and abilities within amateur Radio. “My goal is to inspire ham radio operators to try something new or try different approaches to enhance their ham radio experience.” Says Greene. “In the past year we have covered topics including how to use your HT, a deep dive into APRS, how to send and receive SSTV images, and how to use your ham radio privileges to keep in contact with family and loved ones outside of a disaster area where you may be at that moment.”

*On the Air Live* airs on the ARRL learning center, [learn.arrl.org](http://learn.arrl.org), on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 8PM eastern.

## HELP WANTED!!!

**The MVARA once again been asked to help with the Mill Creek Distance Classic Half-Marathon, sponsored by the Youngstown Roadrunners Club. Anybody interested can meet us at the Mill Creek Park Wick Recreation Area at 8am on Sunday, March 22. For more details or to volunteer, email Dean at [w8ysu@arrl.net](mailto:w8ysu@arrl.net).**



## ARRL America250 Worked All States

A Year-Long Worked-All-States Operating Event Celebrating the 250th Anniversary (Semiquincentennial) of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Similar to the W1AW centennial celebration some years ago, there will be stations on the air from each state in a weekly rotation. You can find a schedule of operations on the ARRL website here: <https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Year%20Of%20The%20Club%20-%20America250-WAS/2026%20America250-WAS%20%20--%20YOTC%20--%20Proposed%20W1AW%20Activation%20-%20V0220.pdf>

March will see activations by Virginia, Guam, Hawaii, Kentucky, Minnesota, and North Dakota. The schedule is updated regularly, so be sure to check the link for the latest.

# **MAHONING COUNTY'S SKYWARN TRAINING**

*YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE AN AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR TO ATTEND THIS TRAINING!!*

## **DATE:**

**APRIL 1, 2026**  
*(WEDNESDAY)*

## **TIME:**

**5:30 PM (1730) SIGN-IN**  
**6:00 PM (1800) TRAINING**

## **LOCATION:**

**AUSTINTOWN TWP. PARK**  
**STACEY PAVILION**  
**6000 KIRK RD.**  
**AUSTINTOWN, OHIO 44515**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR DIRECTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:**

**DEAN DeMAIN (W8YSU) @ 330-507-9295 OR DOUG SAGE (KB8TPG) @ 330-717-8036**

**A NET WILL BE ON 146.745/R @ 1700 hrs.**

**FOR INFORMATION & DIRECTIONS ON THE DAY OF THE TRAINING**

## From the Shack and Field: A New Amateur's Notes

### Neal Bayless, KA3UON

POTA: From the Shack and Field: A New Amateur's Notes

If you have been living in an amateur radio vacuum and you have not heard of POTA, welcome to the juggernaut that has taken the amateur bands by storm. In this month's write-up we will take a glance at the phenomenon that may have brought more amateurs on the air (and back on the air) than any recent initiative. It can possibly claim POTA has brought more people into the international green spaces since the Boy Scouts of America.



What is fantastic about POTA is the ease and accessibility that has come along with this for any amateur whether just getting on the air or a seasoned sad ham. These mobile setups have everything radio has to offer in a mobile setup. If QRP is your game, you can set up with as little as 1 pound of gear (another sect of mobile and POTA ops is this <1 pound club). If you aren't as mobile as your contemporaries, a large group of "activators" simply pull into a parking space within the park to be activated and start their QSO's with their day-to-day mobile setup and car mounted antenna. FM, SSB, CW, digital; nothing is off limits to start accumulating "parks activated" and start the fevered pace of POTA QSOs.



A frosty morning during Christmas week. You can't beat the views for a POTA activation.

POTA is the acronym for Parks on the Air. If you wheel around any of the bands almost any given day on SSB or CW you'll hear more than a few "CQ POTA CQ POTA de ...". It has become the contest you can count on happening daily for the activator and the hunter (more on these terms later). POTA stems from an ARRL initiative NPOTA (National Parks on the Air) that took place in 2016 during the NPS centennial celebration that was wildly popular in itself. Jason Johnson, W3AAX, is credited with starting the official program after the NPS event ended and there remained rampant interest in something similar. POTA isn't

unique - in fact, SOTA (Summits on the Air) established in the UK in the early 2000s and WWFF (World Wide Floral and Fauna) also encourages activation from protected greenspace. The uniqueness for POTA comes from the sheer number of parks accessible worldwide. Any amateur almost anywhere should be able to find an accessible park to get on the air. That is a broad statement, but if you go to the POTA website at <https://pota.app/#/map> you will quickly see there is nearly a park in almost any settled area of the planet.

There are two operators involved in POTA, the hunter and the activator. I started as a hunter. I was getting back on the air after so many years, nearly forgot all CW and any inkling of courteous and standard operating practice, and found anytime I tuned into my technician privileges frequencies I could hear these small pile-ups pounding some poor soul calling CQ POTA. This proved excellent to relearn some common CW rhythms and simple operating procedures. The repetition was perfect. Even at higher speed the CQ POTA de W3XYZ GM KA3UON RST 55N FRM US-1234 BK was drilled into my head and helped start an instant recognition practice for learning CW. Logging these contacts from the QSO, the activator's upload to POTA starts you on your POTA journey. Soon you begin to rack up "awards" for the number of QSO's established as a hunter or an activator. The activator at the park is the person that has to navigate the pileup and work out the efficiency of their mobile setup, not to mention the weather and pedestrian traffic at the park.

To make life even easier on the hunted and the hunter, the POTA page has a tab for spotting your activation from the park you are at so the hunter can easily find your frequency and mode of operation. I found this equally advantageous for me to quickly find out how the propagation was working on 40 and 10m as a Technician before I knew about PSK reporter and the other propagation reporting tools and sites out there.

My first attempts of an activation were in Florida with my father (WB3DSJ) at US-1915 Silver Springs State Park. We set up a vertical whip on a tripod with a Yeasu FT-891 and a mini-CW key. It was hot and humid and the mosquitos contributed to my mental collapse as I tried to pull a call sign out of the 5 or 6 simultaneously responding to my CQ. After the 2nd interruption by a park ranger checking out our setup, I pronounced this activation dead and decided to try again another day. Dad got his required 10 QSOs and then some from all over the states and 1 within Europe. Still a great day at the park and always learning something new.

A few months later I had a work luncheon to attend in Mid-Ohio and grabbed my gear go-bag. A glance of the POTA map showed I had more than a few options on the commute. December 11 was a cold and snowy day with temperatures in the single digits and wind blowing for some good squalls with reduced visibility. I decided to be a little closer to home for this activation and pulled into US-9522 Zepernick State Wildlife Area. This park is a small lake with a small watercraft launch for fishing and a good-sized parking lot off the main road for any fishermen on foot or hikers wanting to hoof it around the lake. The lake was frozen over and there was a number of inches of snow on the ground at this point. A weekday, I was the only one here. As awful as the weather sounds now, it was beautiful while snowing like mad, an eagle gliding over the lake and perching in the trees along the shore. I find these kinds of days and experiences are the ones I remember most vividly for a long time.

A photo of this perfect winter setting.



I had no idea what the band quality would provide me, but it was perfect. I use a tri-mag mount on top of my truck with a MD 7400 slider antenna. I picked this antenna up for next to nothing online after trying some band specific Hamsticks and having good enough success with those from home. However, I wanted something multi-band and easy to setup and adjust. This antenna is really great if you are looking for something to go mobile with pretty good efficiency. The antenna comes laser etched on the slider and has a one-page instruction sheet with a small chart that shows you where to adjust to get pretty close to resonance.

I had this setup within a minute and roughed into position according to the chart. The antenna purports 130w SSB max and I was simply doing QRP CW on 20m.

My radio of choice for any of the mobile ops I have been trying on my own is the Xiegu x5105 "shack in a box" type unit. I can't say enough about this radio. I've made tons of contacts with this from my porch, my main station, parks, the beach, and more to come. It is rugged, has a built in ATU and internal power from a 3800mAh battery. The filtering is fantastic. I think the ATU would tune almost any wire I connect to it and you can quickly check it with the built in SWR analyzer. A con might be the weight for anyone that is going to pack this thing in with any additional radio gear as compared to the QRP



About as simple a setup as it can get

Labs QMX series and other smaller QRP set ups. The other con might be how fast the battery drains and the rig just cold shuts down when it hits in the vicinity of 10v from it's 12v full power. No warning, just good night and 73 to any QSO you are in the middle of finishing. The good news is, for a dozen or so contacts to activate a POTA park, this is more

than ample operating time...usually. However, you can connect external power from a small battery pack.

I love a good straight key and these newer portable minis are ok enough to use for an hour or so of mobile cw. If I was going to setup on a picnic table and do any extended work, I'd opt for a full-sized version. The Xiegu x5105 has presets for recording your CQ POTA and callsign, but they are not easy to get to in the menus and not really well put together enough to use proficiently during an activation.

I went with 20m because that seemed like the band that would afford me the most likely success in the late afternoon and doesn't seem to suffer the bad days. I simply wanted to rip off 12 quality contacts for the log so I could say I got my first POTA activation and see if I felt the buzz everyone else does.

The Xiegu x5105 has a built-in antenna analyzer with SWR meter that I mentioned earlier. It is pretty amazing how much is packed into this little radio and how well it works. I checked the antenna with this option when I got back in the truck after setting up the MD 7400 and it was completely out of whack. Even the tuner couldn't bring this into a good enough sub-2:1 and I thought I was sunk before I even called CQ. I then looked at the chart and realized I had the slider set for another band. I just misread the chart while shivering with a very small alien key and really clunky gloves. After another minute I was back to good and about perfect on the SWR.

With any cellular coverage, the POTA website makes it super easy to spot yourself. If you are logged into your POTA account you can quickly spot your park with your callsign, frequency, and a message for those hunting you. Still working on my CW speed, I spotted this park with "QRS and rag-chew ready". I added my chosen frequency and sent out a string of CQ POTA de KA3UON. I think I might have pounded out that string 2 or 3 times before my first response.

After 4 or 5 completed contacts, I had to QSY due to a loud signal pushing into my desired pitch. The POTA site on my mobile once again makes that small disruption easy to change (much easier after you fumble through it for the first time) and I had a few minutes off air while I made this adjustment. I am still conquering all the options of my gear and it is a likely possibility that I could have filtered out the adjacent signal billowing into my space, but for ease I just made the QSY and gave the other op the room. As a QRP signal, the station may not have even picked my back and forth up when they came onto the frequency. Undeterred, I completed the park with 12 QSOs with over 1000mi contacts to Iowa and Texas and somewhere in Florida and along with some closer states like Virginia. Teardown and packing up took just a few minutes once again and I went down the road on my way home to warmth.

I use QRZ.com for logging. I find it easy and I like to look up the operators I QSO with to confirm I had the right callsign or QTH and there is often a very interesting biography there as well. Don't take my word for it, there seems to be a million logging apps and there are some that work very well with POTA. Ham2k "PoLo" is one that I have used while operating from a friend's station mobile. Try out a few and you'll find a couple you like and see how they work well for something, but maybe not another. I will probably start to drift toward the contester's favorite, N1MM, eventually.

I didn't get smitten with POTA like it seems so many amateurs have. I have made contact with a number of people that have thousands of POTA contacts and others with hundreds, if not thousands, of unique parks activated. Others yet make it a mini field day and spend entire weekends camping at these parks racking up several hundred contacts a weekend. One operator I asked to use in this piece, has 2005 QSO's in 6 months. Mike, N4CGR, says he works POTA a few days a week for a few hours at a time and that it has rebirthed his desire to get back on the air. Mike was inactive since the 1980s. This is not an uncommon conversation I have had. POTA has brought an entirely new batch of hams back on air. Another batch of newly licensed amateurs tested for the sole reason of working POTA. I'll continue to do some POTA here and there and incorporate it into my travel. For me, it is a great practice for emergency mobile operations, antenna experimentation, and just a good reason to be outdoors for an afternoon exploring new places. At the time of this writing, Kevin Thomas, W1DED, had this update to share about the program. The numbers are amazing and leave no doubt about how POTA's impact on amateur radio.

### *POTA Update from the Board*

*As a member of the Parks on the Air Board, I want to share a brief snapshot of where the program stands today and the momentum we're seeing around the world.*

*POTA now includes more than 85,000 registered parks in 236 countries and a community of over 84,000 registered ham radio operators. Throughout 2025, activators have been putting roughly 10,200 unique parks on the air each month.*

*The growth shows clearly in the logs. Operators recorded 10.6 million QSOs in 2023, 13 million in 2024, and 15.2 million in 2025. Log submissions rose from 245,000 in 2023 to 333,000 in 2024 and 406,000 in 2025. In just two years, QSOs have increased by more than 43 percent, and log submissions by nearly 66 percent.*

*Since the program began, POTA has generated nearly 53 million logged contacts. These numbers represent something bigger than scale—they reflect new operators finding their way into the hobby, first-time activators discovering the excitement of POTA, and a global community that continues to expand.*

*One of the most encouraging signs is how quickly any snapshot becomes outdated. Dozens of parks are activated every day, new calls appear in the logs, and new stories are created at parks and harvests. That constant motion is the clearest evidence of a healthy, thriving Parks on the Air program. - Kevin, W1DED*

About me: I was licensed at 12 years old in 1988 and off air until 2025 when I tested for my Novice and General. I've jumped feet first into the radio game doing everything from casual contests to exploring the newer digital modes. It is all new to me again. Outside of radio I coach athletes and race triathlons, bike races, and play a little baseball and have written for more than a few of those related organizations. I live with my wife and family in Columbiana County.



Another activation for my father, WB3DSJ at a park in Central Florida with a new mag loop. [Don't worry. This was just a few seconds photo op.]

## Mahoning County ARES Update



Somewhere along the line it's been said that training is the breakfast of champions and that certainly is the case for our Mahoning County ARES Members. Our performance has shown our increased training over the years has been invaluable.

It hasn't been easy. We know that training a group of volunteers can be challenging. There is no paycheck for motivation. However, our ARES Members have found the reward in a job well done. Thank you all for dedication to serving our communities.

ARES training lately has been given a great boost with the recent addition of our Mahoning County ARES Task Book. Our Task book outlines a very doable path that our volunteers can do at their own pace and achieve their own "custom" training in emergency communications response. It's really a great training tool.

Our recent email to ARES Members about Stop the Bleed and CPR training is another great opportunity to make progress in your Task Book Training. March 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> are the dates. Check your emails for details. Seating is limited and the sign-up link is in the email.

April 1<sup>st</sup> is another training opportunity for not only ARES Members but also any Amateur Radio Operator and even those not licensed. The National Weather Service (NWS) will be providing in person Skywarn Training. Location is the Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park. Time is 6 pm. In person training has become somewhat rare lately and you don't want to

miss this training date. The good news is there is no sign up for the training at this time. All you have to do is put this in your calendar and show up.

Training, the breakfast of champions. We have some great training coming up soon for our Mahoning County ARES Members. Please take advantage of them.

If you're interested in joining Mahoning County ARES please visit our website <http://mahoning-ares.org/> or email [mahoning.ares@gmail.com](mailto:mahoning.ares@gmail.com)

Thank you to all ARES members for a great 2025. Happy New Year and we look forward to working with you all in 2026.

Your ARES Leadership Team.

## **Ham Radio 101: I Want a New Duck—Tips on Upgrading Your HT's Antenna**

by Mark Haverstock, K8MSH

Open the box of a new handheld radio and you'll find the usual stuff—the radio, battery, charger, belt clip, “rubber duck” antenna, and instruction manual. Looking at rubber ducks from the outside, they appear to be much the same. Most are short, black, and have an outer rubber coating. While the exteriors are similar, the interior parts and lengths may differ.

Though the rubber duck antenna is often a bit of a compromise, its flexibility and durability make it ideally suited for handheld transceivers. In addition, rubber duck antennas are omnidirectional, meaning they can receive and transmit signals in all directions. This makes them useful for moving around or in locations with varying signal strengths. But suppose you notice difficulties reaching nearby repeaters or spotty signals during public service events or ARES exercises. In that case, you might consider upgrading your factory-supplied antenna to a better one.

### **Change Could Be Good**

In most cases, shorter loaded antennas don't work as well as longer ones. Few are specifically tuned for the VHF/UHF ham bands. Many manufacturers (other than the big three from Japan) take a one-size-fits-all approach.

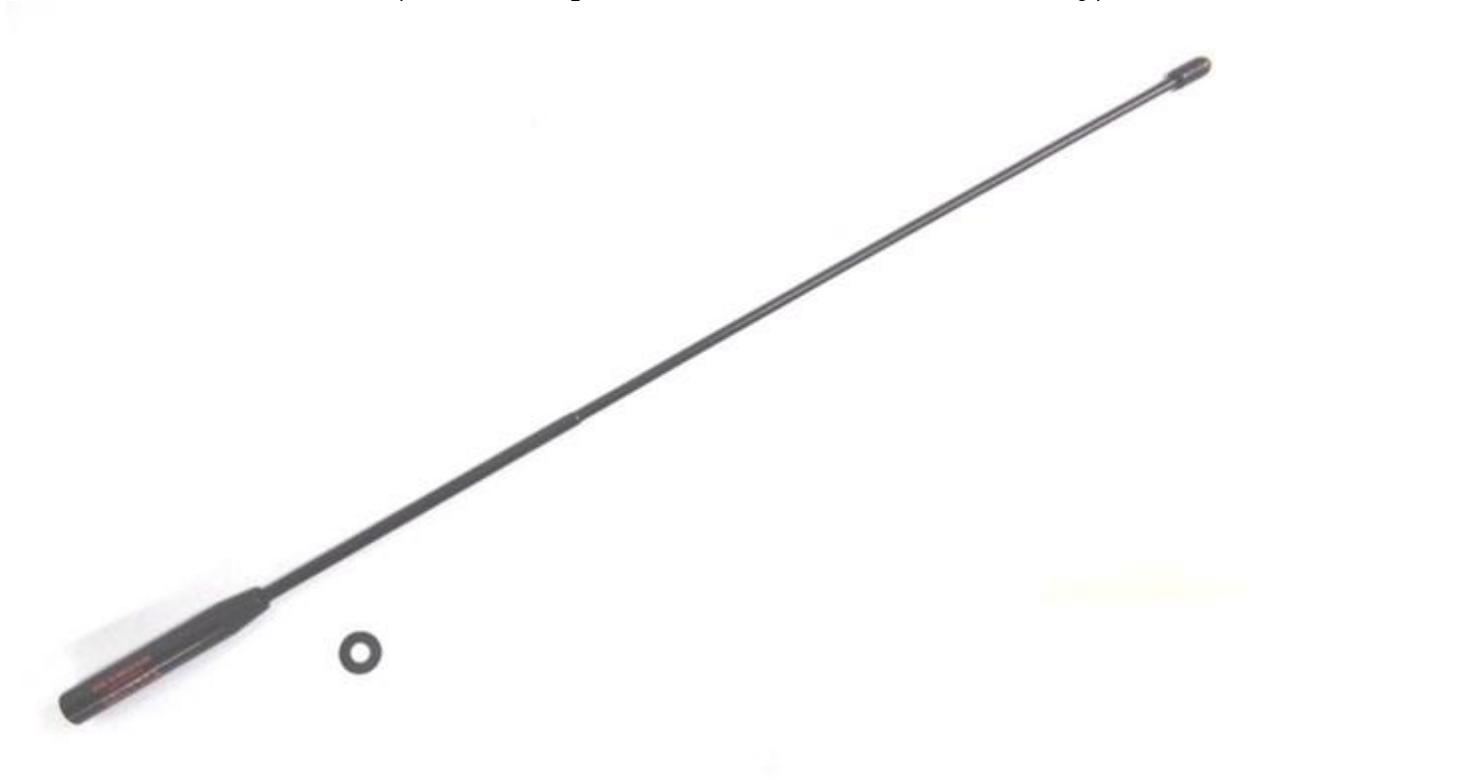
The typical frequency range for most rubber ducks of eight inches or less is 134-176 MHz, which covers a large swath of the Land Mobile Radio bands and includes VHF ham bands. Dual-banders also cover 400-480 MHz.

It's common these days to see handheld radios and their stock rubber ducks covering 2 meters and 70 centimeters, and there's a reason. The 70cm band is close to the third

harmonic of 2M. That means a single antenna for 2M can be used somewhat effectively on the 70cm band.

To make a short duck antenna act like a 19-inch quarter-wave antenna, a capacitor and/or an inductor are added to the antenna. Sometimes the inductor is the antenna itself, wound in a spring shape. It's known as a normal-mode helix. That keeps it in resonance with the frequency being transmitted but reduces efficiency. The Holy Grail of rubber duck antennas is to approach the efficiency of a quarter-wave antenna while being physically shorter.

We can't change the laws of physics, but we can have some give-and-take between physical length and loading. The [Diamond Dual-Band SRH77CA](#) (below) is 15 inches long—21% shorter than a 2M quarter wave—and has excellent user reviews. The [Comet Dual-Band SMA-24](#) is about the same length and was only 1 S-unit down from the Diamond in my “unscientific” evaluation (HT on low power to base station a mile away).



(Image/Diamond Antenna)

### Going Long

More significant improvements happen when you get an actual quarter-wave whip antenna. The 2M quarter-wave whip is longer than a factory antenna but performs dramatically better. A quarter-wave antenna tuned for the 2M amateur band is also 3/4 wave on the 70cm band. Go to a half-wave collapsible or folded tactical whip and you've got a built-in ground plane.

Clear communication at frequencies like 2M and 70cm depends on line of sight between the receiver and transmitter, so the antenna's height is also a factor in its effectiveness. The

size of the antenna may increase effectiveness not only because of better radiation but also because of better height.

### The Other Half of the Story

Speaking of ground planes, HT antennas rely on the radio's metal chassis, and you—yes, you! Hold an HT and you become the ground plane. You're capacitively coupled to the radio and become the other half of the antenna. You're now di-poler.

Admittedly, you're not an adequate ground system, and the duck is doing most of the work. To make a complete antenna, you still need a suitable ground. This can be done with the half-wave antenna mentioned earlier, or a low-cost counterpoise. All will help your radio's efficiency.

You can easily homebrew a quarter-wave rat tail/tiger tail counterpoise by attaching any handy piece of wire about a quarter wavelength long (19.2" for 146 MHz, 6.4" for 442 MHz) to the radio's antenna ground. The purpose of the rat tail is to have a handheld antenna that functions more like a vertical dipole.

This will improve both transmit and receive performance.

Sure, it's ugly and dangles beside your radio, but it's a small price to pay to be heard.

Construction details can be found in the *OnAllBands* article, [“Does Your HT Have Low-T.”](#) (Originally appeared in Nov, 2024 *On All Bands*.)

## 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

#### E4E01

What problem can occur when using an automatic notch filter (ANF) to remove interfering carriers while receiving CW signals?

- A. Removal of the CW signal as well as the interfering carrier
- B. Any nearby signal passing through the DSP system will overwhelm the desired signal
- C. Excessive ringing
- D. All these choices are correct

#### E4E02

Which of the following types of noise can often be reduced by a digital noise reduction?

- A. Broadband white noise
- B. Ignition noise
- C. Power line noise
- D. All these choices are correct

E4E03

Which of the following types of noise are removed by a noise blanker?

- A. Broadband white noise
- B. Impulse noise
- C. Hum and buzz
- D. All these choices are correct

General Pool

G9B01

What is a characteristic of a random-wire HF antenna connected directly to the transmitter?

- A. It must be longer than 1 wavelength
- B. Station equipment may carry significant RF current
- C. It produces only vertically polarized radiation
- D. It is more effective on the lower HF bands than on the higher bands

G9B02

Which of the following is a common way to adjust the feed point impedance of an elevated quarter-wave ground-plane vertical antenna to be approximately 50 ohms?

- A. Slope the radials upward
- B. Slope the radials downward
- C. Lengthen the radials beyond one wavelength
- D. Coil the radials

G9B03

Which of the following best describes the radiation pattern of a quarter-wave ground-plane vertical antenna?

- A. Bi-directional in azimuth
- B. Isotropic
- C. Hemispherical
- D. Omnidirectional in azimuth

E4E01 (A)
E4E02 (D)
E4E03 (B)
G9B01 (B)
G9B02 (B)
G9B03 (D)

# Upcoming Contests and QSO Parties

Dave Fairbanks N8NB

Contests:

Source is [contestcalendar.com](http://contestcalendar.com)

March 2026	
+ UBA Spring Contest, 2m	0700Z-1100Z, Mar 1
+ 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 0100Z, Mar 2
+ WAB 3.5 MHz Phone	1800Z-2200Z, Mar 1
+ K1USN Slow Speed Test	0000Z-0100Z, Mar 2
+ ICWC Medium Speed Test	1300Z-1400Z, Mar 2
+ OK1WC Memorial (MWC)	1630Z-1729Z, Mar 2
+ ICWC Medium Speed Test	1900Z-2000Z, Mar 2
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 2
+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Mar 3
+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Mar 3
+ ICWC Medium Speed Test	0300Z-0400Z, Mar 3
+ AGCW YL-CW Party	1900Z-2100Z, Mar 3
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Mar 4
+ Phone Weekly Test	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 4
+ A1Club AWT	1145Z-1300Z, Mar 4
+ CWops Test (CWT)	1300Z-1400Z, Mar 4
+ VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	1700Z-2100Z, Mar 4
+ Mini-Test 40	1700Z-1759Z, Mar 4
+ Mini-Test 80	1800Z-1859Z, Mar 4
+ CWops Test (CWT)	1900Z-2000Z, Mar 4
+ UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Mar 4
+ VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest-NA	0000Z-0500Z, Mar 5
+ Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	0000Z-0100Z, Mar 5 and 0200Z-0300Z, Mar 6
+ CWops Test (CWT)	0300Z-0400Z, Mar 5
+ CWops Test (CWT)	0700Z-0800Z, Mar 5
+ 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 FT4 Sprint	0100Z-0130Z, Mar 6
+ Weekly RTTY Test	0145Z-0215Z, Mar 6
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Mar 6
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 6
+ K1USN Slow Speed Test	2000Z-2100Z, Mar 6
+ ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 7 to 2400Z, Mar 8
+ Novice Rig Roundup	0000Z, Mar 7 to 2359Z, Mar 15

+ Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0600Z-0629Z, Mar 7 and 0630Z-0659Z, Mar 7 and 0700Z-0729Z, Mar 7 and 0730Z-0800Z, Mar 7
+ Russian YL/OM Contest	0700Z-1059Z, Mar 7
+ Open Ukraine RTTY Championship	1800Z, Mar 7 to 1359Z, Mar 8
+ UBA Spring Contest, CW	0700Z-1100Z, Mar 8
+ FIRAC HF Contest	0700Z to 1700Z, Mar 8
+ Classic Exchange, CW	1300Z, Mar 8 to 0700Z, Mar 9 and 1300Z, Mar 10 to 0700Z, Mar 11
+ 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Mar 9
+ K1USN Slow Speed Test	0000Z-0100Z, Mar 9
+ ICWC Medium Speed Test	1300Z-1400Z, Mar 9
+ OK1WC Memorial (MWC)	1630Z-1729Z, Mar 9
+ ICWC Medium Speed Test	1900Z-2000Z, Mar 9
+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Mar 10
+ ICWC Medium Speed Test	0300Z-0400Z, Mar 10
+ DARC CW-Training Contest	1800Z-1859Z, Mar 10
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Mar 11
+ Phone Weekly Test	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 11
+ A1Club AWT	1145Z-1300Z, Mar 11
+ CWops Test (CWT)	1300Z-1400Z, Mar 11
+ VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	1700Z-2100Z, Mar 11
+ Mini-Test 40	1700Z-1759Z, Mar 11
+ Mini-Test 80	1800Z-1859Z, Mar 11
+ CWops Test (CWT)	1900Z-2000Z, Mar 11
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 11
+ VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest-NA	0000Z-0500Z, Mar 12
+ CWops Test (CWT)	0300Z-0400Z, Mar 12
+ CWops Test (CWT)	0700Z-0800Z, Mar 12
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Mar 13
+ NCCC FT4 Sprint	0100Z-0130Z, Mar 13
+ Weekly RTTY Test	0145Z-0215Z, Mar 13
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 13
+ K1USN Slow Speed Test	2000Z-2100Z, Mar 13
+ YB DX RTTY Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Mar 14
+ SARL VHF/UHF FM Contest	0800Z, Mar 14 to 1000Z, Mar 15
+ SARL Field Day Contest	0800Z, Mar 14 to 1000Z, Mar 15
+ Commonwealth (BERU) Contest	1000Z, Mar 14 to 1000Z, Mar 15
+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Mar 14 to 2400Z, Mar 15
+ EA PSK63 Contest	1200Z, Mar 14 to 1200Z, Mar 15
+ F9AA Cup, SSB	1200Z, Mar 14 to 1200Z, Mar 15
+ South America 10 Meter Contest	1200Z, Mar 14 to 1200Z, Mar 15
+ DIG QSO Party, SSB	1200Z-1700Z, Mar 14 (20m-10m) and 0700Z-0900Z, Mar 15 (80m) and 0900Z-1100Z, Mar 15 (40m)
+ AGCW QRP Contest	1400Z-2000Z, Mar 14
+ Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Mar 14 to 1500Z, Mar 15
+ Oklahoma QSO Party	1500Z, Mar 14 to 0200Z, Mar 15 and 1500Z-2200Z, Mar 15

+ Idaho QSO Party	1600Z, Mar 14 to 0400Z, Mar 15 and 1400Z, Mar 15 to 0200Z, Mar 16
+ TESLA Memorial HF CW Contest	1800Z, Mar 14 to 0559Z, Mar 15
+ North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0359Z, Mar 15
+ UBA Spring Contest, 6m	0700Z-1100Z, Mar 15
+ YOTA Contest	1000Z-2159Z, Mar 15
+ Wisconsin QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 15 to 0100Z, Mar 16
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	2300Z, Mar 15 to 0100Z, Mar 16
+ K1USN Slow Speed Test	0000Z-0100Z, Mar 16
+ ICWC Medium Speed Test	1300Z-1400Z, Mar 16
+ OK1WC Memorial (MWC)	1630Z-1729Z, Mar 16
+ Bucharest Digital Contest	1800Z-2059Z, Mar 16
+ ICWC Medium Speed Test	1900Z-2000Z, Mar 16
+ RSGB FT4 Contest	2000Z-2200Z, Mar 16
+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Mar 17
+ ICWC Medium Speed Test	0300Z-0400Z, Mar 17
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Mar 18
+ Phone Weekly Test	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 18
+ A1Club AWT	1145Z-1300Z, Mar 18
+ CWops Test (CWT)	1300Z-1400Z, Mar 18
+ VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	1700Z-2100Z, Mar 18
+ Mini-Test 40	1700Z-1759Z, Mar 18
+ Mini-Test 80	1800Z-1859Z, Mar 18
+ CWops Test (CWT)	1900Z-2000Z, Mar 18
+ IRTS 80m Counties Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Mar 18
+ VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest-NA	0000Z-0500Z, Mar 19
+ Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	0000Z-0100Z, Mar 19 and 0200Z-0300Z, Mar 20
+ NAQCC CW Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Mar 19
+ CWops Test (CWT)	0300Z-0400Z, Mar 19
+ CWops Test (CWT)	0700Z-0800Z, Mar 19
+ NTC QSO Party	1900Z-2000Z, Mar 19
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Mar 20
+ NCCC FT4 Sprint	0100Z-0130Z, Mar 20
+ Weekly RTTY Test	0145Z-0215Z, Mar 20
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 20
+ K1USN Slow Speed Test	2000Z-2100Z, Mar 20
+ PODXS 070 Club St Patrick's Day Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Mar 21
+ BARTG HF RTTY Contest	0200Z, Mar 21 to 0159Z, Mar 23
+ Popov Memorial Contest	0500Z-0859Z, Mar 21
+ Russian DX Contest	1200Z, Mar 21 to 1200Z, Mar 22
+ AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1400Z-1700Z, Mar 21 (144) and 1700Z-1800Z, Mar 21 (432)
+ Virginia QSO Party	1400Z, Mar 21 to 0400Z, Mar 22 and 1200Z-2400Z, Mar 22
+ Feld Hell Sprint	2000Z-2159Z, Mar 21
+ UBA Spring Contest, SSB	0700Z-1100Z, Mar 22
+ K1USN Slow Speed Test	0000Z-0100Z, Mar 23
+ ICWC Medium Speed Test	1300Z-1400Z, Mar 23
+ OK1WC Memorial (MWC)	1630Z-1729Z, Mar 23
+ ICWC Medium Speed Test	1900Z-2000Z, Mar 23

+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Mar 24
+ ICWC Medium Speed Test	0300Z-0400Z, Mar 24
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Mar 25
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Mar 25
+ Phone Weekly Test	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 25
+ A1Club AWT	1145Z-1300Z, Mar 25
+ CWops Test (CWT)	1300Z-1400Z, Mar 25
+ Mini-Test 40	1700Z-1759Z, Mar 25
+ Mini-Test 80	1800Z-1859Z, Mar 25
+ CWops Test (CWT)	1900Z-2000Z, Mar 25
+ UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Mar 25
+ CWops Test (CWT)	0300Z-0400Z, Mar 26
+ CWops Test (CWT)	0700Z-0800Z, Mar 26
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 26
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Mar 27
+ NCCC FT4 Sprint	0100Z-0130Z, Mar 27
+ Weekly RTTY Test	0145Z-0215Z, Mar 27
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 27
+ Sasquatch Stomp	1900Z, Mar 27 to 0300Z, Mar 28
+ K1USN Slow Speed Test	2000Z-2100Z, Mar 27
+ CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 28 to 2359Z, Mar 29
+ Bill Windle QSO Party	0000Z-2359Z, Mar 28
+ Africa All Mode International DX Contest	1200Z, Mar 28 to 1200Z, Mar 29
+ K1USN Slow Speed Test	0000Z-0100Z, Mar 30
+ QCX Challenge	1300Z-1400Z, Mar 30
+ ICWC Medium Speed Test	1300Z-1400Z, Mar 30
+ OK1WC Memorial (MWC)	1630Z-1729Z, Mar 30
+ QCX Challenge	1900Z-2000Z, Mar 30
+ ICWC Medium Speed Test	1900Z-2000Z, Mar 30
+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Mar 31
+ QCX Challenge	0300Z-0400Z, Mar 31
+ ICWC Medium Speed Test	0300Z-0400Z, Mar 31

**DX Information**

Source is [www.ng3k.com](http://www.ng3k.com)

March					
2026 Mar01	2026 Mar14	<b>Bouvet I</b>	<a href="#"><b>3YOK</b></a>	M0OXO	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20250815
2026 Mar03	2026 Mar20	<b>Anguilla</b>	<a href="#"><b>VP2E</b></a>	LoTW	<a href="#">OPDX</a> 20260103
2026 Mar04	2026 Mar12	<b>Philippines</b>	<b>DU6</b> <span style="background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">NEW</span>	See Info	<a href="#">OPDX</a> 20260217
2026 Mar04	2026 Mar19	<b>Palau</b>	<b>T8OK</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">OPDX</a> 20260205
2026 Mar04	2026 Apr05	<b>Benin</b>	<b>TY5FR</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">OPDX</a> 20260211

2026 Mar07	2026 Mar12	<b>Guadeloupe</b>	<b>FG</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">OPDX</a> 20260207
2026 Mar08	2026 Apr04	<b>Sint Maarten</b>	<b>PJ7AA</b>	Club Log OQRS	AA9A 20260205
2026 Mar10	2026 Mar18	<b>St Kitts &amp; Nevis</b>	<a href="#">V47JA</a>	LoTW	W5JON 20251207
2026 Mar13	2026 Mar15	<b>Svalbard</b>	<b>JW8EKA</b>	LA8EKA	<a href="#">OPDX</a> 20251124
2026 Mar13	2026 Mar16	<b>Ogasawara</b>	<b>JD1</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">OPDX</a> 20260202
2026 Mar13	2026 Mar17	<b>Guam</b>	<b>KH2</b> <small>NEW</small>	See Info	<a href="#">OPDX</a> 20260217
2026 Mar13	2026 Mar20	<b>Dominica</b>	<b>J79C</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">OPDX</a> 20260208
2026 Mar13	2026 Mar25	<b>Austral Is</b>	<a href="#">TX5EU</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20260110
2026 Mar15	2026 Apr03	<b>Vanuatu</b>	<a href="#">YJ1JXZ</a> <small>NEW</small>	LoTW	<a href="#">OPDX</a> 20260220
2026 Mar17	2026 Mar23	<b>Mariana Is</b>	<b>KH0</b> <small>NEW</small>	See Info	<a href="#">OPDX</a> 20260217
2026 Mar18	2026 Mar24	<b>Jamaica</b>	<b>6Y</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">OPDX</a> 20260205
2026 Mar18	2026 Mar25	<b>Cape Verde Is</b>	<a href="#">D44OA</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20260202
2026 Mar18	2026 Mar31	<b>Macao</b>	<b>XX9W</b>	M0OXO	<a href="#">OPDX</a> 20260203
2026 Mar19	2026 Mar31	<b>Sable I</b>	<a href="#">CY0S</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">425DXN</a> 20250919
2026 Mar20	2026 Mar27	<b>Guadeloupe</b>	<b>FG</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">OPDX</a> 20260207
2026 Mar20	2026 Apr01	<b>Bangladesh</b>	<a href="#">S21WD</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20260120
2026 Mar22	2026 Apr11	<b>Samoa</b>	<b>5W0AF</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">OPDX</a> 20260122
2026 Mar24	2026 Mar31	<b>Bahamas</b>	<a href="#">C6AFD</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">OPDX</a> 20260131
2026 Mar25	2026 Apr02	<b>Martinique</b>	<b>FM</b>	LoTW	EA1BP 20251223
2026 Mar26	2026 Mar30	<b>Palau</b>	<b>T88KH</b>	Club Log OQRS	<a href="#">OPDX</a> 20251222
2026 Mar30	2026 Apr06	<b>Canary Is</b>	<b>EA8</b>	LoTW	<a href="#">OPDX</a> 20251030

## Swap & Shop

**4BTV Hustler Vertical with Tilt-Mount.** The Hustler 4BTV 4-band HF vertical is designed as a self-supporting vertical antenna for optimum operation on 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, with only 21.5 ft of height. Radial wires should be used for best performance.

Precision-cut DXE 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. Handy for working on the antenna or hiding from the HOA in the daytime.

Includes 4BTV kit, tilt plate with optional accessories, antenna connection pigtail with SO-239 connector, and original Hustler and DXE high-performance installation guide. The current retail price for all these items is more than \$450 total. Sold only as a set.

Yours for \$160, cash. Local pickup ONLY near Canfield, OH due to weight and oversize parts. Not interested in trades. **Email:** [mhaverstock52@gmail.com](mailto:mhaverstock52@gmail.com)



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Website: The MVARA is on the web at [www.mvara.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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