



# Dayton Hamvention®

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



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 note that this does not include the Hamvention ticket.*

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.

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

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

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