

# SANDUSKY VALLEY

## Amateur Radio Club Notes and News

### Notes from the President:

#### 2026 Club Schedule:

2 Meter Repeater  
News: The Good Morning Coffee Net 6:30 AM:

Jim Clash Article from Forbes Magazine:

Monthly Contests and Special Events:

Upcoming DX Stations:  
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Topic for the Month:



### Notes from the President

#### Fellow Hams and Friends,

Welcome to a new year! I sincerely hope and pray that everyone has a very calm and fruitful year. This is a 250 year of freedom celebration for the United States of America. I will be seeking celebration displays throughout the year, where we are allowed to join in with our own display of honor toward our country. Have your go-kits ready. Come to meetings and other events to help plan where, when, and how.

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

**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.

<b>January</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>
Thursday 8	Thursday 12	Thursday 12	Thursday 9
Saturday 24	Saturday 28 (VE test)	Saturday 28	Saturday 25 (VE test)
<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>
Thursday 14	Thursday 11	Thursday 9	Thursday 14
Saturday 23	Saturday 27	Saturday 25	Saturday 22
<b>September</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>December</b>
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](mailto: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.

## Something New: The Good Morning Coffee Net 6:30 AM for all the early risers!

We have started a new daily net for all those folks that tend to be early risers each day. Everyone is welcome to participate and it's not a net where everyone is expected to be on the air each and everyday. Join in whenever you can just to say hello, or ask a question of the group. We started this past Monday and have had a very nice response so far. It's more of a net to make sure everyone is doing OK, enjoying their morning coffee, tea or whatever and saying hello. It has been really enjoyable and look forward to having more folks join in when they can.



**STARTING 12/29/2025**  
**SANDUSKY VALLEY AMATEUR (HAM) RADIO CLUB**  
**DAILY (TRIAL) GOOD MORNING COFFEE NET**

**6:30 AM CHECK IN**  
**RON DYKE, KZ4CW**  
**NET CONTROL**

**ALL WELCOME**  
**FREMONT 2M**  
**REPEATER 145.25**

Any issues please email George Dunlap, KF8CNA @  
[george@georgedunlap.com](mailto:george@georgedunlap.com)

The following article is reprinted with the Authors permission, taken from the Nov 25, 2025 issue of Forbes Magazine.

# Ham Radio—There's Still Magic In It. Ask 3 Million People

Many believe that the hobby of ham radio is dying with all of the modern communications technology. Not so. There are currently three million hams around the world, a quarter of them in America.

With all of the easy ways to communicate internationally now, many ask whether amateur "ham" radio still has relevance. Some call the hobby, which is communicating with other hams via radio waves, a dying breed of old fogies who haven't fully embraced new technology such as email and social media.

After all, rather than purchase expensive electronic equipment, get an FCC license and be captive to the whims of the ionosphere and sunspot cycles (ham operators will know what I mean), they can easily call up folks in distant lands on the Internet.

Surprisingly, there are still an estimated three million ham operators worldwide, a quarter of them in America. In fact, the category is growing at a reported 1% annually. Part of that is due to the waiver of the Morse Code license requirement.

In 1968, I learned Morse Code and took a written FCC test on radio theory, and obtained my novice-class radio license, call sign WN3JID. For a few years, I conversed with countries around the globe on all seven continents. At age 15, I took another FCC test and upgraded to general class (WA3JID), which allowed higher transmission power and more radio frequencies.

Concurrently, a friend in my hometown had also obtained his ham license - he was 12 - and as boys we competed to see who could reel in the most countries. We worked into remote places like Siberia (yes, the USSR did allow hams to operate during the Cold War), Africa's Seychelles Islands, Antarctica, the Marshall Islands, Greenland, Australia - you name it.

There was not only a thrill with finding each new place, but a crash course in geography and science. Too bad that concept seems to be lacking in today's early-education institutions.

By the time I was 16, I had contacted more than 100 countries and received confirmation cards from them. That qualified me for the coveted DXCC - an exclusive club of hams supported by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).

Many ask why I became interested in extreme adventure, my main beat at Forbes. I honestly believe part of it was contacting these exotic places and receiving "QSL" cards from them, many with strange stamps attached. My yearning - driven by boyhood imagination and wonder - ultimately became to visit these places.

Still being licensed, I have actually done so on a few occasions. One was to the Amundsen Scott Station at the geographic South Pole, which I had contacted back in 1971. In fact, in 2005 after our expedition had skied in, I immediately found the station's ham radio rig and fired it up with the intent of giving others the same thrill I had had when I contacted the remote place.

I did so again when I visited the strange country in the very center of Asia called Tuva, a favored destination of Nobel Laureate physicist Richard Feynman. My most prized contact has been with the International Space Station, though I haven't been up there yet.

There is a magic in hearing the echoes, pulsed fading and static as short-wave radio signals travel through the air waves that one can't get on email - and in knowing that you built the contraption and antenna that allowed you to do so. There is also the challenge of finding random rare stations on the air in "pileups" - huge waiting lines of other ham operators - and getting through.

In any case, there is so much more I can't cover in a short article, so maybe this will whet your appetite. If you've never heard of ham radio or are interested in it, the ARRL website is a great place to start ([link below](#)).

In a recent conversation with The Monkees sole surviving band member, Micky Dolenz, he confessed he had always wanted to pass the ham license test, but couldn't master Morse Code. Since the code requirement has been waived, he says he is now considering it. So don't be surprised if one day you find Dolenz



calling "CQ" (ham jargon for seeking a contact) on a high-frequency ham radio band. Now wouldn't that be da bomb?

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Editorial Standards

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By Jim Clash Jim Clash covers extreme adventure and classic rock. Over three decades of writing for Forbes, Clash, who holds an MBA from Columbia University, has penned four books, most recently Amazon bestseller "Amplified," about '60s music. His first-person stories include supersonic flights in eight separate aircraft pulling up to 9 Gs and flying to 84,000 ft; driving a Bugatti at 253 mph and Indy cars at over 200 mph; expeditions to the North and South Poles; summing the Matterhorn and 23,000-ft. Aconcagua;

a C-130 flight through Category V Hurricane Dorian; chasing tornadoes; riding jet skis on 60-ft waves in Portugal; a U-2 flight to the edge of space; bullfighting; being shot point-blank in a ballistics jacket, and more. Interviews include Neil Armstrong, Mario Andretti, John Glenn, Sir Edmund Hillary, Sir Roger Bannister, Sir Roger Daltrey, Alice Cooper, Joe Frazier, Chuck Yeager and Dr. Edward Teller. For fun, Jim gives 170-mph rides at Daytona speedway and is a licensed ham radio operator (WA3JID). He's a former director at The Explorers Club, cohosts the podcast "Risky Business" and gives corporate motivational talks. He can be reached at [jmclash2@outlook.com](mailto:jmclash2@outlook.com)

[Read More](#)

Find [Jim Clash](#) on [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) and [X](#).

## Monthly Contests: Jan 2026

(From ARRL, QST, Great Lakes Newsletter)

- January 1 -- AGB New Year Snowball Contest (CW, Ph, Diag)
- January 3 - ARRL RTTY Roundup (Diag)
- January 3 - ARRL Kids Day (Ph)
- January 10 - North American CW QSO Party, (CW)
- January 17 - Hungarian DX Contest (CW, Ph)
- January 17 - North American SSB QSO Party (SSB)
- January 17 - ARRL January VHF Contest (CW, Ph, Diag)
- January 24 - Winter Field Day (CW, Ph, Diag)
- January 25 - Australia Day Contest (CW, Ph, Diag)

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

## Special Events: November 2025

**Jan. 2 - Jan. 31, 0000Z - 2359Z, K3Y**, Ellicot City. Straight Key Century Club. **20th Annual Straight Key Month.** 3.550 7.055 14.050 21 .050. Certificate & QSL. SKCC C/O Ted Rachwal, KSAQM, 6237 Twin Lakes Dr.. Smiths Creek, MI 48074.  
[www.skccgroup.com/k3y](http://www.skccgroup.com/k3y)



**Jan. 9 - Jan. 11, 1600Z - 2200Z, W0JH**, Stillwater, MN. Stillwater Amateur Radio Association. **Remembering Father Metcalf**. 3.860 7.260 14.260 21.360. Certificate. Shel Mann, NGDRX, 1518 Pine St. W, Stillwater, MN 55082.  
[www.radioham.org](http://www.radioham.org)

**Jan. 10, 1600Z - 2230Z, W9RH**, Milwaukee, WI Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club. **MRAC 109th Anniversary**. 7.250 14.250 145.390. Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club, P.O. Box 26938, Milwaukee, WI 53226.  
[www.w9d1.org/special-event-station](http://www.w9d1.org/special-event-station)

**Jan. 24, 1330Z - 2100Z, K3S**, Odenton, MD. Nuclear Ship Savannah ARC. **First Wireless-Coordinated High Seas Rescue 1909**. 14 18 21 28. QSL. Ullis Fleming, 980 Patuxent Rd., Odenton, MD 21113, Check spotting networks for frequency. [www.qrz.com/ldb/k3s](http://www.qrz.com/ldb/k3s)

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**Jan. 25 - Jan. 27, 1700Z - 0100Z, AG6AU**, Placerville, CA. El Dorado County ARC. **Discovery of Gold in California 177th Anniversary**. 7.248 14.248 21.348 28.348. QSL. El Dorado County ARC, P.O. Box 451, Placerville, CA 95667  
[www.edcarc.net](http://www.edcarc.net)

Collected from January 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:**

**TG – Guatemala** - TG9/AF4CZ will be on the air "holiday style," December 7 to January 5, mostly FT8/4 on 40-10. He will upload his log to LoTW, eQSL and Club Log.

**C5 - The Gambia** – Andre, ON7YK, is once again active as C5YK from Bijilo. Listen for him on all modes on 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters. QSL via ON7YK.  
<https://www.qrz.com/db/C5YK>

**JAMAICA, 6Y.** Lester, W8YCM, is QRV as both W8YCM/6Y and 6Y8LV until mid-January 2026. Activity is holiday style on 17, 12, and 10 meters using SSB. QSL direct to home call.

**THE GAMBIA, C5.** Andre, ON7YK, is QRV as C5YK from Kotu until January 25, 2026. Activity is on 20 through 10 meters using SSB, RTTY, FT8, FT4, and some CW. QSL via LoTW.

**CAPE VERDE, D4.** Beni, HB9HNT, is QRV as D4NT until January 1, 2026. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL to home call.

**FRENCH GUIANA, FY.** Jean Pierre, F4GPK, will be QRV as TO2FY from Kourou from December 22 to 24, December 29 to 31, January 5 to 9, and January 12 to 15. Activity will be mostly on 20, 15, and 10 meter using SSB. QSL direct to home call.

**SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS.** Ivo, LZ1AAW, will be QRV in his spare time as LZ0A from St. Kliment Ohridski on Livingston Island, IOTA AN-010, from late December until mid-February 2026. QSL via LZ1JZ.

**SURINAME, PZ.** Joe, OZ0J, will be QRV as PZ5OZ from December 21 to January 2, 2026. QSL via LoTW.

**CENTRAL AFRICA, TL.** Joao, CR7BNW, is QRV as TL8BNW until June 2026. Activity is on 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

**CAMBODIA, XU.** Tom, DL7BO, will be QRV as XU7GNY from December 22 to January 18. Activity will be on 160 through 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8,

**SOUTH SUDAN, Z8.** Diya, YI1DZ is QRV as Z81D from Juba until March 10, 2026. Activity is in his spare time. QSL to home call.

**ANTARCTICA.** Oleg, ZS1ANF, is QRV as ZS7ANF from Whichaway, IOTA AN-016. Activity is in his spare time on 17, 15, and 10 meters using CW. QSL via RK1PWA.

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.

Please see January 2026 QST, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites for details.

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

**03/15/2026 - Toledo Mobile Radio  
Association Hamfest and Computer  
Hamfest**

**Location:** Perrysburg, OH

**Sponsor:** Toledo Mobile Radio

**Website:** <http://www.w8hhf.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.

**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](mailto:rondyke2000@yahoo.com)

## Topic for the Month

# The Mystery of Ham Radio's "Magic Band"-6 Meters

The nickname for 6 meters (50 to 54 MHz) implies that there's something mysterious and even spooky taking place - and there is!

Let's say you turn on your transceiver and tune to 50.12S MHz, the SSB calling frequency on the 6-meter band. Chances are you'll hear nothing but noise for hours on end. But at times, you'll suddenly hear voices from hundreds and even thousands of miles away. These signals may remain for minutes or possibly hours before abruptly vanishing.

What's going on here?

The magic behind the Magic Band is caused by a phenomenon known as sporadic E, often abbreviated as Es-"Sporadic" refers to the fact that it comes and goes randomly. The "E" is a reference to the E layer of our ionosphere, a region about 100 miles above the surface of Earth.

When sporadic E is in play, clouds of ionized gas form in the E layer and act like mirrors, reflecting radio signals over great distances. These clouds appear without warning and disappear just as quickly. They even move around, causing signals to come first from one area, and then another. The reflections are so efficient that there is little signal loss. As a result, you don't need high power or big antennas to enjoy sporadic-E communication. Just a wire dipole antenna will do the trick. Dipoles for 6 meters are only about 9 feet long.

Most signals bounce off the clouds and come back down at distances ranging from about 500 to 1,500 miles. This is known as single hop sporadic E. However, there can also be more than one cloud, and signals can sometimes bounce off one cloud, return to Earth, bounce again, and then reflect off another, more distant cloud! This is called double hop sporadic E, and it can cause signals to span entire continents.

No one knows what causes sporadic-E clouds to form. It's one of the enduring mysteries of radio propagation that scientists have yet to explain. We know that sporadic E tends to take place between May and August. There's another period in December and January. But sporadic-E propagation can appear at any time, which is part of what makes it so strange. It usually happens between late morning and late afternoon, but there have been reports of sporadic E occurring in the middle of the night as well.

Sporadic E isn't just a 6-meter phenomenon. You can encounter it on 10 meters and, when it is particularly intense, on 2 meters. Some sporadic-E fans keep radios parked on 50.125 MHz, waiting for the sudden appearance of signals.

The popularity of the FT8 digital mode on 6 meters has also proven to be a valuable tool for staying on top of sporadic-E activity. The most popular FT8 software, WSJT-X, can monitor common FT8 frequencies (such as 50.313 MHz) and automatically report activity in real time to internet sites such as PSKreporter at [pskreporter.info/pskmap.html](http://pskreporter.info/pskmap.html).

Above article from the Jul/Aug 2020 On The Air Magazine by the ARRL

# 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**