



# The Wireless

February 2024

The Garden City

Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 482 • Garden City, MI 48135-9998

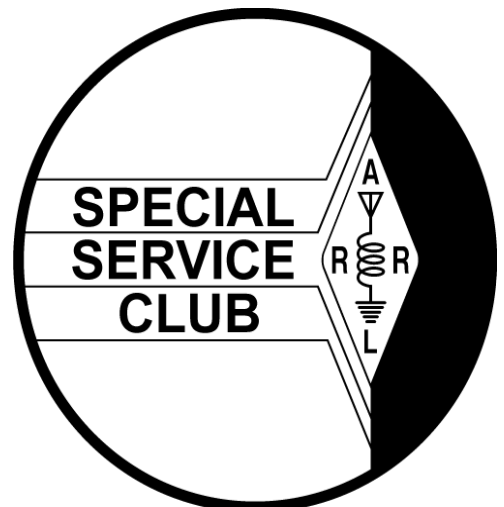


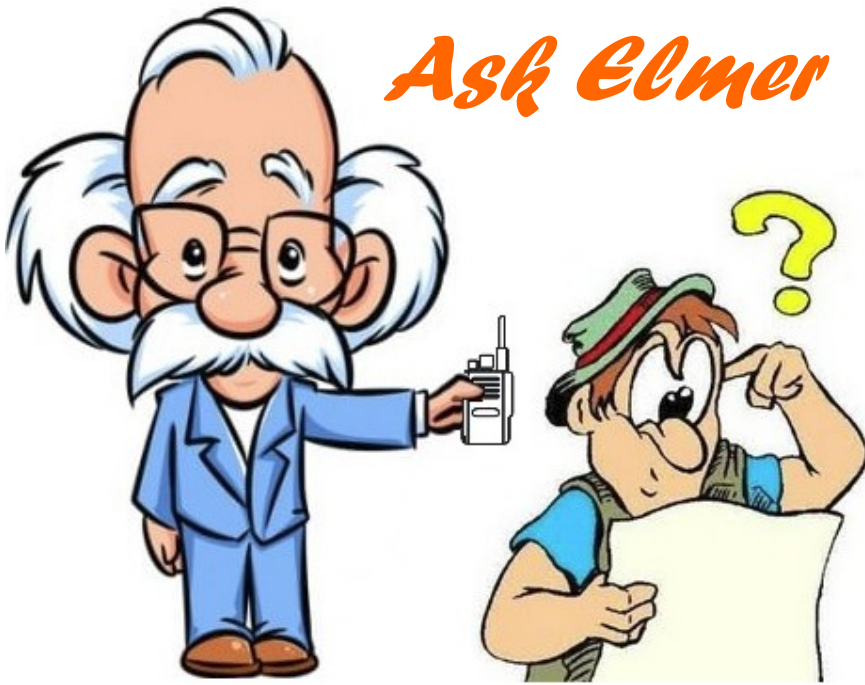
**Next Meeting:**

Tuesday, February 20, 2023,  
7:00pm  
Garden City Presbyterian Church  
1841 Middlebelt Rd.  
Garden City, MI 48135

This year's Livonia Swap was one of the better ones that they've hosted in several years. Coming off of 2020 and 2021, last year saw lower than usual participation on the part of both vendors and shoppers. This year, however, LARC reported that all vendor tables were sold, and from my observation, they saw a bigger crowd than they have seen since pre-COVID. Personally, I went with a blank shopping list. There was nothing specific that I needed, or even wanted, for my shack. Of course, that didn't stop me from coming home with a bag full of goodies to play with. Don't forget about the club meeting, tomorrow at 7:00pm. If you need directions, please contact any of the club officers.

**Bruce, WB8HS, selling some of his "excess stuff" at the Livonia Swap.**





# Ash Elmer

Welcome to a new segment that I'm going to try out. I say *try* because it's going to be dependent on your participation. Send in your amateur radio questions, and I'll share them in this space. Then, in the next Wireless, I'll post the best answers that I receive, and/or (like this month) a composite answer from several responses.

This month's question:

*"I need to re-stock my supply of heat-shrink tubing. Is the more expensive stuff really worth the price, or should I just go with the best bargain?"*

I actually received multiple responses to this, but most everyone had the same opinion, so here is the composite response: There may be some situations where you will want tubing with special features, such as marine grade for extra salt and water protection, or a specific color for easier wire or connector identification. Otherwise, all of our responses were agreed: go for the best price. Swap meets are often an excellent place to find good prices on heat-shrink tubing, with packs often selling for \$1 or less.

**Next Month's Question:**  
*What are your thoughts on soldering antenna and feed-line connections? It is worth the trouble, or are crimp-type connectors just a good?*

Please send your questions and/or responses to Elmer in care of [gcarc.wireless@gmail.com](mailto:gcarc.wireless@gmail.com)

All submissions will be credited unless you specifically ask to remain anonymous.

## Why am I receiving this newsletter?

You can get added to our e-mail list a couple different ways:

1. You are, or have been, a dues-paying, honorary, or associate member of the Garden City Amateur Radio Club.
2. You are a representative of another radio club.
3. You have asked to receive our newsletter.
4. You have given permission to someone to share your e-mail address, and that someone believed that our newsletter would be of interest to you.

While I personally believe that everyone would want to read our club's news, I do realize that there may be people that were added to the mailing list by mistake, or, for some other reason just no longer want to receive the newsletter or other e-mails from the club. If that's the case, just drop me a quick note at [gcarc.wireless@gmail.com](mailto:gcarc.wireless@gmail.com) and I'll take your name off the list. Just be forewarned: if you do that, we'll miss you.

By the way: corrections and requests to be put on the mailing list can also be sent to the same address.





Hamvention will be held May 17, 18 and 19, 2024 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center. For more information, please select the tabs below or use the navigation menu above to visit pages of interest. If you have a specific question that isn't answered on the site, please [contact us](#).

The entire staff of Hamvention volunteers is working hard behind the scenes to make our fourth year at Hamvention's new home at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Exposition Center even better. Details will be posted when they become available, so check back often. In the meantime, Where it all started...Since 1952 Hamvention® has been sponsored by Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA). For many years it has been the world's largest amateur radio gathering, attracting hams from throughout the globe. About 1950, John Willig, W8ACE, had asked the Dayton Amateur Radio Association to sponsor a HAM Convention but was turned down. John wanted to have a quality affair. Speakers and prizes would be a drawing point. John finally found a champion in Frank Schwab, W8YCP (W8OK), the newly elected president of the club. A meeting was held and the DARA Board allocated \$100 to get started. The first organizational meeting was held in January 1952. The Southwestern Ohio Ham-vention was born. The first committee consisted of: John Willig, W8ACE, General Chairman Al Dinsmore, W8AUN, Arrangements Bob Siff, W8QDI (K4AMG), Prizes and Exhibits Frank Schwab, W8YCP (W8OK), Publicity Bob Montgomery, W8CUJ, Finance Clem Wolford, W8ENH, Program Ellie Haburton, W8GJP (W4ZVW), Women's Committee. The next year the name became "Dayton Hamvention®" and was registered as a trademark. April was determined to be the best time but the Biltmore Hotel, in downtown Dayton was booked. March 22 was the chosen date, causing a short lead time. How far did \$100 go? Not far! A 12" TV was raffled off to help raise funds. The FCC agreed to give license exams and Phil Rand, W1BDM, a pioneer in TVI elimination was on the program. First prize, a Collins 75A2, was purchased locally. Hoping for 300 visitors, the committee was amazed that over 600 showed up! There were 7 exhibitors and 6 forums. The ladies program was successful with a luncheon at the Biltmore and a trip to a local TV station. In 1955 the Awards Program began with the "Amateur of the Year." The Flea Market has grown from 200 to more than 2000 spaces. In 1964 the Hamvention® moved to Hara Arena. Shuttle buses and handicapped parking were added in 1969. In 1973 it became a 2 day event with Sundays added in 1974. The program has grown to a "Souvenir Program" and in 1976 the dimensions changed from 6"x 9" to the current 8-1/2"x11". The growth of the Dayton Hamvention® can be attributed to caring, energetic people who enjoy being on a winning team. enjoy this photo tour of Hamvention's new home:

## Field Day is June 22-23, 2024



## **Dayton Bus Trip – 2024**

The ARROW Communications Association is proud to sponsor a motor coach trip to the [Hamvention](#) in Dayton, Ohio. Started in 2002, this annual club activity has grown in size and reputation with Hams across Michigan. We have been host to over 700 Hams for this event.



Please join us! Tickets are \$70 per person.

*Please note that this does not include the Hamvention ticket.*

**Register by March 10th 2024**

ARROW reserves the right to cancel the bus if not enough people sign up by March 10. If bus is cancelled ARROW will issue refunds.

The bus departs from Ann Arbor (Pioneer High School, 601 W Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor, MI) on Saturday, May 18th at 4:30 am, arriving in Dayton around 8:30 am. On board, you can stretch out, relax, chat with other Hams and enjoy a continental breakfast with coffee as the coach takes you directly to the door of the country's largest amateur radio event!

We arrive at Dayton early enough so that you can enjoy a full day!

- Visit exhibits
- See what's new from major manufacturers
- Attend seminars
- Take license tests
- Shop one of the largest outdoor swap meets in the United States

When [Hamvention](#) closes at 5:00 p.m., return to the entrance with your purchases and our bus will pick you up for the ride back home. No standing in lines waiting for a shuttle bus or fighting traffic!

**Got Stuff to sell? We can help!!!**

Got stuff you want to get rid of? We will have an attended booth space in the flea market. If you buy a bus ticket, you can sell your stuff at our booth.

This is no ordinary bus trip—it's an ADVENTURE!