Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association Voice Coil

May 2026	mvara.w8qly@gmail.com	The Voice Coil - Volume 26-5

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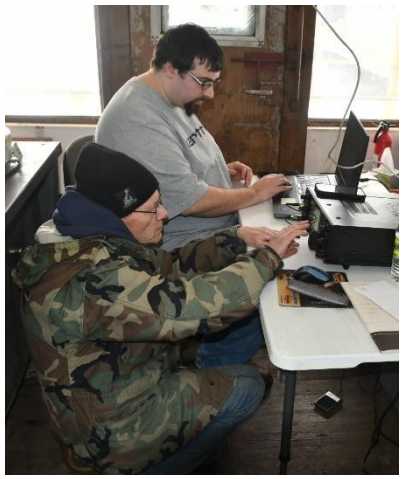

President's Corner

Happy Spring Everyone! We're finally seeing some warmer weather, and just in time for the Dayton Hamvention! I hope you all get a chance to attend this year, I'll likely be down in Xenia with the students from YSU, so I'll probably see some familiar faces! Aside from that, we're moving our May meeting due to Hamvention off a week, the new meeting time will be 7PM on May 21st, instead of the 14th, so be sure to adjust the date in your calendars. This is also a license testing month, so if you wish to get your license, or upgrade to a higher class, be sure to attend on May 6th! Field Day planning is also off to a strong start! If you're interested in volunteering to help get things set up this year, please reach out to Rich KB8GAE! Well, that's all I have this month, enjoy the warm weather, have a good time at Hamvention if you're going, and see you all soon!
73s Ralph Streb - K8TCP

Upcoming MVARA Events

Date	Event	Location
May 6, 2026	License Testing	Boardman
May 15/16, 2026	Hamvention	Xenia, OH
May 21, 2026	MVARA Meeting	Boardman

Special Notice – May Club Meeting is delayed one week to avoid conflict with Hamvention.

May Club Program

Our program for the May club meeting is a planning session for our 2026 Field Day on June 26-28. Some of the basic decisions have been made – for instance we know we will be running 8A again this year. But there are many more to be handled.

Rich KB8GAE is our Field Day Chair again this year with assistance from the usual cast of characters.

One of the areas we need help with is the Safety Officer duties. Scott KE4UHC will be the Safety Officer and so far, Joe N8SEJ and Dean WB8YSU have agreed to help Scott, but it works a whole lot better with at least two more helping.

Another need is Antenna Masts. Rich sent a note in April that we need more masts. We are trying to avoid any inverted V antenna configurations this year and that increases the number of masts needed. The surplus 4' fiberglass and aluminum masts have worked well for us, if you have masts we can use it will be appreciated.

Setup will again be on Friday and the crew expects to start early – if you can help with antennas and wiring, please let Rich know or email mvara.w8qly@gmail.com.

While we are talking about Field Day, let's talk about Aggregation. When the Pandemic hit, one of the changes ARRL made to the Field Day rules was to allow Hams that work Field Day from home to pledge their contacts to their local club. This is known as aggregation and has remained in the rules with some refinement. The basics are if you work Field Day from home, you will use your own call sign and report your contacts under your call sign, but you can enter MVARA on the report and we will also receive credit for your contacts. It's a win-win.

Links from the April Meeting

Neal KA3UON has been busy as usual. He registered us on the Field Day Locator page on the ARRL website. Check here to see the clubs in our area registered to do Field Day: https://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator

He also put together a listing of the links Grayson Evans provided in his presentation on Thermotrons last month:

Grayson's website
https://www.hollow-statedesigns.com/

The World of Thermatrons Documentary
https://youtu.be/7B1X8MR5S9Y?si=1jHwBzxR1811Kr3c

Tube Data Sheets Database
https://frank.pocnet.net/

SolderSmoke Daily News
https://soldersmoke.blogspot.com/

Electric Radio Magazine (Book Store) – Hollow State Designs Book and Tube Lore
https://www.ermag.com/product-category/books/

Great Britian QRP (SPRAT Magazine)
https://www.gqrp.com/index.htm

Western Electric
https://www.westernelectric.com/rossville-works?srsltid=AfmBOoqGFkWeNfU_TwO4IOsqpg4KTZptaoSFQuEbMxW_v4i4pg5YXCzo

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.

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

Neal Bayless, KA3UON

Part 1: Discovering DMR and Building My First Hotspot

I can't tell you exactly when or how I first heard about DMR. One of the earliest times was during a contact I made while exploring digital modes on VARAC. The ham on the other end was across the country, yet he had grown up in a tiny town just a few miles from where I live now. He asked if I was on DMR. I was not - and I had no idea what it was or how to get on it.

Since then I have purchased a budget DMR radio, a Raspberry Pi module, a "hat" for something I don't even remember, and a couple of other bits and pieces to figure out what this part of the amateur radio world is all about. I had read enough to know I needed those parts and to realize this is an IP-based communication system that uses "talk groups" and can be mobile with any internet connection. Maybe that "hat" I bought was actually a hotspot — a little box that lets you do mobile DMR without relying on your phone's Wi-Fi.

I wrote the paragraphs above a little over a few months ago. Since then I have been "on the air" with DMR. Although I still feel like I have only scratched the surface of my DMR understanding and grasp of the mode, here is the rest of my dive into it.

The first photo is the “stuff.” We have a Raspberry Pi 3B+, an MMDVM hotspot board with an OLED screen, and a case for the Pi and the hotspot board. Of course, there is also a DMR-capable Baofeng radio and the programming cable. The original case turned out to be the wrong type for this application, so I had to order another. The new one from C4 Labs looks much better — they make several configurations, are highly recommended, and are ham-radio specific. (Not pictured is the microSD card that will hold the Pi operating system.)

The total for all this stuff (not counting the wrong Pi case) came to somewhere between $125–150. To get operating as an amateur with worldwide digital voice, you could not ask for a much cheaper option. This was all brand-new territory for me, and you could still go even cheaper. I looked at a few online listings for used gear and you could legitimately get everything you need — sometimes with the Pi module already set up — for around $50 including the HT. Simply put, this might be the cheapest way into amateur radio that exists today.

With that out of the way, let us get back to how I got on the air. Not knowing a thing about the Raspberry Pi world or DMR, I made more than a few initial mistakes. I worked on this project in 20-minute and 30-minute chunks — not the way to tackle something you know nothing about. If you can dedicate a few hours of concentrated effort, the whole process will flow much more easily.

My first of many errors was confusing the Raspberry Pi hardware itself with the Pi-Star and WPSD software images. It would be like trying to load Windows on a Mac instead of installing Microsoft Office on the Mac. (If that made sense to you, DMR will be a breeze — writing that out still confuses me.) I later found out I am not the only person who was baffled by this first step.

So why are we even messing with a Raspberry Pi module and installing operating software? Because the repeaters in my immediate area are out of reach with my HT, I needed a hotspot. Even before I assembled the hotspot, I imaged my microSD card with the Pi-Star software. You will see conflicting recommendations on SD card sizes; bigger cards are sometimes called “wasting space,” but I grabbed a high-quality 16 GB card I already had lying around from an old phone. It works fine. I used one of the Raspberry Pi imagers (Etcher or Raspberry Pi Imager) to burn the image to the card.

Assembling the Raspberry Pi module and the MMDVM (Multi-Mode Digital Voice Modem) could not be simpler: just snap the IO pins from the Pi into the MMDVM board. I used a simplex MMDVM hat. (I’ll include links for all the

components at the end.) You will need to screw on the antenna, insert the SD card, and connect a power source. The Pi 3B+ I used came with a micro-USB supply that has an on/off switch. A simple battery pack works great for pedestrian mobile or easy transport. The SD card is what the Pi boots from; you will read horror stories about cards wearing out after a few reboots, but I've seen plenty of reports of thousands of boot cycles with no issues.

I initially chose the Pi-Star platform because it supports DMR and many other digital modes. During setup I noticed that active support and maintenance for Pi-Star seemed to have ended at the close of 2025. That fact stayed in the back of my mind the whole time. DMR setup is not difficult, but it is complex, and there is no single perfect end-to-end resource. You will do a lot of reading, trial-and-error, and searching forums and social media. This article is not a perfect start-to-finish guide either, but it should get you close. Every radio and every setup are a little different.

I included a screenshot of the Pi-Star dashboard, but that is as far as my successful connection with it went. I tried the Pi-Star setup several times and simply could not make it work. My default troubleshooting step is always "user error," and I still believe that may have been the issue — but I will never know. While trying to figure out why Pi-Star was not cooperating I kept seeing mentions of WPSD. WPSD (https://w0chp.radio/wpsd) is a newer platform that supports all the same digital modes as Pi-Star and is described as "next-generation" free and open-source software. When I re-imaged my SD card with WPSD, the hotspot was recognized and online within a few minutes. The Wi-Fi configurator is simple and clean. I would recommend starting with WPSD right from the beginning. After I had been on the air a while, my new friend Holger (DN9HL) on the Worldwide talk group told me he started with WPSD too and that it updates the hotspot automatically every night and keeps the callsign database current.

You are probably wondering when we finally get to the actual radio. Don't worry — we will. And you may find yourself wishing you could go back to the

"simple" hotspot setup once you start programming the radio. (End of Part 1 — Part 2 continues next month)

Mahoning County ARES Update

As we've all heard many times, September 11th changed everything, especially emergency response. Shortly after 9/11 the Incident Command System (ICS) was developed to respond to emergencies both nationally and locally.

ICS is a relatively simple structure that is a powerful tool for emergency responders. The ARRL and ARES saw the value and quickly adopted ICS training for ARES members. It is a component of all we do today for emergency planning and response. ARES adoption encouraged members to complete basic ICS courses. That was a number of years ago. Things change. ARES has recently changed "encouraged" to "requires".

The good news is this requirement is nothing really all that new. The ARES Level 1 requirement is the same basic ICS courses we've been dealing with for over 15 years, ICS 100, 200, 700 & 800. The difference is they are no longer "encouraged" They are now required to participate as an ARES Volunteer nationally.

In Mahoning County a little less than half of our Members are already at ARES Level 1 plus our County's additional requirement of ICS 288 to be what we call EMA Qualified or qualified for EMA deployments. Over the next few months, we will be working to get as many of our ARES Members as possible up to this requirement.

These are easy, online courses. It should be relatively easy for our members to achieve this "new requirement". All our training, including information about these ICS courses, is contained in the Mahoning County ARES Task Book. If you're a Mahoning County ARES Member you should have a Task Book. If you don't you can download it from our website https://www.mahoning-ares.org/

Speaking of training, unfortunately we've just recently learned that Mahoning County will have to wait until next year for a live Skywarn training session. However, the National Weather Service site has online Skywarn training sessions you can register for if you'd like to get that training sooner.

Mahoning County ARES has a lot going on. It's all happening because of you, our ARES Members. Thank you all for your commitment to serving our communities in times of need.

If you're interested in joining Mahoning County ARES please visit our website https://www.mahoning-ares.org/ or email mahoning.ares@gmail.com

Your ARES Leadership Team.

Ham Radio Tech: Do Snow, Rain, and Ice Affect Antennas?

By Mark Haverstock, K8MSH

Yesterday, a heavy rainstorm caused some elevated SWR readings to appear on my station's power meter. I thought things would return to normal after the storm passed, which they eventually did. In the meantime, tweaking the tuner helped keep the radio happy. But I was still curious about what was really causing the problem. Rain, snow, and other forms of precipitation affect antenna systems and propagation. We should be aware of what happens and what—if anything—can be done about it.

Raindrops Keep Falling on My Dipole

Is rainwater a dielectric (insulator) or a conductor? It could be either one. When it rains, some water will cling to the antenna. Pure water is actually a poor conductor of electricity and more like an insulator. But when rainwater comes into contact with air pollution or dissolved substances, such as minerals or pollutants, it can become a conductor of electricity.

Rain can shift the frequency due to increased dielectric loading of the antenna. So, when it rains, the antenna becomes electrically longer. This explains why the resonant frequency drops and why the SWR of a wet antenna typically increases. Because RF flows over the surface of a conductor and not through it, anything that affects that surface will alter how long the radiator appears to RF.

Most antennas don't show huge changes when it rains. The effects are small enough that you may not notice—or feel they're not significant. This is true whether it's a basic dipole or a multi-element Yagi.

Compared to rain, icing is one of the most serious problems for antenna installations. Icing not only increases antenna wind load but can also cause more significant changes in antenna resonance. The ice buildup affects the dielectric constant of the insulated wire (now layers of plastic/ice/air), changing the impedance and increasing the SWR. Usually, we're more concerned with the antenna staying up in one piece than with knocking the ice off. I saw a post on a message board detailing one ham's solution: filling a Super Soaker with washer fluid and spraying the antenna. At least he stayed at ground level and avoided using a ladder.

Also, realize that near-field objects such as metal roofs, aluminum siding, and deciduous trees covered with precipitation can exacerbate the problem. These items are already there and coexist with your antenna—for better or worse.

Ground

I used to think hams were joking when they told me their antenna SWRs changed when heavy rains accumulated on the ground, but now I'm not so skeptical. There's another piece to the puzzle. An antenna originally tuned on dry ground could be detuned by rain, which increases soil moisture.

We know that ground conductivity can affect the performance of your antenna system. If the soil is moist, it has more conductivity than dry, hard, or sandy soil. Increased soil conductivity can cause a small change in resonant frequency, raising or lowering the SWR somewhat. But it often requires really soggy soil to make a significant change.

Michael, KB9VBR, performed some testing on ground covered with snow in a YouTube video. The premise was that the snow would cause the tuning to go long, and that appeared to be the case. Comparing SWR scans of dry and snow-covered ground, the curve shifted a bit up in frequency, and the SWR increased a little. But the SWR increase was slight, still below 1.5:1. He also mentioned the possibility of improved ground-wave propagation with snow blanketing the ground.

Other Scenarios

Up to this point, we've just been scratching the surface, so to speak. If rain is changing your antenna's resonant point significantly, I'm willing to bet water seeping into the coax or antenna system is the problem. Water leaking into feedlines significantly alters the line's impedance, causing all kinds of problems.

First, do a physical inspection, preferably after a hard rain. Run your hands along the length of the cable, looking for any breaks in the outer jacket that could let water in—take your time. Then disconnect it at the antenna, take a tissue, and wipe down the connector. If it's wet, you'll know the connector wasn't properly waterproofed where it meets the antenna.

Don't bother attempting to dry it out because water has probably begun to oxidize the braid, center conductor, and connectors. Even small amounts of water ingress can quickly degrade feedline performance. Cut the cable back a few feet until it feels dry—or until the shield shows no corrosion. Applying a new connector is a simple and inexpensive solution.

If you use coaxial cable, it's essential that the top end is sealed and that you form a drip loop to help shed water. Many commercial antennas with a coaxial cable running from outside to inside have heat-shrink tubing around any external joints (antenna to base or base to coax) for this reason. Another solution is to use Scotch Temflex tape. For both these methods, following up with a layer of Scotch 33+ electrical tape helps prevent UV exposure from breaking things down. Electrical tape alone is not sufficient.

Falling Into the Trap

Verticals like the Hustler BTV series and Yagis such as the Cushcraft A3S use traps to reduce antenna size and add more bands. They also add another location where water can seep in. Water collecting in the traps will change the inductance and capacitance values, detuning your antenna.

Start by inspecting the antenna right after it rains and when it's acting up. You'll probably find that water is pooling inside one or more of the traps. Drain and dry the traps, and make sure any drain holes are not blocked and pointed downward. Inspect trap caps/seals for cracks, damage, or wear—replace if needed. Tighten trap clamps and add Permatex Ultra Black as needed to seal gaps.

The Ends
Ends of wire antennas are high-voltage points. Insulators are needed to isolate the voltage from coming into contact with other objects. Insulators can also prevent antennas from being detuned if the element comes into electrical contact with wet ropes or other conductive materials. Antenna insulators are typically made from plastic, ceramic, porcelain, or glass. Ceramic is a good choice for durability and voltage handling. Center insulators isolate the two elements in a common dipole, serve as a feedpoint connection, and may also be part of a balun/unun. These also need close inspection for cracks, broken or corroded connections, damage to the balun eye-bolt, or water inside the balun enclosure. Repair, drain, or replace as necessary and weatherproof any electrical connections.

Weather or Not
As the old saying goes, climate is what we expect, and weather is what we get. The best strategy is to practice preventive measures and address conditions promptly as they occur. (Originally appeared in DXE *On All Bands*, January 2024)

ITU Corporation Re-purposes Linton Armory Facility to House Iconic Amateur Radio Manufacturing

HY-GAIN, CUSHCRAFT RETURN TO MARKET AFTER MFJ'S SALE
April 17, 2026 The Amateur Radio Newsline

Production of the Hy-gain and Cushcraft antennas and antenna products popularized by MFJ Enterprises will be going forward under new ownership and in a new home in Linton, Indiana.

The Indiana-based manufacturing and engineering business, ITU Corporation, has purchased both brands from Martin F. Jue, K5FLU, president and founder of MFJ Enterprises. MFJ, which Martin founded in Starkville, Mississippi, halted production in the spring of 2024.

Manufacturing of the two brands will resume at a property that formerly housed the National Guard Armory. The 15-acre site is being repurposed for production. In a statement announcing the deal, Martin expressed confidence that ITU would honor both brands' tradition of service to the amateur radio community. He said that he was certain that ITU's Dave and Kambi Carpenter: "share our commitment to American-made quality and customer satisfaction. They bring the engineering expertise and manufacturing passion necessary to keep these products and these trusted American high-performance antennas on towers worldwide for years to come!" The Carpenters are also the owners of the electronics supply store TekShack.

ITU, which has its company headquarters in Duggar, Indiana, has also purchased MFJ's designs, tooling, specialized equipment, and manufacturing and marketing rights for use in the Linton location. The company plans to move all manufacturing operations there from Mississippi, a transition that is expected to take about two months.

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

E5B01
What is the term for the time required for the capacitor in an RC circuit to be charged to 63.2% of the applied voltage or to discharge to 36.8% of its initial voltage?
A. An exponential rate of one
B. One time constant
C. One exponential period
D. A time factor of one

E5B02
What letter is commonly used to represent susceptance?
A. G
B. X
C. Y
D. B

E5B03
How is impedance in polar form converted to an equivalent admittance?
A. Take the reciprocal of the angle and change the sign of the magnitude
B. Take the reciprocal of the magnitude and change the sign of the angle
C. Take the square root of the magnitude and add 180 degrees to the angle
D. Square the magnitude and subtract 90 degrees from the angle

General Pool

G9D01
Which of the following antenna types will be most effective as a Near Vertical Incidence Skywave (NVIS) antenna for short-skip communications on 40 meters during the day?
A. A horizontal dipole placed between 1/10 and 1/4 wavelength above the ground
B. A vertical antenna placed between 1/4 and 1/2 wavelength above the ground
C. A left-hand circularly polarized antenna
D. A right-hand circularly polarized antenna

G9D02
What is the feed-point impedance of an end-fed half-wave antenna?
A. Very low
B. Approximately 50 ohms
C. Approximately 300 ohms
D. Very high

G9D03
In which direction is the maximum radiation from a portable VHF/UHF "halo" antenna?

A. Broadside to the plane of the halo
B. Opposite the feed point
C. Omnidirectional in the plane of the halo
D. Toward the halo's supporting mast

E5B01 (B)
E5B02 (D)
E5B03 (B)
G9D01 (A)
G9D02 (D)
G9D03 (C)

Annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Test Next Month

The Department of Defense will host this year's Armed Forces Day (AFD) Crossband Test on May 9, 2026. This annual event is open to all licensed amateur radio operators and will not impact any public or private communications. For more than 50 years, military and amateur stations have taken part in this event, which is an interoperability exercise between amateur and government radio stations.

The AFD Crossband Test is a unique opportunity to test two-way communication between military communicators and radio amateurs as authorized in 47 CFR 97.111. These tests provide opportunities and challenges for radio operators to demonstrate individual technical skills in a tightly controlled exercise scenario.

Military stations will transmit on selected military frequencies and will announce the specific amateur radio frequencies monitored. All times are in UTC and all frequencies are upper sideband (USB) unless otherwise noted.

An AFD message will be transmitted with the Military Standard (MIL-STD) Serial PSK waveform (M110) followed by MIL-STD Wide Shift FSK (850 Hz RTTY) as described in MILSTD 188-110A/B. Technical information.

The AFD Defense Message will be sent at 1400Z and 2000Z on the frequencies designated as follows:

MIL-STD-110/RTTY 13,963.5 kHz USB
MIL-STD-110 14,438.5 kHz USB
MIL-STD-110 14,484.0 kHz USB
MIL-STD-110 14,512.5 kHz USB
MIL-STD-110 14,463.5 kHz USB
MIL-STD-110 20,994.0 kHz USB
CW 14,375.0 kHz USB
MIL-STD-110/RTTY/CW 14,476.0 kHz USB
MIL-STD-110/RTTY/CW 14,383.5 kHz USB

QSL cards and other information are available via the Army MARS (Military Auxiliary Radio System) website.

Upcoming Contests and QSO Parties

Dave Fairbanks N8NB

Contests:
Source is contestcalendar.com

Many more activities online. These are recommended.

April 2026	
+ Louisiana QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 4 to 0200Z, Apr 5
+ Mississippi QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 4 to 0200Z, Apr 5
+ Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Apr 7
+ DIG QSO Party, CW	1200Z-1700Z, Apr 11 (20m-10m) and 0700Z-0900Z, Apr 12 (80m) and 0900Z-1100Z, Apr 12 (40m)
+ RSGB FT4 International Activity Day	1200Z, Apr 11 to 1200Z, Apr 12
+ New Mexico QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 11 to 0200Z, Apr 12
+ Missouri QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 11 to 0400Z, Apr 12 and 1400Z-2000Z, Apr 12
+ Africa FT4 DX Contest	1500Z-1800Z, Apr 11
+ Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 11 to 0359Z, Apr 12 and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 12
+ North Dakota QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 11 to 1800Z, Apr 12
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 13
+ Florida State Parks on the Air	1200Z-2359Z, Apr 17 and 1200Z-2359Z, Apr 18 and 1200Z-2359Z, Apr 19 and 1200Z-2359Z, Apr 20
+ Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 18 to 0400Z, Apr 19
+ Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 18 to 0300Z, Apr 19 and 1200Z-2000Z, Apr 19
+ Quebec QSO Party	1300Z-2400Z, Apr 19
+ ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB	1800Z-2359Z, Apr 19
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	2300Z, Apr 19 to 0100Z, Apr 20
+ Nebraska QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 25 to 0200Z, Apr 27
+ Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 25 to 0159Z, Apr 26 and 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 26
+ UA1DZ Memorial Cup	1300Z-1859Z, Apr 26
+ BARTG Sprint 75	1700Z-2059Z, Apr 26
+ K1USN Slow Speed Test	0000Z-0100Z, Apr 27
+ QCX Challenge	1300Z-1400Z, Apr 27
+ ICWC Medium Speed Test	1300Z-1400Z, Apr 27

DX Information

Source is www.ng3k.com,

May						
2026 May04	2026 May09	**South Cook Is**	**E51TLM**	K7TLM (B/d)	TDDX 20260410	By K7TLM KD7YZE fm Rarotonga I (IOTA OC-013); 28.060m 28.385 MHz; CW SSB; 5w; end-fed wire; QSL direct w/ SASE or SAE w/ 2GS
2026 May05	2026 Jul20	**French Polynesia**	**FO**	LoTW	TDDX 20260330	By F6BCW as FO/F6BCW fm Tikehau,Tuamotu; 80-6m; CW SSB; QSL via F6EXV or Club Log OQRS
2026 May08	2026 May09	**Jersey**	**MJ**	LoTW	TDDX 20260403	By KO7T as MJ/KO7T fm IOTA EU-013; 17-10m; CW SSB FT8 RTTY; QSL via Club Log OQRS
2026 May13	2026 May21	**St Kitts & Nevis**	**V49B**	LoTW	OPDX 20250315	By EI8CN fm Basseterre, St Kitts I; HF; FT8 FT4 SSB, some CW; QSL via Club Log OQRS or EI8KN direct; holiday style operation
2026 May14	2026 May22	**Tonga**	**A31AA**	LoTW	TDDX 20250325	By JH3QFL fm Nuku'alofa; HF; 500w, and 100w on 6m; FT8 on 80-6m; QSL via JH3QFL direct
2026 May17	2026 May19	**Wales**	**MW**	LoTW	OPDX 20250415	By HB9EMP as MW/HB9EMP; HF; holiday style operation; QSL via HB9EMP direct w/ SAE + 3 greenstamps
2026 May20	2026 Jun19	**Namibia**	**V5**	LoTW	TDDX 20260327	By N7XOB as V5/N7XOB; 7.165 and 14.265 MHz; SSB
2026 May24	2026 Jun01	**St Kitts & Nevis**	**V4**	LoTW	OPDX 20250904	By WW6W as V4/WW6W fm St Kitts I; QRV for CQWW WPX CW Contest; QSL via WW6W direct

2026 May25	2026 Jun03	**Chatham Is**	**ZL7IO**	LoTW	ZL3IO 20260409	By ZL3IO; 160-10m; CW SSB + digital; QRV for CQ WPX CW; QSL via DK7AO
2026 May26	2026 Jun02	**Martinique**	**TO3E**	LoTW	AB2E 20260110	By AB2E; @FM5BH; QRV for CQ WPX CW Contest
2026 May26	2026 Jun06	**Bolivia**	**CP7DX** NEW	Club Log OQRS	OPDX 20260415	By LU1FM LU1HF LU2JCW LU3FR LU3VED LU6FOV LU7HN LU8VCC LU9FHF fm Tarija (FG78pl); 160-2m, incl 60m; CW SSB FT8; QSL via LU1FM; QRV for CQ WPX CW Contest
2026 May27	2026 Jun08	**Bonaire**	**PJ4CB**	WA7RAR Direct	OPDX 20260319	By WA7RAR fm various Bonaire locations, some POTA; 20-10m; SSB CW; 1/4 wave telescoping vertical; no SASE or green stamp required for QSL
2026 May28	2026 Jun01	**Maldives**	**8Q7QR**	JJ1DQR	TDDX 20260330	By JJ1DQR; HF; holiday style operation; QRV for CQ WPX CW

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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
The ***VOICE COIL*** is published by the MVARA. All material contained herein is considered the opinion of the author and not necessarily that of the MVARA. Announcements of events are for informational purposes and do not necessarily constitute an endorsement by the MVARA. No responsibility for accuracy is assumed by the editor or newsletter staff. Typos are included for the entertainment of those who enjoy looking for them and should be reported immediately to any nearby MVARA member :-)