

SANDUSKY VALLEY

Amateur Radio Club Notes and News

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Notes from the President

Fellow Hams and Friends,

This is the time of the year for giving. Family and friends partake in our generosity. Others deserve to be rewarded for providing us with some type of help in our daily lives, or in the well being of those in need. Many internet sites request donations in order to function without requiring memberships with fees. Recently, I was using a site that instead of asking for a direct donation, they suggested you give to your favorite charitable organization. This, I thought, was a very nice thing to suggest. So, during this time of giving, help those who provide us with services that make our lives a little easier, but mostly, help those that cater to those who seriously need help. Have a wonderful holiday season, and try to spend some time with your Ham friends.

73's Jay, K8VCE Talk to everyone on Monday evening, 145.250 7PM No PL Required

2025 Christmas Dinner

This Saturday is December 6. Unlike most monthly first Saturdays, there is no meeting. Instead we have our December dinner party. This year the party is at Cleat's in Marblehead. Mostly, remember that the Route 269 exit is closed so if you take Route 2, you should get off at the Route 53 North exit which is East of Port Clinton. Follow 53 N to Route 163 East, East Harbor Road. Turn right, Cleats will be about 3 miles on the left. You can get menus and more information at cleatswings.com. If you are traveling East and you miss the Route 53 N exit, you will have to go all the way across the bay bridge and get off at the first exit, which is Bay View. Then you will have to turn around, go back across the bridge, and proceed to the 53 N exit. You are invited even if you haven't told me that you were coming. This is an excellent event to enjoy a great meal and see people you haven't seen for a while. Many couples will be there so bring someone special.

2026 schedule is attached. Let me know if you see any mistakes, or think there should be additions. Thank You!

Have a great holiday season.

Meetings:

2026 SCHEDULE

Meetings are held on the first Saturday of most months in the Sandusky County Chamber of Commerce building, 1245 Napoleon St., Fremont, OH 43420. Meetings are preceded by breakfast at Denny's in Fremont. Breakfast is held promptly at 7 AM. Meeting starts at 9 AM with social time at 8 or after breakfast. A discussion period can take place after the meeting. If you have a question about Ham Radio, have a subject you would like to make as a presentation, whether technical or personal in nature, for the club, or have a topic you would like someone else to make, let me know and I will set it up.

January 3	February 7	March 7	April 4
May 2	June 6	July no meeting	August 1
September no meeting	October 3	November 7	December no meeting

VE Test Sessions:

VE Test Sessions are also held in the Chamber of Commerce Building. Tests are preceded by breakfast at Denny's promptly at 7 AM. Test starts at 9:00 AM. **(Note change of time)**

February 28	April 25	May 30
August 29	September 29	November 28

Regular Breakfasts:

Regular breakfasts are at Denny's in Fremont. We normally order breakfast about 8 AM but social time starts around 7.

January	February	March	April
Thursday 8	Thursday 12	Thursday 12	Thursday 9
Saturday 24	Saturday 28 (VE test)	Saturday 28	Saturday 25 (VE test)
May	June	July	August
Thursday 14	Thursday 11	Thursday 9	Thursday 14
Saturday 23	Saturday 27	Saturday 25	Saturday 22
September	October	November	December
Thursday 10	Thursday 8	Thursday 12	Thursday 10
Saturday 26 (VE test)	Saturday 24	Saturday 28 (VE test)	Saturday 26

Field Day is June 27 – 28, 1800 UTC Saturday – 2059 UTC Sunday.

OSPOTA is Saturday September 12, 1400 UTC – 2200 UTC.

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.

Wires-X is up and running! Thank Goodness!! Several of us have already enjoyed contacts across a wide variety of places and groups. I personally have operated around 10 or 12 States working my handheld sitting at my usual Breakfast spot here at home or from my favorite easy chair in the living room. It is another aspect of Ham radio that everyone ought to try if they have the rig to do so. Yaesu equipment, especially the newer equipment is what is required to make these types of contacts.

A few of the "rooms" I have made contacts on are as follows:

40557. Ohio Link

28054 KC-Wide

04584 ARRL Talkroom (ARRL Headquarters)

43649. Tenn Net (Gatlinburg, Knoxville, Marysville, Pigeon Forge, etc).

Should anyone need help in connecting to the Wires-X system, please just give me a call. I will be glad to help anyway I can.

Monthly Contests: Nov 2025

(From ARRL, QST, Great Lakes Newsletter)

- December 2 -- ARS Spartan Sprint (CW)
- December 4 -- QRP ARCI Top Band Sprint (CW)
- December 4 - 5 -- Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest (CW)
- December 4 -- NRAU 10m Activity Contest (CW, phone, digital)

- December 4 -- SKCC Sprint Europe (CW)
- December 5 -- NCCC FT4 Sprint (digital)
- December 5 -- Weekly RTTY Test (digital)
- December 5 - 7 -- **ARRL 160-Meter Contest (CW)**
- December 5 -- NCCC Sprint (CW)
- December 6 - 7 -- Kalbar Contest (phone)
- December 6 -- Wake-Up! QRP Sprint (CW)
- December 6 - 7 -- PRO CW Contest (CW)
- December 6 - 7 -- INORC Contest (CW)
- December 6 - 7 --FT Challenge (digital)
- December 13 — ARRL 10 Meter Contest (CW, Phone)
- December 21 — ARRL Rookie Roundup (CW)
- December 27 — Original QRP Contest (CW, Phone)
- December 29— YOTA (Youth On The Air) Contest (CW, Phone)

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

Special Events: November 2025

Collected from December QST 2025

Dec. 1 - Dec. 7, 0000z - 2359Z, W2MM, Sandpoint, ID. Quarter Century Wireless Association, Inc. **QCWA Anniversary Special Event Activity.** CW: 3.540 7.035 14.040 21.050 28.050, SSB: 3.8107.244 14.262 21.36528.325, FF8/FF4. Certificate. QCWA Activities Manager, 1613 Poplar St., Sandpoint, ID 83864-2081. activitiesmanager@qcwa.org

Dec. 1 - Dec. 11, 1300Z - 2200Z, W2W, Hunt Valley, MD. Amateur Radio Club Ofthe National Electronics Museum. **W2W Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration.** 7.041 7241 14.041 14241. Certificate &OSL. ARCNEM, 338 Clubhouse Rd., Hurst Valley, MD21031 . Primary operation will be Dec. 1 - Dec. 7 with additional operation possible during the Dec. 8 - Dec. 11 period as operator availability permits. Operation on80 meters (3.541, 3.841) and digital modes possible during event. <https://www-2.us>

Dec. 6, 0000Z - 2359Z, W9WWL Bethlehem, in, Clark County Amateur Radio Club ofIndiana. **Christmas in Bethlehem.** Local repeater (WQJBQ) 146.850

(no tones). **7.2. Certificate.** Clark County Amateur Radio Club, RO. Box 201, Sellersburg, IN 47172. www.clarkcountyarc.org

Dec. 11 - Dec. 14, 14002 - 2200z, WX3MAS, Nazareth, PA Christmas City ARC. **Extending Christmas Greetings to the Amateur Radio Community Since 1969.** 3.8507.270 14.265. QSL. WX3MAS c/o DLARC, 14 Gracedafe Ave., Nazareth, PA 18064. www.dlarc.club

Dec. 13, 1700z - 23592, NI6IW, San Diego, CA. USS Midway Museum Ship. **Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.** 7.250 14.320, 14.070 PSK31, D-STAR on PAPA System Repeaters. QSL. USS Midway Museum Ship COMEDTRA, 910 N. Harbor Dr., San Diego, CA 92101. www.qrz.com/ldb/ni6iw

Dec. 13, 14302 - 22002, K3S, Port of Baltimore, MD. Nuclear Ship Savannah Amateur Radio Club. **Ike's Atoms for Peace Anniversary.** Z 14, 18, 21, 28. Certificate. Ulis Fleming, 980 Patuxent Rd., Odenton, MD21113. Check spotting networks for #equency www.qrz.com/db/k3s

Dec. 19 - Dec. 24, 15002 - 23592, KC5OUR, Peralta, NM. Valencia County Amateur Radio Association. **Christmas in Bethlehem, New Mexico.** 7.183 14.283 21.283 28.383. QSL. VCARA, RO. Box 268, Peralta, NM 87042. www.kc5our.com

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 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.

RODRIGUES ISLAND, 3B9. Kazu, M0CFW, is QRV as **3B9/M0CFW** until **December 3**. This includes being active as 3B9KW in the CQ Worldwide DX CW contest. QSL to home call.

BHUTAN, A5. Abie, AB1F, is QRV as **A52AA** from Thimphu **until December 5**. Activity is on 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters using SSB, with a possibility of 160 and 80 meters. QSL to home call.

EASTER ISLAND, CE0. A group of operators is QRV as **3G0YR** until **December 3**. Activity is on all bands and modes with four to five stations active. This includes being active as CE0Y as either a Multi/2 or Multi/Multi entry in the CQ Worldwide DX CW contest. QSL via RN3RQ.

CAPE VERDE, D4. Zoli, HA5PP, will be QRV as **D4P** from Sotavento, IOTA AF-005, in the CQ Worldwide DX CW contest on all bands. QSL via LoTW.

FRENCH POLYNESIA, FO. Haru, JA1XGI will be QRV as **TX9XG** from Ahe Atoll, IOTA OC-131, from **November 30 to December 6**. Activity will be on the HF bands and various Satellites. QSL to home call.

MARIANA ISLANDS, KH0. Tom, KC0W, will be QRV as **KH0W** from Saipan, IOTA OC-086. This includes being active in the CQ Worldwide DX CW contest. QSL direct to home call.

SEYCHELLES, S7. Vaclav, OK6RA, is QRV as **S79/OK6RA** until **December 2** at various times from Mahe and Praslin Islands, both IOTA AF-024. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using mainly CW. This includes being a Single Op/Single Band entry in the CQ Worldwide DX CW contest. QSL direct to home call.

MONTSERRAT, VP2M. Operators AC6ZM, WK9M, W4CMG, and AD7N are QRV as **VP2MMA**, **VP2MWK**, **VP2MMG**, and **VP2MAD**, respectively, from Gingerbread Hill until **December 5**. Activity is 160 to 6 meters, including the newer bands, with two stations on the air. They will be active as VP2MMA as a Multi/Single/Low Power entry in the CQ Worldwide DX CW contest. QSL VP2MMA via LoTW and all others via operators' instructions.

REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO, Z6. Gabriele, HB9TSW, is QRV as **Z68BG** near Pristina until **December 10**. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using CW. He plans to be active in the CQ Worldwide DX CW contest. QSL via home call.

HELENA, ZD7. Operators 5Z4VJ, G4BWP, and N6VI are QRV as **ZD7VJ, ZD7WP, and ZD7VI**, respectively, until **December 7**. Activity is on the low bands, as well as 30, 17, and 12 meters. They will be active as Single Band entries in the CQ Worldwide DX CW contest. QSL via operators' instructions.

CHATHAM ISLAND, ZL7. Holger, ZL3IO, is QRV as **ZL7IO** until **December 4**. This includes being an All Band entry in the CQ Worldwide DX CW contest. QSL via DK7AO.

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

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

12/06/2025 - FCARC Winter Hamfest

Location: Delta, OH

Sponsor: FCARC

Website: <https://k8bxq.org/hamfest>

[Learn More](#)

12/07/2025 - LCARC Amateur Radio Swap/Hamfest

Location: Troy, MI

Sponsor: L'Anse Creuse ARC

Website: <http://www.n8lc.org>

[Learn More](#)

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.

SignalLink USB Interface, cable and software \$75.00

Icom 7300. Asking \$950.00

Yaesu FT-891 Asking \$500.

Astron 50 AMP Power supply Excellent condition \$225.00

Please contact Dan Whitt, W8DJW at 419-366-3256

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 \$800.00**

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

(Taken from Great Lakes Newsletter Dec 2025 Issue)

This is what we try our best to do each and every month.

Is Your Ham Radio Club Rolling Out the Red Carpet?

Ah, the humble ham radio club. A venerable institution, often steeped in tradition, static, and the comfortable hum of familiar voices. It's a place where seasoned operators swap tales of epic DXpeditions and debate the merits of various antenna designs. But here's the million-dollar question – or perhaps the more pertinent, "how-do-we-get-more-members?" question: Is your club a welcoming beacon for the uninitiated, or does it inadvertently project a "members only" vibe that would make even the most intrepid guest feel like an interloper?

Let's face it, every club, regardless of its niche, needs fresh blood to thrive. And for *ham radio*, a hobby that combines fascinating technology with vital community service, attracting new operators isn't just a nice-to-have; it's essential for its very future. So, let's hold up a metaphorical mirror to our beloved clubs and ponder some home truths.

The Importance of a Welcoming Committee

Does your club have a designated welcoming committee, or at the very least, someone friendly whose job it is to greet visitors at the door? Walking into a room filled with people who are already engaged in their own conversations can be intimidating, especially for newcomers. It can leave a new guest feeling awkward and unsure of where to go or how to join in, especially if they find themselves lingering by the coffee pot, hoping for someone to acknowledge their presence.

A simple greeting, such as, "Hi there, welcome! Glad you could make it," can make a world of difference. It takes very little effort, but that small act can help someone feel seen and valued, instead of feeling like they have accidentally wandered into a private poker game. By making this initial connection, your club can set a positive tone and make visitors feel comfortable and included from the moment they arrive.

Officer Introductions: Putting Faces to Callsigns:

Are your club *officers* introduced at the beginning of the meeting? This isn't just about formality; it humanizes the leadership. Knowing who the president, vice-president, and secretary are, complete with their callsigns, helps *guests* understand the club's structure and who to approach with questions. It shows an intentional effort to include everyone from the get-go.

The Power of the Pamphlet:

Imagine handing a visitor a neatly designed *pamphlet* or handout. This isn't just a nostalgic nod to bygone marketing; it's a practical tool. Such a document could briefly explain the club's history, its mission, upcoming *club activities*, and crucially, how to get involved. Mentioning affiliation with organizations like the *ARRL* adds credibility and hints at the broader ham radio community. Don't forget contact information and

meeting schedules! It's a physical reminder of their visit and an invitation to return, without the pressure of remembering everything said aloud.

The Business Meeting Dilemma :

Business meetings are essential for the effective operation of any club, ensuring that important matters such as finances, approval of minutes, and planning for future events are properly addressed. However, it is important to consider the experience of new guests. If the business portion of the meeting extends beyond 20 minutes, it can become tedious—especially for newcomers who may not be invested in detailed discussions about last month's budget or debates over the color of the new repeater shack paint. To maintain engagement and prevent boredom, the business portion should be kept concise and efficient. Consider offering a separate, more detailed report for those members who wish to explore the specifics further. By prioritizing engaging content during the general meeting, the club can create a more dynamic and welcoming atmosphere for all attendees.

The One-Hour Rule of Thumb:

Do your meetings run over one hour? While passion for ham radio can be boundless, people's attention spans and evening schedules are not. A well-structured, engaging meeting that respects people's time is more likely to see repeat attendance. It sends a message that the club values its members' time as much as its own

To achieve this, the leader should be prepared to gently redirect off-topic discussions and encourage participants to concentrate on subjects that support the club's mission. Familiarity with Roberts' Rules of Order is also beneficial, as it provides a framework for managing the flow of conversation and maintaining order throughout the meeting. By actively overseeing discussions and making ham radio-related content a priority, clubs can create more valuable and efficient meeting experiences for all attendees.

Prioritizing Guest Speakers: Respecting Time and Maximizing Value

Allocating sufficient time for guest speakers is crucial for the enrichment and educational growth of club members. External presenters, whether they are experts in electromagnetic compatibility or representatives from local emergency services, offer fresh perspectives and valuable insights that can greatly benefit attendees. When guest speakers are rushed through their presentations, it not only diminishes the effort they have put into preparing but also reduces the educational value for the audience. Presentations that cover topics such as antenna theory, digital modes, contesting strategies, or even a simple show-and-tell of a member's latest project can invigorate club gatherings. These sessions provide valuable learning opportunities and spark curiosity for both experienced operators and newcomers alike. By prioritizing informative and stimulating activities, clubs can foster a vibrant atmosphere that encourages ongoing involvement and enthusiasm for ham radio.

Community Engagement: More Than Just Talk:

Does your club participate in activities that benefit your community?

This is where ham radio truly shines. Engaging in public service events, supporting local runs or festivals, or being an active part of ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) demonstrates the practical, invaluable side of the hobby. These club activities not only serve the community but also provide hands-on experience and a sense of purpose for members, making the club more attractive to those looking to contribute.

Embracing the Digital Age:

In a post-pandemic world, flexibility is key. *Are your club meetings hybrid utilizing video platforms like Zoom or Teams? Offering a hybrid option significantly expands your reach, allowing members and guests who live far away, have mobility issues, or are simply juggling busy schedules to participate. It shows the club is forward-thinking and committed to inclusion, rather than stubbornly clinging to analog methods for digital interactions.*

After attending a meeting, a guest who has enjoyed the experience and felt welcomed may be eager to join the club. It is at this critical juncture that the process for becoming a member should be straightforward and inviting. If the sign-up procedure is complicated, requiring multiple forms, confusing payment methods, or resulting in delayed confirmation—it can quickly discourage even the most enthusiastic potential members.

To foster growth and make a positive impression, clubs should ensure that joining is simple, clear, and immediate. This can be achieved by offering a direct link on the club's website for online sign-ups, providing a concise and easy-to-understand form available at meetings, or designating a specific individual who is responsible for handling new memberships efficiently. By streamlining the membership process, clubs remove unnecessary barriers and demonstrate their commitment to welcoming new members into the community.

The Bottom Line: Why All This Fuss?

Ultimately, the vibrancy and longevity of any *ham radio* club depend on its ability to attract and retain members. A club that is genuinely inviting, transparent, informative, and community-minded will not only thrive but also continue to keep the spirit of amateur radio alive for generations to come. So, perhaps it's time for every club to take a long, honest look in that metaphorical mirror. Is your club truly rolling out the red carpet, or is it inadvertently signaling "QRT" to potential new blood? The future of *ham radio* might just depend on it.

Attention Everyone

Next meet is January 3, 2026 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