

SANDUSKY VALLEY

Amateur Radio Club Notes and News

Notes from the President

2 Meter Repeater News

2025 Field Day

Monthly Contests and Special Events

Upcoming DX station events

Hamfests

Swap and Shop

Topic for the Month: From Hints and Hacks 1st Edition



Notes from the President

Fellow Hams and Friends,

Saturday was a great day! The sky was blue, the sun shined brightly, but the canopy of the tent, and the steady breeze, made for a comfortable afternoon. Good friends with a like interest, worked individually, and yet together for a common goal. Making new friends near home and across the oceans. Tell your family and friends how they too can use the same science and technology in many different modes of communication.

73's Jay, K8VCE Talk to everyone on Monday evening, 145.250 7PM

Jay wrote this note for the July Newsletter but I couldn't get it done during July so I included the comments for this month, but they still apply since we were just at the Special Event for the Lindsey Sunflower Festival.

Repeater Operations

The repeater seems to be working just fine and the Monday evening net is getting more attendees! Jump on that 2meter rig at 7:00 PM on Mondays, frequency is 145.250 with No PL tone required. Be Radio Active as the ARRL has stated all this year.

Should any one have any trouble accessing the repeater, please just drop me a note at rondyke2000@yahoo.com or text me at 423-231-6315 and I will be glad to see what can be done to make things better.

Field Day June 28-29, 2025

Results of the days activities!

Creek Bend Farm Park, Lindsey, Ohio

What a wonderful time we had Saturday afternoon at this location, setting up, operating, tearing down and everything worked out perfectly this year. We had several visitors stop by to either help, watch, or even participate in the Annual Field Day Event. Our class of operations this year was 4A and the total number of contacts was almost 200! And this was done in just a few hours of time since we were out of the park by around 7PM on Sat. The total points that we earned this year was really good, thanks to Joe Hoffman working over 160 cw contacts, with bonus points for all emergency power, QSO'S made via solar battery charging only, and other battery operations we scored over 1174 points, maybe even more because I'm just now filling out all the ARRL forms to send in!! While the number of points earned may not be all that big, for the number of folks participating and only about 4 hours of operating time we really did great! Really proud of what we did accomplish this year and next year we will do even better! Just want to get more of our local Ham's out participating with us!

This was written for last month but never got out, so included it for this month!

Monthly Contests: First week of August (From ARRL, QST, Great Lakes Newsletter)

- August 1 -- NCCC Sprint (CW)
- August 2 - 3 -- Ten-Ten International Summer Contest, SSB (phone)
- August 2 - 3 -- [North American QSO Party, CW](#) (CW)
- August 2 - 3 -- [ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest](#) (CW, phone, digital)
- August 3 -- SARL HF Phone Contest (phone)
- August 4 -- K1USN Slow Speed Test (CW)
- August 5 -- ZL Sprint (CW, phone, digital)
- August 7 -- NRAU 10m Activity Contest (CW, phone, digital)
- August 9 - 10 -- WAE DX Contest – CW (CW)
- August 9 - 10 -- Maryland-DC QSO Party (CW, phone)
- August 9 -- 50 MHz Fall Sprint (CW, phone, digital)
- August 10 -- SARL HF Digital Contest (digital)
- August 13 -- NAQCC CW Sprint (CW)

Please Check the ARRL, and Great Lakes Contest pages for a complete list of the July activities

Special Events: (From August QST)

Special Event Stations

Working special event stations is an enjoyable way to help commemorate history. Many provide a special QSL card or certificate!

July 31- Aug. 10, 00002 - 23592, W8LKY, Alliance, OH. Alliance Amateur Radio Club. W8LKY Special Event - Birthplace of Ohio's State Flower, the Scarlet Carnation.

7.045 7.220 14.045 14.250. Certificate. Alliance ARC, P.O. Box 94, Maximo, OH 44650, or email information to ses@ w8lky.org.
www.w8lky.org

Aug. 1- Aug. 3, 13002 - 23592, W9R, Beaver Dam, WI.
Rock River Radio Club. **Antique Power Show.** 7.275
14.275 21.275 28.375. Certificate* & QSL. Rock River Radio Club,
P.O. Box 26, Juneau, WI 53039. www.dcaclub.org

Aug. 1 - Aug. 4, 04002 - 04002, W8AL, Canton, OH.
Canton Amateur Radio Club. **Pro Football Half of Fame
Enshrinement Festival.** 7.260 14.260 21.320 28.400.
Certificate. Canton ARC, P.O. Box 8673, Canton, OH 44711-8673.
On-air times, bands, and modes subject to operator availability.
Watch for spots and digital modes. www.w8al.org

Aug. 1 - Aug.17, 0000Z - 23592, W9ISF, Indianapolis, IN.
Indiana State Fair Amateur Radio Club. **Indiana State Fair.**
7.240 14.240 21.300. QSL. Ken Bandy, 7405 E. County
Road 900 N., Brownsburg, IN 46112. [www.indianastate fair.com/p/
state-fair](http://www.indianastatefair.com/p/state-fair) or www.qrz.com/db/w9isf

Aug. 2, 12002 - 2000z, KD3KA, Wexford, PA. Allegheny Valley
Radio Association and Skyview Radio Society. **KDKA Shortwave
Network Centennial.** 7.040 7.240
14.040 14.240. QSL. AVRA, P.O. Box 24, Wexford, PA
15090. www.qrz.com/db/kd3ka

Aug. 2, 01302 - 08302, W6P, Vacaville, CA. Vacaville Amateur Radio
Club, W6VVR. **Alcatraz.** 7.200 14.250 28.500. QSL. Art Aronsen,
7319 June Bug Ln., Vacaville, CA 95688. www.w6vvr.net

Aug. 7 - Aug.17, 14002 - 20002, N3G, Levittown, PA. Penn Wireless Association, W3SK. **General Nathanael Greene Birthday Commemoration.** 7.055 7.255 14.055 14.255. Certificate & QSL. Penn Wireless Association, P.O. Box 925, Levittown, PA 19058. E-certificate available at www.pennwireless.org. www.qrz.com/db/n3g

Aug. 9, 14002 - 22002,K8BF, Ravenna, OH. Portage County Amateur Radio Service. **Portage County Amateur Radio Service 20th Anniversary Celebration.** 7.220 20.260 28.320. Certificate & QSL. Tom Parkinson, K88UUZ, 9992 State Route 700, Mantua, OH 44255. www.portcars.org

Aug. 9, 16002 - 23002, NIGIW, San Diego, CA. USS Midway Museum Ship. **US Coast Guard Birthday.** 7.250 14.070 14.320; PSK31, 0-STAR on PAPA System Repeaters. QSL. USS Midway Museum Ship COMEDTRA. 910 N. Harbor Dr., San Diego, CA 92101. www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw

Aug. 14 - Aug. 16, 00002 - 23592, WB9AET, Summit Argo, IL. Western Area FM Amateur Repeater Club. **Remembering Saint Maximilian Kolbe.** 10.136 14.245; SSB and FT8. QSL. WAFAR, 7326 West 57 St., Summit Argo, IL 60501. www.sites.google.com/view/wafarchicago/home

Aug. 16, 10002 - 20302, W2GSB, Babylon, NY. Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club. **Fire Island Lighthouse US0019/ International lighthouse Lightship Weekend.** 7.245 14.246 21.250 28.340. Certificate. Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 1356, West Babylon, NY 11704. IOTA and POTA station. www.gsbarc.org

Aug.16, 13002 -18002, K8L, Eagle Harbor, MI. Keweenaw County Repeater Association and Copper Country Radio Amateur Association. **International Lighthouse Weekend-Historic Eagle**

Harbor lighthouse. 14.270. QSL. Jeffrey Stricker, W9GY, 59624 Dextrom Rd., Calumet, MI 49913. www.kcra-mi.net or www.ccraa.net

Aug. 20 - Aug. 26, 00002 - 00002, K2D, Melville, NY. Caryn Eve Murray, KD2GUT. **International Dog Day 2025.** 7.045 14.050 21.030 28.050. Certificate. Caryn Eve Murray, 2 Wallingford Dr., Melville, NY 11747. After August 1st, chasers may look to see where K2D and our international partners are by visiting <https://hamlog.online/idd>. www.dogdayradio.org

Aug. 23. 13002 - 22002, K9P, Angola, IN. Land of Lakes Amateur Radio Club. **Pokagon State Park Centennial Celebration.** 7.180 7.280 14.240 14.340. Certificate. Mark Tritch, 4340 S. 1000 W., Hudson, IN 46747. www.qrz.com/db/k9p

Aug. 23, 13302 - 21002, K3S, Port of Baltimore. Nuclear Ship Savannah Amateur Radio Club. **NS Savannah Maiden Voyage Anniversary.** 7, 14, 18, 21, 28. QSL. Ullis Fleming, 980 Patuxent Rd., Odenton, MD 21113. Check spotting networks. www.qrz.com/db/k3s

Aug. 23 - Aug. 27, 14002 - 18002 daily, W1A, York, PA. Wally Byam Caravan Club International Amateur Radio Club, WB8RC. **Commemorating the 68th Annual International Airstream Rally and 62 Years of the WBCCI ARC.** All bands, all modes, as available based on conditions. OSL. WBCCI Amateur Radio Club, c/o Jim Cocke, P.O. Box 1307, West Jefferson, NC 28694, or via QRZ. Please check spotter pages. www.qrz.com/db/wb8rc

Aug. 23 - Sep1, 0000Z - 2359Z, W3B, Hermitage, PA. Mercer County Amateur Radio Club. **Buhl Farm Park Celebration.** 7.074 7.185 145.350. OSL. Mercer County Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 996, Sharon, PA 16146. Operating various times as conditions permit; scheduled times on website and QRZ. www.w3lif.org

Aug. 24 - Sep 6, 00002 - 23592, K9A, Auburn, IN. North-eastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association. **Auburn Cord Duesenberg Festival Special Event Station.** 7.180
14.250 28.360. Certificate & OSL. K9A/NIARA, P.O. Box 145, Auburn, IN 46706. No Logbook of The World or eQSL.
www.w9ou.org

Certificates and QSL cards: To obtain a certificate from any of the special event stations offering them, send your QSO information along with a 9 x 12-inch self-addressed, stamped envelope (3 units of postage) to the address listed in the announcement. To receive a special event QSL card (when offered), be sure to include a self-addressed, stamped business envelope along with your QSL card and QSO information.

Monthly DX Information:

This week's bulletin is made possible with information provided by AA3B, The Daily DX, 425 DX News, DXNL, OPDX, Contest Corral from *QST* and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

WEST KIRIBATI, T30. Members of the Rebel DX Group are QRV as **T30TTT** from North Tarawa **until September 8**. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4 with up to 10 stations active. QSL via LoTW.

KENYA, 5Z. Ben, VE3NZ, is QRV as **5Z4NZ until August 8**. QSL to home call.

CROATIA, 9A. Special event station **9A169TESLA** is QRV **until December 31** to celebrate the 169th anniversary of the birth of Nikola Tesla. QSL via LoTW.

EAST MALAYSIA, 9M6. A large group of operators are QRV as **9M8A** from **Satang Besar Island, IOTA OC-165, until August 13**. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4. QSL via LoTW.

BURUNDI, 9U. Tony, IK7WUL, plans to be QRV as **9U0DX from August 2 to 10** while working in humanitarian aid projects. Activity will be in his spare time on 40 to 10 meters using SSB. QSL direct to home call.

SINGAPORE, 9V. Hugh, 9V1SA is QRV as **S60SA until August 8 to celebrate 60 years of Singapore's independence**. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL via ClubLog.

MOROCCO, CN. Amateur radio operators in Morocco can use the **5C26 prefix until August 5** to celebrate the accession to the throne of the country's sovereign, Mohammed VI, which occurred on July 30, 1999.

SOUTH COOK ISLAND, E5. Steve, ZL2KE, will be QRV as **E51KEE from Rarotonga Island, IOTA OC-013, from August 3 to 18**. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using mostly CW. QSL via IK2DUW.

MAYOTTE, FH. A group of operators will be QRV as **TO3K from August 2 to 10**. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4. QSL via LoTW.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA, HL. Special event station **HL80V** will be QRV **during the month of August to mark the 80th anniversary of South Korea's liberation**. QSL via bureau.

OGASAWARA, JD1. Fumi, JH7CSU will be QRV as **JD1BRC from Chichijima Island, IOTA AS-031, from August 2 to 8**. Activity will be on 40 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via JH7CSU.

DENMARK, OZ. Members of the Danish POTA Club are QRV as **5P0TA from Bornholm Island, IOTA EU-030, until August 3**. Their plans are to activate all the POTA parks on Bornholm. QSL via operators' instructions.

CURACAO, PJ2. Jeff, K8ND is QRV as **PJ2ND from Signal Point until August 13**. QSL to home call.

GREECE, SV. Members of the Radio Amateur Association of Western Greece are QRV with special event station **SX17ASTRO until August 8 for the 17th Panhellenic Expedition of Amateur Astronomers**. QSL via operators' instructions.

BENIN, TY. Station **TY5FR** has been active on 30 meters using CW around 0530z. QSL via DL1BUG.

CANADA, VE. Members of the Atlantic Coast DX and Contest Group will be QRV as **CG9IARU during August to celebrate the International Amateur Radio Union's 100th anniversary.** This includes organizing commemorative radio activities across Canada for POTA, WWFF, and Canadian Historical Sites On The Air. QSL via VE9CF.

MEXICO, XE. Special call sign **4A2MAX** will be QRV **during the month of August in remembrance of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe.** Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and various digital modes. QSL via LoTW.

INDONESIA, YB. Special call signs **8A2K, 8A2L, 8A2A, 8A2T, 8A2E, and 8A2N** are **QRV until August 3** to commemorate the anniversary of Klaten Regency and the birthday of the local ORARI Klaten Regency. QSL via bureau.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest, North American CW QSO Party, 10-10 International Summer SSB Contest, European HF Championship, Hemus VHF Contest/144 MHz, SARL HF Phone Contest, QRP 20-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC FT4 Sprint, Weekly RTTY Test, and the NCCC CW Sprint are all scheduled for this upcoming weekend.

K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, ICWC Medium Speed CW Test, OK1WC Memorial, ARS Spartan CW Sprint, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, ZL Sprint, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops Test, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Mini-Test 40 CW, and the Mini-Test 80 are on tap for August 4 to 6.

Please see August QST, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites for details.

Hamfests: (Fun places to go to!) (from ARRL Website)

08/02/2025 - Columbus Hamfest

Location: Grove City, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Aladdin Shrine Audio Unit

Website: <http://columbushamfest.com>

[Learn More](#)

08/09/2025 - Cincinnati HamfestSM

Location: Owensville, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Milford Amateur Radio Club

Website: <https://CincinnatiHamfest.org>

[Learn More](#)

08/17/2025 - Warren Hamfest

Location: Cortland, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Warren Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://w8vtd.com/hamfest>

[Learn More](#)

09/07/2025 - Findlay Hamfest

Location: Findlay, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Findlay Radio Club

Website: <http://w8ft.org>

[Learn More](#)

09/13/2025 - Swap Meet / Hamfest**Location:** Toledo , OH**Type:** ARRL Hamfest**Sponsor:** Lucas County ARES**Website:** <http://WWW.LUCASARES.ORG>**Learn More****09/28/2025 - Cleveland Hamfest****Location:** Berea, OH**Type:** ARRL Hamfest**Sponsor:** Hamfest Association of Cleveland**Website:** <https://www.hac.org>

Swap and Shop:

For Sale:

DX Engineering OMNI-Tilt Vertical Antenna Tilt Base, Brand new never set up, List price at DX Engineering is \$163.97. Would like to get \$100.00. Please contact Dan Whitt, W8DJW at 419-366-3256

Kenwood TH-D74, Tri-band, 2 meter, 220 and 440 MHz, D-Star capable, Excellent condition, Includes Manual, charger, Extra Battery pack for AA batteries, \$375.00. Contact Ron, KZ4CW via email, rondyke2000@yahoo.com or Phone 423-231-6315

Topic for the Month: from ARRL's Hints and Hacks (First Edition)

Identifying a Balun

When you find an old unlabeled balun in your junk box and can't remember if it's a 1:1, 4:1, or 9:1, there's a simple way to find out. All you need are two 100 Ohm resistors and either an antenna analyzer or your rig and an SWR meter.

Any small resistor will work, but it should not be the wire-wound type. [Use an ohmmeter to get an accurate value for the resistors before you begin testing.] If you are using an antenna analyzer, you don't have to worry about the power dissipation of the resistors. If you're using a rig and SWR meter, use low power for testing - the lowest your meter will read. You can use 100 Ohm, 2W composition resistors, but don't key the transmitter for an extended period if 5W is your lowest power level. [Note that if you over heat a resistor, its resistance value can change, perhaps significantly. This is especially true if it becomes too hot to touch. - Ed.]

Connect the two 100 Ohm resistors in series across the antenna terminals of the balun. Connect the feed-line side of the balun to your antenna analyzer, or SWR meter and transmitter. Use a relatively low frequency, such as 80 or 40 meters, and measure the SWR. Don't go lower than 80 meters, because most baluns are designed to operate in the 3.5 - 30 MHz range. If you go above 40 meters, you run the risk of lead inductance and internal inductance in the resistors confusing your readings.

Now take an SWR reading. If your balun is 4:1, the impedance at the transmission line side of the balun should be 200 Ohms divided by four, or 50 Ohm, providing a perfect 1:1 match. But, that's in a perfect world where resistors and their leads have no inductance, and the balun's turn ratio is a perfect 4:1. In the real world, you'll get a low reading - something like 1.5:1 or less. If the balun is 1:1 the 200 to 50 Ohm impedance ratio should be four, giving an SWR measurement of 4:1. In reality, it may be something on the order of 3:1 or more, due to internal losses and that pesky stray inductance.

Let's suppose you get that high reading, indicating your balun is a 1:1 type. There's an easy way to verify that. Place the two 100 Ohm resistors in parallel across the antenna terminals of the balun. In parallel, they will be 50 Ohm and show an excellent match. Again, it's an imperfect world, so you might not get exactly zero reflected power and a perfect 1:1 SWR, but it should be close, say 1.2:1 or 1.5:1.

I once wound a 9:1 toroidal balun for a Beverage receiving antenna. A 450 Ohm resistor was used to test it, and what a delight it was to see a 1:1 match on the antenna analyzer. There's something very reassuring, maybe even thrilling, about seeing theory and practical application merge. - 73, Richard Foste,; W5TA, w5ta@arri.net

Attention Everyone

Next meet is August 2 , 2025. Breakfast at Denny's at 7:00 AM and social hour starting around 8:15 AM at Sandusky County Chamber of Commerce Building, 1245 Napoleon Street, Fremont, Ohio. Meeting starts at 9:00 AM.

D. Ron Dyke, KZ4CW

