

SANDUSKY VALLEY

Amateur Radio Club Notes and News

Notes from the
President:

2 Meter Repeater

New "QRN Column"
Contributed by Joe
Hoffman, W8JH

Monthly Contests
and Special Events:

Upcoming DX
Stations:

Hamfests:
Swap and Shop:

Topic for the Month:
Etiquette



Notes from the President

Fellow Hams and Friends,

Sometimes working hard doesn't seem that hard. For example, if you are working on an item that has to do with a hobby. Like an antenna! It is entirely possible that there will be some hard work involved in all the design, building, testing, and especially deploying. You need to keep the end result in mind if things get a little difficult. Think of all the DX you will get with that thing of beauty. Be patient, your reward is just a climb away.

Jay K8VCE

Repeater Operations

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.

The “QRN” Column

Contributed by Joe Hoffman, W8JH

In a prior column I discussed CW (continuous wave) communications. As you may recall, some benefits of this mode included focusing all of your transmitter power into a very narrow signal and the fact that as you listen you merely have to hear a “carrier on, carrier off” signal with short signals being dits and long signals being dahs. Pretty simple for your brain to detect and a very focused use of your precious transmitter power.

This month I will discuss various voice modes. Of note, voice modes have a carrier signal which is then modulated with voice. We have all seen the squiggly line depiction of a human voice and this squiggly voice pattern is what is superimposed on the carrier signal as it is transmitted. A receiver then detects those squiggles and pumps them through your speakers so your brain can hear a voice. Here are a few different methods to accomplish that.

First is FM or **frequency modulation**. This is most common on our HT and mobile rigs that use FM on the 2 meter and 70 centimeter bands. The carrier signal has the voice squiggles superimposed on it by varying the frequency of the carrier, the amplitude stays the same. One of the additional benefits of FM is that, by design, the signal should “capture” your receiver and hopefully have a very comfortable full quieting signal to listen to, provided the signal is strong enough. This “capture” does have a downside though. In particular, the strongest signal captures your receiver, and weaker signals are not heard. If you are talking with someone and a stronger station comes on (whether simplex or through a repeater) the loudest signal wins. The weaker signal will be completely covered up. Again, sometimes this is advantageous, sometimes not.

Next we can cover AM or **amplitude modulation**. In this case the frequency stays the same, but the amplitude is modulated to carry the voice squiggles superimposed on it. You can also hear multiple signals at a time. There is no “all or none” capture effect like on FM. The main downside of AM is that your signal is spread much wider and that “dilutes” the power your transmitter is putting out. AM is still used by some who enjoy the historical nostalgia of it but I would say it is not widely used. The reason for that is a technological advance we will discuss next.

In the late 1950's and early 1960's the Collins radio company made commercially available **single sideband** radios (SSB). SSB didn't immediately take over but the technical superiority put SSB in the forefront pretty quickly. If you want to hear about the arguments regarding this new technology at the time, ask some old timers about making fun of “Donald duck” SSB users in the early days.

The overwhelming benefits of SSB which were impossible to ignore come back to the same concept I am always harping about. It simply narrowed the signal so that the power your transmitter puts out is focused and that makes all the difference. Without going into too much technical gobbledygook, know that an AM signal has a carrier frequency as described above. It also has TWO sideband signals that are modulated with the voice squiggles. Collins radio figured out how to suppress one of the sidebands, and the carrier. A SSB receiver then recreates the carrier locally using a beat frequency oscillator (BFO). The end result of all this magic that Art Collins came up with results in a signal that is about 9 dB stronger sounding ! To understand the magnitude of a benefit like that just take a look at some Yagi beam for 20m and see how big of an antenna you would have to buy to get 9 dB of gain from an antenna instead of just the SSB technique. All of that 9dB magic gain inside your modern rig is from focusing that transmitter energy into a more focused signal. Now you can see why I keep harping on that concept.

I apologize for going a bit long this month, but I felt this was as concise as I could be getting these concepts across (hopefully). In a future column I will discuss digital communications, voice and otherwise.

73,
Joe, W8JH

Monthly Contests: August 2026

8	0000	9	2359	2.3 GHz and up	ARRL EME Contest	CW Ph Dig	See rules	www.arrl.org/eme-contest
8	0000	9	2359	3.5-28	WAE DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial	www.darc.de
8	1200	9	1159	3.5-28	YB Bekasi Merdeka Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), YB section or "DX"	bmc.orari-kotabekasi.com
8	1200	9	2359	1.8-28,50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
8	1400	8	2200	3.5-28	Kentucky State Parks on the Air	CW Ph Dig	KY park abbr or SP or "DX"	k4msu.com/kypota
8	1400	9	0400	1.8-28	Maryland-DC QSO Party	CW Ph	MDC county/city or SPC	www.w3vpr.org
9	1300	9	1600	3.5-14	SARL HF Digital Contest	Dig	RST, serial	mysarl.org.za
10	0000	10	0200	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or pwr	www.4sqrp.com
11	1900	11	2029	3.5,7	DARC FT4 Contest	Dig	Signal report, 4-char grid	www.darc.de
12	0030	12	0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	naqcc.info/sprint_rules.html
12	0700	14	0700	144	MMMonVHF/DUBUS 144 MHz Meteorscatter Sprint Contest	CW Ph Dig	Signal report	www.mmmmonvhf.de
13	0000	13	0500	432	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest-NA	Dig	4-char grid	ft8activity-na.net
15	0000	16	1600	3.5-28	SARTG WW RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, serial	www.sartg.com
15	0800	16	0800	1.8-28	Russian District Award Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), RU district code or serial	rdaward.org/rdac1.htm
15	0900	17	0759	10 GHz to light	ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	CW Ph Dig	6-char grid	www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up
15	1200	15	1300	7	SARL Youth QSO Party	Ph	RS, age	mysarl.org.za
15	1200	16	1200	1.8-28,50	Keyman's Club of Japan Contest	CW	RST, JA prefecture/district code or CQ zone	kcj-cw.com
15	1600	15	1759	1.8-28,50	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	See rules	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
15	1800	16	0559	1.8-28	North American QSO Party, SSB	Ph	Name, state/DC/province/country	www.ncjweb.com
15	1800	16	2100	1.8-28	CVA DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, PY state or continent or "MIL"	cvadx.org
16	1700	16	2100	3.5-28	NJQRP Skeeter Hunt	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or pwr, "W"	www.qsl.net/w2lj
16	1800	16	2359	3.5-28	ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY	Dig	Name, 2-digit year first licensed, SPC	www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup
16	2300	17	0100	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or pwr	qrptest.com/pigrun
17	1900	17	2100	3.5-28	RSGB FT4 Contest	Dig	Signal report	www.rsgbcc.org
20	0000	20	0500	1296	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest-NA	Dig	4-char grid	ft8activity-na.net
20	0000	21	0300	14	Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	Max 13 WPM: RST, SPC, name, mbr or pwr	qrptest.com/pigwalk20
20	1900	20	2000	3.5-14	NTC QSO Party	CW	Max 25 WPM: RST, mbr or "NM"	pi4ntc.nl
22	1200	23	1200	3.5-28	YO DX HF Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), YO county or serial	www.yodx.ro
22	1200	23	1200	7,14,21,28	ARSI VU DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), VU 2-letter state/UT code or serial	arsi.info
22	1600	23	0400	1.8-28	Ohio QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), OH county or SPC	www.ohqp.org
22	1600	24	0200	1.8-28	Hawaii QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), HI district or SP	www.hawaiiqsoparty.org
22	1800	23	2100	1.8-28	CVA DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RST, PY state or continent or "MIL"	cvadx.org
23	1400	23	1700	3.5-14	SARL HF CW Contest	CW	RST, serial	mysarl.org.za
26	0000	26	0200	1.8-28,50	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
28	2200	30	2359	1.8-28	SCRY/RTTYOps WW DX RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, 4-digit year license first issued	rttyops.com/index.php
29	0000	29	2359	1.8-28,50	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	See rules	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
29	0600	30	0559	3.5-28	ALARA Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, mbr or YL/OM/club station	www.alara.org.au
29	1200	30	0300	1.8-28,50	U.S. Islands QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), island designation or SPC	usislands.org
29	1200	30	1200	1.8-28	World Wide Digi DX Contest	Dig	4-char grid	ww-digi.com
29	1400	30	2000	3.5-28,50	Kansas QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), KS county or SPC	ksqsoparty.org

(Reprinted From August 2026 QST)

Please Check the ARRL, QST and Great Lakes Contest pages for a complete list of the June times, dates, frequencies, etc.

Special Events: June 2026

Aug. 1, 1100Z – 1700Z, W8B, Fremont, OH. Sandusky Valley Amateur Radio Club, W8NCK. **1813 Battle of Fort Stephenson**. 7.040 7.265 14.040 14.265. Certificate. David Dyke, 2783 E. State St., Fremont, OH 43420.

Aug. 5 – Aug. 9, 0000Z – 2359Z, K8M, Athens, OH. Athens County (Ohio) Amateur Radio Association. **King Midget Micro-Car 80th Anniversary**. 7.245 14.245. QSL. K8M, 97 Columbia Ave., Athens, OH 45701. *Celebrating the smallest street-legal motor car ever made in America.* <http://k8m.info>

Aug. 6 – Aug. 8, 1600Z – 2200Z, W9T, Tipton, IN. Tipton County Indiana Amateur Radio Club. **Mid-America Threshing & Antique Tractor Show**. 7.225 14.225 21.325 28.425. QSL. Tipton County Indiana Amateur Radio Club, 3229 S. 110 W., Tipton, IN 46072-8912. www.k9trc.org

Aug. 7 – Aug. 23, 1600Z – 2359Z, W9ISF, Indianapolis, IN. Indiana State Fair Amateur Radio Club. **Indiana State Fair**. 7.240 14.240 21.300 28.400. QSL. Ken Bandy, 7405 E. County Rd. 900 N., Brownsburg, IN 46112. ken.kj9b@gmail.com

Aug. 8, 1700Z – 2359Z, NI6IW, San Diego, CA. USS *Midway* Museum Ship. **Operation Paul Bunyan**. 7.250 14.070 14.320; PSK31, D-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. 15, 1000Z – 2030Z, W2GSB, Babylon, NY. Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club. **Fire Island Lighthouse Special Event**. 7.275 14.245 21.325 28.500. QSL. Fire Island Lighthouse NA026, 200 E. Sunrise Hwy., Lindenhurst, NY 11757. www.gsbarc.org

Aug. 15, 1400Z – 2200Z, N9B, Madison, IN. Clifty Amateur Radio Society, W9EFU. **Steamboat Nannie Byers Disaster of 1866**. 7.250 14.325 28.328; 20-meter and 10-meter FT8. eCertificate. Jerry Barnes, 601 Spring St., Madison, IN 47250. www.qrz.com/db/N9B or www.facebook.com/groups/1278131608901811

Aug. 15 – Aug. 17, 1800Z – 0100Z, KL7DRC, Delta Junction, AK. Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC). **Deltana Fair Special Event Station**. 14.250 14.320. Certificate. Delta Amateur Radio Club, ATTN: KL7DRC Special Event Station, P.O. Box 1061, Delta Junction, AK 99737-1061. www.kl7drc.org

Aug. 22, 1330Z – 2100Z, K3S, Port of Baltimore, MD. 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. 29 – Sep. 12, 1300Z – 2300Z, K9A, Auburn, IN. Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association. **Auburn Cord Duesenberg Festival Special Event Station**. 7.180 14.250 28.350. Certificate & QSL. Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association, P.O. Box 145, Auburn, IN 46706-0145. *W9OU members will be operating Sept. 4 and 5 from 9 AM – 7 PM. Frequencies are ± 5 kHz depending on band conditions. QSL and certificate are \$4 for US stations/\$6 for non-US stations.* www.w9ou.org

Collected from Aug QST 2026

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

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 weeks Bulletin is made possible with information provided by The Daily DX, 425 DX News, DXNL, OPDX, Contest Corral from QST, and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM websites. Thanks to all.

3D2, FIJI. Barry, KD6XU, is QRV as 3D2BP from Yasawa Islands, OC-156. Activity is on 40, 30, and 20 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8.

C3, ANDORRA. The C37EME team is QRV from August 5 to 10 for EME from Andorra. Activity is on VHF and UHF using digital modes.

C6, BAHAMAS. Eric, K9GY, is QRV as C6AYM from Eleuthera Island, NA-001, from August 5 to 10. Activity is on 80 through 6 meters using CW. He will also participate in the WAE DX CW Contest.

CT, PORTUGAL. Rede dos Emissores Portugueses, REP, is QRV as CR60A from August 3 to 10 celebrating the 60th anniversary of the 25th of April Bridge in Lisbon. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and SSB, and via the QO-100 satellite.

EY, TAJIKISTAN. Girts, YL2KL, and Kaspars, YL1ZF, will be QRV as EY35S during the WAE DX CW Contest, August 8 and 9. Activity is on CW.

OH0, ALAND ISLANDS. Team OH0ERF is QRV from EU-002 from August 5 to 12. Activity is on 160 through 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8.

OX, GREENLAND. Bo, OZ1DJJ, is QRV as OX3LX from Meteorite Island, NA-134, August 9 through 17. Activity is on 6 meters with occasional HF operation.

P4, ARUBA. Mat, DL4MM, is QRV as P40AA from Aruba, SA-036, from August 6 to 10. Activity is on 160 through 6 meters using CW, SSB, and digital modes, with emphasis on the WAE DX CW Contest.

T2, TUVALU. Aki, JK1JXZ, is QRV as T2JK through August 14. Activity is on 80 through 6 meters on various modes.

UR, UKRAINE. Kostiantyn, UT2UCN, is QRV as special event station EN35UKR throughout August celebrating the 35th anniversary of Ukraine's independence. Activity is on 80 meters through 70 centimeters on various modes.

YS, EL SALVADOR. Rikk, WE9G, is QRV as YS/WE9G August 7 to 14. Activity is on 160 through 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest, QRP Fox Hunt, NCCC FT4 Sprint, Weekly RTTY Test, NCCC Sprint Ladder, K1USN Slow Speed Test, WAE DX Contest CW, ARRL EME Contest, SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, Maryland-DC QSO Party, Kentucky State Parks on the Air, and SARL HF Digital Contest are all scheduled for this weekend.

4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed Test, ICWC Medium Speed Test, OK1WC Memorial (MWC), ICWC Medium Speed Test, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, ICWC Medium Speed Test, ZL Sprint, DARC FT4 Contest, Tuesday's Telegraphy Contest, NAQCC CW Sprint, Phone Weekly Test, MMonVHF/DUBUS 144 MHz Meteorscatter Sprint Contest, A1Club AWT, CWops Test (CWT), VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Mini-Test 40, Mini-Test 80, CWops Test (CWT), and VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest-NA are on tap for August 10 to August 13.

Please see August QST, page 84, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites for details.

Hamfests: (Fun places to go to!)

(from ARRL Website)

Ohio (Cortland) — Aug. 16 **F H Q R T V**

8 AM – 1 PM. *Spr*: Warren ARA. Trumbull Co. Fairgrounds
Commercial Bldg., 899 Everett Hull Rd. *Tl*: 146.97, 443.00.
Adm: Free. www.w8vtd.com/hamfest

Swap and Shop:

For Sale:

From a recent Silent Key the following items are available:

SPE Expert Amp 2K. List \$6,995.00. Asking \$5,000.00

Kenwood TS 890S Transceiver. List \$4,329.95 Asking \$3000.00

Kenwood SP 890S Speaker. List \$ 285.99 Asking \$200.00

**Kenwood TS480HX. 200 Watt Unit no Automatic Antenna Tuner List \$1499
Asking \$700.00**

MFJ Deluxe RF Preselector II. Asking \$75.00

**MFJ. HF/SWR Analyzer Asking \$175.00 each
2 Available**

**Max 2000 Antenna. HF Base Station 24 FT (New, still in Box). List \$319.00
Asking \$250.00**

If interested in any of the above items, please contact Ron Dyke, KZ4CW
at 423-231-6315 or email address. rondyke2000@yahoo.com

Topic for the Month

Articles from the East Coast Reflector Magazine

Etiquette

From time to time, someone may let you know that your audio needs adjustment. Sometimes you lose track of time and don't realize how long your QSO has gone on, or for new Hams, maybe they don't know to not interrupt a QSO for a radio check.

We're all here to help each other. So, when someone lets you know that you have a hum, you've been on for more than 15 minutes, or reminds you of radio etiquette, don't be offended.

Those reminders aren't meant to criticize, embarrass, or punish anyone. They're simply part of keeping the system running well and helping everyone become better operators.

The same applies when you're helping someone else. If someone interrupts a QSO for a radio check, doesn't understand an operating practice, or isn't familiar with common etiquette, take a moment to explain it. A respectful explanation teaches far more than frustration ever will.

Vicky
KE8VKY

Reflector Etiquette

Key-up and wait 2+ seconds before you start talking. Repeaters have delays.

Leave a minimum of 3-second breaks between transmissions. Without breaks, the system thinks you're all one person, and you'll time it out.

Keep transmissions to less than 3 minutes to prevent system time-out. It affects many people's equipment.

You only need to ID every 10 minutes.

No CB terms. 10-4, good buddy, home 20, Roger.

Use the word "break" or "break break" only in emergencies.

The reflector is phone quality (VOIP). Phonetics are rarely needed.

Everyone hears the same audio.

Only break into a QSO if you can contribute.

No politics or religion conversation.

Limit QSOs to 15 minutes.

Maintain a public email on QRZ.

Fix poor audio. Node owners can use the echo reflectors.

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Reflector Etiquette

Attention Everyone

Next meet is September 5, 2026 Breakfast at Denny's at 7:00 AM and social hour starting around 8:30 AM at Sandusky County Chamber of Commerce Building, 1245 Napoleon Street, Fremont, Ohio. Meeting starts at 9:00 AM. D. Ron Dyke, KZ4CW